

ANNEX

TEMPLATE FOR INTERREG PROGRAMMES

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NUTS regions covered by the programme	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County – HU323 Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County – HU311 Košice Self-governing Region – SK042 Prešov Self-governing Region – SK041 Maramureş County – RO114 Satu-Mare County- RO115 Suceava County – RO215 Zakarpatska Region – UA029 Ivano–Frankivska Region – UA022 Chernivetska Region – UA021
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1. Joint programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses

1.1. Programme area (not required for Interreg C programmes)

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(3), point (a) of Article 17(9)

The **area** of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Interreg NEXT Programme consists of various regions of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania as EU Member States and Ukraine as Partner Country. The total cooperation area covers a territory of 83 057 km² (size of Austria) with a population of 8 078 324 (size between Austria and Bulgaria). Thus, the cooperation area is as large as an EU Member State, a middle-sized European country. However, administratively its territory is divided between four countries with different roles and responsibilities of their respective NUTS III regions.

Based on EUROSTAT methodology¹ the programme area can be considered as a large continuous rural area with only few urban cores and urban regions. Except for Košický Region and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, which are in the intermediate category, all NUTS III regions are in the predominantly rural category. Based solely on population density and the level of urbanisation the Ukrainian regions are also predominantly rural and/or intermediate, with a very strong duality in each of the three regions where the plains and valleys (e.g. around Chernivtsi, Uzhhorod, Ivano-Frankivsk) are more populated and urban than the higher parts of the Carpathian mountain ranges.

¹ EUROSTAT: Urban-Rural Typology:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/rural-development/methodology>

The area and population sizes of the affected counties

County	Country	Area (km ²)	Population
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Hungary	7 246.19	676 093
Chernivetska	Ukraine	8 095.47	901 309
Ivano-Frankivska	Ukraine	13 959.28	1 370 526
Košický	Slovakia	6 756.93	800 414
Maramureş	Romania	6 286.95	522 302
Prešovský	Slovakia	8 981.33	825 022
Satu-Mare	Romania	4 408.71	387 918
Suceava	Romania	8 632.94	761 808
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	Hungary	5 933.65	578 963
Zakarpatska	Ukraine	12 755.67	1 253 969
		83 663,00	8 078 324,00

1.2. Joint programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complimentary and synergies with other other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learnt from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies.

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(3), point (b) of Article 17(9)

1.2.1 Summary of main joint challenges

Environmental conditions and challenges

With regard to the natural conditions, the programme area covers three biogeographical regions of similar features, which stretch across all the four related countries: Continental, Alpine and Pannonian. However, apart from the similarities in terms of climate, geological, pedological features, flora, and fauna, the transboundary character of the regions comes with shared challenges as well. Many of the environmental potentials and challenges in the programme area can be deduced from the cross-border landscape diversity.

The regions incorporate natural habitats of transnational, and in some cases of European, relevance. The Carpathians are one of the most significant corridors for species migration and dispersal. Over 300 bird species can be found here, lot of them are included in the Habitats Directive due to their restricted range. The Carpathians are famous for harbouring Europe's most significant populations of large carnivores (bears, wolves, lynxes). Extensive montane forests cover most of the range. The natural vegetation of the Pannonian region especially is under threat by alien invasive species.

The dominant land cover of the programme area is various forest areas (57% in total), particularly in the territory of the Carpathian mountain range stretching across state borders. The forests are indispensable for the climate change adaptation, resilience and disaster prevention of the whole programme area. Forest across the area, however are under pressure from both environmental and human point of view. Climate change results in forest degradation, increased number of forest fires and spread of invasive species. Multiple challenges derive from the intensification of forestry and illegal logging in particular. The impacts of deforestation are more and more relevant for the programme area: Increased vulnerability to extreme weather; loss of rainfall and crop pollinators; respiratory illness due to forest fires;

unsustainable management of water resources; CO₂ emissions; biodiversity loss are among the most severe problems.

Considering arable land both the Pannonian region and the Continental suffer challenges deriving from industrial scale intensive farming that largely ignore wildlife-friendly solutions, the original vegetation, resource-efficient technologies and decreasing use of chemical pollutants.

Protected areas covering habitats from Carpathians coniferous forests to Pannonian steppic grasslands, often in territorial overlap with each other, play a significant role in the preservation of the biodiversity and other natural values of the programme area. Some special habitat types across the programme area serve key ecological goals. Wetlands and Ramsar Sites are among the most valuable areas regarding the ecological networks and biodiversity. Several fulfil additional functions such as flood control and habitat connectivity. The major environmental and human threats include uncontrolled tourism and fishing; intensification of forestry and eutrophication; spreading of invasive species of flora; pollution from wastewater and domestic waste; heavy metal pollution. Another habitat type, of which some components are part of the natural world heritage, is the beech forest of the Carpathians that stretches from Slovakia to Romania across Ukraine. Intense logging threatens their environments the most.

Some sites lie along or touch upon the border, creating cross-border interconnections of ecological networks. Examples include the UNESCO World Heritage Site Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst, Natura 2000 (SPA) 'Upper Tisza' along the Hungarian-Ukrainian border and the 'Vynohradivska Tysa' belonging to the Emerald network; along the Slovak-Ukrainian border, Natura 2000 (SCI) 'Stinska' and the 'Uzhanskyi National Nature Park', also part of the Emerald network; Examples of the Romanian-Ukrainian border are the Natura 2000 (SCI) 'Munții Maramureșului' and the 'Marmaroski ta Chyvchyno-Hryniavski Hory' of the Emerald network. However, the different level of environmental and nature protection measures, roles and responsibilities of the respective organisations and other stakeholders varies from country to country making the joint effective study, monitoring, prevention, management significantly more difficult.

One of the most significant common issues along with biodiversity in the program area is water management. Almost 85% of the total area is part of the Danube Basin. Major rivers, i.e. the Váh, the Tisza, the Siret and the Prut as tributaries flow into the Danube. Among the tributaries of the Danube, the Tisza is also the most significant in the programme area (60.23% of total area). There are more than 20 bigger rivers as tributaries of Tisza in the analysed cross-border area. Therefore, the water management and related biodiversity as well as disaster risks are of outstanding importance on the programme level taking into account the shared catchment areas of the Tisza.

The chemical status of the rivers in the related river basins varies from river section to river section. Transnational intervention would be needed in the case of Tisza and many of its transboundary tributaries (Someș in particular). Regarding the ecological situation of the affected freshwaters, the water bodies mainly have moderate ecological status. Tisza and many of its transboundary tributaries have poor chemical status. Transboundary coordination in the field of water supply management in the frames of a river basin management system is required in relation to many water bodies, including groundwater.

The climate change has an enormous high impact not only to the environmental conditions of the programme area but also to the frequency and intensity of natural disasters including floods and wildfires, among others. Climate change adaptation as well as disaster prevention and preparedness have to face increasing extremes related to temperature (e.g. increasing number of heat days). It is expected that extreme precipitation events will increase in the future. Heavy rains can cause flash floods under certain conditions. Key impacts of the climate change can be summarized for the programme area as follows: temperature rise larger than European average; upward shift of plant and animal species (e.g. decreasing beech and pine land uses); high risk of species extinctions; increasing risk of forest pests; higher risk of rock falls and landslides, and increase in heat extremes; decrease in summer precipitation; increasing risk of river floods; increasing risk of forest fires; decrease in economic value of forests.

In many cases waste management, wastewater treatment, and air pollution are responsible for having a negative cross-border impact. Only in Hungary and Slovakia the recycling of waste is significant, while especially in Ukraine the share of disposal in the form of landfills has high shares in municipal waste management. Waste management and wastewater treatment face significant difficulties in the Ukrainian regions in particular. Waste pollution of transboundary character became common due to discharge of solid waste and untreated wastewater into the rivers. Because of full landfills which do not meet European requirements, illegal dumping of waste into the floodplain of the Tisza, unsolved transportation of waste and provision of waste-related public services along with outdated and underdeveloped sewage treatment and drainage. Waste pollution in the rivers of the Upper Tisza region has been a major environmental burden since the 2000s for all the upstream and downstream countries.

Environmental sustainability also has particular regional importance to the programme areas. All four countries have a larger footprint than their biocapacity. Share of fossil fuels is dominant in the energy consumption of all the countries. The level of greenhouse gas emission has not significantly decreased in the last nearly one decade except for Ukraine. It has to be highlighted that transfer of knowledge could play an important role in improving resource efficiency across the border region. The efficient technologies and the use of alternative energy sources should be further supported in regional economies.

Based on the disaster risk profiles elaborated by the collaboration of the IASC Task Team for Preparedness and Resilience and the European Commission, Ukraine has the highest risk among 40 European countries. With regard to natural hazards and exposure the four countries show similarities and rather high values. Considering natural hazards flood is the main threat for all the four countries. Human hazard and exposure in the case of Romania is the third highest value in Europe, while Ukraine has the highest rate on the continent. The coping capacity is very low in the Ukrainian and Romanian areas.

According to 125 disaster events registered in the past 20 years the vast majority of the registered cases (nearly 95%) were of natural origin. Among these, hydrological events and extreme temperature (38% of them; cold/heat wave, drought) occurred in almost equal proportions. The programme area is heavily exposed to large floods (40% of natural events). The main reasons of very high floods in the region are heavy, torrential rains (almost 80%) and snow melts (a bit more than 20%), but human factors should not be underestimated (e.g. weak flow regulation, lack of detention reservoirs, deforestation, over-ploughing of soil). Both the number of flood events and the severity of the events cause major transboundary challenges for large parts of the programme area. In addition to the usual spring floods, there is a need to prepare for sudden and significant floods during the most unexpected periods due to climate change effects as well. Apart from direct water damage floods are responsible for transboundary pollution as floods transport and spread various pollutants including solid and liquid waste.

The programme area shows a consistent worsening pattern in the sense of wildfire danger that is strongly connected to climate change with increasing droughts, air temperature, decreasing humidity and rainfall. However, human activities are responsible for a high share of forest fires, which, owing to extensive forested areas of the programme area, can spread across borders. As stressed before, climate change may affect the forest management of the programme area in several ways. The frequency of storm damages may increase. Weather conditions will influence the composition and condition of habitats, and new biotic pests which are not typical to the area may appear.

There are plenty of human-made disaster situations that affect several areas of the border region from communal pollution through illegal logging to certain mining, metallurgy and other industrial activities. Among human-made disasters pollution affecting transboundary watercourses in particular is an important element to response to jointly. There are industrial and mining areas to be rehabilitated in several places in the region, and on the other hand, their environmental impacts in some cases extend beyond the borders (e.g. heavy metal pollution from mining waste, extreme salt concentration).

Functional areas in the sense of environmental cohesion

With regard to climate change, biodiversity and natural hazards in particular, the key elements in the case of each area are essentially related to the catchment area of the Tisza River and the Carpathian forests. These hydrological and biogeographical features create a common functionality across the analysed area affecting the whole programme area, and are closely interlinked with all the related subtopics. However, certain functional areas can be identified in relation to each subtopic of the priority, therefore such areas are explained below:

Biogeographical regions: out of them the Pannonian and Alpine regions are having the most significant effects owing to their highly cross-border character. Considering natural regions Pannonian Region consists of the southern part of Košický Region, the two Hungarian counties, western territories of Zakarpatska and Satu-Mare, while the Alpine Region stretches across the unifying ranges of the Carpathian Mountains covering the whole of Prešovský Region, the northern part of Košický, the eastern parts of Zakarpatska and Maramureş, furthermore the western areas of Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska and Suceava. Within these areas, several natural endowments show similar characteristics, thanks to which there are potentials for cross-border cooperation.

Nature conservation areas, ecological networks and identical habitats: areas, networks and habitats that meet along the borders have environmental functions that are also suitable. In this respect, the situation of the “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” can be considered special, which, although not physically continuous, has a spatial network in terms of its functionality.

River basins, the Tisza Basin in particular: river catchment areas are not aligned to state borders but to the continental-level watershed of the Carpathians in particular, which play an important role. The functional integration of river basin areas situated west of the Carpathians can be considered much stronger, given that all sub-basins (of the Zagyva, the Sajó/Slaná, the Bodrog, the Someş, the Körösök/Criş) are integral part of the Tisza basin reaching all the related countries. The Tisza basin has an utmost importance within the programme area, more significant than of the river basins east of the Carpathians.

Carpathian Mountains: due to the complex impact of climate change on the Carpathians (e.g. extreme precipitation events), almost the entire programme area can be considered a functional area in terms of adaptation and mitigation. The forested areas (the western part of the Slovak-Hungarian border; the northern part of the Slovak-Ukrainian border; almost the entire Ukrainian-Romanian border area) stretching across borders can also be regarded as functional areas from environmental point of view.

Cross-border impact areas of environmental damage (pollution, human-made risks): with regard to this subtopic, waste generated, deposited and carried in the Tisza River Basin is a significant risk of cross-border relevance. Thus, floodplains, riverside areas affected by waste pollution of Ukrainian and Romanian watercourses especially are also decisive functional areas. The challenges in waste management in the case of both upstream and downstream areas unite extensive areas along rivers flowing through the borders. The areas of watercourses with the same transboundary river basin district within the border region can be considered as functional areas because watercourses can act as mediating agent, which not only transmit natural hazards (flood, ice breaking) but also play a role in spreading human-made pollution.

Areas affected by natural disasters: from the point of view of disasters, the border region suffers from natural disasters of essentially the same origin and to a similar extent. Wet climatic disasters have a complex mechanism of action in almost the entire program area (heavy rainfall in the Carpathians appears as floods in the lowland areas of the programme area). In the case of disasters of dry climatic origin, according to the conditions of the program area, it is basically divided into two main functional areas: 1. the forest-covered Carpathians with forest fires; 2. the lowland areas with droughts.

