

European Neighbourhood Instrument

Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

As amended on 2 June 2023 by the Joint Monitoring Committee

JOINT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	5
1 Introduction.....	6
2 Definition of the programme area	8
2.1 <i>Participating countries and the Programme area</i>	8
2.2 <i>Core regions.....</i>	8
2.3 <i>Adjoining regions.....</i>	8
2.4 <i>Major social, economic or cultural centres.....</i>	12
2.5 <i>Map of the programme area.....</i>	14
2.6 <i>Intention to make use of Article 10(5) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.....</i>	15
3 Analysis of the programme area	16
3.1 <i>General introduction of the area</i>	16
3.2 <i>Local culture and preservation of historical heritage (TO3)</i>	17
3.3 <i>Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation (TO6)</i>	18
3.4 <i>Accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems (TO7).....</i>	20
3.5 <i>Common challenges in the field of safety and security (TO8).....</i>	21
3.6 <i>Main challenges and needs to be addressed by the programme from cross-border aspect, regarding economic, social, environmental and governance in line with future regional development trends</i>	22
3.7 <i>Main potentials of the cooperation area in line with the regional capacity available</i>	24
3.8 <i>Lessons learnt from previous experiences in cross-border programmes</i>	26
4 Programme's strategy.....	28
4.1 <i>General objective and vision of the joint operational programme.....</i>	28
4.2 <i>Selection process for the Thematic Objectives.....</i>	28
4.3 <i>Selected thematic objectives</i>	30
4.4 <i>Planned activities within the selected thematic objectives</i>	30
4.5 <i>Hierarchy of the vision, objectives and priorities of the Programme.....</i>	34
4.6 <i>Result indicators</i>	36
4.7 <i>Expected outputs, output indicators.....</i>	39
4.8 <i>Relation between the ENI strategic objectives and the thematic objectives of the Programme.....</i>	42
4.9 <i>Contribution and coherence with the planned interventions towards macro-regional strategies and other Union-financed programmes in the countries and regions concerned</i>	42
4.10 <i>Coherence with national, regional and other strategies and policies.....</i>	50
4.11 <i>Coherence with EUSDR</i>	55

5	Structures and appointment of the competent authorities and management bodies.....	58
5.1	<i>Programme level bodies</i>	58
5.1.1	Composition of the Joint Monitoring Committee and tasks	60
5.1.2	Managing Authority and its designation process	62
5.1.3	Procedure for setting up the Joint Technical Secretariat	65
5.1.4	Intermediate body.....	68
5.1.5	Audit Authority and the members of the group of auditors	69
5.2	<i>National level bodies</i>	70
5.2.1	National authorities of all participating countries	70
5.2.2	Control contact points, national controllers and auditors	71
6	Programme implementation.....	75
6.1	<i>Summary description of the management and control systems</i>	75
6.2	<i>Description of project selection procedures.....</i>	78
6.2.1	Open Call for proposals procedure	78
6.2.2	The restricted call for proposals procedure	79
6.2.3	Complaint handling procedure.....	80
6.3	<i>Provisional indicative time-frame for programme implementation</i>	81
6.4	<i>Description per priority of nature of support.....</i>	82
6.5	<i>Description of planned use of technical assistance and applicable contract award procedures.....</i>	82
6.6	<i>Description of the monitoring and evaluation systems</i>	83
3.	85
6.7	<i>Information on fulfilment of regulatory requirements laid down in Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council</i>	86
	The SEA process in line with the EC Directive and national legislations	86
	The content of the Environmental Report in line with the EC Directive	87
	Results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process:	87
6.8	<i>Rules on eligibility of expenditure.....</i>	90
6.9	<i>Irregularities and recoveries: Apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries.....</i>	90
6.10	<i>Rules of transfer, use and monitoring of co-financing.....</i>	92
6.11	<i>Description of IT systems for the reporting and exchange of computerised data between the Managing Authority and the Commission</i>	92
6.12	<i>Principles of communication.....</i>	93
6.13	<i>Language(s) adopted by the programme</i>	94
7	Indicative financial plan	95
7.1	<i>Thematic objectives by source of funding.....</i>	95
7.2	<i>Programme financial table</i>	96
8	Risk analysis and mitigating measures	98
9	Description of ways to mainstream cross-cutting issues	99
9.1	<i>Environmental sustainability</i>	99
9.2	<i>Democracy and human rights.....</i>	101
9.3	<i>Gender equality</i>	104
9.4	<i>HIV/AIDS.....</i>	104

10 Annexes	105
10.1 <i>Detailed analysis of the socioeconomic and environmental situation of the programme area</i>	105
10.1.1 General introduction – territory, population, economy and labour market	105
10.1.2 Local culture and preservation of historical heritage (TO3)	123
10.1.3 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation (TO6).....	135
10.1.4 Accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems (TO7)	157
10.1.5 Common challenges in the field of safety and security (TO8)	164
10.2 <i>Communication Plan</i>	181
10.2.1 Communication Strategy	181
10.2.1.1 Objectives and target groups	181
10.2.1.2 Participating responsible bodies	182
10.2.1.3 Monitoring.....	182
10.2.1.4 Channels and tools	183
10.2.1.5 Intended results of the communication activities	184
10.2.2 Indicative Annual Information and Communication Plan for the first year (2016)	185

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBC	Cross-border Cooperation
CCP	Control Contact Point
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
EU	European Union
HCSO	Hungarian Central Statistical Office
HU	Hungary
HUSKROUA	Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine
HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020	Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020
JOP	Joint Operational Programme
JTF	Joint Task Force
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
JWG	Joint Working Group
km	kilometre
LIP	Large Infrastructure Project
MA	Managing Authority
MS	Member State of the EU
NA	National Authority
NIS	National Institute of Statistics (Romania)
NUTS	Nomenclature des unites territoriales statistiques (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics)
RO	Romania
SK	Slovakia
SOSR	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
SSSU	State Statistics Service of Ukraine
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
TO	Thematic Objective
UA	Ukraine

1 Introduction

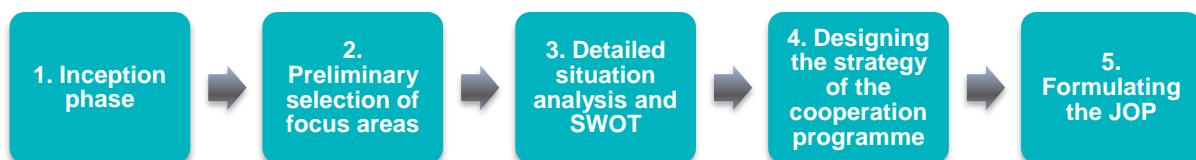
The Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI Cross-border Cooperation Programme will be implemented during the programming period 2014-2020 of the European Union. The Joint Operational Programme (JOP) is based on the joint planning effort of all four participating countries and aimed to provide a framework for the activities which will lead to a more intense cooperation between the regions of Ukraine and the regions of Member States sharing common border.

