

Elaboration of DNSH Report of the Interreg Programme
for the programming period of 2021–2027, concerning
the programming area of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania
and Ukraine

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DNSH report prepared for the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine
INTERREG NEXT Programme 2021-2027

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1 Executive summary

The Taxonomy Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) 2020/852 of 18 June 2020) establishes the criteria for determining whether an economic activity qualifies environmentally sustainable throughout its life cycle. The Commission explanatory note to the application of the "DNSH" principle under Cohesion Policy (EGESIF_21-0025-00) recommends that one Programme's measures must be assessed before its approval by the Programming Committee whether they have no or insignificant impact on the six environmental objectives listed in the Taxonomy Regulation.

To fulfil this task the Managing Authority of present Programme ordered the assessment of the Programme's indicative actions. The assessment has been carried out based on the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the RRF regulation when creating the methodology for assessment of the Programme as the Commission's Explanatory note recommends to follow the RRF procedure.

The proposed types of actions listed in the Programme have been assessed for their impact on the six environmental objectives of the Taxonomy Regulation. It is concluded that indicative actions such as 'Action 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', Action 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 and Action 2.3 Development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution aim directly to environmental protection and/or biodiversity, which by definition have the 100% coefficient (RRF regulation, ANNEX VI., Methodology for climate tracking) for the calculation of support to environmental objectives.

The planned small-scale projects planned within Action 1.4, 2.4, 4.5 the nature of the projects and the size of the anticipated project exclude the possibility of causing significant harm to the environment. At all the remaining actions, where the possible technical content of the actions would provide for a slight probability to cause significant harm, a detailed analysis has been carried out, that concluded that the planned actions will do no significant harm to the observed environmental objectives – provided the Managing Authority pays attention to the implementing parties giving the DNSH principles special consideration.

Following the assessment carried out according to the EU Taxonomy Regulation our conclusion is that the indicative actions of the programme will not cause significant harm to the environment.

2 Outline of the contents

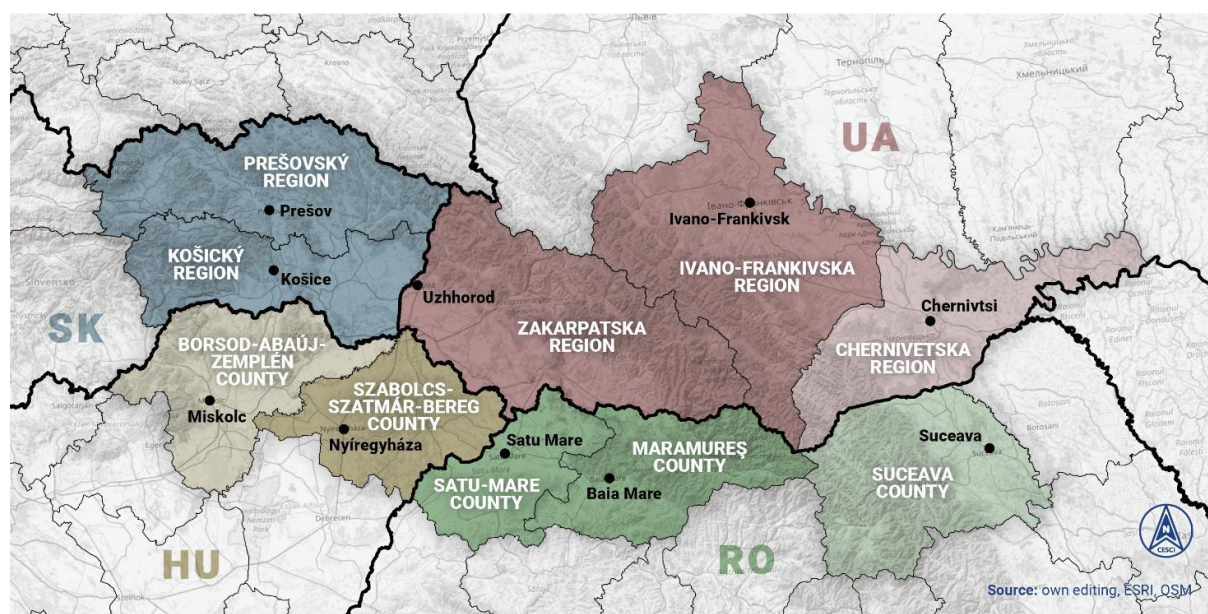
2.1 Definition and purpose of the contract

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (MFA) as Managing Authority of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine INTERREG NEXT Programme 2021–2027 ordered the preparation of the DNSH (“do no significant harm”) report of the programme in the frame of a framework contract procured by 19 February 2021 (reg nr. KKM/8082/2021/Adm.), won by Ex Ante Ltd., signed by MFA on 29 March 2021, reg. nr. KKM/14300/2021/Adm.

2.2 Scope of the assessed Programme

2.2.1 Territorial scope of the assessed programme

The cooperation area of the Hungary- Slovakia- Romania- Ukraine NEXT INTERREG Programme covers a territory of 83 057 km², including 10 counties providing homes for over 8 million citizens.



CESCI INTERREG NEXT Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine CBC Programme - Analysed territory

Figure 1.: The analyzed territory of the HUSKROUA INTERREG NEXT Programme (Source: Territorial analysis prepared by CESCI, 2020.)

2.2.2 Main objectives and structure of the assessed Programme

The HUSKROUA Interreg A NEXT Programme plans to organize the development activities of the next 7-year period along three priorities, which are the following:

- P1 – A resilient and green border region

- P2 – A healthy and attractive border region
- P3 – A more cooperating region

The table below indicates the identified priority objectives and the connected types of indicative actions.

