

# **Cooperation Programme**

**INTERREG V-A  
Austria - Hungary**

**Final version 1.2 adopted by EC on 30/06/2015**

CCI	2014 TC 16 RF CB 010
Title	Interreg V-A Austria – Hungary 2014-2020
Version	Final
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01/01/2014
Eligible until	31/12/2023
EC decision number	C(2015)4525
EC decision date	30/06/2015
MS amending decision number	
MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by the cooperation programme	AT111, AT112, AT113, AT122, AT127, AT130, AT221, AT224, HU221, HU222, HU223

**INDEX**

SECTION 1	Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion .....	5
1.1	Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion .....	5
1.1.1	Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.....	5
1.1.2	Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation ..	24
1.2	Justification of the financial allocation .....	27
SECTION 2	Priority Axes .....	31
2.A	Description of the priority axes other than technical assistance.....	31
2.A.1/1	Priority Axis 1 .....	31
2.A.1/2	Priority Axis 2 .....	41
2.A.1/3	Priority Axis 3 .....	60
2.A.1/4	Priority Axis 4 .....	75
2.B	Description of the priority axes for technical assistance .....	85
2.B.1/5	Priority Axis 5 .....	85
SECTION 3	Financing plan .....	90
3.1	Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR).....	90
3.2.A	Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in EUR) .....	90
3.2.B	Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective.....	93
SECTION 4	Integrated approach to territorial development.....	94
4.1	Community-led local development (where appropriate).....	95
4.2	Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate).....	95
4.3	Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate) .....	95
4.4	Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate).....	96

SECTION 5	Implementing Provision for the Cooperation Programme .....	98
5.1	Relevant authorities and bodies .....	98
5.2	Procedures for setting up the joint secretariat .....	100
5.3	Summary description of the management and control arrangements .....	100
5.4	Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission .....	108
5.5	Use of the Euro (where applicable) .....	109
5.6	Involvement of partners.....	110
SECTION 6	Coordination .....	113
SECTION 7	Reduction of Administrative Burden for Beneficiaries.....	117
SECTION 8	Horizontal Principles .....	120
8.1	Sustainable development.....	120
8.2	Equal opportunities and non-discrimination .....	122
8.3	Equality between men and women.....	123
SECTION 9	Separate Elements .....	125
9.1	Major projects to be implemented during the programming period .....	125
9.2	Performance framework of the cooperation programme.....	125
9.3	Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme .....	126
9.4	Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources.....	127
	Annexes (to be uploaded as separate files).....	128

## SECTION 1 STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

*(Reference: Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and point (a) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council)*

### **1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion**

#### **1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion**

##### **1.1.1.1 The aim of the cooperation programme**

European Territorial Cooperation programmes contribute to the overall – economic, social and territorial – cohesion of the EU. They want to create a common identity, an integrated physical space, a balanced development and improved policies and governance. For this, cross-border cooperation programmes aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions. The focus is to strengthen cooperation structures in defined areas which are linked to the fields of activity of EU priorities. As the number of cooperating players is limited the programme tries to concentrate on areas with sufficient institutions and enough potential for cooperation.

The strategy is based on the following European documents:

- Europe 2020
- Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020
- Commission's legislative package for the new Cohesion policy
- 5th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial cohesion,
- Regional challenges in the perspectives of 2020 – Regions 2020

Due to its dimension the cooperation programme at hand Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary (all subsequent references to the cooperation programme in the following text refer to 'Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary') will not create a large-scale financial impact. Therefore its objective is to prepare strategic action and pilot projects in fields such as the improvement of poor accessibility or inappropriate business environment, the lack of networks among local and regional administrations, environmental pollution or risk prevention. A second focus is to exploit the untapped potentials in the border area and to concentrate on issues close to the needs of the population in the border region.

##### **1.1.1.2 The situation in the programme area**

The programme area covers the Austrian NUTS 3 regions Nordburgenland,

Mittelburgenland and Südburgenland, Niederösterreich Süd, Wiener Umland/Südteil, Wien, Graz and Ost-steiermark and the Hungarian NUTS3 regions Győr-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala, which, in combination, form the NUTS2 region Western Transdanubia. The core programme area remained in large part the same as in 2007 – 2013, with the addition of the metropolitan area of Graz being the only exception. Graz is an important transport hub and impulse centre in the southern part of the programme region.

- The region consists of a broad variety of **urban agglomerations**, small- and medium-sized towns and several rural communalities. The largest cities<sup>1</sup> in the region are Wien (1.7 Mio. inhabitants), Graz (265 318), Győr (131 267), Szombathely (79 590), Zalaegerszeg (61 970), Sopron (60 755), Nagykanizsa (49 850), Wiener Neustadt (41 537), Mosonmagyaróvár (32 493) and Baden (25 142).
- The region shows a **distinct north-south-divide**. While Wien and its surroundings have grown over the last decade (overall due to migration from other parts of the programme region and from outside), the regions of Südburgenland and Oststeiermark have stagnated, and the Hungarian regions Vas and Zala have lost over 4% of their population. Only Graz and its urban hinterland differ positively from this trend in the south.
- There are **positive demographic trends in the northern** part of the region: A growing population and migration into the area have positive effects on the labour market and generate demand for higher level of services (eg. higher education, health and wellness, spas) and for quality products (eg. organic food products). Urban areas are continuously becoming more attractive to inhabitants due to pull-factors such as job opportunities, good infrastructure, better access to social services and health care as well as education.
- At the same time, the **southern region (aside from Graz)** is characterized by rural areas with numerous small villages which face **decreasing population** and emigration. The trend of an ever ageing population threatens to accelerate this phenomena.
- Mittel- and Südburgenland and the counties of Vas and Zala are confronted with **disadvantages due to their low accessibility** levels. At the same time, there is a strong need for cross-border mobility solutions in the northern part of the programme region. Here, and particularly in the highly dynamic Wien-Bratislava-Győr-Sopron region, there are pressures related to rising traffic flows.
- The demographic trends and the spatial structure is also reflected by the **economic performance** of the border region. Combined, **the northern regions** comprise one of **the strongest economic regions of Europe**. In comparison, the region of Mittel- and Südburgenland, as well as the Hungarian counties achieves less than 80% (GDP per capita - PPS) of the European average. The greatest gap can be observed between the Austrian regions Wien, Wiener Umland and Graz on one hand and the Hungarian counties of Zala and Vas on the other hand. Additionally, the negative impact of the economic crises was considerably larger on the Hungarian side of the border region

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistik Austria, 2012; Központi statisztikai hivatal, 2011

than on the Austrian side.

- The great variety of ecosystems and the rich natural heritage has led to the creation of a considerable **number of nature parks and national parks** (NP) such as the NP and world heritage site Neusiedler See/Fertő tó or the wetlands of Danube and Drava. Moreover, there are numerous sensitive areas, Natura 2000 and protected areas, all contributing substantially to Europe's biodiversity.
- An important specificity of the programme area stems from the fact that cross-border economic and social relations exist not only in the field of tourism, education, production and workforce availability, but also in territorial supply chain systems (logistics).

For more detailed information about the programme area, please see the regional analysis in the annex.

### 1.1.1.3 Needs related to enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (Thematic objective 3)

#### European, national and regional policy context

One of the aims of **EU 2020** strategy is to focus on "Smart growth". In order to ensure the diffusion of technology across the EU territory, Member States will need to reform national and regional research and innovation systems to foster excellence and smart specialisation in the economy and to reinforce cooperation between universities, research and business institutions.

The **National Reforms Programmes (NRP)** of both member states put a strong emphasis on R&D. The Austrian NRP emphasises the importance of investment in research, development and innovation and sets the target of 3.76% in 2020 compared to 2.76% in 2010. The Hungarian NRP sets a similarly challenging target, however, against a less developed background in this field: the mere 1.16% of 2010 GRD shall reach 1.8% by 2020, marking a 55% increase.

The **Hungarian Partnership Agreement 2014-20** sets the aim of smart growth in its priority 1 (Improving the competitiveness and global performance of the business sector) and also priority 2 (Increasing the level of employment through economic development, employment education and social inclusion policies...).

Austria's Partnership Agreement **StratAT 2020** amongst others aims at new T&I Initiatives and Enterprises, new job opportunities also in the rural areas, strengthening integrated regional development and strengthening the innovation capacity of the government and the institutions.

The Austrian **Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSTRAT neu)** sets amongst others cross-sectoral fields of action like stability, resilience and innovative ability, local and spatial development.

The macro-regional **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** is targeting competitiveness issues setting out actions to develop the Knowledge Society and to support the competitiveness of enterprises, to invest in people and skills and to step up institutional capacity and cooperation.

Focusing the programmes' activities on thematic objective 3, further the programme

- contributes to two of the four strands of the **Hungarian National Strategy for Innovation 2020** (“Developer Hungary”, “Creative Hungary”)
- contributes to general development directions of the **National Development Concept of Hungary** (developing economic relations (cross-border business relations and infrastructures, SME- cooperation, job creation, research and development, innovation) and to development directions for **Győr-Moson-Sopron** (improving the structure and conditions of the economy: developing local economy; supporting local innovations; development of SMEs; tourism development; improving the conditions of agricultural production; renewal of the food processing industry by taking specific regional and environmental issues into consideration), for **Vas** (establishing regional brands in the tourist sector; supporting cross-sector and cross-border economic development; employment and training cooperation as well as supporting the formulation of economic clusters; strengthening local economic development activities; increasing the value of locally produced food in the interior peripheral regions based on internal resources) and **Zala** (improving conditions of agricultural production and integration; supporting rural subsistence economy; local markets, local food processing and village tourism).
- contributes to the aims of **Research, Technology and Innovation Strategy Wien** (enhancing the number of international RTI-co operations with CENTROPE-Partners; increasing the participation at the EU Framework Programme at least to 200 Viennese SMEs ), to the aims of the **RDI Strategy for Niederösterreich** (thinking and acting supra-regional: focus on cooperation) and the **Economic Strategy for Niederösterreich 2015** (high economic development; maintaining and developing high quality jobs; positioning Niederösterreich as sustainable and attractive business location; enhancing key qualifications in the field of management; natural science and technology; establishing sustainable and social responsible economic activities; speeding up corporate growth and enabling better networking of enterprises).
- is supported by the **Provincial Development Plan Burgenland 2011** (Sustaining regional identity and diversity, developing cooperation as added value, Using and developing know-how and research as economic capital) and the **Economic Strategy Steiermark 2020** “Growth through Innovation” (Focus on future-oriented subjects with growth-potential and supporting enterprises (innovative businesses, business starters) as well as new qualification opportunities that emerge from latest demographic development).
- contributes to the **Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 West Transdanubia** which is based on development concepts of the 3 Hungarian counties and focuses also on economy and innovation
- contributes to aims of the ‘**RIS Navigator**’ **Western Transdanubian Region Innovation Strategy**” (improving the competitiveness of the innovative enterprises in the region).

### Characteristics

The Austrian – Hungarian programme region is characterized by a considerable innovation gap. According to the Innovation Scoreboard, Austria is classified into the “Innovation Follower” group, Hungary into the group “Moderate Innovator”. In regional terms (Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2012) the Hungarian counties are classified into the group of “Modest Innovators”, which is the lowest-ranked category (albeit in the sub-group with “high”



marks), while Wien, Burgenland and Niederösterreich belong to the group performing best (Innovation Leaders) and Steiermark to the second best group of Innovation Followers (sub-group marked "high").

The programme region has a high share of SMEs, which could be a stabilizing factor of the regional economic system, if they are competitive. Regarding the economic competitiveness index<sup>2</sup>, Austria (65.9) is above the EU27 average (54.7), while the Hungarian performance still has room for improvement (34.5).

The regional competitiveness is strongly connected to the local businesses' access to innovation. In the programme region, however, due to small size and lack of capital the regional SMEs' access to research and research results is rather limited and often hampers their ability to introduce innovative technologies.

Over the last decade regional innovation systems have become a more prominent topic in the region and thus, activities in this field have been increased. Centres for innovation and applied research were established in Eisenstadt, Güssing, Jennersdorf, and Wiener Neustadt and in Győr, Sopron and Szombathely. But the region's most prominent research institutions and universities are concentrated in its urban centres and its surroundings (Wien, Graz), having weak links to research and innovation institutions or networks in the other, less central parts of the programme region, and being even less developed across the border. Thus, there is a need for more and strengthened cross-border linkages between the prominent universities and R&D institutions and the existing or evolving regional research and innovation infrastructure.

Key drivers of sector oriented economic development and an important support for SMEs are the industry clusters. Altogether there are 38 clusters in the border region, covering following key areas: automotive and mechatronic, IT development, (renewable) energy, logistics, wood processing, local products and wellbeing – thermal spa tourism<sup>3</sup>. But so far, most of the clusters do not operate across the border, even though the sectors covered are similar.

In Hungary, export oriented industries, especially the vehicle and car components industry, have been quite dynamic. The **West Pannonian Regional Industry Development Strategy 2020** has been developed to maximise the attractiveness of the area for investors of the automotive sector - especially around the "triangle" of the cities of Zalaegerszeg-Szombathely-Szentgotthárd. The developing activities of various companies of this sector may open up opportunities for innovative local SMEs. But these SMEs are often quite fragile due to weak local embeddedness and high price sensitivity and could especially profit from activities that support their capacities to innovate,

Despite dynamic development in some sectors, there is a strong need to support start-ups in the programme region. The Hungarian counties have the lowest ranking in the EU Regional Entrepreneurship and Development Index<sup>4</sup>, regarding both individual attitudes and regional context. The Austrian programme region has the highest (individual attitudes) or the second

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: EU Country fact sheets Austria and Hungary, DG Regio 2013; values range between 0 and 100

<sup>3</sup> Source: Regional Analysis/SWOT of the CBC Programme Austria – Hungary 2014-2020, 2013

<sup>4</sup> Source: panorama inforegio 49, 2014

highest (regional context) ranking, but here almost one third of newly founded companies do not survive the first three years. In West-Transdanubia it is even worse, and almost half of the start-ups do not survive the third year.

With regard to the labour market the following aspects are significant in the programme region and have a considerable impact on the performance of SMEs:

As with research and development, Wien also plays a dominant role for the region's labour market, attracting a high number of commuters from Austrian and Hungarian adjacent areas. Generally, the number of Hungarians working in Austria still rises. While the Austrian part of the programme region and especially Burgenland – every fifth employee is from abroad - has benefited from the availability of this qualified and comparably cheap labour, the Hungarian counties suffer from a brain-drain and increasingly lack skilled personnel (e.g. in tourism-related and health-related services, construction or engineering). This in return leads to rising wage levels in the Hungarian border region, threatening the survival of SMEs in the sectors concerned.

Additionally, especially Vas and Zala suffer from high unemployment rates (around 10%, with more than 50% being long-term unemployed), while the youth unemployment rate is dramatically high in the whole of West-Transdanubia (around 20% in 2012).

### **Challenges and needs for cooperation**

- Networking is a tool to bridge the innovation gap between Austria and Hungary, by strengthening the cooperation of innovation poles of Wien and Graz with Hungarian institutions and universities. Special emphasis is put on strengthening links in the southern parts of the region (Zalaegerszeg and Szombathely-based universities and businesses with institutions located in the innovation pole Graz). This cooperation is essential for these towns, as they lack critical size both in terms of economy and inhabitants.
- In order to improve the access of SMEs to R&D results and their ability to innovate, there is a need for increased cooperation between research institutions and clusters, SME networks or SMEs.
- In order to use synergies there is a need for cross-border cooperation in and among clusters as well as SME networks.
- In both countries the development and competitiveness of SMEs is supported by various intermediary organisations (e.g. cluster managements, trade associations). However, the effectiveness of these organisations varies throughout the border region and their cross-border cooperation is mainly based on projects. There is a need for more continuous cross-border cooperation, which enables institutional level learning and allows for joint measures that provide better and more harmonised services to the SMEs especially with regard to innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups, or qualification and training.
- As different wage levels lead to brain drain in Hungary and put pressure on the Austrian labour market, there is a considerable need for action in this field. The AT-HU cooperation programme will contribute to overcoming this challenge by concentrating on two areas, strengthening the local SMEs (and thus enabling employment) and supporting vocational training and cooperation of labour market institutions (for a higher

labour mobility).

#### 1.1.1.4 Needs related to protect the environment and promote resource efficiency (Thematic objective 6)

##### European, national and regional policy context

The **EU's Biodiversity Strategy (2011)** as well as the **Europe 2020 Strategy (2010)** sets the goal of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem functions by 2020, and of restoring them to the extent feasible. In this respect, the Natura 2000 network, which consists of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), provides a common EU framework to safeguard natural assets and serves as the main European instrument to achieve the biodiversity objectives.

The **Hungarian Partnership Agreement 2014-20** sets the aim of green growth in its priority 3 (Enhancing energy and resource efficiency). Also, cultural heritage is a major potential contributor to urban and rural development. On this basis, sustainable tourism - built on "endogenous potentials" of Hungarian regions and settlements - is one of the priority areas of the Hungarian Territorial Development Operational Programme. Austria's Partnership Agreement **StratAT 2020** aims at increasing the share of (...) renewable raw materials in all sectors, supporting innovation and technologies in the environmental sector, and includes a sustainable strategy for risk management and prevention as well as assurance of cultural heritage (...), for example through sustainable mobility.

The macro-regional **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** targets environmental issues, setting out actions to encourage more sustainable energy, promote culture and tourism, to maintain the quality of waters, to manage environmental risks and to preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils.

Another relevant policy instrument is the **EU Water Framework Directive (2000)**, which establishes a common basis for actions in the field of water policy and integrated river basin management. The **EU Floods Directive (2007)** aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

The **Waste framework Directive (2008)** aims at increasing the rate of recovery of waste materials [paper, metal, plastic and glass from households (50%); non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (70%)] by 2020. EU member states are obliged to take the necessary measures to ensure that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment.

Conservation and sustainable development of the cultural and natural heritage is core of Austria's **Tourism Strategies (Austria Tourism Strategy, Management Plan Fertő tó-Neusiedler See, Tourism Strategy Burgenland 2011-2015, Masterplan Tourism Steiermark 2015, Tourism Strategy Niederösterreich 2015)** and part of the **Hungarian National Concept for the Development of Tourism, 2014 – 2024** as well as part of the relevant regional development strategies (**Provincial Development Plan Burgenland 2011, Provincial Development Concept for Niederösterreich 2004, and the County Development Concepts** of all the three Hungarian counties). Beyond that, Austria's Tourism Strategy stresses the importance of cross-border cooperation to support the country's touristic position, Hungary's Concept identifies heritage-related tourism as one of

the most promising area for developing new tourism products.

Through the realization of the thematic objective 6, the programme moreover

- contributes to the fulfilment of the objectives and intentions of the **EU Initiative „A resource-efficient Europe“**. The Initiative aims at supporting the shift towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy that is efficient in the way it uses all resources.
- contributes to the cross-sectoral fields of action set in **the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development** (Sustainable thinking and acting, Quality of life, qualitative growth and safeguarding of resources, Landscape features and ecosystem attainment, Sustainable energy systems, Global responsibility)
- serves the implementation of the **Hungarian National Environment Technology Innovation Strategy (2011)**, which explores the fundamental linkages between innovation and green economy for the period of 2011-2020. By adopting NETIS, the Hungarian Government has expressed its determination for mainstreaming the concept of green economy. NETIS is determined to provide a crucial framework for ensuring the implementation of EU 2020 Strategy, with special regard to the „Innovation Union“ flagship initiative.
- contributes to the **Hungarian National Development Concept**, in which one of three development directions aims at connecting environmental and infrastructural networks (protection of the environment, disaster prevention, management of water supplies, shift towards the regional energy independence, stimulating cultural, ecological and active tourism). It further contributes to development directions of **Győr-Moson-Sopron** (Improvement of the quality of the environment: environmental and waste-management programs, programs for protection of environment, utilization of alternative energy sources).
- contributes to the objectives set in the **Provincial Development Concept for Niederösterreich 2004** - A vision of sustainable spatial development (sustainable, ecological and preserving use of natural resources), to several principles set in the **Provincial Development Plan Burgenland 2011** (achieving sustainable land use with a high quality of supply and mobility, pushing production of renewable energy and creating efficient settlement structures, expanding cooperation between nature and cultural landscape protection, agriculture and forestry, and tourism).
- contributes to the aims of the **Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 West Transdanubia**, which is based on development concepts of the 3 Hungarian counties and focuses also on green economic growth and green mobility.

