

FACT SHEET 1_Priority axis PA1_Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Cooperating on common values and resources)

Investment priority 6/b: Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements



Focus of interventions:

Interventions will focus on integrated water management actions related to cross-border surface water – rivers, streams, flows, including water quality monitoring, information and data exchange, as well as the rehabilitation of natural waters using eco-system based approach, even their original flow direction, flood-protection, retention of surface water resources, agricultural and energy generation use of water, protection of the common water basins.



Indicative actions:

The indicative actions will be related to investment or integrated investments and actions (monitoring, management, 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 Directive¹.

Water management is a traditionally important field of cross-border cooperation on the Romania-Hungary eligible border area. Water management organizations have jointly implemented various projects already under the previous programme, and future actions are foreseen (and even planned) to further improve the quality and safeguard the quantity of joint water resources, as well as to improve the capacity to integrate the water protection, as well as the natural and cultural heritage protection in cross-border strategies and policies. Types of investments foreseen include the development of water supply system in the border area, aiming at quality improvement of the water resources, as well as the collection and use of

¹ 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

excess water to compensate for the effect of dry and wet periods on water quality and posing the risk of floods as well as droughts.

All co-financed water-supply related actions need to be based on the relevant River Basin Management Plans ensuring compliance with Directive 2000/60/EC. Any intervention that affect NATURA 2000 sites need to be in line with Article 6, paragraphs 2-4 of the Habitats Directive, stipulating how NATURA 2000 sites are managed and protected.



Types of activities include, among others:

- ✓ Protection and utilization of the cross border water basins;
- ✓ Development of water quality and quantity monitoring, information, forecasting and management systems;
- ✓ Identification of polluting sources, the necessary measures to reduce water pollution (exclusively **historical pollution**);
- ✓ Preparatory measures (including studies), organization of field-related dissemination actions, exchange of best practices, development of networks, delivery of joint trainings, workshops and seminars and also awareness raising of local population;

When designing your project, please see also the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, for related maps:

- ✓ Map 11 – Surface waters in the Romanian eligible counties,
- ✓ Map 12 – Surface waters in the Hungarian eligible counties,
- ✓ Map 13 - Areas with potentially high risk of flood in the eligible area,
- ✓ Map 14 –Transboundary Groundwater Bodies of Basin-Wide Importance and their Transnational Monitoring Network (Danube River Basin District)

NO SUPPORT will be provided to projects envisaging:

- ✓ **exclusively studies, workshops, seminars or training, OR**
- ✓ **exclusively awareness raising activities & exchange of best practice or similar activities;**
- ✓ **development and modernization of water supply systems focusing only on small scale interventions;**
- ✓ **mitigation of the negative impacts of significant water pollutions caused by flood, collection and use of excess water, measurements for the mitigation of flood risks;**
- ✓ **activities that may have economic character, i.e. irrigations, measures against historical pollution (“Polluter pays” principle is respected).**

The scope of the project and the related activities will have to ensure the fulfilment of the programme’s specific objective related to the *Improved quality management of cross-*

border rivers and ground water bodies, in a way that, following the investments, the water quality of cross-border rivers will increase at the measurement points.



The list of potential beneficiaries includes:

- ✓ Local, county and central governments / administrations and their institutions
- ✓ Water Management Authorities / Water Management Directorates
- ✓ National / Natural Parks administrations
- ✓ Environmental protection institutions
- ✓ Non-governmental organisations
- ✓ Microregional associations
- ✓ Regional and county development agencies
- ✓ Management organisations of Euroregions
- ✓ European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)



Target groups:

People living in the eligible area



Methodology for defining and calculating the OUTPUT indicators:

Summary of key information

<i>ERDF funds allocated</i>	EUR 10,750,000
<i>Total available budget</i>	EUR 12,647,059
<i>ERDF funds allocated under this Call</i>	EUR 7,000,000
<i>Total available budget under this Call</i>	EUR 8,235,294
Indicators	Assumed proportion of allocation
6/b 1	75% of total allocation

Categories of intervention:

Code	Amount (€)
021. Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)	7,000,000.00

For measuring the outputs under this Ip, 1 output indicator have been identified, number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions, after the completion of the project, which is a programme specific output indicator.

