

Technical assistance for the elaboration of the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary, for the period 2021- 2027 (including the realisation of SEA)

Programme Strategy and Intervention Logics

June 2021

N.B.: This document reflects the decision-making process at the date of approval by the PC regarding the selection of Policy Objectives and related specific objectives, as detailed in the first sections (chap. 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) of the Programme document. The Programme Strategy and Intervention Logics will be further developed in what concerns the types of intervention, indicators, beneficiaries and target groups following consultations planned during the programming exercise, including the results of the SEA process

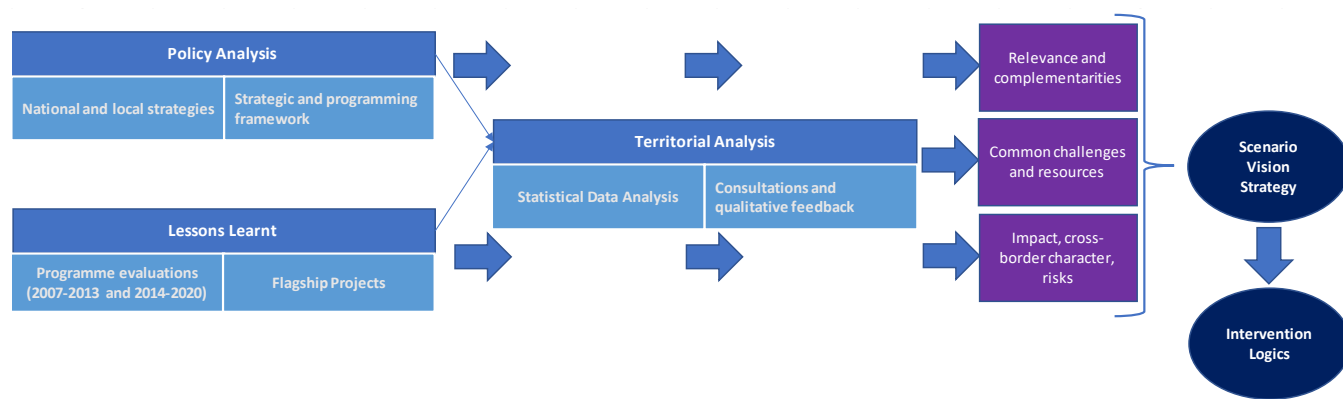
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1. Proposed Programme Strategy

The proposed Programme Strategy derives from the outcomes of the analysis (territorial and policy analysis), lessons learnt and consultations. In particular:

- The Territorial Analysis allowed us to identify common challenges and resources;
- The Policy Analysis allowed us to define policy relevance and complementarities from other funds;
- Lessons learnt provided us operational insights on the potential Programme impacts, cross-border character and risks underlying potential beneficiaries' capacities.



Main outcomes of the analysis are recalled below.

Based on these outcomes, we have built scenario for the selection of POs and we have defined the most effective strategy we could imagine in order to allow the Romania and Hungary cross-border area to obtain an increased cooperation level in priority policy objectives where the most urgent common challenges and the most valuable common resources of cross-border relevance have been identified. These are:

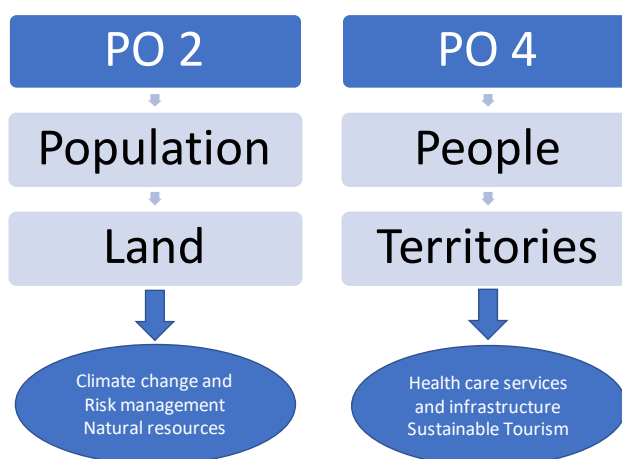
- From one side, the challenges deriving from **climate adaptation** strategies and the management of risks connected with climate change and the challenges deriving from the **health crisis** following Covid-19 pandemic, which both exacerbate existing disparities between the cross-border area and the rest of the EU and highlight the need for stronger cooperation, peer-learning and joint action;
- From the other side, the common resources deriving from the **green border** and the opportunity of transforming the **territorial continuity in a common comparative advantage** (notably due to the availability of shared natural ecosystems, high border permeability and access, which facilitates cooperation) for both sustainable land management and socio-economic development, valorising the leverage effect originating from **cities as economic engines and centres of knowledge specialisation** and **rural areas as owners of huge tangible and intangible resources on both sides of the border**.

In this respect, the strategy of the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary focuses on **PO 2 and PO 4**, but mainstreams digital transformation and the principle of balanced territorial development in its vision for a greener and more social cross-border area.

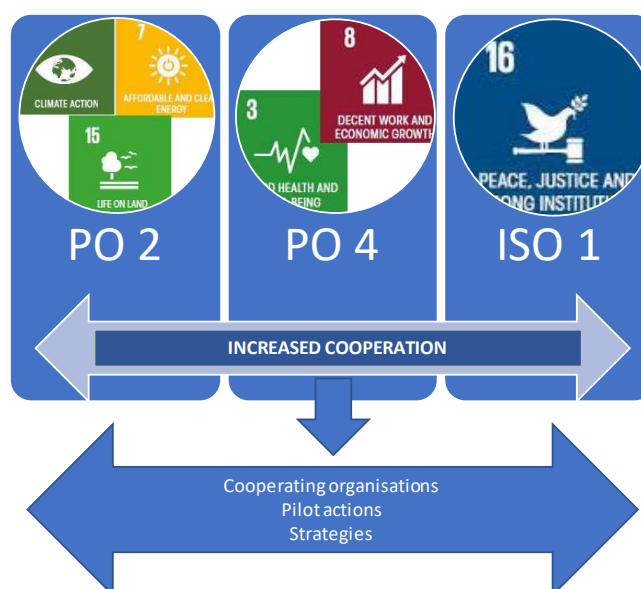
The guiding principles leading to the proposed strategy and Intervention Logics can thus be defined as follows:

- maximising the **concentration of resources on interventions where cross-border cooperation brings added value, and the Interreg programme represents the main option for funding;**

- promoting the **higher possible cross-border impact on territorial disparities and communities**, focussing on policy objectives with the possible higher and more direct impacts on the population well-being (i.e. health, environmental protection and green infrastructure), safety (i.e. protection from natural disasters and climate change adaptation strategies) and equal opportunities (i.e. equal access to health services, tailor-made solutions for patients, involving youth, rural population and marginalised communities in cultural activities and in the valorisation of resources for the socio-economic development of the area);



- bridging territories and communities based on common territorial and intangible assets**, which may create common socio-economic opportunities for the economic recovery (i.e. renewable energies and the opportunity of creating “renewable energy / green communities”, as well as culture and tourism, as fields of common interest capable of leveraging funds and partnerships under a common marketing vision);
- promoting people-to-people interventions as foundation for more structured cooperation**, with a demonstrative value for building sustainable and inclusive communities, which may support in designing tailor-made solutions for future community-led local development initiatives and joint strategies at cross-border level, thus making people-to-people actions “laboratories” for the animation of local communities;
- building the knowledge basis, capacities, joint systems and joint working procedures** as a precondition for projects sustainability and effective results (i.e. soft measures across all selected POs and specific measures under ISO1 on other themes not related to selected POs). Using ISO 1 as a resource to systematise lessons learnt at the end of the programme implementation, drawing lessons on cooperation in different fields, in what concerns: the development of joint strategies, plans, effective cross-border systems and institutional cooperation frameworks throughout the selected POs; the resolution of legal and administrative barriers; the creation of more cohesive local communities through people-to-people exchanges.



Synthesis of main development challenges and programme policy response

Policy objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority*	Justification (summary)
PO 2	RSO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	<p>The cross-border region is characterised by a rich hydrographic network, which is crossing the border between Romania and Hungary almost in its entirety, producing contiguous riparian areas which have a high potential of joint valorisation. Due to the topography and river density, the area is also one of Europe's most prone regions to floods: high flood recurrence is recorded in Hajdú - Bihar, Timiş, Arad, Bihor, while very high flood recurrence is a significant risk for the two northernmost counties of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Satu Mare. Bihor and Satu Mare have historically been the most affected by flood class 1 events. Landslide susceptibility is reduced, throughout the whole cross-border areas (with the exception of Bihor, in the Apuseni Mountains region), with some areas prone to landslides concentrated along rivers.</p> <p>Cross-border disasters and risk management in the area is incipient: although there are some ongoing initiatives in this field, there is still significant room for improvement of coordination, risk prevention and joint response capacity, which substantiates the need for joint investments and future cooperation actions building on the Water management Convention signed at country level and on the previous experience gained by public administrations involved in relevant initiatives, including at macroregional level (EUSDR).</p> <p>An increased cooperation and capacity of joint risk prevention and response to extreme weather events, mostly generating floods, rural and urban landscape destruction, as well as to other climate change-related phenomena, such as draught and fires, is considered a priority by the majority of stakeholders. Non-intervention or inappropriate (i.e. not coordinated) intervention, may generate high social, economic and environmental costs.</p>
	RSO 2.2 Promoting renewable energy	<p>Environmental and ecosystem protection, climate change adaptation, energy transition and the low carbon economy represent vital issues at the core of the European policy for the 2030 time-horizon. Both Romania as well as Hungary have committed to ambitious targets through their respective National Energy and Climate Plans 2030 in order to reduce GhG emissions, reach RES shares of 30.7% (Romania) and at least 21% (Hungary) and to contribute to the overall European goal of reaching at least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.</p> <p>High and very high potential of geothermal district heating (very high – 171-1932 ktoe – in Csongrád-Csanád, Hajdú - Bihar, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Timiş and Bihor), is a distinct endowment of the programme area. While wind energy, large hydropower and, to a degree, biomass energy, are reduced, there is still a high photovoltaic energy potential, with circa two thirds of the territory being suitable for installation of photovoltaic production (Csongrád-Csanád, Békés, Timiş, partly Arad, Bihor and Hajdu-Bihar - 3.30-3.51 kWh/kWp/day).</p> <p>However, the territorial analysis also shows that, although the renewable energy potential is substantial, this potential is not fully exploited, nor fully mapped at micro-zone level.</p>

