



Ex-ante evaluation

of the “Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme”

Evaluation Report

Date: October 2015



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List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BRECO	Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Oradea
CBC	Cross-border Cooperation
CP	Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme
CPR	Common Provision Regulation, Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013
CSF	COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT, Elements for a Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020 the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, SWD(2012) 61 final
CTS	Common Territorial Strategy
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
Ip	Investment Priority
JS	Joint Secretariat
JWG	Joint Working Group (JWG) for the strategic planning and programming of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme
PA	Priority Axis
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
STA	Strategic Territorial Analysis for Romanian-Hungarian border area
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
TO	Thematic objective
ToR	Terms of Reference, Ex-ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the operational programme of period 2014-2020 of the cross-border eligible area of Hungary and Romania to be submitted to European Commission (VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd., approved by JWG on 30.10.2012)

1. Executive summary

The present ex-ante evaluation report assesses the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme (in short CP¹), dated October, 2015. Activities and tasks of ex-ante evaluation took into consideration the requirements of the provisions of the relevant regulations of the European Parliament and the Council and guidance documents on ex-ante evaluation of the Commission. The report first summarises the process of the ex ante evaluation, presenting its methodological aspects followed, then details the findings, and at the end summarises the conclusions and main recommendations of the evaluation.

The ex ante evaluation follows the detailed methodology of the ex ante evaluation, presented in the Inception Report.

The applied tools comprised coherency and indicator analyses, statistical method, the use of logical framework, expert panel meetings, impact mapping, risk analyses, including mitigation proposals, identification of possible bottlenecks of the proposed types of actions.

According to requirements of Common Provision Regulation (CPR)² of the Commission the ex ante evaluation of the CBC Programme between Romania and Hungary (CP) has been carried out in parallel and in interaction with drafting the CP in order to improve the quality of its design.

The five main components of the evaluation exercise according to the ToR³ and the Guidance of the Commission⁴ have been as follows:

- Appraisal of the programme strategy (consistency of programme objectives, coherence of the programme strategy, linkage between supported actions, expected outputs and results, horizontal principles;
- Indicators, monitoring and evaluation (relevance and clarity of indicators, their quantified baseline and target values, suitability of milestones, administrative capacity, data collection procedures and evaluation);
- Consistency of financial allocations;
- Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). (The SEA report has been drafted separately).

Additionally to the above components, the ex-ante evaluation assessed the involvement of stakeholders in the programming process.

Generally the cross-border co-operation programme Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary shows a high level of coherence and consistency. The methodology described is appropriate, the programming process is described in details, and the participation of all stakeholders has been ensured during the planning process. The strategy is mainly coherent ensuring consistent adherence to thematic objectives and investment priorities during the whole strategy development process from the SWOT analysis to the definition of proposed actions.

¹ See the List of abbreviations on page 1.

² Article 55(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

³ Terms of Reference, Ex-ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the operational programme of period 2014-2020 of the cross-border eligible area of Hungary and Romania to be submitted to European Commission (VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd., 30.10.2012)

⁴ Guidance document on ex-ante evaluation:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf.

The main findings of the Ex-ante evaluation are summarized as follows:

Ex-ante evaluation components		Conclusions
I. Programme strategy		
Consistency of programme objectives		The CP and its specific objectives are consistent with challenges and needs in relation to Europe 2020 objectives. The CP reflects the challenges and needs identified in the border region, taking into account the analysis of disparities and development needs in the Partnership Agreements, the National Reform Programmes and the country-specific recommendations of both countries.
Coherence of the programme strategy	Internal coherence	The CP is internally coherent. It comprises a traceable intervention logic with clear chains of arguments starting with the description of key territorial challenges and needs up to specific objectives, intended results. Within the programme there are coherences between the priority axis. The programme contains indications of similar actions in several priority axis, and the programme implementation structures should pay attention and avoid double financing of various actions under different axis (road construction activities) in case of PA1, PA2, PA3 and PA4.
	External coherence	The CP is a coherent document which is well in line with external strategies, policies or programmes and in particular with the Romanian and Hungarian National Reform Programmes and Partnership Agreements as well as with regional development strategies of the counties of the programme area. The key actions of the Common Territorial Strategy for Romania-Hungary border region (CTS) are considered within the proposed actions of the Cooperation Programme.
Linkage between supported actions, expected outputs and results		<p>The Cooperation Programme describes properly the linkages between actions, outputs and desired results. These linkages are based on the fact that the planned outputs contribute to the required change of the specific objectives and expected results. These consistent correlations allow also the assumption that the proposed support will be demanded by the beneficiaries, be valuable for the target groups and finally lead to the intended results.</p> <p>The proposed actions are well reflecting the intentions of the respective Priority axis to address the identified challenges.</p>
Horizontal principles		Sustainable development, ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as the promotion of equality between men and women are sufficiently indicated in the CP, which is fully meeting the requirements of the relevant regulations. The CP identifies the PAs, which will have a main focus on these principles or at least have positive direct or indirect effects.

Ex-ante evaluation components		Conclusions
II. Indicators, monitoring and evaluation		
Relevance and clarity of proposed programme indicators	Relevance	The programme includes a comprehensive system of indicators that are likely to capture the most important effects of the intervention. All result indicators are clearly related to the specific objectives and reflect the planned operations and cover the most important intended changes described in the respective section “The results, which the Member States seek to achieve with EU support”. Output indicators have been defined for all investment priorities. The indicators are relevant to the expected outputs of all envisaged actions.
	Clarity	The system of indicators includes for each investment priority of the priority axis one result indicator and several common and programme specific output indicators. All output indicators are clear, relevant to the content of the planned interventions and are likely to contribute to the change in result indicators.
Quantified baseline and target values		<p>Definitions of all indicators, as well as description of methods for data collection, calculation and interpretation have been provided by the planning team, and in case of the result indicators also the ex-ante experts were involved in drafting the necessary definitions and descriptions.⁵</p> <p>All result indicators have a commonly accepted normative interpretation. The value of some indicators is coming from official statistical database, while the value of other result indicators is gathered by surveys. The definition and description of methods for data collection has been described in the separate papers on indicators (Methodology for defining result/output indicators).</p> <p>Target values have been set for result indicators for 2023 in the CP and the frequency of reporting has been set accordingly. As for result indicators established and measured through surveys, the targets are established based on the survey for the baseline value.</p> <p>The formulation of the output indicators allows quantification in every case. Baselines for the output indicators will be zero, while their target values have been quantified for 2023, and in case of the indicators included in the performance framework, for 2018 as well. The quantified values of the output indicators are realistic and well justified.</p>
Suitability of milestones		The performance framework contains the relevant indicators and measure properly the significant outputs of the Priority Axes. Based on the particular implementation nature of the planned actions the CP applies properly the key implementation steps.
Administrative capacity, data collection procedure and evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation	Monitoring indicators along with planned management and control arrangements described in the CP are likely to provide relevant and timely data for decision making, reporting and evaluation of the CP. No bottlenecks can be expected which might impede management, monitoring and evaluation of the programme based on previous experience.

⁵With the participation of the ex-ante team a methodological description was elaborated for the definition of the result indicators and giving the baseline values or the methodology for preparing studies in relevant cases.

Ex-ante evaluation components		Conclusions
	Implementing provisions for the CP	Implementing provisions for the cooperation programme have been adequately elaborated. The description of the management and control arrangements follows correctly the regulation.
	Coordination	The coordination mechanism is described in detail and ensures a coordination with other programmes financed from the ESIF Funds under the Partnership Agreements of both states, and other national sources.
	Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries	Based on the experiences of the financial period 2007-2013, the foreseen measures for reduction of the administrative burden are correct. Setting up of a new electronic system is intended.
III. Consistency of financial allocation		
Consistency of financial allocation		The financial allocations are consistent in looking at the challenges and needs and the corresponding specific objectives and the foreseen types of actions.
IV. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy		
Contribution to Europe 2020		<p>The CP is well in line with the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Priority axis PA3 contributes specifically to smart growth objective, priority axis PA1, PA2, PA3 and PA5 contributes specifically to sustainable growth objective and thematic objectives PA3, PA4 and PA6 contributes specifically to inclusive growth objective.</p> <p>Further, the CP contributes to the country specific proposals of the Commission for Romania and Hungary and the resulting national goals and paths.</p>

Involvement of stakeholders in the programme design

The CP has been elaborated involving relevant stakeholders from both countries in the programming group (JWG) that met and discussed all aspects of the CP in numerous meetings. For the preparation of Common Territorial Strategy, regional discussion process on needs and strategies for the programme region achieved a high involvement of additional stakeholders for defining the main issues to be considered for the common development of the region.

On the base of the findings, it can be concluded, that the CP contains all the elements required by relevant regulations relating to the ETC programmes.

Conclusions and recommendations of the Strategic Environment Assessment

The purpose of the cooperation programme is the integrated development of the eligible area. An integrated approach not only means that the actions have to be planned in the eligible area, but the relevant interventions have to be handled in a joint manner, considering the possible effects on the different areas of intervention. This means that during implementation water management actions and effects on natural values also have to be identified. In case of hard installation measures on flood protection, the negative impact on wildlife habitats has to be minimized. The improvement of the data collection and monitoring system for a more accurate assessment of water resource balances (quantity, quality) is also needed.

Related to the objective of natural and cultural heritage valorisation, projects with no landscape altering impacts should be supported. In case of loss of natural factors (trees, green surfaces, etc.) there would be implemented measures of compensation according to the legislation in force.

Special attention should be paid to objectives and actions linked to the improvement of the transport system and the preparation of strategic investments in regional transport infrastructure, the promotion of sustainable freight transport, waterway maintenance and management. Supporting these actions could lead to an increase in land take, the fragmentation of habitats and additional impact through air and noise pollution in sensitive areas. The effective consideration of environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects has to be ensured, as well as in case of energy planning and coordination actions in order to avoid negative side-effects of growing green energy utilization (e.g. one-sided biomass production, adverse effects on hydromorphology, noise, negative impact on landscape). It is suggested that these settlements shall be supported only under the strict control of and in cooperation with the relevant authorities.

Road infrastructure development activities should be limited within the scope of the specific project. In view of the location of each new road site, the plans should be in conformity with the regulatory acts for the use of protected areas, protected sites, water protection, preservation of the cultural-historical heritage, conformity with the sanitary protection zones and sites subject to health protection.

In case of constructions, no materials and substances should be used that can lead to any kind of pollution or damage to the ecosystems.

Sharing information is essential for coordination and common development, reducing parallel tasks and duties and providing efficient cross-border cooperation. The application of best practice guidance and benchmarking methods will shorten the implementation period. With the harmonization of the legislative background, project development is expected to be more efficient.

The aspects of sustainable management and protection of environmental resources have to be taken into consideration at the implementation of the specific projects.

The specific objectives require non-structural and structural methods. Non-structural methods mainly mean the development of the institutional and legislative backgrounds, with the adoption of best practice and assessment guidance (e.g. relevant guide books), while structural methods reflect on infrastructure-related questions and applying integrated elements. The key elements:

- application of environmentally friendly methods
- special attention on noise generation and air pollution load during the implementation of projects
- the sustainable use of environmental elements (soil, natural resources, etc.)
- environmentally friendly development methods; integrate energy efficiency into horizontal principle

- fight against climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and adjustment to climate change
- nature protection (conservation of biodiversity)
- energy efficiency

The projects selected for financing shall be implemented only after obtaining the regulatory act from the competent environmental authority.

A clear commitment from both countries (RO and HU) is needed with regard to the measures identified in the SEA process for prevention, reduction and, where possible, offsetting any possible significant effects on the environment resulting from the implementation of the Programme. Chapter 7.1 describes the measures that pertain to "prevention, reduction and, where possible, offsetting any possible significant effects on the environment resulting from the implementation of the Programme", according to the following:

The suggested measures for each specific objective:

SO6/b Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies:

Measuring tools have to reflect to the recent questions in the field of protecting water resources. The applied methods have to fulfil both legislation and territorial development requirements. It is suggested to examine the possibilities of water transport methods. In case of cross-border water protection and management activities, special attention should be paid to the environmental regulatory acts of investments in the project selection phase. It is necessary to obtain the environmental regulatory acts as a precondition for financing in case of construction projects. The exact procedure will be established in the Call for Proposals (Applicant Guide).

SO6/c Sustainable use of natural, historic and cultural heritage within the eligible area:

Cadastral registration, nature preservation plans, and their harmonization with flood risk management plans form the basis of determining the intervention methods. The planned interventions have to reflect on the plans' short and long term aims, in order to preserve the eligible area's natural and cultural values.

SO7/b Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure and SO7/c Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport

In accordance with the EU's objective, the application of environmentally friendly transport methods has to be preferred. It not only means the development of infrastructure (intermodality, bicycle roads, etc.), but also the awareness-raising processes (education, green tourism, promotion, etc.).

SO8/b Increased employment within the eligible area:

Cross-border cooperation enables the improvement of local employability. The facility development has to be fulfilled with the sustainable usage of natural resources, with the revitalization of brownfields, avoiding the withdrawal of soil capacity.

SO9/a Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area:

Health-care development has to be handled by integrated approach also. Facility development has to be implemented with the application of best available techniques (e.g. energy efficiency), but best practice also means the structural institutional development, with the application of available recreational alternatives (medical tourism).

SO5b Improved cross-border disasters and risk management:

Disaster management has to be handled integrated with the relevant legal obligations, enabling cross-border cooperation. Disaster management plans have to be elaborated, with common cooperation background.

SO11b Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities:

With the coordinated way of sharing information, parallel tasks will be eliminated. With the application of management plans and guidance (based on legal background), administrative burdens will be reduced. With the creation of the infrastructure and IT background, cooperation will evolve between the institutions and communities.

All the measures were sent to the experts dealing with drafting the programme.

2. Introduction

According to requirements of Common Provision Regulation (CPR)⁶ of the European Parliament and the Council, the ex-ante evaluation of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary (in short CP⁷) has been carried out in parallel and in interaction with drafting the CP in order to improve the quality of its design. This included also that during the ex-ante evaluation process, the team worked closely together with the planners in order to provide feedback and allow adjustments in order to make the necessary corrections to the planners. The ex-ante evaluation will accompany the submission of the CP.⁸

The present ex-ante evaluation report assesses the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary programme document, dated October, 2015.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report has been drafted separately. The final version of the non-technical summary of SEA report sent to public consultation will be fit into the final version of the report.

