



Annual Implementation Report 2021

of the

INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY
COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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PART A

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the continuous challenges confronted in 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic waves, Slovakia-Hungary Interreg V-A Programme (SKHU Programme) proceeded with the regular programme implementation tasks and the preparation of the next programming period.

With a view to alleviating the burden on public budgets responding to the public health crisis, the SKHU Programme was given the exceptional possibility to request¹, a co-financing rate of 100% to be applied for the accounting year 2020-2021 for all priority axes.

The temporary 100% co-financing rate also meant that the N+3 fulfilment of the yearly target was attained sooner. In figures it means that cumulative N+3 target for 2021 was 64 280 114,02 euro, which fulfilled by 67 085 012,22 euro.

As a whole in terms of financial management, the programme exceeded the cumulative decommitment target for 2021 by 4,4%.

This above result was supported by the constant monitoring of the reporting processes and the coordination with Slovak and Hungarian First Level Control body, which made it possible to cope with the objective, reaching the certification of N+3 target.

Similarly to last year this reflects the good governance (i.e. the MC ability to approve operations and its modifications timely, the project beneficiaries' eagerness to implement project activities with delays but still trying to keep spending forecasts and proper functioning of the management systems).

While in the year 2021 many tasks were still ongoing and processes were running in the implementation of the SKHU programme, main achievements could already be showcased.

Since 2016 SKHU Programme has launched eight calls for proposals for normal projects² and five for small projects in the Small Project Fund. Altogether 590 normal

¹ In line with specific measures as stated in the REGULATION (EU) 2020/558 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 April 2020 amending Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013 and (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

² Call for Proposals in SKHU Programme are the followings: SKHU/1601, SKHU/1701, SKHU/1703, SKHU/1704, SKHU/1801, SKHU/1802, SKHU/1901, SKHU/1902. In addition SKHU1702 (Blight) Call for Proposals was

projects have been submitted for assessment out of which 175 normal projects, 10 technical assistance projects and till now 268 small projects have been selected for financing. 6 of the awarded normal projects withdrew from contracting (1 from PA2, 3 from PA3 and 2 from PA4), while the Programme still has 3 projects under contracting (1 from PA1 and 2 from PA3). 53 projects already accomplished their implementation. 2021 was crucial for decision on the leftover funds from closed and withdrawn projects; additional financial support of two projects with strategic importance (reinforced by intergovernmental decision) was decided by the Monitoring Committee. These modifications needed slight reallocation in the programme allocation among Priority Axes as follows:

Priority Axis	Original allocation (EUR ERDF)	Proposed reallocation (EUR ERDF)	Modified allocation (EUR ERDF)
PA1	67 558 119	-856 934,17	66 701 184,83
PA2	22 477 769	-32 050,02	22 445 718,98
PA3	34 608 080	1 095 787,46	35 703 867,46
PA4	21 816 480	-206 803,27	21 609 676,73
PA5	9 348 539	0,00	9 348 539,00
Total	155 808 98	0,00	155 808 987,00

Communication activities played an important role in the successful programme implementation in 2021 with (online) events and social media presence.

From the 3rd quarter of 2021 an active campaign started to introduce the programme results via a social media platform (<https://www.facebook.com/skhu.eu>) to a wider audience, targeting the young adults living in the programme area. Every week two posts were published in three language mutations (SK, HU, ENG). As a first result the number of our Facebook page followers raised by 17% and the Facebook page reach by 14%.

In terms of *programme management*, one online monitoring committee (MC) meeting was organised and 13 written procedures were launched in 2021. The MC made decision or were informed on the followings:

- actual implementation phase and N+3 status of the SKHU Programme
- actual status of projects belonging to intervention field 032 (Local access roads) and 030 (Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes)
- evaluation of the SKHU Programme
- results of the social media campaign of the programme
- presentation of Interreg+ monitoring system
- state of play of remaining funds within the SKHU Programme
- modification requests of 53 projects under implementation; majority of the modification requests affected the duration of the projects (41 prolongation requests were managed (77%)), 11% the change of partnership' composition, 2% the withdrawal of a partner, and the rest requested the modification of project budget.

elaborated but afterwards withdrawn. The Call for Proposals launched under the Small Project Fund are not counted within.

The technical assistance (TA) activities were carried out according to the agreed plans. The Programme bodies implemented their activities based on their respective roles and work plans. Among the TA projects one project modification (reallocation between budget lines) was introduced (in case of TA projects SK-HU-TA/06 – Multi-annual framework for Technical Assistance).

The planning activities for the *new programming period 2021-2027* have continued with two meetings of the Programming Committee (PC). The 1st PC meeting took place in March with the approval on the 1st draft of Programme Document and discussion on the actual status of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The 2nd Programming Committee meeting was held on 28 October 2021 for the discussion and approval of the 2nd draft of Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme (IP) and draft SEA documents by the members. After the approval the actual versions the draft IP and the draft SEA documents were published for public consultation. The public consultation of the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme document took place between 25 November 2021 and 31 December 2021. Meanwhile the SEA draft report was also available for commenting.

