



# **European Territorial Cooperation**

## **Work Package 11**

*Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes  
2007-2013, focusing on the European Regional  
Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund  
(CF)*

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# **Case study: Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013**

Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes  
2007-2013, financed by the European Regional  
Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF)  
European Territorial Cooperation (Work Package 11)

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## **Acronyms**

CBC Cross-border Cooperation

EGTC European Grouping Territorial Cooperation

ETC European Territorial Cooperation

HU-SK Hungary-Slovak Republic cross-border cooperation programme

JTS Joint Technical Secretariat

MA Managing Authorities

OP Operational programs

TC Territorial Cooperation

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## Executive Summary

The Slovak-Hungarian CBC OP has included “**capacity-building**” in the specific intervention axis 1.5 under priority 1 “Economy and society”. The main aim of this axis was to reinforce and to build up the capacities of local stakeholders (public, non-governmental, private) to initiate cross-border activities and manage joint projects. Other capacity-building activities were also encouraged in the area of joint nature conservation and protection activities and integrated under priority 2 “Environment, protection and accessibility”.

27 projects were finally funded under axis 1.5 for a total of EUR 3.5 Million much less than the initial budget estimations of EUR 8.25 Million. The demand for capacity-building projects turned out to be weaker than expected while other themes under Priority 1 such as tourism cooperation received much more attention from local actors and eventually more EU funds. An additional set of 11 projects were identified in the field of nature protection with a capacity-building component.

The **main achievements** of the CBC programme as regards capacity-building were first and foremost the development of capacities to enter into cross-border cooperation and even more specifically to participate in the CBC programme. 73% of the budget devoted to capacity-building under axis 1.5 has been used with that aim in view. Two other kinds of achievement have been noted, on one hand the development of joint tools, mainly in the field of nature and biodiversity protection and in particular in flood prevention, and on the other hand joint planning activities between cross-border municipalities or for managing common natural resources.

The **results and impacts** of the capacity-building component of the programme were difficult to measure as no indicators were specifically devoted to capturing those types of effects. Some proxies used and qualitative information gathered through the interviews and visits nevertheless showed a positive impact with a high degree of cooperation within the projects as well as better quality of projects submitted in the CBC programme and better partner organization. Stronger strategic approaches and more durable networks were also noted.

Enhanced institutional linkages, an enhanced inclination to initiate cooperation, and improved cross-border project design and management all contributed **to reinforcing cooperation** between the two sides of the HU-SK border during the 2007-2013 period, while in the area of flood prevention and disaster management, cooperation has been significantly extended. But there is still much room for improvement in establishing solid and long-term inter-institutional cooperation models, particularly between cross-border cities.

Some of the existing geographical, cultural and administrative **barriers to cooperation** were progressively removed or alleviated, partly as a result of the CBC programme. The capacity-building component has contributed to a gradual reduction in cultural and institutional barriers, thanks to networking, meetings and working together, and provision of incentives to develop cross-border cooperation, especially at local level. Nevertheless cultural, political and administrative barriers remain still alive and widespread.

During 2007-2013 **enhanced learning** has mainly focused on establishing the foundations for future cooperation in terms of knowledge of the context, of people and partners, and of funding sources. Important strategic work has been undertaken with



a view to a deeper analysis of common needs and, in certain cases common interests, and to development of joint strategies that will serve future cross-border cooperation. More specific learning has been generated in the field of flood prevention and crisis management as well as on eradication of invasive plants, permitting improved addressing of common challenges.

The programme aimed to cover a wide range of **local stakeholders** that could generate cross-border cooperation. Local authorities were one of the main target groups as they are in charge of providing a number of public services at local level for which CBC may bring substantial improvements. In that context **European Grouping Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)** activities, regrouping municipalities from both sides of the border, have emerged as an interesting key actor in TC with the aim of promoting cooperation between their members. 11 EGTCs were set up along the border between 2007 and 2013. Nevertheless, according to the opinion of the MA a critical mass of cooperating local authorities has not yet been reached.

The issues of **transfer of learning** and **sustainability of learning and cooperation** are closely linked. The future for learning mechanisms and cooperation is not yet ensured, notably because of the absence of structured learning mechanisms within the programme. No mechanisms have been put on in place to ensure dissemination outside the project partnerships. Horizontal mainstreaming is non-existent while vertical mainstreaming is still poor. Despite the fact that a great number of projects were pursuing similar objectives and developing similar approaches, no connections have been established between them. Most of the projects have been implemented in isolation, perceived as pilot projects without any dissemination strategy. The absence of transfer is also partly explained by a lack of involvement of the central national authorities which were not systematically informed of what had been achieved by the projects. People interviewed considered that the main channel for sustaining the cooperation process is stronger involvement of national, regional, and local authorities in maintaining and developing existing tools; new EU financing will be mainly used to reach new institutions and organisations and critical mass.

The **existence of EU funding** has been crucial for implementing capacity-building activities. First, without a cross-border cooperation programme, most of the projects would not even have a "raison d'être" as there are no other funds available at national or regional level to stimulate cooperation across the border. Second, projects contributing to developing joint tools to address common challenges or joint planning would not have taken place as such in the absence of EU funding. The EU funds in particular contributed 1) additional money in a context of tense budget constraints at national, regional and local levels; 2) the opportunity of working at an international level; and 3) the possibility of including dissemination and knowledge-sharing.

The assessment of the **monitoring system** has highlighted the weak quality of indicators, for measuring the results and impact of the programme.

The support from the **INTERACT programme** has been well appreciated by the MA throughout implementation of the CBC 2007-2013 programme and the preparation of the current programme.

**Coordination between the national, regional and ETC programmes** is well organized in each country and, according to the MA in Hungary and in Slovakia, seems very effective in both countries. But even if synergies with national and regional programmes were sought during both formulation and implementation of the CBC HU-

SK programme, it is rather difficult to evaluate them in the field of capacity-building as none of the ERDF Hungarian or Slovakian OPs examined has allocated funds to that end. It may be explained by the fact that stakeholders involved in national or regional OPs are well-known public organisations and institutions, while in the CBC minor local actors with low management capacities were authorized and encouraged to submit projects. A comparison with the ERDF North Hungary programme has been attempted but no links were identified in terms of capacity-building. A more in-depth analysis of specific sectors of intervention (such as urban regeneration and protection of environmental assets and environmental safety) might be needed to analyse the complementarities and differences between the programmes in respect of their impact, both on the intended focus and on the degree of cooperation.

## 1. Introduction

This case study is part of the *ex post* evaluation of all programmes during the period 2007-2013 aimed at promoting European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) with a view to creating synergies and European value-added by eradicating internal borders and capitalizing on the existing assets of the whole territory of the Union. It is one of nine case studies of programmes aimed at cross-border cooperation (Strand A of ETC).

The purpose of the case study work in the overall evaluation is to deepen the analysis of the contribution of cross-border programmes to cooperation and to economic and social integration between European regions. This Task 2 of the overall evaluation is performed by means of a field analysis with a variety of programme stakeholders, complementing an initial documentary analysis and an interview with Managing Authorities (MAs) undertaken during Task 1 of the evaluation.

The present case study provides an assessment of the Hungary–Slovak Republic cross-border cooperation (referred to below as HU-SKCBC) programme’s main achievements, the cooperation mechanisms put in place, and their effects in terms of reducing barriers to cooperation and taking advantage of common opportunities. It also aims at identifying the added value of such programmes in comparison with mainstream programmes under way in the same area.

This case study focuses on capacity-building. The HU-SK CBC programme initially planned to dedicate 5% (EUR 8,8 million) of the EU funds to supporting mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation. EUR 3,3 Million was finally allocated to this theme which makes this programme the 10<sup>th</sup> among the 53 OP strand A in terms of the amount devoted to capacity-building.

### 1.1 General features of the programme

The area covered by the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013” stretches from the borders with Austria to those of Ukraine, across large parts of **9 NUTS2 regions of the 2 countries** Hungary and Slovakia, including the capitals of both countries (**Budapest and Bratislava**), as well as cities of national or regional importance (Győr, Miskolc, Košice), and a wide **rural countryside** (Figure 1).

A bit less than **9 million inhabitants** live in the programme area, but the border itself has an important **natural character**, as it largely coincides with rivers (**Danube**) and mountain ranges (particularly in the Slovakian area) in its center and eastern parts. Therefore a large share of that territory is a natural reserve area. The western part of the border is made of lowlands, as well as the far eastern part of Hungary.

Beyond the differences between urban and rural areas, **major differences** can be experienced between the **eastern and western parts** of the border region. While the western part is a clear winner of the economic transition, the eastern areas are lagging behind: infrastructure development is limited, entrepreneurial skills and risk taking attitude need to be strengthened.

Following the typology of strand A programmes established in the study, the programme is a **Type 4 Cross-border programme** with a **big Decided ERDF Budget** of EUR 176,5 Million, and **Allocated Budget (2014)** of EUR 165,1 million.

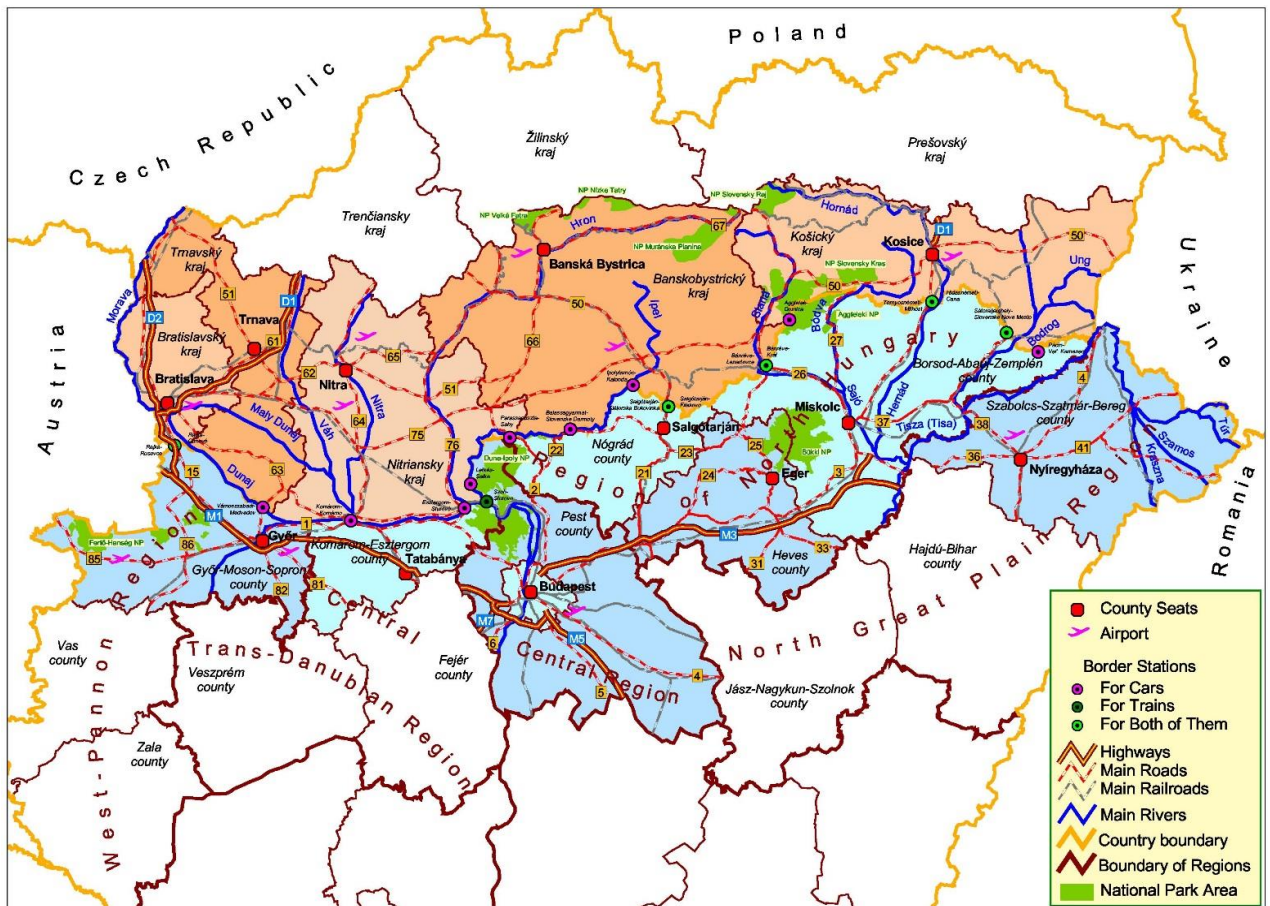
Type 4 means the programme starts with a low depth and intensity of cooperation (according to 2000-2006 indicators) and that it includes new internal borders of the EU. The regions of the programme have only little experience of cross-border cooperation, facing therefore the challenges of novelty at the start of the period.

TAn important feature of the **Operational Programme** is that it is **financially large**: with an allocated ERDF budget of EUR 165,1 million, it ranks fourth amongst 15 Type 4 programmes, well above an average of EUR 131,5 million of allocated budgets. Moreover, this budget is really well centered on only five thematic domains (as defined in our study): more than 90% of the total allocated budget is allocated to those domains, showing real focus on certain topics (Figure 2).

Although the programme has a short history, the **context conditions** for the programme seem to be favorable to cooperation nonetheless (Table 1). First, the programme runs in a relatively institutionalized context of cooperation, although the institutional power is decentralized. More importantly, the border regions have a balanced development and the countries exhibit relatively **similar types of inequalities** from West to East (rich Western capitals, poor East), as explained in section A1.2. Another important favorable factor is the **low cultural diversity** across the border (important Hungarian minority along the border in Slovakia). But cultural barriers do exist, rooted in the old history of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and on the other hand, the **different densities** within the area (cities but also natural reserves) as well as its **average connectivity**, are context conditions that do not favor cooperation. Indeed, the Danube and Ipe rivers and the mountains in the eastern part of the border area seriously limit the cross-border traffic and the permeability of the state border, as well as the development of environmental infrastructures (public sewage system, solid waste management ...).

