



Interreg 

Austria-Hungary 2014-2020

European Union – European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

of the Annual Implementation Report 2016



The EU-funded Interreg V-A programme supports cross-border cooperation projects in the border region Austria - Hungary. The main objective of the programme is to intensify cross-border contacts in the areas of economy, social affairs, culture and ecology, in order to strengthen the regional competitiveness and diminish regional disparities.

In the framework of the annual reporting to the European Commission (EC), the current report gives an overview to the broader public about the implementation of the programme in the year 2016.

EU funded cross-border cooperation programmes –with a long history including Phare CBC, Interreg IIA, Interreg IIIA and ETC programmes, and now Interreg V-A- have been present in the border region for already about two decades.

The call in the current programme was opened on 16 December 2015 for the four thematic priorities. These are:

1. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
2. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
3. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
4. Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration

At call opening applicants were provided with an on-line available application handbook including its annexes (guide to fill in the AF, annexes to the application, AF template, checklist of annexes, selection criteria) and the eligibility handbook. In order to reflect the experiences gained in the two submission rounds during 2016 and to fulfil the needs of project holders, clarifications and updates of these documents are continuously made available. While the main rules are already fixed in the basic documents, the programme bodies are also devoted to elaborate new supporting materials, such as guides on indicators, communication and reporting.

In order to meet the requirements of the EC for e-cohesion, as well as to provide more harmonised and transparent solutions in the application and project implementation procedures, the programme applies eMS (electronic Monitoring System), an Interact initiative widely used by many Interreg programmes throughout Europe. eMS provides convenient on-line editing platform for all applicants, with parallel access to project partners, a user interface and a structure that is known for many project holders who have projects in other Interreg programmes. Programme bodies are devoted to continuously develop eMS together with Interact and provide technical support to users whenever needed.

The continuous call in the programme means that applications can be submitted at any time, but in order to be considered for decision in a certain MC meeting project proposals have to be submitted on time in order to be assessed – as a general rule 70 days before the meeting at noon, at the latest.

In the two submission rounds altogether 43 applications were submitted, and 23 of them were selected for funding. As a result of these decisions, up to 42M Euros of European funding will be invested in new Austrian-Hungarian initiatives, and the percentage of the ERDF budget already affected for the current programming period to cross-border projects has reached 57%.





Lead beneficiaries of selected projects have received in-depth consultation in the course of contract preparation in order to get prepared for the administrative requirements and to be able to comply with the requirements of the result orientation approach. Based on a common understanding in the interpretation of indicators on expected outputs and results it is ensured that the benefits produced by the selected projects for the whole programme region will be in line with the programme targets. As the eligibility period for the expenditure related to the selected projects can start before contract signature, several projects have already started practical implementation, although ERDF contracting has not started until the end of 2016.