PA1	A resilient and green border region
SO iv)	<i>promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches</i>
Action 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
Action 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
Action 1.3.	Development of common disaster management strategies and action plans to support the joint prevention, preparation and management of the potential disaster situations
Action 1.4.	Small scale cooperation projects
SO vii)	<i>Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution;</i>
Action 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
Action 2.2	Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity
Action 2.3	Development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution
Action 2.4	Small scale cooperation projects

PA2	A healthy and attractive border region
SO v)	<i>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</i>
Action 3.1	Creation of the legislative, administrative and technical framework for common epidemiological measures and the cross-border rescue services
Action 3.2	Investments for improving cooperation in epidemiology and in cross-border rescue services
Action 3.3	Enhancing the use of digital technologies in healthcare and health development
Action 3.4	Implementation of health screening and health promotion programmes
SO vi)	<i>Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training;</i>
Action 4.1	Capacity development by data collection, knowledge sharing and training
Action 4.2	Development of common or joint tourism products, including development of cross-border networks and routes
Action 4.3	Promotion of local and regional cooperation in culture and arts
Action 4.4	Pilot actions to boost social innovation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups of the society in cultural activities, tourism services and projects
Action 4.5	Small scale cooperation projects
PA3	A cooperating region
ISO ii)	<i>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</i>
Action 5.1	Institutional cooperation between public and civil society organisations

Figure 2: Defined programme priorities and their relationship to the selected Policy Objectives/Interreg Specific Objectives.

2.3 List of sources (relevant legislative acts and strategic documents)

The assessed Programme and Environmental Report comply with the below listed legislative and strategic documents as an indication that the assessed Programme complies with the relevant EU legislation and does not entail environmental harm.

Additionally, we enlist all relevant legislative documents, explanatory notes and technical guidance taken into consideration during the preparation of present Report.

2.3.1 Legislative and strategic documents of the European Union

- The European Green Deal
- European Climate Law
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- EU Water Framework Directive
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives
- EU Environment action programme to 2030
- European Landscape Convention
- EU Strategy for Energy System Integration
- EU Hydrogen Strategy
- European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

2.3.2 Legislative and strategic documents of Hungary

- National Development and Territorial Development Concept of Hungary (until 2030)
- National Transport Infrastructure Development Strategy of Hungary
- National Tourism Development Strategy 2030 of Hungary (until 2030)
- Jenő Kvassay Plan – National Water Strategy of Hungary (2017-2030)
- Government Decision No 1155/2016. (III. 31.) on Hungary's revised River Basin Management Plan 2015
- "Healthy Hungary 2021–2027" – Health Sector Strategy (2021-2027)
- National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development of Hungary (2012-2024)
- National Nature Protection Plan V. (proposal) (2021-2026)
- National Landscape Strategy of Hungary (2017-2026)
- National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS-2) 2018
- National Energy and Climate Plan of Hungary
- National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) of Hungary
- Territorial Development Concept and Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County 2021-2027 (proposal) (2021-2027)
- Territorial Development Concept and Programme of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County 2021-2027 (proposal) (2021-2027)

2.3.3 Legislative and strategic documents of Slovakia

- Strategic plan for the development of transport in the Slovak Republic until 2030
- Greener Slovakia - Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030
- Concept of the development of culture in the Košice self-governing region 2020-2025 (2030)
- National Strategy for Regional Development
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development
- National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection
- National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) of Slovakia

National Regional and Territorial Strategy for Development of the Slovak Republic until 2030

Regional Integrated Territorial Strategy of the Košice Region

Strategy for the Development of Cycling and Cycle Transport in the Presov Region

2.3.4 Legislative and strategic documents of Romania

Romania's National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030

North-West Region's Development Plan 2021-2027

National Strategy for the development of the Eco-Tourism in Romania - context, vision and objectives - 2019-2029

Romania's Strategy for Energy 2018-2030, with perspective to 2050

National Integrated Plan in the domain of the Energy and Climate Changes, 2021-2030

Nation plan for Waste Management

Sustainable development Operational Program 2021-2027 (SDOP)

General Transport Masterplan (GTMP) 2014-2030

Territorial Development Strategy of Romania (TDSR), Polycentric Romania 2035 – territorial cohesion and competitiveness, development and equal chances for people

National Strategy for Romania's Sustainable Development Horizons 2013-2020-2030

Large Infrastructure Operational Program 2014-2020

National Action Plan in the Field of Energy Efficiency IV (NAPEE)

National Strategy and action plan for the preservation of Biodiversity 2014-2020

Cultural and National Heritage Strategy 2016-2022

2.3.5 Legislative and strategic documents of the Ukraine

State Programme for the Development of the Ukrainian Carpathian Region for 2020-2022

National transport strategy for the period until 2030

Strategy for the development of tourism and resorts for the period until 2026

National Waste Management Strategy in Ukraine until 2030

Energy strategy of Ukraine for the period up to 2035 "Security, energy efficiency, competitiveness"

Strategy of low-carbon development of Ukraine until 2050

Concept for the implementation of state policy in the field of climate change for the period up to 2030

Development strategy of the Chernivtsi region for the period until 2027

Development strategy of the Ivano-Frankivsk region for the period until 2027

Regional Development Strategy of Zakarpattia region for the period 2021-2027

Waste management strategy in Zakarpattia region for a 15-year period

Draft Strategy for Environmental Safety and Adaptation to Climate Change until 2030

Draft National Strategy for Building a New Health Care System in Ukraine for the Period 2015-2025

Biodiversity protection Strategy until 2030 – under development

2.3.6 Legislative documents, explanatory notes and technical guidance used during the preparation of present Report

Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)

Taxonomy Regulation 2020

Commission explanatory note on the application of the DNSH principle under Cohesion Policy