The elaboration of the JOP was governed and controlled by the Joint Task Force. The programming process was coordinated by the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat.

The content of the present Joint Operational Programme was elaborated based on the requirements of Article 4 of the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 897/2014 of 18 August 2014 laying down specific provisions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument.

This Programme Document is the result of a thorough planning process that started in the middle of 2014, with the participation of numerous stakeholders, the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat and external consultants. The elaboration of the JOP was governed and controlled by the Joint Task Force composed of central governmental organisations and representatives of the eligible regions in each participating country. The programming process was coordinated by the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat. Final decisions were made by the Joint Task Force.

The programming process included numerous consultations and actions to involve every important stakeholder in the preparation of the programme and consisted of the following main phases:



As a first step of the programming process (**Phase 2: Preliminary selection of focus areas**) the planning activity started with the evaluation of the projects of the period 2007-2013 and was followed by the preliminary selection of the focus areas in order to ensure that the strategic focus of the Joint Operational Programme is in line with the relevant ENI guidelines. Also, prior to the selection procedure an initial needs analysis was implemented based on the results of a preliminary desk research of strategic documents, a detailed stakeholder survey on the area's specific needs involving the key stakeholders of the targeted cross-border regions as county and city councils, chambers, ministries, development agencies and departments, non-profit organisations, significant regional and local institutions and current lead partners, as well as the experiences of the previous cross-border programmes. A co-creation workshop was the forum where the members of the joint implementing bodies– based on the results of the initial needs analysis - could discuss in details the possible elements of preliminary focus areas. As part of this task of the planning activities, the evaluation of current projects was carried out by overviewing the information (provided by the JTS) on the projects funded in the current period, a group interview with JTS, individual interviews with selected beneficiaries, as

well as by analysing the key findings of the ROM report of projects funded in the current period. The final decision on focus areas was made by the Joint Task Force.

Subsequently, in the next phase (**Phase 3: Preparation of the situation analysis of the programme area, conducting SWOT analysis**) all relevant information regarding the border area was collected, structured and analysed, then challenges, potentials and barriers of cross-border cooperation were identified as well. The situation analysis assessed the possible areas, scale and existing networks suitable for future cross border cooperation in the field of the focus areas. Special emphasis was taken to collect and utilize the experiences of the previous cross border programmes. Based on the results of situation analysis focus area specific SWOT analysis was elaborated during the workshops. To deliver the specific activities related to this task, individual interviews were carried out with relevant key partners on EU, national, regional/county level (altogether 34 interviews: 2 on EU level, 12 on country/national level, and 20 on regional/county level). Also, co-creation workshops (altogether 4) were implemented in each participating country to discuss key findings, challenges, barriers and potentials on county level. Based on the results of these workshops, an interactive workshop was carried out with participants from all 4 participating countries where - based on the outputs of national workshops - the key common challenges and potentials concerning the selected Thematic Objectives were determined.

The next step was the elaboration of the strategy (**Phase 4: Laying down the strategy of the future cross-border cooperation programme**). Special focus was given to the result oriented approach in order to address joint problems of the border region and to build on common potentials forming the basis of mutual beneficiary partnerships. A workshop with the participation of relevant county councils, chambers and key regional institutions in the area was conducted in order to validate current state assessment and future vision according to the focus areas.

The formulation of the JOP (**Phase 5: Formulating the Joint Operational Programme**) was implemented by incorporating all the existing information connected to the programme. This planning phase also contained participatory, interactive methods in order to ensure the consensus based final document. Consultations were held with JTF, the Implementation Working Group, key institutions, ex ante and SEA experts on the content of the JOP including specific objectives, indicators, planned activities, selection criteria and financial allocations. In addition, a workshop with ex ante and SEA evaluators was implemented to discuss their findings and suggestions. After finalizing the JOP, approvals of JTF, MA and NAs, a public consultations process was implemented by publishing thus making available the actual version of the JOP on the web. The result of the public consultation was incorporated into the final JOP.

National regional and local authorities, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce, nature parks and protected areas management bodies, cultural institutions, educational institutions, tourism associations, scientific institutes/research centres/universities, local business associations, and civil society organisations were involved as **stakeholders** and provided valuable contribution during the whole programming process.

2 Definition of the programme area

2.1 Participating countries and the Programme area

Participating countries of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 include EU Member States of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine as Partner Country. The programme area of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 includes the core regions and adjoining regions as described below.

2.2 Core regions

The following **7 territorial units** (referred to in Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014) are included in the programme area **as core regions**:

1. **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County**, Hungary (NUTS III)
2. **Košický Region**, Slovakia (NUTS III)
3. **Prešovský Region**, Slovakia (NUTS III)
4. **Maramureş County**, Romania (NUTS III)
5. **Satu-Mare County**, Romania (NUTS III)
6. **Ivano-Frankivska Region**, Ukraine
7. **Zakarpatska Region**, Ukraine

2.3 Adjoining regions

The following regions are participating in the implementation of the programme as adjoining regions:

1. **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**, Hungary (NUTS III)
2. **Suceava County**, Romania, (NUTS III)
3. **Chernivetska Region**, Ukraine

Justification of the participation of the adjoining regions:

- **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**, Hungary (*adjoining region with full participation rights*)

Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County meets the requirements of inclusion set out in the Programming Document the following ways:

- Involving the county is important because of its achieved experiences and willingness gained and showed in the current HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013 where Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén participates as an adjoining region with full participation. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County had successfully participated through projects in the HUSKROUA ENPI CBC programme by providing Lead Partners in 5 projects and Project Partners in 12 projects. The current experience shows that partners from the core area are eager to collaborate with actors from this active region as they possess valuable experiences.
- The county brings substantial added value for the core regions thanks to its capacities as follows: there are several regional and local authorities located in the county; the most important higher educational centre of the Hungarian part of the programme area, the University of Miskolc is located here with technical, industrial, economics, law, arts, healthcare and music faculties to meet the challenges of the constantly changing environment; the county

host more than 20 R&D centres and economic zones for investors and there is also an airport in Miskolc operating on regional level. There is a high proportion of accommodation capacity compared to the participating regions, and a world heritage site as a remarkable tourism attraction. Also with its 52 museums (the highest number compared to regions in the eligible area) and 1492 protected buildings and monuments the county could make a valuable contribution to the local culture of the cross-border area. Thanks to the valuable experience and capacities, the county can provide knowledge transfer, exchanges of experiences in a wide range, and contribute to the tourism of the cross-border area with its transboundary natural and cultural heritages during the preparation and implementation of CBC projects.