Joint intervention needs related to territorial cohesion

- PO2 SOi and SOii: Regional cooperation to increase resource efficiency (including utilization of renewable energy sources);
- **PO2 SOiv:**
 - o Joint preparation for climate-related hazards and changes related to drought;
 - o Joint preparation for climatic hazards and changes associated with extreme rainfall;
 - o Joint knowledge sharing, prevention, preparation and management of the potential disaster situations (floods, extreme temperatures, wildfire, landslides. as well as human-made disasters in particular);
 - o Development and implementation of joint revitalization plans;
- PO2 SOv: Monitoring of the transboundary groundwater bodies; Support of wastewater treatment;
- **PO2 SOvii:**
 - o Cooperation to maintain biodiversity and protected areas (related to ecological networks, Carpathian forests, wetlands and Pannonian grasslands in particular);
 - o Environmental actions tackling the intensification of forestry;
 - o Environmental actions tackling the spread of invasive species and the degradation of natural habitats;
 - o Environmental actions regarding all kinds and sources of water pollution (with special regard to the Tisza River Basin);
 - o Work on cross-border warning mechanisms for pollution peaks (including actions to improve monitoring and modelling);
 - o Implementing air quality measures;
- **ISO1:**
 - o Need for capacity building and knowledge exchange to establish new forms of territorial and inter-institutional cooperation along with the support of existing ones (Euroregions and EGTCs in particular);
 - o Support for partnership search and partnership building;
 - o Need for enhanced institutional cooperation in relation to climate adaptation and disaster management in particular.

Economic performance and challenges

There are large inequalities in terms of economic performance within the analysed area. Regional disparities have a strong east-west divide in favour of the westernmost and more prosperous regions. (Košický County: 12,900 EUR/person, Prešovský: 9300, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén: 9600). The least developed, which have been historically lagging behind, are all located in Ukraine (Chernivetska: 1036, Zakarpatska: 1125, Ivano-Frankivska: 1523) and Romania (Suceava: 5500, Maramureş: 6800) in a peripheral situation. In a wider context, the cooperation area consists of territories which are part of a group of regions having the lowest GDP per capita in their respective countries.

Given the lagging-behind character of the often peripheral analysed area, the general catching-up of the regions to the economically core areas of the EU would be supported. Especially for Ukraine but for the Member States too encouraging EU integration is of crucial importance. To fully use the growth potential of the national economies there encouraging economic cohesion within the area is much needed. The obstacles related to cross-border economic relations are still hindering factors in field of actions like foreign investment, trade relations, value chains and supplier networks, business development etc. Weak economic performance of the majority of the border regions is heavily based on limited efficiency with regard to innovation ecosystem. All the four countries perform worse than the EU average in terms of main indicators related to smarter Europe. Based on the patent applications per

million inhabitants Slovakia and Hungary belong to the moderately performing group of European countries with 5 to 20 patents per million people. Romania and Ukraine especially are lagging behind in terms of knowledge production with less than 5 patents per million persons. The border region is a technology-follower area compared to the economic and technology-leader areas of the EU (e.g. Germany, Austria or Sweden with more than 200 patents per million inhabitants). Similar results are valid regarding gross domestic expenditure on research and development. Intramural R&D expenditure does not even exceed 50 million EUR in the case of Ukraine and Romania despite of their significantly larger sizes, but even Slovakia and Hungary stay in the second weakest-performing group of states with 50-200 million EUR spent on R&D. Consequently, it is a real challenge that there are still insufficient measures to capitalize from comparative advantages and economic peculiarities. This calls for a tighter cooperation in smart specialisation with a special focus on SMEs. There are large differences in smart specialisation policies in terms of field of specialisation, sectors and territorial coverage. Ukraine has just started giving more attention to this topic crucial for the economic development of the border regions as well. Low added value of economic activities because of structural problems is a widespread problem in the programme area. Therefore, support for the exchange of best practices in relation to smart specialisation policies is an important field of action. Such cooperation, coupled with a strong focus on policy learning and policies development, is a need for many regions and stakeholders in the four countries.

Various zones to support business development have been designated and created within the analysed area. Such zones vary in terms of ownership, management, economic-legislative background, terminology. Huge differences persist in relation to their size, number of residing companies and the number of employees. The uneven spatial distribution of industrial parks is very apparent, and has a strong East-West divide in favour of Hungary, Slovakia and Satu-Mare County. There is an untapped potential in economic cooperation based on cross-border axes and zones of the related infrastructure and services. There is a need for joint business development, investment promotion, networking, knowledge exchange in order to capitalise from the gateway location of the region and the fundamentally distinct characteristics of the four countries.

There are significant inequalities with regard to enterprise density (enterprises per inhabitants) in the analysed area. The western part of the area has sometimes even 6-7 times higher densities than the easternmost, mostly Ukrainian areas.

Apart from general economic development, significant transport infrastructural factors weakening economic cohesion have to be listed. Considering road transport network, one of the main features of the area is the weakly developed and non-harmonised national systems in terms of construction, planning and maintenance as well. Limited number of any kind of high-level road creates direct connections across the state borders. Due to weakly developed transnational high-speed routes extensive areas with weak interconnectedness and weak accessibility persist. The delay of such infrastructural investments conserves the unfavourable situation of regions lagging behind. The delay of large infrastructural investments supporting interconnectedness conserves the unfavourable accessibility of regions lagging behind in particular. There is a huge lack of motorways/highways across the Carpathian Mountains.

Despite of having multimodal transport nodes in the analysed area, there is a persisting lack of well-functioning networks between the regional seats and largest cities across borders. Chernivtsi and Suceava in particular have the most unfavourable location in terms of travel times to the other regional centres.

Regarding railway transport the network suffers from many unfavourable parameters. Many lines and sections have been suspended and out of operation for either public or freight transport, or both. Bottlenecks and non-harmonized infrastructures persist including technical differences in gauge parameters, electrification and number of tracks. Gauge changes and track switches are of major hindering factors of quick railway transport. Logistical potential of the trinational border region around the Záhony, Čierna nad Tisou and Chop transshipment zone should also be mentioned; the shared cross-

border logistics zone is of European potential as a railway freight gateway, but this potential has not been fully exploited.

Bottlenecks are especially concentrated at border crossing points, and are severe factors hindering stronger cohesion. One of the main obstacles to any type of cross-border cooperation requiring frequent movements and flows across state borders is the unfavourable quantity and quality of crossing points. Partly excluding the Slovak-Hungarian crossings, there are extensive border regions with no or limited number of crossings (e.g. the joint Ukrainian-Romanian sections of the border river Tisza and the surrounding Carpathian mountainous area). Freight traffic has strong limitations since trucks with an axle load exceeding 7.5 tonnes are allowed to enter only at very few crossings. In spite of generally growing cross-border mobility low density and capacity of the existing border crossings hinders traffic.

Apart from the number and territorial distribution of border crossing points, the border regime is similarly relevant including control rules and procedures. Weak interoperability and long caused waits at border crossing points on the external border of the EU and the Schengen Zone weaken cohesion considerably. Daily migration has become largely impossible due to increased congestion and long control mechanisms. The Schengen external border is heavily exposed to illegal border crossings linked to petrol, alcohol and cigarette smuggling, black trade and distinct contraband products. Furthermore, uncertain situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic requires stronger cooperation of authorities since the permeability of borders heavily depends in the upcoming years on how the different measures are harmonised and put into practice.

The public transport services are rather uncoordinated on the level of the related four countries involved. The services, either bus or train, are generally creating connections between two countries only. More international services are needed which would connect at least three countries, while multimodality and real-time passenger information apart from the required infrastructural developments would also be provided and guaranteed based on real mobility needs.

Functional areas in the sense of economic cohesion

- Transport network of international relevance: these elements are either core or comprehensive elements of the pan-European and TEN-T corridors crossing the analysed area, which create direct links between at least three of the four related countries. The developments centred on the creation of better east-west relations linking Ukraine and Central Asia with Western Europe across the four countries can create new impetus for forming functional areas in the frames of EU integration. Strong interconnections, with regard to intermodality and interoperability, could be created including the transport axes and services within the area defined by the nodes of Miskolc, Košice, Uzhhorod, Mukacheve, Satu Mare and Nyíregyháza in particular.

- Network of industrial parks and business zones: such infrastructure can stimulate economic performance of the region by creating and developing operational networks of relevant stakeholders. These are tools of stimulating entrepreneurship and building capacities. The most apparent place for capitalising from cross-border economic flows is the transshipment-logistics zone around Čierna nad Tisou, Chop and Záhony.

- Network of the quadruple helix model: a sort of functionality can be described especially in relation to members of the innovation ecosystem, with participation of the academia and the entrepreneurs. These stakeholders have networks of relevant stakeholders and facilitate knowledge production and transfer, smart specialisation with higher added value by enhanced business and RDI cooperation.

- Border crossing points: the spatial distribution, number, capacity, technical parameters and personnel define the status of and potentials to all types of cross-border cooperation to a large extent. The permeability of crossings affects the functional relations including health care, education, labour market etc. Thus, transport infrastructure and services via such crossing points are crucial for creating well-functioning cross-border hinterlands, and supporting cross-border mobility (for instance labour and student migration, tourism).

- Areas with weak transport accessibility: these areas (e.g. along the joint section of the river Tisa on the Ukrainian-Romanian border, or in mountainous areas of the Carpathians) are often situated on the periphery along state borders, and characterised by unfavourable transport network, low number of border crossings, weak economic performance. Such areas are often also rural areas lacking urban functions largely because of weak permeability of borders and dysfunctional cross-border transport infrastructure and service provision.

Joint intervention needs related to economic cohesion

- PO1 SOiii and SOiv: Territorially integrated economic developments within the cross-border transshipment zones based on joint activities in loading, sorting, storage, processing and transport of transported products; Development of joint and harmonisation of complementary infrastructures and services supporting industrial-logistics cooperation
- PO3 SOi and SOii: Support for studies, planning and construction to enhance multimodality, intermodality and interoperability of transport nodes; Support for eliminating technical obstacles to international passenger services, for multimodal traffic management and real-time passenger information; Support for better coordination of regional and national road transport policies, planning and construction activities; Coordination in the identification and elimination of bottlenecks at border crossing points; Establishment of new border crossing points and capacity increase at existing ones
- **ISO1:**
 - o Setting up and piloting measures for regions allowing for exchange of experience on implementation of smart specialisation strategies, support for related knowledge exchange between model regions and regions lagging behind in terms of elaborating and implementing policy and management schemes
 - o Support for capacity building and knowledge transfer by cross-border cooperation of regional stakeholders interested in the quadruple helix model, for enhancing entrepreneurship and increasing added value of joint products and services
- ISO2: Better harmonisation of border control and information procedures connected to pandemic and other emergency situations especially; Cooperation of authorities in capacity increase (improvement of technical conditions, know-how exchange and training of border guards and custom officers, unification and simplification of customs and border control systems) / Complementary activities to the EES installing; Enhancing police cooperation and border control techniques on the green borders to tackle organised crime.

Social cohesion and challenges

The population density of the total area is relatively low, 97.26 persons/km². The analysed area has long been affected by emigration (net migration rate in 2018: -1.89), which is one of the main reasons of depopulating areas. The main migration targets are usually capital city and metropolis regions, better performing western regions of the given countries or Western European destinations. Regarding the population size of 2014 and 2018 the number of inhabitants decreased by 21,429 from 8,099,753 to 8,078,324 inhabitants. In all the related regions apart from Suceava County (+2.43%) and the Slovak regions (Prešovský: +0.62%, Košický: +0.61%) population decrease was a decisive demographic trend.

High unemployment is a profound problem across the majority of the analysed area. Unemployment is also a reflection of low educational attainment, unfavourable and economic structure, lack of major employer companies, and a real poverty threat. Apart from regions in all the related territories unemployment exceeds 8%. In-work poverty has to be mentioned as well meaning that even the employed people can suffer from certain level of poverty in the region. Inequalities in the labour market needs and offers are significant across the analysed area, thus certain harmonisation and cooperation in the field of cross-border employment and related services might be integral part of the future joint fight against unemployment.

Roma communities are often exposed to severe social challenges such as low income, exclusion from labour market, and suffer from financial and material deprivation. The share of Romas living in or at

risk of poverty is very high, making this group part of the most vulnerable population within the analysed area. The Roma minority is also threatened by further physical segregation. Such negative socio-geographical processes are taking place in large part of the area, especially in relation to rural areas. Furthermore, the most populous and peripheral communities live in small remote villages and/or border areas having disadvantageous socio-economic situation like bad infrastructure, weak accessibility, lack of workplaces, housing problems, low educational attainment etc. (e.g. in districts of Encs, Putnok, Fehérgyarmat, Záhony, Rožňava, Berehove and Uzhhorod Raions in Zakarpatska Region).

The health-related issues and healthcare cooperation deserves also special attention. Bad and sometime deteriorating health status of the population is one of the reasons why in most parts of the region unfavourable mortality rates persist. Natural population decrease can be observed in recent years as more people deceased than were born except for Slovakia.

Looking at data of life expectancy at birth in Europe it shows that the affected countries by the programme largely fall into the same categories (between 75.3 and 77.4) which is lower than the Western (around 81), Northern (between 81.8 and 82.8) and Southern European (between 78.9 and 83.5) averages. The data show positive trends in growing life expectancy at birth in every region for both sexes in the past ten years, but large inequalities in reaching positive changes exist.