All of the above confirms that both the implementation of the current and the planning of the future Programme are on a solid path even though the COVID-19 health emergency situation hit both the Programme and projects hard.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1. Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA1	Nature and culture	<p>SKHU/1601</p> <p>In the framework of the SKHU/1601 CfP 29 projects were financed under PA1. The majority of the projects selected for financing finalized their activities in 2018-2020 (altogether 19 projects meaning 65%), but the implementation of 10 projects (35%) continued in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the suppliers, traders and beneficiaries many prolongation requests were submitted by the Lead Beneficiaries as most project activities were delayed.</p> <p>SKHU/1801 SME Call</p> <p>Implementation of 5 out of 6 selected projects for financing under the SKHU/1801 CfP continued in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all 5 projects submitted prolongation requests till 31/07/2021 as most of their project activities were delayed by the restrictions imposed by the governments of Europe.</p> <p>Small Project Fund</p> <p>Eastern Programming Area – Via Carpatia EGTC</p> <p>Altogether 31 small projects were selected for financing in two Call for Proposals; two small projects were withdrawn from implementation, 9 small projects were implemented in 2019-2020, while the remaining 20 small projects finalized their activities during 2021.</p> <p>Western Programming Area – Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC</p> <p>Altogether 30 small projects were selected for financing in two Call for Proposals; 8 small projects were implemented in 2019-2020, while 21 small projects finalized their activities during 2021.</p> <p>SKHU/1902</p> <p>69 project proposals were submitted for the SKHU/1902 call for proposals in PA1, out of them 22 were approved for implementation. Two PA1 projects were contracted by the end of the 2020, while further 19 project contracts were concluded and started their implementation in 2021.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		By the end of 2021 one project was still pending (SKHU/1902/1.1/082, Bike Paradise).
PA2	Enhancing cross-border mobility	<p>SKHU/1601</p> <p>The implementation of 6 out of 7 approved projects under the SKHU/1601 Call for proposals was ongoing in 2021.</p>
PA3	Promoting sustainable and quality employment	<p>SKHU/1703, SKHU/1802, SKHU/1901</p> <p>As the projects in TAPE follow each other in predefined sequences the contracting procedure with the individual TAPE projects continued in 2021. In case of 12 projects subsidy contracts were signed by both parties and implementation started in the relevant period. In case of 4 projects the contracting will presumably take place in 2022.</p> <p>Altogether 45 projects were contracted in PA3 within 8 TAPes.</p>
PA4	Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people	<p>SKHU/1601</p> <p>The implementation of the 28 projects of SKHU/1601 CfP was closed by 2021.</p> <p>Small Project Fund</p> <p>Eastern Programming Area – Via Carpatia EGTC</p> <p>A CfP was launched on 1 December 2020 for the remaining budget in SPF. Submission deadline was 1 January 2021, which was prolonged until 15 February 2021. For the Call for Proposals 42 small projects were submitted.</p> <p>Significant proportion of applicants was associations (18 applications (43%)). Cities and municipalities submitted 12 applications (28%). All the other applications were submitted by e.g. regional development agencies, cultural foundations etc.</p> <p>Altogether 32 applications were forwarded to quality assessment (10 projects (24%) were rejected for formal and eligibility reason).</p> <p>27 projects were selected to be financed under the CfP out of them 4 (15%) were withdrawn before implementation while all the others were contracted.</p> <p>Western Programming Area – Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>A CfP (SKHU/WETA/2101) was launched on 3 November 2021 in the framework of PA4, with a budget of 618.176,52 EUR ERDF. The budget of the CfP consisted of unused funds from already closed and withdrawn projects (1 project was withdrawn from the CfP SKHU/WETA/1801 and 14 from the SKHU/WETA/1901). By the deadline (3 December 2021) 18 projects were submitted and as a result of administrative and quality assessment 16 projects were proposed to be contracted.</p> <p>SKHU/1902</p> <p>54 project proposals were submitted for the SKHU/1902 call for proposals in PA4. Based on the MC decision 24 were approved for implementation, and 8 were put on reserve list. During 2021 one project was withdrawn and 3 projects from the reserve list could be financed from savings of closed projects.</p>
PA5	Technical assistance	<p>TA Beneficiaries proceeded with their tasks related to the overall management, implementation, control and audit as well as the visibility and publicity of the Programme. One of the highlighted tasks this year was the completion of the N+3 target, which required the close cooperation of the MA, NA, FLCs and JS during the whole year of 2021. Due to the joint coordination certification, reporting and monitoring of costs were speeding up and resulted in reaching, even overcoming the target number by the end of the year.</p>

3.2. Common and programme specific indicators

Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective)

1. Table

Priority Axis	ID	Indicators	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	2019	2020	2021 ³	2022	2023	Observations to data provided in 2021
PA1	R110	Total number of visitors in the region	Number/ year	7 074 754	2012	7 800 000	nr	12 011 536	nr			In 2021 data regarding result indicator could not be collected.
PA2	R210	Average distance between border crossing points	km	21,9	2014	18,35	nr	18,35	nr			
	R221	Change in the volume of cross-border public transport	persons	382 849	2013	450 000	nr	8725	nr			
	R222	Change in the volume of cross-border good transport	EUR	0.00	0	0.00	nr	n.r	nr			
PA3	R310	Increase in the employment rate	%	63,2	2013	65,2	nr	70,2	nr			
PA4	R410	Level of cross-border cooperation	score	3,4	2015	4,1	nr	3,4	nr			

³ According to Article 46 of CPR: “The information in points (h) and (j) (‘contribution of the financial instrument to the achievement of the indicators of the priority or measure concerned’)) of the first subparagraph may be included only in the annex to the annual implementation reports submitted in 2017 and 2019 as well as in the final implementation report “ Therefore the report covering 2021 should not contain information on result indicators.

Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority)

2. Table

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE											Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA1	CO01	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support ⁴	enterprises	40		0	0	0	16	16	36	36			36 Beneficiaries are selected within the operations targeting productive investment.
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	0	0	20	36			Number of Beneficiaries within the contracted operations targeting productive investment.
	CO02	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants ⁵	enterprises	40		0	0	0	16	16	36	36			36 Beneficiaries are selected within the operations targeting productive investment.
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	0	0	20	36			Number of Beneficiaries within the contracted operations targeting productive investment.
	CO09	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Sustainable tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	30 000		0	0	434 694	438 694	438 694	713 471	663 035			Slight decrease in the number of forecast provided by the beneficiaries is due to the fact that values in 2020 and before contained also the baseline values.
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	85 779	459 013	1 000 366	1 042 367			
	CO13	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	2,80		0	0	2,8	3,03	3,03	5,34	5,34			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	1,90	2,40	2,7	3,095			
	CO23	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	115 100		0	0	123 042	128 671	128 671	128 677	128 677			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	45 314	46 262	123 038	123 045,18			
O11	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	km	120		0	0	1 971	772,18	772,18	862,62	800,066			The forecast of selected operations provided by the beneficiaries of the SKHU1902 CfP diminished as a result of the consultations during contracting	
	Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	10,40	488,42	742,92	751,84				

⁴ Based on the Guidance document of monitoring and evaluation (European Cohesion Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Concept and Recommendations, the enterprise is an 'organisation producing products or services to satisfy market needs in order to reach profit. The legal form of enterprise may be various (self-employed persons, partnerships, etc.).'

