

Hungary-Slovakia
Cross-border Co-operation Programme
2014-2020

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1 STRATEGY OF THE HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

1.1 STRATEGY OF THE HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

1.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

1.1.1.1 The context of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme

1.1.1.1.1 The European context

The EU cohesion policy

In the 2014-2020 programming period of the European Union, the cohesion policy is the main investment instrument for supporting the main priorities of the Union as envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy, i.e. smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and linked targets. The European Territorial Cooperation is one of the goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for cooperation on internal borders of the EU.

In line with these overall strategic goals, the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme (HU-SK CBC Programme) has been elaborated on the basis of the relevant Strategic Guidelines, Regulations, Delegated and Implementing Acts of the Commission, especially on basis of the following strategies, reports and legislative acts:

- EU2020 strategy,
- Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020,
- 5th Cohesion Report, 2010,
- The urban and regional dimension of the crisis. Eighth progress report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, June 2013
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 - Common Provision Regulation (CPR),
- Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 on the European Regional Development Fund
- Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal

On the base of these guidelines the HU-SK CBC Programme

- will contribute to the delivery of the European Union EU2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and
- will contribute to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

In close co-operation with the concerned national and interregional programmes and institutions, within the scope of its operations the HU-SK CBC Programme will contribute to the implementation of some of the envisaged actions of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) endorsed by the European Council in April 2011. In line with this the

HU-SK CBC Programme will definitely act to realize the four strategic policy objectives of the EUSDR on the regions of Hungary and Slovakia along the Danube:

- connecting the regions,
- protecting the environment,
- building prosperity and
- strengthening the concerned regions.

This will be done in line with the Hungarian Partnership Agreement, which states, that “Hungary is in favour of having smaller scale, non-investment type EUSDR developments in the transnational programmes whereas more significant developments are to be financed from the “mainstream” programmes.”

According to the Slovak Partnership Agreement synergies between ETC and mainstream Operational Programmes (OPs) are expected in the following priorities:

- improving the availability of border regions (including multi-modal public transport),
- strengthening the economic competitiveness,
- strengthening the social and cultural cohesion,
- environmental protection, protection of natural and cultural heritage.

1.1.1.1.2 The national programmes contributing to cohesion

The National Reform Programmes

The National Reform Programme 2013 of Hungary, April 2013 and the Council Recommendation on Hungary’s 2013 national reform programme¹ on one side, and the National Reform Programme 2013 of the Slovak Republic, April 2013 and the Council Recommendation on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme² ensure the coherence with the Hungarian Partnership Agreement, and with the Slovakian Partnership Agreement respectively through which coherences are established with the HU-SK CBC Programme.

The national Partnership Agreements

Hungary

Taking into account the opinion of the Commission on the preliminary version of the Hungarian Partnership Agreement, the first official draft version of the Hungarian Partnership Agreement dated 2nd of July, 2013 has been approved by the European Commission. The preliminary list of operational programs can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

The Hungarian Partnership Agreement states that in line with the strategic priorities of the National Development and Territorial Concept, the following main co-operation areas need to be supported in the framework of the international territorial co-operation:

¹ Council Recommendation on Hungary’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Hungary’s convergence programme for 2012-2016, Brussels, 29.5.2013, SWD(2013) 367 final

² Council Recommendation on Slovakia’s 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia’s stability programme for 2012-2016, Brussels, 29.5.2013, SWD(2013) 375 final

- enhancing competitiveness and employment based on cross-border co-operation,
- promoting territorial integration in the border areas by strengthening environmental, transport, water management and energy networks,
- promoting institutional integration and improving relationships between communities in the border region.

Slovakia

On the 30th of October, 2012 the European Commission published the Position of the Commission Services on the development of the Partnership Agreement and programmes in Slovakia for the period 2014-2020, where it presented its proposal for thematic objectives and priorities for the period 2014-2020, which may be the subject of future EU funding. This position paper formed the basis for the elaboration of the 2014-2020's Partnership Agreement between the Slovak government and the Commission, which has been submitted for assessment to the Commission on the 28th of June 2013. The preliminary list of operational programs can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

According to the position of the Commission the EU funds should be used to finance such priorities that have the greatest potential for growth, and also refundable grants should be used in a greater extent. In order to reach the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy the Slovak Republic supports the narrowing of priorities in the future cross-border co-operation programme, and the determination of a small number of investment priorities that will promote socio-economic growth of the region.

The coordination with the draft operational programmes of Hungary and Slovakia are described in Chapter 6. Coordination.

Regional strategies of the programme area

The HU-SK CBC Programme has to take into account the following regional strategies.

Hungary

The eligible NUTS3 level counties have elaborated their development concepts for the period 2014-2020 as follows:

- Spatial Development Concept of Győr-Moson-Sopron County – 3.1 Draft (July 2013)
- Spatial Development Concept of Komárom-Esztergom County – III. proposing phase
- Spatial Development Concept of Pest County – Proposing phase II. volume – Consultation document (April 2013)
- Spatial Development Concept of Nógrád County – Proposing phase – Interim consultation document (15th January 2013)
- Spatial Development Concept of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County – Proposing phase II. volume – Working paper
- Spatial Development Concept of Heves County (2014-2020) – Proposing phase

- In the 7 NUTS2 regions, the Regional Innovation Agencies elaborated their Smart Specialization Strategies (S3 strategies), containing concepts for cross-border actions, too.

Additionally to these strategies, the “Wekerle Plan – Growth Strategy of the Hungarian Economy in view of the Carpathian Basin” deals with the development of the Hungarian economy in relation to territories in the Carpathian Basin and takes into account the possibilities of cross-border cooperation.

Slovakia

The eligible NUTS3 level counties have elaborated their development concepts for the period 2014-2020 as follows:

- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Bratislava region for the period 2014-2020 (final version 21st June 2013)
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Trnava region for the period 2009-2015 (final version) – the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Nitra region for the period 2008-2015 (final version) - the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Banská Bystrica region for the period 2008-2013 (final version) - the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared
- Economic and Social Development Plan of the Košice region for the period 2007-2013 (final version) - the plan for the next programming period has not yet been prepared

1.1.1.2 Lessons from the on-going programming period

Under the European Territorial Co-operation objective the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 (Commission reference No: 2007 CB163 PO 068) is incorporating thirteen NUTS3 level counties of the Hungary-Slovakia border area, eight from Hungary and five from Slovakia, respectively³. The overall strategic goal of the programme is the increased level of economic and social integration of the border area. (See [Appendix 3.](#))

On the basis of Annual Implementation Reports, the main lessons of the on-going HU-SK Programme were as follows:

- The Programme could not sufficiently focus on specific cross-border problems/issues, because at the time of programming there was a clear threat that a limited number of eligible fields of activities would not provide the chance of the required level of absorption.
- The biggest problem in timely implementation was that the project holders were in many cases unable to pre-finance their activities.

³ The official version of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013: http://www.husk-cbc.eu/hu/letoltes/az_operativ_program_dokumentum

- Another persisting problem was that the infrastructure projects suffer the most from slow and hindered preparation.
- Regarding priority axis 1:
 - The invested funds for RTD objectives will certainly plant the seeds of a cooperative environment in the RTD sector between the key public RTD organisations of the two countries.
 - Tourism cooperation was one of the most popular fields that the programme supports, however, there are serious problems about the sustainability of the results of these projects.
 - Regarding healthcare cooperation the planned results could be reached with a much higher share of funding from the programme budget.
 - The HR and labour market cooperation activities showed a very effective accomplishment of the originally set targets.
- Regarding priority axis 2:
 - The interest for renewable energy related projects were considerably higher than other activities of this measure.

On the base of the in-depth Evaluation of the Hungary–Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 prepared by Deloitte, the main findings in its final report, dated in December 2013 are as follows:

- Situation analysis:
 - Description of the baseline situation was not always properly demarcated from the national OPs
 - Geographic focus of the description was not always specific to the program area
- Objectives and measures:
 - SMEs were not beneficiaries of HUSK CBC Programme 2007-2013, so only indirect impact could be provided via mediator organizations to the most significant sector relating on economic competitiveness
 - Joint tourism developments and Healthcare were the good example for consistency among eligible activities, appraisal criteria, short term objectives and long term objectives.
- Intervention logic:
 - Indicators focused on quantity rather than quality of cooperation thus they did not provide information on improving competitiveness and socio-cultural development
 - Created RTD services may represent the level of proper developments.
 - Progress and improvement could be driven by medical training of international renown and the already existing regional networks of medical officers.
 - In case of business co-operation the usefulness of infrastructural developments were not measured or guaranteed, it is not known how they serve profitable cooperation.
 - Life-long learning actions were not directly supported though it would be necessary to decrease social disparities especially on deprived rural areas.

- As for education indicators focus on number of participants rather than qualitative results, such as number of job finders as a result of education, in addition market demand was not reflected in the actions.
- Concentration of financial resources was relatively high to other interventions, though tourism actions were usually more popular than viable.
- Legal framework:
 - National standards and legislative framework might make it harder to satisfy all the legal requirements of cross-border cooperation projects.
 - The issues of financing discrepancies between the two countries have also come up.
- Procedures:
 - Concerning administrative burdens there were some over complicated requirements mainly due to the national legislation.
- Indicators:
 - Some of the intervention result level indicators are rather output indicators.
 - Current output and result indicators often lack of reliable baseline values and calculations on what would happen without the programme.
 - Programme level indicators are not consistent with the intervention level indicators (based on the characteristics of the relevant intervention) that will result aggregation issues.
 - As for the GDP growth, there is no direct link between intervention level indicators and programme level indicators as intervention level indicators do not refer to any financial data but number of people/ organisations and projects involved in EU funding.
 - As for employment growth, project progress reports do not refer to increase in number of employees but only number of persons reached by the action (target groups).
 - Some result indicators do not give a meaningful view on actual result but they refer to the output of the intervention.
- Sustainability:
 - It is needed to guarantee the sustainability of the project results by using innovative solutions.

A more detailed list of lessons can be found in [Appendix 4](#).

1.1.1.3 The definition of the programme area

Area, population and settlement structure

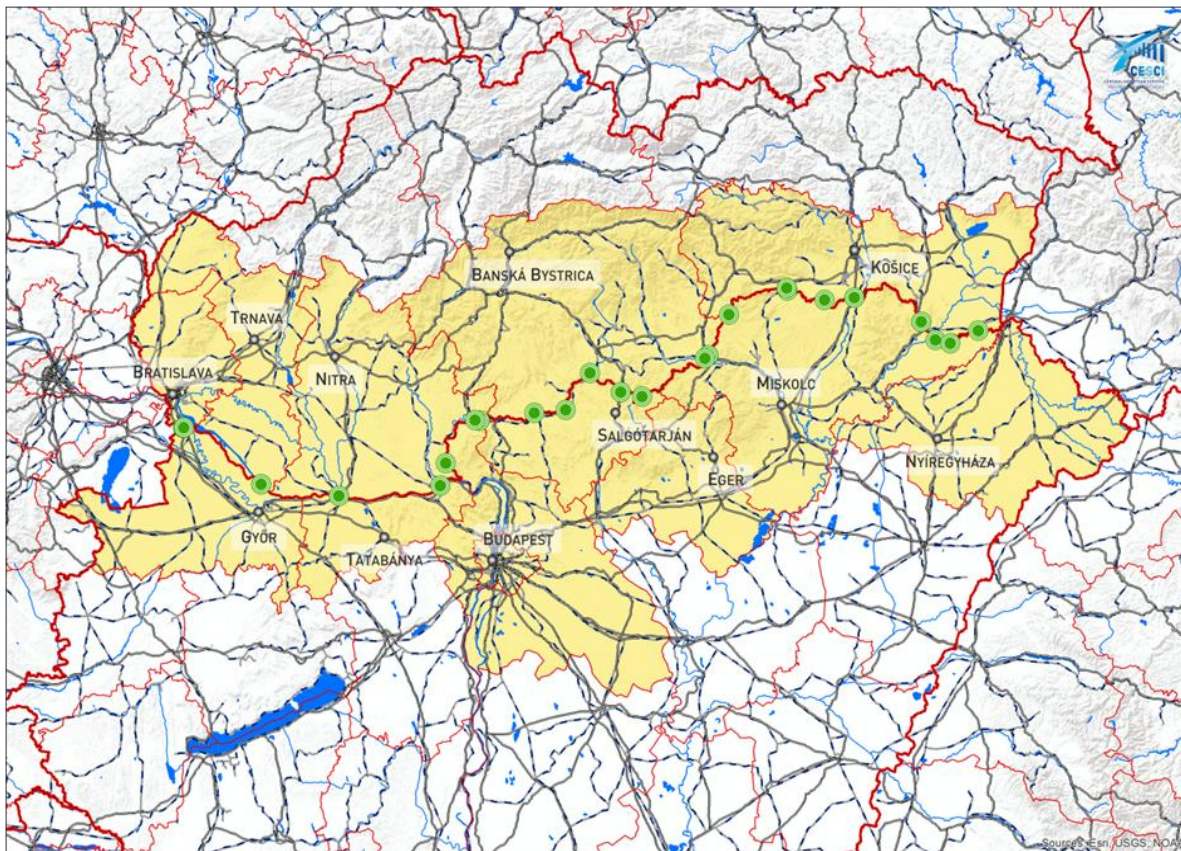
The Hungarian-Slovak is one of the longest internal land-locked borders of the European Union, with a total length of 679 km. The programming region is extremely heterogeneous considering its economic and social situation.

The area covered by the NUTS 3 level regions ('megye' in Hungary, 'kraj' in Slovakia) is 61 496 km². The eligible areas are according to [Table 1](#) and depicted in [Map 1](#).

Table 1: The eligible NUTS 3 programming regions

Name of the region	NUTS 3	Area (Km ²)	Population (2011)
Bratislavský kraj	SK 010	2 047	599 931
Trnavský kraj	SK 021	4 146	554 021
Nitriansky kraj	SK 023	6 342	690 311
Banskobistrický kraj	SK 032	9 456	660 991
Košický kraj	SK 042	6 753	790 837
Győr-Moson-Sopron megye	HU 221	4 205	449 967
Komárom-Esztergom megye	HU 212	2 265	311 411
Pest megye	HU 102	6 390	1 237 561
Budapest	HU 101	526	1 733 685
Nógrád megye	HU 313	2 546	201 919
Heves megye	HU 312	3 637	307 985
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén megye	HU 311	7 250	684 793
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megye	HU 323	5 934	555 496
TOTAL		61 496	8 778 908

Map 1: Map of the programming region



Two regions (Heves county and Budapest) have no direct connection with the state border. Their interests are based on territorial proximity and border effect influences experienced.

1.1.1.4 Analysis of the cohesion of the programming area

1.1.1.4.1 Territorial cohesion

Short introduction of the methodology of the analysis

According to the mission of cross-border ETC programmes, the following analysis does not give an overview on the situation of the whole territory of the programming area but **focuses on the internal territorial, economic and social cohesion** thereof. Consequently, all relevant and available data have been analysed from the point of view of three forms of cohesion by identifying factors hindering and strengthening internal cohesion. Unlike national sectorial programmes, the Hungary-Slovakia CBC Programme should not solve local or regional problems but rather support **cross-border** activities, cooperation forms, networks and joint developments. In this way it enables the region to contribute effectively to the achievement of **EU 2020 Strategy objectives**.

Analysis is divided into three chapters following the three forms of cohesion. Description has been made by using statistical data, the results of individual and focus group interviews and workshops, as well as analytical studies and regional strategic documents of the borderland.

The level of territorial cohesion can be characterised

- by the common use of landscapes and natural heritage,
- by the density and the level of use of border crossing points (permeability of the border),
- by the functionality of border towns, and
- by the presence of cross-border institutions.

Common landscape management

Together with further 12 countries / provinces, Hungary and Slovakia belong to the Danube basin. The programming region in its entirety forms part of the Pannonian / Carpathian basin which gives its common characteristics. Its geomorphological features not ending at the border are determined by the meeting zone of mountainous areas and plains cut up by the rivers belonging to the catchment area of the Danube.

The Hungarian-Slovak border which runs through landscapes of diverse characteristics does not constitute a sharp division everywhere. While on the Western section of the borderland the Danube and Ipoly/Ipeľ are considered as definite barriers hindering rather than facilitating border crossing, from Ipolytarnóc the border is not as clearly attached to natural growths.

At the level of small landscapes, the border divides coherent regions, e.g. Szigetköz – Žitný ostrov, Cserhátvidék – Cerová vrchovina, Nógrádi-medence - Ipeľská kotlina , Medvesvidék - Medvešská vrchovina, Sajó–Hernád-medence - Rimavsko-košická kotlina, Eperjes–Tokaji-hegyvidék - Slanské vrchy, Gömör–Tornai-karszt - Slovenský kras etc.

As the landscapes (managed by five-five natural parks) and the forests cross the border **the protection of the environment, the natural heritage and biodiversity should be a common task** for both countries.

One of the biggest drinking water bases of Europe is situated under Žitný ostrov and Szigetköz and within the territory of the borderland three further cross-border water bases are located: Komarnanska Vysoka Kryha / Dunántúli-középhegység; Slovensky kras / Aggteleki-hegység; Bodrog; Aggteleki-karszt and Slovensky kras are orbicular from the point of view of water geology. ([Table 2](#))

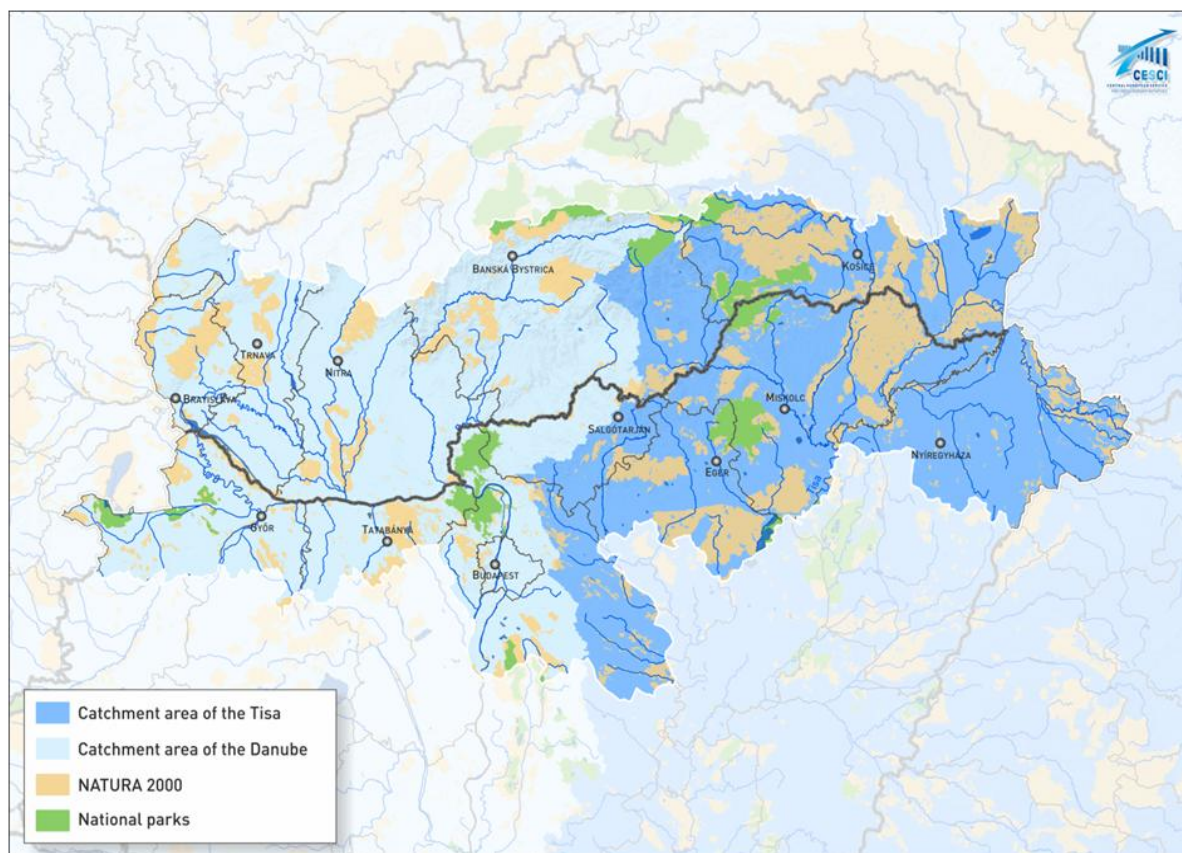
Table 2: Hungarian-Slovak cross-border water bases

Name	Area (km ²)			Type ⁴	Use	Layer depths (m)
	Total	HU	SK			
Podunajska nížina, Zitny Ostrov / Szigetköz, Hanság, Rábca	3 363	1 152	2 211	P	Drinking water Irrigation Agriculture Industry	2-5
Komarnanska Vysoka Kryha / Dunántúli-khg.	3 811	3 248	563	K, C	Drinking water Balneology Energetics	0-2500
Slovensky kras / Aggteleki-hg.	1 090	492	598	K, C	Drinking water Other	0-500
Bodrog	2 216	750	1 466	P	Drinking water Irrigation	2-10

The most frequent effect of climate change in the area is the huge quantity of moisture pouring down suddenly **which requires common water management**.⁵ In addition, inland water and drought caused by extreme weather conditions, water erosion, soil degradation might bring on damages to **be handled commonly**. The catchment areas (like that of the Danube, the Tisza/Tisa or smaller rivers like Ipoly/Ipeľ, Bodrog, Sajó/Slaná, Hernád/Hornád) do not end at the border, the **risks and damages are common and should be managed commonly**. ([Map 2](#))

⁴ K Karst spring
P Porous sediment
C Confining layer

⁵ It is to be mentioned that due to its limited financial resources CBC programme cannot resolve the problems related to water management but can contribute to the resolution.

Map 2: River (Danube and Tisa) catchment areas crossing the border

Border crossing transport

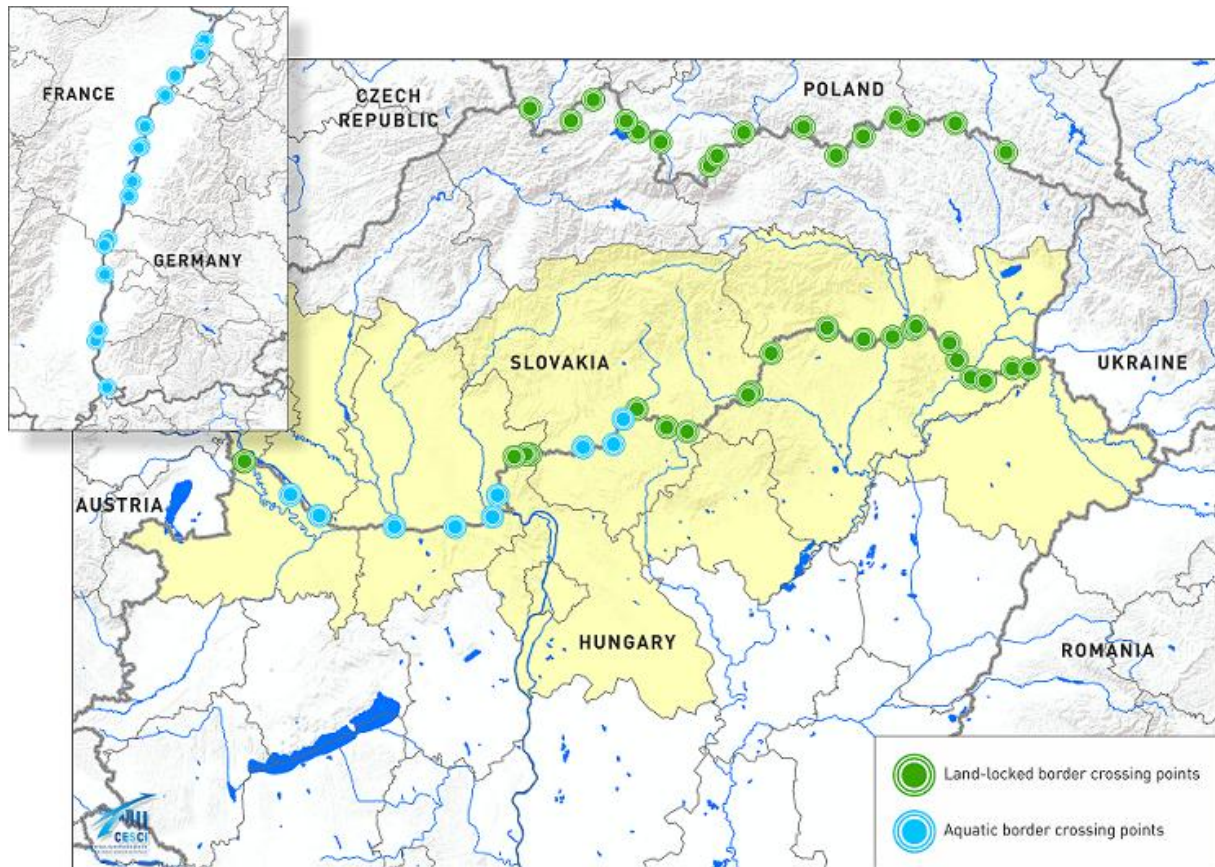
The density of border crossing points plays a crucial role from the point of view of any forms of cross-border cooperation. ([Map 3](#))

The average distance between two border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border is 22,6 km (this volume is the highest along the Danube with an average of 50 km) while the same data in Western European countries is only 7-8 km. Thanks to the HUSK programme the density has increased during the previous programming periods: since 2003, 14 new crossing points have been opened. Considering the economic and social potential of an easily permeable border area **the density of border crossing points should be increased with a view to improving the economic and social conditions in the area.**

The volume of cross-border road traffic represents the intensity of transit and interregional cooperation. The most frequented border crossing points (Rajka-Čučňovo, Vámoszabadi-Medveďov⁶, Komárom-Komárno and Esztergom-Štúrovo) are located exceptionally along the Western part of the border line. Estimated volume of the traffic at these points exceeds 1,4-2,4 times that of the most frequented Eastern point (Tornyosnémeti-Milhošť).

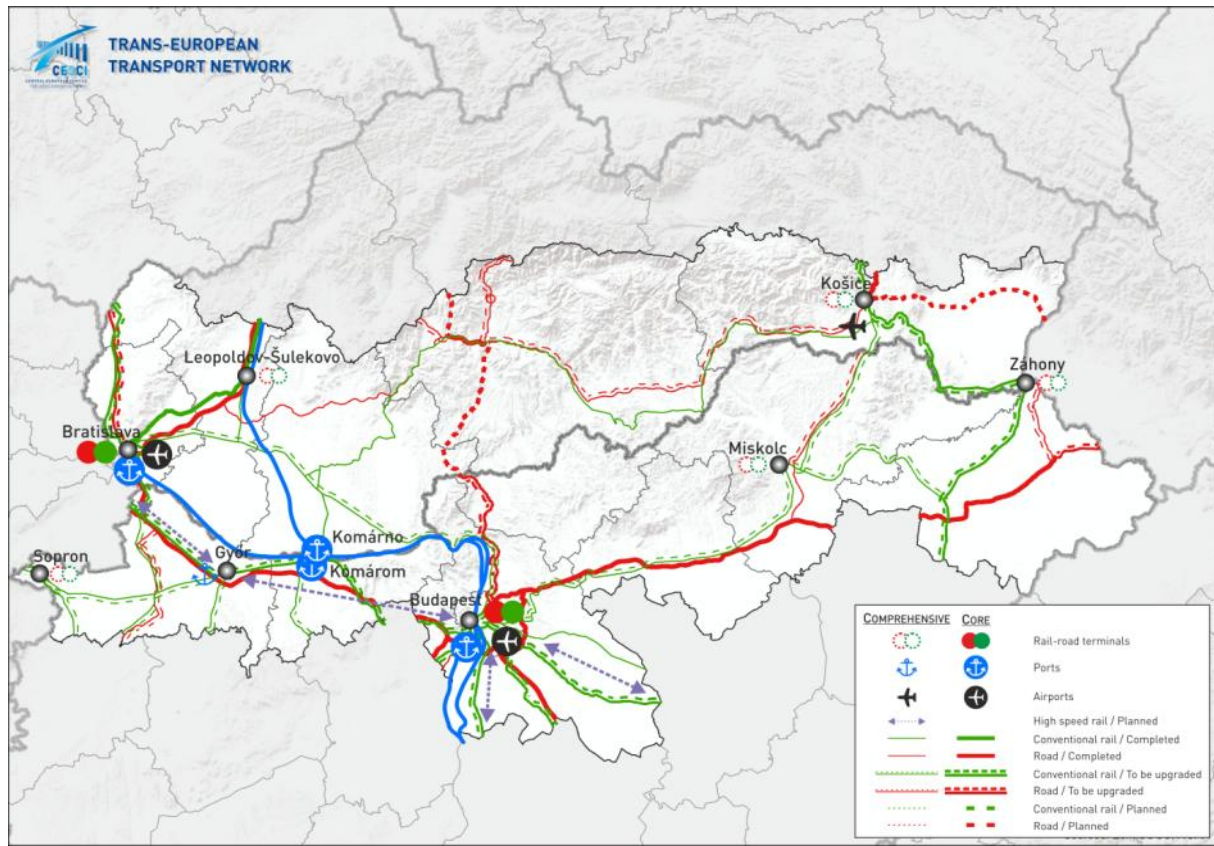
⁶ Two third of the Hungary-Slovakia border traffic is performed through the first two crossing points!