The observation of the leading causes of death is always important, it shows the biggest challenges that should be immediately tackled jointly. Diseases that attack the circulatory system are by far the leading causes of death. These types of diseases are often linked to poor life circumstances and habits such as smoking, higher alcohol consumption, reduced physical activity, obesity, diet rich in saturated fats and insufficient fresh vegetable and fruit intake. The second most dangerous type of disease in the programme area is the neoplasms. Diseases of the respiratory system as well as the digestive system are also among the leading cause of death.

An important assessment is that the distribution of the healthcare institutions is uneven within the regions. There are counties – such as Chernivtsi or Satu Mare – where the majority of these institutions are located in the central, bigger cities meaning the accessibility and service provision of these centres are of great importance to support. Medical service is not every time accessible or available in remote areas in particular. However, in general relatively widespread network of hospitals and health care institutions can be found in the programme area making opportunities for cooperation. The number of doctors reaches the EU's average (37 doctors per 10 000 people) only in the three Ukrainian regions and in Košice region. One of the main reasons for the understaffing of doctors is the emigration of medical personnel to external regions.

Cross-border rescue and the free movement of the ambulances is an often-discussed issue with paramount importance. Despite the fact that there is an unquestionable need for it in the programme area – especially in territories where a hospital is considerably closer on the other side of the border – currently, ambulances are only allowed to drive within the Schengen area without control. However, in the case of non-Schengen borders (with Romania and Ukraine) there is an obligatory control, which significantly slows down the rescue. In addition, border controls are not the only obstacle in smooth cross-border rescue, but a lack of harmonized legal and administrative procedures also blocked so far the realisation of this initiative. Thus, underdeveloped cross-border rescue procedures should be named as a major challenge to tackle within the region as there is definitely a need for cross-border rescue at several border sections. Furthermore, the question of cooperation is also often raised in relation to rescue with helicopters as currently, the helicopters meet at the border and hand over the patient to one another, a practice whose efficiency is questionable.

Even though medical tourism lies on the border of health care and tourism, it was thought to be important to briefly consider for the benefit of the future cross-border programme since if developments are carried out for the sake of inviting more medical tourists in the region that will undoubtedly have a spill-over effect and raise the quantity and quality of healthcare provision for the locals too.

The latest new Coronavirus crisis has shed light on the transboundary relevance of cooperation in epidemiological issues. The high number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and cumulative deaths per million people have also showed that it might be more efficient if the coordination of the handling of such epidemics would not exclusively be organised on a national level, but rather on a cross-border way with regions bearing similarities working more closely together.

Considering COVID-19, there is a general consensus about the negative present and predicted long-term impacts on people already experiencing poverty and social vulnerability. Access to health care has become more elementary than only a few quarter years earlier. The crisis highlighted the importance of social inclusion for vulnerable groups. Projections suggest that the social impacts of the health and economic crisis are likely to be quite significant.

Tourism and culture have important role in supporting the livelihood and interethnic dialogue of people within the region. The distribution of nature protected areas and the cultural sites nicely cover almost the whole border region, which call for joint management and development covering a large variety of assets of international relevance from UNESCO World Heritage sites (e.g. wooden churches, beech forests, Tokaj wine region) to theatres and museums.

Religious tourism has always been a key point of the analysed area. Today, it overgrew the face value of organised pilgrimages and church visits and religious tourism expresses the connection of cultural and heritage tourism with sacred sites, churches, monasteries and abbeys but not only due to their spiritual value but also because they are important monuments and ecclesiastical buildings. Several related pilgrim routes, churches and monasteries serve the economic and social cohesion of the region. However, further developments – such as the better inclusion of the Slovakian territories – are also needed.

Despite of numerous cultural events and festivals, weak international visibility is a hindering factor with regard to creating real tourism attractions with international or cross-border appeal. Thus, a closer cooperation could be achieved. Multilingualism still falls short.

In connection with the number of guests what is also indicative of the size of tourism and the valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage is the number of nights the guests spend in the given region. There are large inequalities in terms of attractiveness taking into account guest nights. The most attractive regions for tourists are Prešov and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county where the number of guests per 1 000 inhabitants were 1 132 and 947 respectively. The other regions could have only low number of guest nights. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county and Satu Mare county fall in the same category attracting 250-500 guests (per 1 000 inhabitants), while Maramureş and Suceava are reaching a better rate (500-750). The three Ukrainian regions can also be listed in the same cluster, having the least visitors; their ratio per 1 000 inhabitants did not even reach 100. Excluding Prešov and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén the total number of guest nights can also be considered relatively low. Apart from Košice, Prešov and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg the share of foreign visitors do not exceed 21%, and is barely reached in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. In most of programme area an increase in guest nights is observable. The patterns are similar to that of the guest nights spent in the region. Prešov (728) has the highest number of accommodations by far and here the number increased significantly from 2008 to 2018. Suceava also has 460 accommodations while Košice 340. The end of the scale is Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county with only 148 registered accommodations. Košice region is the only from the analysed territory where a decrease in the number of accommodation is observable between 2008 and 2018.

The governance of the region faces several challenges and potentials. Along with the actual regions, cross-border bodies have also been formed in the analysed area, which consist of regional and local governments, municipalities. The region shows examples of innovative, long-term and institutionalised cooperation forms, i.e. Euroregions and European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation. However, low number of such bodies operates with the participation of Ukraine. The better involvement of Ukrainian partners would serve stronger cohesion and more coordinated management and territorial development of the border region along with the European integration goal of Ukraine. The Euroregions and EGTCs have had important territorial cooperation initiatives in relation to thematically heterogeneous actions.

Based on their past experience and needs, they can be important stakeholders in strengthening cohesion in promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage, climate adaptation, waste management and disaster prevention, IT, P2P, educational cooperation, and many other relevant fields for the border region. Limited capacities and difficulties in partnership building however create difficulties for such organisations to be successful.

Functional areas in the sense of social cohesion

- **Network of cultural heritage:** a network of joint and complementary built heritage, cultural heritage sites such as historical monuments, castles, palaces, art nouveau buildings or folk art/rural architectural form a colourful but coherent territory that could be positioned and advertised for tourists. Also the tourism built on the religious sites and heritage belongs here together with the network of churches of different denominations.
- **Network of natural heritage:** the network of sites rich in natural values such as different nature protection areas are and could be the prime locations for thematic routes such as cross-border routes with a network approach which thematically connect and territorially integrate different points of interest, attractions, infrastructure, products, services and stakeholders from both sides of the border in relation to at least a single tourism branch/sector. This could be for instance the active tourism with different hiking, cycling, kayaking etc. options.
- **Spa and health tourism functional area:** the abundance of thermal and mineral water sources scattered around the programme area can act as a real connecting power if these are correctly capitalised on through a cooperative and not competitive approach. Also, there are synergies between the spa and medical tourism offers between the different regions that could be tied in to a more comprehensive network of preventive and recovery services.
- **Universities of medicine and hospitals in the border region:** the universities of medicine (such as the Faculties of Medicine at the Uzhhorod National University, the Debrecen University and the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University) create a knowledge triangle in which joint research and dissemination of information could take place. Similarly, the hospitals located in the region can cooperate with each other and with the universities as well and also strive to enlarge their range of activities to territories which are more function deficient.
- **Places and cooperation networks of telemedicine and remote diagnostics:** in the Ukrainian regions – compared to the other regions of the programme – there are a relatively higher number of medical personnel which could be employed to cover a larger, cross-border area through technologies of telemedicine. Furthermore, with the cooperation of universities and larger hospitals, certain diagnostic centres could be established specialised for those illnesses that are the most prevalent in the region; here the collected samples could be sent and subsequently analysed this way providing a higher quality of healthcare service for patients living in more remote areas. At the current stage of cross-border integration of the programme area, the functional region of health care could be only defined by the related institutions, so it could be understood as a network of interoperable spots.

Joint intervention needs related to social cohesion

- PO4 SOi: Tackling unemployment of a cross-border level; Harmonisation and cooperation in the field of cross-border employment and related services;
- PO4 SOiii: Social inclusion of peripheral communities of small remote villages and border areas; Social inclusion of Roma communities;
- **PO4 SOv** (health care) according to the Rationale for SOs:
 - o Prevention of widespread causes of death (cardiovascular and neoplastic diseases in particular);
 - o Creation of joint procedures for fighting pandemics;

- o Creation of the legislative, administrative and technical framework for cross-border rescue;
- o Telemedicine, cross-border ambulance service, regional centers;
- o Cross-border elderly care, silver economy;
- o Establishment and development of specialised centers offering high quality treatment;
- o Joint initiatives and projects based on the existing institutional background;
- o Attracting and keeping talent in the cross-border region, provision of attractive career model in the region in relation to medical employees;
- **PO4 SOvi** (tourism and culture) according to the Rationale for SOs:
 - o Creating cross-border networks and thematic routes based on the cultural heritage sites;
 - o Creating cross-border networks and thematic routes based on the religious sites, joint renovation projects;
 - o Creation of a cross-border 'heritage watch' dedicated to the preservation of the built heritage from further decay;
 - o Establishment joint marketing strategies and platforms for cultural tourism;
 - o Organizing cross-border events and festivals;
 - o Creating cross-border thematic routes and services for active tourism (hiking, skiing, cycling, rowing etc.);
 - o Creation of longer holiday plans offering several sites from each counties of the programme area;
 - o Developing medical tourism based on thermal and mineral springs;
 - o Establishment of cross-border medical tourism facilities;
 - o Supporting multilingualism in tourism and culture;
- **ISO1:**
 - o Creation of the legislative, administrative and technical framework for cross-border rescue;
 - o Organizing cross-border events and festivals;
 - o Supporting multilingualism in the region.

1.2.2 Lessons learnt from past experience

The first phase evaluation of the previous ENI CBC Programme (2014-2020) drafted a set of recommendations, most of them are valid for the current Interreg Programme (2021-2027). The relevant recommendations below address two distinct fields (indicated by bold letters):

1. Programme procedures

- 1.1 Compensation of the delay
 - Speed up the processes
 - Train the beneficiaries on the use of the IMIS
 - Improve internal communication
- 1.2 Better performance
 - Ensure stricter monitoring over the projects
 - Monitor the implementation of the LIP projects with special attention
 - Enhance the branch offices
 - Facilitate better-based partnerships through a partner evaluation system
 - Improve the beneficiaries' communication capacities
 - Improve the cross-border character of the projects

- Promote the best practice examples
- Follow up the level of contribution to EUSDR

2. Lessons-to-go for the design of the next programme

2.1 Strategic framework

- Ensure a more balanced geographic coverage in the programme
- Ensure untroubled transition to the next programme
- Re-consider the current set of the priorities
- Improve the permeability of the border through cross-border infrastructural

developments

- Involve the selected beneficiaries in the designing of the next programme

2.2 Tools

- Keep the practice of advance payment
- Plan the TA budget with special concern
- Keep the tool of the strategic projects
- Apply the tool of small project fund

In order to unfold the **experiences and insights of the local stakeholders** on the cross-border programmes, a stakeholder consultation has been carried out within the planning process. The primary aim was to gather information from the local stakeholders on a number of issues such as their opinion about the previous programme; preferences regarding the new programme; existing potential project ideas and their opinion on the tools and solutions which can be applied by the programme.

The two biggest difficulties stakeholders experienced when participating in the programme were mostly structural: the unavailability of the required own contribution and the experienced delay in the application procedures. Then the lack of partners, inappropriate scope of supported actions and lack of capacity (mostly lack of language skills) in the organization were considered as the other primary problem points.

Several respondents felt that the administration is overcomplicated and thus the preparation of the projects are too time consuming and requiring too much human resources which is paired with a lengthy approval process. Somewhat in connection with this it was identified as a serious problem that the reporting rate is fixed for the month of reporting. Furthermore, during the application process there is no possibility to consult with professional reviewers to channel in their insights.

The survey intended to shed light on the extent the respondents felt that the priorities of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 corresponded with the programme area's territorial needs. They were offered a 1 to 4 scale to rate each priority and an option to indicate whether they are not familiar enough with the given priority to give an informed assessment. The "TO3-P1: Promoting local culture and historical heritage along with tourism functions" is the priority that reflects the best the local needs as it received a somewhat outstanding 3.24 mark. The second best was the TO8-P1 (Disasters) with 3.08, the third the TO6-P1 (Environment) with 3.05.

The respondents were asked to rate on a 1 to 4 scale the extent the Large Infrastructure Projects. On average it seems that the respondents were satisfied with this tool as they rated its adequacy at 3.26. A question targeted to assess the general opinion of the respondents on the effectiveness of the application of three innovative tools. The country level responses show that the Small Project Fund is almost equally popular in all four countries with an overall rate of 3.55.

According to the **Joint paper on "Interreg NEXT Strategic programming 2021-2027"**, proposed by the European Commission and the European External Actions Service (EEAS), in comparison to the internal ETC programmes, the given programme on EU external borders faces additional complexities. During the previous programming periods, such programmes experienced delays, which significantly reduced the time for the real implementation on the ground.

“Result Oriented Monitoring exercise on ENI CBC 2014-2020” concludes that emphasis should be put on communication about the unique governance model of the ENI CBC widely to raise its awareness among EU and national stakeholder and decisions makers. Certain findings and recommendations outlined by the ROM report have been confirmed also by the programme and partner countries stakeholders who answered to the consultation launched in April 2019 during the ENI CBC Annual event by TESIM. Based on that, simplified procedures and rules, appropriate financial allocation and strengthened synergies with other instruments/initiative are key areas to successful implementation.

