



Interreg

Romania-Hungary

European Regional Development Fund

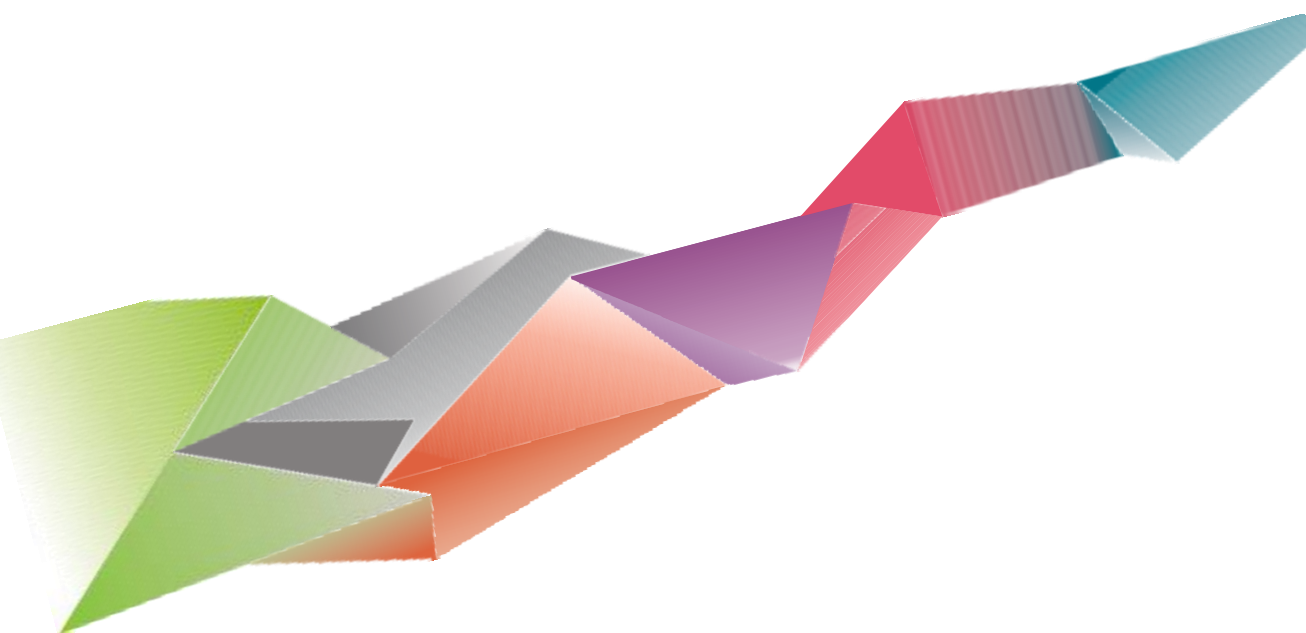


EUROPEAN UNION

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

OF THE

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2017



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

Partnership for a better future

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HUNGARIAN
GOVERNMENT

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme aims at financing joint Romanian - Hungarian projects, which address needs that lie on both sides of the border and that require a common approach and innovative solutions, aiming at facilitating the integrated, sustainable development of the eligible area. The Programme comes as a continuation of cross-border cooperation programmes implemented previously in the region and disposes of a total budget of approx. 232 MEUR, out of which 189 MEUR represent non-refundable support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The eligible programme area comprises the counties of Bihor, Satu Mare, Arad and Timiș, on the Romanian side of the border and the counties of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar, Békés and Csongrád on the Hungarian side.

Approved by the European Commission on December 9, 2015 the Programme supports activities within the following 6 thematic priority axes:

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

In general, beneficiaries of the projects funded by the Programme can be public organizations (national, regional or local authorities), organizations that fall under the public law, non-profit organizations (e.g. associations), European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) and others.

Funding is offered in the framework of Open and Restricted Calls for proposals. The minimum requirement for a project partnership is the participation of 2 financing partners, one from Romania and one from Hungary. All the other eligibility criteria are detailed in the Guide for Applicants, specific for each Call.

The Programme is managed and supported by a series of different bodies, responsible to ensure that funds are spent in the best possible way. The main responsibility for Programme implementation belongs to the Managing Authority (Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration in Romania), the National Authority (Prime Minister's Office in Hungary) and the Monitoring Committee, a joint body consisting of local and central stakeholders, as well as representatives of civil society from both Member States.

For more information about the Programme, please consult its official [website](#). You can also find us on [Facebook](#).

AIR 2017 | CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme was prepared according to Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) and is submitted to the European Commission in May

2018. The current document provides a brief summary of the activities that were undertaken in relation to the Programme implementation in the previous year, 2017.

The AIR contains information on the following main topics: the completion of the designation process, the preparation and launch of the Calls for proposals, the information and communication measures undertaken, the assessment of the applications received and the outcomes of project selection.

