



Explanatory note to the public consultation launched
related to the
Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Romania-Hungary
2014-2020

The planning process

In order to design the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Romania-Hungary 2014-2020, an extensive strategic planning process has taken place. This planning process has been carried out by the Joint Working Group (JWG) with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of the Hungary-Romania CBC Programme and a team of external experts.

As a first step, a detailed strategic analysis of the eligible border area has been implemented relying upon primary and secondary information; its results have been presented in the **Strategic Territorial Analysis** (STA) that was approved by the JWG on 3 December 2013.

Based on the key findings of the STA, a thorough strategy development process has taken place that resulted in the **Common Territorial Strategy** (CTS) of the eligible border area. The CTS was approved by the JWG on 20 June 2014.

Altogether, these two documents provided a solid basis for elaborating the draft **Cooperation Programme**, which is the subject of the present public consultation process.

Certainly the strategic planning itself has already been accompanied by an extensive consultation process enabling the stakeholders to express their opinion and contribute to the preparation of the programme. This process included – among others - the delivery of individual interviews, 2 rounds of interactive planning workshops in each eligible county (altogether 16) and also parallel thematic workshops.

The Cooperation Programme Document

The present document is the first draft of the **Cross-border Cooperation Programme Romania-Hungary between 2014-2020 under the European territorial cooperation goal**. The Programme document has been elaborated using the template provided by the European Commission.

The operational programme is built around **6 thematic objectives** (TO) and **9 investment priorities** (IP), selected from the list defined by the European Commission. The selected TO/IP combinations reflect the consensus of the Joint Working Group. Out of the 6 thematic objectives selected, 4 (the first four in the list below) represent the focus areas of the programme, concentrating the majority (over 80%) of the funds available¹. This is a combination of interventions that can serve as a solid basis for a joint programme enabling the concentrated use of limited resources.

Selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority
TO6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource	6/b Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs,

¹ A comprehensive **list of thematic objectives** has been defined in the new ERDF Regulation (Regulation (EU) No. 1301/2013). Of the 11 thematic objectives, ETC programmes may choose a maximum of 4 thematic objectives to which at least 80% of the ERDF allocation shall be concentrated.

efficiency	identified by the MS, for investment that goes beyond those requirements
	6/c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
TO7 – Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructure	7/b Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
	7/c Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise), and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
TO8 – Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8/b Supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to and development of specific natural and cultural resources
TO9 – Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	9/a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and transition from institutional to community-based services
	9/b Providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived urban and rural areas
TO5 - Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	5/b Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems (ERDF)
TO11 -Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration	11/a Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions

Structure of the Programme Document

The main parts of the Programme Document:

- Strategy of the Programme (Section 1)
- Description of the Priority axes (Section 2)
- Financing Plan (Section 3)
- Programme’s Management (Section 5, 6)

In addition the Programme Document explains its contribution to the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries as well as horizontal elements like sustainable development and equal opportunities.