Policy objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority*	Justification (summary)
		<p>Considering the high policy support, both at European, central and local level, for the transition to a low-carbon economy, a better understanding and exploitation of existing resources for renewable, alternative energies, is considered a priority for the cross-border area, which may have an important leverage and indirect effect, and generate strong synergies with other components of regional and local development, such as the business sector, research and innovation (to be funded under other national and European funds). In this respect, investments in regenerable energies under the future Interreg Programme may contribute to create a favourable, enabling, environment for further developments of the economy, the creation of green jobs and the improvement of local environment.</p>
	RSO 2.7 Enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	<p>The Programme area is characterized by a plain geomorphology that is favourable to settlement development and agriculture, with a higher landform diversity in the Romanian counties, due to the existence of Oriental and Banat Carpathians as well as Apuseni Mountains as macroregional units partly covering the PA. Landscape diversity overall is moderate, but coherent across the border, which offers no natural impediment to landscape and protected site integration. The PA is thus characterized by a “green border”, generating a high potential for the valorisation of natural resources. According to the EEA’s assessment of the capability of soils to host biodiversity, the soil biodiversity potential in the area is moderate, with lower potential recorded in the south (Csongrád-Csanád, Timiș) and Hajdú-Bihar, and higher in the eastern parts of the Romanian counties (Apuseni Mountains), however with significant potential to support further development of biodiversity in the border area south of Nyíregyháza, and with exceptional potential in the regions already protected by Natura 2000 classification (Hortobágy in Hungary, Dealurile Lipovei, Munții Zarandului in Romania).</p> <p>However, the current management of protected sites is hardly coordinated and does not reflect the real cross-border nature of the natural landscape. Additionally, both the sides of the border are affected by deforestation trends, which may further deteriorate the exposure of the territory to natural hazards and the impact of climate change.</p> <p>An increased level of cooperation in the sustainable management of natural resources, in line with EUSDR action plan for biodiversity and landscape protection, is expected to directly contribute to a more effective protection of these areas and to an increased carbon-storage capacity, with the possible direct contribution to the reduction of the GhG emissions accounting. Non-intervention or inappropriate (i.e. not coordinated) intervention, may generate high social, economic and environmental costs, generating the further deterioration of precious natural heritage, whilst potentially compromising local population safety (notably from the adverse effects of climate change) in the cross-border area.</p>
PO 4	RSO 4.4 Ensuring equal access to health care through	<p>The programme area is characterised by generally positive trends in human capital development, with raising life expectancy, lowering rates of social exclusion and</p>

Policy objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority*	Justification (summary)
	developing infrastructure, including primary care	<p>unemployment. However, the PA is still lagging behind the European level in the performance for several of these indicators, including life expectancy at birth (83.7 for women and 78.2 for men in EU-27 in 2018, as opposed to only 77.27 years for women and 70.08 years for men in Satu Mare, the lowest performer). In particular, this indicator suggests that the quality of life and the health status of population still need to be improved.</p> <p>The territorial analysis shows that the uneven distribution of public services is a significant barrier impeding balanced development and internal cohesion. In relation to health infrastructure, the basic endowment in the PA looks still inadequate compared to needs, as suggested by the average number of beds per 100 000 (which is below the Hungarian and Romanian national average), as well as to the disparities related to the territorial concentration of ambulatories (with the Romanian side of the border lagging behind) and the number of medics / 1000 inhabitants (generally lower in the norther counties of the PA).</p> <p>An increased resilience of the health sector is considered a high priority at all governance levels, from EU, to national and local governments. Resilience does not mean only infrastructure and endowments (although it certainly includes them too) but also encompasses the quality of services, their flexibility, adaptability to target groups / specific challenges and response capacity to emergency situations, as the Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically showed. An increased level of cooperation in the health sector is expected to improve health staff' skills and the overall health-care system quality, including its capacity to reach target groups most in need. This will be achieved starting from the exchange of experience and best practices, from the capitalisation of existing resources, networks and previous cooperation in this field, in order to reach a coordinated response, if need arises, based on common working procedures and standards.</p>
	RSO 4.5 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation ¹	<p>The PA is endowed with rich natural and cultural heritage, as well as a dense network of local actors already cooperating for the organisation of international cultural events and tourism niches' development (i.e. religious and rural/eco-tourism) providing the basis for cross-border valorisation in touristic routes.</p> <p>The growth of the tourism sector in the PA has been documented through an increase of accommodation capacities in the component counties over time (13.45% increase in 10 years). However, occupancy rate is low and very low, with an average of 35-38% in the best performers (Hajdu-Bihar, Bihor) and in Satu Mare (which has a very low number of structures to begin with) and going down to 18% in Csongrád and 19.08% in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg. Since 2010, tourist overnight stays have grown throughout the area, except in Satu Mare (-19% between 2010-2018), with a significant 135%</p>

¹ Based on current formulation of this specific objective included in PO 4, under revised EDRF Regulation (February 2021).

Policy objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority*	Justification (summary)
		<p>increase in Csongrád-Csanád and remarkable increases in Békés (83%), Timiș (77%) and Bihor (72%). However, overnight stays have decreased, on average from 2.78 nights per stay to 2.41 (2010-2018). Disparities in overnight stays have been higher in Romania, with an actual increase in Timiș (+4%), and a 44% decrease in Bihor, which was welcoming tourists for an average of 5 days in 2009, much more than the rest of the counties. Shorter stays point to a change in tourist behaviour, with a higher mobility and willingness to experience itinerary tourism in the area: this can be turned into an asset and regional strongpoint, but only through cooperation among public and private actors, at local level. The cross-border area is thus still not able to attract and retain high flows of tourists, but many local and county strategies put great accent on touristic resources and potentials in their territories, in close connection with traditional economic sectors such as local agriculture and food production, which makes tourism a relevant sector for the diversification of local economies, especially rural and marginalised areas. However, cross-border cooperation is needed and would provide high added value, in order to fully exploit the local potential, through a strategic destination management approach, which shall be able to consolidate existing tourist flows, to the benefit of a larger possible area of intervention in the cross-border region.</p>
ISO 1	Promoting a better cooperation governance, based on increased trust, evidence and strengthened institutional cooperation	<p>In terms of governance, the cross-border area presents commonalities in the way the multi-level administrative structure of the two states is organised, where NUTS 3 and LAU 2 levels are the most relevant in terms of competencies. Furthermore, there is a similarity in the implementation of vertical governance coordination. The governance and policy analysis showed that, although there are many examples of cooperation (cultural, economic, and so on) among public administrations and with private and non-governmental actors, the policy decision-making centres and services delivery competences remain anchored on traditional administrative units on both sides of the border.</p> <p>Additionally, the analysis of the current programming, consultations and interviews show that there is still need to improve potential beneficiaries' capacities (especially smaller local public administrations, without being limited to) to design results-oriented projects, to consolidate cross-border partnerships, as well as, in general, to think strategically on common objectives, based on well-defined common opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>The region thus presents the need to support better understanding of processes and phenomena at cross-border level, in several fields (notably climate change and energy consumption, labour market flows, transports and connectivity and others), especially in view to mitigate the border effects and overcoming barriers to cooperation, starting from evidence-based joint strategies and more effective and sustainable partnerships.</p> <p>Finally, there is an increasing trend of territorial disparities between rural and urban areas and between larger urban centres and minor urban centres, which is reflected in a still</p>

Policy objective	Specific objective or dedicated priority*	Justification (summary)
		<p>limited capacity of rural areas and small cities to provide quality infrastructure and services for the inhabitants. Additionally, there is a significant diversity of social challenges in the region, underlying disadvantaged areas, whilst similar disparities and indicators lagging behind in the whole PA area are observed also at the level of economic development.</p> <p>In this complex and differentiated socio-economic context, people-to-people actions represent an opportunity to build trust, through mutual learning, exchange and mutual support for the realisation of a variety of socio-economic actions (such as sport and competitions, performing arts, cultural events, non-curricular education activities, exchange of experience among the business sector, facilitated by social partners) with high potential to bridge communities, with low access to main public services especially in scattered settlements, as well as to animate the business community.</p> <p>Given the needs identified above, the next Interreg Programme should also improve the understanding and knowledge basis of barriers to cooperation, as well as of relevant cross-border patterns, flows, quality of public services, characteristics of specific target groups. This will allow to better tackle existing barriers whilst building evidence-based joint strategies, in line with the EU Territorial Agenda 2030. In this respect, trainings, joint events, peer-to-peer exchanges are cross-cutting measures needed to build capacities and institutional relations able to manage future interventions with a more cross-border character and an increased potential impact on both the territorial development and the cooperation dimension.</p>

1.1. Common challenges

Climate change adaptation strategies and the management of natural and anthropic hazards, especially linked to the incidence of floods (notably in the norther and southern areas of the PA), landslides and fires deriving from draughts and land abandonment have emerged as important investment needs and priorities. The territorial analysis also shows that, although the **renewable energy potential** (i.e. solar, biomass, geothermal) is substantial, this potential is not fully exploited, nor fully mapped at micro-zone level, which also represents a joint investment need and a priority area for future cooperation. The PA is characterized by a **green border** and high potential for the valorisation of natural resources. However, the current management of protected sites is hardly coordinated and does not reflect the real cross-border nature of the natural landscape. Additionally, both the sides of the border are affected by deforestation trends, which may further deteriorate the exposure of the territory to natural hazards and the impact of climate change. Cooperation in the field of protection and valorisation of natural resources, including green infrastructure, has thus been highlighted as common investment need for the PA.