(Source: OP 2007-2013; and ADE, First intermediate report)

**Figure 1. Map of the eligible area**



Source: Megakom, 2006

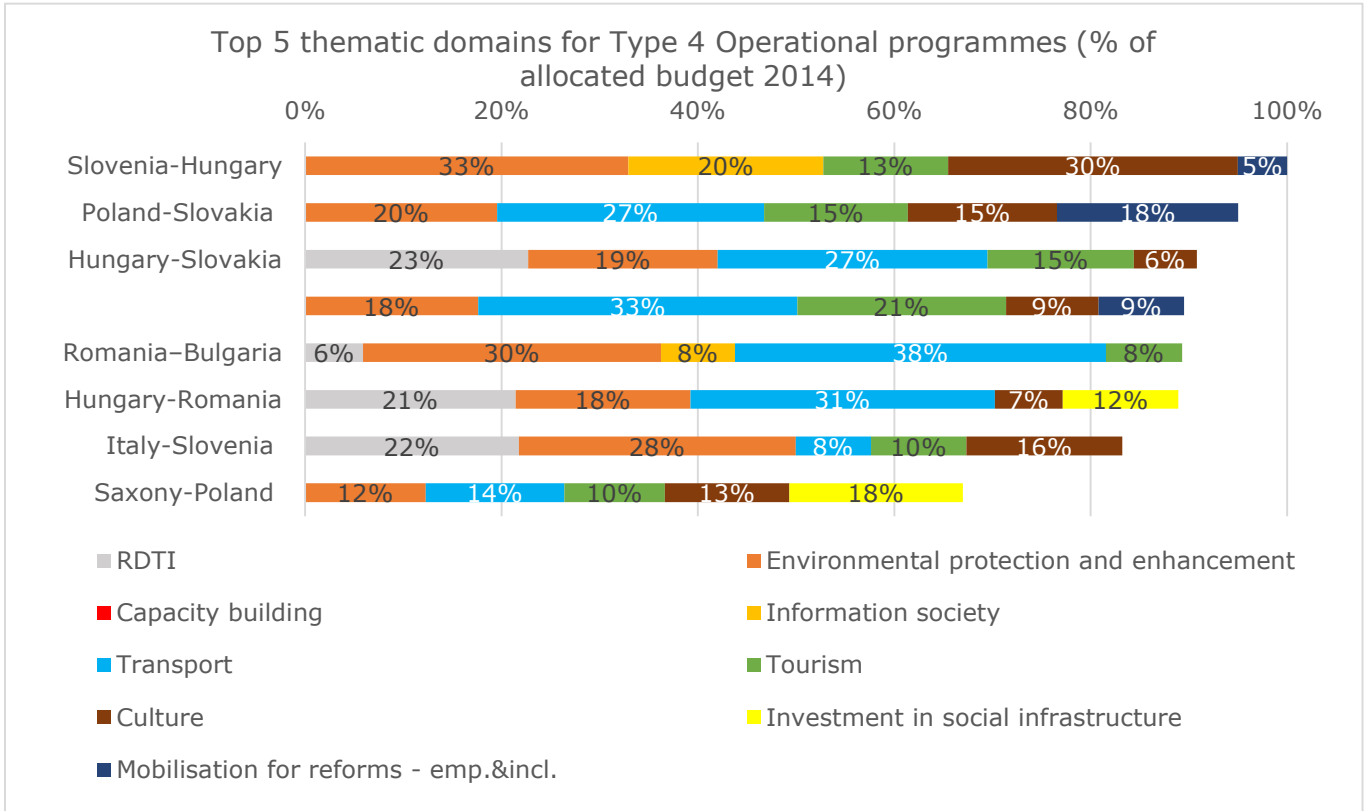
**NUTS III regions (counties) in HUNGARY**

- Győr-Moson-Sopron (HU221)
- Komárom-Esztergom (HU212)
- Pest (HU102)
- Nógrád (HU313)
- Heves (HU312)
- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (HU311)
- Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (HU323)
- Budapest (HU101)

**NUTS III regions in SLOVAKIA**

- Bratislavský kraj (SK010)
- Trnavský kraj (SK021)
- Nitriansky kraj (SK023)
- Banskobystrický kraj (SK032)
- Košický kraj (SK042)

**Figure 2. Thematic priorities for Type 4 programmes in Strand A<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> The following type 4 programs are not shown in Figure 2 for the sake of clarity: Central Baltic, Greece - Bulgaria, Greece - Cyprus, Lithuania - Poland, Polska (Woj. Lubuskie) - Brandenburg, Saxony - Czech Republic, South Baltic.

**Table 1. Context conditions in Type 4 programmes**

Operational programme	Institutionalisation	Development	Institutional power	Density	Connectivity	Diversity
Central Baltic	Not institutionalized	Unbalanced	Mixed	Different	Low	Average
Czech Republic – Poland	Not institutionalized	Unbalanced	Mixed	Different	Average	Average
Greece-Bulgaria	Institutionalized	Unbalanced	Mixed	High	Average	High
Greece-Cyprus	Institutionalized	Unbalanced	Centralized	High	Average	Average
Hungary-Romania	Institutionalized	Balanced	Centralized	Different	Average	Average
Hungary-Slovakia	Institutionalized	Balanced	Decentralized	Different	Average	Low
Italy-Slovenia	Partly institutionalized	Balanced	Mixed	Different	Average	Average
Lithuania - Poland	Institutionalized	Balanced	Mixed	Low	Average	Average
Poland-Slovakia	Institutionalized	Balanced	Decentralized	Low	Average	Low
Polska (Woj. Lubuskie) - Brandenburg	Partly institutionalized	Unbalanced	Decentralized	Low	Average	High
Romania–Bulgaria	Institutionalized	Balanced	Centralized	Different	Low	High
Saxony-Czech Republic	Partly institutionalized	Unbalanced	Mixed	Low	High	High
Saxony-Poland	Institutionalized	Unbalanced	Mixed	Low	Low	High
Slovenia-Hungary	Partly institutionalized	Balanced	Centralized	Different	Average	High
South Baltic	Partly institutionalized	Unbalanced	Mixed	Different	Low	High

The Programme is structured along the following 2 main priorities (Table 2):

**Priority 1: Economy and society** (41% of total *decided* funding)

Two specific objectives were followed under this priority: strengthened economic competitiveness of the area and increased social and cultural coherence among people and communities. This in turn has been implemented by 7 types of interventions, among which cooperation in RDTI, tourism development or healthcare facilities development, and also development of project planning and management capacities.

This priority has been designed to contribute to an integrated development of the economy and society. More specifically it led to projects and interventions in the field of research, technological development and innovation, and supported business incubators projects and joint projects in education and the labour market.

**Priority 2: Environment, nature protection and accessibility** (53% of total *decided* funding)

The objectives of this priority were: improved accessibility and communication of the border area, and protection of natural assets. The specific interventions listed in the OP were centered on small road construction and public transport, on better border crossing across the rivers, on communication channels and on nature protection.

(Source: OP 2007-2013; ADE, One Page Summary on Hungary-Slovakia)

**Table 2. Priority Axes of the Hungary-Slovakia programme (Decided ERDF Budget)**

<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>EU Investment</b>	<b>National Public Contribution</b>	<b>Total Public Contribution</b>
Economy and society	EUR 72,4 million	EUR 12,8 million	EUR 85,1 million
Environment, nature protection and accessibility	EUR 93,5 million	EUR 16,5 million	EUR 110 million
Technical assistance	EUR 10,6 million	EUR 1,9 million	EUR 12,5 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>EUR 176,5 million</b>	<b>EUR 31 million</b>	<b>EUR 207,6 million</b>

Source: Operational program "Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013"

With a 41% - 53% distribution of the decided budget over the two priority axes, the programme was designed in a well-balanced way at the start of the period. The Annual Implementation Report of 2014 (p. 21) shows that this planned distribution on the two priorities has been maintained during implementation.<sup>2</sup>

The **Management Structure** of the programme includes, first a **Joint Monitoring Committee** (in which representatives of the European Union participate as observers), responsible for the supervision of the programme. Then, the **Managing Authority** is the **National Development Agency** of Hungary, based in Budapest. Third, the Certifying authority is the Ministry of Finance of Hungary and the Audit authority is the Government Audit Office in Hungary. Finally, the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) is based in Budapest too, but there are two Regional Info Points in Western and Eastern Slovakia. Those arrangements seem to point towards a central role taken by Hungary in the management of the INTERREG programme.

Project acquisition is facilitated by information activities for the public carried out by the JTS and the Regional Info Points, by open calls for projects and by technical assistance to help on the preparation of cross-border projects. Concerning the **project selection mechanisms** which starts after the final decision on approval/rejection of projects is the responsibility of the Joint Monitoring Committee, following criteria of eligibility, coherence and quality.

<sup>2</sup> Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries" were EUR 67,5 million on Priority 1 and EUR 81,6 million on Priority 2, i.e. respectively 43% and 52% of the total.



At the time of design of the programme, and adequate dialogue did not exist between institutions (decision making authorities, regulatory authorities) investors and civil society. This dialogue did not function effectively either during the elaboration of the modes of implementation of various plans and programmes: spatial development, municipal development and sectoral development programmes; or for large investment projects that have substantial impacts on the environment.

(Source: OP "Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013")

## **1.2 Organisation of the report**

Section 2 covers the methodology adopted for the case study. [Annex 1](#) provides an analysis of the main features of the programme, which is helpful for understanding the specific situation of the area and of the programme.

Section 3 is the core of the report. It is structured in accordance with the Evaluation Questions as mentioned in the Terms of Reference (the order of the first two Questions has been switched *vis-à-vis* the order prescribed in the Terms of Reference). Each sub-section responds to each Evaluation Question in turn.

- Section 3.1 assesses what has been delivered by the programme and its impacts. It also provides an analysis of resources spent and types of activities supported (Evaluation Question b).
- Section 3.2 addresses the impacts of the programme on cooperation practices in the area (Evaluation Question a).
- Section 3.3 appraises achievements in terms of learning, capacity and knowledge transferred (Evaluation Question c).
- Section 3.4 discusses sustainability of cooperation and learning and the extent to which these achievements are dependent on EU funding sources (Evaluation Question d).
- Section 3.5 discusses the issue of whether the projects would have taken place in the absence of EU funding, if there were no prior CBC programmes (Evaluation Question e).
- Section 3.6 assesses the quality of the programme monitoring system (Evaluation Question f).
- Section 3.7 investigates the value-added of the INTERACT programme in its support for implementation of this programme (Evaluation Question g).
- Section 3.8 appraises the extent to which the objectives of this programme have been coordinated with those other regional and national programmes active on the same territory (Evaluation Question h).
- Section 3.9 compares this programme with another programme in the mainstream of Cohesion policy – the North Hungary Operational Programme - and discusses how the two programmes differ in practice (Evaluation Question i).

## 2. Methodology

The team has developed a methodology for addressing the Evaluation Questions that takes into account the general finding from Task 1, namely that the quality of indicators and information in the Operational Programmes and Annual Implementation Reports is not sufficient for a robust assessment of the achievements of the programme. The main way of tackling this challenge lies in collecting additional qualitative information from Managing Authorities, from stakeholders in the cross-border region, and from people and organisations involved in projects funded by the programme. Deepening the analysis of the allocation of resources spent and of the types of activities supported, along with an analysis of the project database with a focus on capacity-building, also contributes to an assessment of the results achieved by the programme. This helps create a qualitative picture of results achieved by the programme, in the form of a narrative rather than of verified indicators.

A field visit of five days, from September 21-25 2015, took place for collection of additional documentation and data and for interviewing the Managing Authorities in the programme, as well as some of the main stakeholders involved in programme implementation or as project beneficiaries. The selection of projects was made prior to the visit through an analysis of the projects database and documentation from the programme. The cooperation of the programme Secretariat was very helpful in organizing the schedule of visits and obtaining the commitment of stakeholders. The full list of interviewed people as well as the field visit schedule are given in [Annex 3](#).

### 3. Answers to the Evaluation Questions

This section responds to the Evaluation Questions listed in the introduction<sup>3</sup>. Each subsection starts with the question copied from the Terms of Reference and then includes the analysis of the issue treated in the Evaluation Question.

#### 3.1. Achievements and impacts of the programme

##### EVALUATION QUESTION

**b) What has been delivered via cooperation, and what is its impact (e.g. in terms of R&D and innovation, enhanced administrative capacity, or better environmental status)?**

##### 3.1.1. What has been delivered via cooperation?

##### Capacity-building as initially considered in the CBC Programme

The Slovak-Hungarian CBC OP has included "capacity-building" in a specific intervention axis (1.5) "Development of networking, partnership, programme and project planning and management capacities", under priority 1 "Economy and society". Its specific objectives were clearly described in the OP document:

- a. institution development aiming to build up integrated organizational structures and joint sustainable thematic cooperation networks for joint regional development activities;
- b. harmonization of the existing development plans, programmes at local (micro, regional, county) levels and elaboration of joint strategies;
- c. development of joint project planning and management capacities, project preparation;
- d. public relations work including different types of media to promote and develop cross-border activities to the public.

Through this intervention axis, the OP emphasized the need for reinforcing and building up the capacities of local stakeholders (public, non-governmental, private) to initiate cross-border activities and more directly to involve themselves in the CBC programme. The need to improve the quality of projects submitted for funding in the CBC programme was obviously taken into account.

In parallel, although not as explicitly, the sectoral axes - in particular those related to environment - have included some aspects of capacity-building (as defined under code 81, "mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation"). This was especially the case for intervention line 2.1 (joint actions to encourage the protection of the natural environment) under which support for the cooperation of existing institutions addressing flood prevention and contamination was

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<sup>3</sup> As mentioned in Section 1, the order of questions a) and b) has been switched in order to provide an initial analysis of the programme's achievements and impacts, which can then be referred to when discussing impacts on cooperation more specifically.

planned, notably with development and harmonization of the flood forecasting system. Intervention line 2.2, supporting joint nature conservation activities, has also provided some space for elaborating joint strategies and action plans with the aim of protecting nature and biodiversity.

### **Main achievements of the CBC Programme as regards capacity-building**

Annex 2 provides a list of projects supported under the capacity-building theme. The list was initially established by identifying all projects under code 81 ("Strengthening institutional capacity at national, regional and local levels: mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and local levels, capacity-building in the delivery of policies and programmes"), and then by using the keywords *cooperation, management/managing, evaluation systems and results and planning* in the KEEP database. The list of 38 projects selected under capacity-building was finally checked and validated with the MA. The majority (27) are registered under Priority 1, the remainder (11) under Priority 2.