Table 1: Main content of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary

Priority axis	ERDF support (in EUR)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities
PA1: Cooperating on common values and resources	10 750 000.00	6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6/b Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the MS, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies
	30477 417.00		6/c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	Sustainable use of natural, historic and cultural heritage within the eligible area
PA2: Cooperating on accessibility	13 925 083.00	7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	7/b Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure
	15 821 167.00		7/c Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport

⁶ Article 55(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

⁷ See the List of abbreviations on page 1.

⁸ Article 26 (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Priority axis	ERDF support (in EUR)	Thematic objective	Investment priorities	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priorities
PA3: Cooperating on employment	46 810 155.00	8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8/b Supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to and development of specific natural and cultural resources	Increased employment within the eligible area
PA4: Cooperating on health-care and prevention	48 479 323.00	9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any discrimination	9/a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and transition from institutional to community-based services	Improved preventive and curative health-care service across the eligible area
PA5: Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management	8 115 835.00	5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	5/b Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management
PA6: Cooperation of institutions and communities	3 411 372.00	11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	11/b Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities
PA7: Technical assistance	11 348 320.00	According to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) no 1299/2013		Effective and efficient programme and project implementation
Total	189 138 672.00			

3. Process of the ex-ante evaluation

3.1. Methodological aspects

Activities and tasks of ex-ante evaluation took into consideration the requirements of the ToR, the Technical offer submitted, as well as the provisions of the CPR⁹ and of the Guidance documents on ex-ante evaluation of the Commission¹⁰. Furthermore while following the process of the drafting of the Programme, the preparation of the ex-ante evaluation was correlated with milestones for elaborating the programme document and the approval of the relevant European and national level documents, assuring certain flexibility as these documents evolved.

For the requirement of the Common Provision Regulation of the Commission¹¹ (CPR) for the ex ante evaluation of the CP. The five main components of the evaluation exercise according to the ToR and the Guidance of the Commission¹², are presented in

Figure 1.

Figure 1: The five main components of the evaluation exercise



⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

¹⁰ Guidance document on ex-ante evaluation

¹¹ Article 55(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

¹² Guidance document on ex-ante evaluation

3.2. Description of the process

The ex ante evaluation follows the detailed methodology of the ex ante evaluation, presented in the Inception Report. The relevant key actors involved during the whole ex ante exercise are listed in Annex 1.

After finalisation of the Inception Report for the ex ante evaluation, an internal orientation workshop was held for the ex-ante from Hungary and Romania in order to:

- prepare evaluators for the activities to be performed, including documents to be used and analysed,
- assure all evaluators understand in the same way the tasks to be performed,
- inform experts regarding the requirements of the Contracting Authority and the JWG.

As a next step, the ex-ante team started to review the necessary European level documents (regulations, legal provisions, relevant guidance documents, strategies, plans, recommendations), the National Reform Programmes for both countries and the relevant Council recommendations, the draft Partnership Agreements and draft Operational Programmes for 2014-2020 of both countries, the relevant regional and county development plans and strategies and the Evaluation Report of the HURO CBC Programme 2007-2013. The list of documents reviewed is listed in

Annex 2.

As the process of the preparation and drafting of the CBC Programme between Romania and Hungary 2014-2020 started, the ex-ante team closely followed the developments of the drafting versions of the CP and gave continuously feedback to the programming experts and the ex-ante team ensured their presence on all of the JWG and sub JWG meetings. The ex-ante team organised a workshop for discussing the internal coherence of the programmes and the indicators on 25th of August with representation of the members of the JWG.

On the base of the Draft 1, Version 2 of the CP, in-depth interviews were held with JWG members, responsible ministries of both countries, and key stakeholders including regional organizations in order to gather qualitative information and the opinions of those persons affected by the programme and gain feedback on certain aspects of the programme inputs, activities, outputs, results. The summary of the interviewees are in Annex 3. The opinions and proposals gained during the in-depth interviews have been integrated into the ex-ante evaluation of the Draft 2 of the CP.

The ex-ante evaluators provided help for the programming process to define the relevant result indicators and the baseline and target values. In some cases the baseline indicators can be defined by a preparation of a survey.

The applied tools comprised text analyses, interviews and workshops for knowing the opinion of the key stakeholders and benchmarking for assess the output target indicators.

The main components of the evaluation exercise according to the ToR¹³ and the Guidance of the Commission¹⁴ have been as follows:

- Appraisal of the programme strategy:
 1. Consistency of programme objectives
 - Challenges and needs in relation to Europe 2020 objectives
 - Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs
 2. Coherence of the programme strategy (internal and external coherence)
 3. Linkage between supported actions, expected outputs and results
 4. Horizontal principles
- Indicators, monitoring and evaluation (relevance and clarity of indicators, their quantified baseline and target values, suitability of milestones, administrative capacity, data collection procedures and evaluation);
- Consistency of financial allocations;
- Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy.

Further the appraisal of the CP included the followings:

- Administrative capacity, data collection procedures and evaluation (including the assessment of the Implementing provisions, and the coordination with other relevant resources).
- The involvement of stakeholders in the programme design.

¹³Terms of Reference, Ex-ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the operational programme of period 2014-2020 of the cross-border eligible area of Hungary and Romania to be submitted to European Commission (VÁTI Nonprofit Ltd., 30.10.2012)

¹⁴Guidance document on ex-ante evaluation

4. Results of the ex-ante evaluation

4.1. Programme strategy

4.1.1. Consistency of the programme objectives

Under consistency of the programme objectives, the evaluators assessed the following aspects

- *Challenges and needs in relation to Europe 2020 objectives.* The ex ante evaluation appraised the challenges and needs identified in the border region¹⁵, taking into account the analysis of disparities and development needs in the Partnership Agreements, the National Reform Programmes and the country-specific recommendations of both countries. Concerning the selected thematic objectives and investment priorities, the ex-ante evaluation verified that the objectives of the CP complement the above with a specific sectorial analysis.
- *Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs.* The ex-ante evaluation assessed if the identified challenges and needs referred to in the Common Territorial Strategy (CTS) and its related Strategic Territorial Analysis (STA)¹⁶ are consistently translated into the objectives of the operational programme, whether these challenges and needs are given an appropriate weight in the investment priorities.

As a consequence of a long lasting consultation process, the programme strategy contains agreed thematic objectives and investment priorities for development of the border region. The CP identified the specific objectives based on the needs and the challenges of the border regions detailed in the Territorial Strategic Analyses. The specific objectives of the programme are in line with the accepted vision of the Common Territorial Strategy (CTS) elaborated together with the members of the JWG, with the involvement of regional development experts. All of the objectives are relevant to meet the real problems and challenges of the border region.

At the consistency evaluation of the programme objectives, the evaluators mainly relayed on the statements and statistical data of the STA, while the analyses contains the most recent information based on the available data about the eligible area.

Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs was evaluated according to the specific objectives. The relevant challenges and needs for all SOs defined in the cooperation programme or in STA are summarised in Annex 4.

Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs

Specific objective of Ip6/b: Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and groundwater bodies

Table 2: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO6, SO to Ip6/b

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives

Amongst the challenges one important element is that the eligible area is rich in surface water – preserving its quantity and quality requires coordination and major resources. The very detailed STA

¹⁵ The specific regional situation and needs of the border region has been analysed in the Common Territorial Strategy, 4th Draft, dated June 18, 2014

¹⁶ The Strategic Territorial Analysis (STA) is the Annex I of the CP.

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives

indicates the need for improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies. In the list of the potentials, the joint natural assets - primarily water - is highlighted, stating that if properly protected and managed, water could be important common assets of the eligible area because of the increasing global importance of surface and ground-water (irrigation, energy production, drinking water, spa and health tourism) is stressed as one of the main potential of the area.

The referred need and challenges are realistic and provide good bases for the selection of the specific objective.

From among the 15 investment priorities presented to the stakeholders, investment in the water sector was ranked as 3rd. The specific objective Ip6b completely fits Strategic Objective 1 of the CTS: it is about protection and joint use of the natural resources of the eligible area.

Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies contributes to the adaptation to climate change, the preservation of the natural values and thereby supports the achieving of the aim of sustainable growth, a priority of the EU2020 strategy.

Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: it is an adequate response to the water management needs identified in the STA in connection with the common water base.

Specific objective of Ip/6c: Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area

Table 3: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO6, SO to Ip6/c

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives

As listed in the CP, challenges in connection with the historic, cultural and natural heritage: lack of competitiveness of tourist offer, imbalanced tourism infrastructure, lack of professional coordination, standalone attractions, lack of cross-border tourist attractions.

On the side of potentials, the analysis pinpoints

- Significant balneal and health tourism due to existence of mineral and thermal water.
- Potential in cultural tourism: medieval monuments, architectural buildings.
- Adaptation to the effects of climate change by developing ecosystems and the natural heritage.
- Potential of increasing mutual visits from both sides of the border, but joint proposition strong enough to compete at international level.
- Previous CBC-projects proved their strong cross-border character.
- Heritages located in less developed rural areas which lag behind.

This specific objective is in line with one of the long term objectives of the border region - the development of a joint, integrated tourism destination.

From among the 15 investment priorities investment in the tourism sector was ranked as 5th by the stakeholders. This issue became integral part of all scenarios analysed during the formulation of the strategy.

The specific objective fits the priorities of sustainable and inclusive growth of the EU2020 strategy by contributing to the preservation of the natural and cultural values as well as by promoting the connection of remote, less developed areas into the tourist routes. The interventions also contribute to the preservation and sustainable use of the natural and cultural values also.

Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: it is an adequate response to the needs identified in the CP in connection with the sustainable use of historic, cultural and natural heritage.

Specific objective to Ip7/b: Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure

Table 4: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO7, SO to Ip7/b

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives
<p>Challenges in the CP in connection with cross-border accessibility refer to problems with the density and the quality of roads with cross-border impact causing mobility inconveniences (long access times, risk of accidents, etc.) directly and economic disadvantages indirectly are also stressed. Amongst the potentials the new and upgraded, modernized regional or local roads are highlighted as multiplying beneficial interactions between people living and businesses functioning in the border region. This specific objective contributes to the realisation of the long-term vision with respect to density of cross-border road connections between small neighbouring settlements, effectively reducing cross-border access times and also improves the key conditions of cross border mobility corresponding to Strategic Objective 2 of the CTS.</p> <p>The reduction in cross-border access times by road development linked to the TEN-T network is in harmony with the needs as well as with the ranking of investment priorities by the stakeholders. Improved cross-border accessibility contributes to the inclusive growth priority of the EU 2020 Strategy by promoting the connection of remote, less developed areas, by enhancing the population retention potential of the area.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: it is an adequate response to the needs identified and utilises the potentials of cross-border mobility and accessibility of the main roads and border stations from small settlements of the cross-border area.</p>

Specific objective to Ip 7/c: Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport

Table 5: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO7, SO to Ip7/c

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives
<p>Challenges - the detailed STA and the CP indicate problems in connection with public transport services crossing the border and concludes that shortcomings of the bicycle road infrastructure weaken the mobility of people living in the border area.</p> <p>Among the 7 elements of the long-term vision the first element foresees that conditions of mobility are in place, with an increasing role of sustainable forms of transport.</p> <p>It also fosters the use of alternatives to individual car transport across the border as mentioned in Strategic Objective 2 of the CTS "Improve the key conditions of cross-border mobility".</p> <p>A potential benefit might arise from the development of bicycle road network that might increase the mobility of people and contributes to the better exploitation of the touristic potential of the border area.</p> <p>The increase in the proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of transport is coherent with the challenges and needs as well as with EU2020 strategy by contributing to the reduction of CO2 emission.</p> <p>The choice of this specific objective is in harmony with the ranking of investment priorities by the stakeholders and falls under priority axis PA2 "Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks"</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: as it is an adequate response to the problems identified in the CP in connection with public cross-border transport system hindering the economic and labour market integration, and contributes to the reduction of CO2 emission.</p>

Specific objective to Ip 8/b: Increased employment and growth in specific territories within the eligible area

Table 6: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO8, SO to Ip8/b

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives
<p>The Co-operation Programme contains proper information to justify the relevance of the specific objective and its related proposed actions.</p> <p>The relative low employment rate (latest available data in STA: 2009) and the baseline data of the result indicator – “employment rate in the eligible area as a percentage of the working age population” (2002-2012) sheds light on the necessity for job creation. The employment rate of the border region (56%) is less than the European average value (64%) in 2011. In the last 10 years (compared the data 2002 and 2012) the employment rate decreased especially in the northern part of the eligible area. Increasing of employment opportunities can be defined as one of the key challenge of the eligible area.</p> <p>Increase employment is one of the key objectives of the accepted CTS which define the related key interventions.</p> <p>The intentions targeting the increasing of employment is in line with employment policy objectives of EU2020 strategy.</p> <p>Based on the correct and relevant list of the key statements in the description the following issues can be handled in the programme which can lead to increase of the employment. E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop the skills and professionals of the human resources in line with the needs of the labour market • increase the co-operation in the employment services in the border area and helping the job search in the border area • improve the business infrastructural and service environment to increase job creation potential <p>During the exact formulation of the supported actions should be taken into account those statements which are coming from the experiences of the previous support and the utilisation of the existing infrastructures (i.e. any future business infrastructure development should rather focus on the better use of already existing facilities).</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: the creation of new employment opportunities and the development of the employment potential of the workforce are key challenges of the border area.</p>

Specific objective to Ip 9/a: Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area

Table 7: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO9, SO to Ip9/a

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives
<p>Improvement of health care services across the eligible area definitely is a relevant need and a vital challenge in the area as it has been highlighted in the STA and CP. Health status is one of the major underlying factors of human resources and thus economic development. Therefore the designation of the specific objective is well grounded.</p> <p>The inclusion of development in both curative and preventive health care services in the CP can achieve highest efficiency in raising health status, and could add to healthy life expectancy in the eligible area.</p> <p>Since developing health care infrastructure is resource intensive in order to achieve visible results by the CBC programme, certain level of focusing on the objectives of the Ip would be beneficial, such as</p>

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives

concentration on major causes of death, or on health issues in which the eligible area reaches below national average levels.