The territorial analysis shows that the **uneven distribution of public services** is a significant barrier impeding balanced development and internal cohesion, with Romanian regions having a lower degree of

public functions distribution (**especially in the health, cultural and touristic infrastructure**), except major urban centres. In relation to resilient and modern health infrastructure and services, which is a major investment priority of all EU countries, following SARS-CoV-2 pandemics, the basic endowment in the PA looks still inadequate compared to needs, especially in relation to emergency response, exchange of information and community, tailor-made health services for specific target groups. The PA is endowed with rich natural and cultural heritage, providing the basis for cross-border valorisation in touristic routes and cultural initiatives focussing on local traditions, as catalysers of social inclusion. However, the area is still not able to attract and retain high flows of tourists (which is suggested by the decreasing overnight average stay, in terms of number of days), whilst many local and county strategies put great accent on touristic resources and potentials in their territories, in close connection with traditional economic sectors such as local agriculture and food production. The analysis thus suggests that the valorisation of cultural resources and tourism for the socio-economic development of the PA is also a priority, common, investment need for the whole area.

1.2. Lessons learnt

1.2.1. Lessons learnt from the current Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary 2014-2020

Main lessons learnt from the current ROHU Interreg Programme 2014-2020, suggested by the Programme Implementation Evaluation Report (2020) are recalled below:

- The large number of priorities covered by the programme and the limited matching of the priorities of the eight counties led to a less focused concentration of the funds. For the next programming period, **a more focused concentration of the funds would support and improve the potential to produce visible and perceptible impacts in the eligible area.**
- In terms of Programme effectiveness, the Evaluation proposes an **earlier launching of the calls for proposals, a clearer definition of funding conditions, as well as more simplified systems for project evaluation, contracting, monitoring and implementation** that would improve the Programme effectiveness.
- The **sustainability of the cross-border cooperation** depends firstly on the capacity and experience of the beneficiaries but also on a proper monitoring system that should timely depict possible Programme evolutions and external factors and take the right measures in due time.

Based on the intermediate evaluation findings, the assessment of the expected territorial impact deriving from the implementation of the current Interreg V-A Romania Hungary Programme, an important lesson learnt in terms of Programme intervention logics is related to the need to reinforce the linkages between needs observed, envisaged interventions and programme indicators, in order to be able to better assess programme and projects' results, territorial and social impacts. The analysis of assessment grids aimed at analysing main **project weaknesses** observed during Concept Notes and Full Applications' selection stages for Flagship Projects, which may have further affected projects' smooth implementation and may also have **a negative effect on the expected results** in the future. The analysis allowed the following conclusions:

- The overall **relevance** of Flagship projects interventions and partnerships has been high, with strong linkages with previous projects and existing networks;
- However, the applicants encountered problems in defining **baseline indicators on existing needs**, defining methodologies for quantifying and selecting target groups and, consequently, they had difficulties in quantifying expected impacts on territories and people, which is probably caused by

important **data gaps** and limited capacity to prepare ex ante impact analysis of interventions (which actually suggests a low quality of feasibility studies). This aspect reduces the possibility to assess the expected territorial impact of Flagship projects implemented within ROHU 2014-2020 Programme.

Additionally, from a sector-wise analysis perspective, the main conclusions from the review of the Ips performances and reallocations of funds during the programming period 2014-2020 can be summarised as follows:

- i. Interventions in the field of health and social infrastructure concentrated more than half funds available for restricted calls and nearly one third of those available for contracting under open calls (42% on total share for both types of calls).
- ii. Interventions in the field of sustainable transport absorbed less than initially planned, especially for projects of strategic importance, where all funds initially allocated to Ip 7c have been reallocated to other measures, whilst the allocations to Ip7b were decreased (as a result the share of Ip 7 on total funds available for contracting on total has decreased to 9% from initial 16%).
- iii. Interventions in the field of employment friendly growth, especially under open calls, where they had been initially granted high share of allocated funds, have absorbed less funds than planned (the share of Ip 8b on total funds available for contracting for all types of calls has decreased to 17%, from the initial 29%).
- iv. On the other hand, measures aiming at valorising natural and cultural resources absorbed more funds than initially planned and were thus finally allocated 22% of ERDF available for contracting (overall, both restricted and open calls), whilst allocations to water management have been decreased to 2%.
- v. Interventions in the field of risk prevention (funded only under open calls) also absorbed more than initially planned and final received an increase of funds (from 9 to 13% total funds available for open calls, representing 6% on the total programme available ERDF funds).
- vi. Finally, people-to-people interventions funded under Ip 11/b, only through open calls, absorbed around 4% of ERDF available under open calls, representing 2% of total, as initially planned.

It shall be underlined that, although the above considerations may provide an insight on the potential attractiveness of different types and fields of intervention in terms of stakeholders' response to calls, still, one important lesson learnt from the current programming period, based on stakeholders' consultation under both the Programme evaluation and programming exercises, is that **changing needs and changing context, as well as specific funding rules, timing and conditions for accessing the funds are also important factors** which may affect Programme implementation and absorption rates. In this respect, the experience of the current Programme shall be certainly corroborated with identified needs for the future and with perceived difficulties in accessing funds as experienced by the stakeholders.

From one side, a certain flexibility shall be envisaged for reallocation of funds among priorities in the next programming period, as already acknowledged by the EC under proposed CPR. From the other side, it shall be mentioned that the reduction of bureaucracy, a clear communication on funding rules (including details on types of intervention and related indicators), the involvement of the right governance level, networking and partnership development for project generation and support offered for better communication and coordination procedures among partners, as well as for the organisation of procurement procedures (especially for projects of strategic importance) **may increase the attractiveness of the different interventions to potential beneficiaries**, thus facilitating the attainment of the estimated levels of funds' absorption.

From the perspective of cross-border impact and character of operations, case studies² reveal a **great cross-border potential in soft measures** aiming at promoting peer-to-peer exchange, dissemination of information in national languages for population involvement and awareness, joint training and joint recognition of results, joint strategic planning and the involvement of the appropriate level of governance to tackle common needs that require a joint and coordinating action. Additionally, cross-border impact of joint interventions is usually expected as an indirect effect on cross-border population and final targets (i.e. patients, vulnerable groups, local communities in general), whenever applicable depending of the type of intervention.

The above lessons learnt suggest that, in the programming period 2021-2027:

- The **Programme intervention logics** shall ensure a closer link between the needs identified, the expected changes and the related monitoring and performance framework. In this respect, the concentration of resources on key challenges and common potentials allows, itself, to reinforce “ex ante” the intervention logics, as it ensures that only interventions with the highest possible impact and cross-border character are actually envisaged for funding;
- Where **data gaps or identifiable barriers** do exist, these shall be solved before planning any investment, in order to ensure that the proposed interventions are both relevant to needs and are able to produce expected results on these, better quantified, needs. Linking soft measures to investment measures (when applicable) is thus a key instrument to reach both projects’ and programme success;
- Reinforcing **potential beneficiaries’ capacities** to think strategically at cross-border level and to maintain their partnership relations for a common goal is also a key issue to be solved directly through the future Programme, by promoting a larger range of soft measures in support of building capacities, promoting exchanges and strengthening institutional relations, towards higher sustainability of cross-border interventions;
- The concentration in the allocation of resources and priority identification shall pursue the pattern of **funds’ attractiveness** to potential beneficiaries, corroborated with **identified needs**. In this respect, the experience of the current programming period has suggested that great stakeholders’ interest and high cross-border relevance, providing cascading, direct and indirect effects on territories and communities, are attributed to the following fields: **cooperation in health and social infrastructure; cooperation in risk prevention and management; cooperation in the valorisation of natural and cultural resources; strengthening cross-border strategic planning capacities, reducing barrier to cooperation and people-to-people exchanges as foundations for more structured and strategic cooperation.**

1.2.2. Lessons learnt from EUSDR

Lessons learnt on EUSDR contribution to increased cooperation (from higher to lower contribution) in the macro-region show that³:

- I. The MRS process brings together actors across countries

² Analysed under the current Programme evaluation study report (2020).

³ From survey results included in the COWI STUDY ON MACROREGIONAL STRATEGIES AND THEIR LINKS WITH COHESION POLICY, Data and analytical report for the EUSDR (2017); sum of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree” responses in order of preferences (from highest score, 94%, to lowest score, 64%).

- II. Continuing on from previous cooperation and building on existing transnational networks
- III. The MRS process brings together (new) actors across sectors (cross-sectoral cooperation)
- IV. The MRS process brings together actors across levels (national/regional) and type (public/private)
- V. The cooperation brings legitimacy to the work and increases recognition of issues/needs/challenges
- VI. The MRS process facilitates synergies between policies; helps better understand the big picture at the policy level
- VII. The MRS process facilitates access to funding (the cooperation leads to an increase in funding).