The projects carried out in support of capacity-building were, as expected, mainly undertaken under intervention line 1.5 of the programme (as mentioned above). The 27 projects funded under this axis and related to the enhancement of institutional capacities amounted to EUR 3.5 million, that is less than 2% of the EU CBC budget. It turns out to be much less than what was expected at the outset, as the initial budget estimations for capacity-building activities amounted to EUR 8.25 million that is nearly 5% of the EU CBC funds. The main reason for this smaller-than-expected budget allocated to capacity-building is the weaker demand for such projects in comparison with other thematic interventions. Since there was no earmarked budget for capacity-building, capacity-building projects competed with other projects on the basis of the same selection criteria. The first two calls for proposals showed that interventions supporting tourist services were much more numerous than those for capacity-building (the requested amount under intervention line 1.5.1 barely reached 75% of the amount allocated to priority theme 81, while the requested amount of ERDF was more than 20 times the amount committed to intervention line 57<sup>4</sup>). The Joint Monitoring Committee thus decided to prioritize other interventions in the next call for proposals. The selection process, on the contrary, did not favour capacity-building, and was strict enough to retain only projects of an adequate level of quality.

The second type of capacity-building project was mostly found under the 2.1 and 2.2 intervention lines, that is protection of the natural environment and joint nature conservation activities (8 of the 11 remaining projects). Some projects in that category were a mix of protection and conservation activities (absorbing the bulk of the budget) and of complementary capacity-building.

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<sup>4</sup> 57 : Other assistance to improve tourist services.

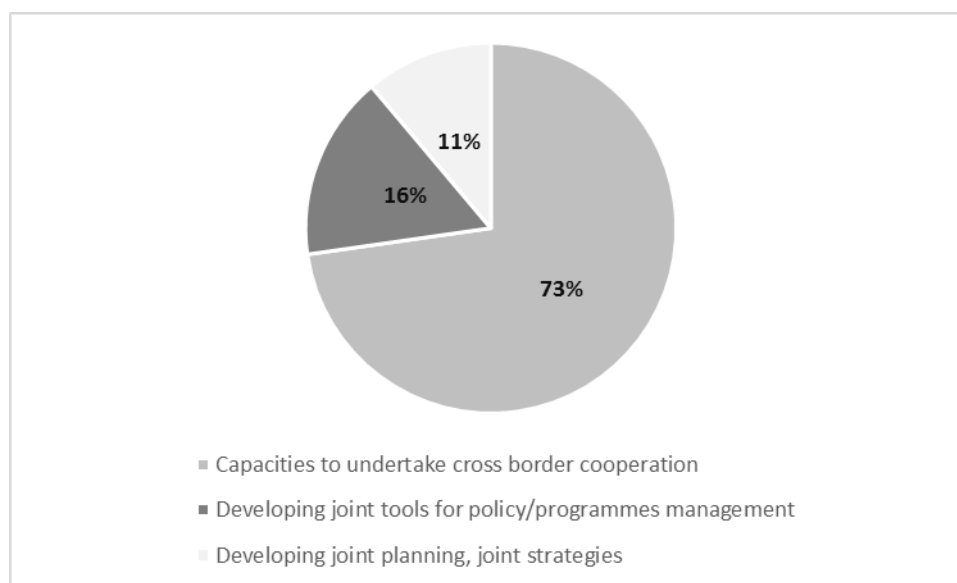
To facilitate the analysis the projects have been grouped into three clusters according to their main achievements:

1. Enhancement of capacities to undertake cross-border cooperation and activities and to participate in CBC programmes (awareness-raising, networking, training on modalities, project identification/formulation/implementation);
2. Development of tools to reinforce policy/programme management on common grounds on both sides of the border;
3. Development of joint planning, joint strategies, and effective joint management in various sectors.

#### Cluster 1 : Building capacities to enter into cross-border cooperation

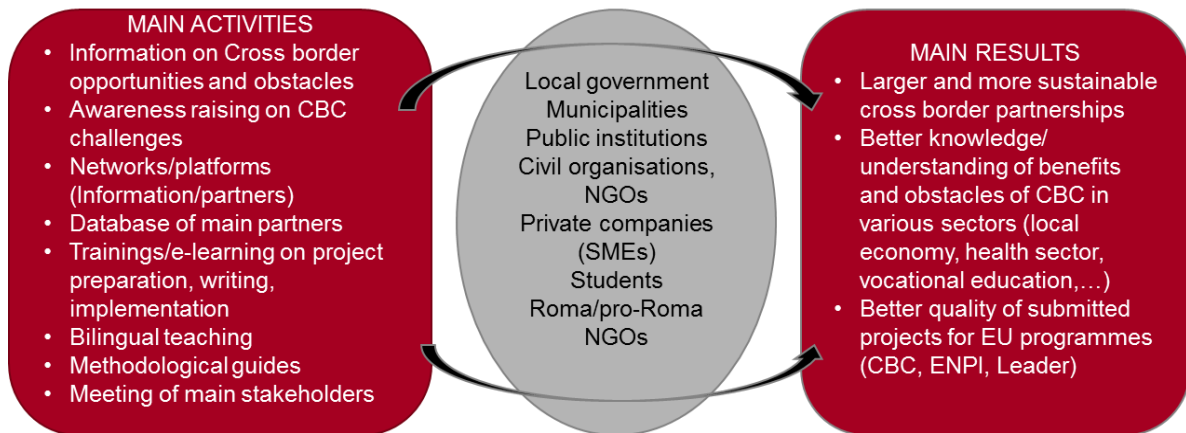
The first group is by far the largest: most of the projects were conducted with the aim of increasing the capacities of various stakeholders (municipalities, SMEs, NGOs and universities) to enter into cross-border cooperation and more specifically of participating in the CBC programme. As shown in the figure below, 73% of the budget devoted to capacity-building (code 81) has been used to support that kind of project.

**Figure 3: Budget allocations by types of projects under code 81 (Total: EUR 3.4 Million)**



The achievements of those projects are summarized in Figure 4: the main result is enhancement of the capacities of local stakeholders to participate in cross-border EU programmes as well as in other EU-funded activities such as the rural development programme.

**Figure 4: Main activities and results achieved by capacity-building projects (cluster 1)**



The projects classified in the two other clusters were mainly undertaken under the axes of intervention 2.1 and 2.2 and were more focused on developing joint tools and joint planning or strategies in more mature sectors or zones.

Cluster 2: Developing joint tools (estimated budget spent under code 81: 544.000€)

Nature and biodiversity protection is one of those sectors in which cooperation has been under development for a long time. As mentioned in the 2007-2013 OP "as many of the environmental problems are common in the border area, a number of cooperation projects have already been initiated, most of them focusing on planning joint interventions mostly in the field of river and groundwater protection". Flood prevention was another important area in which further improvements were still required. Several projects funded by the CBC programme with a capacity development approach aimed at addressing the problem of flood management; floods are a real concern in the zone especially on the Hungarian side, which is mainly lowland, receiving all the water coming from the Slovak mountains (See Figure 1). The CBC programme has supported the development of flood modelling, flood protection and crisis management tools along the main rivers (Danube, Bodva, Ipeľ, Sajó Valley) mainly through cooperation between universities, crisis management authorities, development agencies and associations, and municipalities. The models based on GIS information aim at identifying the zones that may be flooded in the event of breaching of the dykes. Among other things this helps anticipate the need for assistance and for organizing emergency responses.

Among other achievements worth mentioning in the area of nature and biodiversity protection, some interesting tools were developed for eliminating invasive plants and protecting biodiversity along the Danube.

In a completely different area, the programme has also contributed through audits to building anti-corruption capacities in local SK-HU Governments and in the public arena.

**Table 3: Projects aimed at development of joint tools**

Cluster 2 : Developing joint tools	
<b>Intervention 1.5</b>	Novohrad-Nógrád Value Nets: value map and institutional network of cultural human resources
	Networking to increase capacity to enhance transparent sustainability of local governments in Slovakia and Hungary
	Common tools for non-state forest owners in SK and HU
	The European Cohesion Laboratory: Project collaborations generating Hollister-Granum EGTC
<b>Nature and biodiversity protection</b>	The <b>Ipoly river</b> boundary sections and environment survey: <b>Central Ipoly-Water protection plan:</b> assessment of flood protection potentials in the Sajó Valley by means of remote sensing
	<b>FLOODLOG:</b> flood modelling and logistic model development for flood crisis management (Bodva river)
	<b>SAJOKRF:</b> digital database and flood modelling in the Sajó Valley in terms of flood protection
	<b>Discover Floods:</b> preparation of municipalities and other entities addressing flood protection, improving the quality of their knowledge in compliance with EU and national legislation.
	<b>DuReFlood:</b> Danube floodplain rehabilitation to improve flood protection and prevention
	<b>Ipoly flood</b> forecasting
	Duna-Ipoly National park - Uniform protection against invasive plants and sandy floodplain habitats
	Protection of natural assets of Gemer and the recovery of Rimava and Slaná basins
<b>Health</b> Crossing Borders by Information in the Pons Danubii Border Region: Health Info	

Cluster 3: Developing joint planning (estimated budget spent under code 81: 374.000€)

The development of joint planning, joint strategies, and joint development plans has been the subject of fewer projects: this can be explained by the limited experience of cross-border cooperation between public institutions and administrations along the border. There are however some exceptions: the two border cities, Komárno and Komárom, located in the western part of the zone on each side of the Danube, have pursued their already lengthy cooperation, while in some specific locations such as the Novohrad - Nógrád geopark the programme has provided the opportunity to deepen cooperation in management of common natural resources.

**Table 4: Projects aiming to develop joint planning**

Cluster 3: Developing joint planning

- Creating a partner network and a development plan to facilitate integration of the young living in the border area
- Joint programming between two towns Komárno and Komárom: elaboration of long-term strategies, business or community cooperation, and also the opportunity to outline common projects
- Harmonisation of Master Plans and Development Programmes of Komárno and Komárom aimed at their joint and coordinated development
- GeoPart - Systematic partnership for the integrated development of the Novohrad - Nógrád geopark
- To build professional capacity and develop joint strategic plans for municipalities across the eastern border with a view to reacting to the impacts of climate change

Some capacity-building projects were implemented under EGTC, which also benefited from training, visits and strategic work offered by other projects. The role of EGTC is further developed in section 3.3.2 as it is a major actor in cross-border cooperation and one of the main beneficiaries of capacity-building activities.

The programme did not contain any specific indicators focusing on capacity-building, whether on output, results or impact indicators. Table 5 shows output indicators extracted from the list of programme indicators (see annex 4) which may indirectly provide some insights into the achievements and results of the programme in terms of capacities to develop projects and joint actions, including:

- the surprisingly high degree of cooperation observed within the funded projects, 84% respecting the four cooperation criteria (joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing);
- the less encouraging number of joint activities in RTD, in healthcare, in education and people-to-people activities which did not reach the expected target value, while for business cooperation or tourism cooperation the targets were significantly exceeded, showing that in some sectors cooperation is more advanced than in others;
- the still limited number of projects encouraging and improving joint protection and management of the environment.



**Table 5. Outputs of Hungary-Slovakia CBC OP in Capacity-building**

Name of indicator	Type of indicator	Indicator's target value (2015)	Value (2014)
<b>The global objective of the joint strategy - Indicators of achievement:</b>			
Degree of cooperation (number of projects respecting two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing)	output	350	11
Degree of cooperation (number of projects three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing)	output	100	40
Degree of cooperation (number of projects respecting all four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing)	output	50	265
<b>Priority axis 1. - Economy and society</b>			
Cross-border business cooperation (number of projects encouraging cross-border business cooperation)	output	20	81
Joint RTD activity (number of joint RTD projects)	output	20	16
Tourism cooperation (number of jointly developed tourist attractions)	output	20	38
Healthcare (number of healthcare development projects)	output	15	6
Joint education and training (number of joint education and training projects)	output	25	16
People to people actions (number of joint people-to-people events (joint organizing activity and participation))	output	80	20
<b>Priority axis 2. - Environment, nature protection and accessibility</b>			
Joint environment and nature protection (number of projects encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment)	output	25	5

Source: Annual Implementation Report 2014

### 3.1.2. What is the impact of the programme?

As already mentioned, no results indicators were provided for measuring the effects of capacity-building activities. The main impacts of the capacity-building component of the programme can nevertheless be addressed through qualitative information gathered through the various interviews and visits, and can be summarized as follows:

- The quality of the projects submitted in the CBC programme significantly improved during the implementation period, especially in the second half of the programme: projects are more strategic and more relevant, better addressing the cross-border challenges and cooperation opportunities. Most of the projects of clusters 2 and 3, addressing more directly the management capacities of local actors in specific areas of intervention, were submitted in the second part of the period (after 2010).

- The CBC projects partners are better organized; the budget planning is more adequate and more structured.
- A stronger strategic approach to cross-border cooperation was developed, mainly at local levels (for example the CBC development strategy for the western part of the zone).
- New partnerships came to existence which generated projects during the 2007-2013 period and will generate several cross-border projects in the future.
- Durable formal and informal networks have been set up at local level, some with a thematic nature, offering opportunities for cooperation outside the CBC programme.
- Planning and management capacities were enhanced at local levels, notably at municipal levels where the role of EGTC along the border has also grown, with durable effects on cross-border cooperation (cfr. section 3.3.2).

## 3.2. Impacts of the programme on cooperation

### EVALUATION QUESTION

**a) To what extent has cooperation been enhanced? What barriers to cooperation have been removed? What is the evidence for the contribution of ETC programmes?**

#### 3.2.1 To what extent has cooperation been enhanced?

The cooperation between the two sides of the HU-SK border, in terms of institutional and management capacities, was further enhanced during the 2007-2013 period. Main achievements relate to: increased institutional linkages between local stakeholders; improved cross-border cooperation projects design and management; and development of environment management tools, especially in the area of flood prevention and disaster management. But there is still much room for improvement in establishing solid and long-term inter-institutional cooperation models, particularly between cross-border cities.

##### a) Enhanced institutional linkages

Cross-border institutional linkages have been extended to new stakeholders, especially at local levels. The involvement of small municipalities as well as local NGOs in cross-border cooperation has increased. While at the beginning of the period the large cities in the area already had relatively well-developed institutional networks<sup>5</sup>, the 575 smaller towns (with between 2,000 and 49,999 inhabitants) were more isolated, with limited institutional contacts across the border. Detailed figures on such networking do not exist, impeding measurement of this trend. Nevertheless, during interviews most of the people met insisted that the efforts made to include those municipalities in cross-border cooperation had achieved some success.