While patient migration has been correctly considered in the analysis as one of the major challenges specific to the area it has not been clearly stated whether patient migration is contributing to the worsening of health status on the Romanian side of the border, or on the other hand it is the beneficial effect of higher cooperation between health care institutions in the CBC area resulting in more efficient use of capacities. While health status and deficiencies in health care equipment have been analysed, the baseline study provides information about the key conditions for delivering quality services.

Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: it is an adequate response to the needs identified in the STA in connection with health care infrastructure in the eligible area.

Specific objective to Ip 5/b: Improved cross-border disasters and risk management

Table 8: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO5, SO to Ip5/b

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives

Emergency situations typically do not respect state borders and thus joint actions in emergency situations have high levels of importance. Floods and inland waters are important risk factors in the area and flood vulnerability is high, the choice for the specific objective is well grounded. The cross-border cooperation level of the emergency and risk prevention is measured by the questionnaire applied for defining value of the result indicator.

In details: Challenges and potentials underlying the importance of this objective could be more focused. To deal with emergency situation in the border area has a high level of cross-border impact; however the level of current cooperation is already very high in terms of emergency flood prevention, as stated in the STA 2.4.1

Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: it is an adequate response to the needs identified in the STA in connection with emergency situations.

Specific objectives to Ip 11/b: Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities

Table 9: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO11, SO to Ip11/b.

Consistency evaluation of programme objectives

The specific objective fit with the Strategic Objective 6 of the CTS: Strengthen a good working relationship, as key condition of cross-border cooperation.

A clear connection assured between the specific objectives and general aim of the programme. The challenges are tightly defined in the CP, but the enforcing the cooperation among the institutions, municipalities and local communities is essential to increase the higher cooperation level in the eligible area.

The objective contributes to the improving of efficiency of the cross-border relevant administrative capacities of institutions which is in line with the EU2020 strategy. The co-operation of different type of organisations contributes to the coherent operation of the civil organisations in the border area.

Evaluation conclusion: the consistency of the objective is assured: development of the sustainable co-operation of institutions and communities is in line with local needs.

4.1.2. Coherence of the programme strategy

Internal coherence

The coherence of the programme strategy has been analysed in the priority axis. Two dimensions of the coherence of programme strategy were evaluated:

- Internal coherence: In the framework of the internal coherence of programme objectives, the evaluators analysed the relationship between the specific objectives of Ip.s under each priority axis, and between the specific objectives of the different Ip.s per priority axis. The evaluators verified that complementarities and potential synergies are identified.
- External coherence: evaluation of the relations with the Partnership agreements of the two countries and the relevant national, territorial strategies.

The following table provides a picture for the potential coherences of the priority axis and could refer to the internal coherence of the programmes strategy.

Table 10: Coherence of the specific objectives and priority axis

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence among the specific objectives, priority axis
PA1: Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and groundwater bodies	Water is one of the most important joint assets of the eligible area. The water quality management actions focus on the joint protection and efficient use of the common water base by improving the ecological condition of the water base. It also contributes to the protection of natural habitats.
	Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area	The sustainable use of historic, cultural and natural heritage contributes to the efficient use of common values and resources that is the endogenous potential of the local economies, and contributes to economic development of the eligible area. There is also synergy between the water management measures of Ip 6b that also serve the protection of natural resources (Ip 6c) (water), and water management measures might also contribute to the preservation and better promotion of the tourist potential
PA2: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks (Cooperating on accessibility)	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure	Improved accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure is directly related to sustainable cross-border mobility: accessibility is the potential to mobility. Improved accessibility can be attained by e.g. removing bottlenecks. Within PA2 the two specific objectives are complementing each other: one is about accessibility by reducing cross-border access times through developing connecting roads to the TEN-T network the other is about increasing in proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of cross-border transport. The environmentally friendly forms of transport (e.g. buses) might also use the (re)constructed access roads to the TEN-T network. The actions can contribute to the labour force mobility and the intensification of the personal and institutional relations in the border region. The shorter access time could contribute to enhancing the business environment and creates better employment conditions. The different road construction possibilities of the PAs should be coordinated on project level to avoid double finance.

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence among the specific objectives, priority axis
	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport	The increase in the proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of cross-border transport improves the sustainability of cross-border transport. The improvement of the sustainable transport modes can contribute also to the labour force mobility and the intensification of the personal and institutional relations in the border region. The environmentally friendly forms of transport might also use the constructed access roads to the TEN-T network and other constructed roads financed from different PAs.
PA3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility (Cooperating on employment)	Increased employment within the eligible area	This priority improves the business environment and provides new opportunities for the sustainable job creation of the enterprises. Among several actions the road constructions can contribute to the labour force mobility and can stimulate the job creation.
PA4: Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area	The development of health care and prevention services can contribute especially to the development of those territories supported from employment objectives within PA3 and can ensure a healthy labor force and thus the backbone of economic development in the area.
PA5: Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management	The efficiently operated disaster and risk management systems can serve as safety measures for the operation of developments and programmes financed by other PAs. This specific objective has strong synergies and jointly covered areas of interventions with specific objective “Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies”. At project selection phase preference should be given to those projects which creates and exploits this synergy.
PA6: Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities	In case of the cross-border institutional co-operations it is recommended that the cooperation among the disaster management organisations can be financed only in the case of the PA5, and in same time the cooperation in the field of labour can be financed only from PA3. The small scale cultural co-operational projects could be financed from the PA while the larger cultural projects must be implemented in the PA1.

Overall evaluation conclusion: The CP is internally coherent. It comprises a traceable intervention logic with clear chains of arguments starting with the description of key territorial challenges and needs up to specific objectives, intended results. Within the programme there are coherences between the priority axis. The programme contains indications of similar actions in several priority axis, and the programme implementation structures should pay attention and avoid double financing of various actions under different axis (road construction activities) in case of PA1, PA2, PA3 and PA4.

Relation with other relevant instruments

Table 11: Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements
PA1: Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and groundwater bodies	<p>National Reform Programme of Hungary 2014, in compliance with the Water Framework Directive contains the objective “6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” and envisages water management measures to be implemented in the framework of the Environmental and Energy-Efficiency Operational Programme.</p> <p>The Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programming period also envisaged investments in thematic objectives TO6 (among others for water quality, monitoring of noise, air pollution and water conditions). If implemented in the border region, they also have to reflect the needs of the cross-border area.</p> <p>The priority “Combating climate change and promote sustainable development” envisaged in the National Reform Programme of Romania – 2014 focuses on improving the management of water resources. The Regional Development Strategy of W Region RO also mentions the problem of base water contamination caused by former industrial sites, and foresees that the water management system will be improved.</p> <p>The Partnership Agreement of Romania stipulates interventions in TO 6. Investment into water management systems is listed in this partnership agreement as sustainable water management systems and practices to combat climate change.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the external coherence of the specific objective and related actions are ensured with the examined strategies: both the Romanian and Hungarian partnership agreements and national reform programmes and the regional strategies envisage interventions in more efficient water management and the improvement of water quality under TO6.</p>
	Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area	<p>The National Reform Programme of Hungary 2014 contains the thematic objective 6 Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency. The Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period also envisaged tourism development as a key sector to be made competitive. Under TO6 it also stresses the importance of cultural heritage and protection as a basis for tourism development.</p> <p>The improvement of joint historical, cultural and natural heritage and the building of touristic routes around them contributes to the economic development (especially to the development of SMEs) of the region, improves the employment situation and contributes to the protection of the built and natural environment, thereby fits the priorities of the Hungarian side declared in the government decree 1196/2013 (IV.11).</p> <p>On the Romanian side, in the “Position of the Commission Services – Romania” one recommendation refers to</p>

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements
		<p>valorisation of natural sites as “Protecting environment and biodiversity by valorising natural sites and implementing acquis related investments”</p> <p>The National Reform Programme of Romania foresees measures aiming at development, modernization of tourism infrastructure (ERDF funded projects for tourism development in urban and rural areas)</p> <p>The Partnership Agreement stipulates interventions in TO 6, among others protecting and sustainable valorisation of natural sites, restoration and valorisation of cultural heritage including valorisation of the local specific tourism potential, the rehabilitation of historical (urban) areas, sustainable capitalization of the cultural patrimony, measures for urban environment (including rehabilitation of industrial polluted sites)</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the specific objective and related actions are coherent with the Hungarian government decree for the planning of HU priorities of the cross-border programmes that contains the protection of the built and natural environment and is in complete harmony with both the Hungarian and the Romanian Partnership Agreements with the EC, envisaging interventions under TO6 and stressing the importance of cultural heritage and protection as a basis for tourism development.</p>
PA2: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottleneck (Cooperating on accessibility)	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure	<p>On the Hungarian side the government decree 1196/2013 (IV.11) defined the Hungarian priorities for the planning of the cross-border operational programmes for 2014-2020, declaring the elimination of the missing traffic connections as a priority.</p> <p>The Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period also envisaged investments in Thematic objectives TO7 (promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures).</p> <p>Transport network development projects are also supported by other financial instruments in other programmes. The Transport Development Operational Programme of Hungary contains most route and motorway infrastructural projects, some of them relevant to the cross-border region (e.g. the motorway leading from Makó to the Romanian-Hungarian border station Nagylak). The investments and actions of the cross-border programmes should complement these interventions.</p> <p>The Romanian Partnership Agreement stipulates an intervention in TO 7: “Increasing accessibility of urban areas located in proximity of TEN T network, through construction and modernization of secondary and tertiary connections to the network, including by-passes, having in view bottlenecks removing and traffic fluidization” with expected result of reducing travel time.</p> <p>The development of the connections to the TEN-T network is also included in the Transport Strategy for West Region of Romania. In <i>Sustainability - engine for development in W Region</i> transport interoperability is listed as part of the strategy.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the external coherence of the specific objective and related actions are ensured: both</p>

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements
		Partnership Agreements envisage investments in Thematic Objective TO7, as removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructure. It is also coherent with the Hungarian government decree containing the priorities for the planning of the cross-border programmes as well as with the Transport Strategy for West Region of Romania.
	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport	<p>The National Reform Programme of Hungary 2014 envisages measures under TO7 Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.</p> <p>One of most important result expected result of TO7 in the HU National Reform Programme is an increase in the rate of renewable energy to 10% in road transportation by 2020, which is also a factor in the modernisation of public transport. The long term guarantees of the commitment are several regulatory and other domestic instruments, including the domestic legislation in compliance with the EU directives. (e.g. the HU Government decree of 343/2010 (XII.27) on the blending of biofuel, the requirements and certification of sustainable biofuel production</p> <p>The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme is in line with the above, although can only contribute to this objective to a very slight extent.</p> <p>The Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programming period also envisaged investments in Thematic objectives TO7. The use of the sustainable form of transport is also an environmental protection issue, It also fits the Hungarian priority for planning the HU part of the cross-border operational programmes for 2014-2020 “Environmental protection and energy efficiency” in the government decree 1196/2013 (IV.11)</p> <p>The National Reform Programme of Romania stipulates interventions to reduce the air pollution of exhaust gases stemming from transport, and fosters the utilisation of renewable energy sources also in transport. In <i>Sustainability - engine for development in W Region</i> accessibility of public transport is also stressed. The National Strategy on Climate Change of Romania 2013-2020 contains the objective of reducing the carbon gas emission of transport.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the external coherence of the specific objective and related actions are ensured with the examined strategies: the Hungarian Partnership Agreements and both National Reform Programmes envisage investments in relation to Thematic Objective TO7. It is also coherent with the Hungarian government decree for the planning of HU part of the cross-border programmes that contains the priority area of “Environmental protection and energy efficiency”, as well as with the Romanian strategic paper “<i>Sustainability - engine for development in W Region</i>” in which public transport is emphasized. This specific objective is also in coherence with the Romanian National Climate Change Strategy 2013-2020 (SNSC, Strategia Națională a României privind Schimbările Climatice) that follows the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
PA3: Improve employment and	Increased employment within	The specific objective is in line with the Partnership Agreement of both countries. The Hungarian Partnership Agreement in the frame of the Territorial Development Operation Programmes finances objectives and interven-

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements
promote cross-border labour market(Cooperating on business solutions)	the eligible area	<p>tions under the 8/b Ip. It means that in the framework of the Hungarian Partnership Agreement it is possible also to finance development of the business environment (e.g. business infrastructures, consultations support). It is recommended to apply similar conditions for financing business infrastructure in case to avoid the competitive support schemes. The PA provides possibility to finance the territorial employment strategies and agreements which contribute also to the employability of the workforce. Theses interventions will not have any cross-border relevance, those focus on the needs of the local labour markets.</p> <p>The Romanian Partnership Agreement contains the relevant TO and similar interventions for development of the business environment and labour market as it is planned in this Priority Axis.</p> <p>Generally, county development strategies put great emphasis on development of business environment to attract new investors and encourage job creation. Some of them (Satu Mare) specified special interventions for the cross-border cooperation which highlights among others the importance of business co-operations. Other counties (e.g. Bihor, Szabolcs-Szatmár, Békés and Csongrád) defined specific areas for business development which are similar interventions to those to be financed under this PA.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the external coherence of the specific objectives and planned actions are ensured with national and county level development strategies, but it is recommended for the implementation phase of the programme to harmonise the support conditions of the improving business environment employment intervention to avoid the competitive support schemes. For this purpose it is recommended to highlight the cross-border character and relevance of the expected projects for support.</p>
PA4: Improving health-care services (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area.	<p><i>Documents applied to the evaluation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romanian Partnership Agreement for 2014-2020 programming period • Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programming period • National Reform Programme of Hungary • National Reform Programme of Romania • Semmelweis Plan of Hungary • National Social Inclusion Strategy, 2011-2020 Hungary • National Health Strategy 2014-2020 of Romania <p>Improving health care services appears both in Hungarian and Romanian national strategies and programmes. In Romania the Partnership Agreements in line with the National Health Strategy 2014-2020 declaring to rationalise, restructure and modernise the sector and to create a more equitable, sustainable, cost-efficient and higher quality health service. Proposed priorities for funding include 6. Investments in essential health infrastructure in</p>