Map 3: Density of border crossing points compared to other border areas



Three TEN-T core networks run through the programming region (the Baltic-Adriatic, the Orient / East-Med and the Rhine-Danube) but all these corridors touch the region only without creating real North-South connections between the two neighbouring countries. In the Eastern area of the borderland there is a **real need for a further North-South core network link.** ([Map 4](#))

Map 4: Components of TEN-T network within the programming region



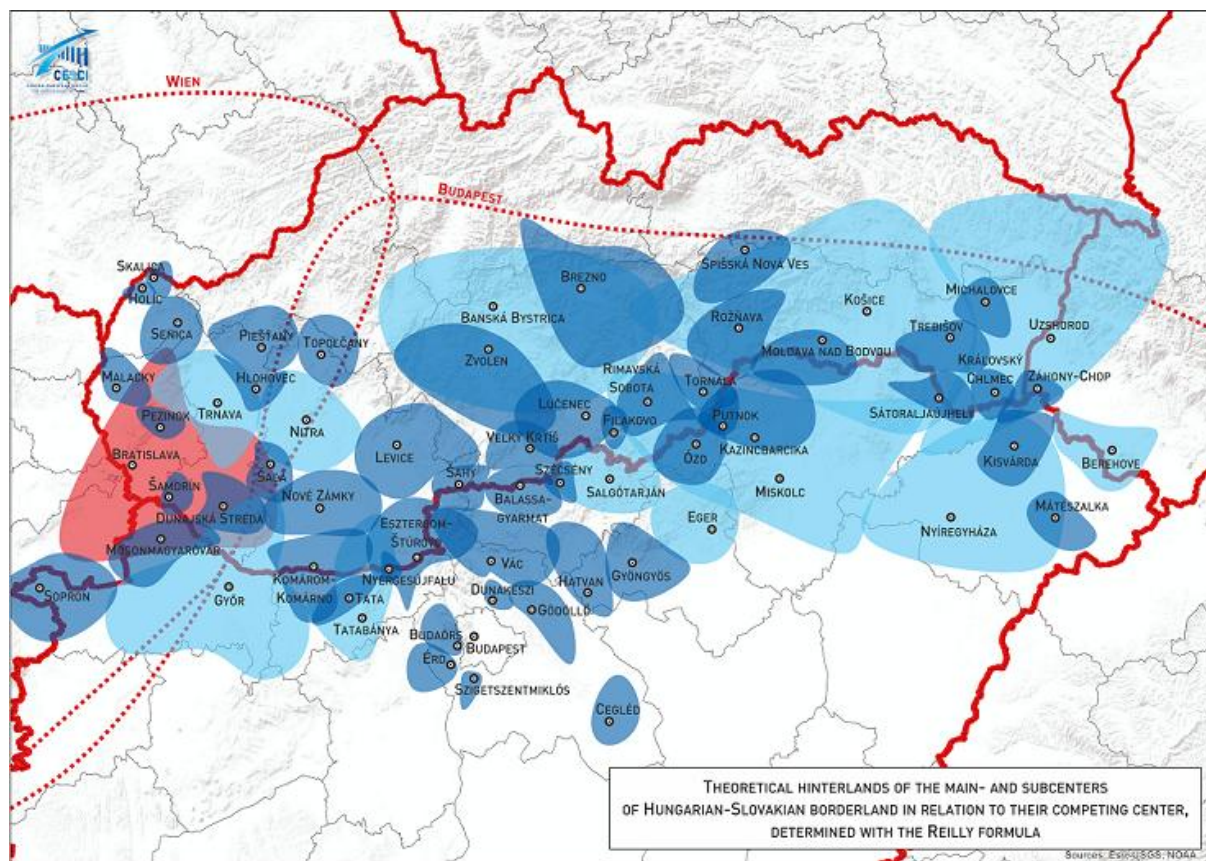
Cross-border public transport is transacted also between the Western border regions only: between Bratislava and Rajka regulated bus line is operating (Nr 801) providing services to the daily commuters; there are cross-border local bus services between Komárno and Komárom (Nr 228) as well as Esztergom and Štúrovo (Nr 223). Four days per week buses turn once between Dunajská Streda and Győr as well as a new bus line starts operating in 2014 between Győr and Veľký Meder. In addition, public transport services are offered by the Hungarian and Slovak railways on two lines (Košice-Budapest, Bratislava-Štúrovo-Budapest) out of 10 possible opportunities. During the previous years, regression has been observed on rail traffic instead of expansion.⁷ However, daily commuting, strengthening of business and institutional cooperation **shall force an increased integration of public transport facilities** similar to the network developed around Vienna within the framework of Centrope initiative.

Functional urban areas along the border

Like the landscapes, functional influencing zones (hinterlands) do not respect state borders either. In the Hungary-Slovak border area the most significant examples are Bratislava, Budapest, Győr and Košice. These towns display remarkable spatial organising power on both sides of the border. In the case of Bratislava and Košice the process of suburbanisation clearly expands on the Hungarian territories as well.

⁷ According to the results gained from TransHUSK project only 2% of the daily cross-border traffic is transacted by public transport means.

Map 5: Theoretical hinterlands along the Hungarian-Slovak border determined with Reilly formula



According to the map above ([Map 5](#)) two levels of urban network can be distinguished:

- the first one is defined by the larger regional centres (from Trnava to Michalovce) situated a bit further from (thus influencing less) the border area
- the second one is constituted of cities situated closer to the border or at the border line with real and daily influence on cross-border activities.

Apparently, within the circle of the latter ones there are several smaller or bigger cities (27 in total) the functional influencing area of which is truncated by the border. In some cases it means a complementary situation where on one side of the border there is a functionally more developed settlement such as Šahy, Balassagyarmat, Rožňava, Sátoraljaújhely completing the lack in functions of the other side. In other cases twin cities like Komárom-Komárno, Esztergom-Štúrovo, Salgótarján-Fiľakovo could more properly affect their surroundings together. Deficiencies rooted back to dividing border effects **hamper healthy development of cities in question not being able to fulfil their functional role**, potentially ensuing of their size⁸.

Cross-border programmes might provide a solution to the problem by facilitating the **development of a cross-border polycentric urban network** and by **improving the functions available for the citizens from the other side of the border**, too.

⁸ The Joint Master Plan of Komárom and Komárno is a best practice example of common use of resources.

At the moment it is hard to enumerate good examples of successful cross-border service provision. There are examples of well-built professional cooperation between the water management institutions, natural park directorates, risk prevention authorities, SME supporting associations and research institutions (universities included). Hospitals are at the beginning of the institutionalized cooperation.

In general, with the exception of Bratislava suburban region which develops in a very impressive way **there is an apparent lack of solid and long term inter-institutional cooperation models making the operation of urban functions more economical.** By opening the border and organizing the management of those functions, the HUSK CBC programme can contribute to a better territorial thrift and a more healthy development of border towns.

From this aspect high number (13 in 2014) of EGTCs registered with Hungarian and Slovak participation (the border line is the most frequented by EGTCs in the EU) demonstrates the need for a more strategic integrated joint use of urban functions and territorial capital in the borderlands. ([Map 6](#))

Map 6: EGTCs along the Hungarian-Slovak border

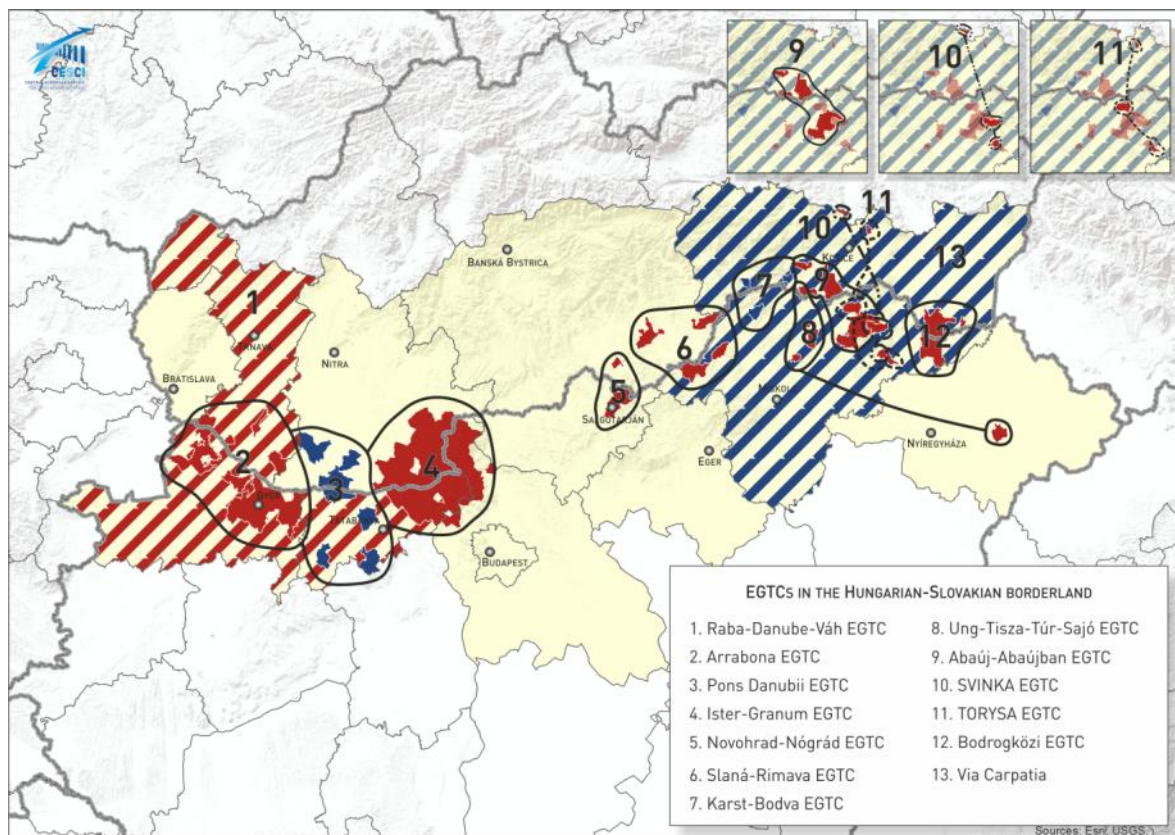


Table 3: Challenges and responses in territorial cohesion

Relevant field of investigation	Main territorial challenges	Potential intervention areas within the framework of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme	Relevant thematic objectives
Joint landscape management	Development of resource efficient joint landscape management and environment and nature protection	Landscape rehabilitation, recultivation Regionally harmonized use of landscape Common protection of biologically active surfaces and biodiversity. Joint actions on the field of environment protection	TO 6 TO 11
	Qualitative and quantitative protection of water resources	Development of common water management and risk prevention system Joint actions in the field of water management	TO 5 TO 6 TO 11
	Development of integrated and sustainable cross-border tourist management and thematic routes	Organisation development (tourist destination management) Development of tourist products and infrastructure Development of tourist information portals and service systems Joint marketing activities Renovation, development and utilisation of natural and cultural heritage sites with tourist aims Development of enterprises interested in tourism	TO 6
Border crossing infrastructure	Increase of the density of border crossing points	Elaboration of studies and plans related to the construction of new border crossing infrastructure Construction of border crossing infrastructure	TO 6 TO 7 TO 8
	Development of border crossing public transport by enforcing multimodality	Elaboration and operation of integrated regional ticket systems and tarif communities Harmonisation of schedules Creation of new cross-border lines Development of joint transport associations	TO 7
Cross-border functional relations	Development of cross-border functional urban influencing areas	Joint urban network initiatives Investments related to the enforcement of common utilization of urban functions, strengthening the cooperation between institutions Rehabilitation of cross-border urban functional areas	TO 8 TO 11

1.1.1.4.2 Economic cohesion

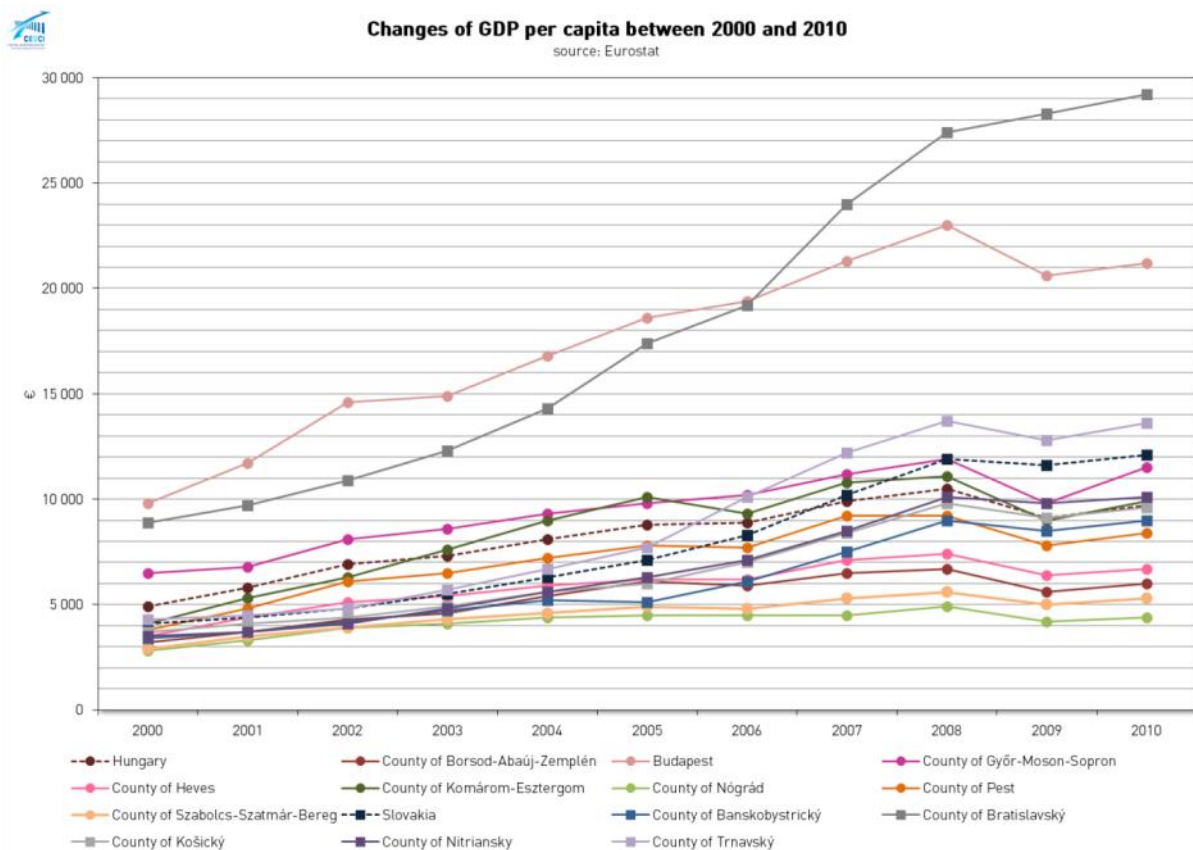
The economic cohesion of the programming region is characterised by

- the complementary and parallel economic features of both border areas providing opportunity to cooperation and
- the economic infrastructure which should be used commonly.

Economic characteristics of the borderland

One of the main particular features of the HUSK programming region consists in its extreme socio-economic disparities. Bratislava, Trnava and partly Nitra region from Slovakia and Győr-Moson-Sopron and Komárom-Esztergom megye from Hungary constitute a dynamic region forming part of the Central European growing zone extended to the territories of Vienna and Southern Moravia. In particular, the Bratislava region presented a remarkable growth in the last decade. In 2008 the Slovak capital city region overtook the region of Vienna considering the GDP per capita in PPP. At the moment it annually produces seven times more than Nógrád county, but even Trnavský kraj (third most developed territory of the programming region) produces the half only of that of Bratislava. ([Figure 1](#))

Figure 1: Territorial disparities within the programming area considering GDP per capita (2000-2010)



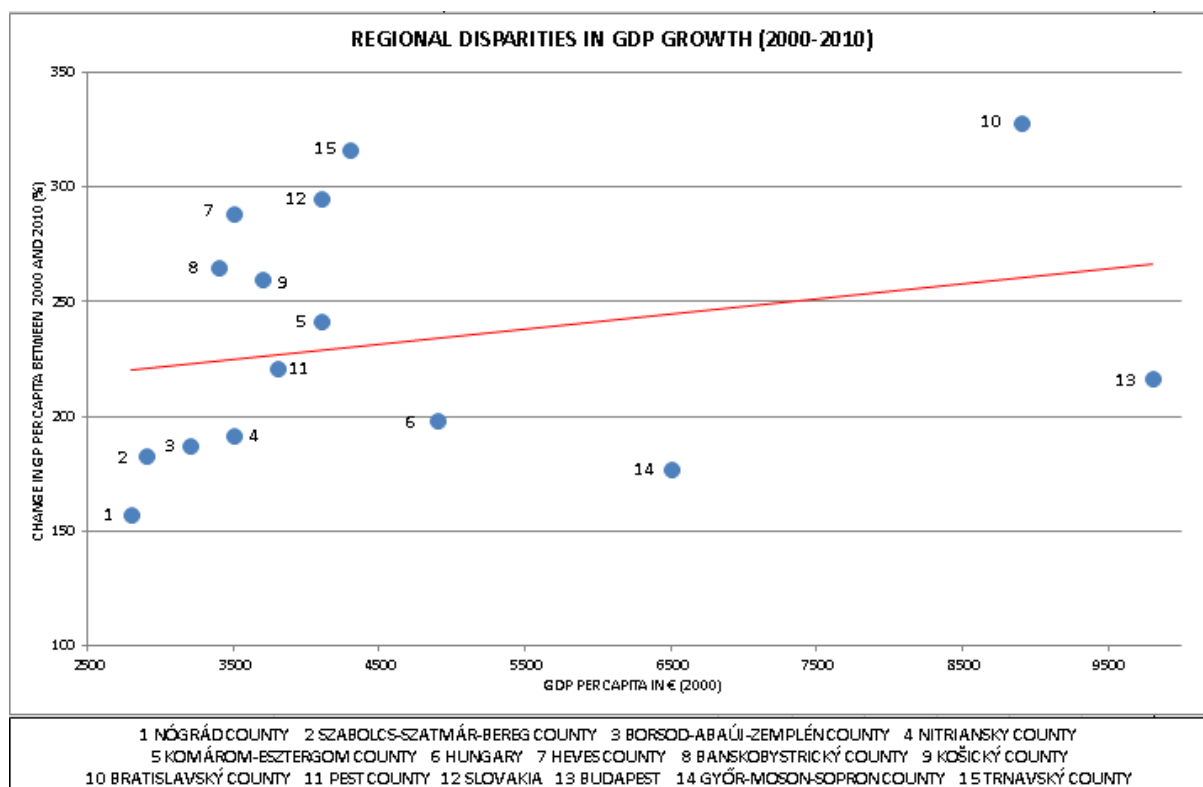
Analysing the economic processes dynamically, it is well-marked that three groups of different development models form an eastern-western gradient. (Figure 2)

While Slovak counties (notwithstanding Bratislava region) have shown a higher level of correlation, the Hungarian ones display heterogeneity. The convergence analysis below clearly demonstrates that the metropolitan zones have significantly left other counties standing⁹: differences in competitiveness have not decreased but grown. Győr-Moson-Sopron county correlates in many details with Bratislava region. Its development rate isn't as high, but is growing smoothly.

Another group is constituted by the counties the development level of which was not high at the beginning of the analysed period, but their growth was convincing (above the trend line): these are the remaining Slovakian counties, except for Nitra region and two Hungarian counties (Heves and Komárom-Esztergom).

The last group includes counties the starting values and the growth rate of which were similarly low: Nógrád, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties from Hungary, Nitra region from Slovakia. The backwardness of these counties has increased significantly during the last 10 years compared to the members of the first group, regardless of the European subventions that arrived into the region.

Figure 2: Territorial disparities described with β convergence



⁹ Data on FDI speaks for itself: 60% in Slovakia, 64% in Hungary has been invested in the metropolitan zone.

The most determining sector of the economy of the borderland is the automotive industry, playing a decisive role in the national economy of both countries. During the last two decades Slovakia has become a player with global significance in this field. Since 2007 Slovakia is the No 1 car producer per capita in the world. The situation of the automotive industry is determined by four car factories in the region (see [Table 4](#)).

Table 4: Car production within the border region (2011)

	Volume of produced cars (2011)	Number of employees (2011)
Volkswagen Slovakia (Bratislava)¹⁰	400 000	8 400
PSA Peugeot Citroën (Trnava)⁵	252 000	2 953
Audi Hungaria (Győr)¹¹	39 518 ¹²	7 322
Hungarian Suzuki (Esztergom)¹³	170 000	3 400

In addition to car factories, Rába Holding, where military off-road trucks and buses are produced, is worthy of being mentioned too. The programming region is home to dozens of suppliers as well. In 2012, 274 suppliers interested in the automotive industry were operating in Slovakia, 202 of them with headquarters in Western Slovakia, mainly along the D1 highway. The rate of national suppliers in Hungary is lower than in Slovakia. Despite the parallel strength in industry the connections between the factories, suppliers, clusters and R+D centres are very rare.

Eastern Hungary and Eastern Slovakia are less developed, post-industrial areas where former heavy industry has suffered from decline after system transformation. The majority of the companies went into bankruptcy leaving behind rust belts. It could be a **common task to revitalise these rust belts and to launch town rehabilitation providing new jobs for the people living there.**

From the point of view of future development of the borderland it is thought-provoking that 78,5% of the GDP spent for R&D is expended by Budapest (62%) and Bratislava region. The index, which is one of the most important ones of EU 2020 Strategy, identifies a huge gap between metropolitan and other regions, which marks out completely different development paths. ([Figure 3](#))

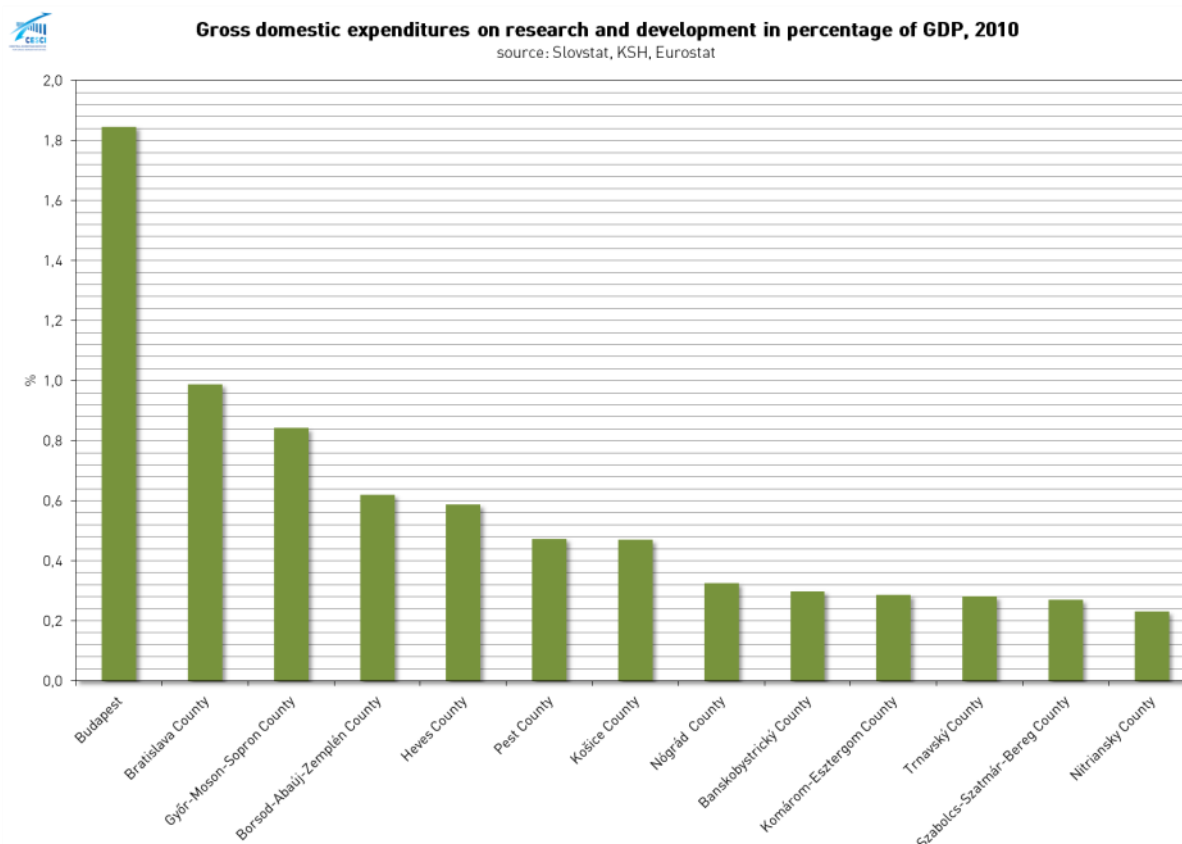
¹⁰ http://www.sario.sk/userfiles/file/Ensario/PZI/sectorial/auto/automotive_industry.pdf

¹¹ Audi Hungaria Ltd. 2011 éves jelentés (annual report of 2011)

¹² In the case of Audi Hungaria Ltd. the production of engines is more significant than car producing.

¹³ www.suzuki.hu. It is remarkable that all the big car factories are operating in the western region of the borderland.

Figure 3: GDP expenditures on R&D in percentage of GDP



Due to preferable conditions, the agricultural sector should be mentioned as well because there are several production centres in the region, mainly in the territory of Kisalföld (Small Plain) and Slovak plain: Hurbanovo, Komárno, Nitra, Bábolna, Kisbér, Győr etc. Agricultural production is mainly bordered by geomorphological and soil endowments. On the fields of plains wheat, corn, barley, sugar beet and fodder-plant are frequently produced. In the eastern part of the programming area, fruit growing is remarkable. In the basins and on the sunny downslopes, grapes of outstanding quality are growing **defining sometimes cross-border wine-making zones**.

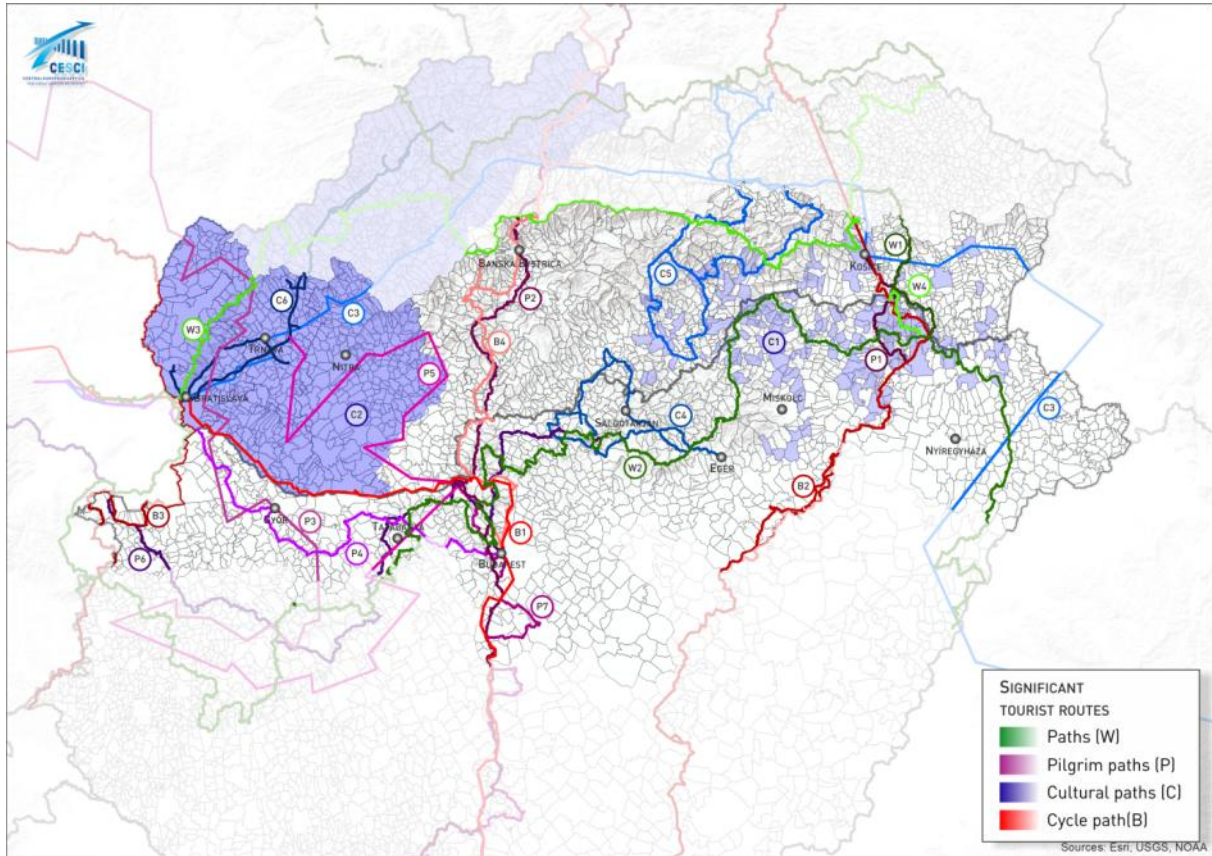
In the Slovak mountainous area rye, oats and potatoes are the most frequent products and forest management is typical.

