



Interreg 

Austria-Hungary 2014-2020

European Union – European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

of the Annual Implementation Report 2017



The current report gives an overview to the broader public about the implementation of the EU-funded Interreg V-A Austria - Hungary Programme that supports cross-border co-operations since the opening of the call in December 2015 in four thematic priorities.

Applicants and beneficiaries can find information about possibilities in the programme on the programme webpage (interreg-athu.eu) and in hard copy from the priority specific thematic folders, available at the Managing Authority (MA), Joint Secretariat (JS) and the Regional Coordinators (RCs) of the programme. Information about the application and selection process, requirements in terms of contribution to the programme targets, eligibility rules, communication, and project implementation (including contracting, reporting, project modification, etc.) are available in specific manuals in the download section of the programme webpage. Programme bodies do their best to keep these documents updated and clarifications are continuously provided. JS and RCs stay at the disposal of applicants and beneficiaries with general information about programme requirements and specific project relevant advice, respectively.

eMS (electronic Monitoring System) is the programme's tool to provide harmonised and transparent solutions in the application and project implementation procedures, developed initially by Interact and widely used by many Interreg programmes throughout Europe. eMS provides convenient on-line editing platform for all users. Programme bodies are devoted to continuously develop eMS together with Interact and provide technical support to users whenever needed.

Applications can be submitted at any time, but for the decision in a certain MC meeting those project proposals are considered that are submitted on time in order to be assessed.

During the years 2016 and 2017 in 3 selection rounds altogether 71 projects were submitted to the programme and 31 were approved by the Monitoring Committee (MC) in four thematic priorities. As a result of these decisions, up to 56M Euros of European funding will be invested in new Austrian-Hungarian initiatives, and the percentage of the EFRD budget already affected for the current programming period to cross-border projects has reached 75%.

The focus of programme efforts in 2017 was to crank up the contracting of approved projects after the technical framework has become available, and to provide them every possible support for the efficient implementation, in face-to-face meetings as well as by completing the circle of manuals including all necessary information. In 2017 also preparations were made to start payments to projects, as far as the technical framework for reporting and verification has been finalised.

Selected projects cover a wide circle of topics such as services enhancing the involvement of women in technical activities, SME networking, wood industry initiatives, natural and nature park co-operations, water management projects as well as actions to improve the region's tourism potential. Educational co-operations from kindergarten through vocational education to university, from early language training to specific topics such as robotics or poultry, projects to support the harmonisation of the labour market and various other networking initiatives are also part of the programme. The programme has also a specific focus on improving sustainable transport connections along the border. Projects in all these topics help the Austrian-Hungarian border region to grow together.

