

## Annex: Citizen's Summary – AIR 2016

### CITIZENS' SUMMARY

of the Annual Implementation Report for 2016 regarding the  
Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme

The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme, for which the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds acts as Managing Authority, has been approved by the European Commission on December 9, 2015.

The Programme's main objective aims at financing integrated operations, with a strong cross-border and strategic impact, in order to better exploit the common potential and jointly address the challenges in the eligible area. Having a total budget of 231.8 million EUR (out of which 189.1 million EUR represents non-refundable support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Programme finances cross-border cooperation initiatives, implemented in Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timiș counties, on the Romanian side of the border and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar, Békés and Csongrád counties, on the Hungarian side.

The programme operates with the following 6 priority axes:

- Priority Axis 1: **Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources** (Cooperating on common values and resources)
- Priority Axis 2: **Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks** (Cooperating on accessibility)
- Priority Axis 3: **Improve employment and promote cross-border labour mobility** (Cooperating on employment)
- Priority axis 4: **Improving health-care services** (Cooperating on health-care and prevention)
- Priority axis 5: **Improve risk-prevention and disaster management** (Cooperating on risk prevention and disaster management)
- Priority axis 6: **Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens** (Cooperation of institutions and communities)

In addition the programme has a priority axis on Technical Assistance to cover administration costs.

In 2016, the Managing Authority (MA), in cooperation with the other programme bodies, continued the coordination and carried out activities related to the setup of the system structure, which included: the Description of the Management System (including all the necessary procedures); preparing the other relevant documents for Programme

implementation such as: Memorandum of Implementation - Arrangements between Member States participating in the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme, templates of contracts, Delegated tasks/Implementation Agreements etc.; organizing MC and technical meetings; hiring of JS and Info Points staff; setting up of the electronic monitoring system (eMS) and Programme communication activities.

Following the adoption of the Cooperation Programme, the MA initiated the nomination procedure of the Monitoring Committee (MC) members, representing both partner countries. After the MC nomination, the MA and JS organized first **1<sup>st</sup> Monitoring Committee** of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary CP on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which took place in Békéscsaba (Hungary). Members of MC accepted the Rules of procedure of the MC and approved the Technical Assistance budget allocations and the Communication Strategy (including the Visual Identity package),. They also adopted the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) of the Programme for the year 2015.

The Monitoring Committee (MC) of the Programme held its second meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 in Timișoara (Romania), where the MC members approved the launching of entire or, in some cases, part of the financial allocations within some Investment Priorities, by the end of 2016. The members of the MC also approved the Communication Plan for 2017, the Anti-fraud Strategy and Evaluation Plan of the Programme.

**“KEEP ON COOPERATING!”** was the name of the **launching conference** of the Programme, which took place on 10 November, 2016 in Oradea (Romania). The aim of the event was to present the status of Programme implementation, results to be obtained, as well as perspectives and stories behind successful cross border initiatives already implemented in the region and all across Europe. The conference also intended to provide a joint platform for sharing knowledge, for receiving information on the application and project development processes, as well as for networking. More than 159 participants from both partner states: stakeholders interested to contribute to the Programme, potential project applicants, and professionals working in the field of territorial cooperation and/or regional development attended the event

On the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2016, **two Calls for Project proposals** were launched having the same deadline for submission of project applications, which is 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017:

- first **Restricted Call for strategic project proposals**, concerning the Priority Axis 2 (PA2- Improve cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks), solely Investment priority 7/b; the total amount of funding available: 13,925,083 EUR (ERDF), increased with the relevant Romanian and Hungarian state co-financing.

- first **Open Call for normal project proposals**, concerning only the following Priority Axes: PA 1- Joint protection and efficient use of common values and resources (Investment priorities 6/b, 6/c) and PA 5- Improve risk prevention and disaster management (Investment priority 5/b); the total amount of funding available: 22,615,835 EUR (ERDF), increased with the relevant Romanian and Hungarian state co-financing.

#### **The main results of the Programme achieved in 2016:**

- Major steps had been made for setting-up the programme implementation framework: several strategic programme documents were developed, finalized and approved, procedures of MA, JS, IPs were drafted, recruitment process was completed, etc.;
- The Monitoring Committee of the Programme was established (Rules of Procedures of MC were adopted and 2 MC meetings were organized);
- The Launching conference of the Programme was organized;
- Programme's website and Facebook page were created;
- 2 Calls for Project proposal (including all related documents, Annexes and the public consultation process) were prepared and launched;
- Help desk activities (personal meetings and group discussions, emails, phone inquiries) were implemented in all counties of the eligible area;
- Promotional materials were prepared and disseminated (pencils and rubbers, folders, roll-up banners, trolleys, infographics, holiday cards, programme posters, annual planners, stickers. and a leaflet with basic Programme information).

There is no information to report yet on indicator achievements for the specific objectives, as no projects have been approved until the end of the year 2016. Similarly, there are no evaluation results yet, as the first evaluations shall be performed in 2017.

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