Similar and complementary endowments in agriculture make possible the development of **integrated cross-border markets of food products and cooperation of local product makers**. Due to favourable conditions there are **further possibilities to cooperate** in the field of agrarian sector (e.g. food processing, R + D activities) and rural development (e.g. between the LEADER LAGs). Latter possibilities can provide take-off point for the eastern territories which are enumerated in the group of European regions with the worst unemployment and poverty indicators.

The tertiary sector is well represented mainly in metropolitan zones by ICT companies, business and shopping centres, financial institutions and tourist service providers. There is no part of the programming region which is not significant from tourist aspect. It is not

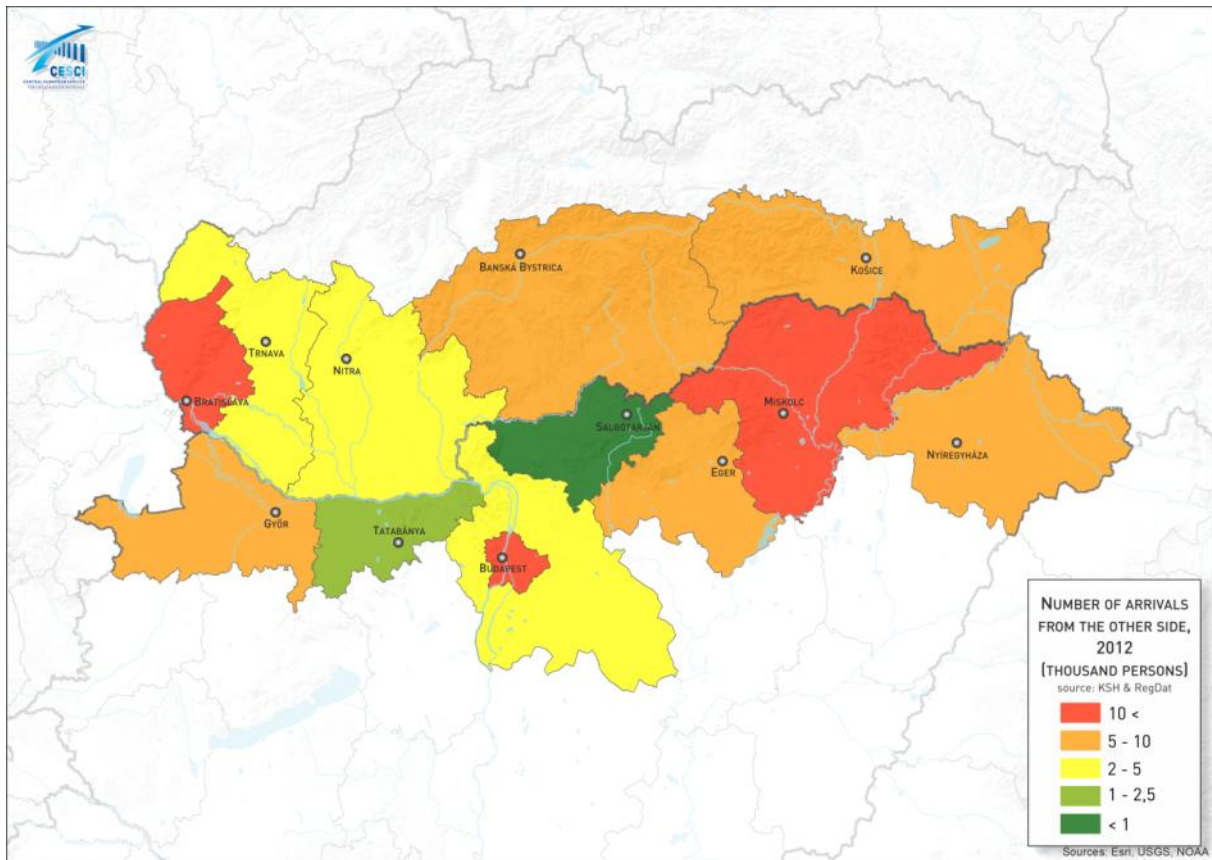
accidental that the most popular priority axis for the eligible applicant was that of tourism during the previous programming periods. Several cross-border thematic routes, cycle paths, common water tourist infrastructure components have been realised. ([Map 7](#))

Map 7: Cross-border thematic tourist routes in the programming region in 2014



However, common destination management is very rare: the cooperation of the Karszt/Kras region and the Novohrad-Nógrád geopark can be mentioned as good examples. The lack of common tourist destination management might be the main reason why the number visits from the other side of the border is low. ([Map 8](#)) **Common tourist management drawing the benefit of common cultural and natural heritage** and guaranteeing **long term sustainability** of project results could be one of the core topics of the CBC programme.

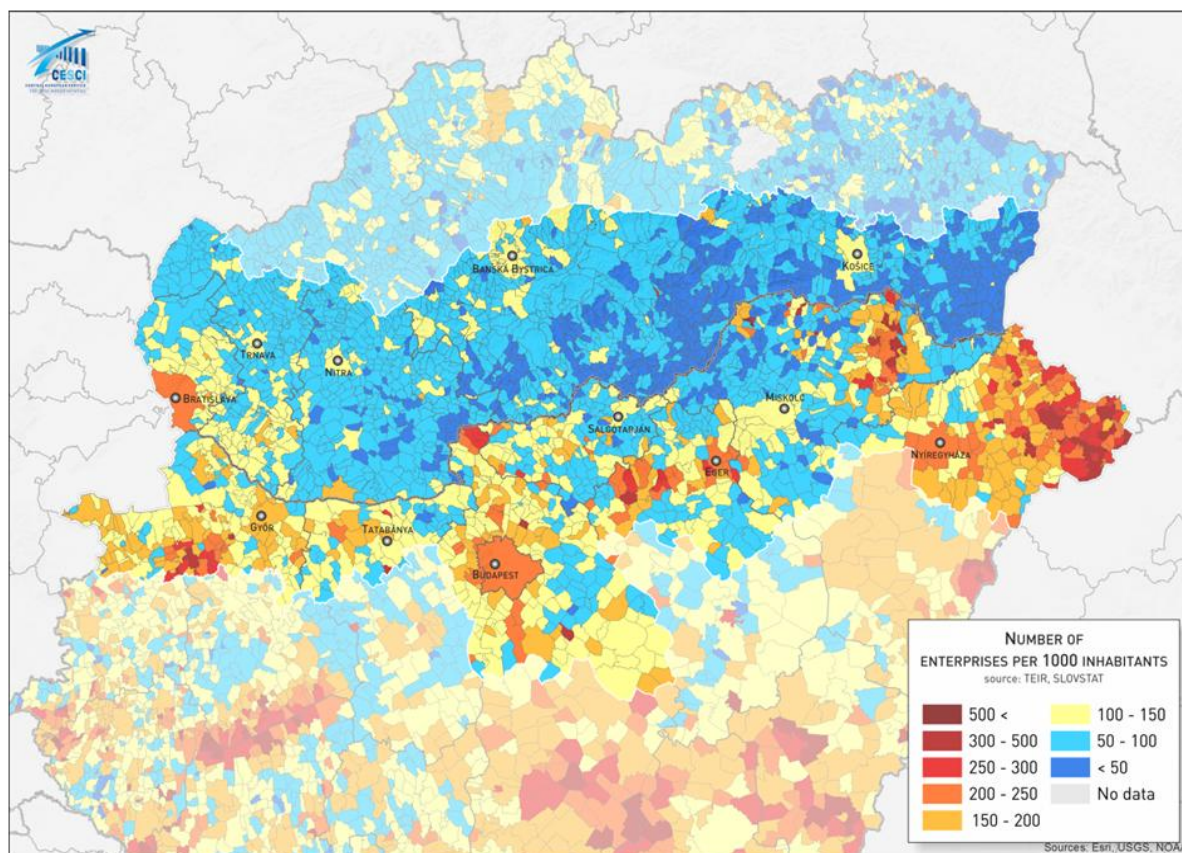
Map 8: Cross-border tourist visits in the programming region



Intensity of entrepreneurship

Considering the density of enterprises, it can be set out that there are big differences between Hungary and Slovakia. (Map 9) As the interviewees confirmed, during the socialistic era entrepreneurship was not allowed in Czechoslovakia, while in a restricted manner it was allowed in Hungary. This is the reason why the number of operating Hungarian enterprises overcomes occasionally ten times the same data in Slovakia. The lack of SMEs is the most striking in Eastern Slovakia.

Map 9: Number of enterprises per 1000 persons (2010)



The cooperation of the business sector between the two countries is very strong: among the companies owned by foreigners the Hungarian ones represent the highest volume (19,8 % in Slovakia (4,6% of the total number of companies) and the number of Slovak firms operating in Hungary is similarly growing (1,6 % by its rate and more than 10 000 by absolute quantity in 2012). The majority of the companies settled in the neighbourhood can be found in the western part of the border region (e.g. more than 75% of the Slovak companies have an address in those counties) and is involved in tertiary sector. In the eastern zone where the complementarity is remarkable, the cooperation is also weak.

Economic infrastructure

The major part of the borderland suffers from a lack of proper transport connections that hinders the improvement of logistic facilities. At the same time, the region has three logistic centres with international significance:

- the BILK (Integrated Logistical Centre of Budapest) is situated at the crossing points of several trans-European transport corridors which makes it one of the most important logistical centres of the EU;
- the Bratislava-Győr axis plays an important gateway role for the large automotive companies involving logistic centres of Dunajská Streda, Malé Dvorníky, Galanta, Trnava and Gönyű;

- the third gateway should be considered as the most significant one, including the logistic area of Záhony from Hungary and Čierna nad Tisou and Košice from Slovakia: this gateway is expected to be used for transferring goods from Russia and the Far East towards Western Europe.

Further opportunities are given along the Danube (cargo ports of Komárom, Lábatlan and Štúrovo) and the alternative direction of railway corridor Nr IV: Bratislava-Štúrovo-Budapest used recently within the framework of the Balkan project.

Good logistic facilities could be better used in an integrated way and by creating cross-border intermodal logistics zones.

Industrial parks (IP) are determining players of economic development. Although, establishment of IPs began in Slovakia later than in Hungary during the 2000s, their number has increased dynamically in the last decade. It is a common feature that the majority of the functioning industrial parks are situated in the Western part of the borderland enhancing the attractiveness of the more developed region of the area.

R+D capacities follow the territorial settling of automotive companies and are better developed on the Hungarian side. Similarly **dual vocational training system is lacking in Slovakia which is a serious disadvantage. The Hungarian experiences could be shared.**

Table 5: Challenges and responses in economic cohesion

Relevant field of investigation	Main economic challenges	Potential intervention areas within the framework of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme	Relevant thematic objectives
Intensity of entrepreneurship	Increase the number of operating SMEs in the border region	Support for setting up new businesses in the border region (mainly on the other side of the border); facilitating the exchanges of experiences and the development of local initiatives	TO 3 TO 6 TO 8 TO 11
Economic infrastructure	Use of potential of cross-border integrated logistic zones and the cooperation of industrial parks	Development of networks of logistic centres and industrial parks Support for development of multimodal logistic services Development of real-time information system on logistics	TO 7

1.1.1.4.3 Social cohesion

The social cohesion of the programming region is analysed through:

- the main social characteristics of the two border areas (demography, employment, interethnic situation) and
- the social relations that the cooperation can be enhanced by.

Social situation of the region

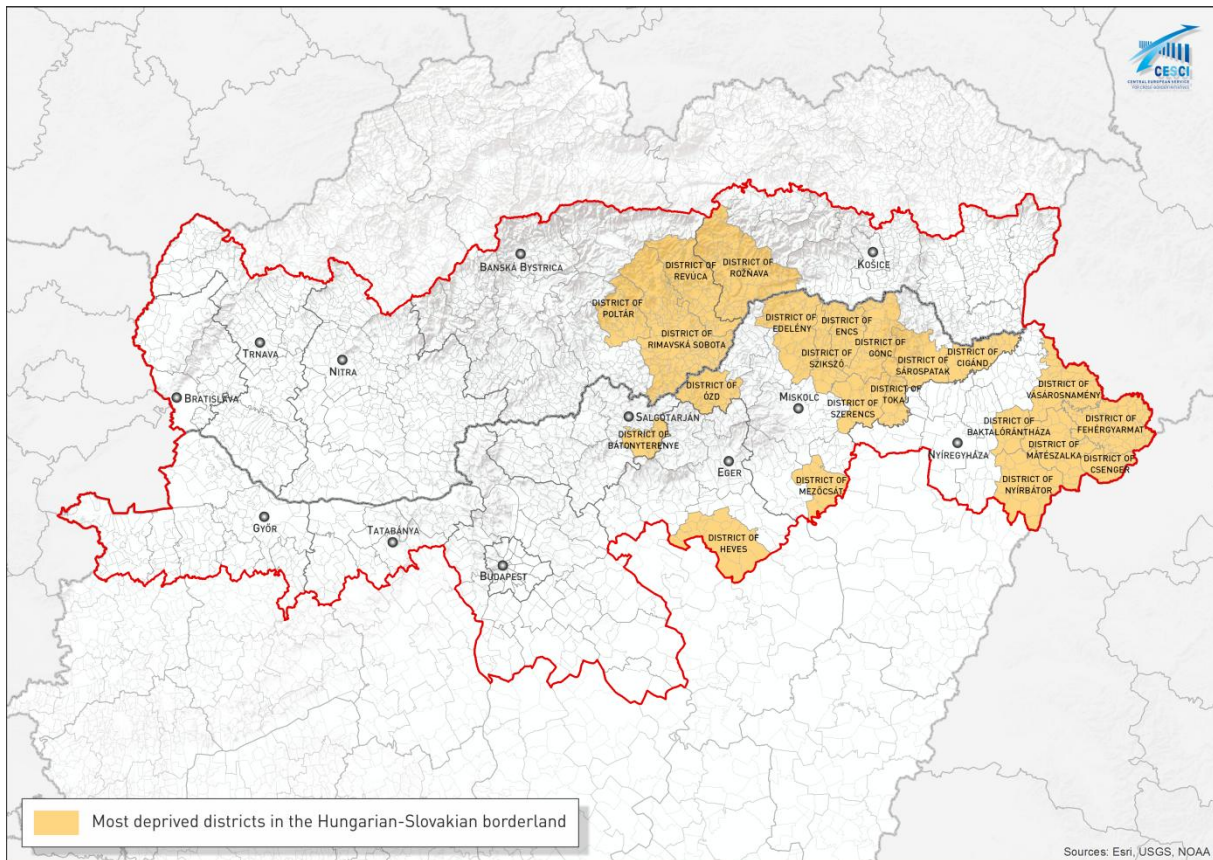
Budapest and the western areas have a centripetal force not only in the border region, but in Hungary and Slovakia as a whole, which induces a joint attempt to reduce this force, with the hope of better results if actions are coordinated. Both countries must face and handle the problems of the eastern areas, which have younger populations but a less-favourable economic structure: the outflow of middle-aged, well-educated social groups, the growing proportion of the Roma in the population, the growing burden, poor capacity and acute deficiencies of the social care system.

In Slovakia, the southern areas (affected by a west-east gradient, too) are more underdeveloped, face more poverty and lower employment than the northern areas. Hungary has similar problems in its north-eastern regions.

Socially deprived areas are highlighted by the skills indicators of the population. The ratio of working-age population with 8-form primary or lower education depicts the dimensions of basic disparities of the border region: the outstanding situation of the areas including the capitals as educational centres, and the obvious lagging behind of Hungarian counties (Nógrád, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) with fragmented settlement structures, stricken by a decreasing population and having a high percentage of Roma population. The west-east gradient is visible here, too.

There's little chance for a single social strategy along the border section, though. A kind of west-east gradient is present in the social differences of both countries, but Hungary has its best performing and least favoured areas along this very border, too, meanwhile Slovakia has a marked north-south gradient in the western areas, resulting in Southern Slovakia performing poorly compared to the north-western areas (except for the Slovak capital). Cooperation and social cohesion can be improved differently in the western and eastern areas. In the east the two countries might find joint action useful to reduce long-term unemployment and to integrate the Roma into society. In the west strengthening a shared labour market might prove to be useful.

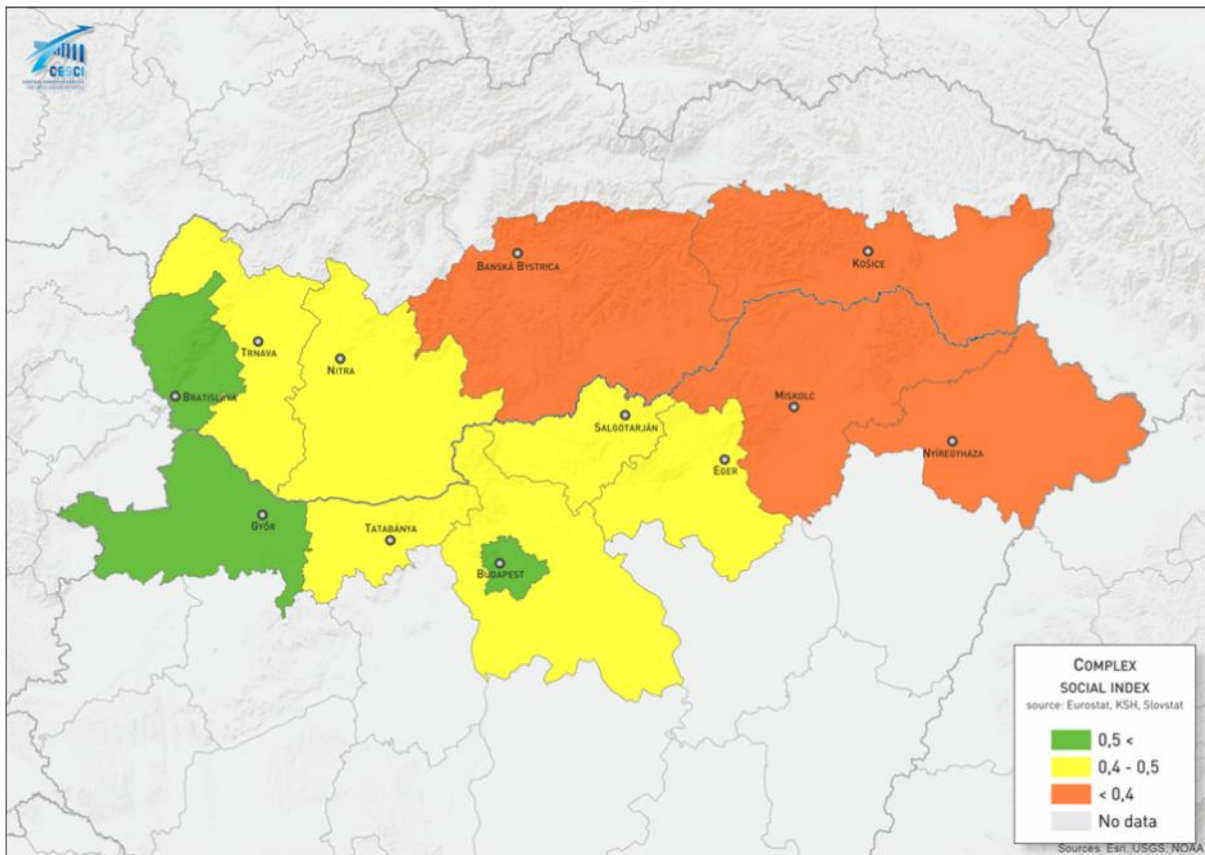
Map 10: Most disadvantaged areas of the Hungary-Slovakia border region



The following map gives an overview on the social situation of the region based on a complex indicator integrating the following indexes:

- rate of population with low qualification
- unemployment rate
- rate of dependants
- emigration rate (inverse)
- average life expectancy at birth
- average income rate.

Map 11: Social situation of the borderland analysed with complex social index



The map clearly represents three different groups of social development delineating the western-eastern gradient known from the economic chapter.

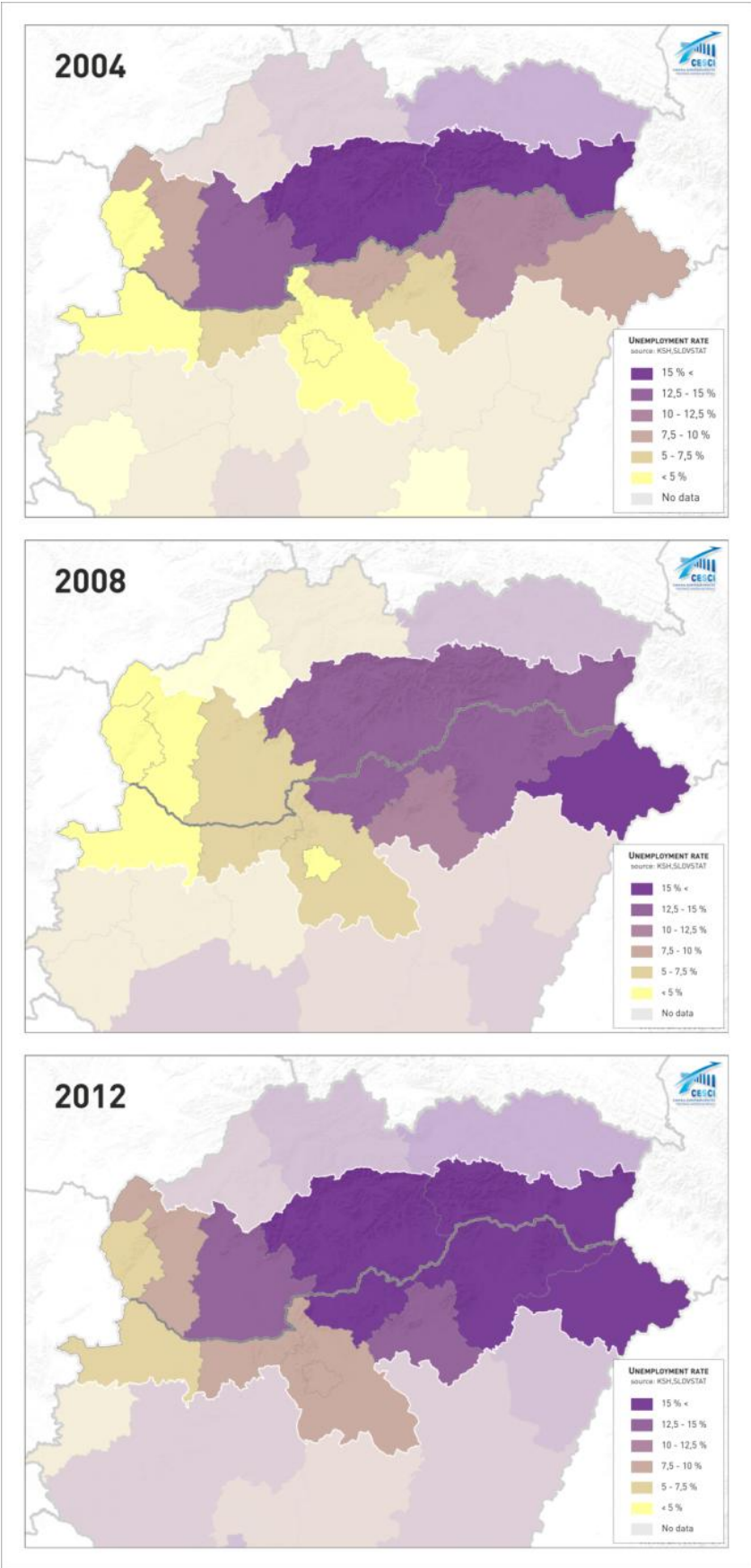
- (1) Four counties (Banská Bystrica, Košice, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) display unfavourable data by each index. This territory can be considered as the typical targeted region of EU 2020 Strategy: the educated people are leaving the region, the level of qualification is low, and the rate of early school-leavers and that of poverty are high.

Since 2003, the unemployment rate has been increasing in Northern Hungary and the employment rate is the lowest in the EU: less than 30%. The global crisis mostly affected the four counties of the group, considering the unemployment. In 2012 Banská Bystrica county was characterized by the worst rate (21%). In some cases the index exceeds even 25% (e.g. okres Revúca and Rimavská Sobota). Since the situation on the Hungarian side is very similar there is no chance to compensate these deficiencies at a cross-border level. However, the similarity of the problems can **generate projects seeking for common solutions. The conditions for cooperation are better in the influencing area of Košice** where small towns on the Hungarian side are not able to produce serious economic potential while on the Slovak side there is a more developed industrial area. In this case the problem stands in a parallel situation: high unemployment rate on the Slovak side does not allow for receiving a larger number of Hungarian job seekers. It is to be mentioned that the majority of the Roma population living in Hungary and Slovakia reside in these four counties,

sometimes among terrible hygienic and social conditions. Their living conditions should be improved on both sides of the border in an integrated manner (e.g. employment, education, health care, housing etc.) **The CBC programme should contribute to the resolution of these problems through PILOT actions launched on both sides of the border.**

- (2) The second group is characterised by more favourable figures. (See the unemployment rate on [Map 12.](#)) During the period analysed, their migration rate was positive. The biggest migration surplus occurred in Pest county (in the early 2000s with 20%) but the index was favourable in the case of Bratislava, Trnava region and Győr-Moson-Sopron county, as well. Unemployment rates decreased remarkably in Nitra (2001: 23%; 2008: 7%) and Trnava (2001: 15%; 2008: 4%) regions, where companies situated in Hungary contributed to the decrease, obviously. In 2007 estimated number of commuters from Southern Slovakia commuting to Hungary reached 26 000 persons. The majority of them commuted from Nitra region to Komárom-Esztergom and Pest counties. Since 2009 the number of Slovak commuters has been decreasing (still more than 7 000 people have been registered in 2013) because of the global crisis and the joining of Slovakia to the Euro zone.

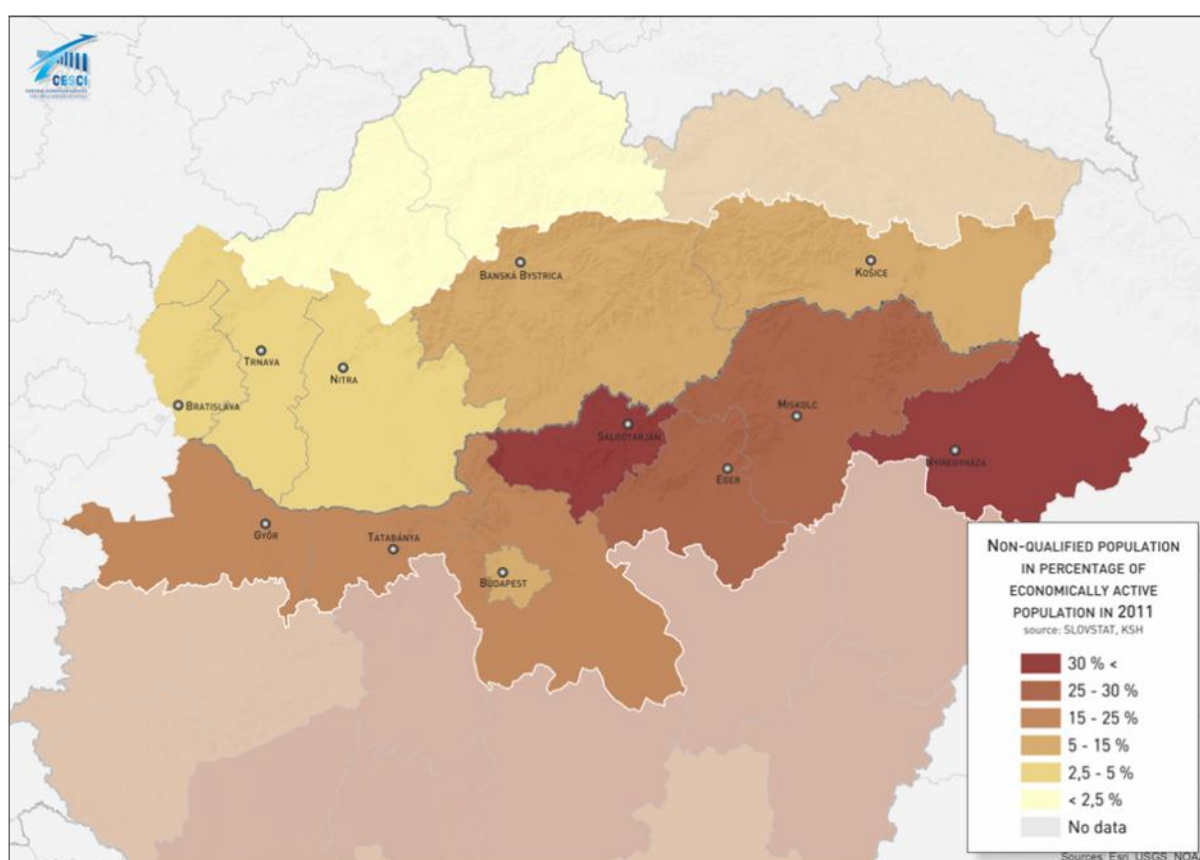
Map 12: Change in unemployment rate between 2001 and 2012



Regarding poverty, the situation is better than in the East but it shows differences within the group: Nógrád county is not at the same level as Trnava region. Similarly, there are clear differences between the rate of the active population in Slovakia (which is close to that of Bratislava region) and in Hungary. However, the internal correlation within the group is stronger than the divergent effects.