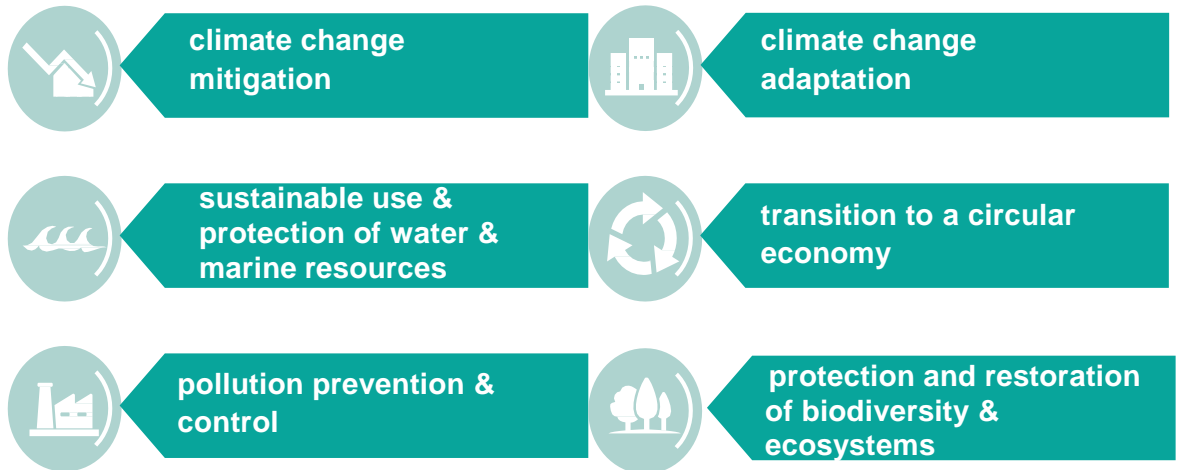
Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021

Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021

European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure (2014-2020)

3 Methodological approach

The Taxonomy Regulation entered into force in June 2020 with the aim to establish the criteria for determining whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable.



*Figure 3: The six environmental objectives to which no significant harm should be done
Source: European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (Angelica Marino, DG R&I – G2)*

The Commission’s explanatory note on the application of the DNSH principle under Cohesion Policy states that the compliance of the DNSH principle must be assured during programming phase at the types of action level. The Explanatory note recommends following the approach of the RRF taking into account the Common Provisions Regulation.

Based on the above the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the RRF regulation has been applied when creating the methodology for assessment of the Programme.

3.1 Assessment procedure

Following the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the RRF regulation all types of actions are assessed following the simplified approach as a first step. The Technical guidance

uses the phrase measure as the level of assessment-according to the commission explanatory note in the observed Programme a type of action is considered as a measure.

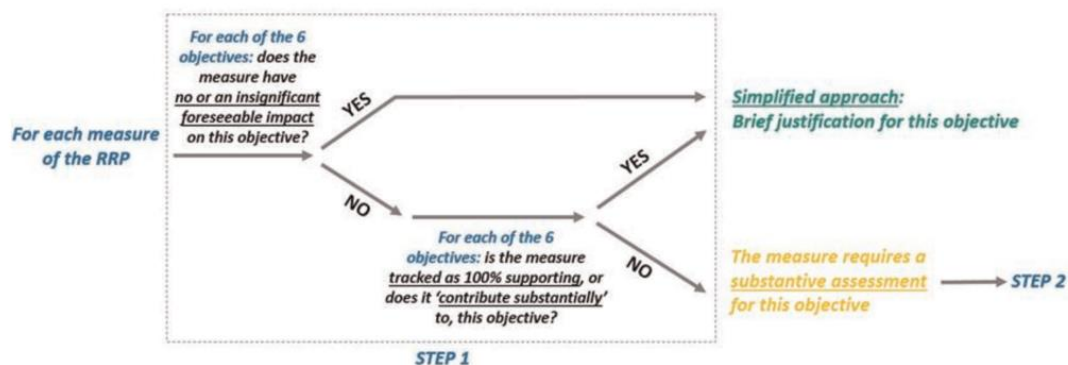


Figure 4: Decision tree to be used to assess the planned measures (types of actions)

Source: Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021

3.1.1 Simplified assessment

During this simplified assessment all actions are tested whether they require a substantive assessment regarding the below listed environmental objectives (listed in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation):

- a) climate change mitigation;
- b) climate change adaptation;
- c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;
- d) the transition to a circular economy;
- e) pollution prevention and control;
- f) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

An action does not require a substantive assessment (does not need to go through step 2) in the following cases:

- a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective
- b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective

To decide whether an action measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective the methodology of the European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure has been adopted as follows:

- An action does not harm an environmental objective in any way if a “climate action is fundamental to the design and impact of the activity and is an explicit objective

of the activity; e.g. wind farms, energy efficiency, adaptation to climate change measures, cycle tracks.”¹

- An action does not harm an environmental objective significantly “where climate action is a significant, but not predominant objective. Climate action, although important, is not the principal reason for undertaking the activity; e.g. air quality measures, enhancement of biodiversity, sustainable transport modes, such as railways, inland water ways, clean urban transport systems.”²
 - An action has the potential to have negative effects on an environmental objective when it “does not target climate action, e.g. motorways and roads, airports, waste management.”³
- c. The measure ‘contributes substantially’ to an environmental objective, pursuant to Articles 10-16 of the Taxonomy Regulation, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective

In all cases it is briefly explained why the observed action does not have any or significant negative effect on the given environmental objective.

3.1.2 Substantive assessment

After the completion of the simplified assessment, all actions that prove to have possible negative effects on any of the six observed environmental objectives must go under a substantive assessment in that regard. (Step 2 of the decision tree)

Since none of the assessed actions proved to negatively affect the observed environmental objectives, a substantive assessment has not been carried out according to the decision tree indicated in the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation.