⁵ Based on the Guidance document of monitoring and evaluation (European Cohesion Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Concept and Recommendations, this indicator is the Subset of 'Number of enterprises receiving support'.

Priority Axis		ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
						2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA2	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	3,15		0	0	0	3,15	3,15	3,15	3,2				
	Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	0					
	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	piece	10		0	0	5	10	10	10	10				
	Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	1	3	5	5				
	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O222	Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme	piece	n.r		0	0	0	n.r	n.r	nr	nr				Modification of the CP approved by COM on 29 October 2018
	Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	n.r	n.r	nr	nr				Modification of the CP approved by COM on 29 October 2018

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA3	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support ⁶	enterprises	10		0	0	0	0	0	168	42	41			In case of CO01 (outputs to be delivered by selected operations, forecast) the number diminished by 2021 as one of the project Beneficiaries changed its activities within the project and cannot be considered as profit-oriented.
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]				0	0	0	0	0	0	34	40			
	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants ⁷	enterprises	10		0	0	0	0	0	26	42	41			In case of CO02 (outputs to be delivered by selected operations, forecast) the number diminished by 2021 as one of the project Beneficiaries changed its activities within the project and cannot be considered as profit-oriented.
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	0	0	34	40			
	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	FTE	20		0	0	0	0	0	89	95	86			The forecast of selected operations provided by the beneficiaries of the SKHU 1802 and 1901 CFP diminished as a result of the consultations during contracting
	Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	0	0	17	41,34				
	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	11		0	0	0	0	0	7,25	7,25	7,25			

⁶ Based on the Guidance document of monitoring and evaluation (European Cohesion Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Concept and Recommendations, the enterprise is an 'organisation producing products or services to satisfy market needs in order to reach profit. The legal form of enterprise may be various (self-employed persons, partnerships, etc.).'

⁷ Based on the Guidance document of monitoring and evaluation (European Cohesion Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Concept and Recommendations, this indicator is the Subset of 'Number of enterprises receiving support'.

Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	0	1,925			
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO39	Urban development specific indicators: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square meters	3000		0	0	0	0	22 468	19 819	20 305,33			
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	5 413,04	7 923,72			

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
		Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	persons	100		0	0	0	0	2 682	1 732	1 533		The forecasted number diminished due to the governmental restrictions regarding the Covid waves on personal presence on trainings
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	50	312			
		Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	number	10		0	0	0	0	9	9	9		
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	0			
PA3 cont.		Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O312	Number of women in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44)	persons	50		0	0	0	0	772	39	178		
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	105			
		Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O313	Number of participants from groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma in joint local employment initiatives and joint trainings (participants of employment initiatives from above CO44)	persons	25		0	0	0	0	160	95	30		The forecasted number diminished: 1. due to the governmental restrictions regarding the Covid waves (uncertainties of personal presence), 2. during the contracting consultancies the Beneficiaries realized that the participation of this group is really sensitive to count if the project itself has other target

																group as well, not only groups at risk of discrimination, including Roma
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	0	27				
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	number	15		0	0	0	0	35	31	33				
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]						0	0	0	0	0	3	4				

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
PA4	O411	Number of cross-border products and services developed	Number	20		0	0	115	126	126	169	168			One of the projects under CfP1902 withdrew from contracting
						0	0	0	30	117	123	159			
	O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	Number	40		0	0	108	110	110	166	166			
						0	0	0	25	118	120	140			
	O413	Number of cross-border events	Number	400		0	0	590	769	769	873	1079			
						0	0	0	229	712	706	746			
O414	Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF	Number	200		0	0	0	200	200	200	259				
					0	0	0	85	141	144	183				

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE											Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA4 cont.	O415	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of people participated in cooperation	Number	10 000		0	0	32 803	38 462	38 462	50 966	53125			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	14 810	48 660	49 152	50471			
	O416	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of women participated in cooperation	Number	4 000		0	0	16 416	18 870	18 870	22 333	22 064			One of the projects under CfP1902 withdrew from contracting
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	7 731	25 080	25 152	27 624			
	O417	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of participants from socially marginalized groups, including Roma	Number	300		0	0	3 059	3 178	3 178	3 247	3 285			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	1 491	4 176	4 872	5 295			

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA5	O511	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	FTE	30		0	30	30	30	30	30	30			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	11	11	30	30	30	30			
	O512	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of publicity events	Number of events	15		0	15	15	15	15	15	15			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	21	22	30	42 ⁸	42	42			
	O513	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of studies and evaluation documents	Finished studies and evaluation documents	2		0	2	2	2	2	2	2			
		Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0	1	2	2	2			
O514	Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Number of training initiatives for the management bodies	Training initiatives	15		0	15	15	15	15	15	15				
	Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					0	1	3	24	52	52	54				

⁸ 8 events organized by the JS (7 info days and EC Day event) including the 2 info days that were co-organized by Košice IP plus 2-2 events by IP Bratislava and Nitra.

3.3. Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

3. Table

PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target 2023	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations
PA1	Output	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants ⁹	enterprises	0	40	0	0	0	36	36			
	Key imp.step	K0001	Number of calls for SMEs	number	1	1	0	1	1	1	1			
	Output	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	0	2,8	0	1,9	2,4	2,7	3,095			
	Key imp.step	K0002	Elaborated technical documentation for road construction	number	1	4	0	2	2	2	4			
	Output	O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	km	9	120	0	10,4	488,42	742,92	751,84			
	Output	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	28 000	115 100	0	45 314	46 262	123 038	123 045,18			
	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	4 207 597	79 480 140,50	0	3 121 015	12 946 189	30 134 047	52 218 393			

⁹ Based on the Guidance document of monitoring and evaluation (European Cohesion Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Concept and Recommendations, the enterprise is an 'organisation producing products or services to satisfy market needs in order to reach profit. The legal form of enterprise may be various (self-employed persons, partnerships, etc.).'

PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target 2023	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations
PA2	output	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	0	3,15	0	0	0	0	0			
	Key imp.step	K0002	Elaborated technical documentation for road construction	NA	1	3	0	4	4	4	4			
	output	O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	piece	2	10	0	1	3	5	5			
	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	1,706,316	26,444,434.50	0	141 044	910 127	2 167 766	7 955 699			
PA3	output	O311	Number of (integrated territorial) action plans	number	0	10	0	0	0	0	0			
	Key imp.step	K0003	Selected action plans	number	5	10	0	9	9	9	9			
	output	CO44	Labour market and training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	persons	30	100	0	0	0	50	312			
	output	O314	Number of new business services promoting employment and consultancy services	number	5	15	0	0	0	3	4			
	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	2 627 144	40 715 389	0	0	0	1 528 068	11 296 098			

PA	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target 2023	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations
PA4	Output	O411	Number of cross-border products and services developed	Number	4	20	0	30	117	123	159			
	Output	O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	Number	5	40	0	25	118	120	140			
	Output	O413	Number of cross border events	Number	100	400	0	229	712	706	746			
	Output	O414	Number of documents published or elaborated in the framework of SPF	Number	50	200	0	85	141	144	158			
	Financial	F0001	Total amount of submitted expenditure for validation	EUR	1 656 117	25 666 448	0	1 788 499	5 172 391	7 095 023	12 680 461			

3.4. Financial data

Financial information at priority axis and programme level

4. Table

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
The financial allocation of the priority axis based on the Cooperation programme						Cumulative data on the financial progress of the Cooperation programme					
Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support* (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Total funding (EUR)	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%) [column 7/ column 5 x 100]	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority ¹⁰	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%) [column 10/ column 5 x 100]	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF		Total eligible cost	78471983	85%	78813239.22	100.43%	77129476.90	36255127.46	46%	59
PA2	ERDF		Total eligible cost	26406728	85%	26444434.14	100.14%	26444434.14	5402659.16	20%	7
PA3	ERDF		Total eligible cost	42004551	85%	43238847.4	102.94%	40537082.47	6862609.60	16%	47
PA4	ERDF		Total eligible cost	25423151	85%	26761201.53	105.26%	26409425.12	8273523.10	33%	56
PA5	ERDF		Total eligible cost	10998282	85%	10998281.19	100%	10998281.19	5250684.10	48%	10
Total				183304695		186256003.48	101.61%	181518699.82	62044603.42	34%	179

¹⁰ Corresponding to the total amount of payment claims submitted until 15/12/2021 to the COM.

Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the transmission made by 31 January¹¹

5. Table

Priority Axis	Characteristics of expenditure	Categorisation dimension								Financial data			
		PA1	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimensions	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic priority dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	HU101	344,767.49	293,052.36	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	HU102	788,332.31	709,447.58	4,991.70	1
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	HU311	365,129.60	315,339.20	162,502.88	1
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	HU313	657,350.00	564,482.50	529,538.59	1
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	HU323	534,923.90	461,979.69	287,280.24	1
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	SK010	2,882,185.36	2,800,954.69	25,553.65	2
PA1	ERDF	075	01	07	07	06		15	SK042	1,552,787.43	1,321,611.21	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	077	01	07	07	06		15	HU102	1,304,198.20	1,235,299.30	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	077	01	07	07	06		15	HU323	1,915,163.78	1,638,623.28	775,887.82	4
PA1	ERDF	077	01	07	07	06		15	SK023	1,481,051.22	1,451,801.22	49,373.90	1
PA1	ERDF	077	01	07	07	06		15	SK042	813,813.66	788,526.16	16,319.99	1
PA1	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06		15	HU101	1,215,082.19	1,215,082.19	1,011,838.30	1
PA1	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06		01	HU212	1,093,136.37	1,093,136.37	918,005.40	1
PA1	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06		15	SK010	2,863,279.35	2,851,901.15	2,221,273.99	1
PA1	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06		15	SK023	359,316.88	359,316.88	290,095.35	1
PA1	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		01	HU313	778,106.52	778,106.52	651,220.25	1
PA1	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		15	SK042	2,160,262.43	2,116,562.13	338,633.40	2
PA1	ERDF	090	01	07	07	06		15	HU102	1,999,890.00	1,994,589.50	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	090	01	07	07	06		15	HU221	2,754,608.10	2,754,608.10	1,897,998.60	1
PA1	ERDF	090	01	07	07	06		15	HU311	4,693,927.99	4,693,927.99	2,999,727.09	2
PA1	ERDF	090	01	07	07	06		15	HU312	991,979.00	991,979.00	62,240.96	1
PA1	ERDF	090	01	07	07	06		15	SK023	1,975,610.00	1,876,829.50	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		15	HU311	1,616,098.40	1,616,098.40	1,319,466.83	1
PA1	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		15	HU313	2,210,528.09	2,163,997.88	1,770,530.15	2
PA1	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		15	SK021	406,783.52	406,783.52	326,936.17	1
PA1	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		19	SK023	3,714,437.26	3,658,747.77	2,871,671.76	2
PA1	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		19	SK032	1,846,945.06	1,846,945.06	1,538,219.93	2
PA1	ERDF	091	01	07	07	06		15	SK042	409,590.00	399,334.00	71,915.62	1
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		15	HU212	1,833,047.00	1,833,047.00	206,001.42	1
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		15	HU221	974,201.69	974,201.69	786,125.34	1
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		15	HU313	1,531,043.43	1,506,417.80	1,259,997.69	1

¹¹ Data provided is in line with the data requested in table "Annex II Transmission of financial data" by the Certifying Authority