- (3) Finally, the two metropolitan zones and Győr-Moson-Sopron county show the best figures. The unemployment rate is very low (about 5% in 2012). At the same time the rate of graduated unemployed people is much higher than in any other groups of counties. In Bratislava this figure exceeds 20%. It is not surprising as the rate of non-qualified people is also the lowest there within the borderland. ([Map 13](#))

Map 13: Non-qualified population



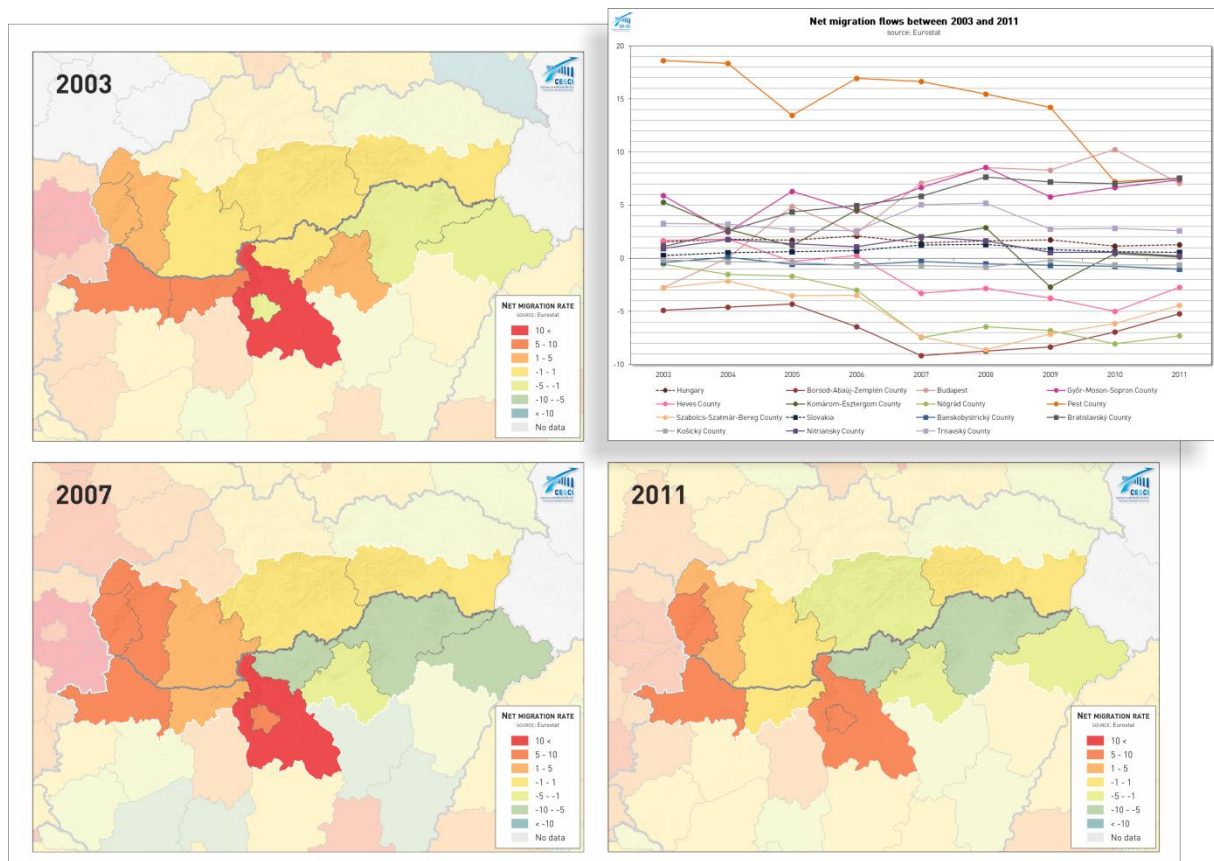
In the case of Bratislava there is an inversed labour force migration: more than 95% of 2 200 persons commuting from Hungary to Slovakia are living in the Hungarian vicinity of Bratislava. According to the 2007 Human Poverty Index Bratislava region showed better indicators than Vienna, which produced an index similar to that of Budapest. However, social problems are not unknown there either (e.g. problems of high rate of homeless people).

It's only the far western end of the border and the Central-Hungarian Region, where there has been a constant migration surplus in the last years. The biggest migration surplus belongs to Pest County. Although the migration rate that almost reached 20‰ after 2000 has decreased to 8‰, the Budapest agglomeration is still a significant attraction in the region. While the migration into Pest County seems to calm down year by year, the capital city itself continues to gain population. Other areas of long-term positive migration rate are Győr-Moson-Sopron County, the Bratislava Region and the Trnava Region.

The decrease of the migration rate started a few years later in the Hungarian counties of the central areas (Komárom-Esztergom, Nógrád and Heves Counties), than in the Nitra and Banská Bystrica Region, but the change of the rate is more intense in Hungary, Nógrád County has reached a 7% outflow per year.

The same phenomena are intensified in the eastern areas with bigger migration-related population loss, thus in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Counties and the Košice Region. Although the migration rate of the latter was smaller than -1‰ in 2011, this average of the region hides serious disparities. While the town of Košice functions as a kind of a cultural and economic hotspot in the region, rural settlements are almost deserted. This process is only slowed by the high number of Roma people in the eastern areas who represent a high natural birth rate.

Map 14: Net migration of the Hungary-Slovakia border region



Social relations

Social relations between the two countries are defined by two factors. Firstly, politics at national level always directly influences international cooperation. The relationship between Slovakia and Hungary has varied from government to government during the last 20 years. Different interpretations of the history and real or fake injuries sometimes bring on periods of conflict which influence (unfavourably) the models of cooperation. On the contrary, when the political relationships are good, contracts really facilitating cross-border common activities are signed (e.g. in the field of culture, education, science, sport and youth policy).

Secondly, there is a large Hungarian minority in Slovakia living along the border. On the one hand this given makes easy to start cooperation across the border: there are no language barriers and there is a real need for cooperation. Slovaks living in Hungary (most of them, some 6 000 people are living in the Pilis mountains) try to play a similar role of bridging between the neighbouring countries.

On the other hand - as the interviewees emphasized - Slovak-Hungarian cooperation is very rare. The HUSK CBC programme is often considered as a Hungarian-Hungarian collaboration instrument. However, there are good examples as well, such as the cooperation between the natural parks around the Carst region; tourist initiatives (e.g. Via Mirabilis); common scenes of the National Theatres of Miskolc and Košice etc., helping the local stakeholders to demolish mental barriers.

At the same times **Roma minorities** can play no role in cross-border cooperation regardless their eventual internal social connections. **Their involvement into the implementation of the programme is not only rational (considering their high ratio in population) but it can contribute to their inclusion on both sides of the border.**

Table 6: Challenges and responses of social cohesion

Relevant field of investigation	Main social challenges	Potential intervention areas within the framework of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme	Relevant thematic objectives
Social characteristics of the border region	Decrease of social disparities, combatting against poverty	Exchange of experiences, good practices, looking for common, cross-border solutions Actions contributing to the implementation of the European Union's Roma Strategy Contribution to the elaboration and implementation of complex and integrated anti-poverty programmes crossing the border	TO 8 TO 9 TO 11
	Support for cross-border labour force migration	Information activities in the field of labour market Development of joint services of employment Integrated regional development actions based on local and regional potential improving the level of employment Organisation of training activities for improving the capacity and the ability to work	TO 8
	Development of vocational training system adequate to the needs of the labour market	Elaboration of joint training programmes, curricula Cross-border job burses Development of dual training system	TO 8
Social relations	Animation of cross-border social relations	Dissemination of existing best practice models. Further development and strengthening of existing cooperation models. Support of cross-border inter-institutional cooperation.	TO 11
	Support of developments based on cultural diversity	Protection and sustainable development of cultural heritage. People-to-people activities. Strengthening bilingualism in the border region (actions, events, exchange of students, services etc.).	TO 6 TO 11
	Support for cross-border service provision	Development of legal, governance and e-governance tools facilitating cross-border service provision, development of the EGTCs and the cooperation among them. Strengthening the bilingualism of the service provision.	TO 11

1.1.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SELECTION OF THEMATIC OBJECTIVES AND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

1.1.2.1 Strategic objectives of the programme

ETC programmes have to fulfil two general objectives: they have to strengthen territorial, economic and social cohesion as well as to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the region and the European Union (EU 2020 Strategy). Accordingly, also the Hungary-Slovakia CBC Programme has these two general objectives. The programme level objectives are ranged under three forms of cohesion and are in harmony with the results of territorial analysis.

The table below ([Table 7](#)) presents the system of objectives of the programme and the activities proposed, including their matching with relevant thematic objectives (TO) and their contribution to the EU 2020 Strategy.

According to the results of the analysis, the HUSK CBC Programme should support the following interventions:

- supporting the harmonised protection, development and utilisation of the common natural and cultural heritage of the border region (protection of biodiversity; assuring the conditions for common water management and risk management; renovation of cultural, built heritage sites; development of cross-border tourist products and services) (TO 6);
- increasing the density of border crossing points (TO 7); and strengthening the harmonisation of public and environment-friendly transport and multimodality within the region and improving the quality of the services (TO 7);
- contributing to the improvement of the social conditions by increasing the rate of employment in the region and by improving the conditions of cross-border labour force mobility (creation of new jobs, development of labour force information systems, development of the training and transport conditions of cross-border labour force migration) (TO 8);
- strengthening the social cohesion by supporting inter-institutional, inter-municipal and people-to-people cooperation (TO 11).

Table 7: Contribution of the Programme to the EU2020 Strategy

To strengthen territorial cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen economic cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO	To strengthen social cohesion	Contribution to EU 2020 Strategy	Relevant TO
1.1 To protect and use commonly natural heritage			2.1 To enhance cross-border economic cooperation			3.1 To improve mutual understanding		
Protection of biodiversity	Sustainable growth	TO 6	Supporting the economic cooperation of SMEs, suppliers, RDI and training centres	Smart growth	TO 8	Common management and utilization of built heritage	Sustainable growth	TO 6
Common water management	Sustainable growth	TO 6	Supporting the cooperation between clusters	Smart growth		Strengthening long-term cooperation between people living in the border area	Sustainable growth Inclusive growth	TO 11
Nature and environment protection	Sustainable growth	TO 6	Supporting the integration of local product markets	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 8	Strengthening bilingualism in the region	Sustainable growth Inclusive growth	TO 11
Common risk prevention and risk management	Sustainable growth	TO 6 TO 11	Supporting cooperation of LEADER LAGs and agrarian innovation organisations	Sustainable growth	TO 8	Inter-institutional cooperation and development of common services	Smart growth	TO 11
Development of green infrastructure	Sustainable growth	TO 6						
Rehabilitation of rust belts and declined industrial areas	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 8						

1.2 To develop tourism commonly			2.2 To develop common economic infrastructure			3.2 To strengthen social inclusion and fight against poverty		
Common tourist management	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6	Enhancing the cooperation between economic development service providers (chambers, industrial parks, innovation centres, incubation centres)	Smart growth		Exchange of experiences, common PILOT actions for the improvement of the situation of the regions lagging behind the most	Inclusive growth	TO 8
Development of joint tourist destinations, products and thematic routes	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6	Development of cross-border logistic services	Smart growth	TO 7	Actions in the field of Roma inclusion (integrated training and employment programmes and infrastructure development)	Inclusive growth	TO 8
Development of tourist infrastructure	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6 TO 8						
Common tourist marketing	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 6						
Development of tourist services	Smart growth	TO 8						
1.3 To improve the permeability of the border						3.2 To improve employment level and cross-border labour force migration		
Development of border crossing infrastructure	Sustainable growth	TO 7				Integrated interventions aiming to improve employment level	Inclusive growth	TO 8

				based on endogenous potential (with emphasis on disadvantaged and Roma people, women and youth)		
Development of cross-border transport services	Sustainable growth Smart growth	TO 7		Development of cross-border labour migration services	Smart growth	TO 8
1.4 To reconstruct and develop cross-border functional urban influencing areas				Development of cross-border training facilities; realisation of training programmes	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8
Enhancing the urban functions in border towns	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8		Development of social economy	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8
Improvement of labour market role of the cities in the region	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8				
Improvement of accessibility of urban functions from the other side of the border	Sustainable growth Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 7 TO 8				
Common development of public services and their accessibility	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 7 TO 8 TO 11				
Strengthening institutionalised cooperation in the programming region	Smart growth Inclusive growth	TO 8 TO 11				

1.1.2.2 Overview of the justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Based on the detailed cohesion analysis the overview of the justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities is shown on [Table 8](#).

Table 8: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities	Justification for selection
Thematic objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (6) (c))	<p>The cohesion analysis of the programme area shows, that the Hungarian – Slovak border divides many organically cohesive cultural landscapes. The integration of these cultural landscapes already started thanks e.g. to the cooperation of national parks, joint cultural events or the development of thematic tourist paths through earlier CBC programmes. But further integration of the regions natural and cultural environment is fundamental in fostering sustainable development.</p> <p>There is a general agreement among the stakeholders that the potential of the regions’ cultural and natural heritage is still not sufficiently harnessed for contributing to socio-economic development. Well-maintained heritage is also very important in addressing risks which are related to natural and human-made disasters. Therefore this priority seeks to unlock some of the regions’ potential for attracting people and investments and ensuring green, locally-based jobs, only some of which may be related to tourism.</p>
Thematic objective 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (b))	<p>As the territorial analysis highlighted the density of border crossing points is ¼ compared to that of Western European countries. This fact clearly weakens the internal cohesion of the border region and in some cases contributes to the socio-economic backwardness thereof.</p> <p>Due to the set of the TEN-T network elements within the programming region better accessibility can often be guaranteed</p>

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities	Justification for selection
	<p>Developing environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems including river and sea transport, ports and multimodal links (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (c))</p>	<p>on the other side of the border.</p> <p>As the territorial analysis pointed out the competitiveness of the border region had been hindered by the weak interconnectivity of the regional centres and the unfavourable effects of truncated urban influencing areas. According to the EU 2020 strategy and the White Paper 2011 (<i>Single European Transport Area</i>) resource efficient and environmentally sound multimodal transport is to be developed. By supporting the development of cross-border public transport infrastructure and services the programme contributes to the increase of mobility and it improves the functional role of the cities located along the border.</p> <p>Similarly, goods transported on roads should be transferred to railway and inland waterway. The competitiveness of the border region could be strengthened through joint development of the logistic facilities.</p>
<p>Thematic objective 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility</p>	<p>Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (8) (b))</p>	<p>The analysis of the region's territorial cohesion revealed that the cross-border labour force mobility was mainly determined by the unemployment rate, the shortages of command of language of the labour force, the lack of infrastructural conditions. In order to improve employment endowments and enhance the labour force mobility the increase in the cooperation between small and medium sized enterprises in the area, the development of the level of qualification, the utilization of endogenous potentials and local initiatives, and the implementation of local strategies based on these specificities are needed.</p> <p>The priority focuses on the development of key conditions for improving labour mobility and puts emphasis on the integration of the cross-border labour market and fosters the employment as well as the improvement of accessibility to cultural, natural resources and job opportunities through local strategies based on endogenous potentials.</p>

Thematic objectives	Investment priorities	Justification for selection
<p>Thematic objective 11: Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people</p>	<p>Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (11) amended by ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (iv))</p>	<p>The cohesion analysis revealed that among institutions operating in the field of labour market, health, education as well as among institutions dealing with promotion of entrepreneurship there is a real need to enhance institutional capacity and to develop efficient public services. In order to enhance cross-border services (health, tourism, know-how transfer, legal consultancy, etc.), measures aimed at the improvement of institutional capacity and efficiency of public administration are needed, by promoting legal and administrative cooperation as well as cooperation between citizens and institutions. One of the biggest weaknesses of the border region is the lack of strategic co-operation of institutions, which would be able to provide cross-border services. In social field the absence of cross-border education, the lack of cross-border cooperation in the field of labour market and health as well as the lack of cooperation of institutions providing these services is a disadvantage.</p>

1.2 JUSTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The overall ERDF support for the HU-SK CBC Programme is 155.832 million Euros, consisting of a share of 95.372 million Euros from the Hungarian side allocated from the ETC share of the Hungarian ERDF support, and of a share of 60.1 million Euros 2020 from the Slovakian side allocated from the ETC share of the Slovakian ERDF support. Taking into account the co-financing rate of 85 % corresponding to Article 120(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the amount with the national part of co-financing is totalling 183.332 million Euros.

6 % of the total allocation will be used by the Priority axis (PA) 5 - Technical Assistance, the remaining Union support will focus on the 4 core Priority axes corresponding to 4 thematic objectives.

Priority axis 1 – Nature and culture

The Hungarian-Slovak border region has a rich biodiversity, well-preserved ecosystems, close to border or cross-border protected areas and areas deserving protection, significant drinking water reservoirs, rivers and lakes crossing the border and villages and cities rich in historic past and built heritage. This unique natural and cultural heritage offers a huge potential for developing local economies, but also raises the importance of conservation and in that respect the liability of local population and stakeholders in different sectors. It is therefore important on the priority level and also from the allocation point of view to support such actions and operations, which enable joint protection, development and touristic utilization of the border regions common natural and cultural heritage including joint water management and disaster avoidance and creating conditions for the renewal of the cultural and architectural heritage and the development of cross-border tourism products and services and to support this wide variety of actions with a sufficient allocation. Based on previous interest and the wide variety of actions supported by PA 1 the total allocation of this priority axis is the biggest within the program capping at 42% of the total allocation.

Priority axis 2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility

The development of a higher level of territorial, economic and social cohesion requires the improvement of accessibility within the region (cross-border infrastructure and capacities of public transport and transport of goods). The thematic objective No 7 aims mainly at enhancing the internal connectivity of the European Union as a unique and integrated economic space. Consequently, the focus of the programme is set on the activities related to the development of TEN-T infrastructure. These activities exceed the framework of the ETC CBC programmes. As the TEN-T network will be reviewed in 2023, the programme region should be prepared for the opportunity of potential enlargement of the core network. The internal cohesion of the programming region should be strengthened through the development of cross-border public transport and logistic services. There is a remarkable backwardness in the region compared to the western European territories and e.g. the Centrope region where cross-border public transport platforms improve the accessibility of the larger cities and the mobility. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) provide different

services and enhance the intermodality preferring environmentally sound solutions and low GHG emission. When developing facilities improving the level of cross-border mobility and transport of goods the programme does not only strengthen the economic cohesion of the programming region but also contributes to the fulfilment of the EU 2020 targets.

Priority axis 3 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment, and supporting labour mobility

The Priority axis 3 focuses on the development of key conditions for improving labour mobility and puts emphasis on the integration of the cross-border labour market and fosters the employment as well as the improvement of accessibility to cultural, natural resources and job opportunities based on local growth strategies and on endogenous potentials. The complexity of the TO determines large scale and complex project proposals. Projects may induce several sub projects and initiatives, including the important infrastructural elements as roads. For Priority axis 3 there will be allocated 19 % of the total ERDF allocation. This allocation gives the possibility for vertically integrated large scale projects that could absorb a significant proportion of the Programme's budget and addresses an important joint problem of the eligible area, gives the possibility for projects which - due to their design and implementation or their envisaged results - really connect the specific territories on both sides of the border.

Priority axis 4 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area

Analysis of social and economic cohesion of the region, as well as individual and focus group interviews with stakeholder participation revealed that for the sake of a stronger cohesion there is a real need for a more well-based and long-term cooperation between the institutions and the municipalities operating as well as the people living in the programming region. According to the main closures of the territorial analysis (in field of functional cooperation), one of the biggest weaknesses of the border region is the lack of strategic co-operation of institutions, which would be able to provide cross-border services e.g. in the field of education, training, health care, social services, water monitoring, risk prevention etc. At the same time, according to the Digital Agenda and for the sake of a stronger economic and social cohesion the services and the information provided by the different institutions should be available via internet or mobile apps (see e-governance and m-governance) in each European country. In the border regions these needs are based more thoroughly than in other parts of Europe. Consequently, an enhanced inter-institutional cooperation enabled by ICT solutions is a necessity for increased permeability of the border.

The overview of the HU-SK CBC programme investment strategy is shown in [Table 9](#).

Table 9: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axes	ERDF support - EUR	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (ERDF)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
Priority axis 1: Environment protection and resource efficiency	65.449.440	42%	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (Thematic objective 6.)	1.1. Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (6) (c))	SO 1.1 To increase the attractiveness of the border area.	SRI 1.1 Total number of visitors in the region
Priority axis 2: Enhancing cross-border mobility	29.608.080	19%	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (Thematic objective 7.)	2.1. Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (b)) 2.2. Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and	SO 2.1. Enhancing regional mobility by increase of density of border crossing points SO 2.2. Improving environmentally friendly cross-border transport services	SRI 2.1. Average distance between border crossing points SRI 2.2. Number of users of cross-border transport services

Priority axes	ERDF support - EUR	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (ERDF)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
Priority axis 3: Promoting sustainable and quality employment	29.608.080	19%	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility (Thematic objective 8.)	maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (c)) 3.1. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (8) (b))	SO 3.1. To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility	SRI 3.1. Increase in the employment rate

Priority axes	ERDF support - EUR	Share of the total Union support to the operational programme (ERDF)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the specific objective
Priority axis 4: Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people	21.816.480	14%	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration (Thematic objective 11.)	4.1. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (11) amended by ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (iv))	SO 4.1. Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation	SRI 4.1 Level of cross border cooperation of institutions
Priority axis 5: Technical assistance	9.349.920	6%	NA	NA	SO 5.1 Ensuring the effective management and implementation of the HUSK ETC Programme	NA

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES

2.1 PRIORITY AXIS 1: NATURE & CULTURE

Thematic objective: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (Thematic objective 6)

2.1.1 INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1.1

Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (6) (c))

2.1.1.1 Specific objective

Specific objective 1.1. corresponding to the investment priority:

To increase the attractiveness of the border area.

Expected results:

- Better utilization of the regions endogenous natural and cultural potential in supporting the sustainable development of local economies;
- Further integration of originally cohesive landscapes by improving the accessibility of natural a cultural heritage sites;
- Increase in social, economic and territorial cohesion by supporting joint cultural and nature conservation activities;
- Increase in the number of visitors in the programme area.

Table 10: Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
SRI 1.1.	Total number of visitors in the region	Number / year	7.074.754	2012	7.300.000	national statistical data (ŠUSR, KSH)	2018, 2023

A visitor in accommodation establishment of tourism is a person (except staff and owner) using services of temporary accommodation establishment regardless of country of permanent residence. Children are also included in the number of visitors. The visitor uses accommodation services for the reason of holiday, business trip, participation in sport event, training course, symposium, stay in spa and convalescent centres, visit of friends or relatives, participation in church events, etc. Data from both countries are obtained at NUTS 3 level including every eligible NUTS 3 region (also the capitals) . Source of data:

Slovakia – RegDat (Regional Statistics Database) / Statistics of tourism by region by territory, type of indicator and period / http://px-web.statistics.sk/PXWebSlovak/index_en.htm

Hungary – STADAT / 6.4.5.2. A kereskedelmi szálláshelyek vendégforgalma http://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xstadat/xstadat_eves/i_oga011b.html

2.1.1.2 Types and examples of actions to be supported:

- Supporting the cooperation and development of cultural heritage sites linked to existing thematic paths. (eg. heritage renewal strategies, studies and plans, reconstruction, building of related infrastructure like car parking, to site signage, visitor centres, access roads, small bridges, etc.)
- Maintaining and promoting natural heritage in the programme area (eg. such as floodplain restoration, wetlands, renaturalising rivers and river banks, projects aimed at non-productive functions of forests - ecological, environmental and public functions, integrated cross-border strategic plans for the restoration and conservation of green infrastructure, etc.)
- Design cross border action plans, set up models and test pilot actions to better capitalize the regions cultural and natural heritage and to combine tourism with the promotion and protection of the regions natural and cultural heritage (destination management, joint marketing strategies, exchange of experiences, mutual learning, pilot activities eg.);
- Joint development of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross border infrastructure for eco-tourism (eg. support for planning and building safe and sustainable small vessel cross-border water trails and related infrastructure like watercourse access and egress facilities, parking, and craft loading and unloading spaces, route and hazard signage on the watercourse, etc and support for planning and building safe and sustainable cross border shared "green ways"¹⁴ and related infrastructure like pre-development of green-ways including feasibility and planning studies, trail service facilities like car parking, toilets, showers, bike wash, shelters, information centres, access roads, small bridges, etc.
- Small Project Fund supporting small scale investments.

Beneficiaries:

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- Churches;
- EGTC;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies, bodies;
- Municipalities, county municipalities;
- Universities and research institutes;
- Chambers;
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations)

¹⁴ A greenway is a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a river front, stream valley, or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, scenic road, or other route. It is any natural or landscaped course for pedestrians, equestrian or bicycle passage; or open space connector linking parks, natural reserves, wildlife habitat corridor, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas or a certain strip of linear park designated as parkway or greenbelt.

- Small and medium sized enterprises.

Main target groups of the support: The eligible region's population, local communities, entrepreneurs, tourists, non-profit organizations

The actions **do not address any specific territories.**

2.1.1.3 The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- Operations will be selected through calls for proposals with no limitation regarding their type (open, restricted, etc.). These calls can be open to proposals addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective, or the programme authorities may also decide to issue more targeted calls for proposals focusing on certain key areas within the scope of this specific objective. The content and type of calls is subject to approval by the Monitoring Committee.
- All operations must have a clear cross border aspect (in case of investments in natural or cultural heritage a connection to cross border tourist trails or tourism products is a must, in case of soft projects they should demonstrably draw on the results of cross-border cooperation, for example, transferring models / knowledge / technology from one region to another, combining different skill sets not available in one region, gaining a critical mass otherwise unattainable, etc.). Within PA 1 vertical and horizontal integration may be applied at project level as set out in chapter 4 of the OP.
- Operations must meet general quality criteria and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose,
- As part of the implementation mechanism of Priority Axis 1 a flexible system of “project partner light” (PP Light) aimed at fostering of cooperation of small and medium sized enterprises in thematic areas targeted by the Priority Axis will be used. The budget foreseen for the PP Light scheme is 10 million € out of the total allocation of Priority Axis 1. The PP Light scheme will be administered as an umbrella project by a single Lead Beneficiary, who will be selected at a later stage of the programme implementation by the Monitoring Committee. Requirements including legal, administrative, financial and others on potential Lead Beneficiaries will be elaborated by the Managing Authority and approved by the Monitoring Committee. The umbrella project proposals submitted by the potential Lead Beneficiary shall include a complete procedures manual for the PP Light scheme including project generation, selection and implementation procedures as well as a clear description of responsibilities and correction mechanism.

2.1.1.4 Common and programme specific output indicators

Table 11: Common and programme specific output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI 1.1_1	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions ¹⁵	visits/year	30.000	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 1.1_2	Length of reconstructed and newly built "green ways"	km	100	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 1.1_3	Length of reconstructed and newly created small vessel waterways ¹⁶	km	232	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 1.1_4	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status ¹⁵	hectares	2000	beneficiaries	yearly

2.1.2 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA1	Key implementation step	PA1PF1	Implementation of the PP Light scheme	NA	PP Light Lead Beneficiary designated and umbrella project contract signed, call for proposal published	50 PP Light project partners supported via the PP Light scheme	JS, Beneficiaries	Based on the decision of the Task Force a PP light scheme shall be set up to foster SME cooperation within PA 1. The designation of the PP Light Lead Beneficiary is therefore a cornerstone of the performance framework.
PA1	Financial	PA1PF2	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	9.393.919	76.999.341	IS of the certifying authority	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2
PA1	Output	PA1PF3	Increase in expected number	visits/year	5.000	30.000	JS	The ex ante estimated increase in number of visits to a site in the year

¹⁵ See Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf

¹⁶ Measured as the distance between the access and egress port / facility of the small vessel water trail on rivers, or as the total length of the water trail calculated based on the trail map in case of lakes.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
			of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions					following project completion. Valid for site improvements that aim to attract and accept visitors for sustainable tourism. Includes sites with or without previous tourism activity (e.g. nature parks or buildings converted to museum).

2.1.3 CATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION

<i>DIMENSION 1 INTERVENTION FIELD</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE (PP LIGHT TOURISM)	075	5.000.000
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE (PP LIGHT CULTURE)	077	5.000.000
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE (SPF)	092	3.116.640
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE (ROADS)	031	26.000.000
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE (NATURE)	091	13.166.400
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE (CULTURE)	094	13.166.400

<i>DIMENSION 2 FORM OF FINANCE</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE	01	65.449.440

<i>DIMENSION 3 TERRITORY</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE	07	65.449.440

<i>DIMENSION 4 TERRITORIAL DELIVERY MECHANISM</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA1 NATURE & CULTURE	07	65.449.440

2.2 PRIORITY AXIS 2: ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

Thematic objective: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (Thematic objective 7)

2.2.1 Investment priority 2.1:

Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (b))

2.2.1.1 Specific objective

Specific objective 2.1.1. corresponding to the investment priority:

Enhancing regional mobility by increase of density of border crossing points

Expected results:

As a consequence of the implementation of activities under the SO 2.1.1 the density of border crossing road infrastructure will be increased, the journey time from regional and subregional centres to the TEN-T corridors will be shortened.