- The caves of Aggtelek Karst overarching the border between Hungary and Slovakia (concerning Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County and Košický region) is a transboundary UNESCO world heritage natural site which holds common challenges and potentials for the involved areas.
- The vast majority of the catchment areas of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County's natural waters are abroad, so the water quality of the transboundary rivers (Bodrog, Sajó, Hernád, and Bódva) heavily depends on the natural factors and human interventions of the neighbouring Slovakia. All 4 rivers of the county rise in Slovakia; Bódva and Hernád are the tributaries of Sajó, Bodrog and Sajó are significant tributaries of Tisza. Hernád is a border river for 10 kilometres long along the Hungarian-Slovak border. The location of the catchment areas form close natural and geographical ties among Košický, Prešovský and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén.
- Due to the geographical proximity of the county and the directions of the movement of people, epidemiology could be one of the important areas of cooperation.
- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County is very close to the border; though it has not got common border section with Ukraine. It stretches between Košický region and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County functioning as a geographical, economic, socio- and cultural "bridge". Moreover there is a strong functional territorial attachment to the rest of the programme area caused by physical geographical features and road/transport network.
- Although Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County is very close to Ukraine, they have not got other opportunity for cooperation in other CBC programmes; therefore the HUSKROUA ENI CBC programme offers the only opportunity for cross-border cooperation with Ukraine.

As detailed above, **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**, based on its former participation in the HUSKROUA ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 has already brought and therefore it will bring further substantial added value for the core eligible area, therefore its participation is essential for achieving a more complete CBC impact in the core eligible area; thus it will take part in the programme as **an adjoining region with full participation rights**.

- **Suceava County, Romania** (*adjoining region with limited¹ participation rights*)

The participation of Suceava County will bring added value to the core area of the programme taking into account the followings:

¹ Limited participation rights for Suceava County mean that the projects from the adjoining region has to have Hungarian or Slovak partners in the partnership, projects are restricted to Thematic Objective 3, 6 and 7, and LIP projects cannot be implemented by them.

- There is already important experience gained during the programming and implementation of the currently running cross-border cooperation programmes 2007-2013 on which the cross-border cooperation in the framework of European Neighbourhood Instrument could be built on: the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 and the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova CBC Programme 2007-2013.
- Suceava County is located in the North of Romania, in the Northern area of the North-East Development Region and in the East side of the eligible area of the programme and in this way it is a direct part of the historical Romanian-Ukrainian border.
- Suceava County has the highest number of inhabitants and number of SME's and it's the largest county on the Romanian eligible side of the programme area. The capital of the county is Suceava, one of the former capitals of the historical Moldova-region of Romania.
- One of the most important university of Romania -"Stefan cel Mare University" with 13 research and development and excellence centres - is located in Suceava County. Suceava is the most advanced Romanian eligible county in research and development projects with 333 projects ongoing. Also, Suceava is the biggest employer in research and development and has the biggest direct expenses in this field on the Romanian eligible side of the programme area. The capital of the county, Suceava is one of the oldest cities from Romania and the former capital of the historical Moldova region of Romania. As a result the city and the county have a large number of historic, architectural and cultural sites. Suceava County has the highest number of churches on the Romanian side of the eligible area. Seven of these painted monasteries were placed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1993. Suceava County has more than 30 museums which is the second highest number in the eligible area after Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. We strongly believe that museums, monasteries placed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, Ștefan cel Mare University and other reasons above mentioned could be exploited and bring added value to the development of tourism, culture and historical heritage of the cross-border area.
- In Suceava County there are working single units from the North of Romanian for treatment and incineration of industrial wastes, model of technological development and innovation.
- Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of trans-European transport network named Suceava as road-railway terminal. Suceava County has the second highest length of national public roads from the eligible area. Furthermore, in Suceava County an international airport operates.
- Regarding the local transport, the Suceava Municipality has already implemented the first pilot project for on-line information management regarding the transport by road, and this experience that can be shared with the partners from the programme area.
- Suceava County is located in the Eastern Carpathian Mountains so that the landscape is very varied and the area offers a lot of natural resources and attractions. Also, due to the geographical location of the region, fields of cooperation could be activities connected to the mountains like participation in mountain rescue networks. In Suceava County there are 28 natural protected areas; in Romania, Suceava County has the largest surface covered by forest (more than 52% of his territory); also the county has a higher density regarding the hydrographical network, therefore the necessity of cross-border activities for prevention of fire, floods and pollution is very important.

As detailed above **Suceava County** will bring substantial added value for the core eligible area and its participation is essential to achieve a more complete CBC impact in the core eligible area; thus it will participate in the programme as **an adjoining region with limited participation rights**.