### Characteristics

The diversity of cultural heritage in the border region is unique. There are several UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the programme region - Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn, Historic Centre of Wien, Fertő-tó/Neusiedler See Cultural Landscape and Pannonhalma Monastery. But there are also examples of common cultural heritage such as viticulture, the cross-border pannonian traditions, crafts and music or the Croatian minority with its strongholds in the whole programme area.

The whole region is characterized by a high biodiversity, a great variety of ecosystems and rich natural heritage. During decades of isolation by the Iron Curtain the border region became a refugium for rare and endangered animal and plant species. Hence, a number of protected areas were established, such as the cross-border National Park Fertő-tó/Neusiedler See, several National and Nature Parks, Natura 2000 Sites and other protected areas. An area of around 7 800 km<sup>2</sup> is protected under Natura 2000 on the Austrian side of the programme area, an area of around 2 400 km<sup>2</sup> on the Hungarian side. However, 20 to 30%<sup>5</sup> of the habitats in Austria and Hungary are still in an unsatisfactory state of protection and management. Moreover, the habitats and protected areas still lack interconnectivity and coordinated management. Another threat is the growing land consumption related to infrastructure investments and economic development of the region as well as effects from climate change. In Austria and Hungary alike, more than 20 ha of agricultural and silvicultural land is lost per day because it is used for settlements, infrastructure, energy production, disposal or economic purposes.

The region is characterized by strongly integrated groundwater bodies and a number of border-crossing watercourses (direction Austria-Hungary) due to geological features of the border region. Cross-border cooperation in order to attain a better environmental status and the improvement of water management in the Austrian-Hungarian border region has a long tradition. It is carried out in a bilateral water commission (Hungarian-Austrian Water Commission (HAWC)) and on the level of the local water management offices.

### **Challenges and needs for cooperation**

- The region's natural and cultural heritage is the basis for high quality living conditions and also for economic and social development not least in the rural parts of the area. The border region has major assets of natural and cultural features which attract guests from Austria and Hungary as well as international tourists. This has great potential for economic growth if used for nature- , wine and wellness tourism. So far this potential has not sufficiently made use of as there is a lack of a - cross-border - organisational structure and of marketing „nature experience” as an ecotouristic product. Hence, there is a need for capacity building among the local and regional tourism marketing organisations, in order to develop cultural and natural heritage with an integrated approach and establish model regions for sustainable tourism .
- There is a need for managing and restoring biodiversity and functional ecological networks. This requires coordinated and cross-border management concepts and should be accompanied by investments in sustainable tourism, awareness-raising, training and education as well as communication and information activities.
- Using the experiences with green technologies, the region can contribute to the national and European goals improving environmental protection. Focus should be given to cross-border rivers and regions such as the Danube, Raab and Mur, the cross-border nature parks and the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor.
- Joint management, revitalization, water-damage prevention and flood prevention of the borderwater bodies and reduction of flood damages are important issues in the

---

<sup>5</sup>According to assessments of the conservation status for the period 2000 – 2006



Austrian-Hungarian border region. Better coordination of environmental protection and flood risk management need to be achieved especially along the rivers Raab/Rába, Leitha/Lajta. Pilot measures to harmonise flood protection and revitalization of river systems are necessary across the border.

- The EU Flood Directive and the European Water Framework Directive have to be implemented in Austria as well as in Hungary. Innovative, joint projects are pooling the resources.
- Potential conflicting usage interests exist between the development of ecological networks on the one hand and expansion of transport infrastructure and urban sprawl on the other hand. Negotiations are necessary in order to find a sensitive approach for the construction of new road infrastructure and extensive development activities in the proximity of protected areas.

#### 1.1.1.5 Needs related to transport and mobility (Thematic objective 7)

##### European policy context

Providing support for the coherent planning of transport infrastructure and the development of environmentally friendly and interoperable transport modes contributes to the objectives of the EU Initiative „**A resource-efficient Europe**“. Also the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)** targets transport, mobility and intermodality under Priority Area 1a (inland waterway transport) and 1b (rail and road transport). The EUSDR priority area 1b enables for example the support of developing intelligent traffic systems, the “improvement of regional/ local cross-border infrastructure and the access to rural areas” and the “enhanced cooperation between air traffic stakeholders in order to prepare a plan to implement shorter plane routes”.

The **National Reform Programmes (NRP)** of both member states deal with transport as an important topic either as a means to increase competitiveness or in an environmental context.

The **Hungarian Partnership Agreement 2014-20** aims at enhancing energy and resource efficiency; the aims of Austria’s Partnership Agreement **StratAT 2020** include also support and investment in the Trans-European Transport Network, sustainable and environmental friendly public transport, and the development of effective interoperable railway systems.

Within thematic objective 07, the programme furthermore

- reflects the cross-sectoral fields of action of the **Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development** (Sustainable mobility);
- reflects the Hungarian **National Transport Strategy**;
- contributes to the **Austrian Energy Strategy** (2009) and the **Hungarian National Development Concept**, which sets development directions for Győr-Moson-Sopron (developing the TEN-T transport corridors crossing the county (roads, railways, Danube), their junctions (logistic centres, ports) and the connected networks), for Vas (improving the North-South and East-West international transportation axes and their accessibility) and Zala (trade and logistic transit region between the Baltic States and Adriatic);

- reflects the Infrastructure Needs Assessment (INAT) within the **Strategic Framework for Transport and Infrastructure Development in centrope** (agreed by the political board of centrope on 21 June 2012);
- contributes to the **Transport Strategy Niederösterreich 2010**, which defines sustainability as the basic principle and a vision of “avoiding, shifting, improving, supporting, coordinating”, the **Provincial Development Plan Burgenland 2011** (achieving sustainable land use with a high quality of supply and mobility) as well as the **Climate Protection Plan Steiermark 2020/2030**, which amongst others focuses on the thematic field of mobility;
- reflects the preferences set in the „**RIS Navigator**” **Western Transdanubian Region Innovation Strategy** (vehicle manufacturing industry: e-mobility and sustainable transport);
- supports the aims of the **Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 West Transdanubia** which is based on development concepts of the 3 Hungarian counties and focuses i.a. on green economic growth and green mobility as well as public administration;
- builds on the **General Transport Strategy Burgenland** (elaborated in 2014) that provides a new strategy and guidelines for the development of accessibility and the mobility system of Burgenland with a cross-border and international outlook.
- Builds on the National Energy Strategy 2030 of Hungary;
- The above mentioned National Transport Strategy of Hungary and the General Transport Strategy Burgenland provide the basis for a study launched in 2013 based on an agreement between Burgenland and Hungary and conducted with the support of the 2007-2013 Hungarian Transport Operational Programme (KÖZOP-3.5.0-09-11-2012-0026), titled “Identification of border crossing sections of projects complying with KÖZOP on feasibility study level with examination of their effect on the transportation network on the Hungarian – Austrian border section” (hereinafter as „**KÖZOP Study**”). The study aims to identify functional regions, collect and analyse all relevant economic and social data, identify transport development needs and objectives in these functional regions and accordingly propose and elaborate cross-border transport development measures related to missing road and railway links in particular. As such it will provide a comprehensive summary of all transport development measures that can be jointly implemented by Burgenland and Hungary.
- Apart from the described policies, strategies and plan, two projects of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Austria - Hungary 2007-2013 have delivered important data and analysis that can be used by the programme and future projects for making informed decisions:
  - In the project **ERRAM HU-AT** a cross-border accessibility model was elaborated that covers Niederösterreich, Burgenland and Western Transdanubia. The creation of identical basic figures and calculation methods enable a comparative evaluation of the locations from temporal, spatial and thematic perspectives for the entire region covered by the project. The objective of the project was to evaluate the existing and future quality of location and life for people and businesses in the cross-border region taking into account the current conditions

and the development plans for the transport system.

- The project **EMAH** surveyed the mobility patterns of commuters in the Austrian-Hungarian border region and encouraged environmentally friendly means of transportation among people.

### Characteristics

Currently, the programme region is characterised by high disparities with regard to the allocated transport infrastructure and accessibility levels. Whereas the northern area (Wien, Wien-Umland Südteil, Nordburgenland and Győr region) has a dense high-level road network and is infrastructurally well developed, the south (especially Mittel- and Südburgenland as well as Vas and Zala) is confronted with a poor accessibility level. In the rail sector Mittelburgenland and Südburgenland show a similar poor accessibility level after several regional railways were closed in recent years, but the situation in Hungary has improved in the last years. Routes of regional and interregional importance were upgraded and brought mid-Western Transdanubia closer to the agglomeration of Wien. Most of the lines in Western Transdanubia are now operated by GYSEV. EuRegio trains have become a great success since their introduction in 2002 and now connect several towns across the borders.

With regard to the TEN-T network, the **core network corridors** touch the programme region at its borders:

- The Baltic-Adriatic core network corridor, coming from Poland and connecting Bratislava-Wien-Graz-Klagenfurt with Northern Italy, provides access to the core network for the very western part of the programme region.
- The Rhine-Danube core network corridor, coming from Germany and stretching via Wien-Győr-Budapest to the Danube delta, links the very northern part of the programme region to the TEN-T network.
- The Mediterranean core network corridor crosses the programme region in the south (Zalaszentivan) and connects it to Budapest.

Railway lines that are part of the **comprehensive network** provide transport services to the northern part of Burgenland and most of the programme region in Western Hungary.

Projects of the previous financing period helped to incorporate a large part of these lines (e.g. SETA –Corridor) into the TEN-T network. With the available funds on the regional, national and European level these sections of the railway network will be upgraded in order to offer competitive levels of service in the near future.

New motorways (also part of the comprehensive network) will improve accessibility levels in the south (Fürstenfelder Schnellstraße S 7/M8 - part of E66 connecting Graz with Budapest) and will provide efficient connections from north to south (M86/M9).

In order to identify the secondary nodes in the programme region, the tertiary nodes have been combined with branching or crossing points of the core and comprehensive networks and/or multimodal connections (cf. 2.A.6.2./3/7b the Guiding principles for the selection of operations). **Secondary nodes** in the programme area are situated along the above mentioned corridors and include (apart from Wien and the bigger cities in Steiermark and Niederösterreich) only cities on the Hungarian side (Mosonmagyaróvár, Sopron, Győr, Szombathely, Celldömölk, Körmend, Szentgotthárd, Vasvár and Nagykanizsa). There is no city in Burgenland, which fulfills the criteria of a secondary node.



Generally, it can be stated that especially the connections from the tertiary nodes in Burgenland to the comprehensive network in Hungary are weak.

Contrary to the positive development in the railway sector in some parts of the programme region, road passenger transport has risen severely over the past years. Transport infrastructure in the northern part of the programme region has reached full capacity and high traffic loads lead to congestions that increase travel time and therefore reduce accessibility levels. One reason is the ongoing trend to use the private car. The level of motorisation in Burgenland is – with 633 cars per 1.000 inhabitants in 2014 – the highest in Austria. Another reason is the steadily increasing cross-border commuting traffic after Hungary joined the EU in 2004. According to the Hungarian National Road Database (OKA), the traffic on the public roads crossing the Hungarian-Austrian border doubled between 2004 and 2012 from 40 000 to 80 000 vehicles per day. This number does not include the several thousand daily border crossings on municipal and private roads (e.g. in Ágfalva or Sopronkőhida).

This trend is further reinforced by the lack of adequate public transport crossing the border and in the rural areas.

Generally, public transport is better coordinated in the Austrian part of the programme region. (Especially the city of Wien has been successful to decrease car traffic by a bundle of measures.) However, recent developments in the Hungarian public transport system open up perspectives for an improved coordination, e.g. the merging of the bus operator companies and the increasing role of the Raaber Bahn/GYSEV in rail transport services.

In Austria, a bus network of variable quality complements the rail network. In Hungary, the large majority of towns and villages is accessible by public buses. Apart from the main links, however, public transport is still not able to compete with individual transport when it comes to travel times. Budget restrictions on all administrative levels pose a severe constrain for keeping the quality of public transport services at the current level. In order to increase the utilisation of existing mobility services, additional target groups (e.g. tourists) have to be addressed. Alternative mobility concepts like flexible public transport systems (e.g. call-a-bus-services, municipal busses) accomplish the existing public transport system to a minor degree and help to cover the last mile to the passengers' destination.

Mobility management on all levels (region, local authorities, companies etc.) has become a focus of transport policy in Austria in recent years. The Mobilitätszentrale Burgenland was one of the pioneers in Austria in that field, dealing with multimodal transport issues. The first mobility centre in Hungary, located in Sopron, has been established as a result of the AT-HU 2007-2013 project "GREMO Pannonia".

The inter-regional cycling network has been improved over the last decade. As there already is a good touristic cycling network, the focus in Austria will lie on closing existing gaps and providing adequate infrastructure and services to all-day-cyclists. On the Hungarian side the

network still needs to be extended. Moreover, important cross-border links between the two sides of the border are still missing<sup>6</sup>. Cycling trails should serve local inhabitants and tourists equally.

The upgrading of the region's accessibility levels for passenger transport, especially to the few centers (secondary and tertiary nodes), will facilitate commuting between the two countries and help stabilizing demographic development by counteracting depopulation of rural areas. While Wien and Graz – and their surrounding areas – have grown over the last decade (due to migration from other parts of the programme region and from outside), the regions of Südburgenland and Oststeiermark have stagnated, and the Hungarian regions Vas and Zala have lost over 4% of their population. If there are attractive possibilities to commute to work places, schools and other facilities (medical services etc.), people will find it easier to stay in their home villages instead of migrating to the agglomerations.

### **Challenges and needs for cooperation**

- Continuously increasing traffic volumes and its related negative effects on travel times due to congestion are one of the main challenges in the northern part of the programme region. There is a strong need to provide shorter and improved road and rail connections between the regional centers and the TEN-T network in order to expand capacities of the regional transport system.
- Due to poor accessibility levels, quality of location and quality of life is still lower in the southern part of the programme region. Better connections to the TEN-T network would improve accessibility levels for the regions in the south of the programme region.
- Interoperability between the transport modes is an important precondition for the efficient usage of the existing transport offers. There is still a lack of Park&Ride (P&R) as well as Bike&Ride (B&R) facilities which would raise the attractiveness of intermodal connections and would provide options to connect rural areas to the rail network.
- The whole programme region faces the challenge of dealing with the dominance of private car use. This is why there is a strong need to promote environmentally friendly means of transport by investing in and upgrading public transport services and raising awareness for it.
- Although there is a global trend to sustainable tourism, sustainable mobility does not yet play a big role in the development of tourist packages in the programme region. There is a strong need to promote good practices, such as the sustainable mobility concept for the Neusiedler See/Fertő tó region (rail-bus-bike).
- The largest share of commuters uses the private car to get to the work places that are mostly situated in the tertiary and secondary nodes. Making commuting more sustainable must be one of the key objectives of mobility management measures.
- On the Austrian side of the programme region measures for the bicycle network will have to focus on closing gaps and bottlenecks, whereas on the Hungarian side the

---

<sup>6</sup>Source: Cross-border Master Plan Bike Traffic Burgenland – Westungarn 2009/10, Quality Check, Eisenstadt 2010

network still needs to be expanded. Especially cross-border links need to be improved. Further efforts have to be dedicated to the organisation of common services and marketing of this network. At the same time, the requirements of all-day-cyclists have to be taken into consideration.

#### 1.1.1.6 Needs related to regional governance and institutional cooperation (Thematic objective 11)

##### European policy context

This thematic objective matches two cross-sectoral fields of the **Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development NSTRAT neu** (Perspectives of local and spatial development, Global responsibility) and the preferences set in the **Hungarian National Development Concept** (expanding institutional cooperation and capacities: cooperation of public institutions, supporting EGTC's, stimulating the direct cooperation between individuals, with special focus on the participation of minorities). It also fits well the preferences set for **Győr-Moson-Sopron** (Utilization of potentials of settlements and regions, the development of their infrastructure, Reinforcing multi- and interregional connections: closer cooperation between cities (Wien-Bratislava-Győr), increasing multi-county and interregional and cross-border country cooperation, widening European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation; Strengthening the role of Győr and Sopron (as cross-border agglomeration centres) and Mosonmagyaróvár as economic, cultural, educational, health, service and innovation centre; Increasing the capabilities of the towns as regional economic organizers and developers of their rural surroundings; Catching up the peripheral regions of the country), **Vas** (Transnational and cross border cooperation) and **Zala** (Development of peripheral areas).

The **Hungarian Partnership Agreement 2014-20** sets the aim of good governance. The **Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 West Transdanubia** is based on development concepts of the 3 Hungarian counties and also focuses on public administration. The aims of Austria's Partnership Agreement **StratAT 2020** include also strengthening integrated regional development and strengthening the innovation capacity of the government and the institutions.

The macro-regional EU **Strategy for the Danube Region** targets governance issues, sets actions to promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts, institutional capacity and cooperation to invest in people and skills.

Through the realization of activities that focus on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, the programme moreover

- contributes to the **Austrian Energy Strategy (2009)**, which pursues a triple strategy: Increasing energy efficiency, efficient primary energy consumption and safeguarding the energy supply by transmission and distribution networks and storage systems for electric power, grid-bound energy sources.
- serves the implementation of the **Hungarian National Environment Technology Innovation Strategy (2011)**, which explores the fundamental linkages between innovation and green economy for the period of 2011-2020. By adopting NETIS, the Hungarian Government has expressed its determination for mainstreaming the concept of green economy. NETIS is determined to provide a crucial framework for ensuring the implementation of EU 2020 Strategy, with special regard to the „Innovation Union”

flagship initiative.

- contributes to the **Hungarian National Development Concept**, in which one of three development directions aims at connecting environmental and infrastructural networks (protection of the environment, disaster prevention, management of water supplies, shift towards the regional energy independence, stimulating cultural, ecological and active tourism). It further contributes to development directions of **Győr-Moson-Sopron** (Improvement of the quality of the environment: environmental and waste-management programs, programs for protection of environment, utilization of alternative energy sources), of **Vas** (Sustainable utilization of renewable energy sources (thermal, bio, wind and solar energy), Establishing international cooperation in research into renewable energy sources and alternative vehicle drives) and of **Zala** (extensive and sustainable utilization of renewable energy sources).
- promotes cost-effectiveness, energy efficiency, security of supply, environmental sustainability and social equity, which are the cornerstones of energy policies of Wien. Within the framework of four strategies, its main aims are: Protection of the energy supply (**Security of Supply Plan Wien, 2006**), reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 21% until 2020 (based on 1990) and prevention of annual 4.5 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions (**Climate Protection Programme Wien - KliP 2010-2020**), moderation of growth of energy use to +7% until 2015 (**Municipal Energy Efficiency Programme (SEP)**) and focussing on renewable energy sources (**RAP\_vie – Renewable Action Plan Wien**)
- contributes to the objectives set in the **Provincial Development Concept for Niederösterreich 2004** - A vision of sustainable spatial development (sustainable, ecological and preserving use of natural resources), to several principles set in the **Provincial Development Plan Burgenland 2011** (achieving sustainable land use with a high quality of supply and mobility, pushing production of renewable energy and creating efficient settlement structures, expanding cooperation between nature and cultural landscape protection, agriculture and forestry, and tourism). Furthermore the topic contributes to the **Energy Strategy Steiermark 2025**, which focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy, district heating and combined heat, power and cooling production, energy infrastructure, and research and education as well as the **Climate Protection Plan Steiermark**, which focuses on the thematic fields buildings, mobility, agriculture and forestry, production, and energy supply.
- contributes to the aims of the **Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 West Transdanubia**, which is based on development concepts of the 3 Hungarian counties and focuses also on green economic growth and green mobility.
- Contributes to the cross-border **Energy Strategy PANnonia – ESPAN**, which sets the aim of dealing with the sector of the sustainable development of energy in multiple ways at regional, communal and private level within the Austrian and Hungarian regions. A long-term objective is to reach full independence from imported (namely fossil) energy sources.

### Characteristics

In comparison to Austria, which is a federal country, Hungary is characterized by a much more centralized administration. These differences in the administrative system also affect the preparation and implementation of cross-border activities. There are some disparities in

the quality of governance, measured by the World Bank's worldwide governance indicators<sup>7</sup>. The index "regulatory quality" captures perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development." In Europe, this index (in standard deviations) ranges between -1.9 and 1.5, Austria being above (1.0), but Hungary below average (-0.8)<sup>8</sup>.

Government effectiveness is captured by "perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies". The index (in standard deviations) on government effectiveness is above average both in Austria (0.8) and in Hungary (0.4)<sup>9</sup> - compared to minimum (-2.2) and maximum (1.8) EU values.