Priority Axis	Characteristics of expenditure	Categorisation dimension								Financial data			
		PA1	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimensions	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic priority dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		15	SK021	1,100,539.63	1,100,539.63	919,797.22	1
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		23	SK023	4,622,781.04	4,622,781.04	2,602,270.77	2
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		15	SK032	1,460,765.80	1,460,765.80	530,998.78	1
PA1	ERDF	092	01	07	07	06		15	SK042	1,833,046.40	1,833,046.40	339,166.74	1
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		23	HU101	6,364,354.01	6,217,359.73	3,727,120.93	3
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		15	HU311	3,678,851.20	3,678,851.20	1,549,094.04	2
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		15	HU323	1,312,987.00	1,247,337.65	1,067,043.88	1
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		15	SK010	620,179.18	589,170.21	2,593.06	1
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		23	SK021	3,071,449.91	3,043,043.91	1,336,732.68	2
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		15	SK023	1,495,550.00	1,495,550.00	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		15	SK032	3,609,999.44	3,609,999.44	1,766,908.52	2
PA1	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		15	SK042	1,575,159.38	1,518,302.25	490,025.63	2
PA2	ERDF	030	01	07	07	07		12	HU101	6,759,748.00	6,759,748.00	1,351,347.33	1
PA2	ERDF	030	01	07	07	07		12	SK010	10,429,093.22	10,429,093.22	94,631.79	1
PA2	ERDF	042	01	07	07	07		12	HU101	5,366,124.90	5,366,124.90	2,148,413.05	1
PA2	ERDF	043	01	07	07	07		12	HU212	921,155.00	921,155.00	750,931.73	1
PA2	ERDF	043	01	07	07	07		12	HU311	987,591.61	987,591.61	640,146.81	1
PA2	ERDF	043	01	07	07	07		12	SK023	980,954.70	980,954.70	384,419.23	1
PA2	ERDF	044	01	07	07	07		12	HU212	999,766.71	999,766.71	32,769.22	1
PA3	ERDF	032	01	07	07	08		12	HU101	15,052,093.92	15,052,093.92	1,511,749.38	3
PA3	ERDF	055	01	07	07	08		19	HU311	1,583,025.51	1,535,399.02	460,899.80	1
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		07	HU101	534,942.25	457,397.16	377,830.20	1
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		07	HU102	1,401,232.68	1,040,832.41	874,571.72	1
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		03	HU311	2,054,141.17	1,520,915.42	40,202.10	2
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		07	HU313	2,008,450.98	1,476,487.68	526,550.65	2
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		07	HU323	776,238.39	570,739.26	62,533.76	1
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		03	SK010	1,494,225.00	1,270,091.25	145,775.00	1
PA3	ERDF	072	01	07	07	08		03	SK032	3,164,603.24	2,779,900.62	0.00	2
PA3	ERDF	073	01	07	07	08		07	HU323	291,428.80	228,799.98	21,368.04	1
PA3	ERDF	073	01	07	07	08		03	SK023	1,397,254.00	1,383,108.90	63,337.11	2
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		24	HU101	560,481.28	558,481.28	156,794.12	3
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	HU102	1,163,355.09	1,055,219.73	305,788.17	3
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		24	HU212	809,799.80	809,799.80	135,404.52	3
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		24	HU311	1,797,256.97	1,787,442.52	262,662.29	3
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		24	HU313	1,352,056.40	1,332,728.07	533,119.11	3

Priority Axis	Characteristics of expenditure	Categorisation dimension								Financial data			
		PA1	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimensions	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic priority dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		24	SK010	716,468.85	716,468.85	241,528.32	1
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		21	SK023	5,866,458.14	5,774,204.70	928,483.53	6
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		19	SK032	130,008.89	123,508.43	32,124.79	1
PA3	ERDF	102	01	07	07	08		24	SK042	218,052.55	218,052.55	81,114.85	1
PA3	ERDF	103	01	07	07	08		19	HU313	243,732.46	238,980.08	9,728.31	2
PA3	ERDF	104	01	07	07	08		24	HU212	172,250.00	172,250.00	0.00	1
PA3	ERDF	109	01	07	07	08		21	HU313	187,991.53	178,591.93	0.00	1
PA3	ERDF	109	01	07	07	08		21	SK023	154,210.63	146,500.04	0.00	1
PA3	ERDF	109	01	07	07	08		19	SK042	109,088.87	109,088.87	46,063.44	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		20	HU101	795,124.40	792,947.70	138,997.81	2
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		21	HU102	509,715.30	496,742.92	352,845.62	2
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		24	HU212	391,020.00	374,967.00	18,836.69	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		20	HU311	706,893.89	686,043.89	112,817.69	2
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		21	HU313	345,796.05	345,796.05	914.20	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		24	SK010	398,079.52	398,079.52	176,661.95	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		20	SK021	399,357.65	399,357.65	108,658.13	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		20	SK023	400,000.00	400,000.00	0.00	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		20	SK032	399,954.71	387,464.71	107,113.09	1
PA4	ERDF	096	01	07	07	11		19	SK042	740,001.08	729,294.16	183,515.00	2
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		19	HU101	965,419.24	945,311.26	349,504.45	5
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	HU102	177,968.40	177,968.40	14,978.62	1
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		20	HU212	199,785.62	199,785.62	165,368.38	1
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	HU221	872,975.16	854,681.09	295,979.11	3
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	HU311	880,287.85	870,712.85	700,548.86	2
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	HU312	175,463.20	175,463.20	19,702.83	1
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	HU313	635,319.84	612,488.44	251,028.43	3
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	SK010	509,794.00	501,361.27	186,203.07	3
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		21	SK023	461,067.00	438,013.65	280,662.53	2
PA4	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		21	SK042	501,315.16	492,349.68	13,944.81	2
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		24	HU101	1,256,683.60	1,215,062.12	938,161.68	5
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		21	HU212	5,833,377.21	5,823,941.03	600,821.17	2
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		24	HU221	464,458.41	455,744.47	336,875.91	1
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		21	HU311	660,477.45	627,623.43	501,294.60	3
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		13	HU312	427,447.40	427,447.40	273,131.14	1
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		24	HU313	453,074.03	441,687.78	362,425.25	1

Priority Axis	Characteristics of expenditure	Categorisation dimension								Financial data			
		PA1	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimensions	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic priority dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		24	HU323	769,432.00	737,235.75	354,487.54	3
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		24	SK023	471,249.93	454,523.15	386,134.15	1
PA4	ERDF	120	01	07	07	11		24	SK042	5,959,663.43	5,947,330.93	930,436.58	2
PA5	ERDF	121	01	07	07	12		24	SK010	2,302,995.77	2,302,995.77	1,267,700.00	1
PA5	ERDF	121	01	07	07	12		24	HU101	7,966,285.42	7,966,285.42	3,457,052.41	5
PA5	ERDF	122	01	07	07	12		24	HU101	450,000.00	450,000.00	150,936.20	1
PA5	ERDF	123	01	07	07	12		24	SK010	93,000.00	93,000.00	30,290.38	1
PA5	ERDF	123	01	07	07	12		24	SK042	93,000.00	93,000.00	0.00	1
PA5	ERDF	123	01	07	07	12		24	SK023	93,000.00	93,000.00	31,187.72	1
Total	ERDF									186,256,003.48	181,518,699.82	62,044,603.64	179
Grand total										186,256,003.48	181,518,699.82	62,044,603.64	179

Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

5. Table

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support ¹² envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area	0	0%	0	0%

¹² ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Not relevant in the reporting period.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

Most of the difficulties highlighted in the Annual Implementation Report 2020 remained unchanged. However the measures implemented by the Programme proved to ease the burden caused by external factors.