Lessons learnt thus suggest that, whilst MRS brings added value to cooperation, by leveraging existing cooperation and promoting new partnerships, there is still room for improving the capacity of the MRS to increase policy legitimacy of working together, create synergies between policies and leveraging funds.

As concerns EUSDR outcomes, lessons learnt⁴ show that MRS contributes (from higher to lower contribution) to:

- I. The development of new tools (technical excellence) in the area
- II. Increase in implementation of EU policies in the macro-region
- III. Increase the technical capacity of actors
- IV. The development of new or improved services/products/training
- V. The development of new funding concepts (e.g. private, International Financial Institutions)
- VI. The development of common standards in the area
- VII. Changes and improvements in national policy.

As concerns outcomes, lessons learnt thus suggest that MRS projects have been effective⁵ in developing tools, contributing to increase technical capacities, contributing to EU policies and developing new or improved services / products / training. However, there is room for improving the outcomes in terms of developing new funding concepts (i.e. encompassing the complementarity of funds and funding instruments), common standards and to bring effective changes in national policies.

The second Report on the implementation of the EUSDR (2019) has further shown that several initiatives and projects developed within the EUSDR have a significant **impact on policies** – or derive from and implement sectoral policies, including crucial EU policies, as in the areas of transport, energy and environment. The report stresses that the link between projects and policies is extremely important since policies need to be fed with concrete project results and, in turn, they set the conditions for successful projects and joint initiatives. In particular, EUSDR-related activities helped shaping national activities by adopting a **transnational approach** (as examples, the report mentions the case of national programmes against natural disasters in several countries). In this respect, the European Parliament has also acknowledged the **political relevance of the ongoing initiatives and the importance of funds allocated to pilot projects and innovative actions**. Finally, it has emerged that the EUSDR contributes to effective multi-level governance. However, the MRS governance still needs to be improved through higher ownership and an active role of national coordinators (line ministries) and a more effective embedding of the MRS into mainstream and cross-border cooperation programmes, starting from the programming phase and across the implementation phase. In this respect, the EC Report (2019) calls for a closer coordination of the different sources of funding and Managing Authorities, suggesting, among the others, that “*specific measures and projects, programmes could develop and apply specific project selection criteria to encourage*

⁴ From survey results included in the COWI STUDY ON MACROREGIONAL STRATEGIES AND THEIR LINKS WITH COHESION POLICY, Data and analytical report for the EUSDR (2017); sum of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree” responses in order of preferences (from highest score, 69%, to lowest score, 38%).

⁵ Although to a lower extent as compared to the contribution to increased cooperation.

the creation of projects that support the priorities of an MRS (e.g. budget earmarking, specific calls for macro-regional projects, allocation of extra points to projects contributing to macro-regional targets and actions, etc.)”.

The future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary will thus reinforce the delivery of the EUSDR by embedding the priority actions planned in the macro-region strategy into the Programme intervention logics (detailed measures to be funded) and strategic projects’ selection criteria, whilst tackling all main weaknesses observed in the delivery of the macro-strategy by: promoting higher policy relevance and complementarity of funds; promoting, from one side, higher involvement of the national governance and decision-making level, including from the perspective of assessing and solving barriers to cooperation; promoting, from the other side, higher mobilisation of cross-border communities, in order to consolidate the legitimisation of joint actions bottom-up, as well as based on evidence provided by a reinforced analysis and strategic planning capacity of cross-border actors.

1.3. Relevance

The EC recommends to both cross-border Member States, as individual states⁶ and as a cross-border area⁷, to support:

- The concentration of resources on **digital and green transition** (i.e. including promoting ITC, e-government services, as well as developing joint strategies for the sustainable valorisation of natural resources, assessing vulnerabilities and increasing joint emergency response capacity);
- **The resilience of the health sector** (including mapping needs and developing a joint strategy, as well as strengthening the health emergency response capacity, reducing territorial disparities in the accession to health services and promoting patients’ mobility and exchange of information);
- The **recovery of economy and labour market** following Covid-19 crisis (including by mapping labour market exchanges, reinforcing labour active measures and ensuring a closer relevance of education and training to skills required in the cross-border labour market, promoting high value-added clusters and cross-border value chains);
- The improvement of **governance and decision-making processes** (including assessing legislative barriers to cooperation, reduce language barriers, improving the exchange of data and information, improving coordination with mainstream programmes and the involvement of stakeholders and social partners).

The recommendations related to governance and decision-making processes are also strongly connected and in line with the future **EU Territorial Agenda 2030**, which calls for strengthening the evidence base for informed territorial policies (i.e. better understanding functional flows and experimenting TIA exercises), building institutional capacities, creating opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, knowledge / best practices sharing, horizontal and vertical coordination of policies.

The following elements also confirm the relevance of selected POs in relation to national policies and strategic framework, which define national development priorities:

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020-european-semester-csr-comm-recommendation-hungary_en.pdf,
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2020-european-semester-csr-comm-recommendation-romania_en.pdf

⁷ https://interreg-rohu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/BOP_CE_May_2019.pdf

- Both countries have a vision on their **territorial and spatial development strategy**, which puts great accent on the need to reduce regional disparities and to ensure the sustainable use of natural and land resources;
- Both countries are negotiating the Partnership Agreement with the EU for the next programming period. The available drafts show that, in line with EU development targets for 2030, great accent is put on **digital and green economy and societies**. In this respect, both countries have advanced **integrated plans for energy and climate change** with accent on extending the use of renewable energies and improving the capacity of emergency services to tackle climate changes, unpredictable and extreme conditions;
- Priorities in the **health sector** (from primary health care services and infrastructure, to research and telemedical services) emerge under the draft Operational Programme on Health in Romania⁸, respectively, under the Hungary National Strategy for the Health Sector 2021-2027;
- Equally, both countries have a **long-term vision on tourism development**, with a tourist destination management approach, the extensive use of digital and marketing tools, as well as an increasing capacity to collect and manage data and statistics related to tourism.

In the next **governance level (NUTS3)**, the **county administrative level**, strategies and plans, which provides the framework for the delivery of county sector policies, are generally referred to the current programming period 2014-2020. However, they are still relevant to highlight the importance attributed to cross-border territorial cooperation, the medium and long-term vision on the territorial role of the county, the relevance for future Policy Objectives (POs) and the opportunity to build on past experience in acceding ROHU Interreg Programme 2014-2020, to ensure continuity of both investments and project partnerships.

The majority of counties within the cross-border area have identified **cross-border development strategic objectives and priorities**, thus reflecting the **strong vocation** of the territories towards interregional cooperation on a wide range of sectors, from economic development, to green economy, culture, tourism, welfare and health. This is further confirmed by the analysis of some city strategies, where great accent is on cross-border cooperation in the cultural field and the increasing role of cities as economic development engines beyond their administrative border.

Following the adoption of Agenda 2030 and EU Climate Change and Energy targets for 2030, several counties have drafted **energy and climate change plans** or are planning to draft one. Additionally, the great majority of counties puts great accent on cultural cooperation and touristic potential of local resources, including under a wider perspective of territorial cooperation with neighbouring counties and cities from the other side of the border.

The future Programme shall build on existing cooperation relations, in order to consolidate them and further facilitate their institutionalisation and the continuity of long-term joint projects that many administrations are already promoting.

⁸ The National Strategy for the health sector for the period 2021-2027 is being drafted under a project financed by the Operational Programme for Administrative Capacity 2014-2020. However, the health sector is already considered in the draft Partnership Agreement between Romania and the EU for 2021-2027.

1.4. Complementarities

On 10 November 2020, the European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council, with the support of the European Commission, reached an agreement on the largest package ever financed through the EU budget, of €1.8 trillion. Following the coronavirus crisis and its consequences, the package will help rebuild **a greener, more digital and more resilient** Europe.⁹

The MFF 2021-2027 (amounting to around 1,074 EUR billion) will be combined with a temporary recovery instrument, called Next Generation EU (additional 750 EUR billion resources), mainly allocated to Cohesion, Resilience and Values heading. Key programmes, including **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, Erasmus+, EU4Health and Horizon Europe**, will be reinforced, in line with EU priorities, linked to a more resilient Europe, innovation, research, digital and green economy, as well as an increased commitment of the Union to support the Global Partnership for Cooperation and sustainable development. The increased allocation also encompasses key Programmes related to **border and migration management**, reflecting the need to tackle the common challenges of Member States and the EU related to increased migration flows from non-EU countries.

Both Romania and Hungary are negotiating the **Partnership Agreement with the EU** for the next programming period. According to the draft available versions, the list of operational programmes that will be proposed by each side of the programme area are detailed in the table below:

Romania ¹⁰	Hungary ¹¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Programme for Smart Growth, Digitalisation and Financial Instruments; Operational Programme for Health; Operational Programme for Education and Employment; Operational Programme for Social Inclusion and Dignity; Operational Programme for Sustainable Development; Operational Programme for Transports; 8 Regional Operational Programmes; Operational Programme for Aquaculture and Fishing; Operational Programme for a Just Transition; Technical Assistance Operational Programme.¹² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Programme for Business Development and Innovation (VINOP), Green Infrastructure and Climate Protection Operational Programme (ZIKOP), Mobility Operational Programme (MIOP), Competitive Hungary Operational Programme (VMOP), Operational Programme for Human Development (HOP), Digital Renewal Operational Programme (DIMOP) and Hungarian Aquaculture Development Operational Programme (MAKOP).