Cross-border cooperation structures enhance the competitiveness and innovative potential of regions. In both countries, governance structures and networks between several institutions, regional actors and the civil society have been established. Various institutional networks are already actively engaged in the Austrian-Hungarian border region in order to improve personal, economic and political exchange. These networks represent a good basis for creating a common identity by means of cross-border cooperation projects.

In the field of energy the region has good potential and unexploited resources for power generation from renewable sources to contribute to the obligation of the EU countries. The renewable sources of energy in the region include wind, solar energy, geothermal energy and biomass. The tradition, the conditions and the technical level of producing energy by renewable sources is different in Austria and Hungary. In Austria 26.3% of the gross final energy consumption comes from renewable sources, in Hungary 7.7%<sup>10</sup>.

The high ecological awareness in Austria and the increasing interest in Hungary will continue to play an important role for cross-border cooperation in the fields of environment protection and renewable energy. Know-how-transfer, exchange of good practices and institutional cooperation will be facilitated through existing networks in those topics.

### **Challenges and needs for cooperation**

- There are serious incoherences in the programme region concerning the determining factors (e.g. administration, policy framework, organisational settings and practices) that stimulate and support effective and efficient implementation of cross-border cooperation. Especially the imbalance in governance capacity at regional level requires a prudent approach to partnership-building.
- Cross-border activities are based on intensive cooperation and communication processes and depend on actors and networks at local and regional level. The network analysis shows that there is a need to implement new and to strengthen existing networks and cooperation platforms as well as to create new possibilities that promote cooperation between organisations, the public sector and citizens.

---

<sup>7</sup> Source: <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#doc>

<sup>8</sup> Source: EU Country fact sheets Austria and Hungary, DG Regio, 2013

<sup>9</sup> Source: EU Country fact sheets Austria and Hungary, DG Regio, 2013

<sup>10</sup>Source: Eurostat 2012

- The harmonization of the planning systems is crucial for a harmonized growth. Therefore, a better coordination of regional strategies and processes is needed in order to avoid professional and political conflicts. Furthermore, data collection methodology, databases and assessment methods need to be harmonized across different social and economic structures.
- In order to promote and intensify (future) cross-border cooperation, there is a strong need to involve the local population in the cross-border activities, e.g. by people-to-people activities or intercultural training and particularly education (at all levels).
- With regard to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources there is broad know-how on the Austrian side and strong interest from the Hungarian partners. Therefore, this field has a great potential for joint activities that aim at capacity-building for local and regional administration and policy-makers, awareness-raising and know-how transfer.
- Vocational education systems in the two countries differ considerably; harmonisation will contribute to develop a cross-border labour market and enhance opportunities and career chances for the regional population. Special challenges in the Hungarian part of the programme region are the youth unemployment and the lack of skilled workforce due to cross-border migration and commuting.

#### 1.1.1.7 Strategic response by the programme to contribute to Europe 2020

The Europe 2020 strategy is an overall strategic framework, which was launched in 2010 by the European Union and its Member States. It puts forward three priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The link of the Cooperation Programme to the Europe 2020 strategy goals is ensured through the definition of thematic objectives (Article 9, CPR) and the requirement for thematic concentration (Art. 5 ETC). The programme is formed by **five priority axes** including technical assistance and **seven investment priorities** (Article 5 ERDF, Article 6 and 7 ETC). According to Art.7 (1) ETC Regulation each priority axis corresponds with a thematic objective and comprises one or more investment priorities.

The programme strategy is based on the specific analysis and identified needs of the programme area, which have been discussed and agreed on through an extensive programming process including public consultation among the programme stakeholders and a wider CBC community. Moreover, the programming took into account lessons learned from previous programming periods, the given financial framework and the existence of suitable implementation and administration structures.

To achieve the intended targets for the priority axes and investment priorities every activity supported within the priority axes and its investment priorities has to contribute to the specific objectives of the relevant investment priority. The results of the different activities



will have to be measured with given result indicators. Effectiveness in the ratio between the costs of the operation and its contribution to reach the target values is also an important factor as well as the compliance of these activities with the relevant cross-border strategies.

The Cooperation Programme AT-HU will contribute to Europe 2020 through investing in the following thematic objectives (TOs), each of which is equivalent to a priority axis:

- Priority Axis 1: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMES (TO3)
- Priority Axis 2: Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency (TO6)
- Priority Axis 3: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Removing Bottlenecks in Key Network Infrastructures (TO7)
- Priority Axis 4: Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration (TO11)
- Priority Axis 5: Technical Assistance (TA)

**1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation**

**Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities**

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
3	3d	<p>The programme regions good potential (high share of SME, 38 clusters in innovative and similar branches, strong universities in Wien and Graz) is contrasted by a considerable innovation gap between the Austrian and Hungarian border regions, and an insufficient access of SME to results of R&amp;D and innovation.</p> <p>With entrepreneurship being weak in Hungary and a generally low survival rate of start-ups, there is a need to strengthen the regional SMEs by enhancing their access to R&amp;D results and innovation as well as improving the support of SMEs through intermediary organisations, particularly in facilitating access to innovation finance, reducing administrative barriers and improving the coordination of clusters. This will ultimately contribute to more employment and economic development.</p> <p>Analysis shows that there is SME cooperation in the region, supported by intermediary organisations and by networks of educational institutions. This is a good basis for further co-operational activities.</p>
6	6c	<p>The region's natural and cultural heritage is the basis for high quality living conditions and also for economic and social development not least in the rural parts of the area. The border region has major assets of natural and cultural features which attract national and international tourists. This has great potential for economic growth if used for nature- , wine and wellness tourism.</p> <p>So far this potential has not sufficiently made use of as there is a lack of a - cross-border - organisational structure and of marketing „nature experience” as an ecotouristic product. Hence, there is a need for capacity building among the tourism marketing organisations, in order to develop cultural and natural heritage with an integrated approach and establish model regions for sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Analysis shows a large number of existing cooperation in the</p>



		field of cultural and natural heritage. Some networks have a long experience in cooperating and show great interest for future cooperation.
6	6d	<p>The whole region is characterized by a high biodiversity, a great variety of ecosystems and rich natural heritage. A number of protected areas were established, such as the cross-border National Park and World Heritage Site Fertő tó/Neusiedler See, National and Nature parks, Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas.</p> <p>However, as up to a third of the habitats in Austria and Hungary are still in an unsatisfactory state of protection and many habitats and protected areas still lack interconnectivity and coordinated management, there is still a need for managing and restoring biodiversity and functional ecological networks. This requires coordinated and cross-border management concepts that aim at long-term stability and resilience of the ecosystems.</p> <p>Analysis shows intense and comprehensive cooperation activities in the field of environmental protection. Most of the networks have successfully cooperated for several years and show a great interest for future cooperation.</p>
6	6f	<p>Due to the natural conditions in the Austrian-Hungarian border region (Fertő tó/Neusiedler See, Danube, several small rivers, large groundwater bodies) water management, revitalization of water bodies, flood prevention and preventive measures to reduce flood damages are important issues.</p> <p>Because of the integrated groundwater bodies and border crossing water courses, cross-border cooperation in this field will be inevitable. Better coordination of environmental protection and flood risk management need to be achieved especially along the rivers Raab/Rába and Leitha/Lajta. Last but not least, the EU Flood Directive and the European Water Framework Directive has to be implemented in Austria and in Hungary.</p> <p>Cross-border cooperation dealing with water management has a long tradition in the Austrian-Hungarian border region and is carried out by a bilateral water commission (Hungarian-Austrian Water Commission (HAWC)) and by the local water management offices.</p>
7	7b	Despite good connectivity in the northern area the existing transport network has reached full capacity and congestion has already started compromising accessibility levels. Therefore, there is a strong need for better and faster cross-border

		<p>transport connections in order to increase the capacity of the overall transport system.</p> <p>Mittel- and Südburgenland and the counties of Vas and Zala are confronted with disadvantages due to their low accessibility levels. In order to benefit from the planned development measures on the comprehensive network, connections to the nodes along the TEN-T network have to be improved.</p> <p>There is specific need in the region to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving rail and road connections from tertiary nodes to the TEN-T network (also via secondary nodes) in the south of the programme area.</li> <li>• expanding capacity of connections from tertiary nodes to the TEN-T network (also via secondary nodes) in the north of the programme area</li> </ul>
7	7c	<p>The whole programme area faces the challenge of dealing with the dominance of private car use. In order to achieve a shift to more environmentally friendly means of transport, adequate alternatives have to be provided.</p> <p>There is specific need in the region to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing attractive services by investing in the upgrading of public transport services and creating innovative flexible transport systems for rural and sensitive areas</li> <li>• closing the gaps in the existing cross-border cycling network by providing safe and attractive cycling infrastructure incl. parking facilities</li> <li>• better coordination of existing mobility offers</li> <li>• awareness-raising through easily accessible information about mobility offers</li> <li>• specific mobility management activities for commuters and tourists</li> </ul>
11	CBC	<p>Regional governance structures are a crucial precondition for making best use of existing resources in the cross-border context. However, differences in the legal and institutional framework in Austria and Hungary (negatively) affect the preparation and implementation of cross-border activities and cooperation.</p> <p>Thus, it is necessary to implement and strengthen new and existing networks and cooperation platforms (especially in regional development and energy) as well as to support the</p>

		<p>cross-border cooperation of public administration.</p> <p>Besides institutional capacity building, cross-border cooperation depends to a large extent on the abilities and mind-sets of individuals. Therefore, it is equally important to support people-to-people activities, language initiatives, intercultural trainings, etc.</p> <p>As skills and qualification are the key assets for a smart and inclusive development and growth policy, there is particular need for action regarding vocational education and further training.</p>
--	--	--

## 1.2 Justification of the financial allocation

The overall programme budget is EUR 95 870 327 (including national contributions and technical assistance). The ERDF contribution amounts to EUR 78.8 million, as detailed in Section 3 Financing Plan. The chosen distribution of financial resources above all takes into account

- the types of supported actions and their estimated financial extent,
- the experiences of the programming period 2007-2013, with a focus on key projects and preparatory steps for planned key projects,
- the priorities expressed by the partners in the programming process and input in the course of the public consultation events.

94% (6% allocated to Technical Assistance) or EUR 74 117 007 of the programme's resources are allocated to the chosen four thematic objectives.

A share of 9% of the ERDF allocation, respectively EUR 6 979 350 is allocated to thematic objective **TO3d (priority axis 1)**. The financial allocation shows the extent of actions to be supported, all aiming to improve the cooperative linkages between the region's SME's and R&D centres and to include a greater number of SMEs in those networks, also by improving the performance of the intermediary organisations.

During the programming period 2007-2013 there were already 19 cooperation activities and projects of SMEs, partly supported by intermediary organisations and existing networks of educational institutions, which will serve as a good basis for future co-operation activities. All programme partners expressed their interest during the programming process. Additionally, during the public consultation events it became evident that a significant number of projects is already being planned in the fields of cooperation and network activities, innovation and common market presence.

A share of 31% of the ERDF allocation, respectively EUR 24 691 650 is allocated to thematic objective **TO6 (priority axis 2)**, taking into account the broad range of supported actions in this field, aiming at a common approach to protect the region's rich environmental assets and its shared resources. The comparatively high allocation is owed to the fact, that cost-intensive environmental infrastructure is part of the actions intended.

It also takes into account the traditional strong environmental focus of the preceding AT-HU Interreg programmes, which always have been "Green Programmes". Experiences of the

programming period 2007-2013 show a number of 32 projects and a large existing network of 141 active players in the field of environment and energy. All partner regions recognised this TO as highly relevant. During consultation regional stakeholders showed high interest in future cooperation and presented numerous initiatives and a considerable number of intended project applications.

A share of 30% of the ERDF allocation, respectively EUR 23 447 250 is allocated to **TO7 (priority axis 3)**, taking into account the extent of supported actions aiming to improve the cross-border connectivity and accessibility as well as fostering the shift to environmental friendly transport modes. 25% of the ERDF allocation is assigned to Investment Priority 7b in order to tackle existing bottlenecks in the region, including road linkages from the identified nodes to the main transport corridors crossing the programme region. About another 5% of the ERDF allocation is assigned to Investment Priority 7c for public transport development measures, including small-scale infrastructure development, interoperability and other sustainable cross-border mobility solutions. The comparatively high allocation of resources to TO7 is due to the fact that transport infrastructure is very cost-intensive.

Experiences during the 2007-2013 period show a number of 16 projects in the field of transport and mobility, the network is yet not very established in a cross-border way. However, improving cross-border accessibility has a special importance to Burgenland and Hungary. Therefore, the KÖZOP study, as a common transport strategy is currently being developed for the Austrian-Hungarian border region as a preparatory step for implementation. During public consultation events held on both sides of the border a considerable number of potential projects were presented to and discussed with local stakeholders.

A share of 24% of the ERDF allocation, respectively EUR 18 998 758 is allocated to **TO11 (priority axis 4)**, reflecting the planned actions aiming at enhancing the cooperation intensity and strengthening the cross-border integration, in order to make best use of existing regional resources. Through the actions, the programme not only intends to support knowledge exchange, but to launch an important learning-process: communicating despite the language barrier, reflecting usual standards and processes, training abilities to negotiate despite diverging opinions and finding compromises.

The allocation also takes into account the experiences from the 2007-2013 period, during which a need for the harmonisation of regional strategies and processes became obvious. Good partnership, based on mutual understanding and trust is the key to success and tangible outcomes. The programme partners consider the immaterial effects as the essence of the ETC programmes, such as stabilizing of the collaboration of institutions – especially at regional level, the common understanding of challenges and their cooperative solution (at programme and project level) or the establishment of structures leading to sustainable networks. During consultation regional stakeholders showed a pronounced interest in cooperation and presented a considerable number of project ideas, for example in the fields of intermunicipal cooperation, student exchange, cooperation of educational institutions, integrated regional development, and know-how management.

**Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme**

Priority axis	ERDF support (in EUR)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)				
1	6 979 350	100%	0%	0%	3	3d	Strengthening regional entrepreneurship, the performance of start-ups and the innovation capacities of SMEs with a focus on the development of (internationally) competitive products	Survival rate of enterprises after 3 years
2	7 619 400	100%	0%	0%	6	6c	Improving the protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage through common approaches to sustainable tourism	Overnight stays
	5 690 750	100%	0%	0%	6	6d	Improving the ecological stability and resilience of landscape and ecosystems	Conservation degree A (of all habitat types in the Natura 2000 sites of the programme region)

	11 381 500	100%	0%	0%	6	6f	Improving the management and protection of water bodies	Chemical and ecological condition of border water bodies classified as "good" and "very good"
3	20 071 250	100%	0%	0%	7	7b	Improving cross-border connectivity of regional centres to the TEN-T network	Average travel time (individual transport) to a node with TEN-T network connection
	3 376 000	100%	0%	0%	7	7c	Enhancing sustainable mobility on the local and regional level	Intermodal public transport nodes
4	18 998 758	100%	0%	0%	11	11	Improving institutional cross-border co-operation in order to strengthen the integration  Strengthening intercultural capacities and labour mobility of the border population by supporting cross-border education initiatives and vocational training	Level of cooperation quality in the border region  Institutions involved in cross-border education schemes
TA	4 730 872	100%	0%	0%			Implementing the Cooperation Programme in a sound and effective way	Not applicable

## SECTION 2 PRIORITY AXES

(Reference: points (b) and (c) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**2.A Description of the priority axes other than technical assistance**

(Reference: point (b) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**2.A.1/1 Priority Axis 1**

(repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (TO03)

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through community-led local development	

2.A.2/1 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Not applicable

## 2.A.3/1 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

(repeated for each fund under the priority axis)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

## 2.A.4/1/3d Investment priority 3d

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

*(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets and to engage in innovation process
---------------------	--

## 2.A.5/1/3d Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

*(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

ID	SO11
Specific objective	Strengthening regional entrepreneurship, the performance of start-ups and the innovation capacities of SMEs with a focus on the development of (internationally) competitive products
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The Austrian-Hungarian border region has already strong centres of R&amp;D activities. However, these are concentrated in the urban agglomerations like Wien or Graz, and additionally, there is a considerable innovation gap between the Hungarian and the Austrian part of the programme region. Moreover, the regional SMEs lack access to R&amp;D-results and to funds for innovation.</p> <p>Cross-border cooperation between the existing innovation and R&amp;D institutions as well as between research institutions and SMEs will have various results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing R&amp;D and innovation potential will be</li> </ul>



better utilised.

- Especially start-ups will profit from better access to research results and funds for innovation, which could stabilise them in the critical first three years.
- The Hungarian counties (classified as “Moderate Innovators”) will gain best practices and know-how from cooperating with Austria.

One approach will be to support and link the numerous research-driven clusters, innovation centres and existing regional innovation networks to SMEs (or SME networks). A joint strategic framework will be established for the border region that is based on the existing Smart Specialisation Strategies in order to better utilise the available innovation competence and to prepare the ground for a more intense cooperation in the future. Additionally, the SMEs’ individual capabilities to cooperate will be enhanced by developing the necessary skills and competences.

Another approach involves the various intermediate organisations in both countries (e.g. trade associations, cluster managements) that support SMEs. The effectiveness of these organisations varies throughout the border region and their cross-border cooperation is mainly based on projects. A more continuous cross-border cooperation of intermediate organisations will allow for joint measures that provide better and more harmonised services to the SMEs, especially with regard to support for start-ups and for enhancing regional entrepreneurship.

As one result, universities and research institutions will be embedded in an increasingly well established innovation system with strong links between the actors. More results will be intensified cross-border linkages among the research and innovation-supporting institutions and the regional SMEs respectively stronger SME networks and clusters. A higher, integrated service level and more effective operation of the intermediate enterprise development organisations will in turn lead to an enhanced innovation capacity and competitiveness and in the long-term lead to economic and social development of the border region as a whole.

The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute to an increased survival rate of SMEs in the Austrian-Hungarian border region.

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)*(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 11	Survival rate of enterprises after 3 years	Percent	61.01%	2012	62%	KSH, Statistik Austria	Annually

2.A.6/1/3d Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/1/3d A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	3d
	<p>The actions supported will encourage and help SMEs to cooperate with existing R&amp;D and innovation support facilities and with each other (in the scope of SME networks and clusters). This will lead to improved capabilities of SMEs to absorb new processes, technologies and know-how, both as a result of system- and process development and organisational learning as well as better individual and group competences and skills. In some cases, new products or services will be developed and introduced to the market, in other cases joint marketing activities or producing and sale systems will be implemented.</p> <p>The actions will further contribute to the higher service level and more effective operation of the intermediate enterprise development organisations, for example in the field of the innovation transfer and entrepreneurship, which is considered to be an important precondition for a growing and more profitable SME sector in the border region. Advisory skills and capacities of intermediary institutions will be enhanced mainly through supporting their professional counselling, process improvements, market research etc. It is also foreseen to develop an overall strategic framework for cross-border business innovation with the involvement of all important stakeholders.</p> <p>Examples of such actions supported within the specific objectives of IP 3d are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encouragement and support of technology and know-how transfer between research or technology institutions and businesses or clusters for the development and adaptation of new technologies, products or services</li> </ol>

2. Support of the creation, linkage or further development of the cross-border clusters, innovation centres, and/or SME networks in order to
  - (i) develop new or improved products, services or supply chains through joint research and innovation activities as well as through jointly established laboratories or innovation/technological centres for start-up companies,
  - (ii) set up “knowledge platforms” aiming at finding appropriate solutions through involving business partners or launching projects
  - (iii) promote the creation of joint local products, logistic and quality management solutions and sale systems in the border region
  - (iv) develop common marketing activities (developing common brands, webshops, etc.)
  - (v) establish and develop commercial centres and markets to be used by the producers and distributor enterprises in order to promote marketing and positioning local products
3. Support of collaboration of organisations dealing with economic development to improve their effectiveness in enhancing the internationalisation of the local business sector , e.g. by
  - (i) Supporting the exchange of experiences in the field of business and innovation development, such as the identification of common fields of interest and the implementation of joint approaches to innovation (e.g. cross-border innovation voucher scheme)
  - (ii) Reducing administrative barriers in the field of innovation and improving framework conditions for research
  - (iii) Developing and testing strategies/services that facilitate the access to financing innovation or new products and for (innovative) start-ups
  - (iv) Improving the coordination of cluster policies and cluster cooperation
  - (v) Developing joint tools and services to improve skills and competences for innovative entrepreneurship, improving the innovation culture, management skills and capacity building for start ups.