One interesting evolution in recent years is creation of several EGTCs, drawing together municipalities along the border. 11 EGTCs are reported on the HU-SK border, the highest number in the EU. The role of EGTC is to facilitate cross-border cooperation in various fields and "the efficient use of EU resources"<sup>6</sup> dedicated to

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<sup>5</sup> Cfr HU-SK CBC OP 2007-2013, p.12.

<sup>6</sup> Cfr web site [egtc.kormany.hu](http://egtc.kormany.hu).

implementing cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. Most of those EGTC involve small municipalities with limited resources for cooperation but fulfilling various functions at micro-regional level in various sectors (e.g. infrastructures, tourism, labour market integration, health, education, environment protection).

In addition, knowledge of partners across the border has significantly increased, widening human and institutional relations that may be the 'engine' for further cooperation initiatives. This is notably true of universities that pooled their resources for several capacity-building activities, especially in the environmental field, leading to further forms of cooperation.

b) Increased inclination to initiate cooperation, and improved cross-border project design and management

In the mid-2000s the level of cooperation between the two countries was considered to be relatively low. Moreover, in 2000 most cross-border projects in Phare CBC and INTERREG IIIA were implemented in a unilateral manner. The projects in previous programmes were considered by the MA and the regional authorities as having very low added value. The partnerships were maintained only for the duration of the projects, and the developments were mostly attributable to EU funding.

According to the MA and to interviewees, there is today much better understanding of cooperation benefits. Awareness of cross-border cooperation benefits has been raised while knowledge of the economic context and of legal rules on the other side of the border has increased. The quality of cooperation has particularly improved in CBC projects (see above).

c) Enhanced cooperation on flood and disaster management

The issue of water management is a major concern for the two countries, especially on the Hungarian side as 99% of their surface water comes from the surrounding countries. As already mentioned, Hungary also faces a high risk of flooding which in the past has led to considerable damage. Cooperation is historically well-established in the field of river and groundwater protection, a priority even during the socialist era. Joint actions had been undertaken in flood prevention but needed further improvement.

Cooperation in flood prevention and management has been enhanced, mainly through research projects. It started with universities joining forces to build models and management tools, and involving public authorities in charge of flood prevention and disaster management. The models combine information from both sides of the border so as to offer a complete view of flooding risks (Box 1).

**Box 1: FLOODLOG**

The FLOODLOG<sup>7</sup> project has been developed by Miskolc (HU) university in partnership with the University of Košice (SK), a Hungarian research center, along with the crisis management authorities from Hungary<sup>8</sup> and the civil protection services from Slovakia<sup>9</sup>. The project built up a GIS-based decision support system capable of 1) delineating the forecasted flooded area in the event of a dyke failure, 2) defining potentially endangered objects, 3) optimizing logistical activities.

The major activities of the project were:

- specification of model details;
- development of the harmonized gis database;
- development of an operational flood model;
- modification and completion of existing cross-border databases for testing the tools and models;
- environmental impact and risk assessment of the floods;
- development of a logistical model supporting crisis management activities in the event of flooding.

While the cooperation has been fruitful at various levels (between universities, with the local branch of the public authorities addressing crisis management), it has not yet led to drawing up of common policies on flood prevention and common answers in the event of a crisis. The crisis management systems remain separate. "They have talked to each other; now they have to work together"<sup>10</sup>. One problem is the lack of interest of the crisis management authority at a more strategic central level. Dissemination had taken place in the concerned area but neither at a vertical level (towards regional/national authorities) nor at a horizontal level (linking other initiatives in the same area) (see section 3.3.3).

Source: Interview with the Project leader and documents provided by the project

While positive achievements have taken place in terms of cooperation capacities as discussed above, there is still a large need for further improvements.

As acknowledged in the CBC Programme 2014-2020, the 2007-2013 programme did not yet sufficiently focus on specific cross-border problems or issues. The threat that a limited number of eligible fields of activities would not provide the chance of the required level of absorption has justified to enlarge the scope of the programme but also highlighted the need of building strategic and institutional capacities to conduct cross border cooperation.

The preparatory work for the CBC Programme 2014-2020 also emphasized the still-underdeveloped cooperation between the two countries even if good examples of true cross-border cooperation could be highlighted.

The level of cooperation between neighbouring cities across the border remains weak; along the border 27 cities have recently been identified where their capacity to fulfil

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<sup>7</sup> Flood modeling and logistic model development for flood crisis Management.

<sup>8</sup> BAZ County Disaster Management Directorate.

<sup>9</sup> Vysoká škola bezpečnostného manažérstva v Košiciach (VSBM).

<sup>10</sup> Interview with project leader in Miskolc, 22/09/2015.

their functional role was hampered by the border, with very few good examples of joint planning or common use of resources (the Joint Master Plan of Komárom and Komárno, funded through capacity-building activities during 2007-2013, is an exception and is considered an example of best practice). As mentioned in the 2014-2020 OP, "there is an apparent lack of solid and long term inter-institutional cooperation models making the operation of urban functions more economical"<sup>11</sup>.

### **3.2.2 What barriers to cooperation have been removed?**

Cross-border cooperation is hampered by a number of barriers that can be summarized as follows:

- The Danube and the Ipeľ rivers and the mountains in the eastern part of the border seriously limit cross-border flows of goods, services and people.
- There is still a strong cultural (and political?) barrier which finds its roots in the old history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As mentioned in the CBC programme 2014-2020, "different interpretations of the history and putative or real injuries sometimes bring on periods of conflict which influence (unfavourably) the models of cooperation". Even if contacts were frequent, there was no tradition of joint planning or management.
- The importance of the Roma minorities along the border is also considered a barrier to cooperation because of their social isolation and their weak connections with local public or private stakeholders.
- Administrative barriers exist in different sectors: education, healthcare systems, business development, labour market integration, public procurement, and others.

It is also worth mentioning that, in contrast with some other border areas, Slovakia and Hungary are confronted with similar economic and social cross-border challenges (see [Annex 1](#), A1.2 for the economic similarities). Significant migration is taking place towards the three development poles of the border region (around Bratislava, Budapest, Košice-Miskolc) from the rural areas, with an impact on the age structure of the population in urban and rural areas. Beyond the differences between urban and rural areas, major differences are evident between the eastern and western parts of the border region: while the western part is a clear winner in the economic transition, the eastern areas are lagging behind.

Finally, there is no language barrier as a large Hungarian minority live along the border in Slovakia. The reverse is not true but it does not seem to cause major problems.

Some of these barriers are being progressively removed or alleviated which might contribute to further enhancement of cooperation in the future, *viz.*:

- new connecting infrastructures (several bridges have been built over the Danube and Ipeľ) provide new opportunities for cooperation, including cooperation in terms of institutional capacities;
- according to most interviewees, the cultural and political barrier is still alive and widespread but is being progressively reduced thanks to networking, meeting and working together;

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<sup>11</sup> HU-SK CBC Programme 2014-2020, p.15.

- in the field of culture, education, science, sport and youth policy, contracts facilitating cross-border activities have been signed.

### **3.2.3 What is the evidence for the contribution of ETC programmes?**

The contribution of the CBC programme to the gradual elimination of cultural and institutional barriers to cooperation is significant. Up to now there have been very few, if any, incentives to develop cross-border cooperation, especially at local level.

A striking fact in this context is the surprisingly high degree of cooperation achieved under the programme: 84% of the projects met all four cooperation criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing.

The programme was less successful in addressing legal barriers which for example reduce access to health services or create barriers in the labour market. But question may be raised on the appropriateness of Interreg programme to address fully those types of constraints.

### **3.3. Impacts on learning, knowledge transfer and capacity-building**

#### **EVALUATION QUESTION**

**c) What learning has been generated during the implementation of the CBC programme? Who has benefited? From which stakeholders to which other stakeholders has knowledge and capacity been transferred?**

#### **3.3.1 What learning has been generated during implementation of the CBC programme?**

Learning about “cross-border cooperation” is a key aim of the capacity-building component of the programme. It is also a more transversal issue in some sectors in which common public goods are at stake or in which common challenges are more visible, such as environment protection or urban planning.

Two types of learning generated during implementation of CBC in capacity-building can be distinguished: 1) creation of knowledge of cross-border opportunities, potential partners, and modalities of access to EU programmes; 2) learning of common specific challenges and ways of addressing them (Table 6).

During the 2007-2013 period learning was mainly focused on establishment of the foundations for future cooperation and also of awareness of the context, of people and partners, and of funding sources. Important strategic work has been undertaken in terms of a deeper analysis of common needs and, in certain cases, common interests, and of development of joint strategies (example of the HUSKI II project; see box 2). The next step, namely implementation of shared solutions or even joint solutions, is not yet well developed.

**Table 6. Learning generated during the implementation of the programme**

	<b>Learning gained</b>	<b>Main beneficiaries</b>
Cross-border opportunities/ Access to funding from EU programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Necessary knowledge of opportunities, legal constraints, cooperation needs in various sectors (school systems, health services, taxation, enterprise establishment,...)</li> <li>- Knowledge of partners in a number of sectors (education, labour market, business, SMEs,</li> <li>- More strategic vision of cooperation and common strategies (as for example, in the western zone, between the cities of Komárno and Komárom, in vocational education, for the Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark, in the eastern zone to react jointly to climate change, to stimulate rural development in some local areas)</li> <li>- CBC project ideas for the OP 2014-2020</li> <li>- Knowledge of EU funding modalities</li> </ul>	Cities/municipalities Counties EGTC Regional development agencies Universities, research centers National Parks Private companies (SMEs) NGOs 10 Roma/Pro Roma NGOs Young students
Common specific challenges better addressed	Flood prevention and crisis management Invasive plants eradication	Universities, research centers Public authorities National Parks

**Box 2: HUSKI II: Hungarian and Slovak capacity-building for the Future**

**Partners:** West-Pannon Regional Development Company (HU), Regional Development Agency Nitra (SK), Central-Transdanubian Regional Development Agency (HU), Nitra self-governing region (SK), Trnava self-government region (SK), Regional Development Agency Hlohovec (SK).

The project was a continuation of the HUSKI project from the first Call for Proposals, aimed at reinforcing project development and management. The main aim of the second project was creation of a basis for sustainable and integrated development in the cross-border area so as to encourage, promote and support cross-border cooperation between enterprises, organisations and institutions with a view to strengthening regional identity.

The main weaknesses noted at the beginning of the programme and addressed by the project were:

- weak ownership of CBC projects;
- participants being compelled to develop projects without understanding the benefits of CBC;
- weak management capacities;
- over-ambitious objectives translated into unrealistic targets.

The project sought to demonstrate to participants that CBC is an established programme - with successful projects implemented - and to provide them with tools and advice for participating in CBC and EU programmes. The main activities undertaken were field visits, training, development of a CB planning network (partner database), joint elaboration of strategic documents such as a pre-study

to define the CB strategy, recommendations for decision-makers, and diffusion of communication tools such as handbooks, practical guides and awareness-raising tools.

105 institutions participated in joint events, half of them cities or municipalities, the other half universities, research institutions or private companies. Long-term working groups were set up in parallel on three themes (economy and energy; culture and tourism; and environmental protection and natural heritage).

The project took place at a time of institutional change in Hungary and transfer of competences from regional development agencies to counties which are now in charge of the operationalization of the regional policies. Counties have thus been more closely involved to the project.

Learning was gained at strategic level (clearer vision of main objectives and CBC priorities in the zone), at institutional level (durable networking through the setting up of thematic networks and working groups on a long-term basis) and at a more practical level (how to prepare, and how to implement the project).

Source: Interview with the Project Leader and documents provided by the project

### 3.3.2 Who has benefited?

The programme aimed to cover a wide range of local stakeholders that could generate cross-border cooperation. **Local authorities** (municipalities, local self-government, counties) were one of the main target groups as they are in charge of providing a range of public services at local level (education, healthcare, infrastructure, culture, tourism, labour market, &c) for which cross-border cooperation can bring substantial benefits.

It is difficult to assess whether a critical mass of cooperating local authorities has been achieved at this stage. The opinion of MA is that this is not yet the case, especially in the more remote part of the zone (namely the eastern part). Even if 30% of the 855 partners acting in granted projects were located in the eastern part, still many small and medium-size municipalities are still working in isolation.

At municipal level EGTC has emerged as a key actor in Territorial Cooperation with the aim of promoting cooperation between its members, thereby strengthening and promoting economic and social cohesion. Among the 11 EGTC set up along the SK-HU border during the period 2007-2013, some are very active (Box 3), others are still building up capacities.

#### **Box 3: European Grouping Territorial Cooperation**

The oldest and biggest EGTC on the SK/HU border, the **Ister-Granum EGTC**, was created in November 2008 and covers 79 municipalities (40 from the Hungarian side, 39 from the Slovak side) with approximately 189.000 inhabitants in an area of 1,846 km<sup>2</sup>. The primary task of the grouping, as mentioned in the convention establishing the Ister-Granum EGTC, is implementation of territorial cooperation programmes and projects co-financed by the European Union. The grouping also aims to raise awareness of the benefits of territorial cooperation at local and national levels and to promote such cooperation to strengthen economic and social cohesion within its operational territory.

The other EGTC are smaller in terms of the numbers of actors involved, with between 4 and 24 members.



**Pons Danubii** is an EGTC created in 2010 in the same area as Ister-Granum by seven municipalities (4 from HU and 3 from SK) covering 500 km<sup>2</sup> for a total of 270.000 inhabitants. Its role is to identify fields in which cross-border cooperation could take place and to bring coherence to the action plans developed by their members in that field. It is in charge of writing projects, submitting them to the MA and then implementing them. Under the CBC 2007-2013 HU-SK programme the EGTC implemented three projects (improving cross-border communication channels; bicycle paths; and labour market integration).

The main advantages of those organizations lie in building up long-term capacity to address territorial cooperation and coordinate and to connect the actions of their members in fields in which cross-border benefits may be expected. Their main fields of activity are rural development, tourism, nature protection, renewable energy resources, infrastructure, labour market, education and training.

Source: Interviews with Pons-Danubii EGTC and Interreg Programme MA; Web site of Ister-Granum EGTC

Along with municipalities and cities, the other key public actors in regional development and territorial cooperation are counties, self-government and regional development agencies which have been deeply involved in capacity-building operations on both sides of the border.