- **Chernivetska Region, Ukraine** (*adjoining region with limited² participation rights*)

The participation of Chernivetska Region will bring added value to the core area of the programme taking into account the followings:

- Chernivetska Region has already gained significant experience in effective preparation and implementation of joint projects within the fulfilment of cross-border cooperation programmes which were financed by the European Union in 2007 – 2013 through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. As demonstration there are 16 cross-border initiatives with total budget of 9,11 million euro with main partner from Chernivetska Region financed by joint operational programme “Romania –Ukraine – Moldova Republic 2007-2013”, and 2 large-scale projects with budget for Ukrainian partner of 7.5 million euro, initiated by Chernivetska Region within the mentioned program. This successful experience of the good project management creates additional opportunities to the cooperation with EU members-countries, especially in the context of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement implementation.
- Though the participation of Chernivetska Region was limited in previous joint operational programme “Hungary – Slovakia – Romania –Ukraine 2007-2013”, region representatives were involved in preparation of 10 project proposals that were submitted to call for proposals with the participation of organizations from all represented countries, however, they were not selected for funding.
- The number of participating organizations from Chernivetska Region in many project proposals shows mutual interest from Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian partners and representatives of Chernivetska Region in the implementation of joint cross-border initiatives in tourism, culture, institutional cooperation, support the small and medium-sized enterprises, etc. In particular, the bright example of cooperation in the cultural sphere is the International Music and Ethnographic Festival “Bukovyna Meetings” which is hold annually in Hungary Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine involving music and dancing groups from many countries.
- Such cooperation gains additional attention in the context of EU Strategy for Danube region implementation, which involves number of EU member-states, including Hungary, Slovakia, Romania. Chernivetska Region participation in a status of additional region of joint operational programme “Hungary–Slovakia–Romania–Ukraine” of the European Neighbourhood Instrument 2014-2020 will be good basis for a joint project initiatives, establishing closer relations and introduction of new forms of cross-border cooperation in a context of new Danube transnational programs 2014-2020.”
- Due to the geographical location of the region, fields of cooperation could be activities connected to the mountains like participation in mountain rescue networks.

²Limited participation rights for Chernivetska county mean that the projects from the adjoining region has to have Hungarian or Slovak partners in the partnership, projects are restricted to Thematic Objective 3, 6 and 7, and LIP projects cannot be implemented by them.

As detailed above Chernivetska Region will bring substantial added value for the core eligible area and its participation is essential to achieve a more complete CBC impact in the core eligible area; thus it will participate in the programme as an adjoining region with limited participation rights.

2.4 Major social, economic or cultural centres

Taking into account Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014, besides the core and adjoining regions the following **centres are identified and conditions for their participation in the programme are as follows:**

National or regional authorities or organisations located in the capital cities will be included in the Programme, in the specific cases when the involvement of these authorities and organisation is essential for the implementation or sustainability of the actions. In these cases, the authorities and organisations are allowed to participate in projects in the role of lead beneficiary or project partner. The project activities carried out by these authorities and organisations can be carried out in the major social, economic or cultural centres, but the results of these activities must always be to the benefit of the border region.

The national and regional capitals concerned are:

- Budapest (Hungary)
- Debrecen (Hungary)
- Eger (Hungary)
- Bratislava (Slovakia)
- Banska Bystrica (Slovakia)
- Zvolen (Slovakia)
- Bucharest (Romania)
- Cluj Napoca (Romania)
- Kiev (Ukraine)

The major social, economic or cultural centres listed above might be revised in duly justified cases, by decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee, to reflect the changes in the decentralisation of the administration systems occurring during the implementation of the programme in any of the four countries. Such revision shall not affect the purpose and thematic scope of the involvement.

The above mentioned major social, economic or cultural centres are involved in all priorities of the programme. The following table identifies for each programme priority the type of authorities and organisations that may participate from these territories.

Further details on the rules or limitations for the participation major social, economic or cultural centres will be defined in the calls for project proposals.

Priority	Type of authorities and organisations
TO3: Priority 1: Promoting local culture and history along with tourism functions	<p>National or regional authorities responsible for the preservation of cultural and historic heritage</p> <p>National or regional public sector organisations responsible for the development or management of cultural and historic heritage sites</p> <p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for tourism development and tourism management</p> <p>Church administrative bodies</p>
TO6: Priority 1: Sustainable use of the environment in the cross border area - preservation of natural resources, actions to reduce GHG emission and pollution of rivers	<p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for policy making, regulation or management in the field of waste, waste water and water quality</p> <p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for policy making, regulation or management in the field of water, nature protection, natural heritage and biodiversity</p> <p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for policy making, regulation or management in the field of energy</p> <p>Major energy supplier companies delivering services in the border regions</p>
TO7 Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods	<p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for policy making, regulation or management in the field of transport</p> <p>National and regional public sector organisations responsible for the development or maintenance of roads, railways, bicycle paths or other transport infrastructure elements</p> <p>National authorities responsible for the development or operation of border crossing infrastructure or border management systems</p> <p>Public transport service provider companies delivering service in the border region</p>
TO8 Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations	<p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for policy making, regulation, development or management in the field of disaster management and flood prevention</p>
TO8 Priority 2: Support to the development of health	<p>National or regional authorities and public sector organisations responsible for policy making, regulation, development or management in the field of healthcare, health prevention and human epidemiology</p> <p>Church administrative bodies</p>

The authorities and organisations located in the major economic, cultural and social centres of the eligible countries will contribute to the achievements of the programme as follows:

- the cooperation within projects will be more fluent taking into account the extent of the centralisation of the governance;
- the exclusive knowledge, experience and competences in the specific field possessed by the national authorities (authority with local/regional offices or central/national public sector body without local/regional offices) in the capitals will provide added value to the project implementation in the border regions even if there is a local/regional structural unit of the authority exists in the border region.
- in case of central/national public sector authorities without local/regional offices it is essential to involve the headquarters of the organisation to enable the project requiring the specific knowledge, experience and competences that is needed for the successful implementation of the project.
- in cases when only the headquarters of these organisations located in the respective centres are entitled to carry out the specific activities of the preparation, implementation or sustainability of the programme actions, their involvement is essential for the implementation of these actions.

The modalities for the participation of the centres will be defined at the level of calls for proposals.