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/eus-next-long-term-budget-nextgenerationeu-key-facts-and-figures_en

¹⁰ [2021 - 2027 - Fonduri Structurale \(fonduri-structurale.ro\)](https://fonduri-structurale.ro)

¹¹ <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/operativ-programok>

¹² <https://mfe.gov.ro/timeline-consultari-publice/>

Additionally, the following table shows the list of other Operational Programmes under the ETC objective where Romania and Hungary could also benefit of:

Romania	Hungary
Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Interreg IPA-III-CBC Romania-Moldova Interreg IPA-III-CBC Romania-Ukraine Interreg IPA-III-CBC Romania-Serbia Black Sea Basin Programme	Interreg VI-A Austria-Hungary Interreg VI-A Slovenia-Hungary Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Interreg VI-A Slovakia-Hungary Interreg IPA-III-CBC Hungary-Serbia
Common programmes under the ETC objective	
INTERREG EUROPE Programme Interreg Programme Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine URBACT Programme INTERACT Programme Danube Transnational Programme ESPON Cooperation Programme	

The relevance of draft mainstream Operational Programmes and other Operational Programmes falling under the Territorial Cooperation objective resides in the need that interventions under the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary shall be **complementary and synergic**, thus boosting a **mutual leverage effect on investments, whilst avoiding overlapping**.

In this respect, the proposed priorities for the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary will reinforce the strategy adopted by each MS to implement national and regional priorities, with a specific attention paid to needs and opportunities that can be better addressed through cross-border cooperation, adding value to other ERDF and ESF + interventions funded under MS' operational programmes and will contribute to further translate transnational cooperation programmes and, in particular, the EUSDR and ESPON related programmes into specific interventions tailor-made on the specificities of the Romania - Hungary border area.

1.5. Programme vision and objectives

The vision for the future Interreg Programme between Romania and Hungary 2021-2027 can be defined as follows:

A greener, resilient and more cohesive cross-border Region between Romania and Hungary, with enhanced understanding of cooperation opportunities, increased trust and reduced barriers to cooperation, towards Agenda 2030 common targets with a more sustainable cooperation framework.

The Programme strategy is articulated in a general objective and three specific objectives corresponding to the three selected POs; each of the three selected POs has up to three Specific Objectives underlying specific Interreg investment priorities.

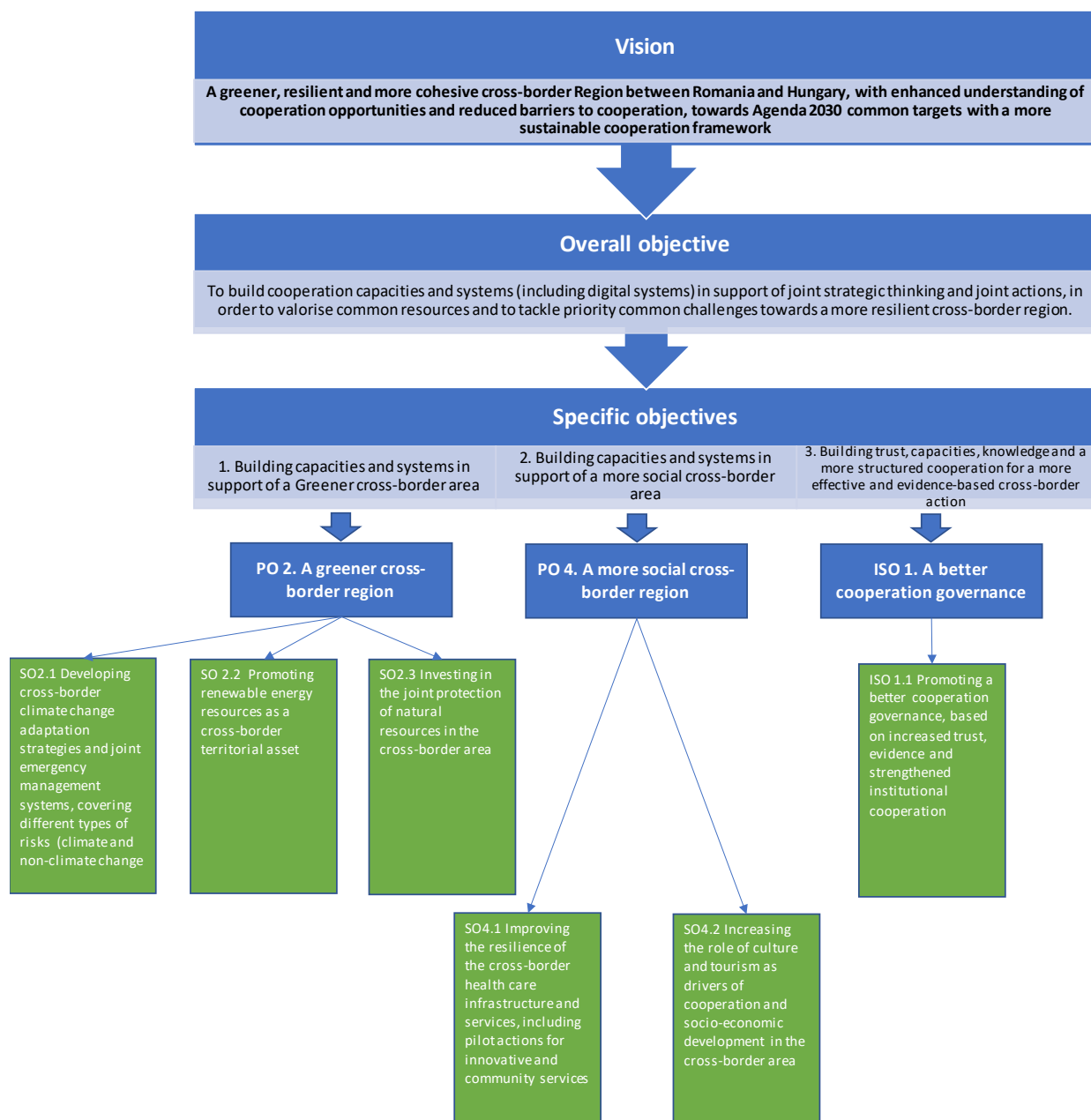
As underlined under next Chapter 2, for thematic POs (PO2 and PO4), the Programme will envisage two types of interventions, notably:

- Investment interventions (correlated with ERDF common indicators), and
- Soft interventions (correlated with Interreg specific indicators).

The opportunity and feasibility to select ERDF common indicators in relation to investment measures will be assessed through consultation with potential applicants: from the list of ERDF indicators indicated under Annex 2 (pre-selected by the Programming experts), only the ones where a sufficient number of stakeholders show interest will be included in the Programme. The rationale behind this proposal stands in the opportunity to provide added value to the Programme strategy by selecting a limited number of ERDF indicators reflecting a tangible output and result on cross-border territories and communities. Similarly, the types of interventions (as per Reg. definitions) mentioned in the Annex 2 do have only an illustrative value of the kinds of measures that could be financed under each specific objective, with the mention that the financial allocation will not be realised at this level of detail, as it is recommended to use a single specific type of intervention (ex. encoded as 171) for Interreg Programmes.

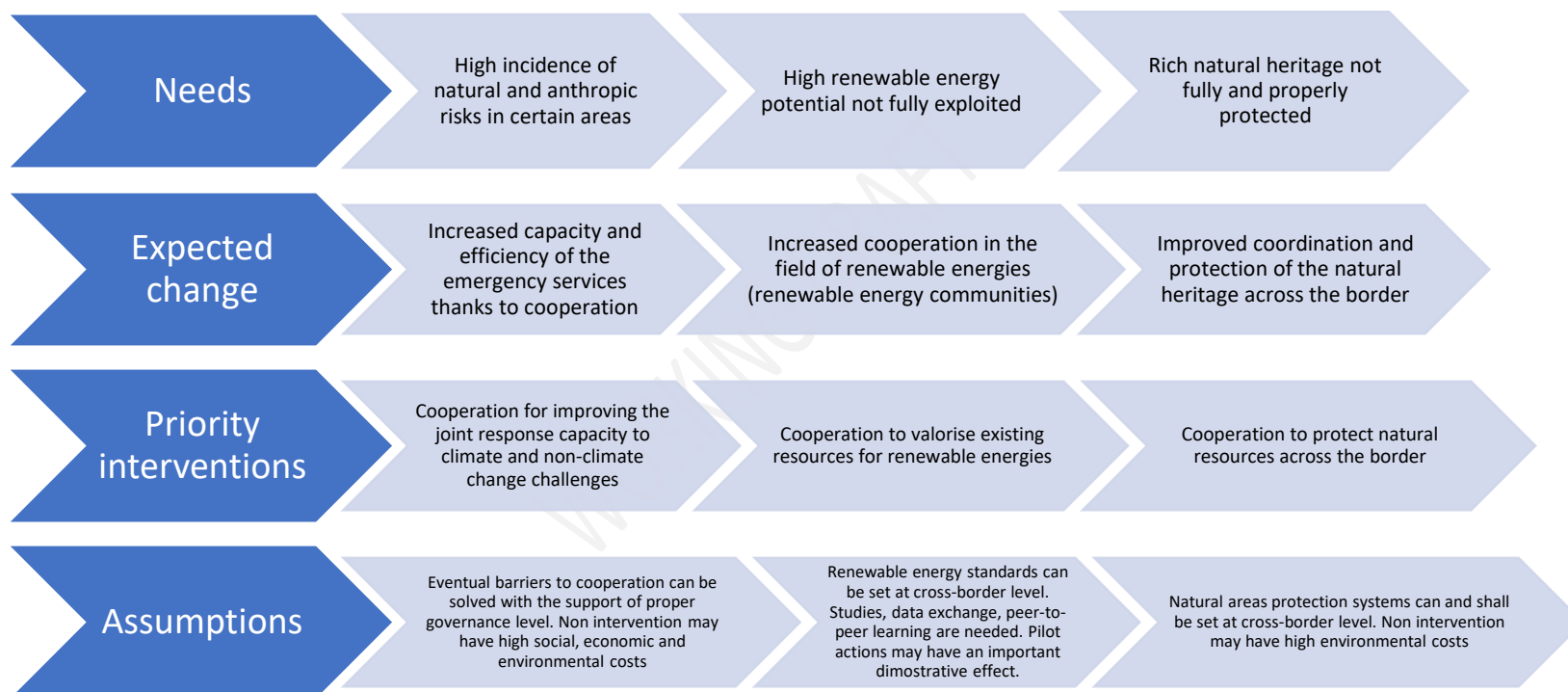
Soft measures will be mainstreamed, when needed, in order to improve the projects' logical framework, their potential impact and sustainability through consolidated institutional cooperation agreements and joint strategies, owned by the adequate governance level. In this respect, an initial draft strategy could be developed under the form of a common vision justifying the planned investment / pilot action, based on the project partnership agreement. The strategy can then evolve and be further developed during the project, following the results of the pilot action and ending up in the form of an "exit strategy", a sustainability plan or similar, which will allow to demonstrate that the organisations part of the project intend to further cooperation beyond project duration and that the joint strategies are "taken up" by stakeholders.