1.2.3 Synergies with macro-regional strategies

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is one of the four macro-regional strategies targeting the European Territorial Cooperation objective, adopted by the European Commission, and endorsed by the European Council. It provides an integrated framework for strengthening cooperation between nations of 14 countries including both Member States (e.g. Hungary, Slovakia and Romania) and non-EU countries (e.g. Ukraine).

The synergy analysis on the connection between the Interreg NEXT Programme and the EUSDR is based on the document named “Embedding EUSDR into EU funds. A comprehensive tool.” This tool was developed in order to fully embed the EUSDR into the EU funds.

Proposed SOs → PAs of the EUSDR ↓	PO2-SO4 climate change adaptation and risk prevention	PO2-SO7 biodiversity and reducing pollution	PO4-SO4 equal access to health care	PO4-SO5 culture and sustainable tourism	ISO1-2 Institutional cooperation
PA 1a Waterway mobility					
PA 1b Rail- Road-Air Mobility				+	+
PA 2 Sustainable Energy					
PA 3 Culture and Tourism, People to People				++	
PA 4 Water quality	++	++			
PA 5 Environmental risks	++	+			
PA 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils	+	++			
PA 7 Knowledge Society					+
PA 8 Competitiveness of enterprises					+
PA 9 People and skills			+		
PA 10 Institutional Capacity and Cooperation			++		++

Proposed SOs → PAs of the EUSDR ↓	PO2-SO4 climate change adaptation and risk prevention	PO2-SO7 biodiversity and reducing pollution	PO4-SO4 equal access to health care	PO4-SO5 culture and sustainable tourism	ISO1-2 Institutional cooperation
PA 11 Security					

Based on the synergy analysis, a strong and, compared to other SOs numerous, synergic connections can be found in relation to PO2-SO4 and PO2-SO7. The proposed SOs both have two direct connections and an indirect connection to the PAs, and they cover the identical PAs, namely ‘PA 4 Water quality’, ‘PA 5 Environmental risks’, and ‘PA 6 Biodiversity and landscapes, quality of air and soils’. Except for the notable cross-connections in relation to the aforementioned two SOs, the proposed SOs are in line with limited number of PAs of the EUSDR. Nevertheless, for each selected SOs of the CBC Programme at least one synergic connection can be detected to the shortlisted EUSDR actions.

Owing to the streamlined and focused character of the selected SOs as well, significant number of EUSDR’s PAs have no direct connection with the SOs of the Programme (PA 1a Waterway mobility; PA 1b Rail-Road-Air Mobility; PA 2 Sustainable Energy; PA 9 People and skills).

In the case of the above described thematic synergies, the Programme can facilitate the implementation of the Danube Strategy's objectives through the application of one or more of the following tools:

- Specific selection criteria benefiting MRS
- Targeted calls for proposals
- Inclusion of the transnational component
- Joint or synchronised call for proposals
- Complementary projects
- Labelling projects

1.2.4 Synergies with other funding programmes and instruments

There are mainly three types of programmes and instruments by territorial level that can be listed when it comes to synergies with the HU-SK-RO-UA. Firstly, the EU programmes are designed to contribute to joint activities on EU and international level covering several countries and regions. These sources of financing applies for every Member State; Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The participation and eligibility for Ukraine is limited in them owing to its status as a non-Member State. However, thanks largely to the full implementation of the Association Agreement in September 2017, cooperation areas such as foreign and security policy, justice, freedom and security (including migration) taxation, public finance management, science and technology, education and information society have been either emerged or reinforced. The major forms of such EU-wide programmes in relation to Ukraine cover the Erasmus+ programme and the Horizon 2020 Programme. Furthermore EU level contribution in relation to Ukraine include the House of Europe programme (professional, cultural and youth exchanges, artistic cooperation), the EU4Business initiative, the Ukrainian Energy Efficiency Fund. In addition, large-scale support to Ukraine’s governance reform via programmes on decentralisation (U-LEAD with Europe), anti-corruption (EUACI), the rule of law (PRAVO), public administration reform (EU4PAR) and public finance management (EU4PFM) should be named. As part of Team Europe, the EU has mobilised a tailor-made COVID-19 response package for Ukraine using a mix of existing and new funds to deliver concrete support. This includes support to health sector and emergency needs, to civil society, and to SMEs and small farms, among others.

Secondly, it is worth taking into account the designated INTERREG CBC programmes covering NUTS III regions of participating countries, from two countries each case. The objectives selected by the given programmes may be in line with or supplement the ones set up in HU-SK-RO-UA To point out possible cross-relations, the following table shows the border relations which affect the realisation of potential shared priorities of the respective programmes. Accordingly, five border relations of the participating counties/regions can be set up within the programme area. However, it has to be noted that a partner from Ukraine is mandatory.

County	HU-UA	SK-UA	RO-UA	HU-SK	RO-HU
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County				+	
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County	+			+	+
Maramureş County			+		
Satu-Mare County			+		+
Suceava County			+		
Košický Region		+		+	
Prešovský Region		+			
Chernivetska Region			+		
Ivano-Frankivska Region			+		
Zakarpatska Region	+	+	+		

Thirdly, various national development plans in line with the general content of the selected SOs of the programme can be added to the list. They can offer additional leg of funding and secure the inland, national part of cross-border developments of the programme area and the jointly shared transboundary functional areas.

1.3. Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(3)

Table 1

Selected policy objective or Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
PO2	iv) promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches	A resilient and green border region	<p>The region is exposed to negative consequences of the climate change to a higher degree than the global average. Therefore, coordinated actions which would support joint preparation are required for timely and efficient mitigation of the effects of climate change. Climate change amplifies existing and causes new natural disasters in the region.</p> <p>All participating countries are affected by the natural and human-made disasters of the functional area of the Tisza River Basin.</p> <p>Among natural disasters hydrological events and climate-related disasters have the highest cross-border relevance. Out of these floods are responsible for the highest share of events. A common challenge is that this region is one of the most flood-prone regions in Europe. In the case of 5 counties (Chernivetska, Maramureş, Satu-Mare, Suceva, Zakarpatska), more than 20 flood events were registered since 1998. At the same time, other 5 counties (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Ivano-Frankivska, Košický, Prešovský, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) are also parts of Europe that is severely affected by floods. In the last decades, several transboundary projects were implemented on flood risk management. These initiatives should be continued and new ones should be developed, based on previous findings as well.</p> <p>Apart from flood-related events weather extremities intensifying with climate change also affect several areas either by drought, hail, storms, forest fires and geophysical disasters across the programme area. Carpathian landscapes as well as Pannonian and Continental ones face joint climate-related challenges of similar kind within each transboundary landscapes.</p>

Selected policy objective or Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>Damage prevention and joint risk management have high cross-border importance. Natural and human-made factors together often create devastating disasters in at least two countries' regions. Pollutants entering rivers due to heavy rainfall, especially in the case of the Tisza and its tributaries (e.g. cyanide pollution or the extreme salt concentration), require a rapid response and the sharing of knowledge and capacity.</p> <p>The SO enjoys the second highest support from the stakeholders concerning how much the given objective meet the territorial needs of the border area. Forms of flood prevention, mitigation of the effects of extreme high water levels and droughts have massive support.</p>
PO2	vii) enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	A resilient and green border region	<p>The protection and management of common natural values are relevant in several respects within the programme area. Nature reserves are often transboundary and species and habitats (especially Carpathian and water habitats) take on a different configuration from administrative boundaries. Central and large landscapes, biogeographical regions such as the Carpathian Range or the Pannonian Plains are shared by several states, their natural values and challenges are very similar. The management of each of the differently regulated, classified and protected areas, the coordination of the nature and environmental protection activities on them, the development of ecological corridors and green infrastructures still require serious efforts from the partners. Biodiversity is under threat by joint challenges of deforestation, illegal logging, spread of invasive species, soil degradation, aridification in particular.</p> <p>Impact of man-made disasters spread and escalates quickly in the region owing to the highly transboundary hydrogeographical and biogeographical features of the region in the form of Carpathian forests, catchment areas and river basins. Especially pollution of air and water is relevant from cross-border point of view. Water bodies play a decisive role in spreading human-made pollution (such as pollution of the upper section of the Tisza has a good chance of spreading to the lower sections of the river as well) and adverse effects of certain industrial activities (mining, metallurgy, etc.) spread across borders, too. Water pollution due to unresolved communal waste management and wastewater treatment is of paramount relevance.</p>

Selected policy objective or Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>Based on the stakeholder opinions in the conducted survey possible interventions of this SO are the most supported ones with regard to how much the given priority meet the territorial needs of the border area. The most frequently mentioned topics are waste-related ones, of which pollution of rivers is a major subtopic. Other relatively important topics are connected to natural values with subtopics of conservation of species and habitats, creation of cross-border protection areas. In addition, the need for concrete joint development and management projects and plans, the call for the cooperation of authorities and other public bodies were also underlined.</p>
PO4	<p>v) ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care</p>	<p>A healthy and attractive border region</p>	<p>Relatively low life expectancy in the related regions highlight the relevance of joint actions regarding health development and prevention activities. Healthcare cooperation deserves special attention as the preserve of good health as well as the efficient treatment of the diseases is vital for the society in the region. This is why cross-border cooperation is essential through the exchange of knowledge, joint trainings, publishing bilingual dictionaries, investments in telemedicine etc. Cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms are among the leading causes of death in each region, so the need for cooperation in this area is the clearest. Furthermore, there are a number of legal-administrative obstacles to the joint organization of healthcare, cross-border patient care and emergency rescue, which need to be resolved, especially for the non-EU member Ukraine. Thus, cross-border rescue and the free movement of the ambulances is an often discussed issue with paramount importance. The programme can help identify barriers, build partnerships for care organization, develop prevention activities, and develop health-related social programs (e.g. health promotion campaigns). An important assessment is that the distribution of the healthcare institutions is uneven within the regions, which hampers equal access to healthcare infrastructure and services.</p>

Selected policy objective or Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>As part of the survey conducted several opinions pointed out that it is necessary to distribute and share medical infrastructural devices, equipment as well as knowledge. In the recent COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the importance of cooperation in solving emergency care. It has been highlighted that there is a need for joint preparation for similar situations and institutionalised exchange of experiences in handling a regional or global pandemic or other mass health hazard situation that might happen in the region. A considerable number of respondents said that different prevention programmes and campaigns would be helpful in increasing the knowledge and responsibility of the individuals to take care of their own health. Involving the people in healthier lifestyles including the participation in regular screening programmes could ameliorate the devastating statistics regarding cardiovascular diseases among others.</p>
PO4	vi) enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	A healthy and attractive border region	<p>Culture and tourism could be important drivers of regional economic development and growth in the region, as cultural roots and heritage show similarities from World Heritage Sites (e.g. beech forests, wooden churches) through shared historical past as well as the affluence of festivals and cultural events and lively cultural life.</p> <p>The programme area is suitable for the development of common or joint tourism products based of cultural, religious, eco- and health tourism especially.. The sector needs extensive and comprehensive preservation and development of historical traditions and architectural assets.</p> <p>There is a major need to fill the shortcomings of the cross-border tourism infrastructure and service offer of the programme area as tourism is very concentrated on few destinations, while many regions especially in Ukraine seems unable to valorise their assets. There are still large inequalities within the programme area in terms of capitalisation on natural and cultural heritage of the region despite of shared elements. A trend of significant growth of tourism across the majority of the area has been witnessed; however a challenge is to increase the number of stays across the region.</p> <p>Strengthening of marketing and information providing activities is also listed as a huge development need; new tourist directions, recreational, historical, cultural and natural events and resources need to be popularized.</p>

Selected policy objective or Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>There have been positive experiences in cooperation in this field in the past programme.</p> <p>The role of tourism and culture in social inclusion could be further supported since there are large parts of the region which have outstanding attractions with large share of people with poverty and disabilities in less visited, often border areas.</p> <p>According to the votes of the webinars, cooperation for safe tourism in the post-COVID-19 period was ranked as the most important among the cooperation opportunities, which seems to be equally important for all countries. Tourism is one of the sectors which are the most affected by the pandemic, which makes the sector a key in recovery.</p>
ISO1	b) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions	A cooperating region	<p>EGTCs and Euroregions, among others, give great examples to cooperation between regional and local governments, municipalities in particular. The programme can help in the most frequent difficulties the related stakeholders encounter when participating in the programme; the lack of capacity in the organization and the lack of partner(s). The objective reflects the focus of the Programme on the exchange of experiences and capacity building among actors.</p> <p>While a number of needs could be satisfied by actions under the selected objectives in the framework of the thematic concentration, many relevant cooperation needs do not fit to these objectives. Still, enhancing the cooperation in these fields would be desirable. The projects are small-scale and diverse, so that the volume of them in each topic is not sufficient for a dedicated SO. The ISO can enhance cooperation in important fields to the actors such as cross-border inter-municipal cooperation, RDI and creation of products with high added-value, capacity building and knowledge transfer related to the cooperation of entrepreneurs and smart specialisation strategies, educational cooperation, and to a great extent, cultural cooperation and citizens' cooperation (P2P). To serve this goal, ISO1 ii is the most suitable one, allowing for a wide range of partners to participate in the cooperation.</p>

Selected policy objective or Interreg-specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>In addition, one of the main goals of the SO is to identify and to support the overcome of legal and administrative obstacles which hampers many potential areas of cooperation from cross-border rescue through cross-border transport development to border control. Harmonised solutions as well as enhanced and new forms of cooperation would significantly improve the overall cohesion of the whole area regardless thematic focus to tackle joint challenges and utilize joint potentials lie in SME and business development, entrepreneurship and digitisation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, education, with focus on vocational training, inclusion of marginalized communities, coordination of transport development, operation of border guard and customs services especially.</p>

2. Priorities

Reference: points (d) and (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1. A resilient and green border region

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

Text field: [300]

2.1.1. SO iv) promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective predominantly by increasing preparedness and resilience of the region to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, extreme temperatures (such as heatwaves), landslides and ice jams on rivers as well as man-made disasters, such as industrial disasters and forest fires. Additionally, actions are expected to contribute to the mitigation of the impacts of the climate change.