It is worth mentioning that in the year 2017, the entire remaining financial allocation available at Programme level was launched, in the frame of 5 Calls for project proposals.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2017

- ✓ The **DMCS** (Description of the Management and Control Systems) was approved, through Member States agreement and the **designation process of authorities** was **completed successfully**
- ✓ **2 requests for payment** have been submitted to the European Commission, both being already approved and **paid** by the end of the year
- ✓ The **first Programme evaluation**, regarding Programme level communication activities, was carried out
- ✓ The **Annual event**, titled "**I ♥ ROHU cooperation**", held in September 2017, in Debrecen and Timisoara, attracted more than **1,500 participants**
- ✓ **5 Calls** for project proposals were **launched** only in **2017**, with a total **ERDF** allocation of **EUR 160.201.433,95**
- ✓ **248 projects** were submitted for all **7 Calls launched in the frame of the Programme**, requesting almost **double of the ERDF Programme allocation** and involving more than **600 partners**. In 2017, 185 applications were checked from the administrative compliance and eligibility perspective, while 41 were assessed from quality point of view (Open Call 1).
- ✓ **2 State aid schemes** (de minimis, respectively exempted State aid) were **elaborated** and uploaded into RegAS and **help-desk activities** were performed in order to support applicants and Programme structures
- ✓ **24 Info Days** sessions, **3 Partner Search Forums**, **34 project generation sessions** and **25 eMS help desk meetings** were organized to support project applicants
- ✓ **1628 persons** attended **information events** held for project applicants
- ✓ **20 technical meetings** and **4 internal training sessions** were organized **for programme structures**
- ✓ **1 press conference** was organized in Debrecen, on 25.09.2017, **2 interviews** were held and **1 article** was published in a newspaper, all in the context of the Annual Event
- ✓ **10 trilingual Newsflash editions** and **1 Newsletter** were sent out to over **2.000 contacts**
- ✓ The web page registered over **131,000 visitors** and **1,060,000 views**
- ✓ There were **572 likes**, **591 follows**, over **160 postings**, as well as **4 rounds of prize-winning interactive contests on Facebook**
- ✓ The **3rd Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting** of the Programme was held, during **14 - 15.12.2017, in Szeged, Hungary**
- ✓ There has been an **intense activity** and **correspondence** with the **MC**: more than **60 e-mails** sent on Programme related topics, **20 written procedures** launched and **38 decisions** issued until now. By the end of 2017, 11 written procedures had been launched and 13 MC Decisions had been issued.
- ✓ First **19 projects were selected for contracting and over-contracting** in the frame of the **1st Open Call, worth** a total of more than **22 MEUR ERDF**.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE SELECTED PROJECTS

The 1st Open Call was **launched on December 29, 2016**, for the following investment priorities: Ip **6/b - investments in the water sector**, Ip **6/c - natural and cultural heritage**, as well as Ip **5/b - disaster management** and it was **open until June 30, 2017**.

The amount of **funding available** was **EUR 22,615,835.00 ERDF**, increased with the relevant Romanian and Hungarian state co-financing.

60 project proposals were submitted and assessed from the administrative and eligibility point of view, out of which **41 projects entered the quality assessment**.

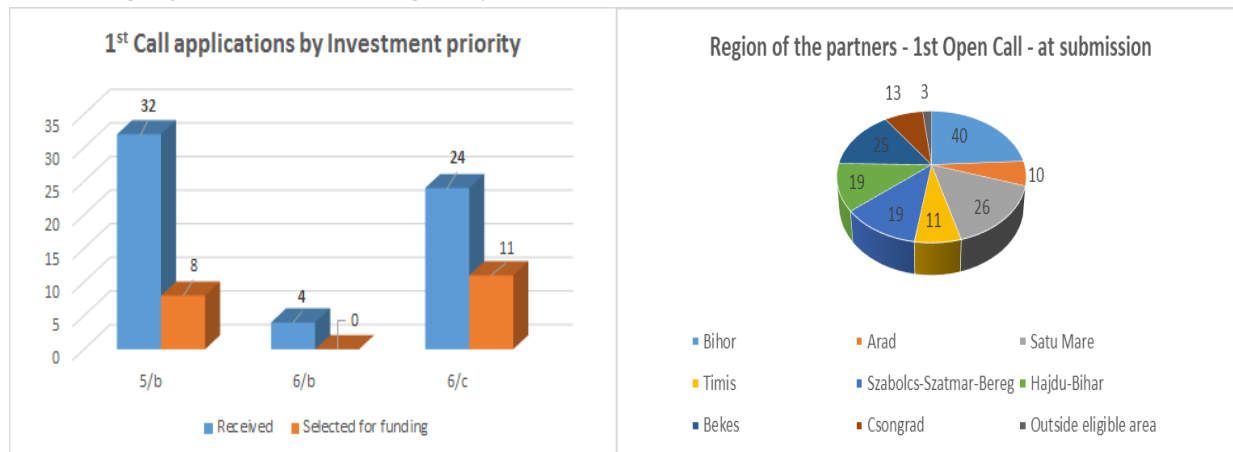


Figure 1

Figure 2

As it can be noticed in Figure 2, the distribution of partners per region was a balanced one. The most popular Ips were **5/b - disaster management** and **6/c - natural and cultural heritage**, the requested ERDF for this Ips being almost 4 times more than the available amount (Figure 3).