3.1.3 Recommendations throughout Programme implementation

In order to ensure that the implemented projects supported by the Programme fully comply with the DNSH principles, it is highly recommended⁴ for the future calls to assure that implemented projects meet the following criteria:

- if applicable projects have to include elements requiring companies to implement a recognised environmental management system, such as EMAS (or alternatively ISO 14001

¹ European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure, “Common methodology”, page 1

² European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure, “Common methodology”, page 1

³ European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure, “Common methodology”, page 1

⁴ Annex II of the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation, page 12

or equivalent), or to use and/or produce goods or services that are awarded an EU Ecolabel or another Type I environmental label;

- the project has to concern the implementation of best environmental practices or the reaching of benchmarks of excellence set out in the Sectoral Reference Documents adopted according to Article 46(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS);
- for public investments, the project respects green public procurement criteria;
- for infrastructure investments, the investment has been subject to a climate and environmental proofing.

4 Assessment of the Programme measures potential effect on the environmental objectives

Action 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

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are likely to be negatively affected by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>Although construction and excavation related to flood protection infrastructure and infrastructure preventing or eliminating risks posed by natural and man-made hazards can cause (mainly local) GHG emissions, those are not significant due the expected number and size of projects.</p>

			<p>According to the Article 10 of Taxonomy regulation, the activity contributes substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas removals, including through process innovations or product innovations, by strengthening land carbon sinks, through restoration wetlands.</p>
<p>Climate change adaptation</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The action is likely to have positive impact on climate: The development of risk management related preventive and post-intervention systems, infrastructures and proper cooperation between authorities will greatly help to reduce and as far as possible, to prevent damages caused by extreme weather events which are expected to become more and more frequent (e.g. storms, floods). The action supports the revitalization of natural riverbeds and floodplains, thereby retaining part of flooding water. In</p>

			<p>addition to preventing flood damages, it can also mitigate the potential water stress typically affecting surface water and groundwater bodies in the region, as well as its consequent adverse effects on wildlife and the economy (e.g. wetland desiccation, decrease of agricultural yields due to drought).</p>
<p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p>		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The planned actions contribute indirectly to the sustainable use and protection of water where that activity contributes potentially to achieving the good status of surface and groundwater bodies by mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. The planned actions are expected to have positive, direct impacts on transboundary water bodies, they aim to reduce the risk of human-made and natural disasters via prevention, education and common management strategies</p>
<p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p>		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 %</p>

			<p>(Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>Although construction and excavation related to some flood protection infrastructure and some infrastructure preventing or eliminating risks posed by natural and man-made hazards can produce waste, those are not significant due the expected number and size of projects. The indirect effect of the measure is that the use of sandbags may release environmentally harmful plastics and micro-pollutants into the soil and surface waters, but this can be prevented by complying with the regulations in force.</p>
<p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The SEA concludes that types of actions in SO iv) help to cleanse the air, resulting in the cooling of the regional and local climate and they also act as carbon sinks.</p> <p>Majority of the elements of the action do not affect municipal air quality. An exception is restoration of floodplains along rivers and related revitalization of</p>

			<p>wetlands, especially if they take place on urban lands. Increase in the extent of the undeveloped strips covered with vegetation or water supports urban ventilation, absorption of pollutants and thus reducing the concentration of air pollutants in the affected settlements.</p> <p>The action has likely positive impact on water. It is evolutionary that the measure related to flood protection mentions the restoration of natural floodplains of watercourses. At the same time, flood defense infrastructure development should also seek to apply nature-based solutions, otherwise the effects of the measures may be counteracted.</p> <p>Although construction and excavation related to some flood protection infrastructure and some infrastructure preventing or eliminating risks posed by natural and man-made hazards can produce some waste, those are not significant due the expected number and size of projects. The indirect effect of the measure is that the use of sandbags may release environmentally harmful plastics and micro-pollutants into the soil and surface waters, but this can be prevented by complying with the regulations in force.</p>
<p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p>

		<p>It is evolutionary that the measure related to flood protection mentions the restoration of natural floodplains of watercourses. If natural floodplains cover a larger area, the number and extent of semi-natural habitats can be significantly increased. It should be noted that the development of flood protection infrastructure should always be based on the prioritizing nature-based solutions wherever possible. Increasing water resources supply may also be a favorable intervention if it is combined with the optimization and regulation of the use of water resources."</p>
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 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

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that actions in PO2 iv) will mostly have positive effects on climate. Joint interventions that support the prevention and mitigation of natural or human-induced disasters through reforestation, limitation of illegal logging and pre-empting pollution of natural assets are especially beneficial.</p>

Climate change adaptation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>As activities for awareness rising are primarily targeting climate change adaptation purposes, their impact is direct and positive.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that actions in PO2 iv) will mostly have positive effects on climate.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p>

			<p>The impact of the projects of this action on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that actions in PO2 iv) are expected to have positive, direct effects on transboundary watercourses.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p>

			<p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect impact on air quality, water use and land use, however that impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA identifies various degree of positive impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land.</p>
<p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>As activities of awareness rising projects are directly aiming at nature and environmental protection purposes, their</p>

			impact on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems will be positive.
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.3. Development of common disaster management strategies and action plans to support the joint prevention, preparation and management of the potential disaster situations

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>According to the Article 10 of Taxonomy regulation, the activity contributes substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas</p>