2.5 Map of the programme area



Figure 1: Eligible core area and the major centres involved of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020

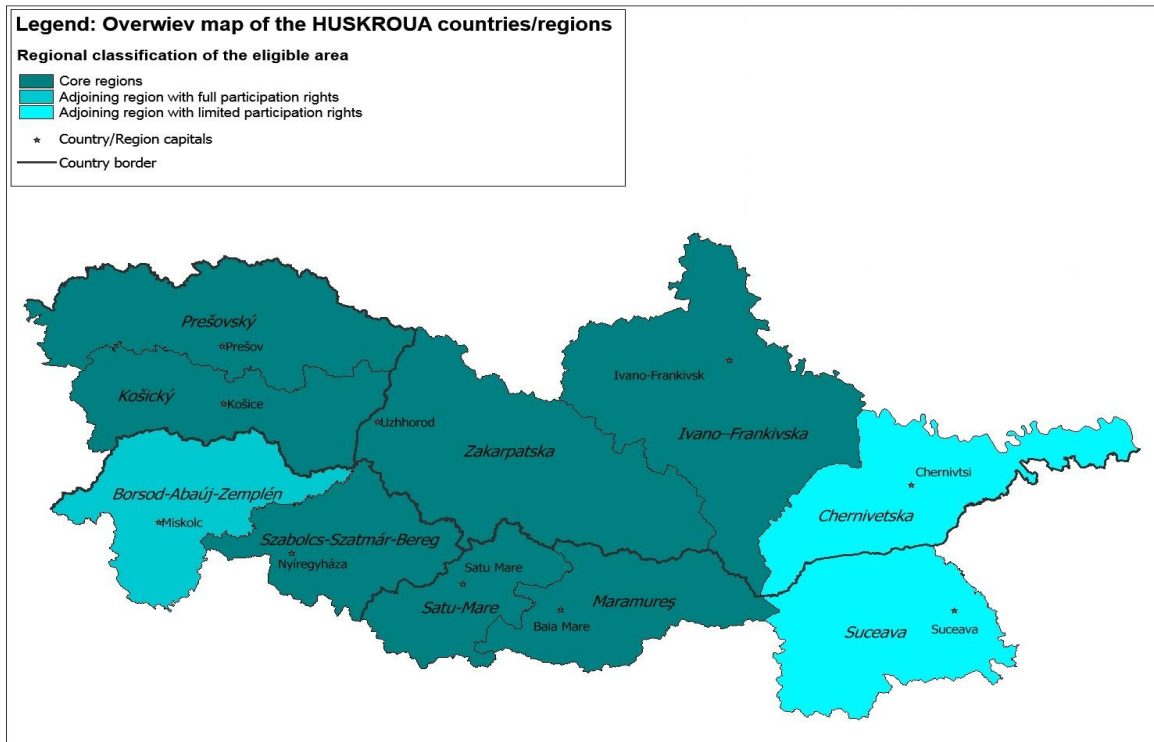


Figure 2: The eligible core area distinguishing between the territorial units by their nature (core or adjoining) of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020

2.6 Intention to make use of Article 10(5) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014

The Programme does not intend to make use of Article 10(5) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 under the conditions set out in the programming document as it is not relevant for the Programme.

3 Analysis of the programme area

The analysis of the programme area was prepared according to the directions and areas that have been defined based on the outcomes, findings and standpoints of stakeholders in the course of the planning process (statistical analysis, document analysis, key findings of ROM evaluations, individual and group interviews with key stakeholders, questionnaire for initial orientation and pre-selection of Thematic Objectives and Priorities in ENI Cross Border Cooperation Programme between Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine 2014-2020).

Initially, after summarising the aspects arisen of the different information sources 4 versions were recommended for discussion regarding the possible structure of thematic objectives. The decision of the Joint Task Force regarding the Thematic Objectives and their contents will be detailed in Chapters 4.3 and 4.4.

3.1 General introduction of the area

Altogether more than 8 million inhabitants of nearly 83.000 km² (almost equals the whole territory of Hungary) is covered by the programme containing 10 counties/regions (HU: 2 counties, SK: 2 regions, RO: 3 counties, UA: 3 regions). People affected representing 9,7% of the inhabitants of the participating countries. The 3 biggest areas regarding population are the three Ukrainian regions with 3,5 million inhabitants altogether. The most populated region is Ivano-Frankivska in Ukraine with 1.5 million inhabitants representing 17,5% of the cross-border area's population. The county with the smallest population is Satu-Mare in Romania dwelled by 361.000 people representing 4,5% of the cross-border area's population. The Ukrainian regions represent almost the half of the eligible area (41,9%) with 44,6% share of population, while the Member States have a balanced share of territory (between 15,9% and 23,2%) and population (between 15,5% and 20,1%).

The population generally shows a heterogeneous picture. Concerning the eligible area proportion of people aged 0-14 is 19,4%, people aged between 15-64 is 65%, and people over 65 years is 15,6%. According to age groups the lowest proportion of active population can be seen in Zakarpatska and Chernivetska (around 53%, which is below the average value of the eligible area) when all other areas has a proportion around 69%. Ageing of the population (ageing index) is the lowest in the Slovak regions (60,8%) all other regions and counties have much higher values, between 80- 90%. Dependency ratio is the highest in the Ukrainian regions with Chernivetska leading (37,2 %), in Košický and Prešovský regions and in Satu-Mare county it is much more favourable (around 17%). The Slovak regions are in a much better situation regarding ageing of the society and dependency of elderly; the rest of the eligible regions and counties face with serious problems in this field. In the eligible area the density of the population is typically lower than the population density in the countries; Košický region again is the only exception.

Except the Hungarian counties and two of the Romanian counties (Maramureş and Satu Mare) the natural change of population has a positive value meaning that the number of births is higher than the number of deaths. As a result, the population is growing in the eligible area, on the other hand migration balance is characterised by emigration, except Košický region.

Roma communities, as a minority, are a relevant issue according to the Roma Strategies in all four countries, but the social status of Roma communities has not got cross-border relevance; their situation cannot be handled in the framework of the cross-border cooperation programme.

According to the GDP the cross-border area can be characterised by relatively low economic performance. The values show significant intra-regional disparities: Košický produces the biggest part, 24.4% of the total GDP of the eligible area; the economic performance of the Romanian and Ukrainian regions is well below the average. Only a few of the regions reached the pre-crisis levels. In the cross-border area the GDP per capita values of the regions are well under the national average.

The number of corporations and unincorporated enterprises in the cross-border area is more than 150 thousand, but the distribution of businesses is uneven. Business density is far below the national averages and the values show certain intraregional disparities. The border regions can be characterised by mostly small businesses being present as employers.

Activity/participation rate in the eligible area tends to increase very slowly except for the Romanian counties. This positive trend could be strengthened and accelerated by the programme activities.

Employment rate in the cross-border region varies between 48% and 62,5% in 2012 and shows increasing trends in all areas except for Suceava. Though the increasing rates for the eligible area, the values are still very low. Unemployment rate is characterised by a much dispersed range between 4,1% (Maramureş County) and 19,7% (Košický region), though these values do not reflect the real situation due to different data calculation methodologies. Regardless the calculation methodology according to the results of interviews and workshops unemployment has a great impact on the labour market. Untapped human resources could be somehow tackled by the activities of the programme and motivate people to participate in the local economy; new ways of cooperation itself enhance the possibilities for participation in the labour market.