Table 12: Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
SRI 2.1.1	Average distance between border crossing points	km	21,9	2014	15 ¹⁷	beneficiaries	in every two years

The value of the indicator can be defined as an average ratio:

$$D = x / L$$

where:

D = density of border crossing points

x = number of existing border crossing road infrastructure

L = total length of the Hungary-Slovakia common border line (= 679 km).

2.2.1.2 Types and examples of actions to be supported:

1. preparation of particular investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, feasibility studies, technical plans, purchase of permissions;
2. construction of cross-border roads, bridges and ferries and related infrastructure.

Beneficiaries:

¹⁷ The number (15) is a result of a conservative estimation. 679 km / 31 border crossing points = 21,9 km; 679 km / (31+21 border crossing points) = 13,05 km; 679 km / (31 + 14 border crossing points) = 15,08 km (Since 2003 14 new border crossing points have been constructed with the support of different HUSK programmes)

- Public institutions;
- Planning institutions;
- State owned companies with objectives related to the objective of the priority (public transport);
- Municipalities, county / regional municipalities

Main target groups of the support: People crossing the border regularly (students, workers, entrepreneurs etc.)

Addressed specific territories:

- The activities are addressed those secondary and tertiary nodes of the region where better TEN-T connectivity can be ensured on the other side of the border.

2.2.1.3 The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- Operations will be selected through permanently **open calls for proposals**.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect (road construction works inside the country can be supported as a part of a project package). Investments in infrastructure not deserving cross-border mobility are not supported.
- Operations must meet general quality criteria and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- Infrastructural projects must have completed documentation (technical plans with all permissions needed).
- Applicants have to have the proper financial and technical instruments for the planned activities.
- Soft activities can be supported only in case of preparation of particular investments.

2.2.1.4 Common and programme specific output indicators

Table 13: Common and programme specific output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI 2.1.1_1	Total length of newly built roads ¹⁸	km	13 ¹⁹	beneficiaries	yearly

¹⁸ See Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf

¹⁹ Based on the letter of intent of two Prime Ministers signed on 27th march 2014. Average length of IP 7b type projects is 3,2 km.

2.2.2 Investment priority 2.2

Developing and improving environment-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 (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (7) (c))

2.2.2.1 Specific objective

Specific objective 2.2.1. corresponding to the investment priority:
Improving environmentally friendly cross-border transport services²⁰

Expected results:

Thanks to the planned interventions the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres as well as the accessibility of logistic endowments will be improved.

Table 14: Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
SRI 2.2.1.	Change in the volume of cross-border public and good transport	%	100	2014	150	national statistical offices, beneficiaries	in 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022

Cross-border transport includes public and good transport as well. The volume of cross-border good transport is reported on a yearly base by the national statistical offices. Cross-border public transport can be measured by the reports of the beneficiaries. The change should be measured as an average by using the following formula:

$$\Delta v_{p,g} = \frac{p_1 - p_0 + g_1 - g_0}{2}$$

where

$\Delta v_{p,g}$ means change in public and good transportation crossing the Hungarian-Slovak border

p_0 = volume of cross-border public transport in the starting year

p_1 = volume of cross-border public transport in the year n+1

g_0 = volume of transported goods between Hungary and Slovakia (according to the Statistical Office) in the first year

²⁰ Service in this context means a utility facilitating cross-border mobility, e.g. new bus line (*passengers travelling on the line per year*), e-ticketing service (*passengers using e-ticketing per year*), mobile application (*users applied the application*), developed intelligent transport system (e.g. automated scheduling, route planner, display board etc.) (*users of developed tools per year*), cross-border common tariff system (*passengers using the system: customers*), operating cross-border transport association (*passengers travelling on the cross-border lines of the association*), intermodal logistic terminal (entrepreneurs using the services provided by the terminal annually) etc.

g_1 = volume of transported goods between Hungary and Slovakia in the year $n+1$

It is to be highlighted that the indicator does not refer to individual cross-border transport (e.g. by car, bicycle etc.).

2.2.2.2 Types and examples of actions to be supported:

1. preparation of particular investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts; elaboration of recommendations concerning legal-administrative bottlenecks hampering cross-border mobility (e.g. allowance of cabotage, ease of international transport rules between the two states etc.);
2. development of cross-border intelligent transport systems (ITS), passenger information systems, on-line schedules, e-ticketing, mobile apps, common tariff systems;
3. development and integration of cross-border public transport services, establishing transport associations;
4. realization of cross-border cooperation initiatives in the field of logistics, development of integrated service systems, related infrastructure and ICT applications;
5. investments on relevant infrastructure (e.g. vehicles, bus and railway stations, ferry ports).

Beneficiaries:

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies with objectives related to the objective of the priority (public transport);
- EGTCs;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies, bodies;
- Municipalities, county/regional municipalities (as subjects of state subvention);
- Universities and research institutes of transport.

Main target groups of the support: People crossing the border regularly (students, workers, entrepreneurs etc.)

Addressed specific territories:

- The activities are addressed mainly urban influencing areas, without specific geographic focus.

2.2.2.3 The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- Operations will be selected through open calls for proposals. The calls will be open permanently until the resources for allocation run out.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect (in case of investments in road infrastructure elements really crossing the border, in case of soft elements they should demonstrably draw on the results of cross-border cooperation, for example,

joint strategies for territories from both sides of the border, functions available for both sides, combining different skill sets not available in one region, gaining a critical mass otherwise unattainable, etc.). Investments in infrastructure not deserving cross-border mobility are not supported.

- Operations must meet general quality criteria and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- Infrastructural projects must have completed documentation (technical plans with all permissions needed).
- Applicants have to have the proper financial and technical instruments for the planned activities.
- Soft activities can be supported only in case of preparation of particular investments.

2.2.2.4 Common and programme specific output indicators

Table 15: Common and programme specific output indicators

ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI 2.2.2_1	Number of new services started within the framework of the programme	piece ²¹	20 ²²	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 2.2.2_2	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads ²³	km	1 ²⁴	beneficiaries	yearly

²¹ The services should be identified by each regardless of the number of the projects implemented.

²² There are 3 larger metropolitan or pole city areas along the border (Bratislava-Győr, Budapest, Košice) and further existing connections between Komárom-Komárno and Esztergom and Štúrovo. Furthermore, services potentially can be developed around Salgótarján and Lučenec-Fiľakovo region, around Balassagyarmat, Sátoraljaújhely or in the Gemer/Gömör region etc. Within the framework of the programme 10-12 public and good transport projects is expected to be realised. 20 services means an average of 2 services developed by projects.

²³ See Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf

²⁴ Two new ferry connections are planned to be constructed during the programme implementation. Each connection involves the upgrading of half km long roads.

2.2.3 Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA 2	Key implementation step	PA2PF1	Preparation of road construction works	NA	number of launched calls for proposal	1	JS	-
PA 2	output	PA2PF2	Number of new services started within the framework of the programme	piece	3	20	beneficiaries	Through the measurement of the users of the new services the outputs of the projects can be clearly identified.
PA2	Financial	PA2PF3	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	4.249.630	34.833.035	IS of the certifying authority	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2

2.2.4 Categories of intervention

<i>DIMENSION 1 INTERVENTION FIELD</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	030	11 690 000
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	032	2 670 000
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	042	4 810 000
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	043	3 500 000
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	044	1 740 000
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	072	5 198 800

<i>DIMENSION 2 FORM OF FINANCE</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	01	29.608.080

<i>DIMENSION 3 TERRITORY</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	07	29.608.080

<i>DIMENSION 4 TERRITORIAL DELIVERY MECHANISM</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA2 CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY	07	29.608.080

2.3 PRIORITY AXIS 3: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND QUALITY EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORTING LABOUR MOBILITY

Thematic objective: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility (Thematic objective 8)

2.3.1 Investment priority 3.1.

Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (8) (b)). Incorporating ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (i) amendment: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training.

2.3.1.1 Specific objective

Specific objective 3.1. corresponding to the investment priority:

To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility

Expected results:

As a result of the integrated projects implemented within the framework of the PA the employment level of the less developed regions of the programming area is expected to grow and the conditions of cross-border commuting will be improved.

The actions of the specific objective contribute to the

- identification of development potentials, the preparation and implementation of local strategies;
- increase of employment rate through long term labour initiatives;
- improvement of the quality and quantity of cross-border labour mobility through better infrastructural conditions;
- improvement of functioning of urban functional areas through functional rehabilitation of polycentric urban areas.

Table 16: Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
SRI 3.1	Increase in the employment rate	percentage	HU 62,1 SK 65,1	2012	2% increase	EUROSTAT	yearly

Specification: The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 20 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey. The survey covers the entire population living in private households and excludes those in collective households such as boarding houses, halls of residence and hospitals. Employed population consists of those persons who during the reference week did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. (source: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tsdec420&language=en>)

2.3.1.2 Types and examples of actions to be supported:

- Implementation of actions described and justified in an integrated territorial action plan

All the actions shall be implemented as part of an integrated territorial action plan.

Action plan means the implementation documentation of projects for a midterm period. It gives a background and justification. It means, that connection with existing strategies should be described, and the territorial challenges and opportunities must be given, which conclude to territorial aims. It describes in details the projects need to be implemented to reach these territorial aims, the necessary financial, human and other resources, timing, responsible organisations for the implementation of the projects.

Proposals must be action plan proposals. The action plan identifies the necessary projects to be implemented to reach the territorial aims. (The elaboration of an action plan is not an eligible activity but a precondition.)

The possible actions which are implemented in the framework of a project are the following:

1. targeted actions strengthening employment by the creation of products and services based on local potential (e.g. development of local product markets; revitalising rust belts and declining industrial zones by ensuring new ways of utilisation; improving the conditions of tourism; development of social economy mainly in the regions with high level of poverty and Roma people etc.);
2. initiatives aimed at improving cross-border labour mobility and the services facilitating it;
3. interventions reinforcing improved access to urban functions, improving access to natural and cultural resources;
4. infrastructural investments contributing to modernization, structural transformation and the sustainable development of specific areas that result in measurable improvement in terms of mobility (in case the territorial strategies reveal the need for)
 - infrastructural, training and employment services initiatives improving the permeability of borders for the employees of the region;

5. initiation and implementation of joint integrated cross-border employment initiatives:
 - joint employment initiatives (including facilitating the employment of persons leaving the labour market),
 - labour market cooperation initiatives,
 - employment-oriented cross-border business cooperation,
 - innovative employment projects (with emphasis on the employability of Roma people);
6. establishment of business services promoting employment and the creation of infrastructural conditions thereof:
 - background services promoting employment, such as databases, consultancy services, websites, etc.,
 - development of new business services, cross-border co-operation of business support structures,
 - initiatives facilitating the cross-border spread of business information,
 - development of IT systems, networks to support employment;
7. joint education and training programmes:
 - exploration and preparation of training needs, with the aim of determining the training directions necessary for the labour market,
 - common use of expert and consultancy services,
 - exploration and preparation of training needs, with the aim of determining the training directions necessary for the labour market (and with a view on life-long-learning actions),
 - common use of expert and consultancy services.

Actions from No.4-7. alone are not eligible, only as additional supportive to actions from No.1-3.

Main target groups of the support: The eligible region's population, local communities, entrepreneurs

Beneficiaries:

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- EGTC;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies, bodies;
- Municipalities, county/regional municipalities;
- Universities;
- Chambers;
- Small and medium sized enterprises.

Within the whole programme area the following specific territories are addressed:
Specific territories in the means of the priority axis are rural areas, larger urban zones, deprived or retrogressive industrial zones, areas affected by industrial transition, regions which suffer from severe and permanent economic or demographic handicaps, territories with low level of inhabitants or being desolated.

- rural areas,
- larger urban zones,
- deprived or retrogressive industrial zones,
- areas affected by industrial transition,
- regions which suffer from severe and permanent economic or demographic handicaps,
- territories with specific natural and cultural resources,
- territories with low level of inhabitants or being desolated.

Terminology for the common understanding of the territories:

Terminology	Definition	Source of definition
Rural area	Rural areas are LAU 1 units with less than 120 inhabitants per km ² .	The National Spatial Development Concept adopted in 2005 (http://www.vati.hu/static/otk/eng/nsdc2005eng.pdf)
Larger urban zone	A larger urban zone is a core city with at least 50 000 inhabitants and its commuting zone around the core that is composed of LAU2 where more than 15% of their employed resident population work in the urban core.	ESPON 2013 Database Dictionary of Spatial Units http://database.espon.eu/db2/jsf/DicoSpatialUnits/DicoSpatialUnits_one.html/index.html#N10EE8
Deprived or retrogressive industrial zones	Regions include areas undergoing industrial conversion, whose percentage share of industrial employment and average rate of unemployment both exceed the EU average.	COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1999:161:0001:0042:EN:PDF)
Areas affected by industrial transition	Areas affected by industrial transition are regions where the share of Gross Value Added and the share of employment in manufacturing at beginning of reference period are above 25% of total GVA and employment respectively and have internal industrial structural change.	DG Regio Regional Focus No. 01/2011 "Regional typologies: a compilation" (http://www.espon.eu/main/MenuToolsandMaps/ESPONTypologies/)
Regions which suffer from severe and permanent economic or demographic handicaps	The regions which suffer from severe and permanent economic or demographic handicaps are LAU 1 units where the value of the complex indicator is under the average of the complex indicator of all LAU 1 units. The complex indicator can be created by using economic indicators (operating economic organizations per 1000 inhabitants, number of guest nights spent in commercial or private accommodation per 1000 inhabitants, number of retail outlets per 1000 inhabitants, rate of persons employed in the agricultural sector out of the total number of persons employed, rate of persons employed in the service sector out of the total number of persons employed, change in the number of operating economic organizations (%), local tax revenue of municipalities per inhabitants (euro), number of researchers and developers per 1000 inhabitants) and social indicators (the number of 3-	Information on the calculation methods and indicators used for the classification of beneficiary regions of regional development. http://www.terport.hu/webfm_send/281

Terminology	Definition	Source of definition
	roomed flats out of the total housing stock, number of motor-cars per 1000 inhabitants – weighted according to vehicle age, migratory margin yearly average per 1000 inhabitants (number of persons), mortality rate per 1000 inhabitants), income per permanent resident as personal income tax base, urbanity/rurality index (the rate % of inhabitants of the given micro-region living in a settlement with a population density higher than 120 persons/km ²).	
Territories with specific natural and cultural resources,	Territories with specific natural and cultural resources refer to areas that are part of the NATURA 2000 network or the protected natural areas or the protected cultural landscapes.	Territorial Trends of the Management of the Natural Heritage (http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/ESPON_2006Projects/ThematicProjects/NaturalHeritage/1.ir_1.3.2.pdf)
Territories with low level of inhabitants or desolated	Sparsely populated regions are regions with a population density below certain thresholds. Paragraph 30(b) of the Guidelines on national regional aid for 2007-2013 defines low population density regions as 'areas made up essentially of NUTS 2 regions with a population density of less than 8 inhabitants per km ² , or NUTS 3 regions with a population density of less than 12.5 inhabitants per km ²	Regional typologies: a compilation http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2011_01_typologies.pdf

- Eligible urban functions are professional education, health functions - as cross-border health services systems, tele-medical services, cultural functions, professional tourism functions, social functions.

2.3.1.3 The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

- **Operations will be selected through open calls for proposals - in one or two round selection procedure.** The call for proposal can be open to territorial action plans. The action plans must contain such actions that - as part of an integrated territorial action plan - addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective, and reflecting to the requirements of specific territories, specific sectors or functions, present strategic approach.

In case of a two round selection procedure, the proposals contains the action plan. This action plan will be evaluated first (eligibility criteria). Action plans which fulfil the eligibility criteria will have the possibility to submit a proposal with the projects in details.

In case of a one round procedure, the proposals must contain the action plan and the detailed project proposals together. Eligibility criteria will also be applied, but if a proposal does not meet these criteria, will not be evaluated further.

The eligibility of the action plans will be evaluated first, based on eligibility criteria of e.g. the adequacy of the action plans, compliance with territorial parameters, compliance with the main thematic approach and aim of the investment priority, cross-border impact, economic and social usefulness of the projects, matching the

European (EU 2020 Strategy), national (NRPs mainly) and regional strategies and OPs. Those proposal that fulfil these criteria inter alia will be evaluated further. The elaboration of the action plans, the financing of the preparatory tasks or documents are not eligible activities and costs for the projects, those are preconditions.

- Action plans should be based on endogenous potentials with the objective of exploiting them for a higher level of employment rate; local, sub-regional strategies should contribute in an organic, effective and cross-border way to the decrease of long-term unemployment and to the economic growth.
- All operations must have a clear cross-border aspect (road infrastructure elements really crossing the border; soft elements should demonstrably draw on the results of cross-border cooperation, for example, joint strategies for territories from both sides of the border, products or services or functions available for both border side, extended urban function from one side of the border to the other, transferring models/knowledge/technology from one region to another from both sides of the border, combining different skill sets not available in one region, gaining a critical mass otherwise unattainable, etc.).
- Operations must meet general quality criteria and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.
- Additional requirements of the integrated action plans:
 - All the actions shall be implemented as part of a territorial action plan. New job means new employment, saving existing workplaces are not considered as new jobs. The bases for the new workplaces is the number of employees of the last year in case of an existing organization. Self employment is acceptable in the following forms: the personal participation of an owner of a company or organization, personal worker of a co-operative, supportive member of a family.
 - The projects are expected to be integrated, within the framework of an action plan 3-8 projects need to be implemented.
 - The creation of new jobs is a must for all project proposals.
 - Infrastructural projects must have fully prepared documentation (technical plans with building permissions).

2.3.1.4 Common and programme specific output indicators

Table 17: Common and programme specific output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI 3.1_1	Territory affected directly by the integrated projects	km ²	12000	beneficiaries (The data is verifiable from national statistical data sources - territorial statistical datas - ŠUSR, KSH)	yearly

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI 3.1_2	Total length of newly built roads ²⁵	km	8	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 3.1_3	Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings ²⁵ (participants of employment initiatives)	persons	100	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 3.1_4	Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings ²⁵ (participants in joint training)	persons	100	beneficiaries	yearly
OI 3.1_5	Number of new services	number /year	30	beneficiaries	yearly

2.3.2 Performance framework of the priority axis

Prio- rity axis	Indi- cator type	ID	Indicator or key implemen- tation step	Measure- ment unit, where appropriate	Mile- stones for 2018	Target value	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA3	key imple- mentation step	PA3PF1	Elaborated and submitted action plans	number	4	10	Beneficiaries	Actions under this priority must be part of an integrated territorial action plans, therefore a cornerstone of the performance framework.
PA3	comm on output	PA3PF2	Number of participants in joint local employe ment initiatives and joint	persons	60	200	Beneficiaries	The main objective of the priority concerns to the increase of the employment. The expected

²⁵ See Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation – ERDF (EC, 30/2014) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Target value	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
			trainings					number of action plans is 10. 10 persons as average is planned to be employed / action plan and 10 persons/ training element
PA3	financial	PA3PF3	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	4.249.630	34.833.035	IS of the certifying authority	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2

2.3.3 Categories of intervention

DIMENSION 1 INTERVENTION FIELD		
PRIORITY AXIS	CODE	AMOUNT (EUR)
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	032	12 750 000
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	050	500 000
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	073	1 781 080
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	102	7 500 000
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	103	4 077 000
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	104	1 000 000
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	110	1 000 000
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	113	1 000 000

DIMENSION 2 FORM OF FINANCE		
PRIORITY AXIS	CODE	AMOUNT (EUR)
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	01	29.608.080

DIMENSION 3 TERRITORY		
PRIORITY AXIS	CODE	AMOUNT (EUR)
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	07	29.608.080

DIMENSION 4 TERRITORIAL DELIVERY MECHANISM		
PRIORITY AXIS	CODE	AMOUNT (EUR)
PA3 EMPLOYMENT	07	29.608.080

2.4 PRIORITY AXIS 4: ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BORDER AREA

Thematic objective: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration (Thematic objective 11)

2.4.1 Investment priority 4.1.

Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (11) amended by ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (iv))

2.4.1.1 Specific objective

Specific objective 4.1. corresponding to the investment priority:

Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation.

Expected results:

- Improved level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation.

Table 18: Programme specific result indicator

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of reporting
SRI 4.1.	Level of cross border cooperation of institutions	Rating of the cross border services provided by institutions offering cross border services according to specific survey*	Specified according to outputs of the survey (for example Rating 3 /min 1. max 10/)	2012	Rating 6	Beneficiaries	In 2017 and in 2020

*survey made according to specific questionnaire prepared at the beginning of the programming period and at the end of the period. Methodology: A survey is made among all successful project beneficiaries of institutional cooperation projects during the programming period 2007-2013 with a simple question: Rank from 1 to 10 / the lowest is 1 and the highest is 10/ the level of cross border cooperation of your institution. The average value of the ranking is the baseline value of specific result indicator. The same survey is going to be made among the same beneficiaries in 2017 and 2020. The target value of the specific result indicator for 2023 is 6.

2.4.1.2 Types and examples of actions to be supported:

- 1. Strengthening and improving the cooperation capacity and the cooperation efficiency between different organisations of particular sectors (e.g. education, health care, risk prevention, water management, culture etc.)**
- 2. Support of activities focusing on the improvement of cross-border services, development of the necessary small infrastructure:**

- joint planning and development of cross-border services,
- development of legal instruments and ICT solutions improving cross-border service provision (strengthening the flow of information, e-governance, m-governance etc.).

3. Common presentation and promotion of borderland

- elaboration of studies, plans facilitating the better accessibility of the region;
- activities related to joint promotion of the borderland.

Beneficiaries:

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- EGTCs;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies, bodies
- Municipalities, county / regional municipalities
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations)
- Universities and research institutes
- Chambers

4. Small project fund

People to people projects

Examples:

- *organizing cultural events, performances, festivals, trainings focusing on cross-border activities of individuals with sustainable nature*
- *Examples: actions, events, student exchange programs*

Beneficiaries:

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- EGTCs;
- NGOs;
- Development agencies, bodies
- Municipalities, county / regional municipalities
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations)
- Universities and research institutes
- Chambers

Main target groups of the support of actions 1,2,3: regional and local authorities, public and private institutions providing cross border services,

Main target groups of support of action 4 (Small Project Fund): The eligible region's population, local communities, entrepreneurs, NGOs

2.4.1.3 The guiding principles for the selection of operations:

Actions 1,2,3:

- Operations will be selected through calls for proposals. These calls can be open to proposals addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective, or the programme authorities may also decide to issue more targeted calls for proposals focusing on certain key areas within the scope of this specific objective.
- All operations must have a clear cross border aspect.
- Operations must meet general quality criteria and they must be focused, relevant, viable, fit-for-purpose.

Action 4- Small Project Fund:

The management structure of the Small Project Fund will be solved through two umbrella projects (1 on Western part of the border region and 1 on Eastern part of the border region). The detailed description of the umbrella projects is described in chapter [5.3.4 The management of Small Project Fund](#).

2.4.1.4 Common and programme specific output indicators

Table 19: Common and programme specific output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
OI 4.1_1	Number of cross border events	Number/ year	300	Beneficiaries	yearly
OI 4.1_2	Number of cross border products and services developed	Number /year	40	Beneficiaries	yearly
OI 4.1_3	Number of documents published or elaborated	Number /year	200	Beneficiaries	yearly

2.4.2 Performance framework of the priority axis

The aim of this PA is to enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and improve the efficiency of public administration. To reach these targets several eligible actions were defined and in line with these actions justifiable and measurable indicators for the performance framework of the priority axis were also defined.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA4	Output	PA4PF1	Number of cross border events	Number/year	100	300	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects and SPF projects from previous programming periods, the indicator is the most relevant to show the real effect of the PA. The target value is set for 300, because we yearly count with implementation of 40-50 projects, and in one project more events could be realized.
PA4	Output	PA4PF2	Number of cross border products and services developed	Number/year	10	40	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects and SPF projects from previous programming periods the indicator is relevant to show the real effect of the PA. The target value is set for 40, because we expect approximately 40 new cross border products and services after successful implementation of projects within this PA.
PA4	Output	PA4PF13	Number of documents published or elaborated	Number/year	50	200	Beneficiaries	Based on the experiences (quality and number) with cross-border institutional building projects and SPF projects from previous programming periods the indicator is relevant to show the real effect of the PA. The target value is set for 200, because we expect approximately 200 new published and elaborated documents after successful implementation of projects within this PA.

Priority axis	Indicator type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestones for 2018	Final target 2023	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
PA4	Financial	PA4PF4	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	3.131.306	25.666.447	IS of the certifying authority	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215 /2014 Art. 5, point 2

2.4.3 Categories of intervention

<i>DIMENSION 1 INTERVENTION FIELD</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA4 Cross-border cooperation (non SPF)	119	12.466.560
PA4 Cross-border cooperation (SPF)	094	9.349.920

<i>DIMENSION 2 FORM OF FINANCE</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA4 Cross-border cooperation	01	21.816.480

<i>DIMENSION 3 TERRITORY</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA4 Cross-border cooperation	07	21.816.480

<i>DIMENSION 4 TERRITORIAL DELIVERY MECHANISM</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
PA4 Cross-border cooperation	07	21.816.480

2.5 PRIORITY AXIS 5: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.5.1 Specific objective

Specific objective 5.1:

Ensuring the effective management and implementation of the HUSK ETC Programme

2.5.2 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis 5 Technical assistance provides support to actions related with the management of the programme such as:

1. Actions related to human resources management of bodies responsible for the implementation of the programme:
 - selection, training, assessment, and rewarding of employees, while also overseeing organizational leadership and culture;
 - internal and external staff training (seminars, workshops, courses, internships, domestic / foreign business trips, etc.);
 - mobility management;
2. Actions related to office/facility management of bodies responsible for the implementation of the programme:
 - Procurement of small, expendable, daily use office items such as paper clips, post-it notes, and staples, small machines such as hole punches, binders, staplers and laminators, writing utensils, paper, etc;
 - Procurement of higher-cost office equipment like computers, printers, fax machines, photocopiers, office furniture such as chairs, cubicles, filing cabinet, desks, etc.;
 - Procurement of IT systems related to the programme implementation;
3. Actions related to the overall management of the programme:
 - Organization and technical support of working group meetings, commissions and committees and activities relating to safeguarding the exercise of their powers;
 - Procurement of expert services related to programming, evaluation, monitoring, publicity, audit in line with the provisions of the relevant regulations;
 - Procurement of legal advice;
 - Procurement of studies, reports and other external expert services;

4. Visibility and publicity of the programme;

- Information, promotion, publicity and exchange of experience;
- Development and implementation of the programmes communication plan;

2.5.3 Output indicators

Table 20: Output indicators

<i>Id</i>	<i>Indicator (name of indicator)</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Target value (2023) – optional</i>	<i>Source of data</i>
OI 5.1.	Number of projects administered by the JS	Number of projects	-	Monitoring system
OI 5.2.	Number of publicity events	Number of events	-	Joint secretariat

2.5.4 Categories of intervention

<i>DIMENSION 1 INTERVENTION FIELD</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
Technical assistance	121	8.349.920
Technical assistance	122	500.000
Technical assistance	123	500.000

<i>DIMENSION 2 FORM OF FINANCE</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
Technical assistance	01	9.349.920

<i>DIMENSION 3 TERRITORY</i>		
<i>PRIORITY AXIS</i>	<i>CODE</i>	<i>AMOUNT (EUR)</i>
Technical assistance	08	9.349.920

3 FINANCING PLAN

Table 21: Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR)

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	7 729 267	11 286 073	16 117 054	29 285 858	29 870 283	30 465 156	31 078 309	155 832 000
IPA amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENI amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7 729 267	11 286 073	16 117 054	29 285 858	29 870 283	30 465 156	31 078 309	155 832 000

Table 22: Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in EUR)

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for the calculation of the 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
PA 1	ERDF		65 449 440	21 549 901	11 549 901	10 000 000	86 999 341	75%	0	0
	IPA	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 2	ERDF		29 608 080	8 224 955	5 224 955	3 000 000	37 833 035	78%	0	0
	IPA	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for the calculation of the 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
PA 3	ERDF		29 608 080	7 224 955	5 224 955	2 000 000	36 833 035	80%	0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 4	ERDF		21 816 480	5 849 967	3 849 967	2 000 000	27 666 447	79%	0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PA 5	ERDF		9 349 920	1 649 986	1 649 986	0	10 999 906	85%	0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	ERDF		155 832 000	44 499 764	27 499 764	17 000 000	200 331 764		0	0
	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ENI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	Total all Funds		155 832 000	44 499 764	27 499 764	17 000 000	200 331 764		0	0

Table 23: Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective (in EUR)

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
PA 1	TO6	65 449 440	21 549 901	86 999 341
PA 2	TO7	29 608 080	8 224 955	37 833 035
PA 3	TO8	29 608 080	7 224 955	36 833 035
PA 4	TO11	21 816 480	5 849 967	27 666 447
PA 5	NA	9 349 920	1 649 986	10 999 906
Total		155 832 000	44 499 764	200 331 764

4 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

According to the decisions made by the Task Force tools of CLLD and integrated territorial development defined by the CPR will not be applied in the HUSK CBC programme. However, integrated territorial approach will be used in different ways.

4.1 VERTICAL INTEGRATION OF PROJECTS

Vertically integrated projects are focussing on a particular, mainly sectorial problem (e.g. in rust belts the utilization of real estate left off can be managed in an integrated way with a focus on new jobs; the integrated management of natural resources can be resolved by following a territorial strategy etc.).