			<p>removals, including through process innovations or product innovations, by strengthening land carbon sinks, through restoration wetlands.</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA the action is likely to have positive impact on climate. The preservation and enhancement of areas covered by vegetation, especially by forests, as well as the improvement of their condition, where the planning projects are leading up to, play an important role in climate protection through the increase of carbon appropriation capacity.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The action is likely to have positive impact on climate: The development of risk management related preventive and post-intervention systems, infrastructures and proper cooperation between authorities will greatly help to reduce and as far as possible, to prevent damages caused by extreme weather events which</p>

			are expected to become more and more frequent (e.g. storms, floods).
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The action aims at the sustainable use and protection of water where that activity contributes to achieving the good status of bodies of water, including bodies of surface and groundwater by improving water management and efficiency by contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management</p>

			<p>systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>All future projects of this action will have small waste production, therefore the impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any negative impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
<p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have a small effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level, whilst the outcomes of the developed strategies and action plans may significantly contribute to pollution prevention and control to air, water and soil.</p>

			The SEA does not identify any negative impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water or land.
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any negative impact related to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.4. Small scale cooperation projects

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to GHG emissions will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like climate change mitigation. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm in respect to climate change mitigation.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental</p>

			<p>objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to climate change adaptation will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like climate change adaptation. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm in respect to climate change adaptation.</p>
<p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness</p>

			<p>raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like protection of water resources. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to water resources.</p>
<p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to circular economy. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to</p>

			the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm.
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to pollution prevention and control to air, water and land. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to pollution prevention and control to air, water and land.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered</p>

			<p>compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to biodiversity and ecosystems</p>
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 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

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are likely to be negatively affected by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change mitigation is detected.</p> <p>The activity contributes substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas removals, including through process innovations or product innovations, by strengthening land carbon sinks, through avoiding forest degradation, restoration of forests,</p>

			<p>sustainable management and restoration wetlands, afforestation.</p> <p>The action is likely to have positive impact on climate. The preservation and enhancement of areas covered by vegetation, especially by forests, as well as the improvement of their condition, play an important role in climate protection through the increase of carbon appropriation capacity.</p>
<p>Climate change adaptation</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change adaptation is detected.</p> <p>Also the action is likely to have positive impact on climate. Actions can be beneficial for adapting to the already unavoidable impacts of climate change. The expected extent of this effect varies from field to field. Wildlife protection measures (nature conservation and preservation, biodiversity, green infrastructure) make natural and semi-natural areas more resilient against the increasingly extreme climatic conditions by enhancing biodiversity, protecting and revitalizing complex ecosystems. They also have indirect positive effects to the health and quality of life of border</p>

			region's people, such as the influence of vegetated areas in improving air quality and mitigating extreme weather events.
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the sustainable use and protection for water is detected.</p> <p>The activity contributes to the sustainable use and protection of water; contributes to achieving the good status of bodies of water, including bodies of surface water and groundwater; to preventing the deterioration of water bodies that already have good status, also protecting human health from the adverse impact of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is free from any micro-organisms, parasites and substances that constitute a potential danger to human health.</p> <p>According to the findings of the SEA, "types of actions listed in PO2 vii) that aim to protect and sustainably manage watercourses across borders will similarly have direct beneficial impacts, especially through the joint development of monitoring and warning systems which</p>

			helps to detect the sources and occurrences of water pollution.”
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm is detected.</p> <p>The measure will not lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of resources nor to increase the generation of waste.</p> <p>Also according to the findings of the SEA, “types of actions listed in PO2 vii) will have the most positive, tangible effects especially that these actions will contribute to the enhancement of complex soil protection measures and sustainable soil management practices in the region”.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no</p>

			<p>significant harm to the air, water and land is detected.</p> <p>The activity contributes substantially to pollution prevention and control whereas that activity contributes substantially to environmental protection from pollution by improving levels of air, water and soil quality.</p> <p>According to the SEA, "Types of actions listed in PO2 vii) will also have direct beneficial impact as they mostly aim to reduce the sources of pollutants, mainly transport-originated pollutants, from air, thus positively effecting regional climates", "...aim to protect and sustainably manage watercourses across borders will similarly have direct beneficial impacts, especially through the joint development of monitoring and warning systems which helps to detect the sources and occurrences of water pollution."</p>
<p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems is detected.</p> <p>The very aim of action "Joint interventions for reconstruction/protection, restoration</p>

			or revitalization of natural habitats, aimed to protect and restore local and regional ecosystems, improving biodiversity and connectedness of habitat" is directly to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems.
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.2. Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change mitigation is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no</p>

			<p>significant harm to the climate change adaptation is detected.</p> <p>As activities for awareness rising are primarily targeting climate change adaptation purposes, their impact is direct and positive.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that actions in PO2 vii) will mostly have positive effects on climate.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the sustainable use and protection for water is detected.</p> <p>The negative impact of the projects of this action on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level, whilst the outcomes of the activities with the significantly improved awareness of the sustainable use of natural resources will substantial positive impact on the sustainable use and protection of water resources.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p>

			<p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm is detected.</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the air, water and land is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect impact on air quality, water use and land use, however that impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA identify various degree of positive impact related to pollution</p>

			prevention and control to air, water, or land.
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems is detected.</p> <p>As activities of awareness rising projects are directly aiming at education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity, by their very nature their impact on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems will be positive.</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.3. Development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>According to the Article 10 of Taxonomy regulation, the activity contributes substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas removals, including through process</p>

			<p>innovations or product innovations, by strengthening land carbon sinks.</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA "Types of actions listed in PO2 vii) will also have direct beneficial impacts following the same logic presented in PO2 iv). Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems absorb significant part of man-made emissions as they act as carbon sinks. Therefore, joint actions to protect biodiversity, reconstruct habitats, enhance vegetation cover will contribute to healthy and well-functioning ecosystem services in the region that will be able to better adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing vulnerability, increasing resilience and controlling local and regional climate. Moreover, these actions are more cost-efficient ways to combat climate change across borders than any other technological interventions".</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p>