For details of the general introduction of the eligible area please see Chapter 11.1.1.

3.2 Local culture and preservation of historical heritage (TO3)

Cultural heritage is an important common asset of the region forming the basis for tourism development.

There are 7 UNESCO world heritage cultural sites in the cross border area that represent unique value. 2 of the UNESCO sites possess cross-border location and represent physical cross-border relevance (Tokaj Wine Region, Wooden Churches). The famous, popular and also world heritage religious sites in all of the eligible counties and regions that could be exploited in the development of the region's tourism and could help to attract tourists to less known but worth to visit places. Besides the cultural heritage sites, 2 UNESCO world heritage natural sites are located in the eligible area which are also transboundary: Caves of Aggtelek Karst (HU-SK, Aggtelek is situated in the adjoining region of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) and Slovak Karst and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (SK-UA). These cultural and natural sites represent a unique value for tourism in the region and could help to attract tourists to less known but worth to visit places in the eligible area.

The high number of museums (214) and almost 17 thousand protected buildings and monuments could serve as a good base for the cultural and touristic development of the cross-border area. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén with its 52 museums (the highest number compared to regions in the eligible area) and 1492 protected buildings and monuments, the county could make a valuable contribution to the development of the local culture and historical heritage of the cross-border area.

Regarding tourism, the number of visitors is uneven in the eligible area: the western part of the programme area hosts more visitors (Prešovský and Košický regions and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County). This statement also valid for the capacity of public accommodation establishments which are lower than 55/100 km² in the eastern part of the eligible area, while in the western part of the border area the values of capacity start from 185/100 km² and even above 290/100 km² in the Prešovský region. The enhancement of the number of foreign tourists can provide untapped opportunities, as now the proportion of foreign tourist in all affected counties and regions is lower than the national averages, in Ukraine their proportion compared to the population is insignificant – for what the reason may include the lower permeability of the border compared to the other countries concerned. The average length of stay shows regional disparities; it is twice longer in Ukraine (max. 7,7 nights) than in the Member States (max. 3,2 nights).

The information system in tourism needs development in order to make connections to the national and European information systems in all participating countries. There are similar touristic sites that could be connected in the framework of the cross-border cooperation. The eligible region is rich in local products that could be marketed in tourism. The revision of the existing structures and currently running projects in this field is necessary to exploit the favourable situation. The area is rich in local, national and even international cultural events that tourism could build on; therefore the eligible area has many opportunities to attract many tourists from all over the world. Websites on touristic information is numerous and their structure sometimes difficult to follow; online information in English or in the languages of the neighbouring countries (Ukrainian, Slovak, and Romanian) is not always available. Cooperation among tourist organisations in the cross-border area is not typical. However, there are numerous of tourism organisation operating in each country along the respected border section, and there were initiatives also in the currently running ENPI CBC programme to develop common touristic products and cooperate in tourism across the borders, this is an area that could be much more developed. In order to have smooth and successful cooperation, the major cultural and economic centres in connection with tourism should be involved.

For details of the analysis regarding “Local culture and preservation of historical heritage” please see Chapter 11.1.2.

3.3 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation (TO6)

Climate change as a worldwide issue is a significant factor influencing the future development of the eligible area. Regarding Member States, from the perspective of aggregate potential impact of climate change 3 out of the 7 regions (Prešov, Satu Mare, Suceava) face low negative impacts, Maramureş, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Košice face medium negative impact, while Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is in the worst category (highest negative impact) according to the EPSON Climate Report. Unfortunately, regarding capacity to climate change adaptation, the eligible area does not exhibit an optimistic situation: all the Romanian counties are characterised by the lowest overall capacity to climate change adaptation – in fact, they are amongst the lowest 25% of all European and CBC NUTS3 regions, while the Hungarian counties and Slovak regions have just a slightly better situation by having low overall capacity to adapt. According to the indicator of ‘vulnerability to climate change’ Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County is characterized by highest negative impacts, Maramureş, Satu Mare, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Košice exhibit medium level of negative impacts, and only Prešov, Suceava can face low negative impacts. According to the vulnerability and adaptivity indicators of the regions, problems

caused by unusual and extreme weather conditions will increase and tackling them will be a common issue especially in the areas of cross-border relevance (e.g. catchment areas in the other country, common affected areas).

There are 2 UNESCO world heritage natural sites located in the eligible area which are transboundary as well: Caves of Aggtelek Karst (HU-SK, Aggtelek is situated in the adjoining region of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) and Slovak Karst and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (SK-UA). Landscapes and the forests are also situated across the borders, therefore their management, the protection of the environment, the natural heritage and biodiversity should be a common task.

Protected natural areas (especially Natura 2000 sites) in the cross-border area (in the Member States) involve numerous sites primarily in the northern part of the eligible area (Košický and Prešovský regions and in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County) and smaller but not least important sites in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Maramureş and Suceava counties concerning the area of the Western- and Eastern-Carpathians. The extension of protected habitats surely do not stop at the borders in reality and the Ukrainian part of the Eastern-Carpathian Mountains must involve other sites including areas of similar characters as the Natura2000 sites according to the European Union's directives.

Rivers in the cross-border area belong to the catchment area of Tisza River. The Tisza river basin is the largest sub-basin of the Danube covering almost 20 % of its territory. It comprises an area of 160 000 square kilometres in South-East Europe shared by five countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine) out of which four are part of the eligible area (affected counties are: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Satu Mare County, Maramureş County, Košický region and Prešovský Region).

The Tisza flows from near Rakhiv (Zakarpatska Region) in Ukraine, from the confluence of the White Tisa and Black Tisa. From there, the Tisza flows west, roughly following Ukraine's borders with Romania until Tiachiv, then continues flowing in Ukraine, then enters Hungary at Tiszabecs, flows as a border river until Szatmárcseke on the border of Ukraine and Hungary as an inner river till reaches Eperjeske, flows again as a border river till Tiszabездéd, flows again as a border river on the Slovak-Hungarian border between Záhony and Velké Trakany, and continues flowing to the south-west in Hungary.