5.1. COVID-19 pandemic and Cooperation Programme modification

As the pandemic continued with its waves spreading in Europe both Slovakia and Hungary introduced governmental measures in 2021.

During the pandemic waves construction activities slowed down, the supplies arriving from abroad were delayed due to the border crossing limitations for non-essential goods. Soft activities like children camps, trainings, festivals or village days – any event relying on personal participation could not have been organized.

These issues seriously endangered the cash flow of the Programme as the reimbursements were not as high as planned. Consequently, reaching the N+3 target for 2021 became a challenge. As the situation in our Programme was unfortunately not exceptional but emerged in all member states in the EU the European Commission addressed the issue with specific measures as stated in the REGULATION (EU) 2020/558 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 April 2020 amending Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013 and (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. With a view to alleviating the burden on public budgets responding to the public health crisis, Member States were given the exceptional possibility to request, for cohesion policy programmes, a co-financing rate of 100% to be applied for the accounting year 2020-2021, in accordance with budget appropriations and subject to available funding.

The programme requested the temporary increase of the co-financing rate to 100% in all priority axes to ease burden due to COVID-19 crisis. Co-financing rate of 100 % was applied to expenditures declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting 1 July 2020 and ending 30 June 2021 for all priority axes of the Programme.

5.2. Larger infrastructural projects

Larger infrastructural projects (roads, bridges, larger industrial investments) submitted under the different call for proposals have already been in danger because of the permanent rise in price level in construction industry.

Project no. SKHU1601/2.2.1/362 (Neszmély – Radvan nad Dunajom ferry project) was mentioned in the AIR2020 as one of the projects affected by the financial problems. In order to solve financial problems Hungarian partners (LB, B1) were provided with additional financial resources from the Hungarian Government, which was guaranteed by the Government Decree

no 1936/2020. (XII. 17.). By the end of 2021 all Beneficiaries within the project could start the implementation of their project parts.

Two other TAPE projects (SKHU/1802/3.1/009 – Hit the Road and SKHU/1802/3.1/010 – Ride Up!) with large infrastructural investments also indicated that during the tendering process they received tenders with higher offer prices than the available budget in the ERDF Subsidy Contract.

In case of **project no. SKHU/1802/3.1/009 (Hit the Road!)**, the main activity of the project is the construction of Ipoly/Ipeľ bridge at Drégelypalánk (HU) and Ipeľske Predmostie (SK) with road connections leading to the bridgeheads at each side. The tender procedure for the construction of the bridge and the Hungarian road infrastructure was launched jointly by LB and B1 both acting as Contracting Authority in December 2020. The procedure was conducted successfully, with works contracts signed on 29 of July 2021. The implementation period for each part is 24 months. The tender procedure for constructing the Slovak road infrastructure was also successfully closed by B1, and as a result the contractor started the work on the field at the beginning of November 2021.

Due to higher offer prices than the available support in the ERDF Subsidy Contract for both parts further financial allocation was needed to be involved to finance the project. By October 2021 the negotiations were finished between all interested parties, and the missing funds were officially ensured from two sources. One part of the additional amount was provided from the unspent and reclaimed ERDF budget of the Programme, while the other part was granted by the Hungarian Government. Eventually the service contracts could enter into force, and the field works could start.

In case of **project no. SKHU/1802/3.1/010 (Ride Up!)** the main activity of the project is the construction of Ipeľ bridge at Órhalom (HU) and Vrbovka (SK) with road connections leading to the bridgeheads at each side. Tender procedure for construction of the bridge and the Hungarian road infrastructure were launched by LB and B1 both acting as Contracting Authorities on December 2020. The procedure was conducted successfully, with works contracts signed on 29 July 2021. Implementation period for each part is 24 months.

Due to higher offer prices than the available support in the ERDF Subsidy Contract for both parts further financial allocation was needed to be involved to finance the project, therefore from the unspent and reclaimed ERDF contribution on programme level 1.401.016,67 EUR additional ERDF amount was allocated to the project implementation beside the additional Hungarian co-financing.

The Lead Beneficiary (Vodohospodárska výstavba, štátny podnik) of the **project no. SKHU/1601/2.1/361 (Bridge between Dobrohošť (SK) and Dunakiliti (HU))** and NIF Zrt. as the Beneficiary of the project is planning to implement the pedestrian and bicycle bridge and the facilities related to the bridge.

As a joint contracting authority with NIF Zrt., the Vodohospodárska výstavba, štátny podnik published the Call for Tenders on 20 November 2020 in the TED of the European Union.

As a result of the public procurement procedure the LB withdrew its announcement of the assessment on 7 December 2021. On 13 December 2021 the Tenderer with the lowest bid price appealed against the decision, therefore the procedure was suspended until the decision of the Public Procurement Office (45 days).

The construction of the bridge takes approximately 18 months of implementation therefore the public procurement procedure shall be finalized and realization of the project shall be started by June 2022 as the latest.

5.3. Small project fund

Both managing EGTCs in the Eastern and Western programming area were in full speed of implementing the Small Project Fund. However, the pandemic was affecting all small projects as well. Mostly because the small projects are supporting people to people actions, which were seriously restricted during most of the year of 2020 and 2021 as well. Procurements of small projects were also delayed due to the border crossing limitations for goods. Soft activities within small projects (ie. children camps, trainings, workshops, festivals or village days – any event relying on personal participation) were also postponed or reorganized using online platforms.