Type of Actions 1.1.

Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change and human threats on nature: technical preparation of common infrastructure development projects and implementation of common interest infrastructure development projects

The aim of this Type of Action is to promote the implementation of targeted development that help increase the level of the responsive capacities of the relevant institutions to human-made and natural threats and disasters and adverse impacts of the climate change.

Possible activities can include, but are not limited to:

- *implementation of infrastructure development projects in order to increase preparedness for natural and human-made threats and/or disasters and adverse impacts (existing or potential) of the climate change including*
 - *Joint interventions and prevention activities aimed to mitigate the effects of extreme weather conditions with increased frequency due to climate change (e.g. prevention of floods, retention of waters to reduce the negative effects of droughts, monitoring and protection of cross-border ground water bodies);*
 - *Joint interventions and prevention activities aimed to mitigate natural and human-made environmental risks, including the protection of forests (e.g reforestation programs, joint measures to protect forest from the negative effects of climate change, joint measures against illegal logging, etc), improvement of the chemical status of transboundary waters, increasing the intervention capacity in case of industrial accidents, etc.*

- *Develop specific monitoring and warning systems that enable the regional institutions to effectively forecast, monitor and manage adverse effects of the climate change and accidental natural and human-made disasters.*

Type of Actions 1.2.

Joint education, awareness raising and knowledge sharing activities in the field of climate change adaptation and risk prevention for better understanding, increasing preparedness and prevention

The aim of this Type of Action is to increase the capacities of local institutions and the formal and informal groups of the society, as well as of the individuals to understand and manage threats of natural and human-made disasters and the adverse impacts of the climate change.

Possible activities can include, but are not limited to:

- *Joint learning and knowledge-sharing actions to increase organisational capacity of relevant national and crossborder organisations, local and regional governments and civil organisations (NGOs);*
- *Information campaigns and public dissemination events targeting inhabitants, students or businesses (as local agricultural producers) of the border areas severely impacted by climate change risks or damages;*
- *Development of joint data collection instruments and creation of joint databases, based on primary data sources;*
- *Joint education events for children, such as fieldtrips, trainings, school events, joint outdoor programmes, thematic camps connected to climate change. This type of activities may be complemented with other horizontal elements which support cooperation in this specific field, such as mutual language-learning programs for participating students, sessions on digital “hygiene” (safe usage of internet tools and sources, etc).*

Type of Actions 1.3.

Development of common disaster management strategies and action plans to support the joint prevention, preparation and management of the potential disaster situations

The aim of this Type of Action is to boost strategic approaches across the border to allow for a better adaptive capacity to climate change and climate change-induced and human-made risks in the border region. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *development of partnership-based risk-management strategies and action plans at local and regional level. Any strategies and action plans can gain support only if are prepared with the involvement of relevant partners and the convincing commitment of these partners to consider these strategies and plans in their future operations.*

Type of Actions 1.4.

Small scale cooperation projects

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by providing experience of successful cooperation mainly for local level stakeholders that are not capable or not interested to get engaged in larger scale cooperative projects. Small projects will be of integrated nature, thus components of awareness raising, skills development, organisation of events, research and studies as well as minor development of local built infrastructure and procurement of small-scale equipment is foreseen to be eligible for funding in each small project to the extent it is necessary for the success of the project.

The Types of actions, as outlined above, promote the following objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR, as defined by the Action Plan (2020):

Priority Area 5 of the EUSDR “To manage environmental risks” targets inter alia

- at addressing the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the Danube River Basin Management Plan – Update 2015, the report on the impacts of droughts in the Danube Basin in 2015 (due in 2016) and the ongoing work in the field of climate adaptation,
- at providing and enhancing continuous support to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan – adopted in 2015 in line with the EU Floods Directive – to achieve significant reductions of flood risk events by 2021, also taking into account potential impacts of climate change and adaption strategies and
- at supporting the assessment of disaster risks in the Danube Region, encouraging actions to promote disaster resilience, preparedness and response activities in line with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Not applicable

2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), Article point (c)(iii)17(9)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
PO2	iv)	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders			
PO2	iv)	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed			
PO2	iv)	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions			
PO2	iv)	RCO 84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects			

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
PO2	iv)	RRCR84	Organisations cooperating						

			across borders after project completion						
PO2	iv)	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations						
PO2	iv)	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations						

2.1.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article point (e)(iii) of 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of the actions are

- the population in the programme area directly benefitting from the measures serving their improved safety and reduce their exposure to the impacts of the climate change
- public and semi-public institutions in the programme area, especially those in the field of environmental and nature protection, water management, forestry and emergency services by being involved in the actions and taking up the solutions developed in the projects, improving their capabilities and resilience

Following the principle of partnership, a variety of legal entities of the programme area will be able to contribute to the actions above as beneficiaries. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Local, regional or national public authorities, including thematic authorities on environment, nature, water and disaster management
- public or semi-public territorial agencies such as local or regional development agencies, environmental associations or energy agencies
- interest groups including civil organisations (NGOs), operational at regional and local level
- public or private organisations for higher education and research
- public or private and formal and informal educational institutions

2.1.1.4 Specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

Actions will be implemented throughout the entire programme area. Particularly vulnerable territories will be identified in the CfPs and will be preferred. No ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools will be used.

2.1.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument will be used.

2.1.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.1.2. SO vii) enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.1.2.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by supporting the proper protection and management of natural assets and the biodiversity of the region as well as helping reduce the burden of pollution on air, soil and waters of the area of the borders. Especially pollution of waters by poorly managed communal waste, contaminated soil on abandoned industrial and mining sites as well as contaminated transboundary groundwater bodies and transport-originated air-pollution will be in the focus of the actions.

Type of Actions 2.1.

Joint initiatives for ensuring the sustainable development of natural areas: technical preparation of common infrastructure development projects and implementation of common interest infrastructure development projects

Possible activities can include, but are not limited to:

- *Joint interventions for reconstruction/protection, restoration or revitalization of natural habitats, aimed to protect and restore local and regional ecosystems, improving biodiversity and connectedness of habitats.*
- *Creation of educational trails in nature, interconnected between the borders (either geographically or by thematic focus);*
- *Re-introduction of native species to cross-border habitats, control of invasive species;*

- Joint interventions to map pollution sources and/or development of up-to-date solutions to eliminate or reduce various pollution sources and pollutants from air, soil, or water

- Develop specific joint monitoring systems that enable the regional institutions to effectively forecast, monitor and manage changes in status of environmental elements and biodiversity, including the development of warning mechanisms for pollution.

Type of Actions 2.2.

Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity

The aim of this Type of Action is to increase the capacities of relevant local institutions, the formal and informal groups of the society and the individuals to understand the importance and to manage natural assets and biodiversity, ecological approaches and networks. Additionally, increased capacity to understand main drivers, mechanisms and potential tools and measures to reduce or eliminate pollution of environmental elements – with a focus on surface- and groundwater bodies, soil and air - across the border is expected, as result of the actions implemented. Possible activities can include, but are not limited to:

Organisation of information campaigns, social events, online events on the sustainable use of natural resources,

- Implementing joint awareness raising programs, with the objective of developing environmental awareness, understanding the impact of human consumption and other activities in the deterioration of natural habitats in order to develop environmental consciousness.

- Joint learning and knowledge-sharing activities in the field of environment and nature protection, aimed to increase organisational capacity of relevant national and cross-border organisations, local and regional competent public institutions (including public administration, if the case) and civil organisations

- Joint education events for children, such as fieldtrips, trainings, school events, joint outdoor programmes (e.g. hiking, camping, birdwatching), thematic camps for children/youth connected to nature and environmental protection, This type of activities may be complemented with other horizontal elements which support cooperation in this specific field, such as mutual language-learning programs for participating students, sessions on digital “hygiene” (safe usage of internet tools and sources, etc).

- Development of joint data collection instruments and creation of joint databases, based on primary data sources.

Type of Actions 2.3.

Development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution

The aim of this Type of Action is to boost strategic approaches across the border to allow for a better protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce the burden of pollution on these assets in the region. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *development of partnership-based integrated strategies and action plans on preserving, conservation and improving the biodiversity and habitats, ecological networks and corridors and the sustainable valorisation of natural assets (such as joint revitalization strategies and plans)*

- *development of partnership-based integrated strategies and action plans with regard to the reduce pollution of environmental elements – with a focus on surface- and groundwater bodies, soil and air.*

Any strategies and action plans can gain support only if are prepared with the involvement of relevant partners and the convincing commitment of these partners to consider these strategies and plans in their future operations.

Type of Actions 2.4.

Small scale cooperation projects

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by providing experience of successful cooperation mainly for local level stakeholders that are not capable or not interested to get engaged in larger scale cooperative projects. Small projects will be of integrated nature, thus components of awareness raising, skills development, organisation of events, research and studies as well as minor development of local built infrastructure and procurement of small-scale equipment is foreseen to be eligible for funding in each small project to the extent it is necessary for the success of the project.

The Types of actions, as outlined above, promote the following objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR, as defined by the Action Plan (2020):

Priority Area 6 “To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils” targets

- at improving management of Natura 2000 sites and other protect-ed areas through transnational cooperation and capacity building.
- at strengthening the efforts to halt the deterioration in the status of species and habitats occurring in the Danube Region and covered by EU nature legislation and in particular to continue the on-going work and efforts to securing viable populations of Danube sturgeon species.
- at reducing the introductions and spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Danube Region
- at maintaining and restoring Green and Blue Infrastructure elements through integrated spatial development and conservation planning.
- at improving and/or maintaining the soil quality in the Danube Region
- at decreasing air pollution in the Danube Region.

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Not applicable

2.1.2.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), Article point (c)(iii)17(9)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
PO2	vii)	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders			

PO2	vii)	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed				
PO2	vii)	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions				
PO2	vii)	RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects				

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
PO2	vii)	RRC84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion						
PO2	vii)	RRC79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations						
PO2	vii)	RRC104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations						

2.1.2.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article point (e)(iii) of 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of the actions are

- the population in the programme area directly benefitting from the measures resulting in the better conditions of natural assets and biodiversity, better ecosystem services and cleaner environment.
- public and semi-public institutions in the programme area, especially those in the field of environmental (air-, soil, water) protection by being involved in the actions and taking up the solutions developed in the projects, improving their capabilities and resilience

Following the principle of partnership, a variety of legal entities of the programme area will be able to contribute to the actions above as beneficiaries. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Local, regional or national public authorities, including thematic authorities on environment, nature, water management
- public or semi-public territorial agencies such as local or regional development agencies, environmental associations
- interest groups including civil organisations (NGOs), operational at regional and local level
- public or private organisations for higher education and research

- public or private and formal and informal educational institutions

2.1.2.4 Specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

Activities shall be implemented in the entire programme region.

Regarding preserving and restoring biodiversity, a special focus shall be given to the region's sensitive and protected areas such as national parks or Natura 2000 sites as core elements of a transnational biotope network, and the areas interlinking them as they are crucial to enhance the cross-border connectivity of protected areas and biotopes and related ecosystem services. Additionally, also not protected areas with valuable natural assets, particularly affected by environmental pressure and/or having potential for restoring the region's biodiversity are to be given priority. No ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools will we used.

2.1.2.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instruments will be used.

2.1.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.2. A healthy and attractive border region

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

Text field: [300]

2.2.1. SO v) ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care;

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.2.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by building the capacities of the stakeholders in the healthcare sector to act effectively together and across the borders in epidemic and emergency situations, to improve accessibility of healthcare services by using digital technologies and by implementing joint programmes of healthcare screening and health promotion.

Type of Actions 3.1.

Creation of the legislative, administrative and technical framework for common epidemiological measures and the cross-border rescue services

The aim of this Type of Action is to make necessary framework conditions available for a meaningful cooperation of the relevant stakeholders of national healthcare systems. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *development of joint data collection and harmonisation methods and create joint databases*
- *studies to identify and elaborate solutions to unblock legal, administrative and technical obstacles of cooperation and to elaborate jointly applicable processes and protocols*
- *trainings, workshops and other cooperative learning events to construct, interpret, test and further develop cooperation processes and protocols*

Type of Actions 3.2.

Investments for improving cooperation in epidemiology and in cross-border rescue services

The aim of this Type of Action is to provide investment support for infrastructure developments (including refurbishment of buildings and purchase of equipment) necessary to pilot-test and operate joint services in the field of fight against epidemics and of provision of joint emergency services across the border(s). To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *infrastructure developments including the renewal of necessary parts of buildings and purchase of equipment for healthcare institutions*
- *trainings, workshops and other cooperative learning events to share information and experiences related to improved services*

Type of Actions 3.3.