Then it traverses Hungary from north to south. There are more than 20 bigger rivers as tributaries of Tisza in the eligible cross-border area. Quality of rivers varies, but most of the rivers have to face pollution problems. The quality of surface waters is determined by the fact that they originate from beyond the country's borders.

Forests represent 7,2% of the territory of the eligible area. Within the region the largest areas of protected natural areas are situated in Maramureş (24,5% of the county's territory) Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (15% of the county's territory) and Zakarpatska (11.5% of the region's own territory). Altogether there are 20 national parks (HU: 3, SK: 7, UA: 10), numerous nature parks and protected landscape areas in the eligible area. The protection and management of the unique flora and fauna of these vast and partly connected and cross-border areas can only be effective with the participation of all involved and affected parties.

Waste handling shows a heterogeneous picture of the eligible area again. Regarding wastewater, the proportion of treated municipal wastewater is 100% only in the Hungarian counties, the other counties and regions of the eligible area are lagging behind with the proportion between 60-80%. The proportion of households connected regular waste disposal system is at least about 90% in the Hungarian and Romanian areas, and the Slovak regions have significantly lower rates around 60%. Average values in both cases show the need for development in this field. Solid waste collection

problems have a negative impact on the quality of the environment, which can be perceived especially in case of the contamination of rivers. As the eligible area is an integrated catchment basin with lots of rivers, interweaving solid waste should be handled commonly to achieve visible impact.

The water resources of the eligible area are at risk of contamination in almost every county. Although there were and are initiatives to reduce the above-mentioned risk, therefore the management of the water resources of the cross-border area can only be achieved through cross-border initiatives.

Regarding endangered and invasive species in the eligible area a great diversity of endangered species are listed and protected also in the frame of natural parks and protected areas. The threats and pressure on habitats, wild flora and fauna could derive from close infrastructure development, extension and development of human settlements, over exploitation of natural forests conducting to ecological disproportions in the catchment area, poaching of some species because of hunting or economic interest. The reduction of the high diversity of hardwood forests in the flood area is significant.

Energy efficiency is becoming a more and more important question regarding the management of energy, renewable energy and self-sufficiency. There are energy efficiency initiatives in the eligible area, but the counties' share of renewable energy sources still has a minimal role in the current energy structure. Using alternative sources of energy conversion, is very expensive, as the rate of return is long and does not work without a support system. Initiatives like biomass power plants that utilise forestry waste, other wooden waste deriving from forest management and furniture industry, crop wastes and plantations installed for energy purposes are popular in the eligible area primarily because of the high proportion of the forested areas. The regions try to reduce the consumption of housing and household energy and also the deriving expenditure. Important renewable energy source could be geothermal, solar and wind energy. Besides the investment activities for modernising the energy sector, awareness raising activities could help a lot in the framework of a small scale cross-border programme.

For details of the analysis regarding "Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation" please see Chapter 11.1.3.

3.4 Accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems (T07)

Regarding the motorways and main roads, in the past ten years improvements have been accomplished and further developments are planned, because the elimination of missing links and bottlenecks is necessary, as well as the improvement of the quality of infrastructure. It is especially important regarding the Ukrainian regions because of the low public road density which is far below than the values in the Member States: in all three Ukrainian regions concerned the value for road density is 50-60 km road per 1000 km², while in the Member States it is 350 km road per 1000 km² on average. If we take a look at the roads between the counties/regions' seats of the cross-border area, we can see an unpleasant average speed which varies between 58.1 and 95.3 km/hour. Even if the density of roads would be suitable, the state and quality of roads need to be developed to take the advantages of the existing opportunities.

Infrastructural inequalities are also traceable concerning the railway lines. Railway lines are more accessible/dense in the southwest part of the cross-border region especially in the Slovak and the

Hungarian areas and in Satu-Mare in Romania. There is no rail connection between Chernivetska Region and Suceava County and also between Maramureş and Suceava counties. Cross-border railway connections are partly underused because of the long traffic time and the partly inadequate schedules; railway traffic does not support daily mobility. The quality of infrastructure regarding railway transport services in passenger transport is low.

The number of border crossing points was found to be convenient, but the infrastructure (road and border crossing stations) needs development in order to ensure smooth and comfortable crossings; rapidity and predictability and also permeability in the first place is a need for the population of the border area.

According to the opinion of the participants at the stakeholder workshops, crossing the borders by using public transport services is not an easy process, as they. Cross-border public transport services basically hardly exist. There is no transport company offering services across the border without changes. Public transport lines rest then turn back when reaching the borders. Passengers have to cross the border on foot and take another service meanwhile the timetables are not harmonised. The timeframe of crossing the border to/from Ukraine is unpredictable which makes the usage of public transport services more inconvenient.

The situation of bicycle routes and traffic improved in the programme area as a result of the 2007-2013 programming period, but there are still missing tween sections, therefore these constructions would facilitate the everyday life concerning transport and tourism in the cross-border area.

For details of the analysis regarding “Accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems” please see Chapter 11.1.4.

3.5 Common challenges in the field of safety and security (TO8)

Rivers, water reservoirs, groundwater resources located in the eligible area highly depend on each other; therefore the protection of their quality is essential to secure healthy drinking water for the population of the area and to avoid harming natural resources. Catchment areas do not end at the border; the risks and damages are common and should be managed jointly. River Tisza in all of the four affected countries has a huge impact and it is important to emphasize that the Hungarian eligible counties are in the downstream and the risk factors for them are higher according to this fact.

According to the experiences of the past years, the contamination of the rivers crossing the border caused by the insufficient solid waste and waste water collection treatment systems is an existing problem in all regions. The pollution of surface water is caused mainly by poor wastewater from the public sewage and industrial production and also from the deficiencies of the solid waste treatment. Extremely heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding, as well as long periods of drought resulting from global warming, have generally increase the frequency of occurrence in the territory.

Improvement of flood management is an urging need especially in the western part of the eligible area. Solving the problems caused by the environmental factors is a common wish for the whole cross-border area.

Water resources and catchment areas are interconnected and spread out and highly depend on water management and protection of the other countries.

Natural and man-made disaster, emergency situations in the region are caused mainly by natural factors by floods due to the increased storm activity, frequent flooding, and earthquakes because of the geographical location. There is lack of integrated call centres for emergency interventions, so that the objective of assuring a certain minimal standard duration for emergency situations in the region could not be fulfilled.