ISO 1 interventions may have a cross-cutting approach (i.e. trainings and peer exchange on "cross-border strategic thinking", analysis of cross-border public services quality standards / barriers to cooperation) or a sector approach (which, in this case, shall envisage subjects connected with POs not selected, such as building strategies and capacities related to innovation clusters, mapping cross-border value chains, analysing cross-border traffic flows, piloting community initiatives starting from people-to-people actions, and others).



2. Proposed Programme Intervention Logics

2.1. Intervention Logics for PO 2



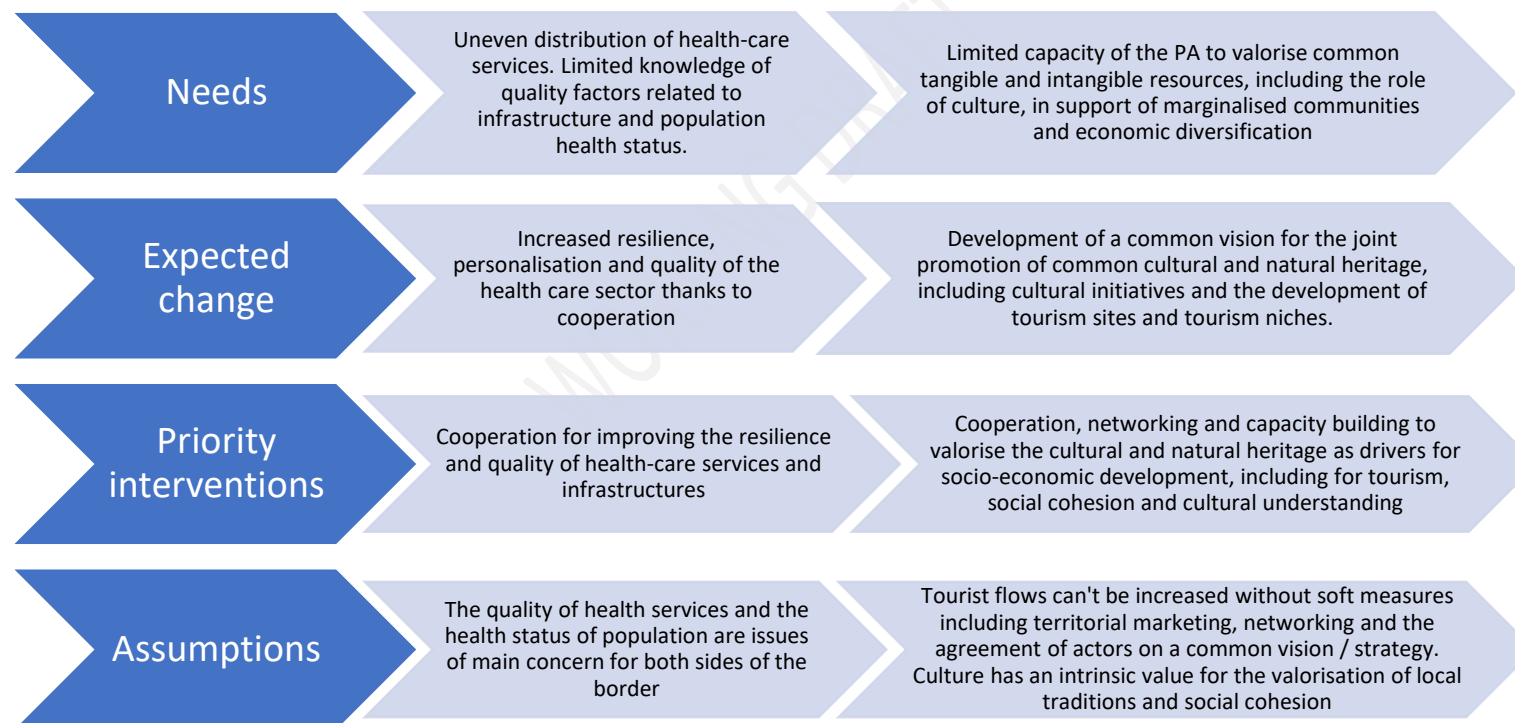
Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Output indicators ¹³	Result indicators ¹⁴	Policy / strategy coherence	Complementarities
RSO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system based approaches	2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention (climate and non-climate change related)	RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders <i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the "critical mass" of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i>	RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project <i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the "critical mass" of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i>	National spatial strategies / concepts National energy and climate change plans County / Local (city level) development strategies	LIFE + Programme National programmes funded under ERDF (Regional Operational Programmes and Sector Programmes dedicated to climate change) National programmes funded under the EARDF (Rural Development Programmes)
RSO 2.2 Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	2.2 Promoting renewable energy resources as a cross-border territorial asset	RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project	National spatial strategies / concepts National energy and climate change plans County / Local (city level) development strategies	LIFE + Programme National programmes funded under ERDF (Regional Operational Programmes and Sector Programmes dedicated to energy) National programmes funded under the EARDF (Rural Development Programmes)
RSO 2.7 Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	2.3 Investing in the joint protection of natural resources in the cross-border area and reducing all forms of pollution	RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project	National spatial strategies / concepts National rural strategies	LIFE + Programme National programmes funded under ERDF (Regional Operational Programmes and Sector Programmes dedicated to green infrastructure and the sustainable management of natural resources)

¹³ Based on the revised list included in the draft ERDF Regulation (February 2021). Applicable to all similar mentions in this document.

¹⁴ Based on the revised list included in the draft ERDF Regulation (February 2021). Applicable to all similar mentions in this document.

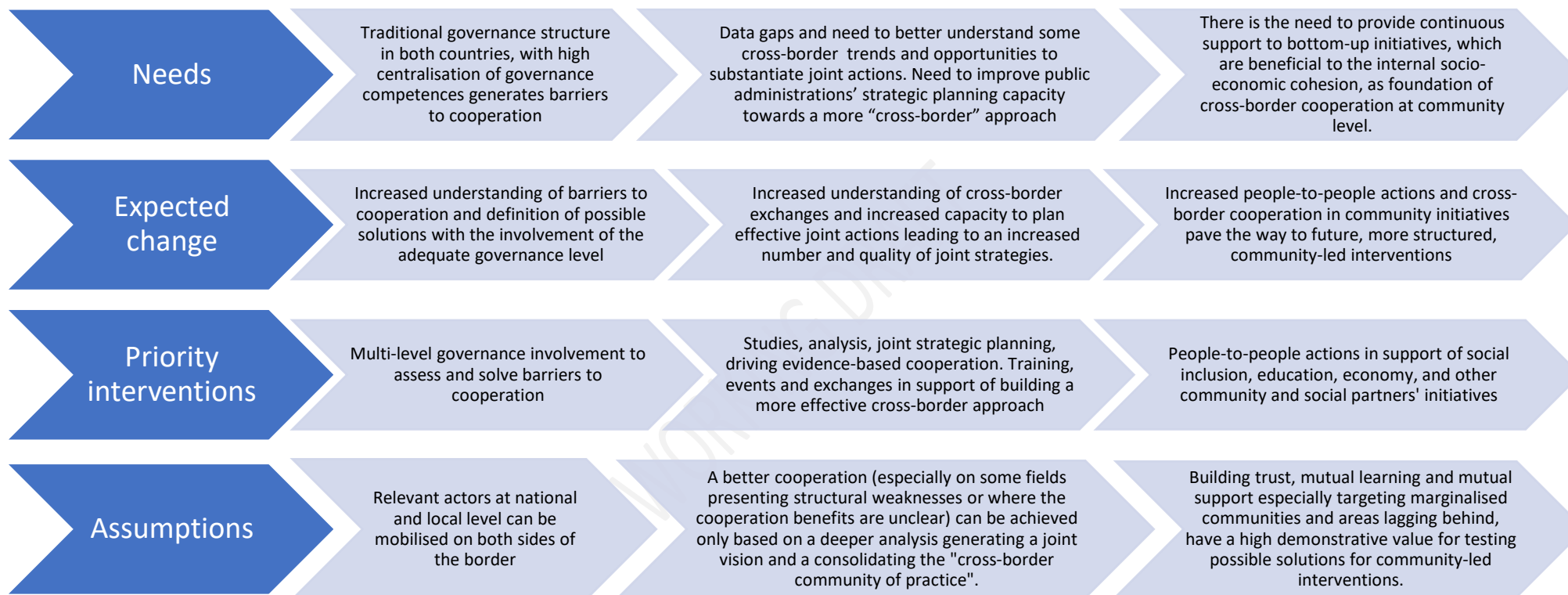
Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Output indicators ¹³	Result indicators ¹⁴	Policy / strategy coherence	Complementarities
		<i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the “critical mass” of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i>	<i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the “critical mass” of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i>	County / Local (city level) development strategies	National programmes funded under the EARDF (Rural Development Programmes)