Vertical integrated approach is planned to be used in two forms: within the framework of the PA 1 (Design cross-border implementation strategies ... to better capitalize the region's cultural and natural heritage) and of the PA 3 (Promoting sustainable and quality employment ... through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas...). In both cases integrated strategic territorial approach is needed as formal criterion and the projects should be realised in harmony with those strategies or action plans.

In the first case the strategy provides a frame for particular investments and activities in the field of nature protection, renovation and common use of cultural heritage or tourism. In the latter one, the improvement of employment rate, a better utilization of endogenous potentials should be ensured through the development and implementation of an integrated strategy based on special local endowments. In each case when road or bridge construction is needed for the fulfilment of tourist or employment aims justification of that need should be provided through the use of an integrated approach. In these cases matching of the construction works investments realized within the framework of national OPs can be approved.

4.2 HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION OF PROJECTS

Horizontal integration means the use of cross-cutting approach. For a higher level of exploitation of territorial capital it is recommended to realise synergic effects of different projects. In this way a higher level of concentration of resources and through this a stronger impact can be achieved.

In case of small project funds there is an opportunity to submit and support two different projects: one contains soft activities (PA4), other aims at realizing small investments (PA1) related to soft activities of the former one.

Similarly, project integration can be supported in case of larger projects, as well.

4.3 PLANNED INTERVENTIONS TOWARDS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

The European Union Strategy for the Danube Region²⁶ which was approved in 2011 during the Hungarian presidency is based on two documents: the Communication²⁷ and the Action Plan²⁸. The Communication has set the main objectives (four pillars) of the Strategy. The Action Plan defined the priority areas and potential projects (as examples) related to particular pillars (being in harmony with the EU 2020 Strategy objectives):

- connecting the Danube region:
 - to improve mobility and multimodality
 - to encourage more sustainable energy
 - to promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts;
- protecting the environment of the Danube region:
 - to restore and maintain the quality of waters
 - to manage environmental risks
 - to preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils;
- building prosperity in the Danube region:
 - to develop the Knowledge Society through research, education and information technologies
 - to support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development
 - to invest in people and skills;
- strengthening the Danube region:
 - to step up institutional capacity and cooperation
 - to work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime.

According to the communication of the European Commission “Facilitating joint actions and transnational cooperation in the Danube Region using the possibilities provided by the new Cohesion Policy Regulations” each operational programme should contribute to the implementation of the macro-regional strategies. This request is especially addressed to the stakeholders interested in ETC programmes aiming to strengthen territorial, economic and social cohesion of a given territory within the area of the EUSDR.

4.3.1 MECHANISMS TO ENSURE COORDINATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Correspondence of the given project to the priorities of the EUSDR is to be evaluated with premium scores during the evaluation (with a maximum of 2% of maximum scores). In order to help the evaluation process a grid will be elaborated containing concisely the main priorities of the Strategy. It is to be demonstrated during the filling in the application how the questioned project will contribute to the fulfilment of the targets of the EUSDR.

²⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm

²⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. European Union Strategy for Danube Strategy. COM(2010)715 final

²⁸ SEC(2010) 1489 final

The contribution can be direct (2% of maximum scores, the conditions of which see below) or indirect (half of the above).

During the implementation, the programme will ensure appropriate coordination with the EUSDR by

- mutual information exchange, coordination and joint planning in areas of joint interest, as well as 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;
- making use of the Budapest Danube Contact Point (BDCP) for supporting coordination and joint planning actions in areas of mutual interest. The BDCP is an expert organization established by the Government of Hungary and the European Investment Bank to support the implementation of EUSDR projects and the joint development of transnational functional regions. BDCP promotes an interdisciplinary approach applied in the transnational context and facilitates cooperation among different programs and stakeholders on the international, national or regional level. BDCP is given an observer status in the future JMC.

4.3.2 THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME TO THE PLANNED INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE EUSDR

The Hungary-Slovakia CBC Programme can contribute to the interventions of the EUSDR in three different ways:

- a) through planning and organisation of events facilitating the preparation of larger projects to be implemented at transnational / macro-regional level;
- b) through the implementation of particular projects complementing those to be realised within the framework of transnational Danube Programme (e.g. common management of water bases or common catchment areas; joint interventions in the field of transport, environment protection, economic development with a transnational perspective etc.);
- c) through the implementation of projects tackling one territorially understood element of a problem appearing at transnational level.

Direct contribution is to be awarded with higher score than indirect one. The contribution is to be demonstrated plausibly.

5 IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 RELEVANT AUTHORITIES AND BODIES

This chapter is only provisional until the final decision on the relevant authorities and bodies between the two Member States. The provisional texts are shown in yellow.

For the purposes of Article 123(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a managing authority; for the purposes of Article 123(2) of that Regulation, a certifying authority; and, for the purposes of Article 123(4) of that Regulation, an audit authority has been designated by the Hungarian and Slovakian authorities. Additional to this, authorities have been designated to carry out control tasks and to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks. Payments shall be made by the Commission to the certifying authority. (See [Table 24.](#))

Table 24: Programme authorities

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body	Head of the authority/body
Managing authority		
Certifying authority, where applicable		
Audit authority		

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	the certifying authority	
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Table 25: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body	Head of the authority/body
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks		
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks		

5.2 PROCEDURE FOR SETTING UP THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

According to Regulation No 1299/2013 (ETC Regulation), Art. 23. paragraph 2. the Managing Authority (MA), after consultation with the relevant Hungarian and Slovakian authorities shall set up a joint secretariat. The joint secretariat shall assist the managing authority and the monitoring committee in carrying out their respective functions. The joint secretariat

shall also provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under cooperation programmes and shall assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations.

The relevant Hungarian and Slovakian authorities agreed to set up a joint secretariat for the programming period 2014-2020 on the basis of the existing Joint Technical Secretariat of the HU-SK CBC Programme 2007-2013. According to this, the staff of the Joint Secretariat will be employed by VÁTI Hungarian Public Nonprofit Company on the basis of a new framework contract with the MA. The JS will be located in Budapest. The Joint Secretariat shall have an international staff from the Member States. Additionally two part-time regional Info Points in the Slovak eligible border area will be established and will be particularly responsible for an efficient project development in that area by giving direct assistance to the potential project applicants in the border region.

5.3 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

5.3.1 JOINT IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

In accordance of the Article 21-25 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, for the management and control of the programme the following bodies have been designated:

- Managing Authority (MA): bearing overall responsibility for the management and the implementation of the programme towards the European Commission,
- Certifying Authority (CA): certifying the declarations of expenditure and the applications for payment before they are sent to the Commission,
- Audit Authority (AA): a functionally independent body of the Managing Authority and the Certifying Authority, responsible for verifying the effective functioning of the management and control system,
- Monitoring Committee (MC): supervising and monitoring the programme implementation and responsible for selection of operations,
- Joint Secretariat (JS): assisting the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee in carrying out their respective duties.

Besides the above mentioned structures the Office of the Prime Minister in Hungary and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR in Slovakia will bear responsibility for:

- the setting up and the execution of the control system in order to validate the expenditures at the national level (including first level control of expenditures incurred at the national level and a compliance of operations with the national law and EC regulation),
- ensuring the national co-financing (including preparing and signing the national co-financing contracts).

Managing Authority (MA)

The Managing Authority will be responsible for managing and implementing the programme in accordance with Article 125 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 are as follows:

- 1) The Managing Authority shall be responsible for managing the operational programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.
- 2) As regards the management of the operational programme, the Managing Authority shall:

- a) support the work of the Monitoring Committee referred to in Article 47 and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the operational programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
 - b) draw up and, after approval by the Monitoring Committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports referred to in Article 50;
 - c) make available to beneficiaries information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
 - d) establish a system to record and store in computerised form data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants in operations, where applicable;
 - e) ensure that the data referred to in point (d) is collected, entered and stored in the system referred to in point (d), and that data on indicators is broken down by gender where required by Annexes I and II of the ESF Regulation.
- 3) As regards the selection of operations, the Managing Authority shall:
- a) draw up and, once approved, apply appropriate selection procedures and criteria that:
 - i) ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the relevant priority;
 - ii) are non-discriminatory and transparent;
 - iii) take into account the general principles set out in Articles 7 and 8;
 - b) ensure that a selected operation falls within the scope of the Fund and can be attributed to a category of intervention in the priority or priorities of the operational programme;
 - c) ensure that the beneficiary is provided with a document setting out the conditions for support for each operation including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan, and the time-limit for execution;
 - d) satisfy itself that the beneficiary has the administrative, financial and operational capacity to fulfil the conditions referred to in point (c) before approval of the operation;
 - e) satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding to the Managing Authority, applicable law relevant for the operation has been complied with;
 - f) ensure that operations selected for support from the Fund do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Article 71 following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;
 - g) determine the categories of intervention.
- 4) As regards the financial management and control of the operational programme, the Managing Authority:
- (a) will not carry out verifications under point (a) of Article 125(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR] according to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC], but shall satisfy itself that the expenditure of each beneficiary participating in the operation has been validated by controllers. For this purpose both Member States shall design their own system of Control, and designate the controllers responsible

for verifying the legality and the regularity of the expenditure declared by each beneficiary participating in the operation;

(b) shall ensure that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;

(c) shall put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified;

(d) shall set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of point (g) of Article 72;

(e) shall draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

5. Verifications pursuant to point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 4 shall include the following procedures:

(a) administrative verifications in respect of each application for reimbursement by beneficiaries;

(b) on-the-spot verifications of operations.

The frequency and coverage of the on-the-spot verifications shall be proportionate to the amount of public support to an operation and to the level of risk identified by such verifications and audits by the audit authority for the management and control system as a whole.

6. On-the-spot verifications of individual operations pursuant to point (b) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 5 may be carried out on a sample basis.

7. Where the Managing Authority is also a beneficiary under the operational programme, arrangements for the verifications referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 4 shall ensure adequate separation of functions.

8. The MA is will be responsible to develop computerised systems for the management and monitoring of programme and project data until 31st of December 2015.

Joint Secretariat (JS)

The Managing Authority will be directly supported by the Joint Secretariat as it carries out the operational management work for the whole program. Although the MA bears the overall responsibility for the Programme, certain horizontal tasks (the employment of JS members, the setting up and the operation of the programme monitoring system, legal services, etc.) may be delegated to a separate unit of **VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd. Company.**

The tasks of the Joint Secretariat are as follows:

Secretariat tasks for Monitoring Committee:

- fulfil the usual work of a secretariat, i.e., the organisation of meetings, the preparation and the mailing of the documentation for minutes, the drafting of minutes of meetings in the agreed languages, the drawing up and the submission of

the working documents to the committee members in compliance with the internal rules of procedures of the committee,

- submit the JS' annual work plan for approval,
- submit the results of the project evaluations sessions,
- implement operational decisions of the MC including running written procedures,
- offer assistance and technical coordination in preparation of the draft annual reports.

Secretariat tasks for Managing Authority

- ensure the administrative management of (external) tasks and services i.e., interpreting services and translations if required, external experts, TA projects, etc.

Programme level tasks:

- to collaborate with the administrative central, local and regional organizations in the eligible area in order to collect data and information necessary in the process of the program implementation (elaboration/revision of the multi-annual programming documents),
- promote the activities related to the OP by direct contacts with the relevant organizations (conferences, info days, brochures and other type of information materials),
- participate in the working groups set up for elaborating/ revising the programming documents,
- prepare proposals for programme amendments.

Project generation and assessment:

- support the project generation and development (the organisation of information seminars, etc.),
- ensure the exchange of information on different project proposals,
- manage the project application process: prepare and make available documents necessary for the project application and selection (general information on the programme and the project, standardised forms for project application and selection); provide information and advice to applicants;
- receive, record and provide formal and eligibility assessment of the applications,
- carry out the quality assessment of the proposals by internal staff and/or external experts.

Project implementation:

- prepare the materials necessary for project implementation (the subsidy contract, reporting templates, implementing guidelines, etc.);
- provide advice and assistance to project partners regarding the implementation of the activities and the financial administration,
- organize workshops addressed to the Lead Partners with the view to provide additional information and clarifications regarding the implementation of the projects,
- check the Progress Report and control the Application for Reimbursement elaborated by the Lead Partner;
- monitor project progress through on spot checks and monitoring visits

- check the follow up reports during the sustainability period and provide sample based monitoring visits.

Information and publicity:

- develop an overall system for public relations and elaborate a programme identity to be used in all means of communication,
- prepare the Communication Plan,
- develop the informational material for dissemination (both electronic and hard copies),
- create, maintain and update the Internet homepage of the Programme,
- organise information events with partners from the programme area,
- maintain necessary public relations with the media,
- be responsive to any request of information,
- organize a major information campaign publicizing the programme,
- publicize the list of beneficiaries, the title of the approved projects and the amount of community contribution.

Others:

- manage the joint projects/partner search database,
- prepare any other documents required by the European Commission or the Monitoring Committee,
- organise the working group meetings of the controllers,
- support the Audit Authority and the Group of Auditors.

Main tasks of the Regional Info Points' are:

- support the project generation and development (the organisation of information seminars, etc.),
- ensure the exchange of information on different project proposals,
- support the implementation of the relevant projects in order to ensure the spending obligations
- to provide information for the JTS about the spending of relevant projects in order to fulfill N+3 rule

Activities of RIPs should contribute to achieving the programme goals. Planned activities of the Info points (1-1 in the Eastern and Western parts of Slovakia) activities are approved by the Monitoring Committee. Approved activities of the Info points may be financed from a specific budget line of the programme's ERDF TA budget (in form of specific TA projects) according to the provisions laid down in the "Implementation Manual". The level and the quality of designated activities assigned by RIPs will be monitored and measured – according to the developed checklist – by the MA. In case of non-satisfaction with the results of the RIP's activities a substitution can be considered.

Certifying Authority (CA)

The Certifying Authority of the programme shall carry out the functions laid down in Article 126 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]. The certifying authority of an operational programme shall be responsible in particular for:

- (a) drawing up and submitting payment applications to the Commission, and certifying that they result from reliable accounting systems, are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the Managing Authority;
- (b) drawing up the accounts referred to in point (a) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
- (c) certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable law and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the operational programme and complying with applicable law;
- (d) ensuring that there is a system which records and stores, in computerised form, accounting records for each operation, and which supports all the data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or operational programme;
- (e) ensuring, for the purposes of drawing up and submitting payment applications, that it has received adequate information from the Managing Authority on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
- (f) taking account when drawing up and submitting payment applications of the results of all audits carried out by, or under the responsibility of, the audit authority;
- (g) maintaining, in a computerised form, accounting records of expenditure declared to the Commission and of the corresponding public contribution paid to beneficiaries;
- (h) keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the operational programme by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditure.

Audit Authority (AA)

The designated Audit Authority (AA) of the programme shall carry out the functions laid down in Article 127 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]:

1. The audit authority shall ensure that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the operational programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and, as a general rule, on statistical sampling methods.

A non- statistical sampling method may be used on the professional judgement of the audit authority, in duly justified cases, in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards and in any case where the number of operations for an accounting year is insufficient to allow the use of a statistical method.

In such cases, the size of the sample shall be sufficient to enable the audit authority to draw up a valid audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

The non-statistical sample method shall cover a minimum of 5 % of operations for which expenditure has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year and 10 % of the expenditure which has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year.

2. Where audits are carried out by a body other than the audit authority, the audit authority shall ensure that any such body has the necessary functional independence.

3. The audit authority shall ensure that audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.
4. The audit authority shall, within eight months of adoption of an operational programme, prepare an audit strategy for performance of audits. The audit strategy shall set out the audit methodology, the sampling method for audits on operations and the planning of audits in relation to the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2016 until and including 2024. Where a common management and control system applies to more than one operational programme, a single audit strategy may be prepared for the operational programmes concerned. The audit authority shall submit the audit strategy to the Commission upon request.
5. The audit authority shall draw up:
 - (a) an audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
 - (b) a control report setting out the main findings of the audits carried out in accordance with paragraph 1, including findings with regard to deficiencies found in the management and control systems, and the proposed and implemented corrective actions.

The Group of Auditors

According to Article 25 (2) of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 the Group of Auditors will be set up to assist the Audit Authority. The representatives of the Group of Auditors shall be appointed by responsible authority for the audit in the concerned Member State.

Auditors from Slovakia will be nominated by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, while auditors for the Hungarian side will be nominated by the Audit Authority directly.

The Group of Auditors will be set up within three months from the approval of the operational programme. It will draw up its own rules of procedure and will be chaired by the Audit Authority.

The Audit Authority and the auditors appointed in the Group of Auditors shall be independent of the management and control system of the programme. If necessary, the Joint Secretariat of the program can support the activities of the AA (e.g., providing support in organizing the meeting of the Group of Auditors, etc.).

Monitoring Committee

According to Article 47 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 [CPR], within three months of the date of notification of the decision adopting a programme, the Member States will set up a committee to monitor implementation of the programme, in agreement with the Managing Authority. The Monitoring Committee will draw up and unanimously adopt its rules of procedure during the first Monitoring Committee meeting. Establishment of the MC will fully respect the Article 4 of the European code of conduct on partnership regulation.

Where public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society have established an umbrella organisation in the Member States, they may nominate a single representative to present the views of the umbrella organisation in the partnership.

The Monitoring Committee in accordance with Article 49 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 [CPR] shall review the implementation of the programme and progress towards achieving its objectives, and more specifically the functions listed in Article 110 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]. It will select the projects financed by the cooperation programme in line with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 [ETC]. The Monitoring Committee will also adopt the methodology, criteria for selection of projects and the eligibility rules before the launch of each call for proposals. The detailed provisions will be drawn up in the Monitoring Committee's rules of procedure.

The representatives of the Monitoring Committee will ensure that on the national level all relevant partners are involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme as referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR].

With regard to the tasks of the Monitoring Committee it shall be ensured that decisions of the Monitoring Committee will be free from bias and must not be influenced by partial personal and/or organisational interest of any of the individual members of this committee. Any members who have a conflict of interest in respect of any subject matter up for consideration by the Monitoring Committee shall declare such interest to the meeting and shall not take part in the decision. The Monitoring Committee will set out the details of this procedure in the Monitoring Committee's rules of procedure.

5.3.2 SELECTION AND CONTRACTING OF OPERATIONS

Assessment of operations

Project applications can be submitted following calls for proposals whose terms of reference will be published on the programme website. Details of the selection procedure will also be made available to all applicants through the programme manual.

The Joint Secretariat organizes impartial assessment of the submitted applications based on the eligibility and quality criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee and makes a proposal for a decision to the Monitoring Committee.

The final decision on approval/rejection of projects is the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee. The applications submitted will be made available to the members of the Monitoring Committee. The sets of criteria (including eligibility, coherence and quality criteria) used in course of the project selection will be developed by the JS in co-operation with the other program management bodies from both Member States. Criteria will be prescribed in the Implementation Manual and will be decided and approved by the MC. The Monitoring Committee has the right to restrict the scope of eligible applicants in a given Call for Proposals taking into account the specific arrangements of the given Call.

The selection of projects can be performed through an open call for proposals either in a one-step approach or in a two-step approach introducing a joint pre-selection step of project drafts. Determining the project selection model according to the type of the activity in a certain call for proposals (CfP) is the responsibility of the MC.

In the one-step approach, the applications can be submitted in an open call and evaluated against the pre-defined set of criteria included in the Implementation Manual. The project applications will be sent directly to the Joint Secretariat, where they are registered. The JS is responsible for the assessment process. The formal assessment will be provided by the JS's own staff with the inclusion of the RIPs. The quality assessment is also provided by partly by the JS staff and external experts (representatives of institutions acting in the field of economy, environment, transport or occasionally of other OP interventions). The nominated external experts will be selected into experts' pool by MA, NA and JS according to pre-defined selection criteria. The JS will prepare a proposal for each application highlighting its weaknesses and strengths to provide a basis to the Monitoring Committee for its decision. Transparency of the assessment process will be ensured and any conflict of interest has to be avoided. If an institution represented by a member or member of the MC have an interest in a project application, the member must declare this interest and restrict their participation in the assessment and decision-making concerning the project.

The two-step approach besides the above described procedure of the one-step model contains a pre-selection stage. Applicants submit "expressions of interest" based on which the proposals will be pre-selected to offer the opportunity for applicants to further develop their projects in order to enhance the quality. The pre-selection step is also organized by the JS and the decision is made by the MC. Pre-selected and further developed projects are submitted again to the JS as a next step, and these applications will be evaluated against the relevant pre-defined set of quality criteria set out in the Call for Proposals.

Both the one-step and two-step models will be developed with the participation of the Monitoring Committee and will be described in details in the Implementation Manual.

The responsibility of fulfilling the State Aid rules during the implementation is directed to each Member State by the treaty. For this purpose each Member State has to define a State Aid Authority and a contact person who will be able to provide the MA with proper data about aid schemes in their country until the end of the implementation of the OP. At the same time, each MS bears the responsibility for the threat and the infringement of State aid rules and the common market towards the EC.

Project Lead Partners are informed in writing about the reasons why an application was not eligible or approved. Any questions in relation to the assessments will be examined and answered by the Managing Authority/joint secretariat. If needed, remaining complaints will be examined and answered jointly by the chair of the Monitoring Committee and the Managing Authority/joint secretariat. The chair may decide to refer back a complaint to the Monitoring Committee, should s/he judge it necessary. An overview of complaints examined and answered by the chair of the Monitoring Committee and Managing Authority/joint secretariat will be provided to the Monitoring Committee in the following meeting. The

same complaint procedure as described will also apply to other stages of the project implementation controlled by programme bodies, such as the progress monitoring.

Contracting procedures

Based on the formal project approval by the Monitoring Committee, the JS prepares the subsidy contract with the Lead Beneficiary. The subsidy contract is signed by the Managing Authority, and will be addressed to the project lead beneficiary (hereinafter referred to as lead partner). The MA bears the legal responsibility for the subsidy contract from the side of the HU-SK programme and can delegate formally (in writing) the power of signing the contracts to the Director of the JS. The JS will use an ERDF subsidy contract form approved by the MA.

National co-financing will be ensured automatically for projects approved by the Monitoring Committee. Contracts for national co-financing will be concluded separately from the ERDF by the respective Authorities after the signature of the ERDF subsidy contracts and the partnership agreement between the project partners.

Following the decision of the Monitoring Committee for project-related expenditure, the Managing Authority will use a standard form of subsidy contract which is approved by the Monitoring Committee and lays down further details concerning the responsibilities and liabilities of the beneficiaries.

The Managing Authority shall ensure that the subsidy contracts clearly state that the lead partner and the project partners will produce all documents, provide necessary information and give access to their business premises to any authorised body of the EU, the Partner State or to the audit authority, the certifying authority, the Managing Authority or joint secretariat for control and audit purposes in compliance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR]. The subsidy contracts make reference to the control systems set up by the Member States in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC].

5.3.3 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT VERIFICATIONS AND RELATED QUALITY CONTROLS

Financial control of beneficiaries, first level control

According to Article 23 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [ETC] and considering that the Managing Authority cannot carry out verifications under Article 125 (4) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR] throughout the whole programme area, each Member State (MS) designates the bodies responsible for carrying out such verifications in relation to beneficiaries on its territory ('controller(s)').

Each Member State shall set up a control system making it possible to verify the delivery of the products and services co-financed, the soundness of the expenditure declared for operations or parts of operations implemented on its territory, and the compliance of such expenditure and of related operations, or parts of those operations, with Community rules and its national rules.

For this purpose each Member State shall designate the controllers responsible for verifying the legality and regularity of the expenditure declared by each beneficiary participating in the operation. Where the delivery of the products and services co-financed can be verified

only in respect of the entire operation, the verification shall be performed by the controller of the Member State where the lead beneficiary is located or by the Managing Authority.

The designated controllers of the programme will work in the frame of:

- VÁTI Public Nonprofit Company with its regional offices in Sopron, Mátészalka, Budapest and Eger
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR in Slovakia.

Each Member State will do its utmost to ensure that the expenditure is verified and confirmed by the controllers within a period of two months after the first submission of project reports after the end of each reporting period so that the lead beneficiary is in a position to submit the progress report to the Managing Authority/joint secretariat at the date set in the subsidy contract and so that the Managing Authority/certifying authority can declare regularly expenditure to the EC.

With regard to technical assistance payments to the Managing Authority/joint secretariat, the Managing Authority ensures that the expenditure is certified in line with the control system set up by the Member State, on whose territory the Management Authority has been designated.

Verifications to be carried out at the national level shall cover administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects of the operations. The verifications shall ensure that the expenditure declared is real, that the products and services have been delivered and that the operations and the expenditures comply with relevant Community and national rules. The process of verification carried out by the controllers at the national level includes a 100 % administrative verification and on the spot verifications, as appropriate. Related further tasks may include updating the Program Monitoring System, and other tasks which are related to their control activities.

The Managing Authority, the JS and the Certifying Authority should be regularly informed on the control system set up by both Member States. Further details on the control systems set-up by the Member States will be provided in the description of the Management and Control System.

The flow of payments

a) The controller responsible checks the invoices or accounting documents of equivalent probative value submitted by the beneficiary and verifies the delivery of the products and services co-financed, the soundness of the expenditure declared, and the compliance of such expenditure and related (parts) of the operations with Community rules and relevant national rules.

b) After the reception of the validated payment claims submitted by the beneficiaries, the lead beneficiary draws up and submits the project-level payment claim to the Joint Secretariat.

c) Following the checks on the payment claim and the relating progress report, the JS forwards the payment claims to the Financial Transfer Unit (FTU). The FTU is a separate and functionally independent department of VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd. Company responsible for the

technical management of payments of ERDF funds to final beneficiaries. In the course of the requests of funds the Financial Transfer Unit draws payment requests for the transfer of ERDF contribution through the Programme's Monitoring System from the Certifying Authority (CA), resulting in the transfer of the ERDF contribution from the programme account handled by the CA to the disposal bank account kept by the Financial Transfer Unit.

Following the approval of the Certifying Authority the Financial Transfer Unit transfers the payment of the ERDF contribution to the lead beneficiaries. The implementation of the payment process is supported by the Monitoring and Information System of the programme. The project payment claims and the specific stages of the process are entered into the Monitoring System so that they can be traced back afterwards.

d) The lead beneficiary transfers the ERDF contribution to beneficiaries participating in the operation.

Programme level financial procedures (ERDF), the certification process

The ERDF contribution is paid into a single account opened and managed by the Certifying Authority. Payments made by the European Commission take the form of pre-financing, interim payments and the payment of the final balance.

Based on the validated eligible expenditure verified by the Joint Secretariat, which can be supported by receipted invoices or accounting documents of equivalent probative value, the Managing Authority draws up the statement of expenditure. The statement of expenditure shall include for each priority axis the total amount of eligible expenditure paid by the lead beneficiaries or beneficiaries in implementing the operations and the corresponding public contribution. Based on the statement of expenditure submitted by the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority draws up the application for payment and the certification of expenditure and submits them together with the certified statement of expenditure to the European Commission.

In support of the certification activity of the Certifying Authority, the Managing Authority operates a verification reporting system. Before compiling the statement of expenditure, the Managing Authority prepares a verification report on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to the expenditure included in the statements of expenditure. In order to have adequate information on the validation and the verification of the expenditure, the Managing Authority will request information in the form of a verification report from the Member States.

5.3.4 THE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL PROJECT FUND

Expert interviews and focus group workshops during the first phase of the programme elaboration have brought to light a great interest among small civil society organizations to take part in cross-border development activities but which – due to their limited organizational capacity and experience or the small budget of their projects – are not eligible for support through other priorities of the programme. This interest is was also supported by regional authorities and the results of the cohesion analysis of the border region (see the chapters dedicated to Social cohesion: there is a need for a stronger cohesion between the

populations of both countries and for an improvement of bilingualism). A possible way to enable small NGOs to participate in the programme is the introduction of a Small Project Fund into the programme.

The Small Project Fund will be implemented through two umbrella projects financed from priorities 1 and 4. Every umbrella project will be managed by a single Lead Beneficiary, who will be responsible for setting up a partnership at project level if needed. Procedures for the selection of the Lead Beneficiaries including the minimum requirements and selection criteria will be drawn up by the MA and approved by the MC.

5.3.5 THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PP LIGHT SCHEME

Within the framework of the first Priority Axis – Nature & Culture a PP Light Scheme is foreseen to be applied to foster the cross-border cooperation of SMEs. The PP Light Scheme will be implemented through a single umbrella project managed by a single Lead Beneficiary, who will be responsible for the overall management of the action. Detailed responsibilities and procedures will be drawn up in the umbrella project application and subsequently in the grant contract.

Detailed description will be prepared after the decision of Task Force / Hungarian and Slovakian versions of descriptions are prepared/

5.3.6 THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Activities covered by the TA will be financed using the project management approach. All programme management activities (i.e., the work of the JS, the development and the management of the Monitoring and Information system, information and publicity activities of the Programme, etc.) to be reimbursed by the TA budget shall be prepared in the form of “TA projects”.

TA project plans shall include:

- the objective,
- activities,
- target groups,
- expected expenditures,
- etc.

TA projects are implemented by programme management bodies. TA project proposals have to be previously approved by the Monitoring Committee. Reimbursements will take place on the basis of occurred expenditures subjected to a regular control. Detailed information will be presented in the Implementation Manual.