			The action is likely to have positive impact on climate: The development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution will greatly assist the border regions in their climate change adaptation.
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the sustainable use and protection for water is detected.</p> <p>The action aims at developing common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution where that activity will on the longer run – among others – to contribute to achieving the good status of bodies of water, including bodies of surface and groundwater by improving water management and efficiency by contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p>

			<p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action will have small waste production, therefore the impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any negative impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the air, water and land is detected.</p> <p>The action aims at development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution, therefore by definition is substantially improves the possible activities in the region in relation to pollution prevention and control to air, water and land.</p>

			The SEA also conclude that the activities will have a positive impact on the environment.
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems is detected.</p> <p>The projects of this action may have a small direct effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their direct impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level, whilst the outcomes of the developed strategies and action plans may significantly contribute to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.4. Small scale cooperation projects

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to GHG emissions will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like climate change mitigation. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm in respect to climate change mitigation.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental</p>

			<p>objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to climate change adaptation will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like climate change adaptation. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm in respect to climate change adaptation.</p>
<p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness</p>

			<p>raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like protection of water resources. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to water resources.</p>
<p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to circular economy. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to</p>

			the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to circular economy.
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to pollution prevention and control to air, water and land. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to air, water and land resources.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is</p>

		<p>considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 1.1-1.3, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.1. Creation of the legislative, administrative and technical framework for common epidemiological measures and the cross-border rescue services

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level. However, the action could improve remote healthcare services, which require less travel for both patients and healthcare staff, resulting in lower GHG emissions.</p>

Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving family and community-based health care services are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The action is likely to have positive effect on change adaptation. The analysis highlights that developments in the health care system can play a key role in effective adaptation to climate change effects already unavoidable (increase in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves and in the number of diseases transmitted by certain vectors). Diseases can be effectively prevented by appropriate knowledge transfer, in which the primary health care may play a decisive role. The summer heat wave frequency increase poses a heightened risk among the elderly population, whose health care development is also targeted.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p>

			<p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) in order to promote actions for the prevention and management of diseases originated from water pollution will be very useful.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are listed above, and all future projects of this action have small waste production, thus their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p>

			<p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any significant negative impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are listed above, and as a result, these activities will not cause significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.2. Investments for improving cooperation in epidemiology and in cross-border rescue services

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>As a result of these planned actions no significant effects to climate change mitigation are expected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>On the other hand, the action could improve the access to nearest health services and also spread telemedicine, which means shorter transportation of</p>

			<p>patients in the border area, resulting in lower GHG emissions.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the types of actions will have no direct effect on the climate, though climate change mitigation is not directly mentioned.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that strengthening cross-border cooperation among healthcare institutions are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The action is likely to have positive effect on change adaptation. The developments in the health care system can play a key role in effective adaptation to climate change effects already unavoidable (increase in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves and in the number of diseases transmitted by certain vectors). Diseases can be effectively prevented by appropriate knowledge transfer. The summer heat wave frequency increase pose a heightened risk among the elderly population, whose health care is well supported by telecommunications technology</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the types of actions will have no direct effect on the</p>

			climate, though climate change adaptation is not directly mentioned.
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that any joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) in order to promote actions for the prevention and management of diseases originated from water pollution will be very useful.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Of the infrastructure development and purchase of equipment, during the life cycle of the projects, no significant impact on the circular economy is expected. It is recommended that in the call for applications (and the project evaluation scheme) this aspect is underlined and should a particular project fail to explicitly</p>

			follow the DNSH principle, those projects must not be awarded. Of the soft measures no impact on circular economy is expected.
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that any joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) will be very useful.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that strengthening cross-border cooperation among healthcare institutions are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration</p>

			<p>of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action will not be really relevant for biodiversity.</p>
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.3. Enhancing the use of digital technologies in healthcare and health development

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p>

			<p>On the other hand, the action could improve remote healthcare services, which require less travel for both patients and healthcare staff, resulting in lower GHG emissions.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the types of actions will have no direct effect on the climate, though climate change mitigation is not directly mentioned.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving family and community-based health care services are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the types of actions will have no direct effect on the climate, though climate change adaptation is not directly mentioned.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on</p>

			<p>sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that any joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) in order to promote actions for the prevention and management of diseases originated from water pollution will be very useful.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Of the infrastructure development and purchase of equipment, during the life cycle of the projects, no significant impact on the circular economy is expected. It is recommended that in the call for applications (and the project evaluation scheme) this aspect is underlined and should a particular project fail to explicitly follow the DNSH principle, those projects must not be awarded. Of the soft measures no impact on circular economy is expected.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p>

			<p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that any joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) will be very useful.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that strengthening cross-border cooperation among healthcare institutions are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action will not be really relevant for biodiversity</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.4. Implementation of health screening and health promotion programmes

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 refurbishment of buildings and purchase of equipment) necessary to pilot-test and operate joint programmes <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>On the other hand, the action could improve remote healthcare services, which require less travel for both patients</p>

			<p>and healthcare staff, resulting in lower GHG emissions.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the types of actions will have no direct effect on the climate, though climate change mitigation is not directly mentioned.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving family and community-based health care services are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the types of actions will have no direct effect on the climate, though climate change adaptation is not directly mentioned.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p>

			The SEA concludes that any joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) in order to promote actions for the prevention and management of diseases originated from water pollution will be very useful.
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Of the infrastructure development and purchase of equipment, during the life cycle of the projects, no significant impact on the circular economy is expected. It is recommended that in the call for applications (and the project evaluation scheme) this aspect is underlined and should a particular project fail to explicitly follow the DNSH principle, those projects must not be awarded. Of the soft measures no impact on circular economy is expected.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air,</p>