2.2. Intervention Logics for PO 4



Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Output indicators	Result indicators	Policy / strategy coherence	Complementarities
<p>RSO 4.4</p> <p>Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care</p>	<p>4.1 Improving the resilience of the cross-border health care infrastructure and services, including pilot actions for innovative and community services</p>	<p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p> <p>RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders</p> <p><i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the “critical mass” of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i></p>	<p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p> <p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p> <p><i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the “critical mass” of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i></p>	<p>National strategies for health</p> <p>National strategies for education and vocational training (or any other ERDF relevant measure)</p> <p>Annual employment strategies and plans (PES)</p> <p>National digital agenda</p> <p>County / Local (city level) development strategies (and sector strategies, when available)</p>	<p>National programmes funded under ERDF and Cohesion Fund (Regional Operational Programmes, National Health programmes)</p> <p>National programmes funded under ESF (Sectoral Programmes for Education and Employment)</p>
<p>RSO 4.5</p> <p>Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</p>	<p>4.2 Increasing the role of culture and tourism as drivers of cooperation and socio-economic development in the cross-border area</p>	<p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p> <p>RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders</p> <p><i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the “critical mass” of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i></p>	<p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p> <p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p> <p><i>Possible additional ERDF type indicators depending on the “critical mass” of project ideas collected from potential beneficiaries</i></p>	<p>National tourism strategies</p> <p>County / Local (city level) development strategies (and specific sector strategies in the fields of culture and tourism, when available)</p>	<p>National programmes funded under ERDF and Cohesion Fund (Regional Operational Programmes, measures addressing tourism investments)</p> <p>Other national programmes funding touristic destinations</p>

2.3. Intervention Logics for ISO 1



Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Output indicators	Result indicators	Policy / strategy coherence	Complementarities
<p>ISO 1 (b) Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions</p> <p>ISO 1 (a) Institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders</p> <p>ISO 1 (c) Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions</p>	<p>ISO 1.1 Promoting a better cooperation governance, based on increased trust, evidence and strengthened institutional cooperation</p>	<p>RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders</p> <p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p>	<p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p> <p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p>	<p>National strategies for public administration reforms National spatial and land management strategies</p> <p>Local initiatives for community-led development</p> <p>Integrated urban development strategies</p>	<p>National programmes for the development of administrative capacities (ESF) ESPON studies and other territorial analysis initiatives at EU level</p> <p>TA projects funded under Interreg ROHU</p> <p>Other ESF and EDRF funded projects in support of community development (i.e. notably CLLD, ITI, integrated urban development interventions) Erasmus Plus Programme Creative Europe Programme</p> <p>TA projects funded under Interreg ROHU</p>

3. Annex : List of interventions and common output and result indicators from draft Regulations

Attached separately.

WORKING DRAFT

4. Annex 2. Preliminary selection of the types of intervention and indicators (for further consultation and review)

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.) ¹⁵	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators ¹⁶	Result indicators ¹⁷
RSO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system based approaches	2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention (climate and non-climate change related)	2.1 Cooperation for improving the joint response capacity to climate and non-climate change challenges	<p>2.1.1 Investment interventions</p> <p>057 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, and infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)</p> <p>058 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, and infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)</p> <p>059 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan (DFRMP) 2. Implement structural and non-structural measures related to flood risk management, support the improvement of forecasting and nowcasting (pilot actions / joint strategies) 3. Increase the preparedness and resilience of communities against floods (trainings, awareness raising events) 4. Promote sustainable floodplain management including green infrastructure 5. Foster basin wide management planning on specific issues (e.g. ice on rivers) 6. Pilot / demonstrative actions <p>ACTION 2.</p>	<p>RCO 24 – Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters*</p> <p>RCO 122 – Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities</p>	<p>RCR 35 - Population benefiting from flood protection measures</p> <p>RCR 36 - Population benefiting from wildfire protection measures</p> <p>RCR37 Climate: Population protected from natural disaster (climate) (other than floods and wildfire)</p> <p>RCR 96 – Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and</p>

¹⁵ Based on short definition included in the working document on ERDF and Interreg indicators dated June 2020. Applicable to all similar mentions in this document. As, according to the draft Programme Template we will need to detail the financial allocation breakdown for each type of intervention (Article 17(4)(e)(vi), Article 17(9)(c)(v)) the most feasible solution for Interreg Programmes (as recommended by Interact) is to choose an Interreg-type of intervention here, such as former 135 or 133 ((new codes are 169 and 171). Consequently, the types of measures, actions and possible activities can be further mentioned in the description of the action, but without financial breakdown. This is applicable to all ERDF-type of interventions mentioned in the tables. The mention of these types of interventions here is thus only illustrative of what can be financed.

¹⁶ Based on the revised list included in the draft ERDF Regulation (February 2021). Applicable to all similar mentions in this document.

¹⁷ Based on the revised list included in the draft ERDF Regulation (February 2021). Applicable to all similar mentions in this document.

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.) ¹⁵	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators ¹⁶	Result indicators ¹⁷
			<p>(including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, and infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches)</p> <p>060 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, and infrastructures and ecosystem based approaches</p> <p>2.1.2 Measures for a better cooperation governance</p> <p>171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context</p> <p>Such as:¹⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of trends, mapping, joint strategic and institutional cooperation • Exchange of experience and joint training • Analysis of legal and administrative barriers • Pilot and demonstrative actions 	<p>1. Training, development capacities and procedures for better preparedness of disaster management</p> <p>2. Identification of innovative solutions to support disaster management (IT tools, VR, mobile apps, etc.) (pilot actions)</p> <p>3. Strengthening resiliency of national/regional authorities (this type of intervention foresees that a harmonised and standardised approach is developed at cross-border level and then applied at national regional level) (pilot actions / joint strategies)</p> <p>4. Support operative flood management planning on transboundary watersheds and the harmonization of available assets (pilot actions / joint strategies)</p> <p>ACTION 3</p> <p>1. Providing support for risk assessment (eg. with identification of hazards, assessing consequences and probabilities, characterization of risks and uncertainties) on regional, national, or macroregional level and related training and exchange of experience</p> <p>2. Supporting the monitoring and survey of different environmental risks</p> <p>3. Harmonising climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies and action plans to improve international collaboration and coordinate activities in the Danube Region</p>	<p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p> <p>RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders</p>	<p>risks related to human activities*</p> <p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p> <p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p>

¹⁸ Applicable to all other soft measures under code 171 mentioned below for PO 2 and PO4.

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.) ¹⁵	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators ¹⁶	Result indicators ¹⁷
				4. Exploring direct effects of climate change and implement mitigation and adaptation measures in environmental risk management plans (joint strategies) 5. Improve cooperation with regard to the use of climate change data and projections from Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and its Climate Data Store (CDS), including training and exchange of experience in these fields 6. Research in the field of climate change adaptation 7. Support natural (small) water retention measures 8. Pilot / demonstrative actions		
RSO 2.2 Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein	2.2 Promoting renewable energy resources as a cross-border territorial asset	2.2 Cooperation to valorise existing resources for renewable energies	2.2.1 Investment interventions 046 Renewable energy: wind 047 Renewable energy: solar 048 Renewable energy: biomass 049 Renewable energy: biomass with high GHG savings 051 Other renewable energy (including geothermal energy) 2.2.2 Measures for a better cooperation governance 171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	1. Training (physical and e-learning), best-practice sharing, capacity development for better understanding the advantages of RES utilization tailored to the needs of different stakeholder groups (political-legislative, technical, public, etc.) 2. Encourage cross-border project generation related to the spread of sustainable RES usage 3 Training (physical and e-learning), best-practice sharing, capacity development for uptake of renewable energy solutions tailored to the needs of different stakeholder groups (political-legislative, technical, public, etc.) 4. Projects of renewable energies on the high geothermal / photovoltaic / wind / biomass potential of the PA (pilot actions)	RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.) ¹⁵	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators ¹⁶	Result indicators ¹⁷
				5. Mapping renewable energies, assess barriers and drafting joint strategies for coordinated actions in the energy market		
RSO 2.7 Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	2.3 Investing in the joint protection of natural resources in the cross-border area and reducing all forms of pollution	2.3 Cooperation to protect natural resources across the border	<p>2.3.1 Investment interventions 078 Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure 082 Cycling infrastructure</p> <p>2.3.2 Measures for a better cooperation governance 171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context</p>	<p>1. Develop the Masterplan of border Natura2000 areas or sensible areas to focus on the identification of biodiversity hotspots, the common setting of conservation objectives, identifying priority sites for restoration, and measures for mainstreaming the biodiversity</p> <p>2. Projects to supporting sustainable use of protected areas in order to increase support and feeling of ownership of local people, like events (workshop, conference); report on best practices (case studies); workshops/study tours.</p> <p>3. Develop and/or implement conservation action plans and/or management plans for endangered umbrella species of Natura2000 protected areas</p> <p>3. Develop and/or implement conservation action plans and/or management plans focussed on certain species conservation aspects</p> <p>4. Develop and apply the most appropriate methods for prevention and control of IAS and management of their priority pathways in the border areas (pilot actions)</p> <p>5. Measures for restoration of the invaded ecosystems (pilot actions)</p> <p>6. Trainings, capacity building and awareness raising on biodiversity conservation</p> <p>7. Preservation and restoration of biodiversity and establishment and improvement of green infrastructure (pilot actions)</p>	<p>RCO36 Env: Green infrastructure (not related to climate change)</p> <p>RCO38 Env: Surface area of rehabilitated land supported</p> <p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p> <p>RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders</p>	<p>RCR52 Env: Rehabilitated land</p> <p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p> <p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p>