ID Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)
6/b 1 Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)	Number	19

Considering the 75% financial allocation for the indicator 6/b1, the total estimated cost per measurement point should be around EUR 500,000 from total funds. *This means that, no matter what your project involves in terms of activities or investments, each 500,000 euro spent will have to ensure at least 1 measurement point positively affected by the interventions.*

Definition

The proposed output indicator is “Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)”, where „positively affected” means that the interventions delivered contribute to improving the ecological quality of the water measured at the given measurement point, and this has to be demonstrated at the end of the project.

The specific objective for this Ip is “Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies”, and the types of actions foreseen all contribute directly or indirectly to water quality improvement. The output indicator selected:

- reflects the outcome of the interventions delivered
- reflects the link between the outputs and the expected results – quality improvement – of the interventions.

In addition, this output indicator has a clear link with the result indicator – “Slight increase in water quality (ecological condition) of cross-border rivers at the measurement points in the eligible area”, so the output and result indicator properly reflect the intervention logic under this Ip.

It is important to take into account:

- ✓ that projects need to contribute to the quality improvement of cross-border rivers,
- ✓ the expectation presented above regarding the number of measurement points to be positively affected,
- ✓ the requirement that information regarding the value of the indicator needs to be reported by the beneficiary at the end of the project.



Methodology for defining and calculating the RESULT indicators:

It is mandatory to be mentioned in your application form, how the output indicators will contribute to the achievement of the result indicators of the programme. The result indicator for this Ip is:

Specific objective	SO6/b - Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies					
Indicator	Measure-ment unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
Water quality (ecological condition) of cross-border rivers at the measurement points in the eligible area	Weighted average ecological quality (average, no unit) at the measurement points in the eligible area	2.4	2013	2.2	National Environmental Authorities / National Environmental Protection Agencies / Romanian Waters National Administration	2019, 2021, 2023

Definition:

Weighted average **water quality** (ecological condition) at the measurement points in the eligible area on rivers and water flows crossing the border, based on database measuring the ecological condition of cross-border rivers in the eligible area. The weighting factor is the number of measurement points falling in the respective class.

Relation to the specific objective and actions:

The programme is aimed at improving the quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies in the eligible area. The planned actions contribute to better coordination and implementation of the water management tasks. Better water management will result in improved water quality of water bodies. This objective is in line with the Water Framework Directive of EU aiming at reaching “good” ecological quality (at least the second best classification from 5 classes) in all rivers and water flows in the EU. The water management tasks will be implemented on the basis of the territorial water management strategies developed in harmony with the Water Framework Directive of the EU. The regional water management organisations measure the water quality of rivers and surface water bodies at the existing measurement points and provide reports about the results at least yearly. In the cross-border region, the ecological conditions of the rivers are measured in reliable way at the

all relevant measurement points. The total value of the rivers and water flows can be quantified by the aggregation of quality values of individual measurement points weighted with the number of the points.

Given the limited funding available for this intervention and the character of this programme, the interventions focus on improving the quality of cross-border rivers, thus only the measurement points on cross-border rivers and flows are considered when the value of the indicator is measured.

The output indicator is “number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions” (after the completion of the project). Positively affected means that the interventions delivered contribute to improving the ecological quality of the water measured at the given measurement point(s).

The result indicator is highly affected also by external factors: the improvement of water quality can be achieved by interventions implemented outside the CBC programme; on the other hand, unexpected industrial hazards may suddenly deteriorate the quality status of major river sections.

PA5 intends to improve disaster management, and risk prevention and emergency response in the eligible area which can also contribute to reducing the likelihood of anthropic hazards. On the other hand, the better quality of the rivers and water flows contributes to improved touristic attractiveness of the natural values, natural parks of the eligible area which can be supported under the other specific objective of PA1.

! Special attention to horizontal principles

For the selection of projects under Ip 6b, the following principles will also be taken into account:

- Increased use of sustainable procurement (green public procurement),
- Consideration of life cycle costs of investment options for long term perspective,
- Usage of green infrastructure.

Also, a special attention is needed under Ip 6/b, regarding the sustainable development (please see chapter 8 of Interreg V-A RO-HU CP and Chapter 1.2.3. Horizontal Principles of the GfA).

The proposed projects should make specific contributions to climate change mitigation through interventions regarding safeguarding natural values.

Projects with a direct negative impact on the environment and sustainable development will not be selected for financing.

It will also be ensured that projects affecting NATURA 2000 sites are in line with Article 6, paragraphs 2-4 of the Habitats Directive, stipulating how NATURA 2000 sites are managed and protected.