5.4 APPORTIONMENT OF LIABILITIES

5.4.1 REDUCTION AND RECOVERY OF PAYMENTS FROM BENEFICIARIES

According to Article 27 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 the Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead or sole beneficiary. Beneficiaries (project partners) shall repay to the lead beneficiary any amounts unduly paid.

The Managing Authority shall also recover funds from the lead partner (and the lead partner from the project partner) following a termination of the subsidy contract in full or in part based on the conditions defined in the subsidy contract.

If the lead partner does not succeed in securing repayment from another project partner or if the Managing Authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead partner or sole beneficiary, the Member States, depending on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered, shall reimburse the Managing Authority based on Article 27 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC].

In parallel to / after reimbursement of the irrecoverable amount by the Member States to the Managing Authority, the Member States hold the right to secure repayment from the project partner or sole beneficiary located on its territory, if necessary through legal action. For this purpose the Managing Authority and the lead partner shall assign their rights arising from the subsidy contract and the partnership agreement to the Member States in question.

The Managing Authority shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the general budget of the Union in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States as laid down in this cooperation programme and in Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC].

In the case of irregularities discovered, for example, by the Court of Auditors or by the EC, which result in certain expenditures being considered ineligible and in a financial correction being the subject of a EC decision on the basis of Articles 136 to 139 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR], the financial consequences for the Member States are laid down in the section “liabilities and irregularities” below.

Any related exchange of correspondence between the EC and an Member States will be copied to the Managing Authority/joint secretariat. The latter will inform the Managing Authority/certifying authority and the audit authority/group of auditors where relevant.

5.4.2 LIABILITIES AND IRREGULARITIES

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

- for project-related expenditure granted to project partners located on its territory, liability will be born individually by each Member State;
- in case of a systemic irregularity or financial correction (the latter decided by the EC), the Member States will bear the financial consequences in proportion to the relevant irregularity detected on the respective Member States territory. Where the systemic

irregularity or financial correction cannot be linked to a specific Member State's territory, the Member States shall be responsible in proportion to the ERDF contribution paid to the respective national project partners involved;

- for the technical assistance expenditure :
 - each Member State will bear joint liability proportionally to their respective share in the technical assistance budget, for consequences of any decision supported by this Member State; Member States' decisions are stated in each committee's decision notes. The approval of an activity report does not transfer any liability to the Member States;
 - being responsible for the day-to-day implementation of technical assistance, the Managing Authority bears full responsibility for consequences of any decision made on its behalf.

If the Managing Authority/joint secretariat, the certifying authority, any Member State becomes aware of irregularities, it shall without any delay inform the liable Member State or the Managing Authority/joint secretariat. The latter will ensure the transmission of information to the certifying authority and AA/group of auditors, where relevant.

In compliance with Article 112 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 [CPR], each Member State is responsible for reporting irregularities committed by beneficiaries located on its territory to the EC and at the same time to the Managing Authority. Each Member State shall keep the EC as well as the Managing Authority informed of any progress of related administrative and legal proceedings. The Managing Authority will ensure the transmission of information to the certifying authority and audit authority.

5.5 USE OF THE EURO

According to the Article 28 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 [ETC] expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into euro by the beneficiaries using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which that expenditure was submitted for verification to the Managing Authority or the controller in accordance with Article 23 of this Regulation.

5.6 INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS

In line with the provisions of the CPR (1303/2013), ETC (1299/2013) and ECCP (C(2013)9651) regulations the authorities responsible for the preparation of the programme set up a wide partnership as one of the first steps of the programming procedure. Ministries, NUTS3 institutions, scientists, researchers, experts of regional development, EGTCs, experts for Roma issues, umbrella organizations of commerce and industry, professional associations, regional development agencies, local actions groups, etc. were all invited to participate in the preparations of the operational programme. A complete list of relevant partners invited is included in Chapter 9.3. In addition information related to programming events was also made public through the website of the programme: <http://www.husk-cbc.eu/>.

Before starting the programming the relevant authorities of both countries set up a joint Task Force for Strategic Planning and Programming in order to supervise the programming procedure. The Task Force consists of representatives of central government bodies and NUTS 3 regions and its main task is among others to decide on preparation of all the relevant

documents concerning the programming process of the new programming period 2014 – 2020 as well as its priorities.

From the beginning the programming methodology followed a strictly participative approach. During September and October 2013 the planners conducted a total of 30 individual in-depth interviews with stakeholders (ministries, NUTS 3 institutions, associations of municipalities, researchers, experts for Roma issues, professional associations) from both sides of the border with the view to gather inputs concerning the territorial, social and economic cohesion of the region and its development challenges. Moreover 3 focus group interviews and workshops aimed at gathering inputs concerning the development needs of the programme area were also held in Esztergom (3rd of October 2013), Dunajská Streda (11th October 2013) and Košice (14th October 2013) with a total of 139 participants. Further workshops concerning:

- the programme strategy (Tatabánya, 2nd December 2013),
- Integrated territorial investments (Gödöllő, 12th December 2013),
- indicative actions (Banská Bystrica, 5th February 2013),
- programme indicators (Budapest, 6th February 2013),
- implementation issues (Budapest, 18th February 2013),
- small project fund (Budapest, 25th February 2013),

were also held and their valuable inputs were taken into account while drafting the programme. Meeting minutes and participant satisfaction surveys were prepared for each meeting and distributed to the relevant parties.

The public hearing process on the Operational Programme draft and the Strategic Environmental Assessment report will give a good opportunity for stakeholder participation and involvement. Public hearing events will be organized according to the national legislation.

The partnership principle will be properly applied also in the process of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. At OP level the partnership concerning monitoring and evaluation will be enabled through the membership in the Monitoring Committee. Many of the partners currently involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme are foreseen to be involved in the Monitoring Committee in the future. Continuity between the preparation and implementation and monitoring could be ensured through the organisations or people involved in both the preparation and later the implementation and monitoring. Having a link between preparation and later implementation contributes to good management of the programme and achievement of the objectives.

6 COORDINATION

6.1 COORDINATION WITH THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS OF HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA

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 Agreements of both Hungary and Slovakia and at the same time, coordination is needed in cases, where there is a possible overlap of thematic priorities.

According to the first draft of the Slovak Partnership Agreement synergies between ETC and mainstream Ops are expected in the following priorities:

- improving the availability of border regions (including multi-modal public transport),
- strengthening economic competitiveness,
- strengthening social and cultural cohesion,
- environmental protection, protection of natural and cultural heritage.

The PA SR states that the ETC Hungary - Slovak Republic 2014 - 2020 will focus on the protection and enhancement of the environment, transport infrastructure, strengthening of cross-border mobility, the use of rivers for freight and passenger transport and the completion of a modern transport network of the border region.

In regard to the specific objectives of the HU-SK CBC Programme the coherencies and coordination needs in relation of the different OPs, and their relevant priority axes are marked in [Table 26.](#) and [Table 27.](#)

Table 26: Coordination needs regarding the Hungarian OPs

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in HU-SK CBC Programme
EDIOP, Economic Development and Innovation OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Promotion of enterprise competitiveness and employment	-
		2. Promotion of knowledge economy	-
		3. Development of infocommunication	-
		4. Protection of natural and cultural heritage	1.1.
		5. Promotion of employment	3.1. and 3.2.
		6. Promotion of financial means and services	-
CCHOP, Competitive Central Hungary OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Promotion of enterprise competitiveness and employment, promotion of knowledge economy	-
		2. Promotion of financial means and services	-
		3. Settlement development	-
		4. Territorial community-lead development programmes	-
		5. Development of infrastructure of	4.1.1.

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in HU-SK CBC Programme
		public utilities	
		6. Social inclusion programmes	-
		7. Programmes for promoting employability	3.1. and 3.2.
TOP, Territorial and Settlement Development OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Territorial economic development and employment promotion	3.1. and 3.2.
		2. Attractive urban environment	-
		3. Conversion to low-carbon economy in urban areas	-
		4. Promotion of social inclusion and development of social services	-
		5. CLLD type urban development	-
		6. Human development in the counties and localities, promotion of social inclusion and employment	3.1. and 3.2.
HDOP, Human Resources Development OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Infrastructural development for social inclusion	-
		2. Inclusive society	-
		3. Infrastructural development for knowledge capital	-
		4. Thriving knowledge capital	-
		5. Good government	4.1.
		6. Local strategies, social innovation, transnational cooperation	4.1.
ITOP, Integrated Transport Development OP	CF, ERDF	1. Development of international road network (TEN-T)	2.1.1.
		2. Development of international rail and waterway transport (TEN-T)	2.1.1.
		3. Regional road network and transport security	2.1.1.
		4. Development of suburb and regional rail networks, energy efficiency	-
		5. Sustainable urban transport	2.1.2.
RDOP, Rural Development OP	EARDF		-
HFAOP, Hungarian Fishery and Aquaculture OP	EMFF		-
COP, Coordination OP	CF, ERDF		-

Table 27: Coordination needs regarding the Slovak OPs

OP	Source of funding	Priority axes	Related SO in HU-SK CBC Programme
Research and Development OP	ERDF	1. Support for RDI	-
		2. Support for RDI in the Bratislava region	-
		3. Business environment and innovation promotion	-
Integrated Infrastructure Development OP	ERDF, CF	1. Development of rail infrastructure (TEN-T core)	2.1.1.
		2. Development of road infrastructure (TEN-T)	2.1.1.
		3. Public transport	2.1.2.
		4. Development of waterway infrastructure (TEN-T)	2.1.1.
		5. Development of rail infrastructure (beyond TEN-T core)	-
		6. Development of road infrastructure (beyond TEN-T)	2.1.1.
		7. Informatisation	-
Human Resources OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Employment promotion	3.1. and 3.2.
		2. Social inclusion	-
		3. Investment in social inclusion	-
		4. Education	-
		5. Integration of marginalized communities	-
Quality of environment OP	ERDF, CF	1. Development of environment infrastructure by sustainable natural resources	1.1.
		2. Adaptation to climate change, especially in flood protection	1.1.
		3. Support for risk management and for ability against natural disaster management	1.1.
		4. Energy efficiency, low-carbon economy	-
Integrated Regional OP	ERDF	1. Secure and environment friendly regional transport	2.1.1. and 2.1.2
		2. Easier, more efficient and better public services	4.1.
		3. Competitive and attractive regions by enterprise development and employment promotion	3.1. and 3.2.
		4. Development of living conditions and environment in the regions	1.1.1.
		5. CLLD	-
Effective Public Administration OP	ERDF, ESF	1. Development of institutional capacity and efficiency of public governance	45.1.
		2. Effective implementation of public policies	4.1.
Rural Development OP	EAFRD		-
Fisheries OP	EMFF		-
Technical Assistance OP	ERDF		-

6.1.1.1.1 Synergies and coordination needs concerning the priority axes of the HU-SK CBC Programme with the national Ops

The coordination has been ensured already at the time of the planning of the HU-SK CBC Programme, 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 Secretariat should collate continuously the envisaged operations.

6.1.2 PRIORITY AXIS1: NATURE & CULTURE

Concerning the Hungarian mainstream Ops the EDIOP, the Economic Development and Innovation OP needs special coordination effort regarding the HU-SK CBC Programme as both programmes target the same investment priority 6c. On the level of activities a possible overlap may occur in the first activity, supporting the development of cultural heritage sites. This can be handled by stressing the cross border impact of projects financed through the HUISK ETC programme.

In relation of the Slovakian mainstream OPs none of the 9 mainstream operational programmes does include the investment priority targeted by the HUSK ETC programme namely 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage, therefore no special coordination activities are needed at the level of investment priorities. Although some of the actions included in Op Quality of Environment PA 1 IP 6d which are targeted at ecosystem services are similar to some of the activities included in the HUSK ETC programme, but due to the strict cross border nature of ETC supported actions the risk of double financing is minimal.

6.1.3 PRIORITY AXIS 2: ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

The Hungarian ITOP, Integrated Transport Development OP and the Slovakian Integrated Infrastructure Development OP are dealing with transport infrastructure and service development. They are not dealing with the specific cross-border crossing points included in the HU-SK CBC Programme. Besides that, the planning of these infrastructural developments are dealt with on the highest governmental planning level, therefore the coordination among the relevant OPs will be assured continuously.

6.1.4 PRIORITY AXIS 3: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND QUALITY EMPLOYMENT, AND SUPPORTING LABOUR MOBILITY

Among the Slovakian and Hungarian Operational programmes the following linkages can be identified:

- Slovak Operational Programme of Human Resources, the Priority No.1. Employment, the measure 1.1. Improving the access to employment for job seekers and inactive people, including local employment initiatives and labour force mobility

- Hungarian Operational Programme of Economic Development and Innovation, the Priority No.5. The promotion of employment and enterprise flexibility, the measure 5.3. for social economy and non-profit employment programmes.
- Hungarian Regional Development Operational Programme, the Priority 6. County and local level human developments, social inclusion and employment promotion, the measure 6.1. for the increase of the level of employment through county and local level alternative employment initiatives.
- Hungarian Operational Programme for the Competitive Central Hungary, the Priority 7. programmes for employability.

There is no overlap between these measures and the investment priority 3.1. of the HU-SK program, because the investment priority 3.1. improves the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility as a result of integrated projects. The main difference is that the increase of the employment appears as a result of integrated projects and the cross-border attitude in the HU-SK OP. Nevertheless concerning these measures a special attention should be paid to avoid double financing of projects, which are implemented within these measures and within the HU-SK OP Priority Axis 4.

- Hungarian Operational Programme for the Competitive Central Hungary, the Priority 3. Urban development, measure 3.1. for integrated urban development actions. The first aim of the measure is the renewal of the dilapidated urban zones and districts of Budapest, through integrated urban development actions.

The main differences between the characteristics of this measure and the Priority axis 3. of the HU-SK OP are the cross-border character, the employment aspects and the strategic approach. These do not feature in this measure. Therefore there is no overlapping expected regarding this measure and the investment priority 3.1 of the HU-SK program, nevertheless a special attention should be paid to avoid double financing of projects.

- Hungarian Operational Programme of Human Resources, the Priority No.6. Implementation of local strategies, social innovation and transnational co-operation. Therefore there is no possibility of the overlapping with the investment priority 3.1 of the HU-SK program, because the aim of the Implementation of local strategies, social innovation and transnational co-operation is the implementation and improvement of local initiatives for equal opportunities.

Among the other Slovakian and Hungarian OPs, there is no other OP specialized for integrated territorial approach and for the development of endogenous potentials as a part of a territorial strategy.

6.1.5 PRIORITY AXIS 4: ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BORDER AREA

The Slovak Operation Program of Effective Public Administration contains 2 priorities

1. Improvement the efficiency of the public administration and the institutional capacity
2. Implementation of the public administration policies and rising of their efficiency

Within the first priority the following measures are supported:

- 1.1 Integration and optimization
- 1.2 Strengthening the analyzing capacities of the government
- 1.3 Support of the human resource development

There is no risk of the overlap of the measures 1.1 and 1.2 with the investment priority 4.1 of the HU-SK program (*Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ERDF Reg., Art. 5. (11) amended by ETC Reg., Art. 7. (a) (iv))*), because the measures 1.1 and 1.2 of the Effective Public Administration OP are concentrating on state administration in Slovakia, and on optimisation of the internal system. No cross border attitude appears within these two measures.

Concerning the measure 1.3 Support of the human resource development of the OP Effective Administration a special attention should be paid to avoid double financing of projects, which are implemented within this measure and within the HU-SK OP focusing on enhancing of the institutional capacity of some Slovak public institutions.

Within the second priority of the Slovak Effective Administration OP the following measures are supported:

- 2.1 Optimization of the justice system and the system of criminal investigation
- 2.2 Optimization of the financial systems
- 2.3 Optimization of the procurement
- 2.4 Prevention and fight against corruption, improving of the transparency

The measures of the priority 2 within Effective Public Administration OP are focusing on optimisation of Slovak internal systems, and no cross border attitude appears within these measures. Therefore there is no possibility of the overlapping with the investment priority 4.1 of the HU-SK program.

Among the Hungarian OPs, there is no OP specialized for effective administration or building the institutional capacity of public institutions.

6.2 COORDINATION OF OTHER EU FINANCED PROGRAMMES

6.2.1 HORIZON 2020

No Specific objective is overlapping with the operations of HORIZON 2020.

6.2.2 COSME

No Specific objective is overlapping with the operations of COSME.

7 REDUCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

7.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN OF BENEFICIARIES

The on-going evaluation of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross Border Programme 2007-2013, which was carried out in 2012 and 2013, gives valuable information on administrative requirements imposed on beneficiaries by bodies responsible for the programmes implementation. Even though the project application procedure of the programme is deemed to be the most simple and advanced amongst similar regional development programmes the evaluation revealed certain opportunities for improvement. The most important are:

- **Paperwork on project level**

The on-going evaluation revealed that project reporting requires too much documentation or paperwork. Beneficiaries noted that in several cases they had to submit documents more than one time and in some cases additionally even declare that they have handed in everything.

- **Internal institutional communication**

Communication barriers between the FLC and the JTS, regarding the projects were also identified. In some cases programme bodies asked for the same documents, while in other cases they have not informed each other on decisions.

- **Payment and progress report approval deadlines**

The time spent with progress report approvals or transferring the approved payments, is stretching over the signed contractual boundaries.

- **Electronic data processing**

The inefficiency of IMIR uploads came up especially regarding the upload of the financial plans.

- **Lack of process differentiation in projects types**

Due to the diverse range of project types under the current CBC interventions, a significant lag is generated by the non-differentiation in the administrative processes. The evaluation revealed, that the project selection and approval process could be significantly improved with the introduction of a two tier approach.

- **Differences in national legislations**

Joint governmental co-operation should be improved to detect and override legislative barriers due to different national legislative framework (technical standards, public procurement) and promote cross border territorial co-operation of funding institutions.

- **Project feasibility studies do not reflect real needs of the programme**

Feasibility studies contain socio-economic analyses and other irrelevant data from the project and program point of view, template should be shortened and make a focus on objectively measurable financial data.

7.2 MAIN ACTIONS PLANNED TO REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

Already during the 2007 - 2013 period several steps were taken by the MA and JTS of the programme to reduce or remove some of the complexities related to administrative and financial management and reporting of projects. As a result of these actions the on-going evaluation concludes that while starting with quite high time requirements, the programme run along a successful learning curve and managed to decrease not just the average time needs between approvals and transfers but also the deviations from the average.

In line with its previous efforts the MA and JTS considers the reduction of administrative burden as a key priority for the next programming period. Therefore the harmonisation work carried out jointly by various ETC programmes under the coordination of INTERACT in preparation of the 2014 - 2020 programme period is considered as a key input for simplification. This initiative aims at streamlining programme implementation and procedures through a range of common templates and model forms, fact sheets, handbooks and guidance documents. The MA and JS will build on this work when setting up the implementation tools for the period 2014 – 2020.

The simplified cost options that have been made available and are also planned to be used where possible. They are foreseen to reduce the amount of needed paperwork and to speed up the reporting and control procedures. The fixed rate will be built in line with the relevant provision of the Common Provision Regulation, furthermore the experience of the MA, CA and JTS of the current period as well as that of the FLC's will be taken into account.

Application of e-Cohesion principles on programme level also offer many opportunities for simplification. The Common Provision Regulation (Article 112(3)) states that at the latest by the end of 2015 programmes should ensure that all data exchanges between beneficiaries and programme authorities should be carried out electronically. More precisely the e-Cohesion initiative for the structural funds sets the following minimum requirements for electronic data exchange in the 2014 - 2020 period:

- Electronic exchange – only for post-award processes;
- “Only once” encoding + interoperability – within the same OP;
- Minimum technical requirements as data integrity + confidentiality, authentication of the sender (Directive 1999/93/EC), storage in compliance with defined retention rules (Article 132 of the CPR)
- No technical requirements on software platforms and protocols;
- Electronic audit trail -in compliance with Art. 112, 132 + national requirements on the availability of documents.

The electronic data exchange system operated under HUSK CBC already largely complied with these norms. The HUSK CBC programme will continue to operate fully in line with these principles from the start of the programme period.

8 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The selected operations of the programme contribute to the requirements of environmental protection, climate change mitigation and resource efficiency. The selected operations shift the programme area towards the quality prevention of environmental resources.

The entire programme strategy is built around the concept of a sustainable development, some objectives, priorities and individual interventions are directly focused on the promotion of technology development and infrastructural developments for the low carbon economy, resource efficient and environmental friendly developments.

IP 1.1 Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage **SO1.1 corresponding to the investment priority** to increase the attractiveness of the border area in order to make the border area an attractive place for its inhabitants, visitors and businesses will support actions for maintaining and promoting cross border natural and cultural heritage, developing of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross border infrastructure for eco-tourism..

The PA2 Enhancing cross-border mobility has also been designed to strongly contribute to the sustainable development of the area through the development of cross-border public transport and logistic services. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) provide different services and enhance the intermodality preferring environmentally sound solutions and low ghg emission. When developing facilities improving the level of cross-border mobility and transport of goods the priority also contributes to the fulfilment of the EU 2020 targets in this aspect, especially through **IP2.1 Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes and IP2.2 Developing and improving environment-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.** The actions of the **SO 2.1.1. and 2.2.1. also** contribute to the fulfilment of EU 2020 targets concerning the decrease of ghg emission, and to the fulfilment of EU 2020 targets and the White Paper 2011 objectives on resource efficiency.

The **IP 3.1.** also address the strategic development of territories with specific natural and cultural resources through promoting the development of endogenous potential of specific areas. This investment priority also focuses on the utilization of endogenous potentials of areas and improves the accessibility to cultural, natural resources that contributes to the underlying principle of sustainability. The potential actions among others cover activities aiming to boost local economy (local products, traditional processes, low energy consumption, short-distance transport etc.) or to revitalise rust belts in the regions with declined heavy industry.

The clear contribution to sustainable development will be an eligibility criteria in the selection procedure. Project proposals are only eligible if the project objectives and activities do not conflict with the principles of sustainable development and the contribution to the

aspects of resource efficiency is a preferred criteria. The project owners will be obliged to justify that the project contributes to the EU 2020 targets by choosing 3 fields at least from a matrix contained potential contributions.

The following specific actions contribute to the Climate change and energy sustainability targets for the EU in 2020. (Table 28)

Table 28: Actions contributing to the Climate change and energy sustainability targets for the EU in 2020

EU2020 target	Envisaged actions
greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990	<p>SO 2.1.1: Enhancing regional mobility by increase of density of border crossing points</p> <p>SO 2.2.1.: Improving environmentally friendly cross-border transport services Developing and improving environment-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</p>
20% of energy from renewables	<p>SO 1.1: To increase the attractiveness of the border area.</p> <p>SO 2.1.1: Enhancing regional mobility by increase of density of border crossing points</p> <p>SO 2.2.1: Improving environmentally friendly cross-border transport services</p> <p>SO 3.1 To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility</p>
20% increase in energy efficiency	<p>SO 3.1: To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility</p>

The PA4 Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area have also been designed to strongly contribute to the sustainable development of the area through the improving the level of cross border inter- institutional cooperation. Within this priority actions focusing on strengthening and improving the cooperation capacity and the cooperation efficiency between different organizations of particular sectors (e.g. education, health care, risk prevention, water management, culture, etc.), focusing on support of the improvement of cross-border services, development of necessary small infrastructure and focusing on common presentation and promotion of borderland will be supported.

8.2 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The border region displays similar and complementary features in social conditions, at the same time. The biggest challenge on this field is to seek a solution and instruments for decreasing social disparities between the West and the East, and for establishment of inclusive social development. The eastern part of the programme area can be considered the

typical targeted region of EU 2020 Strategy: the educated people are leaving the region, the level of qualification is low, and the rate of early school-leavers and that of poverty are high.

The territorial analysis of the program reveals the disadvantaged situation of the following target groups: Roma people, young entrants, the permanently unemployed.

In the field of equal opportunities the cross-border programme addresses the needs of those facing multiple disadvantages, e.g., permanently unemployed, those from Roma and other ethnic minority communities.

The following specific actions directly promote the equal opportunities:

- **PA2: Enhancing cross-border mobility** contributes to the improvement of accessibility within the region enhancing the cross-border mobility through the development of cross-border public transport and logistics services in order to reach a higher level of social cohesion and employment rate. By decreasing the closeness of border region the new infrastructure improves the attractiveness, contributes to job creation and makes available public services in a higher standard for the people living in underdeveloped territories.
- **IP 3.1.** (Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources) reflect to the high differences in demographic features of the programme area, the high differences of urban and rural areas, the differences in the population density. The investment priority aims the main economic problem of the region, the fact of high level of unemployment.

Within the frame of this intervention extra efforts will be put on labour market initiatives and employment models directly aiming young starters, Roma and permanently unemployed people.

- In social field the **IP 4.1** (Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions) aims to mitigating the lack of cross-border education, social and other public services which can improve the preparedness of the people for working. The principle of equal opportunities is also reflected in the design of the indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and in the eligibility and project selection criteria to be applied under various measures.

The following criteria will be used as favoured in project selection: number of women or disadvantaged persons participating in joint education and training activities, events or using jointly developed facilities, number of new working places.

The following specific actions contribute to the targets for the EU in 2020. ([Table 29](#))

Table 29: Actions contributing to the targets for the EU in 2020

EU 2020 target	Envisaged actions
Employment (75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed)	SO 3.1: To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility
Fighting poverty and social exclusion (at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion)	<p>SO 2.1.1: Enhancing regional mobility by increase of density of border crossing points</p> <p>SO 2.2.1: Improving environmentally friendly cross-border transport services (improving accessibility through new public transport services; improvement of attractiveness of the region through the development of joint logistic services: job creation)</p> <p>SO 3.1: To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility</p>
Education (at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education)	<p>SO 4.1 To improve the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation.</p> <p>SO 3.1: To improve the conditions of employment and cross-border labour mobility</p>

Contribution to national Roma inclusion strategies

The social conditions are very similar on both sides of the border. There is high rate of unemployed people, early school leavers and population suffering from poverty (mainly roma people) in the Eastern counties.

The operational programme facilitates the inclusion of the disadvantaged people, the combat against poverty and Roma inclusion. The following interventions are planned to improve the situation of the disadvantaged people or those living in poverty in the field of employment, on educational level, or skills and work culture. The operational programme connects to the national strategies with the following PAs and IPs:

IP 3.1. gives the field for complex developments including the development of the economy, but altogether with educational, social, employment issues. The strategies may concern to labour intensive sectors also. The investment priority reinforces the protection of local markets and local production, revitalise rust belts and declining industrial zones by ensuring new ways of utilisation; improves the conditions of tourism; supports the social economy mainly in the regions with high level of poverty and Roma people. The IP may contribute to the goals of the national social inclusion strategies by improving the urban functions of available for the citizens from the other side of the border. The investment priority also gives the field for social innovation and employment initiatives, among these atypical forms of employment or public employment initiatives also. The possible targeted activities help the stakeholders in the interest of the employment of disadvantaged, enhances activities that encourages employment, and gives the possibility for labour market trainings.

IP 3.1 may improve the legal regulation and institutional structures, contains measures and activities promoting the public service system, and measures establishing cooperation in the field of health, education, labour market information and common monitoring interface.

The operational programme contributes to the following goals of the Hungarian Inclusion Strategy and of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the integration of Roma up to 2020. (Table 30)

Table 30: Contribution to the strategies

Goals of the strategy	PA and IP
Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy	
1. Reduction of the ratio of individuals living in poverty and social exclusion, with special regard to the Roma population	
1.1. Promoting the labour market inclusion of the Roma and those living in extreme poverty, and raising their level of employment	PA 3 IP 3.1.
3. Improvement of equal access to social and economic goods and reinforcement of social cohesion	PA 3 IP 3.1. IP 4.1.
3.2. Reduction of local and regional segregation	PA 3 IP 3.1.
3.3. Improving the state of health of the Roma, individuals living in extreme poverty and children, increasing life expectancy at birth and improving their access to the health care system	PA 4 IP 4.1.
Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the integration of Roma up to 2020	
D 2.2. Employment	
1. Support the increase of employability of Roma community members	PA3 IP 3.1.
2. Support increased employment of Roma community members	PA 3 IP 3.1.
3. Improve the relations of Roma community members with Labour Offices and other institutions using better and broader consultancy services and even increasing the number of employees	PA 4 IP 4.1.
D .2.3. Health	
4. Ensure accessibility of healthcare services, improve their real accessibility by removing obstacles (both geographical and financial), introduce a program of minimal dental care, and improve communication between MRK members and medical personnel in the provision of healthcare, with a potential impact on improving the provision of healthcare in the communities	PA 2 IP 2.1 PA 3 IP 3.1. PA 4 IP 4.1.
8. Stabilize, optimize and broaden network of community workers in the area of health education, create conditions for employing Roma, and implement and evaluate the pilot program of community workers active in health education in hospitals with the goal of preparing MRK patients, especially in OB-GYN and pediatrics for a stay in the hospital, communication with the medical personnel as well as other patients and/or visitors	PA 4 IP 4.1.
D 2.6. Non-Discrimination	
1. Remove obstacles to more effective implementation of antidiscrimination legislation	PA 4 IP 4.1.
2. Establishing space and mechanisms for solving and preventing conflicts between Roma and non-Roma population	PA 4 IP 4.1.