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.) ¹⁵	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators ¹⁶	Result indicators ¹⁷
				<p>8. Construction of exemplary, permanent green and recreational facilities (pilot actions)</p> <p>9. Promotion of ecosystem services to assess the progress of biodiversity promotion and conservation activities (pilot actions)</p> <p>10. Capacity building, training and awareness raising related to blue and green infrastructure</p> <p>11. Develop use of Strategic Environmental Assessments for decision making with integration of the blue-green infrastructures into planning documents</p> <p>12. Establish the cooperation between the MRS approaches in establishing ecological connectivity and Green Infrastructure.</p>		

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.)	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators	Result indicators
<p>RSO 4.4</p> <p>Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-</p>	<p>4.1 Improving the resilience of the cross-border health care infrastructure and services, including pilot actions for innovative and</p>	<p>4.1 Cooperation for improving the resilience and quality of health-care services and infrastructure</p>	<p>4.1.1 Investment interventions</p> <p>127 Health infrastructure</p> <p>128 Health equipment</p> <p>129 Health mobile assets</p> <p>130 Digitalisation in health care</p> <p>142 Measures for a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks, including promotion of physical activity¹⁹</p>	<p>1. Analysis of trends, needs, standards and barriers to cooperation for health-care services in the PA (including health status of population)</p> <p>2. Trainings for public employees and civil society in the field of health-care services</p>	<p>RCO69 Health: Capacity of health care facilities</p>	<p>RCR72 Health: Annual users of e-health care services</p> <p>RCR73 Health: Annual users of health care facilities</p>

¹⁹ The correlation with the selected specific objective shall be verified in the final version of the CRP and related annexes.

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.)	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators	Result indicators
and community-based care	community services		<p>145 Measures encouraging active and healthy ageing²⁰</p> <p>156 Measures to enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services</p> <p>157 Measures to enhancing the delivery of family and community-based care services</p> <p>158 Measures to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure)</p> <p>159 Measures to improve access to long-term care (excluding infrastructure)</p> <p>4.2.2 Measures for a better cooperation governance</p> <p>171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context</p>	<p>3. Networks to exchange good practices, peer learning in the field of health-care services</p> <p>4. Developing (transnational/cross-border) Action Plans and development strategies in the field of health (including joint response and civil protection mobilisation)</p> <p>5. Investment in infrastructure, computer programs/software and IT equipment/hardware for the support of eGovernance in the field of health</p> <p>6. Pilot / demonstrative projects in the field of health</p>	<p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p> <p>RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders</p>	<p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p> <p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p>
RSO 4.5 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	4.2 Increasing the role of culture and tourism as drivers of cooperation and socio-economic development in the cross-border area	4.2 Cooperation, networking and capacity building to valorise the cultural and natural heritage as drivers for socio-economic development, including for tourism and social cohesion	<p>4.2.1 Investment interventions</p> <p>163 Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and tourism services</p> <p>164 Protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural services</p> <p>165 Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage</p>	<p>1. Identification of possibilities for making the tourism offer sustainable or creating new sustainable tourism products of public interest (including analysis of trends, mapping resources, assessing barriers to cooperation)</p> <p>2. Development of such sustainable tourism offers and products incl. investments, embedded into joint tourism strategies for local development</p>	<p>RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported.</p> <p>RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly</p>	<p>RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported.</p> <p>RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up</p> <p>RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project</p>

²⁰ The correlation with the selected specific objective shall be verified in the final version of the CRP and related annexes.

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions (ref. Reg.)	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators	Result indicators
			<p>and eco-tourism other than Natura 2000 sites</p> <p>4.2.2 Measures for a better cooperation governance</p> <p>171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context</p>	<p>3. Territorial marketing initiatives (Marketing, communication, awareness raising campaigns on local resources and traditions)</p> <p>4. Trainings, capacity building and exchange of experience among cross-border actors</p> <p>5. Identification, mapping and further development of cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), including its preservation, protection, conservation and rehabilitation, as well as the development of joint promotion and conservation strategies and assessment of barriers to cooperation;</p> <p>6. Mapping of needs and possibilities for digitised cultural heritage and drafting joint strategies;</p> <p>7. Improving the interpretation / adopting innovative methods for territorial marketing through “Story telling models” (“Living history” and “Living heritage”)</p> <p>8. Pilot actions for innovative solutions (including the acquisition of hardware/software) and the creation of thematic routes, no specific commercial brand) for the protection and valorisation of cultural / rural / natural / religious heritage.</p> <p>9. Involving local authorities and communities (including schools) to build up intercultural and transcultural ties with different partners (skills development, educational contents and cultural initiatives, joint events etc.)</p>	RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators	Result indicators
ISO 1 (b) Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions	ISO 1.1 Promoting a better cooperation governance, based on increased trust, evidence and strengthened institutional cooperation	ISO 1.1 Multi-level governance involvement to assess and solve barriers to cooperation	171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	1. Cross-border studies on barriers to cooperation 2. Lessons learnt from previous experiences 3. Standards and legislation mapping 4. Drafting joint actions plans / strategies / institutional agreements 5. Joint trainings on how to tackle barriers to cooperation 6. Pilot / demonstrative actions to tackle barriers	RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly	RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project
ISO 1 (a) Institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders		ISO 1.2 Capacity building, studies, analysis, joint strategic planning exercises, driving evidence-based cooperation	171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	1. Cross-border studies on fields not covered under PO2 and PO4 selected objectives 2. Lessons learnt from previous experiences 3. Drafting joint actions plans / strategies / institutional agreements on Agenda 2030 and tailor-made solutions for integrated territorial mechanisms in the PA 4. Joint trainings, events and exchange of experience on cross-border strategic planning, project development and joint response 5. Small-scale pilot / demonstrative actions on fields not covered under PO2 and PO4 selected objectives focussed on policy / strategy / multiple funds coordination systems, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) at cross-border level	RCO83 Interreg: Strategies and action plans jointly developed RCO84 Interreg: Pilot actions developed and implemented jointly	RCR79 Interreg: Joint strategies and action plans taken up

Specific objectives (ref. Reg.)	Programme specific objectives	Investment priorities (specific)	Types of interventions	EUSDR embedding (indicative actions)	Output indicators	Result indicators
ISO 1 (c) Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions		ISO 1.3 Promoting people-to-people actions, social partners and community support initiatives	171 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	Small scale Trainings, events, peer exchanges and people-to-people actions	RCO87 Interreg: Organisations cooperating across borders	RCR84 Interreg: Organisations cooperating post-project

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WORKING DRAFT

5. Annex 3. Indicative categories of potential beneficiaries

Indicative categories of potential beneficiaries- general

- Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions
- National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices
- National/Natural Parks administrations
- Environmental protection institutions
- Higher education institutions, research institutions
- Non-governmental organisation
- Microregional associations
- Management organisations of Euroregions
- Museums, libraries, theatres
- Churches
- Offices of Cultural Heritage
- Chambers of commerce
- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- National organizations responsible for transport infrastructure development

Indicative categories of potential beneficiaries - PO2:

- Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions
- National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices
- National/Natural Parks administrations
- Environmental protection institutions
- Higher education institutions, research institutions
- Non-governmental organisation
- Micro regional associations
- Regional and county development agencies
- Management organisations of Euro regions
- Museums, libraries, theatres
- Churches
- Offices of Cultural Heritage
- Chambers of commerce
- EGTC
- National organizations responsible for transport infrastructure development
- Disaster management and emergency response organizations
- Fire services
- Ambulance services
- Police
- Environmental protection agencies (under subordination, coordination or authority of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, in Romania)
- Governmental offices located in the counties, in Hungary
- Water management authorities

Indicative categories of potential beneficiaries – PO4:

- Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions
- National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices
- Public health care institutions – hospitals and clinics, social institutions
- Medical higher education institutions, research institutes
- Non-governmental, non-profit organisation
- Churches
- National/Natural Parks administrations
- Environmental protection institutions
- Higher education institutions, research institutions
- Non-governmental organisation
- Micro regional associations
- Regional and county development agencies
- Management organisations of Euro regions
- Museums, libraries, theatres
- Offices of Cultural Heritage
- Chambers of commerce
- EGTC

Indicative categories of potential beneficiaries – ISO1:

- Local and county governments / administrations, authorities and their institutions
- National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices
- Management organisations of Euroregions
- EGTC
- Regional and county development agencies
- Chambers of commerce
- Educational and higher education institutions
- Governmental Offices located in the counties