Enhancing the use of digital technologies in healthcare and health development

The aim of this Type of Action is to boost the use of telemedicine solutions and digital technologies in healthcare and health development in order to improve the accessibility of medical and health development services. Actions are expected to result in cooperating crossborder networks of competent professionals on the basis of jointly elaborated procedures and protocols using digital technologies for remote diagnostics and consultation or supervision and some pilot investment in necessary small-scale investment, especially purchase of the necessary equipment. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *conducting targeted feasibility analyses on crossborder applicability of digital technologies in healthcare and health development*
- *trainings, workshops and other cooperative learning events to construct, interpret, test and further develop cooperation processes and protocols*
- *small-scale infrastructure developments (including and refurbishment of buildings and purchase of equipment) to pilot-test and operate joint services.*

Type of Actions 3.4.

Implementation of health screening and health promotion programmes

The aim of this Type of Action is to raise awareness and build up knowledge and awareness with regard to the prevention of diseases (with the focus on cardiovascular diseases) and the importance, methods and skills of health promotion and increase the efficiency of health prevention in the region. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *design and implementation of local and regional health screening programmes*
- *carry out local and regional awareness raising and training programmes on health prevention and health development*
- *implementation of skills development and training programmes on health prevention and health promotion*
- *infrastructure developments (including and refurbishment of buildings and purchase of equipment) necessary to pilot-test and operate joint programmes*

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Not applicable

2.2.1.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), Article point (c)(iii)17(9)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
PO4	v)	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed			
PO4	v)	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions			
PO4	v)	RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects			

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
PO4	v)	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations						
PO4	v)	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations						
PO4	v)	RCR85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion						

2.2.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article point (e)(iii) of 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of the actions are:

The population in the programme area directly benefitting from the better healthcare and emergency rescue services, especially population in isolated areas.

The public and semi-public organisations (hospitals, outpatient care institutions) in charge of providing healthcare services as well as non-governmental non-profit providers of healthcare and health development services in the border region by being involved in the actions or taking up solutions developed in the actions.

Following the principle of partnership, a variety of legal entities of the programme area will be able to contribute to the actions above as beneficiaries. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Local, regional or national public authorities, including thematic authorities on healthcare and health development
- public or semi-public territorial agencies such as local or regional development agencies,
- non-governmental civil organisations (NGOs), operational at regional and local level
- public or private organisations for higher education and research
- public or private and formal and informal educational institutions

2.2.1.4 Specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

Activities shall be implemented in the entire programme region. No ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools will be used.

2.2.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instruments will be used.
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2.2.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.2.2. SO (vi) enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.2.2.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by promoting cultural cooperation and increasing the tourism offer on the basis of the sustainable valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage assets of the region.
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Type of Actions 4.1.

Capacity development by data collection, knowledge sharing and training

The aim of this Type of Action is to increase the capacities of relevant local management institutions, the formal and informal groups of the society and the service providers involved in the tourism to manage tourism-related services in a more sustainable way and at a higher service level. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *collection of primary data, including development of methods of data harmonisation and creation of joint databases*
- *preparation and establishment of joint systems of visitor- and asset monitoring*

- *joint learning and knowledge-sharing actions to increase organisational knowledge of relevant national and crossborder organisations, local and regional governments and civil organisations (NGOs)*
- *trainings for stakeholders of the tourism sector on topics associated with environmental, social and financial sustainability, quality standards, healthcare regulations and general cooperative approaches in tourism*
- *studies, applied research and strategic and action planning with regard to the ways and potentials to exploit the region's natural and cultural heritage assets by sustainable tourism*

Type of Actions 4.2.

Development of common or joint tourism products, including development of cross-border networks and routes

The aim of this Type of Action is to help design, organise and establish crossborder networks of tourist attractions and provide common tools to market and reach these networks. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- preparation (conceptualise, design and organisation) of joint tourism products and jointly provided services (service packages), including preparation of crossborder thematic routes and networks of attractions and services
- investment (including technical design, feasibility analysis and implementation) in infrastructure necessary for the brand identity and the consistency of the quality of services in joint and networked cultural and natural heritage sites and the accessibility of the networked/connected sites by bike
- investment (including technical design, feasibility analysis and actual implementation) in infrastructure to
 - restore, upgrade or transform built elements of the cultural heritage appropriate for a contemporary use as cultural venues or tourist attraction sites
 - improve accessibility of new or existing touristic sites of cultural or natural heritage, including the provision of a barrier-free access to sites, provision of making digital guides, tutorials, exhibits or other digital means of information available, including multilingual services on sites and in networks or making soft mobility offers available, such as “solutions for the last mile”, mobility on demand, or improving public transport and connections of attractions by bike
- Establishment of joint platforms for marketing (including placement of offers, booking system, etc.) attractions, services and networks
- Facilitating the establishment of healthcare regulations and processes for tourism securing the health of every involved actor in epidemic situations

Type of Actions 4.3.

Promotion of local and regional cooperation in culture and arts

The aim of this type of action is to preserve and enrich the shared cultural traditions and to encourage the creation of new joint cultural and artistic products. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *organisation or creation of joint cultural and artistic events or products, including ones built on the basis of preserving and developing local cultural traditions*
- *trainings, workshops and other cooperative learning events to promote cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue*
- *investment in public cultural infrastructure to support preservation and development efforts*

Type of Actions 4.4.

Pilot actions to boost social innovation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups of the society in cultural activities, tourism services and projects

The aim of this Type of Action is to identify and test cooperative innovative approaches to the provision of cultural activities and tourism-related services locally, especially in less developed and peripheral locations, including ways and processes to involve individuals from vulnerable groups. To achieve this aim, indicative activities can be the following ones:

- *Selection, implementation and monitoring of innovative local projects*

Type of Actions 4.5.

Small scale cooperation projects

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by providing experience of successful cooperation mainly for local level stakeholders that are not capable or not interested to get engaged in larger scale cooperative projects. Small projects will be of integrated nature, thus components of awareness raising, skills development, organisation of events, research and studies as well as minor development of local built infrastructure and procurement of small-scale equipment is foreseen to be eligible for funding in each small project to the extent it is necessary for the success of the project.

The Types of actions, as outlined above, promote the following objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR, as defined by the Action Plan (2020):

Priority Area 3 “To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts” :

I. Developing sustainable tourism by developing sustainable forms of tourism (green tourist products and sustainable mobility solutions) and ensuring the sustainable preservation, conservation, socialization and contemporary interpretation of cultural heritage and natural values;

II. Science, research and new technologies in culture, tourism and people to people contacts by supporting the implementation of a harmonised monitoring system dedicated to sustainable tourism and cultural/natural heritage and promoting the exchange of practices and networking in the field of a.) Arts incl. contemporary arts b.) Support the creation of linkages and synergies between the cultural and creative sectors and the tourism sector;

III. Valorising, promoting and protecting the cultural heritage, inter alia by establishing the Danube Region as important European tourist destination, by promoting the development of quality products, infrastructure and innovative forms of tourism and culture by SMEs and public private partnerships and by promoting skilled labour workforce, education and skills development in the areas of tourism and culture for sustainable jobs in the region

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Not applicable

2.2.2.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), Article point (c)(iii)17(9)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
PO4	vi)	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed			
PO4	vi)	RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects			
PO4	vi)	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions			
PO4	vi)	RCO85	Participations in joint training schemes			

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
PO4	vi)	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations						
PO4	vi)	RCR85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion						
PO4	vi)	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations						
PO4	vi)	RCR81	Completion of joint training schemes						

2.2.2.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article point (e)(iii) of 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of the actions are:

The population in the programme area directly benefitting from the more active cultural life and the sustainable – more inclusive, more stable and environmentally less harmful – flow of tourists in the border area.

The public, private and civil (NGO) organisations and individuals providing tourism-related services or managing natural or cultural assets in the border region by being involved in the actions or taking up solutions developed in the actions.

Basically, all legal entities being able to contribute to the actions above are possible beneficiaries. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Local, regional or national public authorities
- Public cultural institutions
- civil and professional associations, including ones of professional artists and self-organising (“grassroots”) actors
- Interest groups including NGOs
- Institutions for higher education and research
- Educational institutions, training centres and schools
- Economic development institutions

2.2.2.4 Specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

Activities shall be implemented in the entire programme region. No territorial tools will be used.

2.2.2.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instruments will be used.

2.2.2.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

2.3. A cooperating region

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

Text field: [300]

2.3.1. b) enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

2.3.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Type of Actions 5.1.

Institutional cooperation between public and civil society organisations

The types of actions indicated in this section contribute to the specific objective by providing opportunity of cooperation for a wide range of partners in topics not being selected for the thematic concentration of the programme, but are relevant in the areas, especially for the exploration of opportunities for further topics of cooperation in the future.

Special area of priority within these types of actions is to enhance cooperation across the border to increase the economic performance of the region, mostly by

- creating and developing operational networks (like clusters, networks of science- and industrial parks and logistic centres) of relevant stakeholders and facilitating the sharing and transfer of knowledge
- collaborative development of place-based ways and methods of stimulating entrepreneurship in the border area, with emphasis on innovative approaches to and forms of economic activities that match specific local demand
- enhancing the transfer of knowledge among and building capacities of local authorities, business, academia and civil society in the field of smart specialization to build synergies and create added value by cross-border cooperation.

To enhance cooperation on these fields, at least one third of the budget allocated to the Priority “2.3.A cooperating region” is intended to be used to support viable projects that address the topics listed above. Possible activities can include, but are not limited to:

- *conducting preliminary studies and planning on future structures and areas of cooperation, including the preparation of strategic actions and projects to be implemented e.g. in the next period of programming*
- *exchanging experiences and sharing data and knowledge necessary to solving current cooperation problems or avoiding potential perspective conflicts or risks or to exploit opportunities jointly*
- *harmonising existing and developing new tools, methods, processes and procedures for a more effective and efficient cooperation, networking and for an enhanced institutional performance*

- *institutional level organisational development and skills development of staff for a more effective and efficient cooperation, networking and for an enhanced institutional performance*

Potential thematic fields of activities can include, but are not limited to:

- *smart specialization, entrepreneurship and business development, digitisation*
- *energy efficiency and renewable energy*
- *education, with focus on vocational training improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education*
- *socioeconomic inclusion of marginalized communities*
- *coordination of cross border transport development plans, including public transport developments and development of transport accessibility of the border stations*
- *operation of border guard and customs services*

The Type of actions, as outlined above, promote the following objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR, as defined by the Action Plan (2020):

Priority Area 10 “to step up institutional capacity and cooperation” targets

- at strengthening institutional capacities to improve decision-making and administrative performance.
- at increasing involvement of civil society and local actors for effective policy-making and implementation.
- at enhancing coordination and knowledge for better use of funding and to develop needs-based funding instruments

Most relevant actions are:

(Action nr. 2) “To facilitate the administrative cooperation of communities living in border regions”

(Action nr. 7) “To strengthen the involvement of civil society and local actors in the Danube Region”

Action nr. 8) “To enhance capacities of cities and municipalities to facilitate local and regional development”

For INTERACT and ESPON programmes:

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Not applicable

2.3.1.2 Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), Article point (c)(iii)17(9)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID [5]	Indicator	Measurement unit [255]	Milestone (2024) [200]	Final target (2029) [200]
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ISO1	b)	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders					
ISO1	b)	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders					

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
ISO1	b)	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion						

2.3.1.3 The main target groups

Reference: Article point (e)(iii) of 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target group is the citizens of the cooperating countries who experience the benefits of the cooperation– through public or civic organisations operating at local level. Thus, beneficiaries are predominantly

- National level public organisations and authorities, including their regional or local branches
- Local and regional public authorities or semi-public bodies
- Organisations managing specific territories (such as Euroregions and EGTCs)
- Public or civil economic development organisations, including chambers of commerce/trade/agriculture
- Public or civil educational institutions and training service provider organisations
- Civil (Non-governmental) organisations and other interest groups
- Public Higher Education institutions, universities, public research institutions
- public and civil bodies and institutions in charge of SME and economic development or innovation management
- public management bodies of business infrastructures (like industrial parks, science parks, etc.)

2.3.1.4 Specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

Activities shall be implemented in the entire programme region. No ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools will be used.

2.3.1.5 Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instruments will be used.

2.3.1.6 Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing

Priority no	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority No	Fund	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (f) of Article 17(3)

3.1 Financial appropriations by year

Reference: point (g)(i) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Table 7

Fund	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
ERDF (territorial cooperation goal)								
IPA III CBC ¹								
NDICI - CBC ¹								
IPA III ²								
NDICI ²								
OCTP ³								
Interreg Funds ⁴								
Total								

3.2 Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

Reference: point (f)(ii) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

¹ Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation.

¹ Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation.

² Interreg B and C.

² Interreg B and C.

³ Interreg B, C and D.

⁴ ERDF, IPA III, NDICI or OCTP, where as single amount under Interreg B and C.

Table 8

Policy objective No	Priority	Fund (as applicable)	Basis for calculation EU support (total eligible cost or public contribution)	EU contribution (a)=(a1)+(a2)	Indicative breakdown of the EU contribution		National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)	Contributions from the third countries (for information)	
					without TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a1)	for TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a2)		National public (c)	National private (d)				
	Priority 1	ERDF											
		IPA III CBC ¹											
		NDICI- CBC ¹											
		IPA III ²											
		NDICI ²											
		OCTP ³											
		Interreg Funds ⁴											
	Priority 2	(funds as above)											
	Total	All funds											
		ERDF											
		IPA III CBC											
		NDICI-CBC											
		IPA III											
		NDICI											
		OCTP											
		Interreg Funds											
	Total	All funds											

¹ Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation.

¹ Interreg A, external cross-border cooperation.

² Interreg B and C.

² Interreg B and C.

³ Interreg B, C and D.

⁴ ERDF, IPA III, NDICI or OCTP, where as single amount under Interreg B and C.