#### **Types of outputs under the investment priority 3d**

Typical outputs will encompass actual research activities (survey, data processing, testing, etc.) and product developments (specification) carried out and documented jointly by SMEs or SMEs and research institutions, in some cases new products or services ready to be offered on the market. Cooperation may result in joint sale systems, marketing activities or capacity building measures such as advisory services.

#### **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 3d**

The main target groups are local businesses (SMEs), which are operating in the programme area. Further targeted are SME networks, R&D and innovation institutions and intermediary organisations that deal with economic development. The population in the programme area will benefit from economic development e.g. with regard to better employment opportunities or high-level jobs.

Beneficiaries include all those institutions that seek to increase economic cooperation and foster innovation in SME's. They comprise amongst others development agencies, chambers of commerce, universities, trade associations, technology transfer institutions, research institutions, centres of R&D excellence, innovation agencies, incubator houses, cluster management bodies.

### **Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 3d**

The whole territory of the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary is targeted by the supported actions.

## **2.A.6.2/1/3d Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	3d
---------------------	----

### **General principles**

The selection of project applications will be carried out in application of Article 12 of ETC Regulation following a standardised assessment procedure with pre-defined criteria. Two types of quality assessment criteria, which are outlined in detail in section 5.3 (quality assessment), form the general principles and methodology for the selection of projects.

### **Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications**

In general, all applications have to be tailored to the framework of the programme and particularly to the defined requirements of each investment priority.

Beyond that, for IP 3d the following special criteria and principles apply:

- Applications focusing on purely academic research or basic research as well as on a mere exchange of knowledge will not be funded.
- Involvement of SMEs or SME networks is strongly recommended, but there is no preference for direct involvement of SMEs as project partners.
- The applicability of results and the impact of planned activities on SMEs will be considered for all applications.
- Projects that target territories with poor economic performance or scarce job opportunities will be preferred.

**2.A.6.3/1/3d Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	3d
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.4/1/3d Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	3d
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.5/1/3d Output indicators (by investment priority)***(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI11	SMEs involved in cooperation projects (action 1,2)	Number	100	Monitoring	Annually
OI12	Intermediate organisations involved in cooperation projects (action 3)	Number	8	Monitoring	Annually

## 2.A.7/1 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)
1	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 1	Euro	2 429 177	8 211 000	Monitoring	Financial indicator
1	OI11	SMEs involved in cooperation projects	Number	25	100	Monitoring	Output indicator

## 2.A.8/1 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	060	894 788
1	061	268 437
1	062	2 236 971
1	063	1 342 183
1	064	1 342 183
1	066	894 788

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	01 Non-repayable grant	6 979 350

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	01 Large Urban areas	4 187 610
1	02 Small Urban areas	2 093 804
1	03 Rural areas	348 968
1	04 Macro-regional cooperation area	348 968

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	07 Not applicable	6 979 350

2.A.9/1 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions for to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

*(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Priority axis	1
Not applicable	



**2.A.1/2 Priority Axis 2**

(repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO06)

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through community-led local development	

2.A.2/2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

*(Reference: Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Not applicable

2.A.3/2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

(repeated for each fund under the priority axis)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4/2/6c Investment priority 6c

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	6c – Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
---------------------	---

2.A.5/2/6c Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	SO21
Specific objective	Improving the protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage through common approaches to sustainable tourism
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The Austrian-Hungarian border region is a historically grown cultural landscape with rich natural and cultural heritage that attracts both national and international guests. Most of the region's cultural and natural heritage is under protection, while its valorisation for green tourism lags behind due to a lack of appropriate – cross-border – organisational structures, coordination or financing. Jointly developing and valorising these assets bears great potential for the region's economic and social development, especially in the rural parts.</p> <p>Cross-border cooperation and capacity building (for example among the local and regional tourism marketing organisations and other players in this field) will help to achieve a common understanding and an integrated, coordinated approach to green tourism and the development of cross-border destinations. Results sought are common strategies and standards for cross-border model regions or coordinated approaches to valorising natural and cultural heritage for green tourism, e.g. marketing nature experience like bird watching in protected areas as an eco-touristic product, creating long distance, cross-border hiking trails or offering touristic packages for the cross-border region that explicitly refer to the cultural landscape. This will help to foster economic growth, while safeguarding its very basis.</p> <p>The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute to an increased number of overnight stays in the Austrian-Hungarian border region.</p>

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)*(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 21	Overnight stays	Number	22 616 032	2013	25 000 000	Eurostat, KSH	Annually

2.A.6/2/6c      Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/2/6c      A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6c
<p>The supported actions within Investment Priority 6c will contribute to protect, promote and develop the rich and varied cultural landscape and its natural and cultural heritage in the Austrian-Hungarian border region in a sustainable, environmentally friendly and resource efficient way. Added value will be created by developing a common approach about how to activate the potential of the shared natural and cultural heritage, by improving know-how transfer and creating joint products and services in this field.</p> <p>Examples of such actions supported within IP 6c are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparation and implementation of joint strategies and action plans, capacity building and pilot investments regarding sustainable utilization of cultural and natural heritage</li> <li>2. Preservation, reconstruction, development and utilization of cultural and natural heritage sites in order to use it for sustainable tourism and community purposes, such as eco tourism</li> <li>3. Support of know-how transfer and development of common standards for products and services</li> </ol> <p><b>Types of outputs under the investment priority 6c</b></p> <p>Actions have varied types of outputs, ranging from the joint preparation and implementation of strategies and action plans for sustainably developing and utilizing natural and cultural heritage. Cooperation may also lead to pilot actions like investments or capacity building measures or a choice of products for sustainable tourism.</p> <p><b>Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 6c</b></p>	

First of all, the institutions and organisations operating in this field will profit from the cooperation in terms of know-how transfer, joint strategies and action plans. Tourists and visitors to the programme region will benefit from the new or improved and especially cross-border offers and services in the segment of green/nature tourism. Finally, the regional population will benefit directly from improved offers for day trips and indirectly from economic growth created through tourism.

Possible types of beneficiaries include all those bodies dealing with cultural and natural heritage issues and tourism. These actors can be local municipalities, regional authorities and public institutions operating at national, regional or local level. Further beneficiaries can be tourism organisations, national parks, nature parks or other public institutions with responsibility for environmental, nature or heritage protection or schools, NGOs and research institutions.

### **Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 6c**

Emphasis will be put on rural parts of the region that have a high share of (common) natural and cultural heritage sites, as for example the Neusiedler See / Fertő tó region, and on protected areas, especially the region's national parks and particularly the nature parks as they by definition protect and develop the historically grown cultural landscape.

## **2.A.6.2/2/6c Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6c
---------------------	----

### **General principles**

General principles for the selection of applications apply to all investment priorities as described in section 5.3 (quality assessment).

### **Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications**

In general, all applications have to be tailored to the framework of the programme and particularly to the defined requirements of each investment priority.

Beyond that, for IP 6c the following special criteria and principles apply:

- Touristic offers for single destinations in one Member State will not be funded.
- Supported heritage sights need to be open to the public.
- Natural and/or cultural heritage preservation projects must comply with local environmental protection requirements and ecosystem integrity.

**2.A.6.3/2/6c Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6c
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.4/2/6c Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6c
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.5/2/6c Output indicators (by investment priority)***(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI21	Jointly developed strategies and action plans and capacity building measures (action 1)	Number	5	Monitoring	Annually
OI22	Jointly developed investments at cultural and natural heritage sites (action 1,2)	Number	5	Monitoring	Annually
OI23	Common offers (action 2,3)	Number	3	Monitoring	Annually

2.A.4/2/6d Investment priority 6d

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through NATURA 2000, and green infrastructures
---------------------	--

2.A.5/2/6d Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	SO22
Specific objective	Improving the ecological stability and resilience of landscape and ecosystems
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Both sides of the border possess a high biodiversity and a wide range of valuable eco-systems, of which many, but not all are protected. However, growing land consumption related to infrastructure investments and economic development of the region as well as effects from climate change jeopardize the region's natural wealth. Thus, the protection, connection and extension of natural habitats are of vital importance. National and nature parks, Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas have already established successful networks and show a great interest to continue their current cooperation in the future.</p> <p>In order to preserve the variety of ecosystems and natural diversity on a long-term basis, more emphasis needs to be put both on the protection of species and habitats and the connectivity of protected areas. A prerequisite for this will be extended and intensified research and education as well as knowledge and awareness of the general public and the local communities about environmental issues.</p> <p>Cross-border cooperation enables common approaches and the implementation of joint protection measures, which will ultimately lead to a better conservation status and resilience of the ecosystems on both sides of the border.</p> <p>The cooperation in environmental protection and conservation will result in joint management and protection plans, better conservation and sound management of protected areas, research findings regarding long term conservation of species and habitats, enhanced knowledge and awareness of the population and the local communities about ecological</p>

	<p>stability, better cooperation among conservation institutions and better knowledge and more information regarding the resilience of the natural assets.</p> <p>The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute to raising the conservation degree in the Natura 2000 sites in the programme region.</p>
--	--

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 22	Conservation degree A (of all habitat types in the Natura 2000 sites of the programme region)	Percent	10.5	2013 (release date)	12	Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms	2018, 2021, 2023

2.A.6/2/6d Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/2/6d A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	6d
<p>The supported actions that take into account the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 will enhance the ecological stability and resilience of the Austrian-Hungarian border region's landscape and ecosystems. The region has many protected areas on both sides of the border that face pressures from competing land use and climate change. A common approach to better protection and interlinkage is essential to further develop the ecosystems' and landscapes' stability and resilience.</p>	



In order to reach the specific objective of investment priority 6d, there are four types of interventions – planning, implementation, research and education. Based on cross-border cooperation, supported actions shall comprise joint protection measures on the strategic or implementation level, research and research cooperation or joint education, training and awareness raising.

Examples of actions supported within IP 6d are:

1. Development of joint management and protection plans with a focus on restoration and, whenever it is possible, improving connectivity of areas, such as
  - (i) management plans targeting the Natura 2000 areas and other protected areas and
  - (ii) protection plans targeting the conservation of species of Community interest, protected species and species concerned by different international conventions typical to the border region
2. Implementation of protection measures, such as
  - (i) Measures, including small scale infrastructure investments serving the conservation and sound management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas located in the cross-border region (e.g. rehabilitation of degraded habitats, in situ & ex situ conservation programmes, control of invasive alien species and succession processes, improving ecological connections among natural habitats, rehabilitation of streams etc.)
  - (ii) joint species protection measures including small scale infrastructure investments (targeted habitat restoration measures, ex situ conservation programmes)
  - (iii) investments in green infrastructure
3. Implementation of joint research projects and supporting the cooperation of research institutions in the border area, aiming to support the long term conservation of species and habitats (e.g. exploring the ecology and taxonomy of data deficient species, assessment of conservation status, applied research to support nature conservation management etc.)
4. Development and implementation of joint education and trainings schemes and promotion of awareness raising with the direct involvement of local communities (including investments in nature interpretation infrastructure)

#### **Types of outputs under the investment priority 6d**

The types of outputs reflect the types of actions – they result in jointly set up planning and strategic instruments, and supported habitats in better conservational status. Related outputs comprise small scale investment in green infrastructures, surveys and studies carried out, management and activity plans prepared and executed as well as the acquisition of equipment in case of justified need. Further, outputs will encompass research and networking activities as well as training schemes and awareness raising projects.

#### **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 6d**

The main target groups are the authorities of nature and national parks, Natura 2000 sites and other organisations with a focus on nature protection of areas within the programme

region. Target groups also include policy makers and planners, infrastructure owners and operators as well as all the general public.

Possible types of beneficiaries include those bodies dealing with or being affected by the nature protection issues. These actors are especially local and regional municipalities or authorities and public institutions operating at national, regional or local level. Further typical beneficiaries are national parks, nature parks or other public institutions with responsibility for environmental and nature protection as well as schools, and research institutions.

### **Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 6d**

The whole territory of the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary is targeted by the supported actions. As a matter of course, emphasis will be put on those parts of the region having a high share of protected sites.

## **2.A.6.2/2/6d Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6d
---------------------	----

### **General principles**

General principles for the selection of applications apply to all investment priorities as described in section 5.3 (quality assessment).

### **Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications**

In general, all applications have to be tailored to the framework of the programme and particularly to the defined requirements of each investment priority.

Beyond that, for IP 6d the following special criteria and principles apply:

- Only those management and protection plans will be supported which demonstrate evidence for a practical application in sustainable development of the programme area.
- It is recommended to include activities targeting awareness raising.
- Opportunities for initiatives and/or platforms and networks that provide for an exchange of good practice shall be explored.

**2.A.6.3/2/6d Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6d
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.4/2/6d Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6d
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.5/2/6d Output indicators (by investment priority)***(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI24	Jointly developed protection and management plans (action 1)	Number	2	Monitoring	Annually
OI25	Protection measures (including investments) (action 2)	Number	15	Monitoring	Annually
CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (action 2)	Hectares	100 000	Monitoring	Annually

OI26	Joint research projects (action 3)	Number	3	Monitoring	Annually
OI27	Participants in joint training schemes and awareness raising programmes (action 4)	Number	200	Monitoring	Annually

2.A.4/2/6f Investment priority 6f

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
---------------------	--

2.A.5/2/6f Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	SO23
Specific objective	Improving the management and protection of water bodies
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The Austrian-Hungarian border region is characterized by strongly integrated groundwater bodies and border crossing water courses. Therefore, joint water management and flood prevention is absolutely essential, and it comes as no surprise that cross-border cooperation in these issues has a long tradition in the border region.</p> <p>Cooperation is required in order to reduce natural risks in the field of water management, to maintain and further improve the high quality of protection and sustainable use of the natural resources, and prepare for potential climate change impacts. Especially along the rivers Raab/Rába and Leitha/Lajta there is a need for better coordination of environmental protection and flood risk management.</p> <p>Taking the international river basin management plans as a</p>

	<p>base, cross-border water management will encompass joint studies and research works as well as surface and groundwater modelling in the preparatory stage. Joint surveys and monitoring will help to efficiently improve the knowledge about the water situation in the programme area.</p> <p>Subsequently, joint pilot measures will harmonise flood protection and revitalization of river systems and improve the knowledge about the status of groundwater bodies. These measures will be elaborated in accordance with the measures of the 2<sup>nd</sup> River Basin Management plan and the 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan at both national and Danube River Basin District levels.</p> <p>The results sought are infrastructures in the field of water management, survey results to detect the status and impacts of measures taken, improved flood protection, water and waste water management and enhanced cooperation in the field of water management.</p> <p>The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute to an improved water quality of surface water and groundwater bodies.</p>
--	--

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 23	Chemical and ecological condition of border water bodies classified as “good” and “very good”	Number	2 (of 9)	2013 (2009/2010 for the Danube)	4	Expert report about the condition of the Austrian-Hungarian border water bodies by the Austrian-Hungarian Water Commission; Danube:	2018, 2021, 2023

						National Water Management Plans Austria and Hungary	
--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--

2.A.6/2/6f Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/2/6f A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6f
<p>The supported actions will contribute to improved resource efficiency and innovative water management. Regarding the Waste Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive, which have to be implemented on a national level, and the Danube River Basin Management Plan (to be revised in 2015) there is significant potential for cross-border cooperation. Added value is created by pooling the resources and connecting the different actors in the fields of environmental protection and resource efficiency.</p> <p>Under this specific objective, cross-border cooperation in the field of water management and public services shall be supported in order to secure and improve sustainable use of water resources according to the Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive. Emphasis will be put on gaining knowledge about the water bodies' situation through joint studies and research as well as joint monitoring surveys, including the construction of infrastructure necessary for this purpose. All these actions promote the implementation of measures of the 2<sup>nd</sup> River Basin Management plan and 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Risk Management Plan both national and Danube River Basin District levels.</p> <p>Examples of actions supported within IP 6f are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cooperation in the field of water management and public services, securing and improving sustainable utilisation of water resources according to the Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive, such as             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Joint monitoring surveys and status assessment of border water bodies to detect the status and impacts of measures taken.</li> <li>(ii) Determination of ecological minimum flow needs for surface water bodies.</li> <li>(iii) Preparing and implementing joint pollution load assessment tests for cross-border surface water bodies, determination of limit values.</li> <li>(iv) Exchange of innovative waste water purification methods.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

- (v) Determination of available ground water resources.
- (vi) Preparing and implementing river restoration measurements in the border area.
- (vii) Measures of integrated flood protection, including refining and setting up a joint cross-border flood forecast systems.
- (viii) Development and implementation of measures elaborated on the basis of the results of the different water related strategic studies.
- (ix) Construction or upgrading of jointly used infrastructure for the purpose of research and monitoring in the field of water management.

#### **Types of outputs under the investment priority 6f**

Typical outputs of the supported actions will encompass research and strategic planning activities (surveys, strategies, action plans) as well as newly constructed or upgraded research infrastructure. Further, outputs will comprise cooperation projects such as joint monitoring or flood forecast systems, comprising typical outputs like purchase of equipment, the set-up of IT-based systems or joint events serving the exchange of experiences and development of knowledge and skills.

#### **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 6f**

The target group includes the entire population of the programme region which benefits from enhanced resource efficiency and improved flood risk management. The situation of enterprises and institutions operating next to affected areas will also improve.

Beneficiaries include all public actors dealing with or being affected by issues regarding resource efficiency and water management, such as public institutions and water authorities, relevant intermediary as well as research institutions.

#### **Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 6f**

Actions will focus on areas with integrated groundwater bodies, border crossing water courses and their catchment areas, especially floodplain areas.

### **2.A.6.2/2/6f Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	6f
---------------------	----

#### **General principles**

General principles for the selection of applications apply to all investment priorities as described in section 5.3 (quality assessment).

#### **Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications**

In general, all applications have to be tailored to the framework of the programme and particularly to the defined requirements of each investment priority.



Beyond that, for IP 6f the following special criteria and principles apply:

- Actions targeted to improve the management and protection of water bodies should not be contradictory to the targets of the Austria-Hungarian Water Commission.