The remaining beneficiaries have been NGOs and Civil Society Organisations working in social, environment and cultural sectors (see for example Box 4), research centers and universities, and finally, to a lesser extent, private companies.

#### **Box 4: Project "Youth for the region" (2012-2013)**

The project's goal was the training of the employees of municipalities and civil organisations in the necessary knowledge and skills needed to design and prepare good quality cross-border cooperation projects. 16 pairs of SK/HU organisations were formed, covering a wide range of sectors or actors (municipalities, education, drug prevention and management). Each pair, with the help of an external expert, had to write a strategy for developing common activities, then a two-project synopsis and finally an application form from a previous call of proposals in the CBC programme. The objective was to be ready to apply for the 2014-2020 CBC programme. The partners also established an interconnected network of future project owners, local experts and NGOs working in regional development.

The cooperation established during the project through the pairs still continues. Several common projects have recently been submitted and other joint activities have been developed without the support of EU funds.

Source: Interview with project leader

### **3.3.3. From which stakeholders to which other stakeholders has knowledge and capacity been transferred?**

Learning has been mainly generated within the projects. Strategic documents, databases, networks have been developed and shared with all stakeholders involved as well as with local and regional actors especially in the case of projects aiming to build capacities to enter into CBC ( cluster 1).

However, horizontal mainstreaming meaning transfer of knowledge among projects has been rather limited. Despite the fact that a great number of projects were

pursuing similar objectives and developing similar approaches, no connections were established between them. The learning gained has not been capitalized as might have been expected.

Most projects have been implemented in isolation from each other. Dissemination actions were identified at the start but without ensuring a true transfer and the search of complementarities. This is particularly striking in the range of projects building up local capacities to participate in CBC programmes. Several networks, handbooks, training, strategic documents were developed during 18 different projects funded under axis 1.5, without any sharing of information or transfers of knowledge among projects. Information on the existence of other similar projects was circulated during the programme's information days but no contacts or common activities resulted. The same is true of projects relating to flood modelling. Nine projects were launched to develop flood modelling and prevention capacities (Table 3). They focused on different rivers (Ipeľ, Bodva, Danube, Sajó) or valleys but were all oriented towards tools for modelling and prevention of floods as well as adoption of better crisis management policies. In those fields different IT systems may be used as well as various methodologies or processes. A common approach or at least a sharing of experience would have been beneficial to ensure complementarities and to facilitate joint follow-up of all capacities and tools developed.

The limitations in terms of transfer is also partly explained by a lack of involvement of the central national authorities even if organizations from central national level were partner of the projects. To reach and inform the management level with the aim to incorporate part of the results in policies and programmes has revealed difficult. It indicates that vertical mainstreaming is still poor.

When mainstreaming activities were carried out, it was mainly due to the initiative of the project leader (Box 5). The programme did not explicitly embody a strategy for transferring knowledge to other actors of the sector or to decision-makers.

**Box 5: Project "Invasive plant Control" (2012-2013)**

The invasive plant control project was led by the Duna-Ipoly National Park (Hungary) in partnership with BROZ (Slovakia). The project has permitted eradication of invasive plants in seven sites, two in Slovakia and five in Hungary. The activities undertaken were 1) mapping the invasive species; 2) sharing of control practices with managers of similar projects and defining a common approach; 3) training all employees of the national park and the BROZ; 4) cleaning the selected sites; and finally 5) elaborating a trilingual (SK, HU, ENG) handbook presenting existing practical experience in invasive alien plant control. The handbook contains thirty manuscripts that provide an insight into treatment methods applied by researchers in national parks and institutions of higher education, with a concluding chapter presenting the possibilities for conservation management for each species.

This last activity is considered as one of the main achievements of the project, even if in financial terms it represented only 5% of the whole budget. This handbook, published by the Duna-Ipoly National Park as one of its publications, is directed towards conservation professionals, farmers, NGOs and all citizens handling the control of invasive species. Dissemination has been ensured through conferences and seminars within the project as well as through the LIFE programme which organized a major conference on the topic.

Source: Interview with the Project Leader and Documents provided by the Project

### **3.4. Sustainability of learning and cooperation**

#### **EVALUATION QUESTION**

**d) What is the likely future for such learning mechanisms and cooperation? Will its sustainability depend on future EU financing?**

#### **3.4.1. What is the likely future for such learning mechanisms and cooperation?**

The capacity building component has been set up to ensure that cross-border cooperation initiated within the 2007-2013 programme is as much as possible sustainable leading to sustainable networks and long term cooperation. In itself, the approach followed for cross-border cooperation capacity enhancement is mainly a bottom-up process addressing specific needs expressed by local actors and participants of CBC OP. It doesn't form part of a long term strategic approach defining in a top down approach, needs, priorities and action plans.

The future of learning mechanisms and cooperation developed under the 2007-2013 programme will mainly depend of the capacities of the beneficiaries, mainly public institutions and private or non-governmental organisations, to use, maintain, update and enlarge all tools and capacities gained. Based on the established networks and partnerships during the 2007-2013 period, cooperation will be further strengthened during the 2014-2020 OP. A proportion of the tools developed such as databases, platforms, networks, strategic documents, and people-to-people contacts and meetings contributed to improving the quality of cooperation by the end of the 2007-2013 programme and will mainly be used for formulating projects under the 2014-2020 programme. The networking dimension has a formal aspect but also a more informal dimension that will last as long as the persons involved are still present.

To ensure that mechanisms and cooperation developed under the 2007-2013 OP will last in the future, will depend on the following factors:

- the structuration of learning mechanisms within the programme, which should require to build a strong common base for acquiring and maintaining useful knowledge;
- the consolidation of knowledge inside organisations as capacity-building were most often targeted on individuals working for organisations or municipalities, with the risk that staff turnover may lead to the loss of part of the capacities gained;
- the follow up of institutional reforms and changes in the field of local development - as in Hungary - which may also lead to a loss of knowledge since the organizations and people trained could be less involved in CBC than previously;
- the reach of a critical mass: organisations with enhanced capacities will be able to work together and maintain or increase high-quality cross-border cooperation, yet as mentioned above it is difficult to pretend that a sufficient critical mass has been reached to ensure an autonomous process of cross-border cooperation.

### 3.4.2. Will its sustainability depend on future EU financing?

People interviewed do not consider that the sustainability of the learning gained through capacity-building depends on EU financing. The main means of sustaining the process are stronger involvement of national, regional and local authorities in the use of the tools developed, maintenance of the platforms, thematic groups and databases, along with dissemination of existing materials on CBC cooperation.

It is nevertheless worth mentioning that the CBC OP 2014-2020 foresees under Priority axis 5 "Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area" capacity-building activities similar to those undertaken in that area during the 2007-2013 programme. Activities will be mainly devoted to "strengthening and improving the cooperation capacity and the cooperation efficiency between different organisations (public authorities) of particular sectors (e.g. education, health care, social care, risk prevention, water management, culture etc.) through common professional programmes, trainings, exchanges of experiences, capitalization and know how transfer, etc."

### 3.5. Significance of ETC programme

#### EVALUATION QUESTION

**e) If there were no prior CBC programmes, would the projects co-financed through the programme have taken place without the existence of EU funding?**

The majority of projects would not have been undertaken without the existence of the EU funding or, more specifically, without the existence of the CBC HU-SK programme. Among the 26 projects contributing to the improvement of institutional capacities (code 81), 18 were directly related to the existence of the CBC programme as their main aim was to reinforce the capacities of the local stakeholders to participate in cross-border cooperation and EU programmes in particular.

Without cross-border cooperation programmes, those projects would not even have a "raison d'être" as no other funding is available at national or regional level to stimulate cooperation across the border. Those projects specifically focused on the SK-HU border but also contributed to reinforcing the capacities of local stakeholders to participate in other cross-border or transnational programmes such as the Danube transnational programme, or the Central Europe or cross-border Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine programme (or even participate in national OPs, as explained by one EGTC).

The other types of project contributing to developing joint tools to address common challenges (cluster 2) or to develop joint planning to find common solutions (cluster 3), would also not have taken place as such without EU funding. Some activities were already taking place (such as control of the spread of invasive plant species, flood modelling activities, or even joint urban planning) but the CBC programme introduced new dimensions that would not have appeared in its absence.

The specific characteristics of the CBC programme as compared to national and private programmes are threefold:

- 1) it provides additional money in a context of very tight budget constraints at national, regional and local levels; the additional budget funds new activities,

- and extends actions undertaken to new rivers or new sites or cities, leading to better responses to the challenges of flood prevention or urban planning;
- 2) it requires involvement of several partners from both sides of the border, which provided interestingly contrasting of points of view, even if in several cases the cooperation remained limited to an exchange of information or practices (flood modelling, invasive plant species control); the opportunity to work on an international basis was perceived as a clear added value and a means of reinforcing management capacities;
  - 3) it may include specific activities of dissemination, knowledge-sharing, or training that are often not considered when working with national funds and programmes. When a dissemination strategy is included, the programme contributes to more durable capacity-building in the targeted areas.

Another specific characteristic highlighted by some interlocutors is the full bottom-up approach which facilitates the convergence of needs and skills and the presence of good partners.

### 3.6. Quality of monitoring system

#### EVALUATION QUESTION

**f) Which programmes have the best monitoring systems and which have the worst?**

The assessment of the **monitoring system** has highlighted that the quality of the monitoring system of the HU-SK CBC programme is good in general for assessing outputs but rather weak in terms of indicators measuring the results and impacts of the programme.

The Mid-Term Evaluation report<sup>12</sup> has already pointed out at a general level that the selected indicators focused on the volume of cooperation rather than on its quality. The relevance of the output indicators was considered as sufficient but the lack of reliable baseline values was noted. Some of the supposedly results-level indicators were rather output indicators relating to the direct achievements of the projects. The indicators did not focus on the effects of the programme on the stakeholders and on people living in the target area, nor on the benefits gained from cooperation in terms of improved competitiveness, socio-economic development or long-term institutional capacities.

Besides the matrix, the managing authorities have put significant emphasis on supporting the achievements by evidences, not only from data coming from Integrated Monitoring System (IMIS) but also from other sources as internal databases. They also have recently decided to conduct a survey to measure the progress achieved in terms of cooperation. Results are not yet available.

In the field of capacity building, there were no specific indicators measuring achievements and results. This makes it rather difficult to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme in that field. Some of the indicators shown and highlighted in [Annex 4](#) could nevertheless serve to measure the intensity of cooperation. They are mainly output indicators measuring the number of people

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<sup>12</sup> Deloitte, Evaluation of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme, Final report, December 2013

participating in joint events and the number of joint projects implemented in the targeted sectors (RTD, tourism, healthcare, education and training, people-to-people actions). At best it may provide an indication of the effects of networking activities and awareness-raising on the capacity of local stakeholders to develop cross-border cooperation projects. But those indicators definitely do not reflect the achievements and results of the programme in terms of capacity-building.

The indicators used at project level also mainly focus on the number of activities or volume of participation (such as numbers of joint events, meetings, conferences, tools, numbers of participants, numbers of institutions involved in partnership) rather than on the content or usefulness of those activities. As one project leader commented, this type of indicator can even have a counterproductive effect by stimulating activities that are not useful in themselves.

### **3.7. Value-added of INTERACT**

#### **EVALUATION QUESTION**

**g) What has been the added value of the INTERACT programme to the effective functioning of the CBC programme?**

The INTERACT programme provides many useful hints and information on the various phases of programme implementation (first-level control, eligibility of expenditure, project cycle, innovation and synergies within the ETC programmes, programming process, involvement of SMEs in the programme, communication and promotion of the programme), mainly through seminars in which programme representatives participated.

The MA is of the opinion that the quality and frequency of training seminars increased in comparison with the previous period. Besides training events, written guidance on certain topics was also seen as useful. The material provided is considered good but should be updated periodically and uploaded on to the INTERACT webpage in timely fashion.

INTERACT seminars and the possibility of consultation with Desk Officers are adequate solutions for supporting MA in their activities. In some cases timely support in terms of common explanation of regulations, acts and precise guidance on certain issues (use of indicators, cost simplifications, e-cohesion, State aid issues, etc.) would be helpful for programme implementation bodies.

MA also reported that the Basecamp Initiative is also a good and innovative tool for networking, but without personal contacts it cannot work efficiently. Their proposal is that in response to requests 2-3-day exchange visits should be organized between different JTSs to facilitate accumulation of knowledge, transfer of best practice, and networking.

### 3.8. Coordination with national and regional programmes

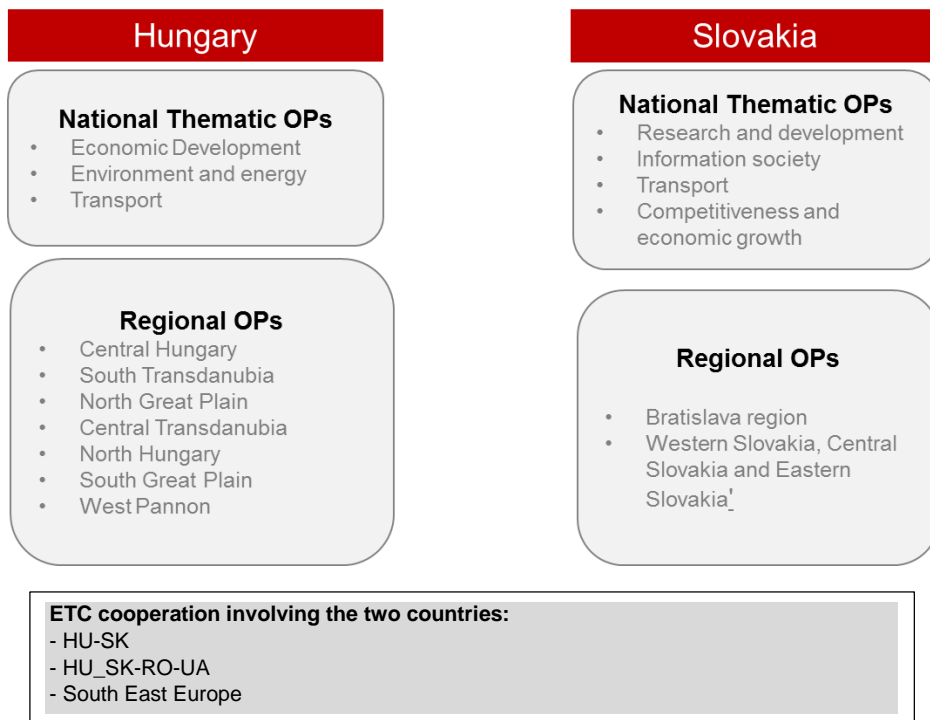
#### EVALUATION QUESTION

**h) To what extent were the programme objectives coordinated with those of national and regional programmes? Can synergies be objectively evaluated?**

#### 3.8.1. To what extent were the programme objectives coordinated with those of national and regional programmes?

The architecture of ERDF programmes in Slovakia and Hungary during the 2007-2013 period includes a mix of thematic programmes and regional programmes, as well as several ETC programmes, as represented in Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Regional, national and ETC CBC programme for HU-SK**



Coordination between the national, regional and ETC programmes is well organized in each country and, according to the MA in Hungary and in Slovakia, seems to be very effective in both cases.