4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Reference: point (g) of Article 17(3)

Partners and their roles in the preparation of the Programme

In accordance with the multi-level governance principle, the involvement of partners was a central component throughout the development of the Programme. The programming process has been coordinated by the Programming Committee (PC) which was set up in April, 2020 and consists of relevant ministries and regional/county/local level organizations from Programme countries.

From Hungary these include: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department for Cross-border Cooperation Programmes (Managing Authority for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department for Water Diplomacy and the Danube Region Strategy, Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit Llc, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Council, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Council.

From Slovakia: Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of Slovak Republic (as National Authority for the HUSKROUA Programme), and as central coordination body (Central Coordinating Authority (CCA) Section); Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (Section of Economic Cooperation; Business Centre Department), Prešov Self-Governing Region (Department of Strategic Development and Project Management), Košice Self-Governing Region (Department of Regional Development, Spatial Planning and Environment)

From Romania: Ministry of Public Works Development and Administration (National Authority for the HUSKROUA Programme), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Satu Mare County Council, Maramures County Council, Suceava County Council

From Ukraine: Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministry of Ukraine (National Authority for the HUSKROUA Programme), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Transcarpathian Regional State Administration, Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration, Chernivtsi Regional State Administration.

Representatives of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme (hereinafter referred to as JTS) (including Branch Offices) are taking part at the PC meetings in a coordinative and professional supportive function.

The programming process also included advisors from central and local level as well as representatives of civil society that offered valuable input into the programming process. The PC is/was extended with the participation and included advisors also in line with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 code of conduct on partnership and also once the policy objectives are selected. From Hungary the advisor institutions were already presented in the PC: Secretariat of Danube Regional Strategy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department for Water Diplomacy and the Danube Region Strategy). The representative of the European Commission and experts of the TESIM Project were invited to the meeting of the PC as advisors.

The key milestones of the programming process:

- PC meetings with the participation of the PC members
- external experts prepared preparing the Inception Report
- advisors and experts drafting the Territorial analysis
- the external expert team drafting Chapter 2 “Priorities” of IP document as well as strategic environmental assessment experts (SEA experts)
- other Chapters like Communication, Implementation, Responsibilities are made internally but approved by the Programming Committee

The role of the PC – besides steering and strategically coordinating the planning process – was to discuss and approve the major milestones and outputs of the programming process (territorial analysis, SEA, working documents related to the strategy and the content of the draft Interreg Programme).

In order to ensure satisfactory level of territorial ownership and in line with the principle of inclusive partnership, the relevant stakeholders of partner countries, including civil society organisations and local authorities, were duly consulted. They had timely access to relevant information allowing them to play a meaningful role during the design, and influence the implementation and monitoring processes of the future Programme.

Due to the security measures applied by the four governments during the COVID pandemic, their involvement has been carried out through a series of online workshops, interviews and online public consultation in order to generate an active dialogue with them (e.g. identifying local challenges and development needs, concrete actions and project ideas, existing and potential applicants and cooperation networks etc.).

Online surveys in 4 national languages were sent online to wide range of stakeholders to around 700 contacts. Online workshops for the discussion of the territorial analysis were organised for involvement of the stakeholders in the programming process as follows:

Hungary: 16th of November, 2020

Romania: 19th of November, 2020

Ukraine: 19th of November, 2020

Slovak Republic: 20th of November, 2020

The workshops and the online surveys resulted with in the territorial analysis, which then served a solid base for further work on the selection of policy objectives and shaping the Interreg Programme document.

The public was informed about the programming process on multiple outlets; mainly on the website of the previous programme and the website of the external experts company.

Partners and their roles in the implementation of the Programme

Partners from participating countries shall be involved in implementation of the Programme, including their participation in the Monitoring Committee. The MC will be supervising the Programme and its performance and makes decisions accordingly.

The partner countries intend to ensure close cooperation between partners in participating countries and with the private and other sectors. The composition of the monitoring committee shall be agreed by the partner countries and shall ensure a balanced representation of:

- the relevant authorities, including intermediate bodies;
- representatives of the programme partners referred to in Article (6) of Regulation (EU) CPR from partner states and according to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

The setup will be ensured by nomination of the partner countries The MC shall adopt its rules of procedure which shall include provisions on its functioning, on rights and obligations, on voting rights and rules for attending the meetings as well as means and tools to deal with conflict of interest. The rules of procedures shall be made public as per Article 28.4 of the Interreg Regulation.

The list of the members will be published on the website.

To ensure better involvement of the Programme Partners in the implementation the online platform Interreg + (electronic data exchange system) will be used for comprehensive up-to-date information on programme implementation and quantitative data.

Institutional coordination mechanism

The Partnership Agreement among other important elements will describe the mechanism of the coordination, demarcation and complementarities between the Funds and coordination between national and regional programmes as well as complementarities between the Funds and other Union instruments.

The Programme partners supported by the work of Monitoring Committee, Joint Secretariat (with one or more branch offices in the partner countries), Controllers and other Programme Bodies will be used as a permanent coordination mechanisms, ensuring overall coordination and monitoring of implementation NDICI funds and other Union and relevant national funding instruments.

In Hungary, the portfolio for planning and implementation of Interreg Programmes, which are co-financed from ERDF, IPA/IPA II/IPA III and ENPI/ENI/NDICI funds belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFA). In the planning phase, the MFA coordinated the programming process of all cross-border cooperation programme Hungary participates, and also the Ministry of Innovation and Technology/Prime Minister's Office being as coordinator of Cohesion policy funds in Hungary, and the Ministry of Finance being responsible for territorial development at national level took part in the process.

In Slovakia the planning and implementation responsibilities belong to the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of Slovak Republic, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (Section of Economic Cooperation; Business Centre Department), Central Co-ordinating Authority (CCA) Section of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.

In Romania these functions belong to the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration.

In Ukraine - Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministry of Ukraine and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine are involved into the planning phase and future implementation.

In addition to that coordination will be ensured by occasionally inviting the programme authorities to the MC meetings or having regular national level consultation in specific topics prior to MC meetings and decisions.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The main body in charge of monitoring and evaluation of the Programme is the MC with the help of the Joint Secretariat, Info Points. The MC will examine on a regular basis among others:

- the progress in the Programme implementation and in achieving its milestones and targets of the Interreg Programme;
- any issues that affect the performance of the Programme and the measures taken to address those issues;
- the progress made in carrying out evaluations, syntheses of evaluations and any follow-up given to findings
- the implementation of communication and visibility actions;
- the progress in implementing the Programme's operations of strategic importance and, where applicable, of large infrastructure projects;
- the progress in administrative capacity building for public institutions and beneficiaries, where relevant.

In addition to its tasks concerning the selection of operations listed in Article 22, the monitoring committee shall approve:

- the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations including any changes thereto, after notifying the Commission, where requested, including set up of special steering committees that will be in charge of selecting operations;
- the evaluation plan and any amendment thereto;
- any proposals by the Managing Authority for the amendment of the Programme including for a transfer in accordance with Article 19(5);
- the final performance report.

In order to measure progress and performance, evaluation of the Programme will be carried out among others alongside the following criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value with the aim to improve the quality of the design and implementation of programmes. Evaluations may also cover other relevant criteria, such as inclusiveness, non-discrimination and visibility, and may cover more than one programme. The evaluation shall be public.

Given the enhanced role of the MC in the performance review of the Programme as well as on data transmission and transparency, the members of the MC will commit to providing data in order to

establish criteria for performance review as well as take on the role of data providers for the territory under their jurisdiction or area of expertise.

The capacities and resources of the INTERREG+ online system will be used for the purpose of the monitoring. INTERREG+ is used by the Programme in order to support project submission, implementation, monitoring, modification and closure. Additionally, it collects data on the progress of projects at Programme and Beneficiary level.

5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation)

Reference: point (h) of Article 17(3)

Communication is about building understanding. Strategic communication is the key to successful social change. It is mission driven, audience focused, and action oriented. Communication is considered an important tool in Programme implementation to: inform about the existence of programme; ensure communication among programme bodies (internal communication); provide necessary information to potential applicants and project beneficiaries; inform about programme achievements; enhance the transparency of EU funding; disseminate results.

HUSKROUA communication strategy is to be designed at the beginning of the Programme in order to help the programme achieve its overall operational objectives and disseminate funding opportunities widely to potential beneficiaries and all interested parties. In order to be effective, communication objectives must be specific, measurable, achievable, result-oriented and time-bound.

The key **communication objectives** related to the programme are:

- Programme is well-known and trusted actor in cross-border cooperation: Programme is known among the target groups; difference between NDICI Programme and other funding instrument is recognized; information about funding opportunities is easily available;
- Programme is implemented efficiently and transparently: internal communication works well; identified project best practices are shared with all projects; information on programmes' current situation is available. Attention is paid to capacity building of the applicants;
- Results of the programme is widely disseminated: results can be easily found; Beneficiaries are aware of the programme funding; lead partners and partners understand the importance of communication;
- Positive impact of Interreg cooperation to European institutions and partner states is demonstrated as an important contributor towards an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness.

Communication activities will be primarily directed to:

- Potential applicants - to ensure that they are properly and timely informed about the Programme, Calls for project proposals and simultaneously to make sure that they understand the administrative process and implementation mechanism;
- Beneficiaries (of approved projects) - to ensure that all the relevant and necessary information in the implementation process are known and respected;
- General public of countries involved - to learn about the Programme and project results.

Target audiences: public national, regional and local authorities, regional agencies, universities, knowledge and research institutes, NGOs and relevant private non-profit organisations.

Programme communication will be based on the following principles:

- Transparency – it is a must at all stages to make the Programme information available to the public, thus adhering to the standards and requirements of the EU;
- Accuracy – information is only valid if accurate;
- Timeliness – timely information is useful to the audiences and news-worthy to the media;

- Clarity – in order to ensure that it is understandable to the target audience, the information must be clear. Preferably, it should be concise.
- Focus on the projects and results – projects are the best ambassadors of the Programme; supporting the implementation and the visibility of projects and their initiatives and results;
- Exchange of best practices between Interreg programmes, between the Programme and its projects, and between the projects within the Programme helps improve the results of the Programme.

In addition to these principles, the Programme highly regards the horizontal principles of the Programme when planning and implementing information and communication measures:

- Sustainable development – practices which protect environment;
- Equal opportunities and non-discrimination – equal opportunities and non-discrimination of vulnerable groups (including ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, elderly people, children, women, unemployed, etc.);
- Equality between men and women.

With the increased uptake of digital engagement, development of a robust digital strategy is critical to a successful communication. One of the most recent and promising external communication tendencies is the use of social media for information and visibility purposes. Social media have proven to be a very cost-effective tool for reaching a variety of target audiences and is intended for promotion of the Programme among the general population. Internal communication is to be included as an integral part of programme communication strategy. This serves the purpose of better coordination and consistency of activities among the involved programme bodies.

Efficient **communication channels** of the Programme are the following:

Online Tools:

- Programme website - source of information not only for programme stakeholders (including potential applicants and actual beneficiaries) but also for the wider public
- Project websites - aligning of project online presence with the programme. “Website creation tool” for projects is a tool integrated into the programme website, saving projects’ time and money on website development. Content will be streamlined easily with the programme website, and project outputs will be permanently available.
- Communication campaigns (short promotional videos/audio podcasts and storytelling) - one of the most important tools in terms of reaching wider public, gives programme and projects a human face
- European Cooperation Day - aimed specifically at showcasing what cooperation across borders can achieve in the local populations concerned
- Social media (Facebook, Clubhouse, etc.) - widely publicising, streaming and disseminating Programme events. As long as it is interactive, social media allows programme to have a low-cost communication tool, interact in real time with target groups and in doing so, give and receive real-time information. A two-way conversation on these platforms is considered essential for community-building.
- Videos - give a visual, human, lasting effect to a viewer on what programme and projects are achieving. These promote the programme and projects on the website, in events, for communication campaigns and programmes could even include screenshots and links to relevant videos in newsletters
- Photographs - relatively simple and effective way in which to produce attractive, visual images of your programme and projects for promotional materials, publications, website and all types of media.
- Traditional media – media strategy must be included as part of any programme communication strategy

Offline tools:

- Seminars/workshops for potential beneficiaries (linked to open calls)
- Trainings and meetings targeted to those already involved in programme activities: for project beneficiaries (on learning, communication, financial management etc.); for first level controllers, etc.
- Participation in third-party events – increasing awareness of the programme, access to good practices and sharing positive policy stories

Output **indicators** for the main activities: number of visitors to website; number of appearances in media. Specific output indicators for each activity will be defined on an annual basis as part of the annual work plan. Interreg programme communication officer will be nominated.

6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds

Reference: point (i) of Article 17(3), Article 24

Programming Committee decided to implement operation of limited financial sources during the implementation of the programme as part of future call for proposals as being obligatory in line with Interreg Regulation 2021/1059.

7. Implementing provisions

7.1. Programme authorities

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(6)

Table 9

Programme authorities	Name of the institution [255]	Contact name [200]	E-mail [200]
Managing authority	Hungary		
National authority (for programmes with participating third countries, if appropriate)	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of Slovak Republic Ministry of Public Works Development and Administration of Romania Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministry of Ukraine		
Audit authority	Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, Hungary	Mr. Balázs Dencső dr	balazs.dencso@eutaf.gov.hu
Group of auditors representatives (for programmes with participating third countries, if appropriate)	Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, Hungary Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Section of Audit and Control Romanian Court of Accounts – Audit Authority Unit for European territorial cooperation programmes Accounting Chamber of Ukraine		

Body to which the payments are to be made by the Commission	Hungarian State Treasury	Mr. Szabolcs Jakab	igazolohatosag@allamkincstar.gov.hu
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7.2. Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(6)

Partner countries agreed to set up the Joint Secretariat (JS) for the INTERREG NEXT Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programme 2021-2027 on the basis of the existing JTS of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020. According to this decision, the JS will be set up within the framework of the Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit Llc. (SZPO). The JS will be functionally independent within the organizational structures of SZPO; nevertheless the Company will ensure necessary back office support to the smooth operation as well as horizontal services for the successful implementation of the Programme (e.g. coordination of the development and operation of the monitoring system of the Programme, regulatory, legal, professional, procurement, financial and audit coordination support).