#### 2.A.6.3/2/6f Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	6f
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

#### 2.A.6.4/2/6f Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	6f
Not applicable	

#### 2.A.6.5/2/6f Output indicators (by investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI28	Jointly developed pilots and infrastructures	Number	2	Monitoring	Annually
OI29	Measures securing or improving the status of water bodies in qualitative and	Number	5	Monitoring	Annually

	quantitative terms				
CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	5	Monitoring	Annually

## 2.A.7/2 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)
2	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 2	Euro	4 347 567	29 049 000	Monitoring	Financial indicator
2	OI22	Jointly developed investments at cultural and natural heritage sites	Number	1	5	Monitoring	Output indicator
2	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	20 000	100 000	Monitoring	Common output indicator
2	OI29	Measures securing or improving the status of water bodies in qualitative and quantitative terms	Number	1	5	Monitoring	Output indicator

## 2.A.8/2 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	021	11 381 500
2	085	2 134 031
2	086	2 134 031
2	087	1 422 688
2	091	1 523 880
2	094	3 047 760
2	095	3 047 760

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
	01 Non-repayable grant	24 691 650

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	01 Large Urban areas	1 234 583
2	02 Small Urban areas	4 938 330
2	03 Rural areas	9 876 660
2	04 Macro-regional cooperation area	8 642 077

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	07 Not applicable	24 691 650

2.A.9/2 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions for to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

*(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Priority axis	2
Not applicable	

**2.A.1/3 Priority Axis 3**

(repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (TO07)

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through community-led local development	

2.A.2/3 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

*(Reference: Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Not applicable

2.A.3/3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

(repeated for each fund under the priority axis)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4/3/7b Investment priority 7b

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
---------------------	---

2.A.5/3/7b Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	SO31
Specific objective	Improving cross-border connectivity of regional centres to the TEN-T network
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The objectives were identified in accordance with Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 542 applying the multimodal basic layer approach of the TEN-T. The urban-rural typology of this region shows that the tertiary and secondary nodes are network elements of prime importance. To optimise the effectiveness and efficiency of the Core Network the missing links should string smaller cities (i.e. tertiary nodes).</p> <p>The core network corridors are located on the northern, western and southern fringes of the programme region. The comprehensive network runs in close distance and almost parallel to the border on the Hungarian side of the Austrian-Hungarian border region. As such, large parts of Mittel- and Südburgenland currently do not have a connection to the TEN-T network, but access to the comprehensive network can be improved by re-building and complementing border-crossings connecting the regional centres (tertiary nodes) in Burgenland with the TEN-T network in Hungary. Road infrastructure projects will focus on improving the regional road network by providing new or upgraded roads linking municipalities on both sides of the border.</p> <p>Increased permeability of the border will not only lead to shorter and faster connections between the municipalities directly affected by the investments, but the whole region will</p>



	<p>benefit from travel-time savings and the associated socio-economic and environmental improvements.</p> <p>Rail infrastructure projects will address the existing bottlenecks in the regional cross-border rail network. By electrifying missing sections, upgrading and technical improvements of rail tracks as well as increasing railway safety, the performance, operating efficiency, capacity, safety and reliability of the cross-border rail services will be improved. This will lead to more direct connections, shorter travel times and more convenience for the passengers.</p> <p>As a result, accessibility levels in the southern part of the programme area will improve and capacity of the cross-border transport system in the northern part will be increased.</p> <p>Ultimately, this will lead to a better quality of life for the inhabitants of the region, as they can reach the regional centres (for work, public and private services) easier and quicker.</p>
--	--

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 31	Average travel time (individual transport) to a node with TEN-T network connection	Minutes	14.08	2013	13	ERRAM (Grenzüber-schreiten des Erreichbarkeitsbasiertes-Raster-Raumanalyse-Modell HU-AT)	2018, 2021, 2023

2.A.6/3/7b Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/3/7b A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	7b
<p>Actions to be supported under IP 7b should improve accessibility levels and increase the capacity of the overall transport system by re-building and complementing missing elements of the cross-border road and rail network.</p> <p>Examples of actions supported within IP 7b are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investments in constructing missing border-crossing elements of road/rail links for a better connection of the tertiary nodes to the TEN-T network</li> <li>2. Investments in reconstructing or upgrading missing border-crossing elements of road/rail links for a better connection the tertiary nodes to the TEN-T network</li> <li>3. Investments in upgrading and technical improvements of the cross-border rail network</li> <li>4. Pre-investment studies for rail/road infrastructure investments</li> </ol> <p><b>Types of outputs under the investment priority 7b</b></p> <p>Typical outputs within the supported actions encompass physical investment in cross-border roads/rail tracks and investments to providing faster and better connections between the tertiary nodes and the TEN-T network, including the necessary plans and studies.</p> <p><b>Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 7b</b></p> <p>Targeted is the entire regional population (especially commuters, students and tourists), which will benefit from improved cross-border connectivity and accessibility of regional centres. Another important target group are the regional industry and SMEs as the new road linkages provide them with easier, faster, better and safer access to new markets and ensure cost-savings.</p> <p>As potential beneficiaries those groups of the public and private sector are targeted that are responsible for planning, managing or implementing regional transport network developments. This includes among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, public transport operators, infrastructure providers, regional associations and specialised undertakings of those responsible for maintaining and developing the transport infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 7b</b></p> <p>The actions focus on the cross-border area in Burgenland and Western Hungary.</p> <p>In the southern part of the programme region connections between the tertiary nodes Oberpullendorf, Kőzeg, Oberwart, Güssing, Jennersdorf and the comprehensive rail and</p>	

road network on the Hungarian side of the border will be targeted.

In the northern part of the programme region projects will mainly focus on increasing capacity and reducing the pressure on the regional road and rail network connecting the tertiary nodes Neusiedl am See, Eisenstadt and Mattersburg with the TEN-T network across the border.

### 2.A.6.2/3/7b Guiding principles for the selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	7b
---------------------	----

#### General principles

General principles for the selection of applications apply to all investment priorities as described in section 5.3 (quality assessment).

#### Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications

Projects to be funded under this investment priority must have a clear focus on the TEN-T network and aim at improving road/rail connections (shorter, faster, safer) from tertiary nodes to the TEN-T network (also via secondary nodes), not the other way around.

The impact and TEN-T relevance of all planned rail and road projects has to be confirmed by independent experts on the basis of the following criteria:

- The project improves a connection between a tertiary node and the TEN-T network
- The project concerns a connection which effectively crosses the border or which creates a new, direct border crossing.
- By the project travel time will be shortened.
- There is mutual (on both sides of the border) socio-economic and environmental benefit.
- The project is in line with the road safety directive.
- The newly constructed road will be open for transport for a minimum period of 5 years.

Results of the external expertise will be presented to the JS and incorporated into the quality assessment of projects that is the basis for decision of the MC.

The MC will assess the specific cross-border relevance of the project proposals in each case.

The preparedness of the projects and high-level commitment of the parties to be involved in the implementation is an additionally crucial criteria.

In this context the following definitions apply:

Tertiary nodes are urban areas (regional towns, towns, cities) providing jobs and public and private services (e.g. schools, health or social care, employment services, and banks)

beyond their administrative boundaries, and/or places of multimodal nodes.

For Western Hungary and Burgenland the following tertiary nodes have been identified:

Neusiedl am See, Eisenstadt, Mattersburg, Oberpullendorf, Pinkafeld, Oberwart, Güssing, Jennersdorf, Csorna, Kapuvár, Tét, Kőszeg, Sárvár, Zalaszentgrót, Zalaegerszeg, Keszthely, Lenti

Secondary nodes are branching or crossing points of the core and comprehensive networks, provided they represent cities (at least of regional importance) and/or multimodal connections.

For Western Hungary and Burgenland the following secondary nodes have been identified: Mosonmagyaróvár Sopron, Győr, Szombathely, Celldömök, Körmend, Szentgotthárd, Vasvár, Nagykanizsa

In a thorough analysis the secondary and tertiary nodes on both sides of the border have been identified. The information provided in the letter from the EC (Jose PALMA ANDRES, dated 14.03.2014) with regard to support for road infrastructure in CBC served as the basis for the definition. It says: "Secondary nodes are branching or crossing points of the core and comprehensive networks, provided they represent cities (at least of regional importance) and/or multimodal connections. Tertiary nodes are urban areas (regional towns, towns, cities) providing jobs and public and private services (e.g. schools, health or social care, employment services, banks) beyond their administrative boundaries, and/or places of multimodal nodes."

The harmonized ERRAM database (jointly developed by Hungarian and Austrian partners in the AT-HU project ERRAM) provided valuable input for the identification of the tertiary nodes. The following indicators have been taken into account: supermarkets, banks, schools ISCED 2/3/6-8, hospitals, administration and municipalities offering more than 1.500 work places in the secondary and tertiary sector. One point was given for the public and private services in a municipality, two points for job centres (with more than 1.500 work places). In total, a municipality can reach a maximum of 9 points. Municipalities with 7 or more points have been defined as **tertiary nodes** respectively regional centers.

### 2.A.6.3/3/7b Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	7b
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.4/3/7b Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)***(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	7b
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.5/3/7b Output indicators (by investment priority)***(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads (action 1)	km	8	Monitoring	Annually
CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads (action 2)	km	10	Monitoring	Annually
CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line (action 2,3)	km	10	Monitoring	Annually
OI31	Pre-investment studies	number	2	Monitoring	Annually

2.A.4/3/7c Investment priority 7c

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

*(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	7c - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
---------------------	---

2.A.5/3/7c Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

*(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

ID	SO32
Specific objective	Enhancing sustainable mobility on the local and regional level
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Despite the fact that quite some efforts have been made in the last years in order to provide competitive alternatives of environmentally friendly transport services, the private car still is the dominant means of transport on both sides of the border.</p> <p>In order to increase the share of people using sustainable means of transport all planned infrastructure investments have to be accompanied by a set of additional measures.</p> <p>The construction of new as well as the extension of existing park and ride facilities will improve the interoperability between the road and the public transport system and encourage car drivers to change to train or bus. This will relieve roads reaching the capacity limit and thus the environment. Providing bike and ride facilities at railway stations and bus stops will further increase the catchment area of the public transport system and facilitate the access to the stations by environmentally friendly means of transport. Similar benefits result from the development of flexible public transport services on the local level (e.g. "call-a-bus" systems).</p> <p>New and upgraded cycling infrastructure will not only improve the access to bus and railway stations, but will make it easier and safer for people to use the bicycle for their daily trips.</p>

	<p>Special focus will be given to closing gaps in the existing local, regional and cross-border cycling network.</p> <p>By creating a cross-border transport platform the harmonisation of services between rail operators and bus companies will become easier than in the past. Better coordination between the existing transport services will improve the quality and attractiveness of the overall system.</p> <p>Regional mobility centres act as one-stop-shops for information about the existing mobility offers in the region. Furthermore, they implement mobility management activities (information campaigns for commuters, tourists, schools, etc.) and offer consulting services to companies (e.g. for environmentally friendly commuting or sustainable mobility concepts in tourism). Better and easily accessible information about the existing mobility offers increases the probability that people will use environmentally friendly mobility offers instead of private cars. Ultimately, this will reduce and prevent negative environmental impacts of the overall transport system.</p>
--	---

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 32	Intermodal public transport nodes	Number	1 274.5	2014	1 400	ERRAM	2018, 2021, 2023

2.A.6/3/7c Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/3/7c A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	7c
---------------------	----



Compared to actions under IP 7b, actions supported within IP 7c have to have a clear focus on environmentally friendly transport (no investments in roads) and should mainly focus on the local and regional level (focus on TEN-T is not necessary).

Examples for actions to be supported are:

1. Actions that improve the interoperability of the regional transport system, e.g. preparation of joint strategies, concepts and action plans as well as small scale investments, for the construction of new as well as the extension of existing park and ride, bike and ride and park and drive facilities in transport nodes
2. Actions that improve the coordination of the regional public transport services, e.g. preparation of joint strategies, concepts and action plans as well as small scale investments, for the development of integrated information systems, tariff systems and timetables
3. Actions that close the gaps in the cross-border public transport system, e.g. preparation of joint strategies, concepts and action plans as well as small scale investments, for new/adapted cross-border rail and bus services
4. Actions that support the possibilities to use the bicycle for daily trips, e.g. preparation of joint strategies, concepts and action plans as well as small scale investments, for new and upgraded cycling infrastructure (cycle paths, parking facilities, etc.) closing existing gaps in the local, regional and cross-border cycling network.
5. Actions that improve mobility on the local level, e.g. preparation of joint strategies, concepts and action plans as well as small scale investments, for alternative mobility concepts (flexible public transport offers, car-sharing, etc.), walking, e-mobility

Furthermore mobility management measures like

6. Establishment and operation of regional mobility centres that act as one-stop-shops for information about the existing mobility offers in the region
7. Promotion of the use of environmentally friendly means of transport for different target groups (commuters, tourists, schools, etc.)

### **Types of outputs under the investment priority 7c**

Typical outputs encompass (i) studies and action plans to develop new environmentally friendly mobility services as well as small scale investments, (ii) small scale investments related to environmentally friendly means of transport (minor refurbishment works, complementary equipment and works etc.), (iii) events, meetings, exchange of staff, etc. and support of preparatory surveys and integrated systems and (iv) schemes to promote environmentally friendly transport.

### **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 7c**

The main target group encompasses those actors in the public and private sectors that are responsible for planning, managing or implementing regional transport networks. Another target group consists of all people that travel within the region, especially tourists and commuters. Finally, the whole population of the region will benefit from the reduction of environmental effects of transport like air pollution and noise

Beneficiaries include all those bodies that by profession seek to contribute to a change of

modal split towards environmentally friendly transport means. These are among others local, regional and national public authorities, regional development agencies, public transport operators, infrastructure providers, touristic service providers, regional associations and agencies and specialised undertakings of those responsible for maintaining and developing the transport infrastructure as well as civil organisations (NGO's).

#### **Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 7c**

The whole territory of the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary is targeted by the supported actions. Emphasis will be put on areas with limited environmentally friendly mobility offers.

#### **2.A.6.2/3/7c Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	7c
<p><b>General principles</b></p> <p>General principles for the selection of applications apply to all investment priorities as described in section 5.3 (quality assessment).</p> <p><b>Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications</b></p> <p>In general, all applications have to be tailored to the framework of the programme and particularly to the defined requirements of each investment priority.</p>	

#### **2.A.6.3/3/7c Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	7c
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

#### **2.A.6.4/3/7c Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

*(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	7c
Not applicable	

#### 2.A.6.5/3/7c Output indicators (by investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI32	Jointly developed strategies, transport concepts and actions (action 1,2,3,4,5)	Number	12	Monitoring	Annually
OI33	Joint schemes for promoting environmentally friendly transport (action 6,7)	Number	4	Monitoring	Annually

## 2.A.7/3 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)
3	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 3	Euro	2 030 877	27 585 000	Monitoring	Financial indicator
3	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	2	10	Monitoring	Output indicator
3	OI32	Jointly developed strategies, transport concepts and actions	Number	4	12	Monitoring	Output indicator

## 2.A.8/3 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	026	9 154 225
3	030	6 632 787
3	034	4 284 238
3	036	1 200 000
3	043	838 000
3	044	838 000
3	090	500 000

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	01 Non-repayable grant	23 447 250

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	01 Large Urban areas	2 344 725
3	02 Small Urban areas	9 378 900
3	03 Rural areas	9 378 900
3	04 Macro-regional cooperation area	2 344 725

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	07 Not applicable	23 447 250

2.A.9/3 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions for to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

*(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Priority axis	3
Not applicable	

**2.A.1/4 Priority Axis 4**

(repeated for each priority axis)

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration (TO11)

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through community-led local development	

2.A.2/4 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

*(Reference: Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Not applicable

2.A.3/4 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

(repeated for each fund under the priority axis)

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

2.A.4/4/CBC Investment priority

(repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

*(Reference: point (b)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Investment priority	CBC - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions
---------------------	--

2.A.5/4/CBC Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

*(Reference: point (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

ID	SO41
Specific objective	Improving institutional cross-border cooperation in order to strengthen the integration
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Well established and coordinated regional governance structures are a crucial precondition for making best use of existing resources in the cross-border context. However, differences in the legal and institutional framework in Austria and Hungary (negatively) affect the preparation and implementation of cross-border activities and cooperation. This concerns also topics, in which problems can better be solved by cross-border approaches.</p> <p>By supporting the cross-border cooperation of public administration, governance capacities in the Austrian-Hungarian border region at regional level will be balanced and eventually lead to more harmonized cross-border strategies and processes. Further, implementing and strengthening people-to-people activities as well as new and existing networks and cooperation platforms on the local and regional level, will result in joint regional strategies, processes, services and activities.</p> <p>Special focus will be given to the fields of public services (e.g. risk management and social services), regional development and renewable energy / energy efficiency (esp. the development of energy model regions, regional energy supply, insulation made of regional resources) as there is both high regional potential and strong demand by stakeholders being active in these fields.</p> <p>The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute</p>



to increased cooperation intensity in the border region.

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 41	Level of cooperation quality in the border region	Percent of highest rating	54.03%	2014	65%	Survey among all beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of the CBC AT-HU 2007-2013 and 2014-2020	2018, 2021, 2023

ID	SO42
Specific objective	Strengthening intercultural capacities and labour mobility of the border population by supporting cross-border education initiatives and vocational training
The results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>Cross-border cooperation depends to a large extent on the abilities and mind-sets of individuals. Therefore, this specific objective aims to improve the pre-requisites of cross-border cooperation by supporting language initiatives as well as intercultural and joint trainings. High regional potential and strong demand by stakeholders being active in education and (vocational) training show the need of action in this field.</p> <p>Vocational training will also be one of the programme's leverages to positively influence the region's challenges with regard to the labour market, like brain drain and lack of qualified personnel. Hence it is essential that intermediary</p>

	<p>organisations develop and operate joint (vocational) training schemes tailoring these schemes and trainings to the border region and taking cross-border issues into account. This will enable the border population to better meet the needs of the joint labour market.</p> <p>The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute to an increased intercultural understanding and knowledge as well as an enhanced labour mobility of the border population.</p>
--	--

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
RI 42	Institutions involved in cross-border education schemes	Number	35	2014	45	Monitoring	Annually

2.A.6/4/CBC Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1/4/CBC A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	CBC
<p>The supported actions will focus on the fields of public services, regional development and renewable energy/energy efficiency. They will enhance institutional capacity, make public administration more efficient and strengthen people-to-people cooperation. This will eventually lead to improved regional governance structures and more harmonized cross-border strategies, processes and activities, like harmonised risk management and social services, development of energy model regions, regional energy supply and storage or joint cultural activities.</p> <p>In the field of education, the intention is to launch an important learning-process concerning</p>	

cross-border cooperation: communicating despite the language barrier, reflecting usual standards and processes, training abilities to negotiate despite diverging opinions and finding compromises. Actions supported will enhance intercultural understanding and labour market mobility of the border population. Examples of actions supported within the specific objectives of IP11 are:

1. Delivery of harmonised and high quality public services through better cooperation of municipalities, cities and regions exchanging knowledge and developing strategies and processes (supporting SO41)
2. Preparation and implementation of joint research, strategies, studies, action plans and management activities of cross-border networks and institutions on local/regional level in the field of renewable energy/energy efficiency (supporting SO41)
3. Preparation and implementation of joint strategies, studies, action plans and management activities of cross-border networks and institutions in the field of regional development (supporting SO41)
4. Strengthening cooperation between local/regional institutions and/or citizens, e.g. via cultural activities or by “people to people cooperation”, (supporting SO41)
5. Design and implementation of education schemes in pre-schools, schools and other educational institutions, aiming at acquiring and improving qualifications, skills and competences (e.g. intercultural communication trainings and language courses, joint schemes to support traineeships) (supporting SO42)
6. Harmonisation of vocational education systems (dual education) for meeting the needs of SMEs and the joint labour market (e.g. resulting in mutual acceptance of qualifications and in higher labour mobility) (supporting SO42)

### **Types of outputs under the investment priority 11CBC**

Typical outputs reflecting the actions supported comprise different types of cross-border cooperation among organisations, the public sector and citizens. These outputs range from knowledge-exchange, trainings and networking activities to coordinated standards, strategies, processes and public services of municipalities, cities and regions. Further, outputs will comprise the implementation of enhanced public services as well as enhanced intercultural understanding and knowledge.

### **Main target groups and types of beneficiaries under the investment priority 11CBC**

The main target groups encompass actors in the local and regional public service as well as organisations being involved in regional development, education, labour market and renewable energy / energy efficiency, and finally cooperation projects in a cross-border context. As theoretically every inhabitant of the border region can benefit from increased integration, the general population is also a target group.

Beneficiaries include all bodies being involved in local or regional cross-border networks. More precisely, all national, regional and local authorities as well as a wide variety of public service providers (such as schools, labour market organisations, economic and regional development agencies, etc.) of the programme area can be beneficiaries of the cooperation projects. NGOs - such as cultural or community development associations – are targeted by “people-to-people” cooperation, however not exclusively.

**Specific territories targeted under the investment priority 11CBC**

The need of actions is higher in rural and structurally weak regions. However, the incompatibility of the administrative systems is not limited to certain territories and many of the partners are located in the centres, so the whole territory of the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary is targeted by the supported actions.

**2.A.6.2/4/CBC Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	CBC
<p><b>General principles</b></p> <p>General principles for the selection of applications apply to all investment priorities as described in section 5.3 (quality assessment).</p> <p><b>Special criteria and principles for the selection of applications</b></p> <p>In general, all applications have to be tailored to the framework of the programme and particularly to the defined requirements of each investment priority.</p> <p>Beyond that, for IP CBC the following special criteria and principles apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of partners new to the programme would be wished for.</li> </ul>	

**2.A.6.3/4/CBC Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	CBC
Planned use of financial instruments	Not applicable
Not applicable	

**2.A.6.4/4/CBC Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Investment priority	CBC
---------------------	-----

Not applicable
----------------

#### 2.A.6.5/4/CBC Output indicators (by investment priority)

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI41	Actors involved in cross-border cooperation (action 1,2,3,4,5)	Number	250	Monitoring	Annually
OI42	Joint cross-border cultural, educational, recreational and other type of community events and actions (“people to people”) (action 4)	Number	25	Monitoring	Annually
CO46	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (action 5 and 6)	Persons	200	Monitoring	Annually

## 2.A.7/4 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)
4	FI04	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 4	Euro	3 255 548	22 351 480	Monitoring	Financial indicator
4	OI41	Actors involved in cross-border cooperation	Number	50	250	Monitoring	Output indicator

## 2.A.8/4 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	096	4 249 677
4	118	2 000 050
4	119	4 249 677
4	120	8 499 354

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	01 Non-repayable grant	18 998 758

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	01 Large Urban areas	7 599 503
4	02 Small Urban areas	7 599 503
4	03 Rural areas	2 849 814
4	04 Macro-regional cooperation area	949 938

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	07 Not applicable	18 998 758

2.A.9/4 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions for to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

*(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Priority axis	4
Not applicable	



**2.B Description of the priority axes for technical assistance***(Reference: point (c) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***2.B.1/5 Priority Axis 5**

ID	5
Title	Technical support to the programme implementation

**2.B.2/5 Fund and calculation basis for Union support***(repeated for each fund under the priority axis)*

Fund	ERDF
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure

**2.B.3/5 Specific objectives and expected results***(Reference: point (c)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Specific objective** (repeated for each specific objective)

ID	SO51
Specific objective	Implementing the Cooperation Programme in a sound and effective way
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>The main result will be the sound and timely execution of all measures that are necessary for implementing the Cooperation Programme (including the launch of calls, selection of projects, monitoring, administrative and technical assistance, evaluation, information and communication, audit and control measures as well as anti-fraud measures etc.) and that are the prerequisite for the programme's effectiveness.</p> <p>Special focus lies on the simplification of procedures, in order to increase the programme's efficiency and to reduce administrative burden for core management, programme</p>

	bodies and beneficiaries alike (cp. Chapter 7).
--	---

2.B.4/5 Result indicators

**Table 10: Programme specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

(Reference: point (c)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

Not applicable according to last subparagraph of Article 8(2) point (c) of ETC Regulation.