			<p>water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that any joint program that connects regional stakeholders (healthcare workers, citizens, environmental agencies) will be very useful.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that strengthening cross-border cooperation among healthcare institutions are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action will not be really relevant for biodiversity</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 4.1.. Capacity development by data collection, knowledge sharing and training

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The indicative actions are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>As a result of tourism development, passenger traffic, the number of visitors and the duration of stay are increasing. All this leads to an increase in GHG emissions in transport, accommodation and at tourist attraction sites. Considering that these impacts will be the secondary results of the actions, the impact can be considered insignificant at program level.</p>

			<p>The SEA concludes that the action – which is going to develop capacity in the tourist sector - is potentially going to cause adverse effect on climate. Tourism development can contribute to increasing GHG emissions through the increase in the demand for transport, for accommodation and some tourist attractions also consumes energy and thus emits GHG.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As a result of the activity, the current climate and the foreseeable future climate will not be significantly touched by adverse effects of the activity.</p> <p>The SEA does not mention any impact of the action on climate change adaptation.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The future projects of this action will not result in higher local water consumption by the targeted institutions, therefore their impact on sustainable use and</p>

			<p>protection for water resources will be insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any negative impact on the water resources of these actions.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action will have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p>

			The SEA does not identify any impact related to the pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land.
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that develop capacity are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also considering that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 4.2. Development of common or joint tourism products, including development of cross-border networks and routes

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Enhancement of tourism, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, operation of accommodation establishments and attractions, entail significant greenhouse gas emission, relative to the project size and also to the operation of the attractions. This incremental amount of emission is estimated to be marginal. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the key development directions of the HUSKROUA CBC Programme, above all development of active and ecotourism, imply the lowest emissions of all tourism sub-sectors, therefore they can even be beneficial from a climate change mitigation point of view.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that there is a shortcoming of these actions that they do not address activities specific to mitigate the effects of sustainable</p>

			tourism in relation to climate, therefore it is recommended to specifically address this issue in PO4 actions
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measures foreseen are mostly neutral from climate change adaptation point of view, though a slight positive impact is expected from growing environmental consciousness, since this is one of the aims of the programme, therefore no significant harm is foreseen.</p> <p>The SEA is not mentioning any impact of the action on climate change adaptation.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Water tourism is a possible development directions the action focuses on. In terms of the potentially affected water bodies, growing number of visitors may lead to small increased pressure on waters, even if assumed that</p>

			<p>environmental consciousness of water tourism participants is higher than average. The extent of impacts is expected to be at a very low level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that in case of PO4 v) types of actions, they could be indirectly beneficial, but they may have some acute negative effects if not managed properly. In order to prevent the negative impacts, it would be very important to harmonize the main elements, priorities of this proposed program and find linkages between the action proposed for the development of sustainable tourism and nature protection and climate change mitigation – particularly for waterbodies (but generally for other environmental elements as well). It recommends that the proposed infrastructure development actions need to be implemented with special care for natural assets</p>
<p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As a result of tourism development the number of visitors and the duration of stay are increasing. All this leads to an increase in waste production at accommodation and at tourist attraction sites. We can assume that most of the waste generated by tourists would have appeared anyway (at their</p>

			<p>place of residence). It is likely that the measure will mainly attract tourists from the countries covered by the Programme, so that the increase in environmental burden can be considered insignificant at the level of the countries concerned.</p> <p>Improvement of buildings and infrastructures (renovation, reconstruction of heritage sites; improve the infrastructural background of tourism destinations) results in construction and demolition waste. The treatment and recycling of these materials in accordance with current regulations is complying with the principles of the circular economy.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p>
<p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Enhancement of tourism, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, operation of accommodation establishments and attractions, entail significant greenhouse gas emission, and pressure on the soil and water resources, however, its level can be reduced by various means. Key development directions of the Action</p>

			<p>may generate more traffic thus having a marginal negative environmental impact. The extent and geographical scope of loads is highly dependent on the number of visitors, but it is likely that only a few point-like or smaller areas may be affected, therefore causing no significant harm to air, water and land.</p>
<p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The intended tourism is one of the development directions the action focuses on. In terms of the potentially affected ecosystems, growing number of visitors may lead to an increased pressure on the ecosystem, even if assumed that environmental consciousness of ecotourism participants is higher than average. The extent of this pressure is estimated to be very low and therefore causing no significant harm to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 4.3. Promotion of local and regional cooperation in culture and arts

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>Small scale investment in public cultural infrastructure to support preservation and development can contribute to GHG emission, but this impact is insignificant at program level, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to climate change mitigation.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The promotion of cultural cooperation has no direct impact on climate change adaptation at all, therefore no significant</p>

			harm could be anticipated in relation to climate change adaptation
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Though all projects of cultural cooperation will have local water use, it has no impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to the sustainable use and protection for water resources</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>Small-scale modernization of infrastructure results in construction and demolition waste. The treatment and recycling of these materials in accordance with current regulations is complying with the principles of the circular economy.</p>

			The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Among the cultural programmes, events and festivals, there is a possibility of point-like noise pollution in the case of outdoor ones, the extent of which depends on the volume and circumstances of the event. However, significantly increased noise exposure of affected communities is not anticipated taking into account frequency. Cultural cooperation has no impact on the other environmental aspects, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that target promotion of local and regional cooperation in culture and arts are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of</p>

			biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 4.4. Pilot actions to boost social innovation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups of the society in cultural activities, tourism services and projects

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The aim of this action is to identify and test cooperative innovative approaches to the provision of cultural activities and tourism-related services locally, by issuing an application for selection, implementation and monitoring of innovative local projects. All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As pilot actions to boost social innovation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups are not fundamentally for climate adaptation</p>