In Hungary, coordination between programmes was ensured by the National Development Agency which, during the 2007-2013 period, has been in charge of the management of all ERDF programmes. The Joint Technical Secretariats were all located in the same building under the NDA, permitting very regular contact and cross-checking of projects submitted to avoid double funding.

An overall strategy, the "New Hungary Development Plan", has been formulated to provide the framework for designing and drawing up the objectives and priorities of the various OPs. In that framework the main objectives of the regional programmes are defined as: 1) contributing to the establishment of a cooperative and competitive urban network; 2) ensuring integrated and sustainable development of rural areas;

3) contributing to the development of areas lagging behind; and 4) developing the region of Lake Balaton, Danube Space and Tisza Space in a sustainable way. The cross-border programmes are seen as a tool for better integration of the border regions into the mainstream with a focus on economic, infrastructure and institutional development interventions.

In Slovakia coordination is organized through the setting up of working groups looking for synergies between the different OPs. The working groups must be informed, prior to any call for proposals launched in one or other of the Ops, of the objectives and intended focus of the support. Information is regularly exchanged on the various programmes through the working groups.

### **3.8.2. Can synergies be objectively evaluated?**

Even if synergies with national and regional programmes are sought during the formulation stage as well as during the implementation phase of the CBC HU-SK programme, it seems rather difficult to evaluate them objectively, especially in the field of capacity-building.

Capacity-building activities can be partly approached by focusing on code 81. Yet none of the ERDF Hungarian or Slovakian OPs examined has allocated funds to that end, as can be seen in Table 7. One of the main reasons is related to the types of stakeholder involved in non-CBC ERDF projects - all well-known public organisations and institutions - while for CBC minor local stakeholders with low management capacities were authorized and encouraged to submit projects.

A deeper analysis could be undertaken to examine synergies in specific sectors such as flood prevention, natural resources management or urban regeneration. This would need an in-depth analysis of sectoral or regional strategies and projects implemented within the different regional OPs in those sectors. The next section attempts to concentrate on those topics in the framework of the North Hungary regional OP.



**Table 7: Allocated budget by main field of intervention for selected ERDF programmes in Slovakia and Hungary (EUR Million)**

Category	INTERREG HU-SK	% of total	North Hungary	% of total	SK Environment	% of total	HU Environment	% of total	North Great Plain	% of total	Central Transdanubia	% of total
Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship	35,91	22%	143,92	15%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	152,38	14%	85,05	15%
Information society	3,63	2%	1,55	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Transport	45,36	27%	99,56	10%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	195,87	18%	115,27	20%
Energy	7,75	5%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	820,58	15%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Environment	24,12	15%	100,22	10%	1823,08	97%	4708,90	84%	128,96	12%	58,92	10%
Tourism	24,61	15%	175,05	18%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	175,52	16%	74,19	13%
Culture	10,58	6%	36,76	4%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	21,05	2%	63,32	11%
Urban regeneration	0,00	0%	173,52	18%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	140,47	13%	73,15	13%
Increasing the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Improving access to employment and sustainability	2,55	2%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons	0,20	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Improving human capital	1,88	1%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Investment in social infrastructure	5,14	3%	214,42	22%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	228,35	21%	81,06	14%
Mobilisation for reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Strengthening institutional capacity at national, regional and local level	3,33	2%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
Reduction of additional costs hindering the outermost regions development	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%	0,00	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165,06</b>		<b>976,75</b>		<b>1873,47</b>		<b>5630,47</b>		<b>1076,74</b>		<b>569,09</b>	

### 3.9. Comparison with regional programme

#### EVALUATION QUESTION

**The contractor will compare for the theme of the case study the selected programmes with a programme financed from the national/regional ERDF budgets in order to understand the difference between the different programmes as regards their impact on the theme and on cooperation.**

The ERDF North Hungary programme echoes the Hungary-Slovakia Interreg programme in various fields and notably in capacity-building even if no funds were explicitly dedicated to that end in the former programme. A large proportion of the main themes in INTERREG Hungary-Slovakia are also accorded great importance in the North Hungary mainstream programme. Moreover the geographical areas interact very well (OP North Hungary is entirely implemented in the eligible areas of the cross-border programme).

Concerning the results of the programme, although a deeper analysis would be needed in order to have a more precise view on the similarities and differences between the Hungary-Slovakia programme and the North Hungary programme about the Capacity Building theme, it appears nonetheless that the actions taken in the North Hungary programme, as described in the annual report of 2014, are in line with the objectives of the PO 2007-2013, and echo the Interreg HU-SK programme on the themes of Environment-Risk Prevention and of Urban regeneration.

Indeed, about EUR 20 million (2% of total awarded budget) are spend on a special subcategory "Public Administration" of the theme Environment-Risk Prevention, about half in rural areas and half in cities (p. 31). This suggests that Capacity Building about this theme has taken place during the programme. (*Several projects of "Regional water planning" have been developed (p. 117)*).

Similarly, for the same regions and with a much greater financial support, more than EUR 100 million (10% of awarded budget) have also been spend on the category "Public Administration", but this time for the theme "Urban regeneration". The budget was allocated partly in cities and partly in rural areas (lesser part). This illustrates the important effort done in the region around Urban planning, not only by some construction activities or support to the firms, but also by more specific institutional enhancement.

Hence, Capacity Building in Environment-Risk Prevention and in Urban planning seems to have been an important part of the programme North Hungary, rendering the comparison with the Hungary-Slovakia programme relevant. But again, without an in-depth analysis of those elements (outside the scope of this study), it is difficult to assess more precisely the nature and the achievements of those measures, and hence to compare the impacts of both programmes.

## Annexes

### ANNEX 1. Analysis of the economic context and its evolution (EUROSTAT)

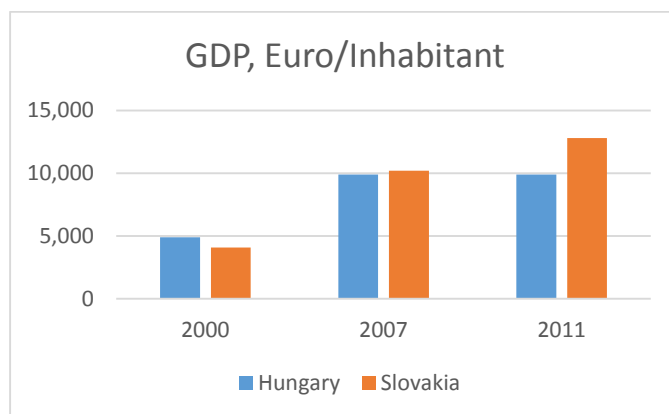
A short analysis of the economic context of the INTERREG zone Hungary-Slovakia reveals a few useful insights on the cross-border area. The analysis is made at the NUTS2 level (level at which EUROSTAT data is available, but that doesn't correspond to the eligibility area of the programme).

For Slovakia, the NUTS2 regions are, from West to East: Bratislavský kraj (capital region), Západné Slovensko, Stredné Slovensko and Východné Slovensko. For Hungary, 5 of the 7 NUTS2 regions of the country are covered, at least partially. From West to East: Nyugat-Dunántúl, Közép-Dunántúl, Közép-Magyarország (capital region), Észak-Magyarország and Észak-Alföld. Both countries have a border with Austria in the West, and stretch towards Ukraine in the East. In the following charts (Figure A3, A4, A5 and A6), the regions are ordered along this West to East axis.

Two statistical series, at national and regional levels, are the basis of the present analysis: GDP in Euro/inhabitant (taken following the ESA95 definition in order to collect data on the first years of the period), and unemployment rate (as a percentage of the active population of the regions, over 15 years of age, 15 included).

The first element taken into consideration is the GDP in Euro/inhabitant. At a national level, both countries experienced a similar type of growth until 2005 (with Hungary having a higher GDP/inhabitant). From 2006 to 2011, Slovakia's GDP catches up and exceeds Hungary's GDP. (Figure A1).

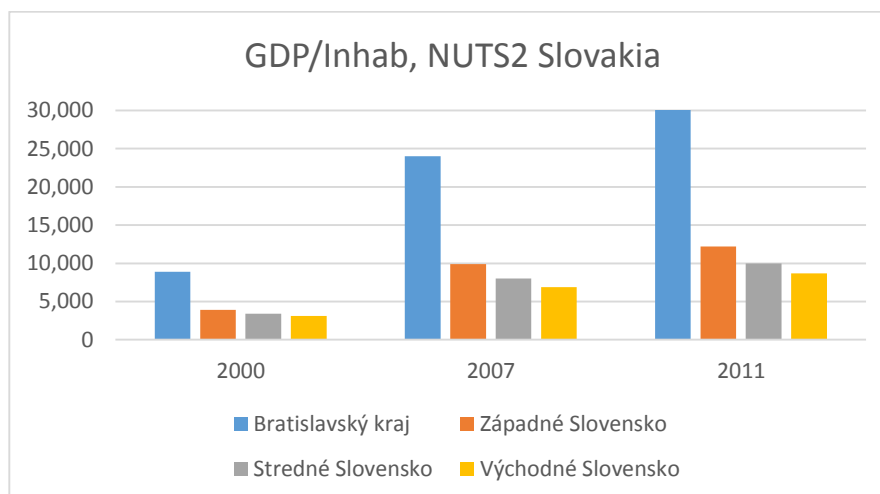
**Figure A1. GDP in EUR/inhabitant, national level**



Source: Eurostat, 08/10/2015

There is very high inequality of GDP within Slovakia between the capital Bratislava and the rest of the country (the regions being less and less rich from the West to the East). All regions follow nonetheless a steady growth path (despite a 2009 slowdown): their GDP doubled between 2000 and 2011, and even tripled for Bratislava (Figure A2).

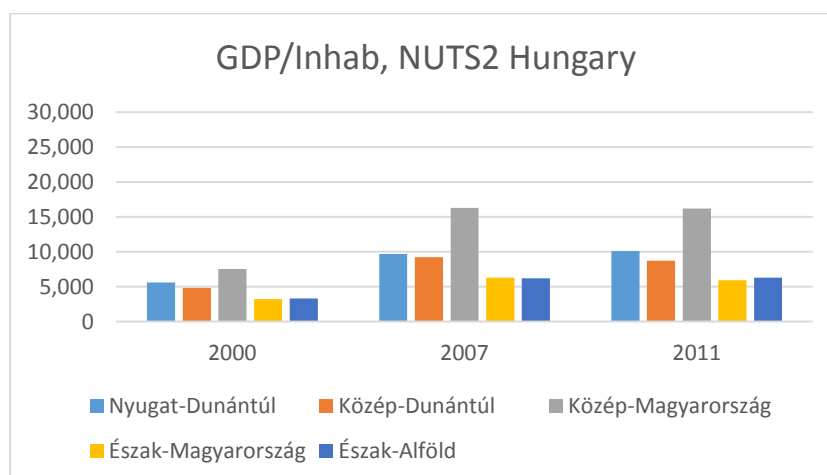
**Figure A2. GDP in EUR/inhabitant, NUTS2 regions of Slovakia**



Source: Eurostat, 08/10/2015

For Hungary, the capital region (Közép-Magyarország) is more central and, as in Slovakia, far richer than the other regions. The above analysis of a lower general growth in Hungary than Slovakia is confirmed. The regions at the West of the capital (as well as Budapest itself) are experiencing a clearer growth path than Eastern regions, which remain distinctly poorer along the whole period (Figure A3).

**Figure A3. GDP in EUR/inhabitant, NUTS2 regions of Hungary**



Source: Eurostat, 08/10/2015

A comparison between cross-border neighbouring regions shows that there are real similarities between the countries: the Western regions in the two countries are richer than the Eastern ones. There are two important exceptions in this general picture. First, the Bratislava region is distinctly richer than all other regions (Budapest included) and Slovakia is richer than Hungary at the end of the period. Second, Budapest itself, with its central position, contributes probably to a more even development of Hungary and doesn't benefit from the proximity of Vienna as Bratislava does.

Concerning the unemployment rate, the two countries are experiencing different dynamics since 2000 at the national level. Indeed, a relative catch up is observed

between the two countries, starting from very different initial situations. Slovakia was lagging behind in 2000 with nearly 20% unemployment rate, but has reduced the gap with Hungary, with approximately 14% unemployment in 2014. Hungary started in a better position in 2000 experienced a decline after 2007-2008, and finally an improvement again towards 2014. (Figure A4).

**Figure A4. Unemployment rate (% of active population, over 15 years of age), national level**

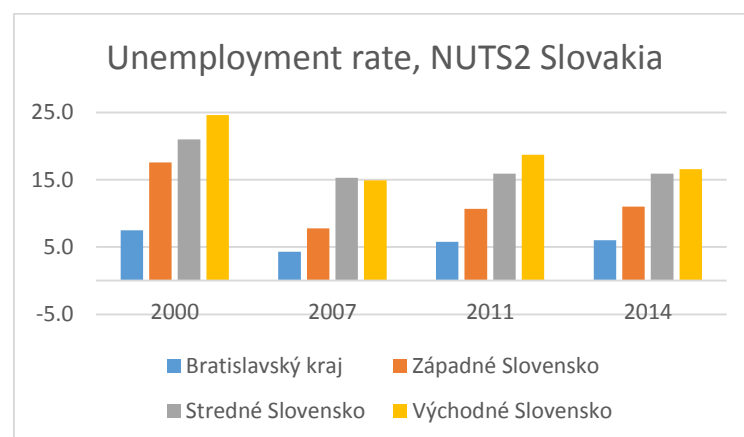


Source: Eurostat, 08/10/2015

At the regional level, the situation by country shows both similarities and differences.