2.B.5/5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

(Reference: point (c)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**2.B.5.1/5 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives**

(Reference: point (c)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Priority axis	5
<p>According to Article 51-52 of the Common Provisions Regulation, actions under the specific objective “TA” target the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and communication, networking, complaint resolution and audit and control measures. These actions are performed by the core programme management bodies (MA, CA, AA), as well as the regional programme bodies (coordination and control).</p> <p>Actions to be supported are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setting up the managing and control system: setting up and managing of a Joint Secretariat that supports the Managing Authority and assists the Monitoring Committee in the implementation and day-to-day management of the programme; setting up a Certifying Authority for the financial management of the programme; setting up the regional programme bodies such as the First Level Control Bodies and the Regional Coordination Network</li> <li>2. Assisting project preparation including the development of guidance</li> </ol>	

documents setting out the conditions for the support of projects and guiding applicants in the preparation of their proposals through information, consultation, training etc.

3. Setting up and implementing procedures for quality assessment, monitoring and control of projects implemented under the Cooperation Programme
4. Guiding beneficiaries in the implementation of their projects in terms of project and financial management, reporting, control, audit, communication and networking through information, consultation, training etc.
5. Installing and operating a computerised system for monitoring purposes that records and stores data on each project necessary for evaluation, financial management, audit and control and that collects data concerning the progress of the programme in terms of financial objectives and indicators
6. Drafting and implementing the evaluation plan of the Cooperation Programme, including evaluations, expert reports, statistics and studies concerning the current and future operation of the Cooperation Programme
7. Drafting and implementing the communication plan of the Cooperation Programme, including the set up and implementation of information and communication measures
8. Setting up and coordinating a network of financial controllers, including the exchange of information and best-practices
9. Setting up and executing audits on operations and the programme management and control system
10. Setting up effective and proportionate anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures in relation to the implementation of the programme taking into account the risks identified
11. Strengthening the involvement of partners and capacity-building for the effective management of the Cooperation Programme by information exchange and events

**2.B.5.2/5 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)***(Reference: point (c)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 11: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI51	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number	16.5	Observation	Annually
OI52	Network of regional coordinators established	Number	1	Observation	Annually
OI53	Projects	Number	80	Monitoring	Annually
OI54	e-Monitoring System established	Number	1	Observation	Annually
OI55	Network of financial controllers established	Number	1	Observation	Annually
OI56	Programme evaluation plan prepared and approved by MC	Number	1	Observation	Annually
OI57	Programme communication plan prepared and approved by MC	Number	1	Observation	Annually
OI58	Guiding documents addressed to applicants and beneficiaries	Number	3	Observation	Annually
OI59	Information, consultation and training measures for applicants and beneficiaries	Number	16	Observation	Annually

## 2.B.6/5 Categories of intervention by priority axis

(Reference: point (c)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

**Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	121	4 330 036
5	122	80 984
5	123	319 852

**Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	01 Non-repayable grant	4 730 872

**Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	07 Not applicable	4 730 872

## SECTION 3 FINANCING PLAN

(Reference: point (d) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR)

**Table 15**

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF		9 621 381	8 154 908	14 817 419	15 113 768	15 416 041	15 724 363	78 847 880
IPA amounts (where applicable)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ENI amounts (where applicable)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total		9 621 381	8 154 908	14 817 419	15 113 768	15 416 041	15 724 363	78 847 880

### 3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in EUR)

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

1. The financial table sets out the financial plan of the cooperation programme by priority axis. Where outermost regions' programmes combine cross-border and transnational allocations, separate priority axes will be set out for each of these.
2. The financial table shall show for information purposes, any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme (other than contributions from IPA and ENI)
3. The EIB ( 1 ) contribution is presented at the level of the priority axis.

**Table 16: Financing plan**

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	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)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
Priority axis 1	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)	Total eligible cost	6 979 350	1 231 650	303 669	927 981	8 211 000	85%		
	IPA									
	ENI									
Priority axis 2	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)	Total eligible cost	24 691 650	4 357 350	992 374	3 364 976	29 049 000	85%		
	IPA									
	ENI									
Priority axis 3	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)	Total eligible cost	23 447 250	4 137 750	1 466 277	2 671 473	27 585 000	85%		
	IPA									
	ENI									

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	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)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
Priority axis 4	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)	Total eligible cost	18 998 758	3 352 722	735 757	2 616 965	22 351 480	85%		
	IPA									
	ENI									
Priority axis 5	ERDF (possibly incl. amounts transferred from IPA and ENI)	Total eligible cost	4 730 872	3 942 975	3 942 975	0	8 673 847	55%		
	IPA									
	ENI									
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>Total eligible cost</b>	<b>78 847 880</b>	<b>17 022 447</b>	<b>7 441 052</b>	<b>9 581 395</b>	<b>95 870 327</b>	<b>82%</b>		
	<b>IPA</b>									
	<b>ENI</b>									
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total all Funds</b>	<b>Total eligible cost</b>	<b>78 847 880</b>	<b>17 022 447</b>	<b>7 441 052</b>	<b>9 581 395</b>	<b>95 870 327</b>	<b>82%</b>		



**3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective***(Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 17**

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Priority axis 1	Thematic objective 3	6 979 350	1 231 650	8 211 000
Priority axis 2	Thematic objective 6	24 691 650	4 357 350	29 049 000
Priority axis 3	Thematic objective 7	23 447 250	4 137 750	27 585 000
Priority axis 4	Thematic objective 11	18 998 758	3 352 722	22 351 480
Priority axis 5	Technical assistance	4 730 872	3 942 975	8 673 847
<b>Total</b>		<b>78 847 880</b>	<b>17 022 447</b>	<b>95 870 327</b>

**Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives***(Reference: Article 27(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)*

Priority axis	The indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Share of the total allocation to the Cooperation Programme (%)
Priority axis 1	0	0
Priority axis 2	7 682 512.80	9.74%
Priority axis 3	5 312 090	6.74%
Priority axis 4	0	0
Priority axis 5	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 994 602.80</b>	<b>16.48%</b>

## SECTION 4 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

*(Reference: Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

The objectives of the programme strategy are embedded in the territorial strategies of both countries. The National Development Concept of Hungary and the Spatial Development Concept - ÖREK 2011 of Austria are the main national documents that set the line for territorial strategies, such as the Hungarian County Development Concepts and the strategies of the Austrian Lander.

The programme strategy is built along those priority axes, where cross-border cooperation is likely to have particular added value. Both national PAs recognise all these TOs as highly relevant and give emphasis to ETC.

Priority 1 (TO3): In the programme area R&D capacities are unequally distributed and there are considerable disparities in terms of economic performance and the abilities of the SMEs to engage in innovation processes. The CP will meet these issues by strengthening the cooperative linkages between the region's (often rural) SME's and (mostly urban) R&D centres and, by improving the performance of the intermediary organisations, to include a greater number of SMEs in those networks.

Priority 2 (TO6): The natural and cultural heritage sites of the region provide an important basis for economic development especially for the rural parts of the area. Here, it is essential to apply common approaches to secure and valorise these assets. The CP takes up these issues by developing joint solutions for sustainable tourism and conservation and by improving the joint water management.

Priority 3 (TO7): Accessibility varies greatly in the region, showing disparities between the highly accessible northern and the more peripheral southern part of the region, both with regard to the road network and public transport. The priority seeks to address these issues by better connecting peripheral regions to national and European transport networks, improving the cross-border connectivity and accessibility of regional centres. The poor accessibility by public transport in the south has also negative impacts in environmental and social respect, and the priority tackles these problems enhancing the attractiveness of public transport and environmentally friendly means of transport.

Priority 4 (TO11): Well established cross-border governance structures and integrated approaches to the territorial challenges are a crucial precondition for making best use of existing resources of the border region. However, differences in the legal and institutional framework in Austria and Hungary (negatively) affect the preparation and implementation of cross-border activities and cooperation. The priority addresses these issues by improving the environment for cross-border cooperation, especially with regard to public services, regional development and renewable energy / energy efficiency. The priority further tackles issues related to the labour force mobility and intercultural understanding by strengthening cross-border education and vocational training.

Pursuing an integrated approach was an important aim in the programming process. To exploit synergies within the CP, each of the specific objectives within the priority axes contributes to at least two other specific objectives.

#### 4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

Not applicable

#### 4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Not applicable

**Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support**

Fund	Indicative amount of ERDF support (EUR)
ERDF	

#### 4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

*(Reference: point (c) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Not applicable

**Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)**

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (EUR)
Priority axis 1	
Priority axis 2	
Priority axis 3	
Priority axis 4	
Priority axis 5	
<b>Total</b>	

**4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)**

*(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)*

*(Reference: point (d) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

The Cooperation Programme pays due attention to the European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) both in the programming process as well as in the implementation phase.

In programming, the definition of the strategy, the selection and description of the thematic objectives and investment priorities of the Cooperation Programme take into consideration in particular the following EUSDR targets of the EU Strategy and the Action plan 2010 (SEC 2010 1489)<sup>11</sup> :

A - Connecting the Danube Region

A1) to improve mobility and multimodality by TO7

A2) to encourage more sustainable energy by TO7 and TO11

<sup>11</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/danube/action\\_plan\\_danube.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/danube/action_plan_danube.pdf)

A3) to promote culture and tourism by TO6c

**B - Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region**

B4) to restore and maintain the quality of waters by TO6f

B5) to manage environmental risks by TO6f

B6) to preserve biodiversity, landscapes and quality of air by TO6d and 6f

**C - Building Prosperity in the Danube Region**

C8) to support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development, by TO3

C9) to invest in people and skills by TO3, TO6 and TO11

**D - Strengthening the Danube Region**

D10) to step up institutional capacity and cooperation by TO11

During the implementation, the programme will ensure appropriate coordination with the Macro regional Strategy for the Danube Region by

- Governance arrangements for ongoing mutual information exchange, coordination and joint planning in areas of joint interest: During the programme implementation, the national coordination committees in the framework of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes (i.a. working group "CBC", national committee) will ensure a continuous and regular institutionalised exchange of information on MRS among programme partners; and vice versa information about programme activities will be reported to the established national coordination platform for the EUSDR (and eventual future MRS with AT participation). Furthermore, an embedding into the strategic monitoring process STRAT.AT 2020 would be possible.
- Developing more in-depth working relationships between EU programme partners and EUSDR stakeholders, both on transnational, national and regional levels, on identified issues/activities of joint interest in the implementation phase.
- Establishing a EUSDR specific category in the monitoring system. Consequently, funding activities and / or projects contributing to the EUSDR will be identified in the appropriate way. This approach includes the consideration of EUSDR aspects in programme evaluations and reports, specifying how the cooperation programme contributes to the challenges identified by the EUSDR.
- Making use of the Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCCP) if needed for supporting coordination and joint planning actions in areas of mutual interest.

## SECTION 5 IMPLEMENTING PROVISION FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

(Reference: Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

(Reference: Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 21: Programme authorities**

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH	Head of MA
Certifying authority, where applicable	merged with managing authority	Head of CA
Audit authority	Federal Chancellery of Austria Department IV/3 – Financial Control of the ERDF	Director of Department IV/3

**The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:**

(Reference: point (b) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the managing authority	
<input type="checkbox"/> the certifying authority	

**Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks***(Reference: points (a)(ii) and (iii) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of the authority/body (position or post)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Széchenyi Programme Office Consulting and Service Nonprofit Limited Liability Company (SZPO Nonprofit Ltd.) West-Hungarian Control Unit Sopron	Head of Unit
	Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH, Department Accounting and Controlling	Head of Department
	Office of Government of Lower Austria, Division of Spatial Planning and Environment	Head of Division
	Office of Government of Styria, Department for Regional and Local Development, Unit for Controlling, Internal Management and Budget	Head of Unit
	Office of Government of Vienna, Municipal Department for European Affairs, Unit - First Level Control	Head of Unit
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	DGAEF - Directorate General for Audit of European Funds Audit Directorate of Economic Development and Other European Programmes	Director General

## 5.2 Procedures for setting up the joint secretariat

(Reference: point (a)(iv) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

In accordance with Article 23 (2) ETC Regulation the Managing Authority, after consultation with the Member States, sets up a Joint Secretariat (JS) that assists the Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee in carrying out their respective functions.

In continuation of implementation of the CBC Programme Austria-Hungary 2007-2013 the JS will remain in Sopron. Structural and implementation arrangements within the hosting organisation will be kept.

## 5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

(Reference: point (a)(v) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

The following paragraphs provide a brief description of arrangements for the management and control of the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020. A detailed description about the respective arrangements will be given in the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) and further guidance documents (e.g. application or implementation manual).

Prior to submission the participating Member States confirm their agreement to the content of the cooperation programme according to Article 8 (9) ETC Regulation. Upon approval of the cooperation programme the participating Member States may agree on detailed procedures for programme implementation by means of a Memorandum of Understanding.

### Joint implementation structure

The joint implementation structure of the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 should be built on the following authorities and bodies: Monitoring Committee, Managing Authority (with additional functions of the Certifying Authority), Joint Secretariat, Audit Authority assisted by a Group of Auditors.

### Monitoring Committee

According to Article 47 (3) CPR the Member States participating in the cooperation programme set up a Monitoring Committee (MC) within three months after the notification of the decision adopting the cooperation programme. The MC will draw up and adopt its own rules of procedures which will set the framework for the work of the MC as central decision-making body of the cooperation programme. The rules of procedures will contain descriptions on the tasks, composition, procedures for the meetings and decision-making.

In line with Article 48 CPR the Member States participating in the programme decide on the composition of the MC. Due to the aims of the programme and following good practice from the 2007-2013 period both representatives of the national level and the regions participating in the cooperation programme should be members. Representation of policy areas relevant for the programme and participating regions shall be insured. A representative of the European Commission shall participate in an advisory role. Other institutions relevant for cross-border cooperation may participate as observers as long as specified in the rules of



procedure. The MC will be chaired by the Managing Authority.

The participating Member States Austria and Hungary are voting members of the MC. Each country has one vote consisting of the nominated members according to the rules of procedure. Details of the voting procedure will be set out in the rules of procedure.

According to Article 49 CPR the MC will meet at least once a year. Decisions may also be taken through written procedure. The MC shall review the implementation of the programme and examine all issues that affect the performance of the programme. The MC will carry out its functions in line with Article 49 and 110 CPR and Article 12 (1) of ETC Regulation.

### **Managing Authority with additional functions of Certifying Authority**

As mentioned in chapter 5.1 the Managing Authority will in line with Article 21 (1) ETC Regulation carry out its function as also being responsible for the functions of the Certifying Authority. The MA carries out the function of the CA in respect of the responsibilities listed in Article 126 CPR. The DMCS will provide for compliance with the principle of separation of functions. Operative tasks of the CA may be partly contracted out by the MA.

According to Article 125 CPR and Article 23 ETC Regulation the Managing Authority is responsible for the management and implementation of the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

The MA, after consultation with the Member States, will set up a Joint Secretariat as provided for in the following abstract.

### **Joint Secretariat**

The JS will be set up by the Managing Authority according to Article 23 (2) ETC Regulation. The JS will be based in Sopron and assists the MA and the MC in carrying out their respective functions.

### **Audit Authority and Group of Auditors**

The AA will carry out its functions in accordance with Articles 123, 124, 127 and 128 of the CPR and Articles 21 and 25 of ETC Regulation.

In line with Article 25 (2) of ETC Regulation, the AA will be assisted by a group of auditors (GoA) comprising of representatives from responsible bodies of both Member States participating in the cooperation programme carrying out the above listed duties detailed in Article 127 of CPR. The representatives have to be independent from the MC members, the controllers designated according to Article 23 (4) of ETC Regulation and any operation's activities and finances. The GoA will be set up within three months of the decision approving the programme at the latest. It will draw up its own rules of procedure and will be chaired by the AA.

Where audits and controls are carried out by a body other than the AA, the AA shall ensure that such bodies have the necessary functional independence. The decision on the body carrying out the system audits and the checks on expenditure will be taken by the AA and the GoA during the process of designing the audit strategy of the cooperation programme.

### **Regional Coordinators Network**

The network of regional coordinators (RC network) is constituted of the representatives of the regions participating in the programme. The RC network contributes to the successful implementation of the programme by supporting the programme management as well as

controllers in executing their tasks on programme and/or on project level.

On project level the network of regional coordinators contribute to a sound implementation by:

- Supporting the coordinated implementation of strategic projects in order to ensure targeted implementation of the programme strategy;
- Supporting the beneficiaries in securing regional and/or national financing;
- Securing the technical standards and therewith the quality of project applications;
- Providing project related services throughout the entire project cycle in order to ensure and improve the quality of cross-border cooperation and cross-border impact of projects;
- Steering of projects in order to ensure smooth implementation;
- Providing regional publicity and permuting information activities.

On programme level, the regional coordinators form an integral part of the bilateral working group (BWG) which ensures an effective programme implementation. With periodical meetings between MA, JS, RCs and the Member State representative of Hungary, the BWG supports the programme management by contributing (amongst others) to the

- Preparation of programme eligibility rules;
- Preparation of a memorandum of understanding, manuals for applicants and beneficiaries and other programme documents;
- Organisation of information and communication activities;
- Preparation of MC decisions.

In general, the regional coordinators actively participate in the work of the MC as representatives of their regions. In Austria, moreover, the regional coordinators represent the Member State and as such participate in the MC.

### **Project cycle**

#### **Project application**

Pro-active project generation is a basic principle of the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary 2014-2020, as it leads to strategic projects with a clear added-value in the cross-border approach. This principle is reflected in a transparent set of assessment criteria as described in section 2.6.

In this section the basic principles for project generation and selection are described. For potential applicants a detailed specification of the procedures will be made available in a separate application manual.

The Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 will make use of an open call system for the submission of project applications. After opening the call there will be continuous possibility to submit applications.

Project applications will be submitted to the JS by the lead beneficiary.

#### **Project evaluation and selection**

In general, the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 will mainly support cooperation

between partners located in the programme area. In justified cases also partners located outside the programme area can participate in a project provided that they are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area (e.g. ministries). In only exceptional and duly justified cases the cooperation programme may make use of the possibility to finance the implementation of parts of an operation that is implemented outside the Union part of the programme area provided that the conditions set under Article 20 (2) of ETC Regulation are respected.

In the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 partners participating in projects shall be the following:

- National, regional and local public bodies (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2 (16) EGTC Regulation), public-equivalent bodies, non-profit organisations or other institutions which on project level act in public interest
- Private institutions, including private companies, having legal personality

Further details will be agreed by the MC and laid down in an application manual.

The JS has the overall responsibility of performing the evaluation of project applications. For parts of the evaluation independent external experts may be consulted.

A set of **administrative and eligibility criteria** will be defined to ensure compliance of all project applications with formal requirements. This part of the evaluation will especially look at the following points:

- Submission in due time
- Completeness of the project application package
- Requirements for the partnership (eligibility of partners, at least one Austrian and one Hungarian partner)
- Financing is secured
- No evidence for funding by other resources

Those project applications that fully comply with the administrative and eligibility criteria will be subject to quality assessment.

**Quality assessment** aims at assessing the relevance and feasibility of the project. This is reflected in two types of assessment criteria. Strategic assessment criteria are meant to determine the extent of the project's contribution to the achievement of the programme objectives. A strong focus is given to the result orientation of a project with the demand for visible outputs and concrete results. Operational assessment criteria review the viability and feasibility of the proposed project, as well as its value for money in terms of resources used versus results delivered.