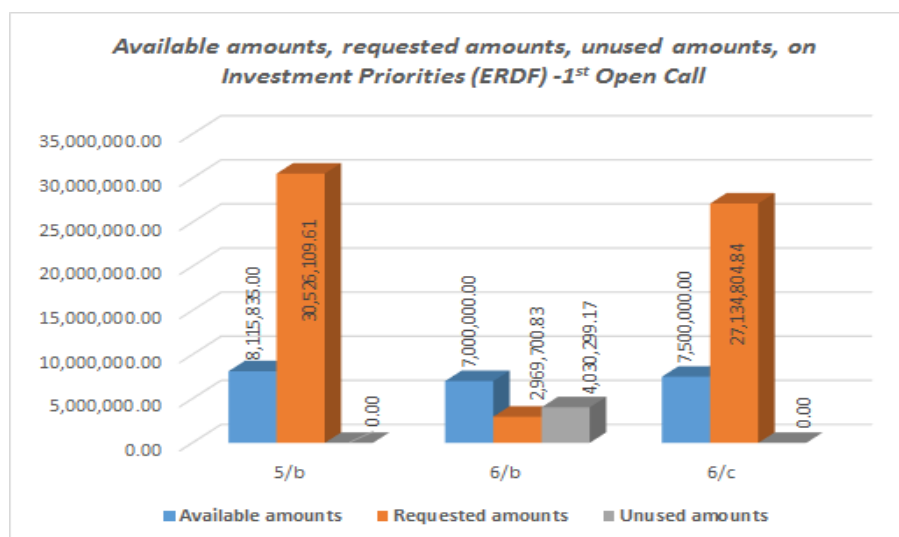


Figure 3

In case of Ip **6/b - investments in the water sector**, the requested ERDF was not even half the available amount.

At the MC selection meeting, it was decided to grant the **entire financial allocation of the Call to projects** submitted **within Ip 6/c - natural and cultural heritage** and **Ip 5/b - disaster management**. At the same time, the MC decided to reallocate funds, from **Ip 6/b - investments in the water sector** to **Ip 6/c - natural and cultural heritage**, which **increased the allocation for the Ip 6/c** by more than **4,8 MEUR ERDF**.

The lists approved by the MC in December 2017, contained projects that may be over-contracted, subject to a favorable opinion from the competent ministries in both Member States.

Under this condition, for **Ip 6/c - natural and cultural heritage**, the total amount allocated to the **11 projects** selected for contracting and over-contracting was of **EUR 13,792,512.94 ERDF** while within **Ip 5/b - disaster management**, for the **8 projects**, the value of the allocation was of **EUR 8,927,418.50 ERDF**.

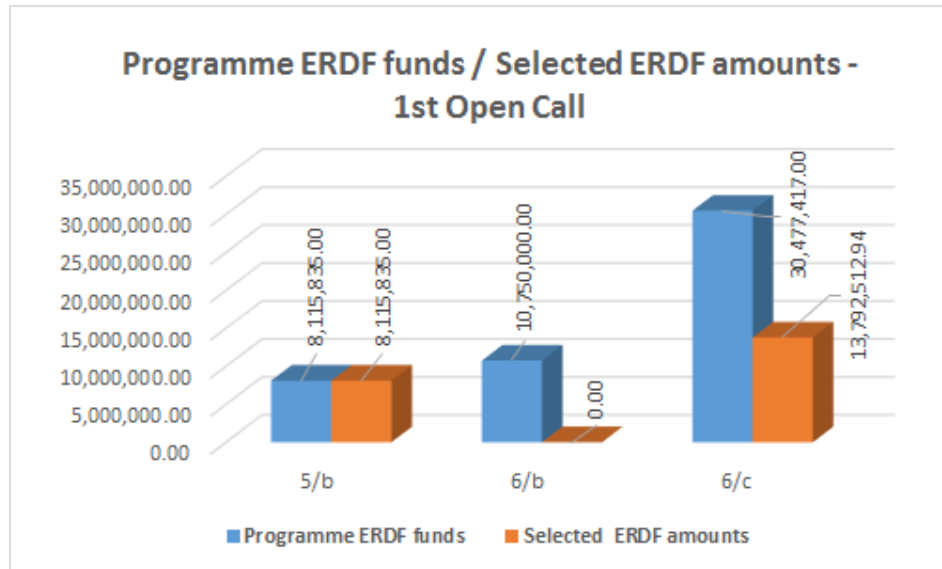


Figure 4