			<p>purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The indicative projects demonstrate that these activities will not cause significant harm to the climate change adaptation.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action will have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not indicate that the action is likely to have an effect on surface water and groundwater.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action will have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p>

			The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water or land.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As pilot actions to boost social innovation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking into account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p>

			The SEA does not identify any impact related to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 4.5. Small scale cooperation projects

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to GHG emissions will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like climate change mitigation. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 4.1-4.4, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm in respect to climate change mitigation.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental</p>

			<p>objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to climate change adaptation will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like climate change adaptation. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 4.1-4.4, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm in respect to climate change adaptation.</p>
<p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness</p>

			<p>raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like protection of water resources. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 4.1-4.4, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to water resources.</p>
<p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to circular economy. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 4.1-4.4, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to</p>

			the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to circular economy.
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to pollution prevention and control to air, water and land. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 4.1-4.4, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to air, water and land resources.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is</p>

		<p>considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct impact on the sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level. The cooperation programmes could partly help awareness raising and knowledge transfer related to environmental issues like protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Bilingualism could dissolve language barriers and promote joint project development and project preparation for larger Interreg projects may also cover the achievement of related environmental objectives.</p> <p>As it is indicated in the case of actions 4.1-4.4, the technical contents of the possible projects will not cause significant harm to the environment, and the size of the project also prevents the possibility of causing significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 5.1. Institutional cooperation between public and civil society organisations

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle.	Yes	No	Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected?
Climate change mitigation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to GHG emissions will be insignificant at program level. On the other hand, it provides space for citizens to identify border obstacles to climate change mitigation, to change the legal framework, and even to develop some projects for environmental purposes.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not relevant in relation to climate related issues.</p>
Climate change adaptation		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action is not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change</p>

			<p>adaptation at program level is insignificant. On the other hand, it provides space for citizens to identify border obstacles of climate change adaptation, to change the legal framework, and even to develop some projects for environmental purposes.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not relevant in relation to climate related issues.</p>
The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on surface water and groundwater. On the other hand, it provides space for citizens to identify border obstacles to better water management, to change the legal framework, and even to develop some projects for environmental purposes.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not relevant in relation to the sustainable use and protection for water resources.</p>
The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on waste</p>

			<p>production and recycling. On the other hand, it provides space for citizens to identify border obstacles to transition to circular economy, to change the legal framework, and even to develop some projects for environmental purposes.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not relevant in relation to the use of materials or waste production.</p>
Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on pollution to air, water or land. On the other hand, it provides space for citizens to identify border obstacles to pollution prevention, to change the legal framework, and even to develop some projects for environmental purposes.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not relevant in relation to the pollution prevention and control to air, water and land.</p>
The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems		X	<p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on biodiversity</p>

			<p>and ecosystems. On the other hand, it provides space for citizens to identify border obstacles to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, to change the legal framework, and even to develop some projects for environmental purposes.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not relevant in relation to have an effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves.</p>
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

5 Proposals and protective measures to the Programme document

Throughout the assessment procedure the following proposals and protective measures are recommended to be embraced by the Programming Committee for better compliance with the environmental objectives enlisted in the Taxonomy Regulation.

It is recommended, that in actions, where the indicative actions include infrastructure works, partial rebuilding of existing infrastructure or purchase of equipment, the call for proposal includes a highlighted warning to applicants, indicating that the DNSH principle should be given special consideration throughout the project implementation and the life cycle of the equipment and structures.

5.1 Climate change mitigation

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 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' and 'Action 2.2 Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity' the transfer of knowledge related to climate change mitigation is recommended for

Throughout the entire programme where possible interventions include infrastructure construction or partial reconstruction of existing buildings, the projects should incorporate the use of renewable energy, which can reduce GHG emissions from the energy consumption of the related facilities

In the case of the tourism development actions special attention should be paid (both actual tourism development, and actions, which are developing future tourism attractions or activities) to mitigation measures of the possible GHG emission of increasing traffic.

5.2 Climate change adaptation

'Action 1.1 Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change and human threats on nature: This action focuses on technical preparation of common infrastructure development projects and implementation of common interest infrastructure development projects. It is highly recommended to include in the calls to give special consideration to the EU Taxonomy regulation when planning future infrastructure projects in the region. Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 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' and 'Action 2.2 Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the

field of nature protection and biodiversity', the transfer of knowledge related to climate change adaptation is recommended for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.3 Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 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' and 'Action 2.2 Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity' the transfer of knowledge related to the main message of the Water Framework Directive, namely to achieve the good status in all water bodies is recommended for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.4 Transition to a circular economy

All the activities, where the eligible activities include construction, partial reconstruction activities, the concept of circular economy has to be in the forefront and reuse of materials is to be encouraged.

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 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' and 'Action 2.2 Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity' the transfer of knowledge related to the concept of circular economy is recommended for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.5 Pollution prevention and control

In the case of future plans and concepts and e.g. planned training and education activities of 'Action 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', 'Action 2.2 Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity' and 'Action 2.3 Development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution' the transfer of knowledge of good practices to prevent pollution and control is recommended for planners, applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.6 Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

In the case of 'Action 4.2 Development of common or joint tourism products, including development of cross-border networks and routes' we recommend that during the design of

tourism facilities, efforts should be made to reduce land occupation and the extent of paved surfaces in order to improve the chances for protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 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' 'Action 2.2 Joint education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity' and 'Action 2.3 Development of common strategies and action plans to support the joint protection and enhancement of natural assets and to reduce pollution' the transfer of knowledge related to the concept of protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

6 List of abbreviations

DNSH	Do no significant harm
EGESIF	Expert Group on European Structural Investment Funds
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRF Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility
OP	Operational Programme
CPR	Common Provisions Regulation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
MA	Managing Authority
JS	Joint Secretariat