5.4. E-cohesion

The INTERREG+ system development project last until 30 September 2021 and followed by continuous maintenance and support period throughout the whole implementation of the Programme. According to the contractual time plan, the system went live with the following functionalities as listed below in 2021:

- TA Project Module, Programme-level Financial Module (submission of Application for Payments to EC and Annual Accounts Modules), planning migration procedure of all implementation and financial data from IMIS 2014-2020 – 26/02/2021;
- Irregularity, Recovery and Closure Module – 31/05/2021;
- e-Application and Assessment Module for the 2021-2027 period – 31/08/2021; and
- Service functions, closing of the development project and handover of the source code of the INTERREG+ system – by 30 September 2021.

The system implementation finished on 30 September 2021, covering all functionalities. Migration of data from IMIS to INTERREG+ and in case of irregularities and recoveries recorded on paper to the INTERREG+ concluded in 2021.

While INTERREG+ gradually replaced IMIS 2014-2020, it was developed with a view on the requirements of the 2021-2027 period as well – with the ultimate goal to be prepared as a new updated system for the next programme. As a first step, the application module for 2021-2027 was launched on 31/08/2021. Additional adjustments to the next programming period will be carried out in further developments.

5.5. Indicators

Based on the recommendations laid down in the *Acceptance letter of the Annual Implementation Report 2020 of the European Commission* in this section we are providing explanations to point 3.2 (Common and programme specific indicators) of present report by priority axis.

Priority Axis 1 – Nature and Culture

Indicator CO09

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO09	Sustainable tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	30 000	663035
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					1042367

Comparison to the relatively low number of target visits/year in 2023 (30.000) the reasons for reaching high actual achieved value are the following:

- According to the definition of the CO09 indicator, it measures the “*ex-ante estimated* increase in number of visits to a site in the year following project completion. Valid for site improvements that aim to attract and accept visitors for sustainable tourism. It includes sites with or without previous tourism activity (e.g. nature parks or buildings converted to museum). One visitor can make multiple visits; a group of visitors count as many visits as many members the group has.” Therefore, by definition of the indicator the value reported by beneficiaries represents *ex-ante* estimation which cannot be realistically transferred to actual achievements.
- Couple of project locations foresee much higher *ex-ante* estimated increase in number of visits than it was originally planned at designing the programme due to synergy with other projects or being outstanding natural/cultural landscape/place.
 - For example project of Budapest Zoo ([HUSK/1601/1.1/051, ZOO4NAT](#)) after implementation attracts 209.253 visitors contrary to the planned 9.000 (numbers are calculated from the entrance tickets) as they could provide comprehensive program after project implementation for presenting their results in rescue work to general public.
 - A nice example of environmental friendly use of natural resources is the project SK-HU FOR FORESTS II (project no. SKHU/1601/1.1/010). During the project implementation the forestry educational path "Počúvadlo" - investment aimed at increasing attractiveness of the project area – was renovated. The forestry educational path was visited by 71.603 visitors (contrary to the planned 1.500)

which data was counted by the entrance gate, based on the automatic visitor counter.

- The RailGate (SKHU/1601/1.1/031) project was supporting the narrow gauge railways as attractions and gates to nature. Miskolc (HU) and Košice (SK) historic narrow gauge railways (HNGR) have common history and belong to common cultural heritage in the Central Europe. Over time both HNGRs have been transformed into distinctive specific thematic tourist destinations and „gates to nature”. The overall objective of the project was to restore and preserve this cultural heritage and through common solutions to enhance their attractiveness to visitors and ensure their long-term and sustainable use. In the framework of the project inter alia two locomotives were purchased and renovated and set of movables and facilities was bought, replica of small wagon was reconstructed. Entry stations and railways in Košice and Miskolc were renovated. As a result instead of the originally planned increase in number of visitors (1.500) 14.792 additional visitors came to the area.

Indicator CO13

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO13	Roads: Total length of newly built roads	km	2,8	5,34
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					3,095

Regarding indicator no. CO13 (Roads: Total length of newly built roads) 4 project beneficiaries contributed to the target value. MONUMENTIS, Palócland - Hont - Podpolanie and LIVING HERITAGE projects (project no SKHU/1601/1.1/060, SKHU/1601/1.1/175, SKHU/1601/1.1/267.), have built connecting roads to the natural/cultural heritage sites.

Indicator CO23

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	115 100	128677
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					123045,18

At the current stage of the programme implementation altogether 16 beneficiaries contributed to the fulfilment of CO23 indicator. The most extensive surface area of habitats supported in

order to attain a better conservation status was involved by the project NATUR/DANUBEPARKS (project no. SKHU/1601/1.1/258), which project was implemented in the strong cooperation of six Slovak and three Hungarian Beneficiaries.

The overall objective of the project was to cooperate on both sides of the river Danube and maintain their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development. The main outputs delivered are the production of 4000 new native trees, bushes, cleaned canals and marshes by amphibious machines, insect hotels placed in nature, bird houses, cameras, observatories for monitoring birds, authentic water wells placed in nature, informative and recreational elements of small infrastructure for birds, built educational nature trails, built infrastructure for two eco-educational and one fishing tourist center and Taste of Danubian Nature Fest.

Indicator O11

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O11	Length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways'	km	120	800,066
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					751,84

In relation to the originally planned target value in 2023 (120 km), the indicator achieved a relatively high value (751,84 km) thanks to two projects in the programme.

By the implementation of [DANUBE BIKE&BOAT](#) (project no. SKHU/1601/1.1/014) reconstructed and newly built 'green ways' were developed in 250 km length.

The project was focused on benefitting from the rich natural and cultural heritage of the border area and on creating a unique, attractive and competitive European tourism destination called "Danube inland delta". In the framework of the project, recreational, boating and bike tourism infrastructure development was expanded in more than 36 locations in Slovakia and Hungary, the open-air museum with a [water mill in Jelka](#) was renovated, a water ecotourism youth centre was built in Šamorín, a promenade was established in Zálesie and a development strategy for the cross-border destination was created, including the creation of a new common marketing brand.

Bodrog Active tourism project (project no. SKHU/1601/1.1/038) contributed to the fulfilment of length of reconstructed and newly built 'green ways' indicator with 213,22 km.

This project aimed the development of a comprehensive attraction package built on active eco-tourism performed on 80 km cross-border section of river Bodrog and its tributaries between Tokaj (HU) and Oborín (SK).