As the strategic relevance of project applications and a clear added-value of the cross-border approach are at the core of the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020, the importance of strategic criteria is mirrored accordingly by a weighting of scores or setting of thresholds that will be elaborated.

The following criteria constitute the general principles for the selection of operations:

Strategic assessment criteria aim at assessing the relevance of applications and determine the extent of their contribution to the achievement of the specific objectives. They focus on

the project's result orientation and therefore picture the link of actions supported that will deliver outputs and lead to attainment of specific objectives. Strategic criteria can be summarised as follows:

- Relevance and strategic character in terms of territorial challenges and needs described for the programme area as well as contribution to and coherence with wider strategies on different policy levels
- Relevance of the cross-border approach and cross-border added-value
- Contribution to programme objectives and results, as defined for each specific objective
- Coherence of planned activities with possible type and examples of actions and outputs described for each investment priority
- Relevance of partnership
- Contribution to the programme horizontal principles

Operational assessment criteria concern the assessment of the quality of implementation with regard to the feasibility and viability of project applications as well as their value for money in terms of resources used versus results delivered. Operational criteria can be summarised as follows:

- Existence of management structures and procedures for a sound implementation of the project
- Adequacy of communication objectives and activities
- Consistency, coherence and transparency of the work plan
- Coherence of the budget with the work plan and value for money

Experience shows that applications with high quality in operational terms indicate a sound implementation of the project.

As a general principle, applied across all priorities, the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 is committed to sustainable development and promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (cf. section 8).

The JS submits the quality assessment to the MC for its decision.

### **Contracting**

Following the decision of the MC, the JS will draft a subsidy contract by using a standard template approved by the MC. The subsidy contract lays down details concerning the responsibilities and liabilities of the beneficiaries. It is addressed to the Lead Partner and signed by the legal representative of the Lead Partner and the MA.

Besides the general legal framework, the subsidy contract will lay down the subject and duration of the contract, budgetary allocation (maximum ERDF funding), procedures and obligations regarding reporting and payments, obligations within the partnership, general conditions for the eligibility of costs, procedures for project changes, obligations regarding validation of expenditure and audit of operations, recovery obligations and procedures, information and publicity requirements, closure arrangements, rules for amendments to the contract and liability clauses.

The final approved application form will build an integral part of the subsidy contract.

### **Project reporting and reimbursement to beneficiaries**

In accordance with Article 13 of ETC Regulation, for each project, project partners shall appoint a lead partner (LP). The LP shall assume overall responsibility for the implementation of the project, including the handling of ERDF funds.

All project expenditure have to be pre-financed by the project partners. Expenditure of all partners has to be validated by designated controllers in line with Article 125 (4) of CPR. Verifications shall be performed by the controller responsible in the territory where the respective beneficiary is located. In exceptional cases, responsibility of designated controllers for a certain beneficiary can be defined differently in the subsidy contract.

The LP collects the certificates of all project partners that are issued by the controllers responsible after verification of expenditure. This certificate will be included in activity and financial progress reports that the LP periodically presents to the JS and MA. In these documents, the LP reports about progress achieved in project implementation and on related validated expenditure. This will be the basis for the project's claim for reimbursement.

On the basis of the submitted reports, the JS monitors the progress of the projects both in financial terms and in terms of activities implemented. When assessing the reports, the JS considers the use of ERDF and the progress in implementation of the project in order to monitor the proper implementation of the project compliant with the subsidy contract. It is also checked whether verifications are carried out by the controllers defined in the subsidy contract.

Based on checks of the reports undertaken by the JS and in accordance with Article 21 (2) of ETC Regulation and Article 132 of CPR, the MA shall make payments to the LP who is responsible for transferring the ERDF contribution to the partners participating in the project. All payments to LPs will be made in Euro.

In line with Article 132 of CPR, MA ensures that beneficiaries – provided the availability of funds - receive payments in full and in due time, no later than 90 days from the date of submission of the claim for reimbursement. No deduction, retention or further specific charges which would reduce the amount of the payment shall be made. Suspension of reimbursement may only happen in cases mentioned in Article 132 (2) of CPR.

### **Procedures for complaints**

In accordance with Article 74 (3) of CPR, effective arrangements for the examination of complaints shall be ensured. Programme-related complaints by beneficiaries can be raised at the level of the MA. Such complaints will be discussed with the relevant programme bodies and if necessary examined in collaboration with the MC. Further information on the procedure for the submission and resolution of complaints will be laid down in the relevant programme documents.

### **Financial control system**

In accordance with Article 125 (4) of CPR and Article 23 (4) of ETC Regulation and considering that the MA cannot carry out verifications under Article 125 (4) of CPR throughout the whole programme area, each MS shall designate the bodies responsible for carrying out verifications in relation to beneficiaries on its territory. The control system is set

up to verify the delivery of the products and services co-financed, the soundness of the expenditure declared for operations and the compliance with Community rules, programme rules and its national rules.

In the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary 2014-2020 two different systems are in place regarding the implementation of control tasks: a decentralised system in Austria and a centralised system in Hungary.

In most cases, the controllers designated are the same bodies responsible for carrying out verifications for the operational programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. In any case, the set up of the control system will be similar to the one in place in the programming period 2007-2013.

In order to ensure coherence among all controllers responsible, standard templates such as control certificate, report and checklist will be provided by the MA and agreed by the MC. The templates serve as minimum requirement and ensure common standards. Furthermore, a network of controllers will be established to ensure regular exchange of knowledge and good practices.

All details on responsibilities and procedures related to financial control will be laid down in the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) in accordance with Article 72 of CPR. Each MS shall ensure that the MA is informed without delay about any changes in the control system.

### **Programme monitoring**

The monitoring of the programme will picture the progress of the programme towards its goals based on technical and financial information. Furthermore, it will specify the progress in fulfilment of the programme-specific output and result indicators.

Programme monitoring will be based on the assessment of the progress of the projects. They will be obliged to report regularly on the effects and tangible results achieved by the cooperation of the partnership and will provide evidence of the changes derived from their project.

The JS will collect and compile the data stemming from these reports in order to allow for conclusions on the programme level. These data are recorded and stored in the programme e-Monitoring System (e-MS) as described in section 5.3.g and will be used – together with additional information on the financial implementation of the programme – for drafting the annual and final implementation reports as described in the following abstract.

### **Implementation reports**

In accordance with Article 14 of ETC Regulation, the MA will submit implementation reports (annual implementation reports and final implementation report) to the EC in accordance with the requirements stipulated in Article 50 of the CPR and respecting the deadlines set in Article 14 of ETC Regulation.

The annual implementation reports will be drafted by MA/JS on the basis of programme monitoring data and data provided by the beneficiaries in their progress and final reports. The annual implementation reports of the programme will be submitted to the MC for adoption prior to sending to the EC.

### **Programme evaluation**



The Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 has been subject to an ex-ante evaluation of independent evaluators with the aim of improving the overall quality of the programme and to optimise the allocation of budgetary resources. The recommendations of the evaluation have been taken into account during the drafting of this programme as described in the Annex.

In accordance with Article 56 of the CPR, the MA will draw up an evaluation plan which will be approved by the MC prior to sending to the EC.

The evaluations will be carried out to assess effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme. At least one evaluation during the programming period will assess how support from the funds has contributed to the objectives for each priority. All evaluations, recommendations and follow-up actions will be examined and approved by the MC.

By 31 December 2022, the MA will submit to the EC a report summarising the findings of evaluations carried out during the programming period, including an assessment of the main outputs and results of the programme.

In compliance with Article 57 of the CPR, the ex-post evaluation lies in the responsibility of the EC together with the Member States.

### **Monitoring System**

As stipulated in Articles 74 and 112 of CPR, data exchange with the EC will be carried out electronically (by means of SFC2014).

On the side of the programme, the monitoring system according to Article 72 of CPR shall provide data and information needed to fulfil management, monitoring and evaluation requirements.

In accordance with Article 122 of CPR, the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 will ensure that no later than 31 December 2015, all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and the MA/CA and AA can be carried out by means of an electronic data exchange system (e-MS).

The e-MS will comply with the following aspects:

- data integrity and confidentiality
- authentication of the sender within the meaning of Directive 1999/93/EC
- storage in compliance with retention rules defined in Article 140 of CPR
- secure transfer of data
- availability during and outside standard office hours (except for technical maintenance activities)
- accessibility by the MSs and the beneficiaries either directly or via an interface for automatic synchronisation and recording of data with national, regional and local computer management systems
- protection of privacy of personal data for individuals and commercial confidentiality for legal entities with respect to the information processed (according to Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector and Directive 1995/46/EC on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free

movement of such data).

In order to transfer data to the EC, the administration system of the e-MS shall facilitate interoperability with the Union frameworks as required by Article 122 (3) of the CPR.

The computer system used shall meet accepted security and reliability standards. Accepted procedures that ensure reliability of the accounting, monitoring and financial reporting information in computerised form will be implemented.

#### **Information and communication**

According to Articles 115 and 116 of CPR, a communication strategy will be drafted and submitted to the MC not later than 6 months after adoption of the programme. Any revision of the communication strategy will be discussed and approved by the MC. The strategy will take into consideration the elements detailed in Annex XII of CPR.

In line with Article 116 (3) of CPR, the MA will inform the MC at least once a year on the progress in the implementation of the communication strategy and its assessment of the results, as well as on the planned information and communication activities to be carried out in the following year.

The aim of the communication strategy is twofold, to inform potential applicants about funding opportunities under the cooperation programme and to communicate achievements of cohesion policy to the general public by focusing on the results and impacts of the Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary 2014-2020 and its projects. The cooperation programme might use harmonised branding introduced on a voluntary basis by ETC programmes for the period 2014-2020.

The communication strategy will be implemented by one person in the JS that will be designated to be responsible for information and communication activities. A budget for the implementation of the communication strategy will be made available as part of the programme's budget for technical assistance, in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

#### **5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission**

*(Reference: point (a)(vi) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Without prejudice to the Member States' responsibility for detecting and correcting irregularities and for recovering amounts unduly paid according to Article 122 (2) of CPR, the MA shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead partner. In accordance with Article 27 of ETC Regulation, the project partners shall repay the lead partner any amounts unduly paid.

If the lead partner does not succeed in securing repayment from a project partner or if the MA does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead partner, the Member State responsible for the control of the project partner concerned shall reimburse the amounts recovered to the general budget of the Union, in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States as laid down below. The MA will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the LP/PP/MS.



Should the MA bear any legal expenses for recovery recourse proceedings – initiated after consultation and in mutual agreement with the respective MS – even if the proceedings are unsuccessful, these will be reimbursed by the MS responsible for the control of the LP or PP causing the said procedure.

Since Member States have the overall liability for the ERDF support granted to LPs or PPs for whose control they are responsible, they shall ensure that – prior to certifying expenditure – any financial corrections required will be secured and they shall seek to recover any amounts lost as a result of an irregularity or negligence caused by a beneficiary for whose control the MS is responsible. Where appropriate, a MS may also charge interest on late payments.

In accordance with Article 122 (2) of CPR, irregularities shall be reported by the Member State responsible for the control of the lead partner or project partner implementing the project. The Member State shall, at the same time, inform the MA and the AA. Specific procedures in this respect may be laid down in a memorandum of understanding and will also be part of the description of management and control system.

The Member States will bear liability in connection with the use of the programme ERDF funding as follows:

- Each Member State bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by those lead partners and project partners for whose control the MS is responsible or for systematic irregularity or for financial correction on programme level
- For a systemic irregularity or financial correction on programme level that cannot be linked to a specific Member State, the liability shall be jointly borne by the Member States in proportion to the ERDF claimed to the European Commission for the period which forms the basis for the financial correction
- For technical assistance expenditure incurred by the MA, the liability related to administrative irregularities shall be borne by the MA. For technical assistance expenditure incurred by the JS, the liability shall be borne by the JS.
- For technical assistance expenditure incurred by the Member States the liability shall be borne by the Member State concerned.

Upon request of the responsible Member State which reimbursed the amount to the Programme budget, the Managing Authority shall provide to this Member State all relevant information concerning the claim of recourse against a Lead partner and/or a project partner or sole beneficiary within two months from the date of request.

## **5.5 Use of the Euro (where applicable)**

*(Reference: Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

In accordance with Article 28 of ETC Regulation, expenditure incurred in a currency other than the Euro shall be converted into Euro. For the cooperation programme at hand the method b) of Article 28 of ETC Regulation was chosen for the conversion of expenditure

incurred in another currency than the Euro. Conversion is to be made by the beneficiaries using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the European Commission in the month during which the expenditure was submitted for verification to the managing authority or the controller in accordance with Article 23 of ETC Regulation.

## 5.6 Involvement of partners

*(Reference: point (c) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

The coordination of the programming process including partner involvement was carried out by the MA/JTS of the AT-HU 2007-2013 programme.

According to Article 5 of CPR, the preparation of the cooperation programme should involve a partnership with competent regional and local authorities such as economic and social partners and relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.

The main reason for involving stakeholders in programming is to identify mutual interests and needs, secure commitment and ownership for the cooperation programme and ensure its practical implementation.

A number of platforms for an effective communication with relevant partners and stakeholders have been introduced throughout the programming process.

To steer the programming process a programming group (PG) has been established. A wide involvement and active participation of partners has been sought, hence important strategic partners for cross-border cooperation both from national and especially from regional level have been nominated as members of the PG. For specific topics the PG was extended by experts in order to support the work of the PG. This additionally ensures a wide representation not only of the Member States participating in the cooperation programme but also regarding thematic expertise. In addition, regional representatives in the PG have consulted social and economic partners and institutions responsible for specific topics in the respective region on a regular basis. This serves as an important input especially in identifying investment priorities, verifying of demand for possible activities and establishing the financial plan.

Two bilateral thematic workshops with more than 300 participants served as an essential input to the strategy and the intervention logic of the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020. The aim was to validate strategic choices regarding thematic concentration and to collect additional inputs and suggestions as well as ideas on potential fields of cooperation in the programme area. At this events a preselected set of thematic objectives, investment priorities, and a draft definition of corresponding specific objectives and possible actions for each specific objective was consulted. The thematic workshops addressed competent

regional, local and other public authorities, economic and social partners, bodies representing the civil society, including environmental partners and non-governmental organisations.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the cooperation programme was based on a public consultation process. A wider public in Austria and Hungary had the opportunity to comment on the draft Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020, particularly taking into account the expected environmental impacts of implementation. Subsequently, comments relevant to the content of the cooperation programme have been taken into account.

Beside the activities on programme level, information and consultation was also carried out on the level of different projects and regions. In the framework of the project RECOM HUAT 2014 (Regional Cooperation Management) a comprehensive network analysis was carried out. The outcomes are based on a widespread questionnaire and more than 50 personal interviews with the most important CBC stakeholders. 109 cross-border cooperation networks with 447 actors have been identified in the field of environment and energy, labour market, education, research and innovation as well as tourism and mobility. This stakeholder consultation process allowed for a deep insight in the quality, stability and sustainability of existing cross-border networks. It attracted interest for the programming process and provided additional ideas and inputs for the choice of investment priorities and specific objectives of the Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020.

Regional activities were carried out for example in Vienna, Styria, Burgenland and Hungary. The departments of the City of Vienna started to inform about the new programming period and its possible thematic objectives in December 2011 addressing the main stakeholders in the thematic fields with a meeting followed by 11 interviews in the beginning of 2012. Based on the results of the interviews two thematic workshops were held in autumn 2012 on the main future topics identified: research and innovation, environment, energy and regional planning. The aim was to inform the stakeholders but also to gather first project ideas. 55 participants from the chambers, public and private research institutions, universities and universities of applied science as well as the responsible departments of the regional administration attended the two half-day events. In July 2013 the main regional stakeholders as well as the relevant departments of the City of Vienna were asked to comment the first draft of selected investment priorities in a written procedure. Altogether 100 persons were contacted and more than a third replied.

In Styria the information and consultation process started with an analysis of existing strategies for various sectors (e.g. energy, economy, tourism) in order to identify their cross-border aspects by discussion with the relevant departments of the regional administration. Furthermore, a survey among project partners with 70 replies and interviews with 20 regional stakeholders were undertaken. The local level was involved with different initiatives in order to emphasise the importance of the regional aspect and to activate local and regional actors. One of these initiatives were 5 thematic workshops with about 200 participants on the topics tourism, energy and environment, economy and innovation, traffic and mobility as well as employment and lifelong learning.

In Burgenland different expert working groups discussed and formulated regional priorities that found their way into the "Regional Development Strategy – Burgenland 2020" and also into the programming process. There was close cooperation and ongoing communication between the institutions responsible for the programming of other programmes (ERDF, ESF,

EAFRD), especially with regard to the Operational Programme “Österreich IWB 2014-2020”.

In Hungary, beside the RECOM workshops with a high number of Hungarian participants intense discussions with the representatives of the counties participating in the programme and relevant institutions in the counties were carried out.

Many partners currently involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme are foreseen to be involved in the Monitoring Committee with the aim of ensuring continuity for the implementation and monitoring of the cooperation programme in the future. Having a link between preparation and later implementation contributes to good management of the programme and achievement of the objectives intended. As already described the MC shall consist of both representatives of the national level and the regions participating in the cooperation programme. Representation of policy areas relevant for the programme and participating regions shall be insured. Other relevant institutions for cross-border cooperation as well as social partners from both Member States actively participate in the implementation of the cooperation programme, mainly at project level. It will be discussed whether and how they can also be involved at programme level (e.g. in the Monitoring Committee).

## SECTION 6 COORDINATION

(Reference: point (a) of Article 8(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

The Cooperation Programme AT-HU 2014-2020 will seek coordination with other ESI Funds through following measures:

- Applicants will have to describe any coherence and complementarity with national and regional programmes supported by ESI Funds in the application form.
- National coordination bodies (or mechanisms as provided by national rules) supporting the Monitoring Committee members will involve representatives of institutions participating in the implementation of national and regional programmes supported by ESI Funds, seeking (to the possible extent) to achieve coordination at all stages of the programme lifetime (more details see below).

Attention will also be given to the possibility of coordination with other ETC programmes. If a question is raised – for example - with regard to eligibility of a project in geographically overlapping areas, the JS or MA will seek the contact with the programme concerned to detect and avoid to the possible extent any duplication and to activate synergies. The MA and JS will also seek exchanges with other ETC programmes with regard to questions concerning efficient programme management by using e.g. the INTERACT platforms and participating in INTERACT workshops.

Mechanisms and bodies established in the Member States to ensure effective coordination in Austria and Hungary are as follows:

### **Coordination in Austria**

The overall coordination of EU structural funds in Austria lies within the competence of the Federal Chancellery which represents the fund corresponding resort for the ERDF. As the coordination function derives from regional policy as well as spatial planning, the execution takes place from the outset in close cooperation with the Länder. The institutional framework for the national coordination of cohesion policy is given with the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), which is also responsible for the elaboration of the Austrian Partnership Agreement “STRAT.AT 2020”. This coordination efforts aim at ensuring the complementarity of ESI Funds specific activities and avoiding overlaps.

The coordination platforms organised by the ÖROK for the ERDF are the Working Group “Managing Authorities” for the programme “Investment in Growth and Jobs”, the Working Group “Cross-Border-Cooperation” (AG CBC) for the objective European territorial bilateral

cooperation and the National Committee for transnational and network programmes. The AG CBC assures important linkages to other committees, enhances synergies and increases the visibility of ETC CBC in other committees for structural funds. Through better information on existing concerns and possibilities of other ETC stakeholders it enables more rapid and better harmonized decisions. These three working groups are installed at the ÖROK Subcommittee on Regional Economy, which represents the central coordination committee for regional policy questions in Austria as well as their implementation.

The AG CBC consist of representatives of the Länder ("regional coordinators"), managing authorities of the CBC programmes, representatives of the national level (Federal Chancellery and the federal ministries which are relevant for the implementation of bilateral ETC programmes (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture Forestry, Environment and Water Management; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection; Ministry of Science, Research and Economy) as well as economic and social partners and a representative of the National Contact Point for transnational and network programmes. Thus, Ministries responsible for the national ESF and EAFRD programmes as well as some Priority Area Coordinators for the EUSDR are in direct exchange with the programme partners. As the working group is installed in the framework of the ÖROK, a close coordination with the Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal (IGJ) is ensured as well.