For Slovakia, the national improvement and then slight decline after 2008 is visible also at regional level, with a worsening of the situation along a West-East axis. (Figure A5).

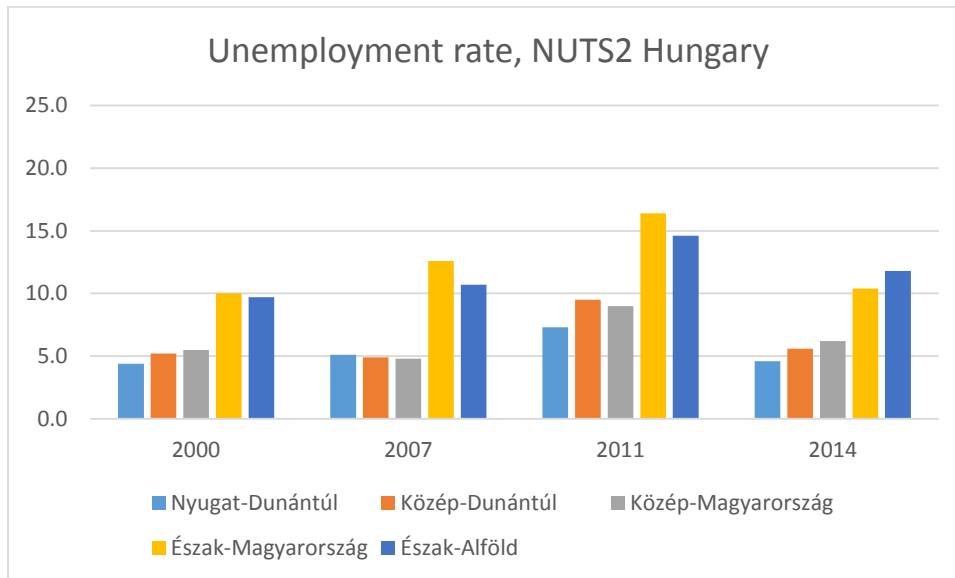
**Figure A5. Unemployment rate, NUTS2 regions of Slovakia**



Source: Eurostat, 08/10/2015

For Hungary, there is a deterioration in regional unemployment figures until 2011. The disparity between West and East is present too, but Western region's figures are closer to those of the Capital region. (Figure A6).

**Figure A6. Unemployment rate, NUTS2 regions of Hungary**



Source: Eurostat, 08/10/2015

## ANNEX 2. Projects supported by HU-SK programme in Capacity-building

Source: "KEEP database, information from the JTS and from visits"

PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0005	81	Together – in one direction!" Without borders...	70.132,34	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency	Hungary	Elements of the project: 1. Preparation of methodological guide and workbook + presentation material (on pendrive) for economical and country development professionals; 2. Traditional and e-learning postgraduate courses for economical and country development professionals; 3. Preparation and operation of a common website; 4. Continuous and regular cooperation of partners and in the project trained professionals in the form of workshops and conferences; 5. Preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of a common project preparation and information office; 6. Establishment of the office; 7. Launching PR activity on the project. 8. Public procurement procedure
HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0015	81	Establishment of a cross-border network for the recognition of common interests	209.694,58	Szövetség a Közös Célokért - Association for common Interests	Slovakia	The main aim of the project is to strengthen the cross-border cooperation and establishment of partnerships with this network and with the effect of trainings implemented. The trainings will aim on the brand-new possibilities of cross-border cooperation as for example on EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation), and for widening the knowledge about the possibilities of attracting EU sources.
HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0056	81	"Két oldalt partot érni..." - "There are two sides to reach shore"	44.378,50	Komárom County Municipality	Hungary	The two towns are committed to strengthen cross-border relationships, to use fruit geographic proximity, and the synergies of cooperation. Despite the traditionally close and good relationship of the two towns, the actual channels for the need-identification, and the collaboration of institutions, entities or NGOs are missing. The Future Search Conferences foresee an interactive dialogue and the elaboration of long-term strategies, business or community cooperation and also the opportunity to outline common projects..
HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0063	81	Nógrád-Novohrad Értékháló - Novohrad-Nógrád Value Nets	130.737,22	Nógrád County Regional Development Agency	Hungary	The area of Nógrád county in the 19th century corresponds to today's area of Neogradiensis Euroregion; the natural and architectural values, the artistic, scientific and cultural achievements of the common past were preserved, however, due to the spatial separation these are less significantly present in both countries. The common interest is to treat and present these values from a scientific perspective. In the course of a joint programme the partners intend to create a value map and an institutional network of cultural human resources as a result of cooperating in a joint network.
HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0077	81	Az európai kohézió laboratóriuma - The laboratory of European cohesion	64.483,18	Ister-Granum Euroregion Development Agency Nonprofit Kft.	Hungary	In the region of Ister-Granum there are some deficiencies of public institutions: how could operate this towns their parallel institutions. Is it possible to operate them common? To analyze the legal basis of the cooperation: what is allowed by the laws of both countries on the field of public services (such as education, health care, public transport, common administration etc.), economy (cooperation between SMEs, tourism, clusters etc.) and the social cooperation (NGOs, institutions etc.).

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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0175	81	Hungary-Slovakia Initiative for a Sustainable Cooperative Network	165.048,29	West Pannon Regional Development Agency	Hungary	On the one hand, the project would like to create the basis of common thinking, common planning and common acting with building, operating and maintaining thematic networks in order to contribute to sustainable and integrated developments. According to our experience, there is a need for a platform, which would encourage cooperation in planning and define common interests. On the other hand, it is important to encourage project development and cooperation among enterprises, organisations and institutions in the two sides of the border and to ensure high quality of project planning and implementation. The project will help the cooperation among the project partners in the field of stable, regionally relevant developments and project ideas.
HUSK/0901/1.5.1/0005	81	Harmonisation of Master Plans and Development Programs of Komárno and Komárom	116.365,00	Municipality of Komarno	Slovakia	The project partners have already established a good and long-term cooperation, which can be proved by signing of the twinning contract on cooperation between the two municipalities in 1993. In this document, the two parties expressed their joint interest to cooperate in various areas of economic and social life, and they have already been cooperating in these areas for about 16 years, jointly preparing and implementing successful projects including cultural events (e.g. annual „Komárno Days“), various joint initiatives in the field of tourism, environmental protection, cultural heritage, education and construction of transport infrastructure (e.g. the bridge over the Danube River) etc. However, this active cooperation was not sufficiently coordinated, and had been carried out without any coordinated strategic planning. The first step towards the elimination of this problem was taken in December 2008, when the self-governments of the two towns (Komárno, Slovakia and Komárom, Hungary) agreed to elaborate a strategic document on the joint development of the two towns.
HUSK/0901/1.5.1/0032	81	Developing cross-border cooperation between vocational institutions in Hungary and Slovakia	132.558,64	The Hungarian Education Abroad Apáczai Public Foundation	Hungary	In order to foster regional integration and improve the competitiveness of the region, the aim of the present project is to generate cross-border cooperation in the field of vocational education by providing the necessary knowledge and opportunity for developing partnerships and joint projects. During the 10 months of the project we will organize seminars, and workshops that will help the representatives of vocational education institutions meet each other, develop cross-border partnerships, learn to cooperate, and also gain the necessary knowledge to develop cross-border projects. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn about the educational system and labour market of the other country, about best practices in cross-border cooperation, about the opportunities to finance joint projects, and also to gain experience in working together in activities coordinated by experts.



European Commission - Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013  
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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/0901/1.5.1/0084	81	Cooperation for the development of cross-border networking	96.173,25	Novohradu Civic Association of South Partnership	Slovakia	The main goal of the project is to support the development of cross-border partnership cooperation in the Slovak-Hungarian region through creation of functioning network of cooperating organizations, human resources and project aims. Cooperating territories belong to undeveloped regions on both sides of the common border, they have been economically and socially undeveloped for a long time, isolated from transport and information, there is low or non-existent extend of partnership cooperation. Implementation of the project shall contribute to improvement of coordinated planning, fortifying of planning capacities and implementation of projects and to better involvement of institutions into integrated development in frontier areas.

European Commission - Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013  
financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF)

PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/0901/1.5.1/0107	81	Cooperation of Cross-Border Chambers	105.000,48	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Hungary	Network building as cooperation in the cross-border region to develop project management capacities. Slovakian and Hungarian SMEs will actively find cross-border partners through Chambers network and through common webpage and database. Because the market potential of local SMEs is small, the unemployment rate rose in the past few years drastically. As the borders become permeable, a lot of companies moved their headquarters over the border. Most of them, however, are not familiar with the funding system of the host country. The partnership in this project wanted to create cross-border consultancy services for those SMEs who decided to move or open branch offices in Hungary or Slovakia. The overall aim of the project was to build a living and useful SME network across the border. Thanks to this project, SMEs working in North-east Hungary and South-east Slovakia get up to date information about the local economy, the EU funding system and consultancy services
HUSK/0901/1.5.1/0233	81	Strengthening economic and social integration of the border regions	142.136,62	Fundament civic association	Slovakia	The cooperation within the project supports further development of cross-border activities based on an effective information network. The union of the expert base increases the expert capacity in both regions, which can be utilized at the project application activities and helps develop their partnership. Best practices used in our former joint program taking place at 17 micro-regions, strengthens the acknowledgement of the creative ideas in both countries, which contribute to generating newer project applications in the fields of development of infrastructure and contributes to social, economic and cultural development as well. The evolving expert team helps in planning programmes and projects for several target groups, which provides guarantee for the long-distance, sustainable cooperation. The project reaches the target groups of the Heves (H) and Banská Bystrica (SK) counties by efforts for improvement of their quality of life with available services, a helpful expert team, efficient communication strategies, with forming common interpretations, knowledge extension, affirmation of the natural bonds and strengthening confidence between them.
HUSK/0901/1.5.1/0246	81	Networking to increase capacity to enhance transparent sustainability of local governments in Slovakia and Hungary	197.385,30	Transparency International Slovakia	Slovakia	Building the network for increasing capacity to strengthen sustainability of transparent local governments in Slovakia and Hungary. The network between the Slovak and Hungarian local governments as well as between Slovak and Hungarian anti-corruption institutions will be strengthened. Among others the capacity for good governance as well as civic control of the local government spending will be enhanced by providing monitoring tools to citizens and journalist.

European Commission - Ex post evaluation of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013  
financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF)

PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0087	81	GeoPart - Systematic partnership for the integrated development of the Novohrad - Nógrád geopark	93.350,54	Novohrad - Nógrád Geopark	Slovakia	The Novohrad - Nógrád Geopark, as a member of the World's Geoparks Network, is the first cross-border geopark in the world. On the Slovakian side, the Geopark is situated in the south of the Banská Bystrica region and covers a territory of 28 municipalities. In Hungary, its territory includes 63 municipalities of the Nógrád region. The core part of the project focused on the preparation of common strategic documents in order to coordinate the joint development activities. Within the project, the audit of the Geopark area has been performed, focusing mainly on the sectorial actors' requirements towards the Geopark. Furthermore, the document of Common strategy for sustainable development of the Geopark has been updated and a marketing study has been prepared along with the feasibility studies of concrete project proposals per different sectors.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0104	81	RomaNet - community based capacity-building	134.752,91	Carpathian Foundation - Hungary	Hungary	The overall goal of the project was to empower Roma and pro-Roma NGOs operating in the Hungary - Slovakia border region to effectively assess the needs and act in order to improve the quality of life of their communities by absorbing funds, managing projects and establishing effective cross-sectoral partnerships on local and regional level. The main objective of the project was to improve the skills and organizational capacities of representatives of 10 Slovakian and Hungarian Roma or pro-Roma NGOs by providing them practice-oriented training based on the method of learning by doing in the following topics: needs assessment, community-mobilizing, community development, project idea development, proposal writing, and project implementation. Technical assistance was provided for the participants with the expected outcome that by the end of the project, each NGO will be able to submit a project proposal.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0105	81	Interregional civil project development network extension	216.180,40	Kisalföld Foundation for Enterprise Promotion	Hungary	In the target area of the project, non-profit organizations need to face and solve similar problems in similar environments, now without borders, yet remaining in relative isolation. The service package offered by the project aims to accomplish a complex development programme based on an electronic survey and evaluation. The results of the project HUSK/0801/1.5.1/0178 were further developed as the final achievement of the project. Groups were organized and started based on the results of the research made online. The number of participating institutions in joint activities was 617.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0128	81	Partnership for addressing climate change impacts on development	126.082,07	City borough Košice - Západ	Slovakia	Due to the lack of information and adequate knowledge, the municipalities of the border region could not react to the impacts of climate change in an appropriate way. Within the project the partners intended to build professional capacity and develop joint strategic plans for the target area in order to react to the impacts of climate change. To reach the aim of the project the partners created educational materials, organized seminars and established advisory points on both sides of the border.

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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0176	81	Capacity-building in municipalities for an effective cross-border cooperation	104.872,11	Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities	Hungary	The Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS) and the Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ) launched a common project aimed at improving the cooperation between the Slovakian and Hungarian local governments located in the cross-border regions. The project is strengthening the cross-border cooperation between our countries through our towns and municipalities. We had 4 activities fulfilled: training for local governments about cross-border cooperation; cooperation between ZMOS and TÖOSZ for a common database and research for creating a common strategy for supporting the cross-border cooperation between Slovakian and Hungarian local governments; workshops for sharing experiences and the last one was the dissemination activity: two conferences in Slovakia and in Hungary.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0192	81	Network for sustainability - Enforcement of sustainability in the cross-border programmes and projects	121.020,02	National Society of Conservationists	Hungary	The project supports the development of capacities and networks of NGOs and other local stakeholders for enhancing sustainable local development and strengthening the effective, sustainable use of structural funds, for the economic, social and cultural development and healthy environment of the border area by 1) more effective NGO participation in programming and using Structural Funds 2) highly developed planning skills of NGOs and other local stakeholders.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0197	81	HUSK II: Hungarian and Slovak capacity-building for the Future	195.516,64	West- Pannon Regional Development Company	Hungary	The main aim of the present project was the creation of a basis for sustainable and integrated development in the cross-border area. It encouraged, promoted and supported cross-border cooperation among enterprises, organisations and institutions to strengthen the regional identity. Within the project, the partners defined the situation of the common border area, and collected project ideas. They supported the high quality projects by strengthening the HR background - training seminars in both countries. Finally, they started the preparation for the next programming period (2014-2020).
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0206	81	Youth for the region	147.595,98	Fórum regional development center	Slovakia	In the border area many cross-border projects are developed and managed by external companies. These companies do not have the same deep insight into the needs of the regions as the locals. That is why the added value of the projects prepared is lower than it could be. As a solution to this problem, the project's goal was the training of the employees of municipalities and civil organizations to have the necessary knowledge and skills in order to design and prepare good quality cross-border cooperation projects. The partners also established an interconnected network of future project owners, local experts and NGOs working in regional development.