The JS will work in close cooperation with the MA related to programme coordination and implementation and provide support to the National Authorities. The MA and JS will be set up in a system securing their cooperation on one hand, and their independence from national structures on the other. The JS will also assist the MC in carrying out their respective functions and tasks (inter alia organizing the MC meetings including the preparation and delivery of documents, assisting the decision-making process, ensuring the follow-up). Moreover, the JS will provide information on funding opportunities to applicants, assist the process of partner search and project development, manage the application process, support the process of assessing and selecting operations, and will assist beneficiaries in implementing their operations. Additionally, the JS will prepare programme level documents (e.g. guidelines for applicants and beneficiaries, reports to be submitted by the MA to the European Commission after approval of the MC), coordinate evaluations performed during the implementation of the Programme and will perform information and promotion activities.

The number and qualification of staff shall correspond to the tasks defined above. The JS shall have staff taking into account the programme partnership. The staff members shall be selected in agreement of the Partner Countries. A selection committee composed of one representative of each Partner country and of the representative of SZPO as hosting institution shall decide on the person of the head of JS. The JS members shall be selected by a committee composed of one representative of each Partner country, of the head of JS and of a representative of SZPO. The staff of the JS will be employed by SZPO.

The JS will be located in Budapest, Hungary with JS staff in Nyíregyháza, Hungary. Branch offices will be established in Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine.

The overall structure and work of the JS will be coordinated by the head of JS, directly supported by the following staff members:

- Deputy head of JS
- Programme managers
- Communication manager – role fulfilled by other staff member(s) or a full time employee
- Financial managers – role fulfilled by other staff member(s) or a full time employee

The JS will be financed from the Technical Assistance of the Programme. Detailed rules of the financial management of the programme authorities by the partner countries will be laid down in memorandum of understanding.

7.3 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(6)

7.3.1. General rules of liabilities between Member States and Partner Country

Member State/Partner Country is responsible for preventing, detecting and correcting irregularities and for recovering amounts unduly paid. Without prejudice to the Member State's/Partner country's responsibility for detecting and correcting irregularities and for recovering amounts unduly paid according to Article 52 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the Managing Authority shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity - or when the Managing Authority is entitled to withdraw from the Subsidy Contract and to demand the repayment of the EU contribution in full or in part – is recovered from the lead partner. Partners shall repay to the lead partner any amounts unduly paid.

If the lead partner does not succeed in securing repayment from other partners or where the Managing Authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead partner, Member State/Partner country on whose territory the partner concerned is located or, in the case of an EGTC, is registered shall reimburse the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to that partner.

Should the Managing Authority bear any legal expenses for recovery recourse proceedings even if the proceedings are unsuccessful it will be reimbursed by the Member State/Partner country hosting the lead partner responsible for the said procedure.

Member State/Partner country shall be responsible for the repayment of the EU contribution unduly paid within 45 calendar days upon receipt of the debit note issued by the Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority is responsible for reimbursing the amounts recovered to the general budget of the Union in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities between the Member States and the Partner Country.

The Managing Authority will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the lead partner/partner/Member State/Partner Country.

Once the Member State/Partner Country has reimbursed the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid to a partner, it may continue or start a recovery procedure against that partner under its national law. 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 State/Partner country.

In the event of successful recovery, the Member State/Partner country may use those amounts for the national co-financing of the Programme. The Member State//Partner country shall not have any reporting obligations towards the programme authorities, the Monitoring Committee or the European Commission with regard to such national recoveries.

In case the Member State/Partner country has not fulfilled its responsibility for the repayment of the amounts in above mentioned time, the Managing Authority will deduct the corresponding amounts from the yearly transferred national contribution for financing joint management activities without any further notification. Additionally the amount of national contribution for financing joint management activities for the next year will be increased with the deducted amount.

Member States and Partner Country agree that neither the lead partner nor the programme's Managing Authority will be obliged to recover an amount unduly paid that does not exceed EUR 250, not including interest, in contribution from union funds to an operation cumulatively in an accounting year.

If the above defined corresponding amounts exceeds the amounts of yearly transferred national contribution for financing joint management activities and this is an amount recoverable from the Member State, Partner country, in line with Article 52(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 it shall be subject to a recovery order issued by the European Commission which shall be executed, where possible, by offsetting to the respective Member State, partner country in subsequent payments to the same programme. Such a recovery shall not constitute a financial correction and shall not reduce support from the Funds to the Programme. The amount recovered shall constitute assigned revenue in accordance with Article [21(3)] of Regulation (EU, Euratom) [FR-Omnibus].

7.3.2. Rules on apportionment of liabilities

The Member States/Partner Country will bear liability as follows:

• *Irregularities concerning lead or sole partner or partners:*

Member State/Partner Country bears liability for repayment of unduly paid amount as described in 7.3.1 unless it proves that sole partner or partner(s) already transferred the irregular amount to the lead partner located on the territory of the other Member State/Partner Country.

Member State/Partner Country bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by the lead or sole partner or partners located on its territory in the proportion of union claim to the European Commission for the period which forms the basis for the financial correction.

• *Irregularities of the joint management bodies:*

In case of irregularities that result from the actions and decisions made by the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority and/or the Joint Secretariat, liability towards the European Commission and the Monitoring Committee is borne by the Member State hosting the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority and the Joint Secretariat.

• *Systemic irregularity – at national level:*

In case a systemic error is found by the European Commission or the Audit Authority, which can be clearly connected to the Member State/Partner Country, the Member State/Partner Country concerned shall be solely liable for the repayment.

• *Systemic irregularity – at programme level:*

For a systemic irregularity or financial correction on programme level that cannot be linked to a Member State/ the Partner Country, the liability shall be jointly and equally borne by the Member State and the Partner Country.

• *Financial correction at programme level:*

If financial correction is established at programme level by the European Commission, the liability is determined by the Managing Authority, Audit Authority and Certifying Authority. As general rule the Member State/Partner Country shall be liable for the payment of such a correction. Member State and Partner Country shall pay a share of the correction, which is proportional to the amounts found by the Audit Authority to be wrongfully validated by the Member State/Partner Country.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Table 10: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95	YES	NO
From the adoption programme will make use of reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under priority according to Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the adoption programme will make use of financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

APPENDICES

Map 1: Map of the programme area

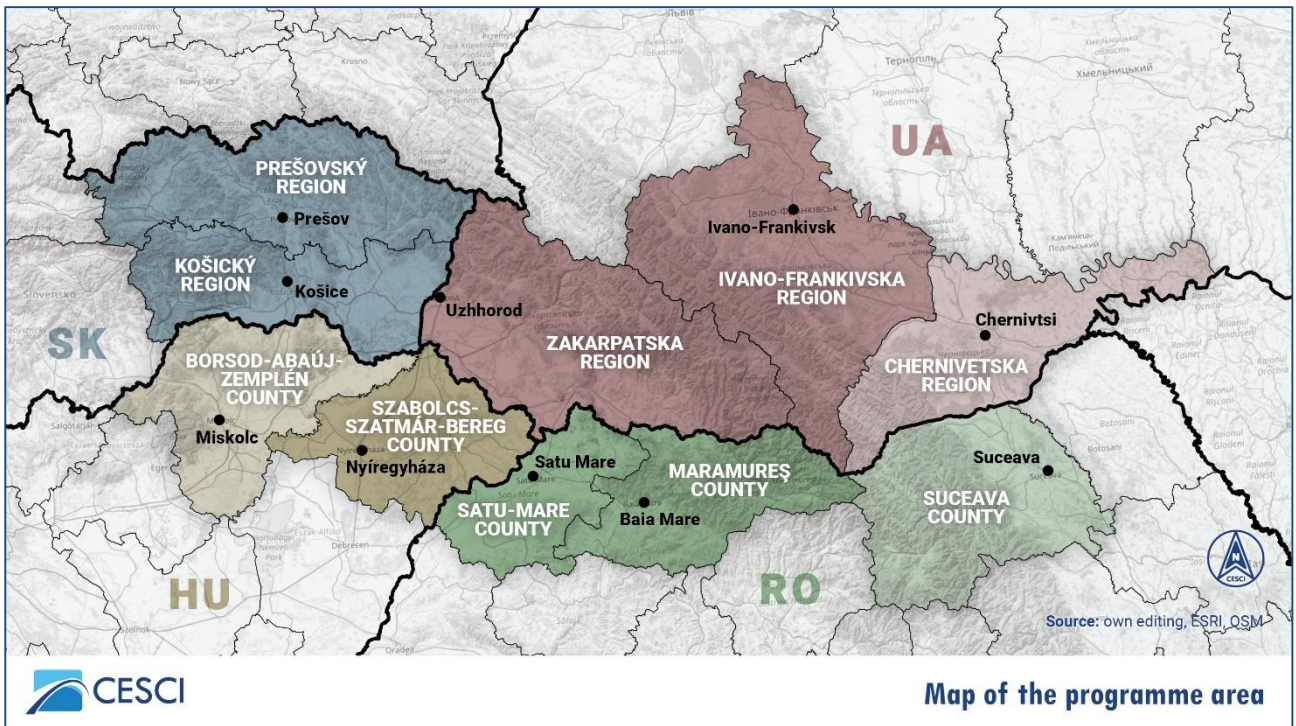
Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable

Map 1

Map of the programme area



Appendix 1

Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission

(Article 94 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR))

Date of submitting the proposal	

This Appendix is not required when EU-level simplified cost options established by the delegated act referred to in Article 94(4) of CPR are used.

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the simplified cost option will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of simplified cost option (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the simplified cost option
				Code ⁽¹⁾	Description	Code ⁽²⁾	Description			

⁽¹⁾ This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I CPR.

⁽²⁾ This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)

Did the managing authority receive support from an external company to set out the simplified costs below?

If so, please specify which external company: Yes/No – Name of external company

1.1. Description of the operation type including the timeline for implementation ⁽¹⁾	
1.2 Specific objective	
1.3 Indicator triggering reimbursement ⁽²⁾	
1.4 Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	
1.5 Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	
1.6 Amount per unit of measurement or percentage (for flat rates) of the simplified cost option	
1.7 Categories of costs covered by the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	

⁽¹⁾ Envisaged starting date of the selection of operations and envisaged final date of their completion (ref. Article 63(5) of CPR).

⁽²⁾ For operations encompassing several simplified cost options covering different categories of costs, different projects or successive phases of an operation, the fields 1.3 to 1.11 need to be filled in for each indicator triggering reimbursement.

1.8 Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation? (Y/N)	
1.9 Adjustment(s) method ⁽³⁾	
1.10 Verification of the achievement of the units delivered - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the units delivered - describe what will be checked and by whom during management verifications - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store the relevant data/documents	
1.11 Possible perverse incentives, mitigating measures ⁽⁴⁾ and the estimated level of risk (high/medium/low)	
1.12 Total amount (national and EU) expected to be reimbursed by the Commission on this basis	

C: Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates*

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.):

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 88(2) of CPR is relevant to the type of operation:

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

⁽³⁾ If applicable, indicate the frequency and timing of the adjustment and a clear reference to a specific indicator (including a link to the website where this indicator is published, if applicable).

⁽⁴⁾ Are there any potential negative implications on the quality of the supported operations and, if so, what measures (such as quality assurance) will be taken to offset this risk?

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate;

5. Assessment of the audit authority or authorities of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data:

Appendix 2

Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission

(Article 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR))

Date of submitting the proposal	

This Appendix is not required when amounts for EU-level financing not linked to costs established by the delegated act referred to in Article 95(4) of CPR are used.

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	<i>The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs</i>	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	indicator		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary or beneficiaries
				<u>Code</u> ⁽¹⁾	Description		Code ⁽²⁾	Description		

⁽¹⁾ This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

⁽²⁾ This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)

1.1. Description of the operation type			
1.2 Specific objective			
1.3 Conditions to be fulfilled or results to be achieved			
1.4 Deadline for fulfilment of conditions or results to be achieved			
1.5 Unit of measurement for conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission			
1.6 Intermediate deliverables (if applicable) triggering reimbursement by the Commission with schedule for reimbursements	Intermediate deliverables	Envisaged date	Amounts (in EUR)

1.7 Total amount (including Union and national funding)	
1.8 Adjustment(s) method	
<p>1.9 Verification of the achievement of the result or condition (and where relevant, the intermediate deliverables)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe what document(s)/system will be used to verify the achievement of the result or condition (and where relevant, each of the intermediate deliverables) - describe how management verifications (including on-the-spot) will be carried out, and by whom - describe what arrangements will be made to collect and store relevant data/documents 	
1.10 Use of grants in the form of financing not linked to costs/ Does the grant provided by Member State to beneficiaries take the form of financing not linked to costs? [Y/N]	
<p>1.11 Arrangements to ensure the audit trail</p> <p>Please list the body(ies) responsible for these arrangements.</p>	

Appendix 3

List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable - Article 17(3)

Text field [2 000]