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements
		<p>selected priority locations: regional emergency hospitals, county emergency hospitals, ambulatory centres and community centres/socio-medical centres; and 7.Enhance access to quality health care and treatments for vulnerable and underserved by: focus on primary health care strengthening (community nursing/Roma health mediation and family doctors), integration of medical and social services at community level, access to quality services in ambulatory settings and emergency care;</p> <p>In Hungary health development priorities – according to the Partnership Agreement – includes 1) mitigation of human resource insufficiencies in health care and enhance motivation 2) to develop health and increase health awareness of the public 3) to increase efficiency and effectiveness of health services as well as enhance prevention functions 4) to complete the started restructuring of health care institutions.</p> <p>While national level operational programmes focus on the development of single institutions and the equipment within these institutions, the CBC programme should specifically focus on the balanced and concerted development – both within and across the border – of these institutions, thus to coordinate development actions on a higher administrative level. By doing so, it could facilitate the efficient realization of national programmes. Otherwise a more focused targeting on specific health problems could ensure the visibility of the CBC programme.</p> <p>By aiming to develop the patient information system in the CBC area it also supplements both national programmes with a concrete and specific objective.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the external coherence of the specific objectives and planned actions are ensured with national and county level development strategies.</p>
PA5: Improve risk-prevention and disaster management (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management	<p><i>Documents applied to the evaluation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romanian Partnership Agreement for 2014-2020 • Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period • 2nd National Climate Change Strategy of Hungary • National Strategy on Climate Change 2013-2020, Romania • National Strategy for Flood Risk Management, Romania <p>Dissemination of risk assessment on natural disasters and the creation of monitoring systems, as well as the creation and strengthening of human adaptation instruments are in the core of Hungarian National Climate Change Strategy. Making tools and preparedness plans of disaster management suitable for extreme natural events and increasing environmental safety risks is one of the main objectives of the Hungarian Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>Enhancing flood resilience and the development of disaster management systems are major issues within the Hungarian relevant thematic operational programme (building reservoirs etc.)</p>

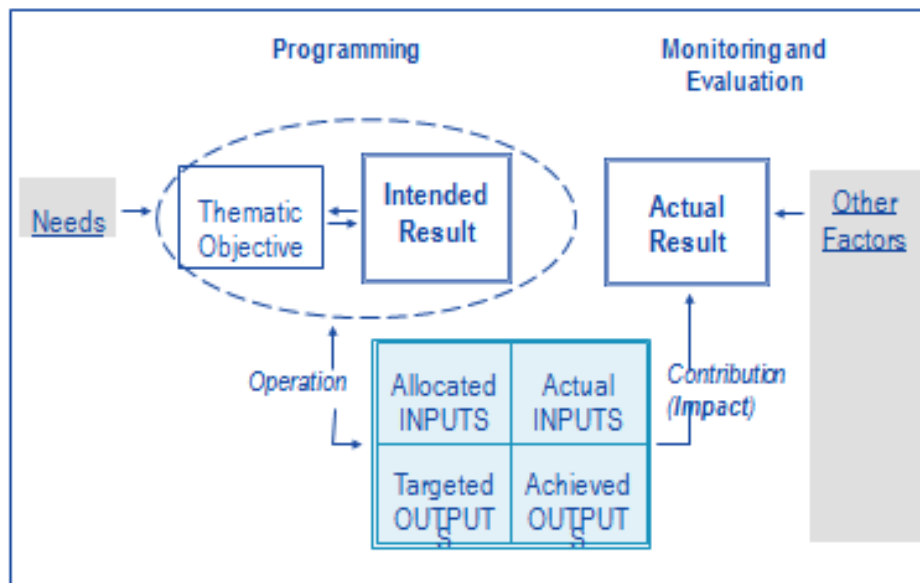
Priority axis	Specific objectives	Coherence with other national instruments, explicitly with national Partnership Agreements
		<p>The Romanian global objective for 2020 in the risks management sector is to further reduce the vulnerability to all risks, while improving the quality of emergency services, based on national risk assessment and developing the administrative capacity to respond to disasters. Proposed priorities for funding include 3. Transnational cooperation in the framework of the Danube macro-regional Strategy and population awareness measures and 4. Strengthen technical capacity of authorities in order to improve national prevention and response capacity in case of disaster, according to the Romanian Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the specific objective is in line with the related strategic documents and focusing on the specific problems of cooperation and joint actions supported by the CBC programme could smoothly be integrated to and supplement the national strategies and programmes</p>
PA6: Promoting cross-border co-operation between institutions and citizens (Co-operation of institutions and communities)	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities	<p>The two countries' national documents include and talk about the capacity to deliver public services. Romanian Partnership Agreement describes in general way the delivery of public services.</p> <p>In same time, the border counties strategic documents talk about the cross-border cooperation.</p> <p>Bihor County Development Strategy 4.1. Objective-Development of public services describes the ways of developing institutional capacity buildings. Satu Mare County Development Strategy 5th Objective: Development of county institutions capacity building. Békés County Development Strategy describes the importance of the cross-border cooperation in the economic and institutional field. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Development strategy describes the importance of the international cooperation and talks especially about the cross border cooperation.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the specific objective is in line with the related strategic documents, while all of the examined strategy highlights the importance of the cooperation among institutions, public bodies and NGOs, and the documents enforce also the capacity buildings of these organisations</p>

4.1.3. Linkage between supported actions, expected outputs and results

In assessing the linkage between supported actions, expected outputs and results, the intervention logic of the strategy has been assessed, evaluating the relevance of the specific objectives with the actions.

The following chart presents the logic of the intervention based on the Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline of the EC. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Logic of the intervention



In case of evaluation of the intervention logic, the evaluators paid also attention for some special implementation circumstances of the actions (e.g. potential overlap and coordination possibilities of the actions within the CP).

Table12: Intervention logic TO6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
6/b Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the MS, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and groundwater bodies	Investment or integrated investments and actions (monitoring, management, planning pollution control, etc.) to protect and improve water quality and safeguard its quantity, as well as ensure sustainable use of water resources, in line with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive	<p>The coordinated monitoring, management and pollution control (if operated properly) will definitely protect and improve water quality. If complemented with the rehabilitation of natural water flow across the border, the intervention logic serves the specific objective. In the list of type of actions 6 different actions are listed. These actions contribute to the improvement of water quality of the cross border rivers and ground water bodies as well as to safeguarding water quantity.</p> <p>The measures along the length of cross-border rivers affected by the interventions of this investment priority should result in improved water quality. Higher water drainage reservoir capacity makes the control of water quality easier and more effective, and might result in a rise in water quality measurement stations falling into the highest 2 quality categories.</p> <p>The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: The planned interventions/actions contribute to the improvement of water quality of the cross border rivers and ground water bodies as well as to safeguarding water quantity. The intervention logic serves the specific objective.</p>
6/c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area	Rehabilitation, conservation and promotion of natural, as well as cultural and built heritage that can be promoted and sustainably exploited.	<p>The development of touristic routes and attractions based on the various natural, cultural and historic values will be much more attractive for tourism purposes. Beside the renovation of cultural heritages or implementation of natural conservation actions, the developed projects shall contain such creative content to be valuable and impressive for tourists. It is expected that the developed touristic sites attract visitors not only from their neighbourhood, but those form an attractive part of a cross-border tourism destination or a thematic route. If the number of visits to the supported sites increases, there is a high probability that the number of overnight stays will also increase.</p> <p>Higher number of supported heritage sites enriches the content of the</p>

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
			<p>thematic route of a tourist destination and makes it more attractive. This fact might be reflected in higher number of overnight stays in the region. On the long run the better conservation status shall contribute to the expected results, by attracting more visitors. While more visitors will visit the tourist sites, the development will contribute to their sustainable utilization.</p> <p>The realisation of output would contribute to achieving the expected result. The intervention logic is valid.</p> <p>The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: The planned interventions/actions contribute to the sustainable use of natural, historic and cultural heritage within the eligible area, and thereby the intervention logic serves the specific objective.</p>

Table13: Intervention logic, TO7 Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
7/b Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure	Improving the access of inhabitants of the cross-border region to core and comprehensive TEN-T network.	<p>Mobility is a key condition of cross-border cooperation, affecting almost all aspects of cooperation. Improving the access of inhabitants of the cross-border region to core and comprehensive TEN-T network and the development of roads with direct link to secondary and tertiary nodes of TEN-T networks enhances regional mobility.</p> <p>The environmental impact of new road construction projects should be analysed before supporting the projects.</p> <p>The realisation of the targeted output value total length of reconstructed or upgraded road, and newly built roads, if purposefully designed, would contribute to attaining the expected result, since it should serve more inhabitants (higher number of the cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T) in the eligible area. The intervention logic is clear.</p>

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
			<p>Feasibility studies and engineering plans themselves cannot serve the better mobility of the cross-border population, but the study should contain calculations showing the expected increase in the population served by the modernised infrastructure leading to TEN-T) if the road construction is implemented.</p> <p>The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: The planned interventions/actions contribute to the improved cross-border accessibility. The realisation of the targeted output value would contribute to the attaining of the expected result. The intervention logic serves the specific objective.</p>
7/c Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport	<p>Development of cross-border public transport services</p> <p>Development of key conditions of cross-border bicycle transport</p> <p>Facilitating the coordinated development of key railway lines connecting major cities in the eligible area</p>	<p>The public transport development and the development of bicycle roads between settlements in the proximity of the border contribute to the increase of passengers using these sustainable forms of cross-border transport. These forms of transport are environmental-friendly: they produce less noise and less carbon-dioxide.</p> <p>Therefore, the intervention is capable to foster the reaching of the specific objective, and the objective fits the investment priority. The intervention logic is clear. Public transport is far more a sustainable than individual car transport. If the capacity of the cross-border public transport increases, more people might use public transport instead of using cars.</p> <p>Bicycle traffic is a sustainable form of transport. The new bicycle roads would contribute to enhanced use of sustainable forms of transport, thereby support the realisation of the expected result of the intervention.</p> <p>The development or improvement of cross-border roads serving cross-border public transport and eliminating bottlenecks on these routes might contribute to higher use of cross-border public transport at the expense of passenger car traffic.</p> <p>Travelling by rail is a sustainable form of transport. Feasibility studies and engineering plans in themselves cannot contribute to sustainable cross-border traffic, but a study should contain calculations characterising the expected reduction in CO2 emission pro distance pro traveller.</p>

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
			<p>The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: The planned interventions and actions contribute to the increase of passengers using these sustainable forms of cross-border transport (public transport, bicycle). The intervention logic serves and is capable to foster the reach of the specific objective, and the objective fits the investment priority.</p>

Table 14: Intervention logic for TO8, Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
8/b Supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to and development of specific natural and cultural resources	Increased employment within the eligible area	Support to harmonized interventions enabling the employment-friendly growth	<p>The specific objective is in line with the nominated Ip. The intention of the “increase employment” is clear in the specific objective, but the objective is very general in a cross-border programme. The programme with its limited financial resources could only contribute to the improvement of the conditions serving the increase employment in the eligible area.</p> <p>It is noted that the implemented actions can be based on the labour market development focused integrated strategy of the target areas. These strategies can ensure the integrated focus of the interventions to a specific geographical area or sector. The implementation of these strategies can ensure the focused impact of the implemented actions.</p> <p>The proposed actions are in line with the specific objectives. The various actions improving the business environment (e.g. training programmes, employment initiatives, actions targeting predict and service development, business environment and service development, road construction, etc.) can encourage the enterprises for developing their business actions and creating new jobs.</p> <p>To the effective implementation of the actions and helping the development of relevant projects it is proposed to clarify with examples the content of the following action at least in the call for proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted actions facilitating the creation of local products/services and related infrastructures based on the local potential

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving business environment with the aim of increasing employment <p>The implementation of the employment and training initiatives contributes to the improvement of the employability of the inhabitants. The establishment of business environment and services provides proper and favourable infrastructure for starting or operating businesses. The actions improve the condition of the job creation from the aspects of the employees and businesses both. These actions can lead to increase the employment in the eligible area with utilising the potentials of cross-border co-operations.</p> <p>The action of “Improving cross-border accessibility...” shall contribute to the improvement of the employment possibilities in the border region.</p> <p>The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the linkage between the expected objectives and results with the actions is ensured, but the implementation of the actions concerned can contribute only to the improvement of the conditions of the employment.</p> <p>The intervention logic serves the specific objective.</p>

Table 15: intervention logic for TO9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any discrimination

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
9/a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and transition from institutional to community-based services	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area	Investments to improve health care infrastructure and equipment. Know-how exchange and joint capacity development Development of cross-platform central telemedical, e-health infrastructure patient information	In line with the specific objective it is considered that during the implementation phase should be also paid great attention on the preventive actions, beside the investment in health care infrastructure and services. The more integrated approach which focuses on developing cross-border communication systems for patient information and medical history to make them transparent and mutually available and thus support the free choice of patients, is an excellent Idea. All 3 indicative actions suggest joint actions and interventions and the kind of approach that shall be applied in the implementation phase to strengthen the cross-border relevance of the supported actions. Harmonization of development plans for health care infrastructure should be achieved for the eligible area and not at national level during the implementation phase. The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable. Evaluation conclusion: the linkage between the expected objectives and results with the actions is ensured, the intervention logic serves the specific objective.