8.3 EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

In order to assure a match with the equality between men and women, the programme aims to increase and secure improved access to education for women, training and employment opportunities for women. In the frame of the **IP 3.1.** and **IP 4.1.**, the planned employment initiatives, background services promoting employment, joint education and training programmes, the organization of cultural events, performances, festivals, trainings will give extra efforts to involve women, and disadvantaged groups.

As diverse research results demonstrate in the former communist states numerous forms of discrimination of women still have been existed from the remarkable differences in wages through low involvement to decision making to physical violence. Due to the limited instruments Hungary-Slovakia Programme is not capable to abolish these inequalities completely but can contribute to a better understanding and can give models for tackling these problems.

Within the framework of different priority axes the equality principle will be used as it follows in [Table 31](#).

Table 31: Equality principles used in the Priority axes

Priority axes	Criteria
PA 3 (TO 8)	The main objective of the PA is to increase the number of the jobs through the utilisation of endogenous potential of different sub-regions of the borderland. In several cases it means the restructuring of local economy, development of processes of local products and investing in social economy where women are over-represented. This tendency can be strengthened by awarding a higher level of involvement of women. Similarly, in the case of trainings a mandatory level of 50% of women's participation will be prescribed.
PA 4 (TO 11)	The main objective of the priority axis is to manage common learning processes and to create common solutions to similar or complementary problems on both sides of the border. In this process women can play a decisive role which is to be confirmed by a mandatory rate of involvement of women in the activities to be carried out. This prescription is to be used in activities realised out of SPF with the joint management of parallel or complementary institutions aiming to improve service provision in the borderland, mutual understanding, and bilingualism.

9 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

This part will be presented as annexes in printed document version.

9.1 MAJOR PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD

The HU-SK CBC Programme does not contain major projects.

9.2 THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Priority axis	Definition of the indicator or implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
PA1	Implementation of the PP Light scheme	NA	PP Light Lead Beneficiary designated and umbrella project contract signed, call for proposal published	50 PP Light project partners supported via the PP Light scheme
PA1	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	5.000	30.000
PA1	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	9.393.919	76.999.341
PA2	Preparation of road construction works	NA	1	1
PA2	Number of new services started within the framework of the programme	piece	3	20
PA2	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	4.249.630	34.833.035
PA3	Elaborated and submitted action plans	number	4	10
PA3	Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings	persons	60	200
PA3	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	4.249.630	34.833.035
PA4	Number of cross border events	number/ year	100	300
PA4	Number of cross border products and services developed	number/ year	10	40
PA4	Number of documents published or elaborated	number/ year	50	200
PA4	Total amount of certified expenditure	€	3.131.306	25.666.447

9.3 LIST OF RELEVANT PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The following list includes organizations that were involved in the preparation of the HUSK CBC Programme.

Members of the HUSK CBC Task Force:

1. Prime Minister's Office (HUN)
2. Ministry of Public Administration and Justice (HUN)
3. Office of National Economic Planning on behalf of Ministry for National Economy (HUN)
4. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County
5. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County
6. Heves County
7. Nógrád County
8. Pest County
9. Komárom-Esztergom County
10. Győr-Moson-Sopron County
11. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
12. Banská Bystrica region
13. Bratislava region
14. Košice region
15. Nitra region
16. Trnava region
17. Representative of the European Commission
18. Central Coordinating Authority - Government Office of the SR
19. Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR
20. Association of Towns and Municipalities of SR
21. Association of Towns and Municipalities of HU

Experts interviewed during the cohesion analysis:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Dr. Rechnitzer János | Széchenyi István University |
| 2. | dr. Lados Mihály | Széchenyi István University |
| 3. | dr. Hardi Tamás | Széchenyi István University |
| 4. | dr. G. Fekete Éva | Miskolc University |
| 5. | dr. Kovács András | Edutus High School |
| 6. | Pákozdi Szabolcs | National Employment Public Ltd. |
| 7. | Sztolyka Attila | Ministry of Human Resources |
| 8. | Székely Imre | Győr-Moson-Sopron county |
| 9. | Nagy Gabriella | Komárom-Esztergom county |
| 10. | Sándor Ildikó | Nógrád county |
| 11. | Kuszák Miklós | Pest county |
| 12. | Török Zoltán | Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county |
| 13. | Majorné László Brigitta | Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county |
| 14. | Nyerges Andrea | Chamber of commerce and industry of Nógrád county |
| 15. | Magyar Levente | Prime Minister's Office |
| 16. | RNDr. Pavol Kárász, CSc | SAV |

17.	prof. RNDr. Vladimír Ira, CSc.	SAV
18.	Mgr. Tóth Károly	Forum Institute
19.	Marian Hanták	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
20.	Mgr. Helena Mravíková	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
21.	Mgr. Zuzana Fáberová	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
22.	Ing. Milan Gál	MPSVaR SR
23.	Mr. Jakub Novotný,	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR
24.	Bara Zoltán	Pons Danubii EGTC
25.	Nagy Péter	Ister-Granum EGTC
26.	Ing. Milan Muška	Association of municipalities (ZMOS)
27.	Barbora Lukáčová	BSK
28.	Ida Antipovová	TTSK
29.	Arpád Bak	NSK
30.	Tatiana Reizerová	BBSK
31.	Imrich Fülöp	KSK

Organizations that attended the focus-group interviews and workshops in Esztergom, Dunajská Streda and Košice:

1. Esztergomi Európa Intézet
2. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Juzny región
3. INNONET Nonprofit Kft.
4. Ister-Granum EGTC
5. European Institute of Cross-Border Studies
6. Ipoly – Garam RFÜ
7. Észak-Alföldi Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség Nonprofit Kft.
8. Vysoká škola múzických umení v Bratislave
9. Mesto Šahy
10. Obec Svodín
11. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma Kulturális ágazat
12. Úrad Nitrianskeho Samosprávneho Kraja
13. Bay Zoltán Alkalmazott Kutatási Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.
14. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Juzny región
15. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont, MTA BTK
16. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Területfejlesztési és Környezetgazdálkodási Ügynökség Nonprofit Kft.
17. Nyergesújfalu Város Önkormányzata
18. Széchenyi Programiroda
19. Nógrád Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
20. Széchenyi István Egyetem
21. ECOVAST Egyesület
22. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
23. Balassagyarmat Város Önkormányzata
24. Széchenyi Programiroda
25. HU-SK Közös Technikai Titkárság
26. Forest Trade Kft.
27. Nógrádi Fejlesztési Ügynökség

28. Ipolydamásd Község Önkormányzata
29. Nógrád Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal
30. Heves Megyei Vállalkozás és Területfejlesztési Alapítvány
31. Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium Környezeti Fejlesztéspolitikai Főosztály
32. KIM Határon Átnyúló Területi Közigazgatási Kapcsolatok Főosztálya
33. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma egyházi, Nemzetiségi és Civil Társadalmi Kapcsolatosért Felelős Államtitkárság
34. Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Egyesület
35. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Trnavského kraja
36. Arrabona EGTC
37. Výskumný ústav potravinársky Bratislava
38. Agripent s.r.o.
39. Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic Section of Regional Development
40. Heves Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
41. Pons Danubii EGTC
42. Výskumný ústav potravinársky
43. Tata város önkormányzata
44. Bakony-Balaton Mechatronikai és Járműipari Klaszter
45. Közép-Dunántúli Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség
46. Nitrianska Regionálna Komora Sopk
47. Észak-dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság
48. Széchenyi Programiroda Tanácsadó és Szolgáltató Nonprofit Kft., Nyugat-dunántúli régió
49. RRA Ister
50. Ústav ekonómie a manažmentu, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave
51. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
52. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat
53. Mesto Tisovec
54. Košický samosprávny kraj
55. EZÚS Via Carpatia s ručením obmedzeným
56. Mesto Rožňava
57. Határmenti Régió Fejlesztéséért Alapítvány
58. Mesto Moldava nad Bodvou
59. Spišská regionálna rozvojová agentúra
60. Határmenti Régió Fejlesztéséért Alapítvány
61. EZÚS Euroregión Karpatia
62. Prešovská Univerzita V Presove
63. Košice – Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013, n.o.
64. Aggteleki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság
65. Nyugat-dunántúli Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.
66. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztérium
67. Egyházi, Nemzetiségi és Civil Társadalmi Kapcsolatokért Felelős Államtitkárság
68. Egyházi Kapcsolattartási és Együttműködési Főosztály"
69. Norda Nonprofit Kft.
70. Szabolcs Szatmár Bereg Megyei Önkormányzat

71. Torna község önkormányzata
72. Obec Zdana
73. Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC
74. Akadémia ozbrojených síl g. M.R. Štefánika, Liptovský Mikuláš
75. Úrad Banskobistrickeho samosprávneho kraja
76. Slovenská Obchodná a remeselná Komora, Kosická
77. SMJV Polgármesteri Hivatal

Organizations that attended the SWOT and strategy workshop in Tatabánya:

1. Széchenyi Programiroda
2. HUSK-JTS
3. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
4. Nemzeti Fejlesztési Ügynökség
5. KEMÖH
6. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzat
7. Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium
8. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat
9. NORDA Nonprofit Kft
10. NGM
11. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzat
12. Pest Megye Önkormányzata
13. Észak-Alföldi Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség
14. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal
15. Úrad Košického samosprávneho kraja
16. EZÚS - Via Carpatia
17. MPRV SR
18. Bratislavský samosprávny kraj / Bratislava Self-governing region
19. Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR
20. Trnavský samosprávny kraj
21. Úrad Banskobystrického samosprávneho kraja
22. EZÚS Pons Danubii (EGTC)
23. Bratislavský samosprávny kraj

Organizations that attended the ITI workshop in Gödöllő:

1. Bratislavský samosprávny kraj
2. Arrabona EGTC
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
4. Ister-Granum EGTC
5. RRA Komárno
6. Nógrádi Fejlesztési Ügynökség
7. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
8. Regionálna Rozvojová Agentúra, Galanta
9. Gemerské Dechtáre
10. Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Önkormányzat, RDV EGTC
11. Jó Palóc Egyesület
12. Košický samosprávny kraj, Via Carpatia EGTC

13. Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC
14. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Önkormányzat
15. ÉMVIZIG
16. Abaúj Abaújban EGTC
17. Bodrogeközi EGTC
18. Cserhát Vidékfejlesztési Egyesület
19. Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium
20. EXOS s.r.o. Košice
21. Pons Danubii EGTC
22. Sekcia regionálneho rozvoja - Odbor stratégie a programovania
23. Odbor stratégie, územného rozvoja a riadenia projektov - Bratislavský samosprávny kraj

Organizations that attended the actions workshop in Banská Bystrica:

1. BRK SOPK
2. Közigazgatási és Igazságügyi Minisztérium
3. MPRV SR
4. Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma - Ministry of Human Resources
5. Obec Čata
6. Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium
7. Nemzetgazdasági Minisztérium
8. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p. Banská Štiavnica
9. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p., OZ Banská Bystrica
10. Obec Veľké Turovce
11. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra pre rozvoj regiónu Stredného Poiplia
12. Bratislavský samosprávny kraj
13. Obec Lenartovce
14. Lénártfalva község
15. MAS TOKAJ-ROVINA, o. z.
16. Slovenské Nové Mesto
17. Úrad splnomocnenca vlády pre rómske komunity
18. Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav Bratislava, pracovisko Banská Bystrica
19. Slovenská obchodná a priemyselná komora Banskobystrická regionálna komora
20. Obec Hronovce
21. Arrabona EGTC
22. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
23. HUSK JTS
24. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, š.p.
25. LESY Slovenskej republiky, štátny podnik
26. Via Carpatia EGTC
27. Úrad práce sociálnych vecí a rodiny Komárno
28. EURES-T Danubius slovensko-maďarské cezhraničné partnerstvo
29. Miniszterelnökség
30. Nitriansky samosprávny kraj
31. Sajó-Rima EGTC
32. Slovenský Vodohospodársky Podnik, š.p. Radničné námestie 8 969 55 Banská Štiavnica

33. Regionálna rozvojová agentúra pre rozvoj regiónu Stredného Poiplia Veľký Krtíš
34. Egyházi, Nemzetiségi és Civil Társadalmi Kapcsolatokért Felelős Államtitkárság
35. Start People s.r.o.
36. Miskolci Egyetem
37. ÉMVÍZIG
38. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat
39. VÁTI Nonprofit Kft. Központi Ellenőrzési Osztály (HU FLC)
40. Mesto Tornaľa Mestský úrad Tornaľa Mierová 14 982 01 Tornaľa
41. Közlekedésfejlesztési Koordinációs Központ
42. SZSI Slovenský zväz stavebných inžinierov - Celostátna odborná skupina Doprava
43. NAŠE DVORY 2015, o.z.
44. Zväz stavebných podnikateľov Slovenska
45. Magyar Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara Magyar-Szlovák Tagozatának titkára
46. Karpatský euroregión Slovensko
47. Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik š.p. OZ Košice
48. KDRFÜ
49. Közép-Dunántúli Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség
50. Obec Svodín
51. Úrad Košického samosprávneho kraja
52. NADÁCIA MOJMÍR
53. Univerzita J. Selyeho
54. Slovenská asociácia malých podnikov
55. Banskobystrický samosprávny kraj
56. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Kormányhivatal Munkaügyi Központja
57. Észak-Alföldi Regionális Fejlesztési Ügynökség / Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency
58. MZVaEZ SR

Organizations that attended the SME workshop:

1. Bratislavská regionálna komora SOPK
2. Pest County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion
3. Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara
4. NORRIA Regional Innovation Agency of North Hungary Nonprofit Co,
5. Planidea/PMKIK
6. MPSVaR SR
7. Nyugat-Pannon Regionális Fejlesztési Zrt.
8. Innoreg KMRIÜ Khe.
9. Innovact
10. Local Enterprise Agency Heves County
11. Ministry of National Economy, Hungary
12. Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research
13. Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency
14. Prmime Minister's Office, Hungary
15. Planidea Tudásközpont

10 APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Preliminary structure of OPs in Hungary 2014-2020

OP	Source of funding
EDIOP, Economic Development and Innovation OP	ERDF, ESF
TOP, Territorial and Settlement Development OP	ERDF, ESF
CCHOP, Competitive Central Hungary OP	ERDF, ESF
HDOP, Human Resources Development OP	ERDF, ESF
EEEOP, Environment and Energy Efficiency OP	CF, ERDF
MOP, Transport-mobility Development OP	CF, ERDF
COP, Coordination OP	CF, ERDF
RDOP, Rural Development OP	EARDF
HFAOP, Hungarian Fishery and Aquaculture OP	EMFF

Appendix 2. Preliminary structure of OPs in Slovakia 2014-2020

OP	Source of funding
OP Research and Innovation	ERDF
OP Integrated Infrastructure	ERDF, CF
OP Human Resources	ERDF, ESF
OP Environment	ERDF, CF
Integrated Regional OP	ERDF
OP Effective Public Administration	ERDF, ESF
OP Technical Assistance	ERDF
OP Fisheries	EMFF
Regional Development Programme	EAFRD

Appendix 3. Specific objectives and interventions in the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013

The **overall strategic goal of the programme** is the increased level of economic and social integration of the border area. There are 4 specific objectives under the overall strategic goal:

- Specific objective No. 1: Strengthened economic competitiveness of the border area
- Specific objective No. 2: Increased social and cultural coherence among people and communities
- Specific objective No. 3: Improved accessibility and communication of the border area
- Specific objective No. 4: Natural values protected

The operational programme is foreseen to be realised through 3 priority axes:

- **Priority axis 1 Economy and society**
 - Intervention 1.1 Support of cross-border business co-operation
 - Intervention 1.2 Co-operation in the field of RTD and innovation
 - Intervention 1.3 Joint tourism development
 - Intervention 1.4 Joint development and the coordinated use of healthcare facilities
 - Intervention 1.5 Development of networking, partnership, programme and project planning and management capacities
 - Intervention 1.6 Joint use and development of human resources
 - Intervention 1.7 People to people actions
- **Priority axis 2 Environment, nature protection and accessibility**
 - Intervention 2.1 Joint actions to encourage the protection of the natural environment
 - Intervention 2.2 Joint nature conservation activities
 - Intervention 2.3 Small road construction, bicycle paths, public transport
 - Intervention 2.4 Facilitating better border-crossing across the border rivers
 - Intervention 2.5 Improvement of cross-border communication channels
- **Priority axis 3 Technical assistance**

Appendix 4. Main lessons from the implementation of the on-going programming period

On the base of Annual Implementation Reports, the main lessons of the on-going HU-SK Programme are as follows:

- Achievement and analysis of the progress:
 - Due to administrative corrections and changes, the rate of rejections was lowered continuously (the trend can be traced from the 2002-2006 period).
 - The programme reached the 2012 N+3 target already in August 2012.
 - The overall financial achievement at the end of 2012 is 31.96 %, considering the financial information of the approved Project Application for Payments by Certifying Authority till the end of 2012.
- Qualitative analysis:
 - The programme did not identify any specific target groups to give special focus during the implementation. Though, the Joint Monitoring Committee took notice of the special need of attention of the Roma population. Without introducing positive discrimination measures, the decision was made to take into consideration the fact if a proposal plans activities contributing to the development or integration of Roma communities. A tool of an extra score was inserted into the assessment procedure of project proposals. Quality difference can be traced in terms of understanding the needs and the methods of the proposed solutions.
 - Unfortunately the Programme could not focus more on specific cross-border problems/issues, because at the time of programming there was a clear threat that a limited number of eligible fields of activities would not provide the chance of the required level of absorption.
- Contracting procedure with selected projects:
 - As a specificity of ETC programmes the contracting phase takes a considerably long time because of the necessary internal communication of the partnerships.
- Horizontal principles:
 - During project selection the fulfilment of horizontal principles is taken into consideration. Each proposal has to define what measures they intend to use besides other to promote equal opportunities.
- Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them:
 - No significant problem was identified under the procedure in Article 62(1) (d) (i) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 in the reporting period.
 - Although still, the biggest problem in timely implementation is that the project holders are in many cases unable to pre-finance their activities. It hinders the implementation of the contracted projects by postponing the activities/costs by the project holders to gain some relief from the severe cash flow problems.
 - Another persisting problem is that the infrastructure projects suffer the most from slow and hindered preparation.

- Implementation by priorities:

Priority 1 - Economy and society:

- Regarding RTD the invested funds will surely not solve generally the technological shortcomings of the local businesses, but will certainly plant the seeds of a cooperative environment in the RTD sector between the key public RTD organisations of the two countries (especially since both Budapest and Bratislava is involved).
- Tourism cooperation is one of the most popular fields that the programme supports. The enormously high number of cross-border tourism proposals clearly shows that a very active cooperation began in the border area.
- Regarding healthcare cooperation the objective is to ensure a more integrated use of health-care infrastructure. The relatively low number of cooperating institutions and the high budgets of the projects show that the planned results could be reached with a much higher share of funding from the programme budget. Unfortunately these projects are quite complicated to implement mainly due to different national legislation.
- The HR and labour market cooperation activities show a very effective accomplishment of the originally set targets.
- Generally it is confirmed that by allocating two third of the available funds in Priority 1 has collected enough good projects to ensure the expected results of the programme (except the RTD and healthcare activities) in case they are successfully implemented.

Priority 2 - Environment, nature protection and accessibility:

- The selected projects show that renewable energy related projects are dominant. The interest is considerably higher than other activities of this measure.
- The projects selected for the cross-border accessibility will ensure the expected results in case of a successful implementation phase. We also have to keep in mind that both types of investment activities (environment and transport related infrastructure) require longer and more substantial preparation phase than soft projects.

Lessons from the final report of the Evaluation of the Hungary –Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme, done by Deloitte, December 2013:

Situation analysis:

- Description of the baseline situation is not always properly demarcated from the national OPs
- Geographic focus of the description is not always specific to the program area
- Statistical baseline data is not enough to determine the baseline indicators of interventions, and baseline indicators (mostly regarded to be zero) are not always proper for aggregation of output and result indicators to program level impact indicators
- Some issues, such as science and environment are mentioned in more than one section of the description (e.g. economy and civil society) and in some cases redundant

- Not all identified disparities are subject to the program scope or strategy; they should have been neglected from this OP.

Objectives and measures:

- Quantity of intervention level actions (e.g. number of cooperating businesses of women involved) has a weak link to actually strengthen the competitiveness as the success of businesses are not measured in the OP
- SMEs were not beneficiaries of HUSK CBC OP 2007-2013, so only indirect impact could be provided via mediator organizations to the most significant sector relating on economic competitiveness
- Joint tourism developments and Healthcare are the good example for consistency among eligible activities, appraisal criteria, short term objectives and long term objectives.
- In case of transport and infrastructure short term objectives (e.g. number of people benefiting from renewable energy or lengths of new road network) has a link to long term objectives) however short term objectives do not refer to actual nature values protected (only people) or improvement on accessibility (estimated travel time, decrease in pollution emission or number of cars per month).

Intervention logic:

- Indicators focus on quantity of cooperation rather than quality thus they do not provide information on improving competitiveness and socio-cultural development
- Interventions are lack of information flow concerning market opportunities and legislative issues that might result unforeseen encounters delaying or preventing project implementation
- Research & development indicator does not refer to GERD, number of patents or value added or gross fixed capital, though popularity of created RTD services may represent the level proper developments too
- The structure of health services has been largely inherited by the earlier centrally governed health system and it cannot or can only very slowly adapt to changes in demand.
- Scientific achievements are introduced to medical practice after long delays and in many cases unevenly, resulting in thriftless use of the generally scarce resources.
- Progress and improvement could be driven by medical training of international renown and the already existing regional networks of medical officers.
- In case of business co-operations the usefulness of infrastructural developments are not measured or guaranteed, we do not know how they serve profitable cooperation
- Indicators only measure quantity of cooperation rather than quality, results and impact on actual social cohesion issues
- Motives for low cross border co-operation (geographic location, natural resources, taxation or administrative issues etc.) are not directly mentioned in the OP so objectives are difficult to promote effectively without being aware of basic reasons and trends
- Direct support of SME's is not eligible in HUSK CBC OP only industrial parks and incubator houses may partly contribute to the SME development and economic competitiveness
- As for IT actions do not have an answer for all identified causes of disparity, such as lack of territorial broadband penetration, low usage of e-services

- Lifelong learning actions are not directly supported though it would be necessary to decrease social disparities especially on deprived rural areas.
- As for education indicators focus on number of participants rather than qualitative results, such as number of job finders as result of education, in addition market demand is not reflected in the actions
- Situational analysis do not underline causes for actions, though advantages of cultural cooperation is obviously favourable
- Indicator focuses on number of cooperation, necessity and popularity of cultural actions are ignored.
- Low level of co-operation is not justified by quantitative data, the desired level financial concentration cannot be assessed
- 2004 figures of tourist nights spent (15 million) is stated below potential, but not justified why it is regarded to be a low number therefore the desirable level and necessary financial allocation cannot be assessed
- Concentration of financial resources is relatively high to other interventions, though tourism actions are usually more popular than viable

Legal framework:

- National standards and legislative framework might make it harder to satisfy all the legal requirements of cross-border cooperation projects. The EU funding system of HUSK CBC OP has no real means to influence national legislation. Therefore the procedures should have been adjusted to the national legislative framework in every case.
- The issues of financing discrepancies between the two countries have also come up.
- Another issue is the currency exchange practice as Hungary has not accessed the euro zone yet.

Procedures:

- Administrative burdens have been significantly decreased since the beginning of the programming period; however there are still some over complicated requirements mainly due to the national legislation.

Indicators:

- On relevance of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - intervention level output indicators are sufficient, they refer to clear measurable data that express the exact expected direct achievement of the projects,
 - some of the intervention result level indicators are rather output indicators because they refer to the direct achievement of the projects and do not focus on the socioeconomic result for the people living in the target,
 - in general current output and result indicators are partly able to confirm that the programme objectives are met, however they often lack of reliable baseline values and calculations on what would happen without the programme.
- On consistency of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - sufficient level of consistency among project and intervention level indicators,
 - clear and well defined output indicators provide an effective usage of indicators to measure the project achievements,
 - programme level indicators (derive from the National Strategic Reference Framework, 2007-2013) are not consistent with the intervention level

indicators (based on the characteristics of the relevant intervention) that will result aggregation issues.

- On aggregation of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - project level indicators are the same as intervention indicators that means they are fully inter-operative each other and can be aggregated from project level to intervention level,
 - as for the GDP growth, there is no direct link between intervention level indicators and programme level indicators as intervention level indicators do not refer to any financial data but number of people/ organisations and projects involved in EU funding,
 - as for employment growth, project progress reports does not refer to increase in number of employees but only number of persons reached by the action (target groups).
- On cost efficiency of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - the current institutional practice does not pay attention to cost efficiency therefore, there is no exact data on how much effort needed to maintain the indicator system.
- On reality of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - baseline indicators are often indicated as 0 and do not take into account the similar private or public actions beyond the scope of HUSK programme,
 - output indicators of the HUSK programme are simple enough to meet the criteria.
 - some result indicators do not give a meaningful view on actual result but they refer to the output of the intervention.
- On horizontality of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - as for gender issues, horizontal indicators are considered properly in case of education,
 - as for environment protection and sustainability issues indicators are properly considered in the selection criteria of the projects and do not put extra burdens for the beneficiaries when it is not necessary,
 - in order to provide enough relevant data on horizontality the HUSK programme applied qualitative information on the issue, so horizontal requirements are basically met in the programme but expected results are not indicated properly in the programme document.
- On reliability of the indicators according to given methodology:
 - as for context indicators it is not clear if the allocated resources for HUSK programme is able to provide desirable targets,
 - as for output and result indicators seems to be enough to achieve expected objectives and they were set up according to the financial resources at the disposal of the programme (further examination of concentration is suggested in the next interim report),
 - factors outside the programme's implementation scope and authority are not strong enough to efficiently support the concentration of resources to actually give a proper answer to the relevant disparity.
- Resultability assures that the target values of indicators are met by the end of the programme period.

Appendix 5. European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation along the Hungarian-Slovak border

Name of the EGTC	Date of registration	Country members	County/township/settlement members
Ister-Granum	11.2008	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Esztergom* , Annavölgy, Bajna, Bajót, Csolnok, Dág, Dömös, Epöl, Ipolydamásd, Ipolytölgyes, Kesztlőc, Kóspallag, Lábatlan, Leányvár, Letkés, Máriahalom, Márianosztra, Mogyorósbánya, Nagybörzsöny, Nagymaros, Nagysáp, Nyergesújfalu, Perőcsény, Piliscsabam, Piliscsév, Pilismarót, Pilisszentkereszt, Pilisszentlászló, Sárísáp, Süttő, Szob, Tát, Tésa, Tinnye, Tokod, Úgy, Vámosmikola, Verőce, Visegrád, Zebegény; SK: Bajtava, Bátorové Kosihy, Bielovce, Bíňa, Bruty, Búč, Čata, Chľaba, Gbelce, Hronovce, Ipeľský Sokolec, Kamenica nad Hronom, Kamenín, Kamenný Most, Keť, Kravany nad Dunajom, Kubáňovo, Leľá, Lontov, Malá nad Hronom, Malé Kosihy, Malé Ludince, Moča, Mužla, Nána, Nová Vieska, Nýrovce, Obid, Pastovce, Pavlová, Pohronský Ruskov, Radvaň nad Dunajom, Salka, Sikenička, Svodín, Šalov, Šarkan, Štúrovo, Zalaba, Zelizovce
Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	01.2009	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Kántorjánosi, Baktakék, Homrogd; SK: Janik
Kras-Bodva	02.2009	Slovakia, Hungary	SK: Hrušov; HU: Perkupa, Varbóc
Abaúj-Abaújban	06.2010	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Arka, Boldogkőújfalu, Boldogkőváralja, Fony, Hejce, Hernádcéce, Korlát, Mogyoróska, Regéc; SK: Cestice, Debraď, Komarovce, Nižný Lanec, Perín, Rešica, Veľká Ida
Pons Danubii	11.2010	Slovakia, Hungary	SK: Komárno, Hurbanovo, Kolárovo; HU: Kisbér, Komárom, Oroszlány, Tata
Arrabona	06.2011	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Győr, Abda, Bőny, Börcs, Dunakiliti, Dunaszeg, Dunaszentpál, Győrújbarát, Győrújfalu, Halászi, Ikrény, Kisbajcs, Kunsziget, Mecsér, Mosonszolnok, Nagyszentjános, Pér, Rábapatona, Vámoszabadi, Vének; SK: Dunajská Streda, Horný Bar, Šamorín, Veľký Meder
Rába-Duna-Vág	12.2011	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Komárom-Esztergom county, Győr-Moson-Sopron county; SK: Trnava county
Novohrad-Nógrád	11.2011	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Salgótarján; SK: Fiľakovo
Bodrogközi	04.2012	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Alsóberecki, Felsőberecki, Karcsa, Karos, Tiszacsermely, Tiszakarád; SK: Bara, Čermochov, Klin nad Bodrogom, Ladmovce, Malý Horeš, Malý Kamenec, Somotor, Streda nad Bodrogom, Veľký Kamenec, Viničky, Zemplín
Sajó-Rima	04.2013	Hungary, Slovakia	HU: Putnok, Ózd; SK: Rimavská Sobota, Tornaľa
Via Carpatia	05.2013	Slovakia, Hungary	SK: Košice county; HU: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county

* The seat of the EGTC is indicated with bold. In some cases the seat of the EGTC is not situated at the territory of the members.