Priority Axis 2 – Enhancing cross-border mobility

Indicator O221

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O221	Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme	piece	10	10
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					5

In the framework of PA2 seven projects were selected for financing. 2 of them finalized their activities and contributed to the fulfilment of the indicator O221 (Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme).

The purpose of KOMBI project (project no. SKHU/1601/2.2.1/109) was to increase substantially the interconnectivity of the Komarno (SK) - Komárom (HU) cross-border region by launching an innovative type of cross-border public transport system. KOMBI is primarily addressing the accessibility challenge through a pioneering service development.

By the implementation of the project the following new public transport services were introduced:

- integrated cross-border bike sharing system in 9 settlements (4 HU and 5 SK) with 13 bike stand points;
- integrated bike sharing system into local public transport systems;
- developed infrastructure for better serving cross-border bike traffic and bike sharing system.

The Mária Valéria Bike project (project no. SKHU/1601/2.2.1/127) contributed to the fulfilment of O221 indicator by

- the development of a cross-border bicycle-sharing system between Štúrovo (SK) and Esztergom (HU) and
- the integration of the bike sharing system into the local transport systems.

The stations were established near all the important urban functions (offices and transport systems).

Priority Axis 3 – Promoting sustainable and quality employment

Among the TAPE projects 47 projects were selected for financing, and only two finalised their activities by the end of 2021.

Priority Axis 4 – Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people

Indicator O411

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O411	Number of cross-border products and services developed	Number	20	168
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					159

As a result of the implementation of three projects, more cross-border products and services were developed than originally planned (i.e. in case of project no. SKHU/1601/4.1/342 both the online and offline version of the exhibition was launched by the end of the implementation of the project).

Indicator O412

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O412	Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF	Number	40	166
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					140

In case of O412 indicator the actual value of the outputs delivered by projects exceeds the forecast provided by beneficiaries. The reason for the deviation is mainly related to TOKAJGIS project (no. SKHU/1601/4.1/052). The project was targeting the harmonization of databases with different structures and nomenclature hampering the processing of the GIS data of the TOKAJ wine region. In the framework of the project manuals in three language mutations, description of GIS data structure, description of unified nomenclature, studies were prepared.

Indicator O413

	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Cumulative value 2021
Outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O413	Number of cross-border events	Number	400	1079
Outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]					746

Although the pandemic waves were hindering the personal presence at cross-border events, the project partners were trying to use alternative methods for organizing events. In addition to this some of them organized several outdoor events; the most active project in organizing such occasions was the Nat-Net Duna/Dunaj2 project (project no. SKHU/1601/4.1/121), which primarily targeted the institutionalisation of the cross-border nature conservation co-operation.

Partners of the previous NAT-NET DUNA/DUNAJ project have decided to realise preparatory activities aiming at the creation of a joint Nature Park in the Szigetköz-Žitný ostrov region, which will be responsible for the co-ordination of nature preservation, environmental education and ecotourism initiatives along the HU-SK border. In order to contribute to an increased level of cross-border co-operation in the region, the Partners organised almost 170 cross-border events actively involving more than 2500 people from Hungary and Slovakia.

Indicator O415, O416, O417

The number of participants achieved in cooperation is very difficult to be estimated at the project-planning phase, therefore beneficiaries plan moderate number of participants and usually reach more participants than planned.

For example within Circular Economy (project no. SKHU/1601/4.1/290) the cooperating project partners planned to provide consultancy and training/workshops on responsible use of energy, on introduction into zero-waste concept for the households, schools, municipalities. They planned to invite altogether 7300 participants and finally they reached 10964 actors.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

Citizen's summary is enclosed as a separate document to Annual Implementation Report.

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

7. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS

7.1. Major projects

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

7.2. Joint action plans

Not relevant for Interreg V-A SKHU.

PART B

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT

8. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

- 8.1. Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme
- 8.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations
- 8.3. Sustainable development
- 8.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives
- 8.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme

9. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations
- 9.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

- 10.1. Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme
- 10.2. Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

The programming area of the Interreg V-A SK-HU programme is fully included in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

To support the embedding of EUSDR objectives into the SK-HU Programme the EUSDR Hungarian National Coordinator participated the work of the Monitoring Committee as Observer in Advisory capacity.

At this stage of programme implementation, we can introduce a territorial action plan for employment (TAPE) under Interreg V-A SKHU Programme, which has direct connection to Danube Strategy.

The projects within ORG-EMP (Organic cross-border territorial development along the Ipoly/Ipeľ) Territorial Action Plan for Employment has relation to the PILLAR 1: CONNECTING THE REGION/PA 1a Waterway mobility/ACTION 5: Contribute to the enhanced quality of education and jobs.

The aim of the ORG-EMP TAPE is to launch economic developments that are possible to restore the previous organic connections, and to support the improvement of employment situation by facilitating labour mobility. For this purpose, the bridge between Ipeľské Predmostie and Drégelypalánk is planned to be reconstructed. The bridge will make the larger plants, where hundreds of employees commute across the border, operating in Nagyoroszi and Rétság accessible from the direction of the isolated Slovakian villages. The number of these commuters is expected to be increased by the plant expansion of Fespizz Kft. in Nagyoroszi, where 10 new employees will be hired. At the same time, the bridge also allows the results of the development already started on the Hungarian side to appear on the Slovak side, since new workplaces will be established in Ipeľské Predmostie as well; Adorex s.r.o. builds a crop processing plant where 5 people will be employed. According to the plans, Fespizz Kft., interested in surface treatment, will carry out the paint works of the boilers. Furthermore, the interconnection of the two developments will be strengthened by the fact that the trainings required for both developments will be provided by the secondary vocational school of Šahy. For this purpose the modernisation of two workshops in the school will also take place. Utilizing a Swiss model, Ipoly-Táj Területfejlesztési Társulás (Regional Development Association) helps to adapt the capabilities of the recruited workers to the employer's expectations.

The action plan also supports the reinforcement of urban functions by creating housing for workers in Balassagyarmat to improve the employment situation in the region. The investment contributes not only to secure the needed workforce for the developments planned within the TAPE, but also serves the integrated economic development initiatives of the wider central Ipoly/Ipeľ region.

11. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL

PART C

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

12. **SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

13. **ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME
AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**