Table 16: Intervention logic for TO5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
5/b Promoting investment to	Improved cross-border disasters	Preventive interventions to avoid	The intervention has a thorough and reasonable list of potential actions, which are also relevant to the specific objective and could have high impact on the investment priority. The

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	and risk management.	<p>emergency situations</p> <p>Investments into the development of emergency response and risk management infrastructure and equipment</p> <p>Interventions improving joint preparedness in emergency situations</p>	<p>awareness raising activities foreseen in the CP will have a clear multiplier effect. The potential beneficiaries of the interventions are relevant and the possible form of support is also applicable.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion: the linkage between the expected objectives and results with the actions is ensured, the actions will serve the better operation and co-ordination of the risk prevention and emergency response system in the border area. The intervention logic serves the specific objective.</p>

Table 17: Intervention logic for TO11 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

Investment priority	Specific objective	Indicative actions	Evaluation, proposals
11/b Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities	Complex interventions to enable better service delivery Providing support to initiatives and events promoting and preserving cultural diversity and common traditions – involving the local civil society	<p>Internal coherence of the objective is assured, the proposed actions are in line with the objectives.</p> <p>In case of dealing with the regulatory backgrounds, it is proposed to give priority for the joint Romanian and Hungarian regulatory background that helps the increase of institutional capacity building, improve the quality of cross border services or give new opportunity for establishment of new, joint border services. The same consideration can be applied for the “promotion of the EU legislation through training, courses, dissemination actions”. The programme can promote firstly the joint possibility given by the Romanian and Hungarian legislative background with aim to help the cross border institutional cooperation.</p> <p>Types of potential beneficiaries are listed and clearly defined.</p> <p>The measured outputs will duly indicate the meeting of the specific objectives. The implementation of the co-operation initiatives should contribute to the increase of the number and the frequency of the cooperation among institutions and other type of organisations.</p> <p>Evaluation conclusion:</p> <p>The internal coherence between the objective and actions is assured; the planned actions will contribute to the intensification of the cross-border co-operations among the different organisations.</p> <p>The actions focus on the cross border cooperation and institutional capacity building. The general description formulated in the final version of the CP helps the correct defining of the activities that can sustain the cross border cooperation and increase the level of capacity building for the all involved institutional actors.</p> <p>The list of beneficiaries is well defined and in this way the opportunity for applying and initiate cooperative projects was given for various types of institutions. In this way the various types of public institutions can elaborate projects those will sustain the joint institutional cooperation.</p> <p>The intervention logic serves the specific objective, and the objective fits the investment priority.</p>

4.1.4. Horizontal principles

The CPR¹⁷ requires the ex-ante evaluator to assess

- the adequacy of planned measures to promote sustainable development,
- the adequacy of planned measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, and
- to prevent any discrimination, in particular as regards accessibility for persons with disabilities.

In the following we set out the assessment of the draft of the CP in view of these requirements.

Sustainable development

The CP assures in its chapter 8.1 that sustainable development will be taken into account as a horizontal principle during the programme and project implementation. The CP stipulates that guidance on the requirements and methods of evaluation and assessment will be presented in the CfP.

It points out that “projects with a direct negative impact on the environment and sustainable development will not be selected for financing”.

The CP stipulates, too, that “The programme contributes with different measures to the environmental sustainability, protection of the environment and the awareness raising activities. It will be of key importance from the point of view of the programme, to support the environmental assessment, impact studies and other related actions for the sustainable protection of the environment.” Further: “It will also be ensured that projects affecting NATURA 2000 sites are in line with Article 6, paragraphs 2-4 of the Habitats Directive¹⁸, stipulating how NATURA 2000 sites are managed and protected.”

The described assurance in itself is fully meeting the requirements of the relevant regulations.

Further the Programme hints that specific actions under the following Priority Axis will have a main focus on environmental protection or at least they have positive direct or indirect effects on the environment:

- PA 1: Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources – Ip 6/b and Ip 6/c,
- PA 2: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks – Ip 7/c,
- PA 5: Improve risk-prevention and disaster management – Ip 5/b.

According to the EU 2020 strategy each Member State is invited to pursue efforts to contribute to the common EU objective to devote a certain amount of the budget of the Union contribution to climate change objectives.

Horizontal principles relating to sustainable development are sufficiently included as guiding principle for selection of operations for each action to be supported by the CP. This is done in such a way, that all corresponding criteria are summarized under Chapter 8.1. and under each descriptive part of the Guiding principles for selection a sentence is referring to further selection criteria detailed in Chapter 8.1.

¹⁷Article 55(3)point (l) and (m) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Articles 7 and 8 of CPR outline the content of these three horizontal principles while Article 96(7) points (a), (b) and (c) of the CPR sets out more precise requirements for programmes, which should be assessed by the ex ante evaluator

¹⁸ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

The CP assures in its chapter 8.2. that these principle shall be respected during the implementation of the Programme and even at the selection and implementation of each project to be selected for financing. The Programme stipulates, that guidance on the requirements and methods of evaluation and assessment will be presented in the CfP. It points out that “projects with a direct negative impact on ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination will not be selected for financing”. Further the CP stipulates that “Special attention will be paid on reinforcing social inclusion of disadvantaged people, as well as the inclusion of ethnic minorities in the programme area, i.e. Roma population.”

The described assurance in itself is fully meeting the requirements of the relevant regulations.

The Programme hints that projects directly linked to this horizontal principle can be envisaged in Priority Axis 3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility – Ip 8/b, PA 4: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any discrimination- Ip9/a and Ip 9/b, and Priority Axis 6: Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens – Ip 11/b, where equal opportunities and anti-discrimination are mainly foreseen.

Horizontal principles relating to equal opportunities and discriminations are sufficiently included as guiding principle for selection of operations for each action to be supported by the CP. This is done in such a way, that all corresponding criteria are summarized under Chapter 8.1. and under each descriptive part of the Guiding principles for selection a sentence is referring to further selection criteria detailed in Chapter 8.2.

Equality between men and women

The CP assures in its chapter 8.3. that the Programme will pay attention to the equality between men and women. The Programme stipulates that guidance on the requirements and methods of evaluation and assessment will be presented in the CfP. It points out that “projects with a direct negative impact on equality between men and women will not be selected for financing”.

The described assurance in itself is fully meeting the requirements of the relevant regulations.

Further the Programme hints that projects promoting gender equality specifically under the Priority Axis 3: Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility and under Priority Axis 6: Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens will be foreseen for financing.

In summary

Based on the detailed assessment, it can be stated that **sustainable development**, ensuring **equal opportunities and non-discrimination**, as well as the **promotion of equality between men and women** are sufficiently indicated in the CP. The CP identifies the PAs, which will have a main focus on these principles or at least have positive direct or indirect effects.

4.2. Indicators, monitoring and evaluation

Evaluators verified in each of the priority axis, that result and output indicators reflect the most significant intended effects of the programme priorities and they assessed whether the monitoring system will facilitate evaluation of the achievement of the objectives set. They assessed the selected indicators in view of

- their relevance and clarity,
- their quantified baseline and target values,
- suitability of milestones.

It was also verified whether the indicators are giving also a feedback to assess the progress of the implementation giving possibility for the necessary corrections during the implementation phase.

4.2.1 Relevance and clarity of programme indicators

Generally, it must be stated that the paper about the “Methodology for defining the indicators” contains properly and very detailed the description and quantification methodology of both the result and output indicators. The documentation provides clear information about the indicators.

Table 18: Evaluation of the result indicators

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals
PA1	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies	Water quality (ecological condition) of cross-border rivers at the measurement points in the eligible area	The proposed indicator is relevant and specific. The clarification of the meaning of “water quality” is given in the paper “Methodology for defining the indicators”, and is the same as used by the National Environmental Authorities in the Water Quality reports
	Sustainable use of natural, historic, and cultural heritage within the eligible area	Tourist overnight stays in the eligible programme area	The selection of this indicator implies that the better condition and the more sustainable use of the historic, cultural and natural heritage would attract more tourists and result in a higher number of overnight stay in the eligible programme area. It is true if the promotion of this heritage is satisfactory and form a part of well-known tourism destination site. In this case the indicator is relevant and specific.

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals
			The measurement unit (visitor nights) is well defined and the base values and the final values are easily accessible from the official data base of the national statistical offices of Hungary and Romania.
PA2	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure	Cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T	The indicator is relevant and specific. Baseline and target are set. Actual values can be extracted from data of the National Statistical Offices.
	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of cross-border transport	Ratio of people to motorized road vehicles crossing the border	The indicator is relevant. The data is provided by the Hungarian Statistical Office which measures border crossings in both directions.
PA3	Increased employment in the eligible area	Employment rate in the eligible area as a percentage of the working age population	The indicator is relevant and in line with the specific objective. The related data (Number of employed people and Population of working age (15-64 years old)) of quantification of the employment rate is available in national statistical database, broken down to county level. The measurement of the selected indicator can be repeated in the coming years.
PA4	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area	Average service level in health care institutions in the eligible area	The survey is a good solution to measure the value of the indicator and the "Methodology for defining the indicators" contains properly the steps of the survey. The content of the questionnaire is very detailed, elaborated and the questions reflect properly on the specific objective and the content of the proposed actions. The indicator is relevant and provides a comprehensible measurement for improved preventive and curative health-care services
PA5	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management	Quality of the joint risk management	The survey is a good solution to measure the value of the indicator and the "Methodology for defining the indicators" contains properly the steps of the survey. The content of the questionnaire is very detailed elaborated and the questions reflect properly on the specific objective and the content of the proposed actions. The indicator is relevant and in line with the specific objective.
PA6	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and	Intensity level of cross-border cooperation	The survey is a good solution to measure the value of the indicator and the "Methodology for defining the indicators" contains properly the steps of the survey. The content of the questionnaire is very detailed elaborated and the questions reflect properly on the specific

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals
	communities		objective and the content of the proposed actions. The indicator is relevant and in line with the specific objective.

Table 19: Evaluation of the output indicators

Investment priority	Indicative actions	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals
6/b Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the MS, for investment that goes beyond those requirements	Investment or integrated investments and actions (monitoring, management, planning pollution control, etc.) to protect and improve water quality and safeguard its quantity, as well as ensure sustainable use of water resources, in line with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive ¹⁹	Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project) (programme specific output indicator)	Viable, relevant specific output indicator.
6/c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	Rehabilitation, conservation and promotion of natural, as well as cultural and built heritage that can be promoted and sustainably exploited.	<p>Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions (Common output in ETC Reg.)</p> <p>Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (Common output indicator)</p>	<p>Viable, relevant, specific output indicator, the exact definition of the methodology of measuring the indicator and the expected source of information is important to have relevant aggregated data given by the beneficiaries. Relevant output indicator, in line with EC common output indicators.</p> <p>Viable, relevant output indicator in line with EC common output indicators.</p>
7/b Enhancing regional mobility	Improving the access of inhabitants to the transport network	Total length of newly built roads	Viable, relevant output indicator, in line with EC common output indicators.

¹⁹ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy

Investment priority	Indicative actions	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals
bility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	itants of the cross-border region to core and comprehensive TEN-T network ²⁰	(common output in ETC Reg.) Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads (common output in ETC Reg.)	mon output indicators. Viable, relevant output indicator, in line with EC common output indicators.
7/c Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility	Development of cross-border public transport services	Number of cross-border public transport services developed / improved (programme specific output indicator)	Viable, relevant, specific output indicator
	Development of key conditions of cross-border bicycle transport Facilitating the coordinated development of key railway lines connecting major cities in the eligible area	Total length of newly built bicycle road (programme specific output indicator)	Viable, relevant, specific output indicator.
8/b Supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources	Support to harmonized interventions enabling the employment-friendly growth	Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training. (common output indicator)	Viable, relevant indicator, the output indicator focuses on the intended definitive actions and is in line with EC common output indicators.

²⁰ The new TEN-T Guidelines define a dual layer approach to the trans-European transport network. The basic layer, or “Comprehensive Network”, should ensure accessibility of all regions of the Union. It includes road, rail, inland waterways, maritime and air infrastructure network components, as well as the connecting points between the modes. The Comprehensive Network features minimum infrastructure standards, set out in the TEN-T Guidelines that aim at interoperability wherever necessary for seamless traffic flows across the network. All European citizens and economic operators would then be able to access the Core Network, via this Comprehensive Network, at comparable terms. The second layer, the “Core Network” is constituted of the strategically most important parts of the Comprehensive Network, identified according to a specific methodology, transparently and coherently applied and on which project development and implementation will be supported with priority.

Investment priority	Indicative actions	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals
9/a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and transition from institutional to community-based services	Investment to improve health care infrastructure and equipment Know-how exchange and joint capacity development Development of cross-platform central telemedical, e-health infrastructure	Population having access to improved health services (common output indicator) Number of health-care departments affected by modernized equipment (programme specific indicator)	Viable, relevant output indicator, in line with EC common output indicators. The description of the indicator provides proper information about the quantification. The output indicator is specific and relevant, and covers the specific actions
5/b Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management system	Preventive interventions to avoid emergency situations Investments into the development of emergency response and risk management infrastructure and equipment Interventions improving joint preparedness in emergency situations	Population safeguarded by improved emergency response services (programme specific output indicator)	The programme specific output indicator is relevant. The description of the indicator provides proper information about the quantification.
11/b Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and co-operation between citizens and institutions	Complex interventions to enable better service delivery Providing support to initiatives and events promoting and preserving cultural diversity and common traditions – involving the local civil society	Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives (programme specific output indicator) Number of people participating in cross-border cooperation initiatives. (programme specific output indicator)	The indicator is relevant and measures properly the planned interventions. The description of the indicator provides proper information about the quantification. The indicator is relevant and measures properly the planned interventions. The description of the indicator provides proper information about the quantification.

4.2.2. Quantified baselines and target values

The evaluation can be done after receiving the necessary information, as the target values of the output indicators. The baseline indicators are defining in a separate document with the strong involvement of the ex-ante evaluators. The chapter will be finalized according to the next version of the CP.

Table 20: Evaluation of the quantification of the indicators and relation between the planned outputs and results

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals	General conclusion - relation between the planned outputs and results
PA1	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies	Water quality (ecological condition) of cross-border rivers at the measurement points in the eligible area	The baseline value is correctly quantified and the calculation methodology is given and it is suitable to repeat the measurement of the indicator within the programming period.	Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)	The target value is based on unit costs of similar interventions in the previous programming period. However, the unit costs varied in a wide range, depending on the actions taken. The calculation is based on an average unit cost.	Higher number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (the expected output of this investment priority) shall result in a slight increase in average water quality.
	Sustainable use of natural, cultural and historic heritage within the eligible area.	Tourist overnight stays in the eligible programme area	The definition of the baseline of the indicator is correct and transparent. The measurement of the indicator can be repeated later in the period of the programme implementation. With development of	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	The output indicator is relevant to the proposed actions. Since all actions in Ip6c will contribute to the rise in the number of visits to the new tourist attractions. The target value is based on the experiences of the similar previously implemented projects and the expectation of the programme.	If the number of visits to the supported sites increases, there is a high probability that the number of overnight stays will also increase. The realisation of output would contribute to achieving the expected result.