The main focal points of the AG CBC are

- Co-ordination of perspectives, positions and contents on the role and tasks of cross-border-cooperation ETC programmes in the Austrian EU regional policy: ETC programmes and their anchorage in the partnership agreement "STRAT.AT 2020", influence of national / macro-regional strategies on ETC programmes (need for co-ordination between CBC & TN), mutual information, co-ordination and exchange on the programming 2014-2020, project development and selection, etc.
- Recommendations for technical / administrative questions for programme and project implementation: Programme closure, evaluation, cross-programme implementation processes, etc.
- Co-ordination of information flows in Austria and to European processes.

In the framework of the strategic monitoring process of the Partnership Agreement "STRAT.AT 2020" all ESI funds and objectives will be considered be it in common events, seminars, studies, evaluations, etc. The strategic monitoring process will built upon the good experiences gained from the coordination mechanism of the implementation of the NSRF in the current structural funds period, the so called "STRAT.ATplus process". As regards contents, the process pursues the objective of promoting the exchange of experiences and reflection, as well as to generate practical impulses. This establishes a framework in Austria, which in addition to administrative and ESI funding-related issues, supports a content-based or dialogue-driven discussion for information, reflection and learning processes for all Austrian regional policy actors in charge. This coordination mechanism strengthens the strategic discussions, the interaction, and exchange of experience and use of synergies among ESI funds.

Furthermore, coordination with other union instruments relevant for policy areas concerned by the ERDF is important. In the programme area particularly HORZION 2020 and LIFE are relevant for the selected objectives of the programme. Therefore applicants will be asked to



describe coherence with and complementarity to these instruments as mentioned above.

In Austria HORZION 2020 will be accompanied in its implementation by the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. The regional contact points (for the current 7th Framework Programme) are responsible for the coordination of RTDI policy and regional development strategies as well as for the embedding of the European research and development funding measures at the regional level. As a result of the preparation of the partnership agreement, the corresponding ministry intends to install a platform for responsible ESI funds actors and stakeholders of the RTDI policy in Austria.

The LIFE programme will be accompanied by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The thematic objective 6 (environment and resource efficiency) will be addressed in the Cooperation Programme, where an adequate attention will be paid to the connection with LIFE.

In view of the described coordination mechanisms, the principle of proportionality has to be considered as the coordination between the cooperating two member states of the cross-border-cooperation programme as such is challenging.

For an overview of ESI programmes 2014-2020 in/with Austria see table in the Annex of the CP.

### **Coordination in Hungary**

In relation to national investment programmes financed from the resources of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), the coherence is ensured with the Partnership Agreement of Hungary and at the same time, coordination is needed in cases, where there is a possible overlap of thematic objectives. Furthermore coordination is needed in those cases, where there is a territorial overlap of cross-border cooperation programmes and transnational programmes such as the Slovenia-Hungary Co-operation Programme 2014-2020, the Slovakia-Hungary Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020, the Hungary-Croatia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020, the Danube Transnational Programme, Central Europe and Interreg Europe.

Referring to the Article 123 of the EU Regulation No 1303/2013 the Prime Minister's Office is the ultimate coordinating body of the EU Structural Funds in Hungary. This ensures consistency, delimitation and that the most important coordination tasks are dealt in a 'One-stop-shop' system.

The organisational unit being responsible for the ETC CBC Programmes operates within the Prime Minister's Office as well, according to the related Government Regulation (27/2014. (II.7.) Korm. rendelet). Regarding the ETC CBC Programmes, the Deputy State Secretariat for International Affairs is responsible for the Managing/National Authority activities, therefore for the Austria-Hungary Cross-border Co-operation Programme as well.

As for the transnational programmes coordination is needed with the Ministry of National Economy, which is responsible for the following programmes: Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020, Central Europe 2020 and Interreg Europe. Regarding the mainstream OPs dialog is needed with the Managing Authorities (i.e.: Ministry for National Economy, Ministry of National Development and the appropriate department of the Prime Minister's Office).

The coordination has been ensured already at the time of the planning of the ATHU CBC Programme 2014-2020, as the activities of the OPs have been collated, and during the

implementation, the Management Authorities of the relevant OPs and the Management Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat should collate continuously the envisaged operations.

Cooperation between the organisations managing EU and national funds will continue also in the Programme for the period 2014-2020. The coordination is ensured through the Programme related national level consultations in Hungary, the ETC working group meetings as well as the review and commenting procedures established among the responsible Hungarian line ministries. The Deputy State Secretariat for International Affairs cross-checks the Operative Programme with the coordinating institutions to avoid overlaps during the programming period.

Further ensuring coordination and checking overlapping is national responsibility meaning that on one hand Member States establishes the required mechanism and on the other hand the composition of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Cooperation Programme, Programming Group and Joint Secretariat are responsible for facilitating coordination between authorities responsible for the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). Regional Coordinators shall assist applicants and beneficiaries. In order to avoid double financing cross border impact is required at the projects financed through the ATHU ETC programme

During the implementation of the Programme special attention will be paid to the elaboration of the programme documents. In Hungary the IT system for mainstream operational programmes will be used to check double financing as also stated in the Partnership Agreement of Hungary. Double financing is to be scanned while audit procedures and the First Level Control shall stamp the submitted original invoices in order to make them inappropriate for other financial programmes.

Some mainstream operative programmes, cross-border cooperation and transnational programmes have overlapping thematic objectives with the Austrian-Hungarian Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 where double financing needs to be checked (for an overview see table in the Annex of the CP).

Regular communication with the Hungarian coordination of EUSDR (NC is hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) has also deemed necessary in order to identify synergies with those 3 Hungarian coordinated Priority Areas (PA2 "To encourage more sustainable energy", PA4 "To restore and maintain the quality of waters" and PA5 "To manage environmental risks") relevant for the programme goals.



## SECTION 7 REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

*(Reference: point (b) of Article 8(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

A summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

### **Experiences in 2007-2013 related to the administrative burden**

The complexity of EU funding programmes has been a frequent reason for complaints by beneficiaries, often discouraging potential applicants. Territorial co-operation programmes are especially concerned due to lengthy procedures related to partner and project level reporting.

The most frequent criticisms include:

- Different document templates and requirements programme by programme  
Applicants and beneficiaries have often complained that various templates of different programmes for the same or similar purposes reflect structural differences, often a different logic and other requirements. First level control bodies that are responsible for controls in more than one programme are also influenced.
- Large amount of paper copies, duplication of information  
For the purposes of sound documentation regularly large piles of hard copies are submitted. Duplication of information is often unavoidable, which contributes to a higher possibility of mistakes.
- The visibility of projects required disproportionate efforts from some projects  
Information and publicity is essential, but their implementation in projects is uneven in terms of quality and quantity. Especially in case of small operations with low communication budget, quality often suffers.
- Lack of pre-financing capacity  
The lack of pre-financing capacity has been a frequent reason for delays in project implementation, resulting in prolongations as one of the most frequent modifications.
- Complicated financial reporting and control procedures  
The documentation of the eligibility of expenditure has often entailed a significant workload on the part of the project holders and disproportionate efforts in verification on the part of the First Level Control Bodies. This is especially true for staff costs and for office and administrative expenditure.

The requirement deriving from Article 8(5) b of the ETC regulation to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries meets the need clearly expressed by stakeholders in the consultation procedure. Measures to be implemented shall help beneficiaries to cope better with programme requirements and contribute to fewer burdens on programme level.

Simplification and harmonisation have their boundaries: the need for sound documentation,

allowing for audits even after considerable time will probably not change; differences in national regulations and procedures may remain and further harmonisation would lead to overregulation.

Also the increased requirements for result orientation require thorough planning and close monitoring of outputs as well as of results both on project and on programme level. In order to offset the resulting higher administrative requirements, special measures have to be taken by the programmes to support potential applicants, applicants and beneficiaries.

### **Actions planned in order to reduce the administrative burden and their indicative timeframe**

#### **Consistent use of the “Harmonised Implementation Tools” of INTERACT (HIT)**

The programme will use the HIT templates from the beginning of the programme implementation, in all phases starting with the application form throughout the project cycle. The benefits of applying the HIT package include among others:

- standardisation with other programmes using HIT templates,
- standardised language,
- structured planning on project level,
- support coherence with the programme’s intervention logic,
- consistent application of the entry-only-once principle.

The use of standardized documents in a user-friendly format will contribute to save time and effort.

#### **E-cohesion**

From the beginning of the programme implementation the requirements of e-cohesion will be extensively applied. All exchange of information with the project applicants and beneficiaries will be carried out by the means of electronic data exchange systems and the need to submit documents in hard copy will be reduced to the possible minimum. For this purpose the programme is going to apply the e-Monitoring System of Interact (e-MS), starting with the on-line application form, throughout all phases of the project cycle. Features of the e-MS that help to reduce the administrative burden on project holders include among others:

- application of standardised HIT documents,
- high level automation (entry only once, automatic calculations), incl. reporting, modification, etc.,
- drop down lists help to keep the structure required by the intervention logic,
- hints and guidelines available right at the relevant entry fields.

The application of standardised documents and the e-Monitoring System is expected to contribute efficiently to the reduction of processing time for contracting, first level control and payment procedures, as well as to the application of harmonised approaches and procedures on both sides of the border.

**Use of the programme website for project publicity**

At latest by the time when the implementation of the first approved projects starts, the programme is going to develop a section of the programme website that will be offered to projects for their publicity. The expected benefits include:

- harmonise publicity efforts of the projects on a common platform,
- contribution to the fulfilment of the publicity goals of the programme
- support especially to projects with low communication budget

The application of the new Interreg brand and logo down to the project level will help the better identification of programme and project results.

**Possibility of pre-financing**

In order to prevent difficulties related to pre-financing, the programme encourages participating regions and Member States to offer financing solutions based on national resources –as concrete financial aid to beneficiaries– based on their previous experiences. These may include:

- automatic national contribution
- advance payments related to national contribution and/or ERDF (from national resources)

Pre-financing and national contribution measures are expected to be available by the contracting of the first approved projects.

**Application of simplified costs**

In order to minimise the administrative burden, from the beginning the programme implementation will make use of the simplification options offered by the regulatory framework, according to Article 67 (simplified cost option) and Article 68 (flat-rate calculation of office and administrative costs) of the CPR. The application of simplified cost options will contribute among others to:

- reduced workload for beneficiaries and control bodies,
- reduced processing time and costs,
- increased legal certainty.

Based on the regulatory package, a pre-defined set of budget lines introduced for all ETC programmes and the new hierarchy of eligibility rules together with the simplified cost options, which will be used by the cooperation programme to a wide extent, will provide for a reduced scope of programme specific eligibility rules. These will be introduced for the present cooperation programme as a whole.

## SECTION 8 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

(Reference: Article 8(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) state: “The Member States and the Commission shall ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity protection, disaster resilience, and risk prevention and management are promoted in the preparation and implementation of Partnership Agreements and programmes.”<sup>12</sup>

Important tools to systematically consider the sustainable development principle in the programme preparation phase are the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Ex-ante evaluation. The purpose of the SEA is to “provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.” The Ex-ante evaluation verifies the adequacy of planned measures in the programmes to promote sustainable development<sup>13</sup>.

During programming the SEA process ran in parallel to the ex-ante evaluation, and its main findings have been incorporated into the ex-ante report. The SEA summarizes: “Generally, it must be said that it is a very environmentally friendly programme. Many thematic priorities are aimed at environmentally relevant topics (improvement of water quality, development of nature reserves and cultural heritage, development of sustainable transport systems). In particular, the promotion of regulatory cooperation is very important for environmental issues.

The greatest danger lies in the additional sealing by certain investments. Although the programme provides only small-scale investments in infrastructure, it must be ensured, that all projects aiming a wise use of natural resources and taking care of biodiversity and habitats.”<sup>14</sup>

Sustainable development will further be considered during implementation of the programme. The assessment and selection of projects as well as the monitoring of implementation will be guided by the following principles:

- Selection of investive projects in view of highest resource efficiency and sustainability
- Prevention of investments with considerable negative environmental (especially by additional sealing) and climate effects

<sup>12</sup> CPR, Article 8

<sup>13</sup> CPR, Article 55 (m)

<sup>14</sup> Environmental Report of the CBC-Programme Austria – Hungary 2014-2020, p. 90

- Long-term perspective when comparing life cycle costs of various investment options

The project application form will include a section, in which the applicants have to describe the project's contribution to sustainable development and choose between three types of contribution, "neutral", "positive effects" and "negative effects". During quality assessment it will be evaluated, whether the project makes a positive contribution to the programme's horizontal principles, which is one of the strategic assessment criteria. For this, it will be examined how far sustainability is anchored in the project's design and the planned activities and whether the applicants' statement is justified. The principles and aspects defined in the text below will serve as a guideline during this part of the quality assessment.

With regard to the selected priority axes the following aspects should be taken into account by the project proposals:

Priority axis 1 mainly targets the research and innovation capacities of SMEs with the aim to develop competitive products. Special attention will be given to eco-innovations and "green" products as well as social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Priority axis 2 seeks to protect the regional landscape and ecosystems and to improve resource efficiency by promoting the wider use of innovative technologies. Further focus lies on the sustainable protection, promotion and development of regional cultural and natural heritage.

Priority axis 3 deals with sustainable transport and regional cross-border mobility with a focus on environmentally friendly transport modes for freight and passengers.

Priority axis 4 aims to strengthen the integration in the border region by legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens. Here, emphasis will be put on creating social sustainability communities that are equitable, diverse, connected and democratic and provide a good quality of life.

Generally, all (planned and submitted) projects will be encouraged to consider environmental concerns and reduce their environmental impact, for example by

- contributing to efficient waste management, re-use and recycling (not only projects of priority axis 2),
- considering energy efficiency, renewable energy use and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (not only projects of priority axis 2),
- contributing to reduced transport and mobility related air pollution (not only projects of priority axis 3),
- applying green public procurement<sup>15</sup>,
- contributing to more employment opportunities, education, training and support

---

<sup>15</sup> Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured. (EC 2012)

- services in the context of environment protection and sustainable development,
- favouring actions involving building construction and renovation that go beyond cost-optimal levels of energy performance according to Directive 2010/31/EU,
  - purchasing products that comply with the requirements set out in Annex III of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).

## 8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) state: “Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation and implementation of programmes”<sup>16</sup>.

The AT-HU programme will consider the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination and ensure that these are taken into account in all phases of its implementation, not least in terms of programme management (Priority 5). It will further take into account the needs of various target groups at risk of such discrimination and the requirements ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Generally, all projects will be obliged to avoid discrimination of any kind and to ensure that their activities comply with the principles of equal opportunities.

The application form will include a section, in which the applicants have to describe the project’s contribution to equal opportunities and non-discrimination and choose between three types of contribution, “neutral”, “positive effects” and “negative effects”. During quality assessment it will be evaluated, whether the project makes a positive contribution to the programme’s horizontal principles, which is one of the strategic assessment criteria. For this, it will be examined how far equal opportunities and non-discrimination is anchored in the project’s design and the planned activities and whether the applicants’ statement is justified. The principles and aspects defined in the text below will serve as a guideline during this part of the quality assessment. After approval, the ERDF-contract will include a section which specifies each project’s obligation to comply with the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

With regard to the selected priority axes the following aspects should be taken into account by the project proposals:

---

<sup>16</sup> CPR, Article 7

Priority axis 1 aims at entrepreneurship, start-ups and the research and innovation capacities of SMEs. Projects that intend to target the more peripheral and economically weaker areas of the programme region will be especially welcomed. .

Priority axis 2 targets – among others – the sustainable protection, promotion and development of regional cultural and natural heritage and will include actions that support the reconstruction and utilization of cultural and natural heritage sites as well as the development of products and services. Here, it will be necessary to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities to both, physical infrastructure and services.

Priority axis 3 deals with sustainable transport and regional cross-border mobility with a focus on public transport. Special attention will be given to existing bottlenecks and areas lacking good services as well as to mobility services for less mobile population groups.

Priority axis 4 aims to strengthen the integration in the border region by legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens. Here, emphasis will be put on creating social sustainability. Additionally, special attention will be given to ethnic and language minorities and projects that include activities that allow for better integration of disadvantaged groups into the labour market (e.g. long-term unemployed, older workers, drop-outs and under-qualified, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, people with a migration background) and social inclusion.

Generally, all (planned and submitted) projects will be encouraged to consider equal opportunities and non-discrimination, for example by

- guaranteeing accessibility,
- offering barrier free solutions and
- applying participatory and inclusive principles for the selection of participants of training schemes or other educational programmes.

### **8.3 Equality between men and women**

Descriptions of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

The aim of equality between women and men belongs to the fundamental values of the European Union and is set out in of the Treaty on the European Union. Article 3 states that the Union shall “combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child”<sup>17</sup>. The elimination of inequalities and the promotion of

---

<sup>17</sup> Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - TITLE I: COMMON PROVISIONS - Article 3 (ex Article 2 TEU), Official Journal 115 , 09/05/2008 P. 0017 - 0017



equality between women and men are also included in the consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>18</sup>. These fundamental values must be respected in the Regulations and implementation of the ESI Funds of the European as stated in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR): “Member States and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective is promoted in the preparation and implementation of programmes” and that the “Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation and implementation of programmes”<sup>19</sup>.

The AT-HU programme will consider the principles of equality between men and women and ensure that these are taken into account in all phases of its implementation, not least in terms of programme management (Priority 5). Furthermore, the programme will consider to measure the involvement of men and women in its monitoring and evaluation processes (e.g. number of women and men participating in measures or benefiting from funding).

Generally, all projects will be obliged to avoid discrimination of any kind and to ensure that their activities comply with the principles of equality between men and women.

The application form will include a section, in which the applicants have to describe the project's contribution to equality between men and women and choose between three types of contribution, “neutral”, “positive effects” and “negative effects”. During quality assessment it will be evaluated, how far equality between men and women is anchored in the project's design and the planned activities and whether the applicants' statement is justified. After approval, the ERDF-contract will include a section which specifies each project's obligation to comply with the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

All projects will be further encouraged to promote gender mainstreaming, that is “looking at every step of policy – design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation – with the aim of promoting equality between women and men”<sup>20</sup>.

---

<sup>18</sup> “Article 8, CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Official Journal of the European Union C 83/49 of 30.3.2010.

<sup>19</sup> CPR, Article 7

<sup>20</sup> EQUAL Guide on Gender Mainstreaming, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, 2004



## SECTION 9 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

**9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period***(Reference: point (e) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)***Table 23: List of major projects**

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axis/ Investment priorities
not applicable				

**9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme****Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)**

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 1	Euro	2 429 177	8 211 000
1	OI11	SMEs involved in cooperation projects	Number	25	100
2	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 2	Euro	4 347 567	29 049 000
2	OI22	Jointly developed investments at cultural and natural heritage sites	Number	1	5
2	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	20 000	100 000

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
2	OI29	Measures securing or improving the status of water bodies in qualitative and quantitative terms	Number	1	5
3	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 3	Euro	2 030 877	27 585 000
3	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	Km	2	10
3	OI32	Jointly developed strategies, transport concepts and actions	Number	4	12
4	FI04	Total amount of eligible expenditure for priority axis 4	Euro	3 255 548	22 351 480
4	OI41	Actors involved in cross-border cooperation	Number	50	250

### 9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

The involvement of relevant partners in the preparation of the cooperation programme is explained in section 5.6. To complete the description of the process a list of the main stakeholders both on programme and regional level is included in the Annex.

**9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources**

*(Reference: Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)*

not applicable

## ANNEXES (TO BE UPLOADED AS SEPARATE FILES)

01	Final report of the Ex-ante Evaluation
02	SEA non-technical summary (Version 2)
03	Summarising statement on the integration of environmental considerations into the programme
04 a	Confirmation of agreement to the content of the cooperation programme - Hungary
04 b	Confirmation of agreement to the content of the cooperation programme - Burgenland
04 c	Confirmation of agreement to the content of the cooperation programme – Niederösterreich
04 d	Confirmation of agreement to the content of the cooperation programme - Steiermark
04 e	Confirmation of agreement to the content of the cooperation programme - Wien
04 f	Confirmation of agreement to the content of the cooperation programme – Federal Chancellery of Austria
05	Map of the area covered by the cooperation programme
06	List of participating regions – NUTS 3 level
07	Overview on intervention logic (Version 2)
08	Guide on indicators (Version 2)
09	Documentation of the performance framework (Version 2)
10	Overview about coordination in Austria and Hungary
11	List of partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme
12	Regional analysis
13	Overview CP adaption according to EC observations