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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0218	81	Joint planning about the future of Sajóvölgy	134.174,20	Organization Consensus Foundation in Budapest	Hungary	The project focused on strengthening the local capacities of two micro regions based around the river Slaná on both sides of the border. The micro regions are located in the region of Gemer in Slovakia and the region of Ózd in Hungary, where the basic problem is the high unemployment rate. The priority of both regions is thus creating job opportunities and related development activities focusing on strategic development planning by involving a wide range of partners from both the public and private sectors. To fulfil the project goal, strategic and planning documents were elaborated, mainly focusing on the future programme LEADER as the most perspective tool for rural development. Beside the wide variety of documents, concrete project proposals were prepared. The project ended with signing a Memorandum of understanding between the cooperating actors attesting the willingness of both micro regions for future cooperation.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0232	81	Standing on two feet - A programme to improve cross-border connections and capacities	149.842,12	Consensus Budapest	Hungary	This project developed the project management capacities and cooperation in general via joint workshops and trainings. It contributed to the attitude change among the people participating in the joint cultural events. The primary beneficiaries of the project were the NGOs, government representatives in the surrounding area of Galanta (SK) and Komárom-Esztergom county (HU). Within the frames of the project, a Cross-border Information Cluster was developed to enhance the cooperation among the interested parties, and a mobility information system containing useful information about the Hungarian and Slovak school systems, medical services, taxation, enterprise establishment and many others was prepared.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0245	81	Jointly in a common language	145.020,54	Foundation for Information Society	Hungary	In the project, the partners developed a bilingual electronic, video based teaching, e-Learning website, where bilingual up to date teaching materials make an easy access to the legal and economic background of both countries providing SMEs with useful and practical information. The project includes a partner searching and project idea sharing database enabling registered users to find partners from the region for their projects or to find national or EU funded calls for proposals.
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0262	81	Strong partnership = an effective method to solve common problems	113.764,63	Gemer Region Forest Owners Association	Slovakia	The project was directly intended for owners of non-state forest lands - primary agricultural producers and processors of agricultural and forestry products and also for private farmers. The main topics of the project were the most pressing issues for owners of non-state forest lands like the current situation of non-state forest owners in SK and HU and the necessity to develop a common regional chamber, how to strengthen the legislative status of non-state forest owners and the possibility to lobby in the EC in order to achieve direct payments to non-state forest owners per hectare.

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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0368	81	Capacity-building of the civil network in the counties of Heves and Banská Bystrica	148.712,43	Eletfa Environmental Society	Hungary	The highest rate of unemployment and social exclusion in the programme area is in the eastern part of the Hungarian-Slovakian border. Unemployment is often above 30%, social exclusion is growing because of the geographical isolation and a lack of chance to break out. The aim of the project was to start to involve stakeholders from both sides of the border into searching for solutions for these problems. The aim of the project partners was to start new communication activities, networking and project collection. In the frame of the project, the partners created a think-tank for consulting services which helps NGOs to get prepared for the 2014-2020 programming period via workshops and forums in order to learn project management, strategic planning and filling out application forms.

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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0324	81	Creating a partner network to facilitate the integration of the young living in the border area	109.123,00	TIZEN5LET Youth Public Association	Hungary	In Hungary and Slovakia today, there is a high number of young people moving to foreign countries. In many cases, the main motivating factor for moving is the level of living standard in the regions concerned. The project partners recognized these facts and through the project activities, tried to involve young people in the daily life of the region. The main project activities were seminars, workshops and questionnaires which resulted in the creation of a development plan concerning how to reach a higher level of integration of young people.
HUSK/ 0801/ 1.5.1/ 0129		Felső-magyarországi Várak Egyesülete/Castles Upper Hungary Association	82.262,58	Felső-magyarországi Várak Egyesülete	Hungary	The establishment of the 'Cultural Road' gives a good basis for research, conservation of national heritage, culture and art and student cultural and educational exchange programs. The association continues to act in the interest of strengthening the international relations, the integration of activities, by using synergy among them, supporting each other and the extension of the project 'On the road to Northern Castles' into European level.
HUSK/ 0801/ 2.2.1/ 0146		Greenborders.eu	360.952,73	Ecocaritas Nemzetközi Karitatív Környezetvédelmi Közhasznú Egyesület	Hungary	Creation of an on-line forum open to the public concerning environmental issues on the border region Slovakia-Hungary
HUSK/ 1001/ 2.1.1/ 0068		The protection natural values of Gemer	1.608.312,79	Bátka Community Local Government	Slovakia	The protection of natural values of Gemer and the recovery of Rimava and Slaná basins
HUSK/ 1001/ 2.1.2/ 0001		Central Ipoly-Water protection plan	213.866,37	Ipel - Landscape Regional Development Association	Hungary	Assessment of flood protection potentials in the Sajó Valley by means of remote sensing
HUSK 1001/2.1.2/0009		FLOODLOG	275.238,50	Miskolc University	Hungary	The overall goal of the project is to support the Disaster Management Directorate / Crisis management Authorities by providing them with a toolset for flood modelling, forecasting the size and location of the affected area and the affected population, identifying relevant objects and human infrastructure in risk, or objects needed for handling the crisis, and to develop the logistics framework to better manage the human and natural resources for the crisis management.
HUSK 1001/2.1.2/0026		SAJOKRF	185.130,00	Károly Róbert Főiskola (Univerzita Károly Róbert)	Hungary	Improvement of the flood protection capabilities of the region in possession of the digital base data and flood modelling for the Sajó Valley. Within the framework of this high-level cooperation, activities deemed to be specific objectives include: -Aerial hyperspectral and laser scanner assessment of River Sajó and the flood plain, -Assessment of the bed section by conventional means of geodesy, -Preparation of a Digital Terrain Model, -Preparation of a Digital Surface Model, -Preparation of a vegetation map, -Simulation-based modelling of flooding, -Organization, staging of the opening and closing conference, press conferences, workshops, and the issuance of press releases.

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PROJECT ID	CODES	PROJECT NAME	EU BUDGET	LEADING PARTNER	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
HUSK/1001/2.1.2/0058		Discover Floods	186.537,60	Technical University of Košice	Slovakia	The Study about the preparation status of the municipalities and other entities on dealing with the flood protection, improving the quality of their knowledge in compliance with the EU and national legislation in force.
HUSK/1001/2.1.2/0060		DuReFlood	367.203,40	North Transdanubian Water Management Directorate	Hungary	Danube floodplain rehabilitation to improve flood protection and enhance the ecological values of the river in section between Szap and Szob. The project aims at preparing a study that the flood defence in the long-term prevention and control helps flood of improving safety by establishing, reducing the negative social and economic effects of the flood so that the planned measures to improve the ecological state of the river sections.
HUSK/ 1001/ 2.5.2/ 0019		Crossing Borders by Information	230.333,54	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Pons Danubii Limited	Slovakia	Crossing Borders by Information in the Pons Danubii Border Region; the aim is to improve cross-border information flows and communication among residents in the Slovak-Hungarian border area. The strategic objective of the project is to increase the level of economic and social integration of the border area.
HUSK/1101/1.4.1/0019		Health Info	577.390,24	European Cooperation and Development Foundation	Hungary	Development of a common online attendance monitoring system supporting the management of unexpected situations in Hungary. The foundation aims to promote: the achievement of the strategies of the European Union; SLOTS identified by the European Union as a horizontal objective of sustainable development, equal opportunities - spread the idea and practice; know-how transfer and information support structures of the European Union- primarily related programs; construction and cooperation of domestic and foreign (experts, institutions and organizations from) partnerships to support the achievement of the above objectives.
HUSK/1101/1.7.1/0088		Civil-izáció - Civilization	70.741,83	Eurohungaricum Foundation	Hungary	Civilization Event Series EN-SK. Work for the improvement of the quality of life through education and human resources development, transfer of knowledge, cultural exchange and social integration, environment protection and cross-border cooperation. Empower sustainable and responsible behaviours among local public administrators, educational institutions, associations and private citizens and have a wide range of experience in working with civil organisations.
HUSK/1101/2.1./0012		Ipoly flood forecasting	473.378,30	Director of Central Danube Valley Water Authority	Hungary	Development of a common, integrated, real-time hydrological forecasting system of the Ipeľ catchment
HUSK/1101/2.2.1/0052		Invazív projekt - Invasive Project	727.035,17	Duna-Ipoly National Park	Hungary	Uniform protection against invasive plants and sandy floodplain habitats



### **ANNEX 3. Programme of Interviews and Visits**

#### **21/09/2015 (Monday):**

**1:00 p.m.:** meeting MA and JTS

Dr. Viktória Anna Tóth and Ms. Ágnes Katalin Pálfi, Prime Minister's Office, Department for Implementation of International Cooperation Programmes, Wesselényi str. 20-22, Budapest

Csilla Veres, [csveres@vati.hu](mailto:csveres@vati.hu) (JTS)

Nikoletta Horváth, [Nikoletta.Horvath@me.gov.hu](mailto:Nikoletta.Horvath@me.gov.hu); Prime Minister's Office, Department for Implementation of International Cooperation Programmes, Wesselényi str. 20-22, Budapest

#### **22/09/2015 (Tuesday)**

11:00 a.m. meeting Dr. Endre Dobos, University of Miskolc, Egyetemváros 1, Miskolc; project - Flood modelling and logistic model development for flood crisis management (FLOODLOG) - Project No. HUSK/1001/2.1.2/0009.

meeting Mr. János Vágó, University of Miskolc, Egyetemváros 1, Miskolc

#### **23/09/2015 (Wednesday)**

9:00 a.m. meeting Mr. Márton Árvay, Danube-Ipoly National Park, Költő str. 21, Budapest; Project Manager, project - Protection of sandy and flood-plain sites against invasive plant species - Project No. HUSK/1101/2.2.1/0052.

meeting Ms. Zsófia Dukát, Danube-Ipoly National Park, Department of Project Management, Költő str. 21, Budapest; e-mail: [dukatzs@dinpi.hu](mailto:dukatzs@dinpi.hu)

meeting Mr. Csaba Dénes, Danube-Ipoly National Park, Head of the Department of Project Management, Költő str. 21, Budapest

2:00 p.m. meeting Ms. Valéria Bogárová, Pons Danubii European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, Františkánov str. 22, Komárno; project - Crossing Borders by Information in the Pons Danubii Border Region - Project No. HUSK/1001/2.5.2/0019.

#### **24/09/2015 (Thursday)**

9:00 a.m. meeting Mr. Imre Nagy Győző, West-Pannon Regional Development Society, Kőszegi str. 23, Szombathely; project - Hungarian-Slovak Investment into the capacities of the future - Project No. HUSK/1101/1.5.1/0197.

#### **25/09/2015 (Friday)**

9:00 a.m. meeting Dr. Iveta Námerová, Programme Manager of the Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Section of Regional Development Programmes Management, Prievozská 2/B, Bratislava

12:00 a.m. meeting Mr. Tomáš Serda, Municipality of Šamorín, Project Manager, Project Youth for Region



## ANNEX 4 List of indicators for the programme

(Source: Annual Implementation Report 2014)

Name of indicator	Type of indicator	Indicator's target value (2015)	Value (2014)
<b>The global objective of the joint strategy - Indicators of achievement:</b>			
Degree of cooperation (Number of projects respecting two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing)	output	350	11
Degree of cooperation (Number of projects respecting three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing)	output	100	40
Degree of cooperation (Number of projects respecting all four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing)	output	50	265
<b>Priority axis 1. - Economy and society</b>			
Level of business cooperation (Number of businesses involved in cross-border cooperation projects)	result	120	9 826
Use of developed RTD infrastructure (Number of businesses using the services of the new or developed RTD facilities)	result	60	6 581
Increase of visitors (Increase in the number of visitors at the developed tourist attractions (%))	result	15	14.1
Level of cooperation in health care (Number of participating institutions in joint activities)	result	35	7 069
Participation in joint education (Number of people participating in joint education and training activities or using jointly developed facilities)	result	1 000	436 246
Participation in joint education (Number of women participating in joint education and training activities or using jointly developed facilities)	result	650	107 890
Participation in joint education (Number of men participating in joint education and training activities or using jointly developed facilities)	result	350	105 642
Level of people to people cooperation (Number of people participating in joint events - women(joint organizing activity; joint participation))	result	2 250	92 084
Level of people to people cooperation (Number of people participating in joint events - man(joint organizing activity; joint participation))	result	1 750	88 153
Cross-border business cooperation (Number of projects encouraging cross-border business cooperation)	output	20	81
Joint RTD activity (Number of joint RTD projects)	output	20	16
Tourism cooperation (Number of jointly developed tourist attractions)	output	20	38

Healthcare (Number of healthcare development projects)	output	15	6
Joint education and training (Number of joint education and training projects)	output	25	16
People to people actions (Number of joint people-to-people events (joint organizing activity and participation))	output	80	20
<b>Priority axis 2. - Environment, nature protection and accessibility</b>			
Improved environmental situation (Number of inhabitants involved in selective waste collection)	result	15 000	53 402
Improved environmental situation (Number of people benefiting from renewable energies)	result	5 000	82 655
Improved cross-border accessibility (Number of people using improved infrastructure (roads, bicycle paths, bridges))	result	250 000	355 213
Improved cross-border communication (Number of users connected to the developed networks)	result	15 000	2 412 293
Joint use of the infrastructure (Number of projects developing joint use of infrastructure)	output	15	39
Joint use of the infrastructure (Number of km of built, reconstructed roads)	output	45	167,34
Joint environment and nature protection (Number of projects encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment)	output	25	5
Joint environment and nature protection (Number of newly established energy production equipment, facilities)	output	5	211
Reducing isolation (Number of settlements with developed broadband access to the internet)	output	10	295

The indicators shaded have been selected as those providing an information on capacity-building.

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