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals	General conclusion - relation between the planned outputs and results
PA2	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure	Cross-border population served by modernized infrastructure leading to TEN-T	new historical and natural touristic attractions the programme should contribute to the increasing of the overnight stays	Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	The planned value is realistic. The target value is based on unit costs of similar interventions in the previous programming period. However, the unit costs varied in a wide range, depending on the actions taken.	Larger area with better conservation status increases the potential of attracting more visitors. On in the long run the better conservation status shall contribute to the expected results, if it attracts more visitors.
			The definition of the baseline of the indicator is correct and transparent. The measure of the indicator can repeat later in the period of the programme implementation. The measure of the indicator can repeat later in the period of the programme implementation	Total length of newly built roads.	The planned value is realistic. The estimation of the target value is based on the unit cost of similar investments in the previous programming period.	The realisation of the targeted output value would contribute to the attaining of the expected result: newly built roads if purposefully designed should result in higher number of cross-border population served by modernised road infrastructure.
				Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads.	The planned value is realistic. The unit-cost based estimation is based on the unit cost of similar investments in the previous programming period.	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded road: The realisation of the targeted output value would contribute to the attaining of the expected result: better road conditions should be resulted in higher number of cross-border population served by modernised road infrastructure.
	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable forms of	Ratio of people to motorized road vehicles crossing the border	The definition of the baseline of the indicator is correct and transparent. The measure of the indicator can repeat later in the period of the pro-	Number of cross-border public transport services developed / improved	Based on the previous experiences the programme expects that about 20 cross-border public transport services can be improved or developed. The estimated average cost per public services is relevant.	Public transport is far more sustainable than individual car transport. If the number of cross-border public transport services improved increases, more people might use public

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals	General conclusion - relation between the planned outputs and results
	cross-border transport		gramme implementation. With enforcing of sustainable cross-border transport form the value of the indicator can increase.	Total length of newly build bicycle road	The planned value is realistic. The unit-cost based estimation is based on the unit cost of similar investments in the previous programming period.	transport instead of using cars. Bicycle traffic is a sustainable form of transport. The new bicycle roads would contribute to enhanced use of sustainable forms of transport, thereby support the realisation of the expected result of the intervention.
PA3	Increased employment within the eligible area	Employment rate in the eligible area as a percentage of the working age population	The definition of the baseline of the indicator is correct and transparent. The measure of the indicator can repeat later in the period of the programme implementation.	Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	The average size of training or/and employment initiatives is 3 000 EUR per involved person. This amount is realistic while there are various types of the training programmes and employment initiatives.	The implementation of the employment and training initiatives contributes to the improvement of the employability of the inhabitants. The improvement of business environment and services provides proper and favourable infrastructure for starting or operating businesses. The actions measured by these indicators improve the condition of the job creation from the aspects of the employees and businesses both. These actions can lead to increase the employment in the eligible area with utilising the potentials of cross-border co-operations.

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals	General conclusion - relation between the planned outputs and results
PA4	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area	Average service level in health care institutions in the eligible area	The methodology of the indicator is correct and transparent. The calculation of the baseline data can be done easily based on the description of the indicator. The measure of the indicator, as the carrying out of the survey can repeat later in the period of the programme implementation.	Population having access to improved health services	It is expected that those health services will be supported which have relevance on county level and serve the entire population of the counties and the eligible programme area.	Improved health services for the population, modernised equipment and capacity building of health personnel will contribute to the expected results of improved average service level in health care institutions. Investments into the health prevention actions also contribute to the increased service level of the health care institutions.
				Number of health-care departments affected by modernized equipment	The planned value is realistic. The unit-cost based estimation is based on the unit cost of similar investments in the previous programming period.	
PA5	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management	Quality of the joint risk management	The methodology of the indicator is correct and transparent. The calculation of the baseline data can be done easily based on the description of the indicator. The measure of the indicator, as the carrying out of the survey can repeat later in the period of the programme implementation.	Population safeguarded by improved emergency response services	The calculation of the indicator is correct and based on the expected average project size and number of the projects. The expectation is realistic that a supported project in 200.000 EUR value shall serve 15 000 people.	The measured outputs of population safeguarded by improved emergency response services will contribute to the results of the specific objectives to raise emergency response and disaster management capacities especially in the border areas. The better reaction and technical equipment of the emergency response and disaster management services improve the quality of the joint risk management.
PA6	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation	Intensity level of cross-border cooperation	The methodology of the indicator is correct and transparent. The calculation of the	Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border	The calculation for the determination of the output indicator is correct and based on the number of financed institutions. All these institutions will	The measured outputs will duly indicate the meeting of the specific objectives. The implementation of the co-operation initia-

Priority axis	Specific objective	Result indicators	Evaluation, proposals	Output indicators	Evaluation, proposals	General conclusion - relation between the planned outputs and results
	of institutions and communities		baseline data can be done easily based on the description of the indicator. The measure of the indicator, as the carrying out of the survey can repeat later in the period of the programme implementation.	cooperation initiatives	be involved in the project implementation and in same time in cross border cooperation initiatives.	tives should contribute to the increase of the number and the frequency of the cooperation among institutions and other type of organisations.
				Number of people participating in cross-border cooperation initiatives	The estimation method for output indicator is correct, and the programme can assume that at least 100 person/project can be achieved.	

4.2.3 Suitability of milestones

The suitability of milestones has been assessed on the base of Performance framework summarised in Tables 5 and 24 of the CP. The evaluation remarks hereby do not relate to the evaluation of the individual output indicators, as the assessment of output indicators are described in chapters 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

Evaluation remarks on the performance framework and the selected indicators:

- The performance framework contains the relevant indicators and measures properly the significant outputs of the Priority Axis. Based on the particular implementation nature of the planned actions the CP applies properly the key implementation steps (PA1 and PA2).
- The financial indicators of the Performance framework are corresponding to the relevant Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 215/2014 Art. 5, point 2, and they are taking into account the decommitment rule set out in Art. 136 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 (CPR). The milestone target for 2018 are set to 12,2 % according to the description.
- The method for the selection of output indicators in the performance framework has been described.

4.3 Consistency of financial allocation

The ex-ante evaluation appraised the consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the CP. The evaluation examined whether the financial allocations concentrate on the most important objectives in line with the identified challenges and needs in the CTS and with the concentration requirements set out in the relevant regulations.

The financial allocation is shown in Tables 2, 15, 16 and 17 of the CP.

According to the figures in Table 16, 87.91 % of the ERDF financial allocation falls on PA1-PA4, which do meet the thematic concentration requirement contained in Art. 6 (2) of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013. In Chapter 1.2 (Justification for the financial allocation), the description speaks about rates of total financial allocation, although the numbers are corresponding to the share in the ERDF-funding.

The share of each priority axis in the total (ERDF, public and private) funding is as follows:

PA1	20.91 %
PA2	15.09 %
PA3	23.75 %
PA4	24.6 %
PA5	4.12 %
PA6	1.73 %
PA7	9.79 %

In the case of the first PA1-PA4 the foreseen financial allocations are consistent in looking at the challenges and needs and the corresponding specific objectives and the foreseen types of actions.

According to the needs and challenges the promotion of creating new jobs and increasing the employment requires serious efforts by the different actors. The programme devotes a relative a significant amount for the implementation of planned actions.

In case of PA4 the challenges and needs would justify a corresponding financial allocation and the synergy of the health services in the cross-border area will be taken into consideration by the project selection criteria.

In case of PA5 the described challenges and needs would justify a larger share of commitment for cross-border efforts. The foreseen allocation in the total funding (4.12%) seems modest to reach a significant impact as expected on the field.

In case of PA6, the financial allocation is consistent with the specific objective, the intensification of the sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities can be achieved.

In case of PA7 the ERDF allocation is consistent.

4.4 Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy

Taking into account the specific regional situation and needs of the border region²¹, when examining the contribution to Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth²² the main tasks of evaluation identified were the following:

- Appraisal of the contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy with regard to the selected thematic objectives (taking into account national and regional needs).
- Verifying the consistency of the CP with the Europe 2020 strategy, the intervention logic and the intended results.
- Assessing to what extent the programme is likely to contribute to the strategy's objectives.

Appraisal of the contribution of the CP to the Europe 2020 strategy focused on the following areas:

- Contribution to the targets and their respective indicators determined in the strategy.
- Appraisal of the contribution to the country specific proposals of the Commission for Hungary and Romania and the resulting national goals and paths.
- Does the CP reflect the priorities indicated in Europe 2020?

The main findings of the evaluation are summarised in Table 21.

Table 21: Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Relevant chapter of EU2020 strategy	Evaluation remarks
PA1	Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies	Chapter "Sustainable growth – promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy".	Without ensuring the cleanliness of the water basin, one of the most important resource for sustainable grows – clean water – cannot be ensured. To achieve this goal the pollution of the inter-dependent cross border water basin should be reduced. The specific objective is in line with the sustainable grows objective of the EU 2020 strategy, the planned interventions contribute to the achieving of the EU 2020 strategic goals
	Sustainable use natural, cultural and historic heritage within	Chapter "Europe can succeed" and Chapter Sustainable growth – promoting a more resource efficient, greener	The EU 2020 counts on the strong values of Europe, among others on the cultural diversity of Europe. This cultural diversity should be kept alive, and without improving the condition of joint histor-

²¹ The specific regional situation and needs of the border region has been analysed in the Common Territorial Strategy, 4th Draft, dated June 18, 2014

²² Europe 2020, A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Communication from the Commission, COM (2010) 2020

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Relevant chapter of EU2020 strategy	Evaluation remarks
	the eligible area.	and more competitive economy" contains the Flagship Initiative: "An industrial policy for the globalisation era envisaging an action aiming at enhancing the competitiveness of the European tourism sector."	ic, cultural and natural heritage within the eligible area this cannot be attained. (See page 9 of European Union 2020 Strategy). The improvement of the condition of the condition of joint historic, cultural and natural heritage within the eligible area contributes to the enhancement of the competitiveness of the European tourism sector. (p. 18 of European Union 2020 Strategy). The specific objective is in line with the sustainable grows objective of the EU 2020 strategy, as well as to the enhancing the competitiveness of the European tourism sector.
PA2	Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure	Chapter Sustainable growth – promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy" The specific objective is relevant to the flagship initiative "Resource efficient Europe" that among others aims at accelerating the implementation of strategic projects with high European added value to address critical bottlenecks, in particular cross border sections and inter modal nodes (cities, ports, logistic platforms)	The easy access to TEN-T infrastructure is an acknowledged bottleneck in building a resource efficient Europe. (See page 15 and 16 of European Union 2020 Strategy) Thereby, the specific objective is in line with the sustainable grows objective of the EU 2020 strategy, and with the "Resource efficient Europe" flagship initiative.
	Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise - forms of cross-border transport	Chapter Sustainable growth – promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy" The specific objective is relevant to the flagship initiative "Resource efficient Europe" that helps in decoupling economic growth from the use of resources, supports the shift towards a <i>low carbon economy</i> , increases the use of renewable energy sources, modernises the transport sector and promotes	Using sustainable forms of transport (public transport and bicycle) contributes to the low carbon economy. (See page 7 and 15 of European Union 2020 Strategy),), thereby the specific objective is in perfect harmony with Chapter Sustainable growth – promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Relevant chapter of EU2020 strategy	Evaluation remarks
		energy efficiency.	
PA3	Increased employment within the eligible area	Chapter sustainable and inclusive growth is relevant in case Relevant Flagship Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "An industrial policy for the globalisation era" • An Agenda for new skills and jobs" 	Encouraging job creation is a main objective in the whole Europe and the relevant actions are in line with the referred flagship initiatives, e.g. to improve business environment, especially in case of SMEs and to promote labour mobility.
PA4	Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area	Inclusive growth as priority, Flagship Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Digital Agenda for Europe" • "An Agenda for new skills and jobs" 	Reducing health inequality is one of the key elements of the inclusive growth priority of EU2020 Strategy. Also healthy workforce is a precondition for a striving economy. Health care is one of the major user and improver of smart applications. If initiatives of the Cooperation Programme are to stay these elements of the EU2020 Strategy can all explicitly underline the importance of the specific objective.
PA5	Improved cross-border disasters and risk management	Sustainable growth, Combating climate change, Flagship Initiative: Resource efficient Europe EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	The connection to the EU2020 agenda is less straightforward, while combating climate change is an important factor and also includes reducing the risk of natural disasters. EU Adaptation Strategy is the most relevant part of EU2020 agenda to achieve sustainable growth. Cross-border disaster and risk management can be particularly appropriate when climate change impacts transcend borders of individual states - such as with river basins - and when impacts vary considerably across regions. Greater coordination and information/sharing in the eligible area is clearly in line with EU policies
PA6	Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities	Priority Area 10 "To step up institutional capacity and cooperation"	What is the connection with the Strategy Of the European Union for the Danube Region? In many expressions of the CP we can find connections with Danube Strategy! Inclusive growth as priority can be taken into account when we talk about institutional capacity building

4.5 Implementing provisions for the cooperation programme

The ex ante evaluation assessed the adequacy of human resources and administrative capacity for management of the CP, as well as the suitability of the procedures for monitoring the CP and collecting the data necessary to carry out evaluations.

In this sense the Implementing provisions for the cooperation programme were also assessed.

Section 5: Implementing provisions for the cooperation programme has been properly elaborated. The description of the management and control arrangements follows correctly the regulation.

As for subchapter 5.6. Involvement of partners, and the related Subchapter 9.3. details the relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme. It can be concluded that the CP has been elaborated involving relevant stakeholders from both countries in the programming group (JWG) that met and discussed all aspects of the CP in numerous meetings. For the preparation of Common Territorial Strategy regional discussion process on needs and strategies for the programme region achieved a high involvement of additional stakeholders for defining the main issues to be considered for the common development of the region.

4.6 Coordination

The coordination mechanism is described in detail and ensures a coordination with other programmes financed from the ESIF Funds under the Partnership Agreements of the member states, and other national sources.

4.7 Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries

In Section 7 Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries, based on the experiences of the financial period 2007-2013, the foreseen measures for reduction of the administrative burden are correct. The Implementing provisions for the cooperation programme (Section 5) are assuring the intended reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of key stakeholders involved in ex ante evaluation

Representative of organization/institution/body	Interviews	SWOT and strategic WS	Indicator WS	Implementation WS
1. Members of the JWG including:	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County representatives from both countries (8), 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of line ministries from both countries relevant for Thematic objectives chosen (max. 8 together with entry 2), 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of National Authorities for the next programming period (2), 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of regional bodies from both countries (3-4), Representative of BRECO Oradea (1). 				
2. Representatives of line ministries from the two countries relevant for the Thematic Objectives chosen (in case they are not members of the JWG) (max. 8 together with entry 1)	X			
3. Representatives of the JS (Head and deputy head of JS, senior programme managers, senior financial manager – cca. 5 -6)		X (except financial manager)	X	X
4. Representatives of Info Point (1 or 2)		X	X	X
5. Representatives of the National Authorities (current and in case it shall change also the future ones) (max. 4)		X	X	X
6. Representatives of FLC bodies (including future FLC bodies in case different institutions shall be designated) (max. 4)		X	X	X
7. Representatives of the Managing Authority (current and in case it shall change also the future one) (max. 2)				X
8. Representatives of key stakeholders/partners from the sectors covered by Thematic Objectives chosen according to Delegated Act on Partnership, including civil society (max. 4)	X		X	X
9. Representatives of the team elaborating the OP		X	X	X

Annex 2: List of documents reviewed for ex-ante evaluation

EU level strategies, plans, recommendations, etc.

- European Union 2020 Strategy (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:2020:FIN:EN:PDF>)
- Strategy Of the European Union for the Danube Region (Commission Communication AND Action Plan) (<http://www.danube-region.eu/>)
- Position of the Commission Services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in HUNGARY for the period 2014-2020 (http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/hu_position_paper.pdf)
- Position of the Commission Services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in ROMANIA for the period 2014-2020 (http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/ro_position_paper.pdf)
- A resource-efficient Europe (http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/pdf/resource_efficient_europe_en.pdf)
- EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0216>)
- An Agenda for new skills and jobs (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0682:FIN:EN:PDF>)
- European platform against poverty and social exclusion (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0758:FIN:EN:PDF>)
- Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0144:FIN:EN:PDF>)
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0665:FIN:EN:PDF>)
- A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0112:FIN:EN:PDF>)

NRPs and Council recommendations

- National Reform Programme 2014 of Romania (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/nrp2014_romania_ro.pdf)
- Council Recommendation on Romania's 2014 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Romania's 2014 convergence programme (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/csr2014_romania_en.pdf)
- National Reform Programme 2014 of Hungary (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/nrp2014_hungary_en.pdf)
- Council Recommendation on Hungary's 2014 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Hungary's 2014 convergence programme (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2014/csr2014_hungary_en.pdf)

Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes for 2014-2020

- Romanian Partnership Agreement for 2014-2020 (http://www.fonduri-ue.ro/res/filepicker_users/cd25a597fd-62/2014-2020/acord-parteneriat/PA_2014RO16M8PA001_1_1_ro.pdf)
- Hungarian Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programme period (http://palyazat.gov.hu/download/52032/Partners%C3%A9g_Meg%C3%A1llapod%C3%A1s_2014-2020.pdf)

- Draft Operational Programmes of Hungary (http://palyazat.gov.hu/forum_pate/29)
- Draft Operational Programmes of Romania (<http://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/List.aspx?t=fs2014-2020>)

National, regional and county development plans and strategies

- Semmelweis Plan of Hungary
- National Social Inclusion Strategy, 2011-2020 Hungary
- National Health Strategy 2014-2020 of Romania
- 2nd National Climate Change Strategy of Hungary
- National Strategy on Climate Change (Strategia Național privind Schimbările Climatice) 2013-2020, Romania,
- National Strategy for Flood Risk Management, Romania
- Regional Development Plan of NW Region RO 2014-2020 (http://transilvanianord.ro/Document_Files/Planul-de-dezvoltare-regionala-2014-2020/00001513/tp9mg_PDR%202014-2020%20DRAFT%20sept_2013.pdf)
- Regional Development Strategy of W Region RO (http://www.adrvest.ro/attach_files/Strategia%20PDR%20sept%202013.pdf)
- Transport Strategy for W Region RO (http://www.adrvest.ro/attach_files/Strategie%20transport%20Regiunea%20Vest.pdf)
- Sustainability - engine for development in W Region (http://www.adrvest.ro/attach_files/Raport%20privind%20Dezvoltarea%20Durabila%20in%20Regiunea%20Vest.pdf)
- Timis County Development Strategy (<http://www.cjtimis.ro/judetul-timis/strategia-de-dezvoltare-a-jude.html>)
- Arad County Development Strategy
- Bihor County Sustainable Development Strategy
- Satu Mare County Development Strategy (<http://www.compas20.ro/url/Rezultatele-proiectului>)
- Csongrád County Development Plan (http://www.terport.hu/webfm_send/4160)
- Békés County Development Concept and Plan (<http://www.bekesmegye.hu/adat/htmlfiles/koncepcio2.pdf>)
- Hajdú-Bihar Development Plan (http://www.hbmo.hu/upload/68/1328/HB_Koncepcio_2014-2020_javaslat_tarsadalmasitasi_valtozat.pdf)
- Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Development Plan (http://www.terport.hu/webfm_send/4168)

Programme level documents

- Evaluation Report of the HURO CBC Programme 2007-2013

Annex 3: Summary of the in-depth interviews

List of interviewees

Institutions	Names	Position	Remarks
Romania			
Romanian National Authority - Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration	Magdalena Racoviță Jalova Voinea	Deputy head	NA Romania, MA
Arad County, Romania	Chiricheu Gabriela	Executive Director	JWG member
Association for Birds and Nature Protection "Milvius Group"	Alin Marius Mos	President	
Bihor County, Romania	Horia Cartiș	Executive director	JWG member
Breco	Livia Banu		JWG member
Environmental Protection Agency Bihor	Monika Ciupleu	engineer	
Ministry of Economy	FeticLiviu	Public Manager	
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change,	Carmen Neagu	Superior counselor	
North-West Regional Development Agency	Cosier Claudiu	Director	
Regional Development Agency - West Regio	Cristian Sorin Goția		
	Sorin Maxim		
Satu Mare County, Romania	István Jankó Szép	Executive director	JWG member
Hungary			
Prime Minister's Office	Nikoletta Horváth	Deputy Head of Department	NA Hungary
ATIVIZIG	PéterKozák	director	
Csongrád County, Hungary	EszterCsókási		JWG member
FM - Ministry of Agriculture	Marianna Nemes	International coordination desk officer	
Hajdú-Bihar County, Hungary	RóbertKocsis	Vice-president of the Municipality of Hajdú-Bihar County	JWG member
KKM - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Péter Kiss Parciu	head of department	JWG member
Municipality of Békés County	Zoltán Farkas	Assembly President of the Municipality of Békés County	
NFM Közlekedési Koordinációs Központ	Tamás Kertesi	director	
NGM - Ministry for National Economy or NFSZ - National Labour Office	Dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy /	Planning referent (Employment programmes Department)/	Ádám Móricz - JWG member
	Ádám Móricz	referent (Regional development Planning Department)	
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Hungary	István Oláh / dr. Laura Kondra	Managing director	JWG member
		Head of Department	
ÉÁRFÜ - Regional Development Agency, Northern Great Plain	Judit Berki	Deputy CEO	

General conclusions

On the base of the interviews, the following conclusions can be considered as general conclusions:

1. Regarding the infrastructure, I believe that we cannot achieve something important, given that money is scarce and solving the existing problems requires more funds. (Cristian Gotia, Regional Development Agency - West Regio)
2. Indicators: Too early to make a judgment on the proposed result and output indicators Methodology and baseline are not yet proposed, should be elaborated.
3. As under some thematic objectives some of the activities should or could be implemented by profit-oriented undertakings, the state aid considerations should be applied during the implementation phase. This relates to possible projects under TO6, TO8 or TO9, and to some flagship projects. In some cases the involvement of SMEs could be beneficial. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy, Nikoletta Horváth)
But the need for involvement of SMEs is not general. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy)
4. Concerns about the change of institutional arrangement (transfer of JTS from the Hungarian side to the Romanian side (decision making, information transfer). (Péter Kiss-Parciu, Renáta S hiraishi)
5. General satisfaction with involvement and prevailing of the partnership principle. (Most of the interviewees.)
6. Prior to the elaboration of the Operational Programme, the regional analysis and the experience gained from the 2007-2013 period provided sufficient substantiation for the strategy. (Most of the interviewees.)
7. The coordination between the relevant local and national strategies is a paramount issue. The coordination is also very important at the planning stage already, therefore regular inter-ministerial meetings are organized to avoid overlaps between the national and CBC programmes. (Most of the interviewees.)
But: NGOs did not participate in the meetings. (István Tamás Jankó-Szép (Satu Mare County Council)
8. Synergy is given with the counties' programmes. (Counties.)

Coherence and relevance of the strategy

- The analysis of the situation is not specific; it does not characterize the Romanian-Hungarian border. (Livia Banu, BRECO)
- A majority of the eligible activities will contribute to the achievement of the objectives, however, there are some activities under the investment priorities, which do not form a homogeneous unit, they are reflecting some of the counties' own development demands. That explains, for example, that in case of Ip 6/c geothermal energy is proposed for spa development by Romanian side, which is definitely not aiming at the retention, or rehabilitation of natural and built heritage. In case of Ip 9/b Romanian side suggested city rehabilitation efforts, which do not serve the development of segregated areas. (Nikoletta Horváth)
- Among the open questions the activity to utilise the geothermal energy is subject to the discussion, as well as the urban rehabilitation initiative, due to their questionable cross-border nature and impacts and also due to the potential concern on the existence of a Hungarian side partner. (Nikoletta Horváth)
- From among the horizontal issues sustainable development is strongly promoted in the draft OP by Ip 6b and 7b., the sustainable grows by Ip 6c and Ip 7c, the inclusive grows by TO8 and TO9. The 1, 2, and 5 priority axis will contribute to the smart growth through innovative solutions for the common water management, through modernisation of transport links, as well as through ambitions for health care development ideas. (Nikoletta Horváth)

- Measures to promote the horizontal goals should be included in every priorities. Now, they only appear in the case of TO8. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy).
- In the document it is not mentioned the fact that there has been a committee of environmental cooperation between Romania and Hungary for years. The Committee is mixed. The programme should have mentioned in analyzing the current situation the existence of a Department for nature, national parks and preservation, department that exists both in Romania and in Hungary. In the two structures there are people who deal with this joint committee and follow the development of HURO Programme. (Alin Moş, Association for Birds and Nature Protection “Milvius Group”)

TO5

- Some HU countries are interested (Békés county), some are not (SZSZB county)

TO6

- Nature protection further emphasized. The Ministry of Rural Development is interested in Natural Park protection projects. Will propose such projects in writing, requires minor modifications. (Marianna Nemes)
- Suggests widening the type of activities under 6c with *preserving natural values* and also *extending the list of protected areas*. Environmental protection could be stronger emphasized. In 6c the joint natural heritage and cultural heritage are equally emphasized. This balanced treatment should remain. (Marianna Nemes)
- Welcomes the inclusion of water management as a means to deal with flood prevention. (Péter Kazák)
- The modified specific objective (Improved cross-border water management) fits the new strategies/programmes that are just being centrally developed in Hungary (e.g. KEOP), and also fits the Darányi Programme and the Kwassay Programme. (Péter Kazák)
- Suggestions (Péter Kazák): A letter to the Water Directorates of the region (both sides) and/or to the General Directorate of Water Management asking them:
 - to approve the result and output indicators or to suggest other ones
 - to give the measurement methods, and
 - to supply data on the baseline and target values of the approved/suggested indicators.

TO7, and roads in other TOs:

- Among the eligible activities, both the development (newly built) and also the reconstruction of the roads should be included. This should be taken into account also at other thematic objectives, where roads are included (TO6 and TO8, TO9). (Péter Kiss Parciu)
- In the case of transport development, it is important to assure the cross-border impact of the individual operations. Each operation should give an added value to the cross-border activities. (Péter Kiss Parciu)
- In the case of transport related projects, beneficiaries both state owned organisations, and beneficiaries handling their affairs on behalf of the state should be involved. It would be also important, to include EGTC-s and NGOs among the beneficiaries. (Péter Kiss Parciu)
- Greater emphasis should be laid upon the priority serving better accessibility of the settlements in the cross-border region. Would prefer more road construction, but not bound to the Ten T network (in the region M43 and A1), since the connecting roads run mostly parallel with the Ten T, they do not cross the border. (Tamás Kertesi)
- Wekerle Plan and National Transport Strategy support Ip 7b (Tamás Kertesi)

- According to the Hungarian regulations any transport infrastructural investment can only be implemented if approved and controlled by the NIF (National Infrastructure Development PLC) and/or the KKK (Hungarian Transport Administration). (Tamás Kertesi)
- Among the HU counties, only Békés will implement road construction

TO8

- The contribution of the proposed programme to creating employment is questionable: the support to SME-s would more efficiently and sustainably create employment. (Judit Berki)
- The types of actions should be more focused.
- The developments employment promotion is sometimes mixed up with economic driven infrastructural development. But the priority to promote employment should focus really on employment promotion, and e.g. not on development of cultural the natural heritage. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy).
- The foreseen actions are well focused. Soft actions for disadvantaged people or regions is favourable. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy).
- The implementation of the actions should be done on an integrated way. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy)

TO9

- This TO is of strategic importance for the Romanian side. There are two flagship initiatives dealing with health care infrastructure development, both initiated by Romanian partners (in the Hungarian side, significant developments have already been implemented). It is a question whether the budget will be enough for open calls (and what kind of projects) as well? (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Regional Development and Environmental Management Agency Non-profit Ltd.)
- Improving health infrastructure is a priority found both in the county strategy and the programme. (Gabriela Chiricheu, Arad County Council)

TO11:

- For the HU counties this is important, they want to continue their earlier activities. (Counties.)

Synergies/possible overlapping with national/regional programmes:

- The specific objectives, the planned actions are linked to the national strategies and European policies. (Most of the interviewees.)
- There is a definite synergy with the relevant national programmes and strategies. (Most of the interviewees.)

Implementation frames of the programme:

- It is to be ensured that the planned staff mainly at the Joint Secretariat, but in addition at the Managing and National Authorities should be sufficient, and in case of need sufficient reinforcements should be provided, too. In case of MA/NA this should be ensured from domestic resources.

It was suggested by the Hungarian National Authority, that the MA should outplace at least 1-2 people with due signature rights to the implementation area of the programme. In order to maintain the expertise accumulated in the Secretariat in Budapest, the Hungarian National Authority agreed with the Romanian partner to maintain a limited number of staff

in the Budapest Office. Our vision is that the phasing-out/phasing-in solution will continue, decreasing the staff in Budapest, increasing it in the Békéscsaba Office. (Nikoletta Horváth)

- Consideration should be given to the emerging vision of the strategic projects, the scope of activities, as well as the counties' needs. (Nikoletta Horváth)
- In case of the flagship projects, there is some risk resulting from the very complex nature of the projects. (Tamás Kertesi)
- It is a concern whether beside of flagship projects, there will be enough resources for open calls. (Counties.)
- Suggestions (Péter Kazák): In case of Call for Proposal procedures the selection of evaluators of the project proposals is the key aspect. The involvement of the state institutions/chambers of the sector is vital. In project selection the professional aspects should prevail.
- Suggested that the direct supplier finance is a great help both for the beneficiary as well as for the supplier, an advantage as opposed to the institution of advance payments. (Péter Kazák)
- Previous implementation/monitoring experience: in some cases the information transmission on the Romanian side from the IB to the Beneficiary failed. (Péter Kazák)
- Implementation problems originated from the complexity of operations might arise. (Judit-Berki)

Administration:

- Due to financial difficulties, the advance payments should be solved. (Most of the interviewees.)
- Electronic call for proposal procedures need a further development. (Most of the interviewees.)

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

- Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes of Romania does not agree with the indicators proposed in our field and I made a concrete proposal to the working group, which I am going to improve in future interventions. (Carmen Neagu - former Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes)
- We cannot predict what impediments will be, but it's important that strategic projects to be implemented, here we have to be more carefully. It is important to have reserve projects in the event budgets will not be spent fully. (Magdalena Racoviță Jalova Voinea (Romanian National Authority- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration))
- Suggestion: the number of common and output indicators should be kept to a minimum, nevertheless the number and weight of the activities should be taken into consideration. (Nikoletta Horváth)
- Suggestion is to redraft the evaluation sheets the following way: In order to honour the cross-border impact, the proximity to the border, or the continuation of old partnerships and closed projects additional scores should be given. (Nikoletta Horváth)
- The most useful means to further improve project monitoring and evaluation are the personal consultations between the beneficiary and the Implementing Agency and the site visits. (Tamás Kertesi)
- On-the-spot checks are very important, especially above a certain threshold of project value. The mid-term evaluation of the projects and that of the OP is the main contribution to keep

the project implementation on track (necessary interventions, pro-rata delivery of outputs, etc.) (Judit Berki)

Beneficiaries:

- The priorities of the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar county development strategies are all represented in the proposed strategy. (Judit Berki)
- The list of beneficiaries should be widened. (Ádám Móricz, dr. Orsolya Kisgyörgy)
- Append the list of possible beneficiaries with public institutions, not solely public authorities, because the 2 categories are not identical. (Marianna Nemes)

Views on the preparation of the CBC programme

- Some interviewees believe that few institutions were involved. For example, NGOs did not participate in the meetings. Probably involving a larger number of actors should have extended the entire decision-making process on the objectives. (István Tamás Jankó-Szép (Satu Mare County Council).
- Romanian National Authority is not pleased, it is going very hard, we feel confident that everything is done in partnership, but this is not so. Hopefully, this will change in the future. (Magdalena Racoviță Jalova Voinea, Romanian National Authority- Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration)

Additional comments, suggestions:

- Consultants responsible for assessing the flagships should be more active, to provide answers to applicants, to inform and communicate with beneficiaries. (Horia Cartis, Bihor County Council)

Beneficiaries should be more informed, to understand the specific of the programme. Strategic projects, flagships are not really cross-border projects, in this regard we should decide if we want to increase the level of cooperation between partners or we just want to solve some county problems. (Livia Banu, BRECO).

Annex 4: Relevant statements of the strategy

Relevant statements of strategy, situation analyses to evaluate the Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs

Specific objective of Ip 6/b: Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies

Table 22: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO6, SO to Ip 6/b

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the increasing global importance of water – if properly managed – this could be an important common asset of the area – STA 2.4.6 - Negative impacts of climate change, more frequent weather extremities result in increased risks of floods and drought – STA 2.4. – Population has growing sensibility to environmental issues, which is an important stimulating factor for efficient water consumption and protection of cultural and natural heritage – STA 2.4.1 – CH9. Natural disasters and civilization-origin hazards threaten localities (e.g. risk of floods threatens 376 towns and villages) including their population, businesses and agriculture which causes permanent uncertainty and material damages. - CH13. The eligible area is rich in surface water – preserving its quantity and quality requires coordination and management of major resources. - P8. Joint natural assets, primarily water base – if properly protected and managed – could be important common assets of the eligible area because of the increasing global importance of surface and groundwater water (irrigation, energy production, drinking water, spa and health tourism). – Water and waste management projects implemented in the immediate proximity of the border have a clear cross-border nature, while the ones more remote from the border have served rather local needs;

Specific objective of Ip 6/c: Sustainable use of natural, cultural and historic heritage within the eligible area

Table 23: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO6, SO to Ip 6/c

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tourists in the eligible area are overwhelmingly of domestic origin (almost 80% of the visitor nights belong to domestic guests) – STA 2.6.1 - The tourism offer is not competitive at international level – STA 2.6.1 - Imbalanced touristic infrastructure, with some counties of the eligible area (Hajdú-Bihar, Bihor) having above average infrastructure – STA 2.6.1 - The eligible area is rich in attractive events, but these are neither properly coordinated nor professionally communicated – STA 2.6.2 - Many of the natural and historic values, touristic facilities are standalone attractions – STA 2.6.2 - Lack of cross-border programme packages – STA 2.6.2 - Growing importance of complementary touristic attractions and values – STA 2.6.1 - Projects with a joint thematic concept and with a common strategy could reach a higher impact

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

- and contain a higher CB character;
- Typically, the thematic routes possess a high CB character, as these projects create well established connections among the attractions from both sides of the border;
- In case of promotion actions, projects introducing a joint brand, theme and / or focusing on common target groups could reach a higher impact;
- Several of the promotion actions could not reach a critical mass; therefore, had a lower visibility and could achieve a limited impact;
- CH12. The insufficient public transport links to the sights, the lack of the tourism infrastructure, services, and programme packages reduce the attractiveness of the eligible area, and make the joint development of complementary attractions difficult.
- P10. Natural, historical and cultural heritages of the eligible area (thermal water and spas, natural protected areas, castles, churches, watermills and other historical and archaeological sites) provide stable base for the higher level of cross-border/international tourism.

Specific objective to Ip 7/b: Improved cross-border accessibility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure

Table 24: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO7, SO to Ip 7/b

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

- Mobility problems, long access times, limited number (10 roadway and 5 railway) of border stations – STA 2.5.1
- Romania has still not joined the Schengen Area, the newly built 10 additional border crossing roads may not be opened yet – STA 2.5.1
- No motorways connecting large cities – STA 2.5.1
- Insufficient quality and quantity of small roads connecting villages in the border areas – STA 2.5.1
- Lack of plans and long administrative procedure of international agreement for North-South transport links – STA 2.5.1
- With Romania's accession to the Schengen Agreement and with building and upgrading of roads with cross-border impact, the travelling conditions will be easier and travel times shorter in the eligible area – STA 2.5.1
- The TEN-T network (in the eligible area the Orient/East-Med Corridor) improvement and its better availability got high priority in the last years within the EU – STA 2.5.1
- A major road that constitutes part of the TEN-T comprehensive network runs along a long section of the border(e.g. E671 in Romania) – STA 2.5.1
- CH15. Problems with the density and the quality of roads with cross-border impact cause mobility inconveniences (long access time, risk of accidents, etc.) directly and economic disadvantages indirectly.
- P11. The new border crossing points can multiply the mutually beneficial interactions between people and businesses living and functioning in the border region.
- P12. Existing and potential new logistic centres can contribute to strengthened cross-border transport and business connections.
- Serves strategic Objective 2 of the CTS: Improve the key conditions of cross-border mobility. Without proper mobility, the various players in the area cannot use the joint opportunities.
- Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure was ranked 1st by the stakeholders from among 15 possible investment priorities.

Specific objective to Ip 7/c: Increased proportion of passengers using sustainable – low carbon, low noise – forms of cross-border transport

Table 25: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO7, SO to Ip 7/c

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of bus public transport services crossing the border – STA 2.5.1 - Almost one-third of the funds supported CB transport infrastructure development. However, no resources remained to enhance the traditional mobility (e.g. public transport, multimodal logistic solution); - Not only the road infrastructure development but the cycle path infrastructure development also aims at improving the tourism potential, health- and living conditions and the labour market of the area, besides improving accessibility; - CH14. Deficiencies of the cross-border public transportation system (railway and bus) hinder the economic and labour market integration, and indirectly make difficult the achievement of the CO2 reduction targets. - CH16. Shortcomings of the bicycle road infrastructure weaken the mobility of people living in the border area. - Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure was ranked as 6th by the stakeholders from among 15 possible investment priorities.

Specific objective to Ip 8/b: Increased employment and growth in specific territories within the eligible area

Table 26: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO8

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)
<p><i>Potential for development of labour market and importance of job creation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low employment rate, total number of economically active population (1.36 million) decreased since 2001 and the share of total active population within total population show a lower number for all counties than the EU average in 2009. - STA 2.2.2 • Long-term unemployment rate higher than the EU-27+4 value, presumable extremely high labour force reductions by 2050. EU2020 sets a target of 75% of 20-64 year old in employment by 2020 (Romania's target – 70%, Hungary's target – 75%)- STA 2.2.2 • Administrative obstacles, language issues, improper flow of information make cross-border labour market mobility marginal and the development of a joint labour market more difficult - STA 2.2.2 • Development of joint labour market – through elimination of institutional and administrative obstacles – can reduce the intraregional and cross-border differences in employment levels – STA 2.2.2 <p><i>Specifics of development of the business environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low level of job creation due to poor economic performance, the restricted ability to attract capital, and the limited competitiveness of the SMEs; - CP-1.1.2 Justification for the selection of TOs and Ips • Consequently any future business infrastructure development should rather focus on the better use of already existing facilities - STA 2.2.1.3 • There is limited motivation of the SMEs to take part in business cooperation initiatives due to the

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

low visibility of the activities- STA 3.

- Lack of sectoral focus on key sectors of the region led to limited impact. – STA 3
- The soft activities (trainings, conferences, exhibitions) have a comprehensive nature besides the infrastructural element with stronger cross-border character; - STA 3
- Local SMEs – based on their traditional (partly agricultural) quality products – could sell more of their products within the wider (cross-border) region, which is essential for the better economic performance of the eligible area CP Chapter IV. Identification of the main challenges and un-tapped potentials

Specific objective to Ip 9/a: Improved preventive and curative health-care services across the eligible area.

Table 27: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO9, SO to Ip 9/a

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

In terms of health-care, there is a major difference between the conditions (facilities and staff) of the two countries that partly derives from the differences in per capita total spending, but also stemming from the low level of investments in infrastructure development in the Romanian side of the eligible area. Currently, the quality of healthcare services is higher in Hungary, which results in health-care migration between the two countries – mainly from Romania to Hungary. This is a challenge in itself, further exacerbated by the fact that mutual financing of health care services by the National Health Insurance systems is solved, even though there is a relevant EC directive in place.

Main conclusions of previous programming period:

- There is a need for health care infrastructure developments in the region;
- The soft actions (e.g. knowledge transfer, surgeries provided by joint teams) possess a high cross border character;
- There is a high need for cross border health care services in the region. However, there are still questions regarding the regulatory environment, consistency with the national health care strategies and the transparency of the joint treatments.

Health care infrastructure:

- Unbalanced healthcare system: general condition and the level of equipment of health care facilities in HU (especially the 22 hospitals) is better, than in RO, many institutions of the 54 hospitals (struggling with rundown infrastructure and equipment). STA 2.7.3
- Well-equipped hospitals in the Hungarian county seats – STA 2.7.3
- Health care spending is under the EU average (8.5%) in both countries, especially in Romania (HU: 7.6%, RO, 5.3% in 2012).
- "Health care migration" Romanian residents living in the proximity of the border travel to Hungary (4763 patients in 2012) STA 2.7.3
- Still problems in financing (even though the related EU directive entered into force on October 25, 2013).
- There is an existing cross-border cooperation between the hospitals of the eligible area – STA 2.7.3
- Poor health care indicators – STA 2.7.3
- Lack of interconnected emergency response service – STA 2.7.3
- Population health can be improved by early detection and prevention – STA 2.7.1
- Cross-border coordination of health care services can result in more efficient use of specialized

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

- services – STA 3
- Cross-border approach to the development of poor areas can offer additional potentials – STA 4.3
- Differences between national health care strategies (including emergency) and inconsistency among development plans of the hospitals in the eligible area – STA 2.7.3

Specific objective to Ip 5/b: Improved cross-border disasters and risk management

Table 28: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

- The eligible area can expect – with some internal differences – low to medium level of negative impacts of climate change. This – combined with a generally very low capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change result in a fairly high level of vulnerability to climate change effects. More specifically, the increase of weather extremities may result in increased risks of floods, while the significant increase of mean temperature can lead to frequent draught periods.
- Various natural hazards carry a significant risk of disasters or sudden emergency situations.
- The most significant natural risk factors in the eligible area are floods and inland waters. The flood vulnerability of the cross-border counties is actually very high both in national and in international comparison.
- Industrial, environmental, transport-related risk factors are also present, constituting potential threats and requiring joint actions.
- CH9. Natural disasters and civilization-origin hazards threaten localities (e.g. risk of floods threatens 376 localities including their population, businesses and agriculture which cause permanent uncertainty and material damages).
- Transboundary water agreement ensures risk prevention of floods and inland waters – STA 2.4.1
- The risks of floods in certain parts of the eligible area is still high (53% of the population live in areas with risk of flood) – STA 2.4.1, STA 4.6
- Negative impacts of climate change, more frequent weather extremities result in increased risks of floods and drought – STA 2.4.4
- Both in Romania and in Hungary, there is a solid legislative background supporting the identification of the areas with risk of flood.

Specific objectives to Ip 11/b: Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities

Table 29: Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs, TO11, SO to Ip 11/b.

Relevant statements of the strategy, situation analyses (needs, challenges)

- “Joint potential in harmonized development, active cooperation of the various institutions”