Number of registered crimes is decreasing in their number regarding the Hungarian counties, Slovak regions and Romanian counties. However the number of crimes significantly increased from 2012 to 2013 in all three Ukrainian regions. Fortunately, the number of registered crimes per thousand inhabitants is under the national average in all 4 border areas.

There is a great need for the development of health infrastructure and services and also health related social services (especially for people in disadvantaged situation). The health status of the inhabitants in the region is not very favourable. The background of the poor health status of the population could be associated with low level of health services and health awareness as well. The social status, poverty, diseases and living in a rural area also affects the quality of health of the inhabitants.

For details of the analysis regarding “Common challenges in the field of safety and security” please see Chapter 11.1.5.

3.6 Main challenges and needs to be addressed by the programme from cross-border aspect, regarding economic, social, environmental and governance in line with future regional development trends

Based on the findings of the individual interviews, the analysis of regional and national strategic documents, the national interactive workshops, and the workshops with key stakeholders of participating countries and national experts below we summarise the key challenges and needs by thematic objectives. Challenges are in general valid for the programme area as a whole, national and county specificities are indicated wherever relevant.

TO 3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

- Inappropriate condition and lack of preservation of historical sights, uncontrolled restoration of churches in the Ukrainian regions hindering the development of touristic routes crossing the border.
- Inappropriate system of registration, restoration and usage of historical sites, lack of registration concerning museums potential touristic sites with no information on them in the Ukrainian regions hindering the development of touristic routes crossing the border.
- The eligible area is visited by less foreign tourists– except for transit visitors.
- People with marketable products (local handcraft and foodstuff) do not know how to cooperate due to socio-cultural past of the region in Ukraine which makes their involvement in to cross-country tourism services more difficult.
- Lack of common tourism destination management – possibilities for thematic cross border programmes is not utilised. No marketing activities to promote the region as an extended tourism destination which offers a tourism package, integrated cultural programmes.
- Lack of infrastructure to reach the touristic destination (roads, bicycle roads) and the ICT infra for promotion and information
- Lack of skilled experts, language barriers, not enough information on sites and programmes (ICT based supporting materials).
- No promotion of local cuisine specialities and agro tourism etc.

TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Need for common water management, inland water and drought caused by extreme weather conditions, water erosion, soil degradation.
- Energy efficiency of buildings and introduction of clean technologies is a challenge for the whole region – there is need for education, study tours, best practices, and information exchange.
- Possibilities for energy production from renewable sources are not utilised in the region.
- Waste collection and treatment: no education and no developed infrastructure for waste collection especially in Ukraine, which effects the neighbouring countries as well, especially in the river valleys.
- There is no adequate waste water collection and treatment in many settlements of the programming area
- There is a need for cooperation in the field of preservation and sustainable use of natural resources in order to develop the green infrastructure for touristic utilisation (**bicycle pathways**, green buildings), and form the basis of eco-tourism and green services.

TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems

- No motorway ensures the direct connection to the border at the moment.
- Low quality of road network infrastructure.
- Low quality of railway transport.
- Border crossing: lack of permeability, security, rapidity, and predictability.
- Poorly developed public transport services.
- Low quality infrastructure for inter-modality
- Low interoperability of processes and efficiency of public services and administrative procedures in the sector of transport.

- Quality and density of road network is not satisfactory – this problem concerns especially Ukraine but affects the whole border region by hindering the implementation of joint activities.

TO 8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

- The current state of infrastructure and hydraulic flood control structures in Zakarpatska does not protect the population, industrial facilities and arable land from the harmful effects of floods; this concerns the whole region which raises the need of joint actions.
- Disaster management and effective cooperation in case of natural and man-made disasters, emergency situations have to be further developed in the border region especially forecast and monitoring systems and emergency co-operations.
- The catchment areas do not end at the border, the risks and damages are common and require co-operation in management.
- Challenges in public health (like TBC, HIV, drug, alcohol etc.).
- Lack of health and social insurance, logistics space („shelter houses”) for disabled people.
- Smuggling and black marketing is wide spread.

3.7 Main potentials of the cooperation area in line with the regional capacity available

Based on the findings of the individual interviews, the analysis of regional and national strategic documents, the national interactive workshops, and the workshop with key stakeholders of participating countries and national experts below we summarise the main potentials for co-operation by thematic objectives.

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

- Based on the common and similar natural, cultural and historical values there are opportunities to increase the attractiveness, visibility, market presence of the programme area and lengthen the average stay of tourists by providing complex packages focusing on destinations in Ukraine.
- A touristic brand for the whole cross-border region could be developed by marketing activities organized to promote it (creating network of tourism services).
- There is an opportunity to develop cross border religious tourism, as religious connections between countries can take advantage of historical religious heritage.
- Based on existing cultural heritage there is a potential to organize festivals and other joint cultural events (music, dance, theatre, contemporary art, folk art etc.)
- Extension of already existing co-operations between museums and scientific institutions in order to increase number of visitors by sharing information and developing thematic programmes.
- In the border region there is a good potential for local (organic) products and production of handcrafts which could be accompanied by touristic products.
- There are mountains and rivers which natural assets could be developed for touristic purposes.
- Creation of a network of sites with cultural and historical interest is necessary in the programme area.

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Improvement of the efficiency of businesses and energy production through the development and implementation of alternative energy sources, introduction of clean technologies.
- Joint initiatives and co-operations to increase the presently low energy efficiency (education, study tours, best practices, information exchange, database on biomass resources).
- Setting up cross border disaster management structures in order to use resources more effectively: cross border coordination and cooperation of national authorities and NGOs potentially involved in disaster management and long term cooperation agreement between authorities.
- Increase the role of NGOs in the management of cross border disasters and emergency situations (multifunctional intervention centres, non-governmental rescue centre, international rescue teams, and united database).
- Setting up complex cross border water management systems in the catchment area of the Upper-Tisza, maintenance of biodiversity and natural landscapes through ecological and traditional agriculture.
- Systematic ecological education to increase awareness regarding natural heritage in the border region.
- Harmonised interventions near rivers crossing the border.

TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems

- Modernized transport infrastructure – with special regard on sustainable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective transport infrastructure – could help in saving natural values and in increasing the competitiveness of the area. (taking into consideration the national and regional strategies for transport development of relevant countries).
- Improved roads to villages and tourist objects could increase the economic activities and living conditions at remote rural settlements.
- River Tisza and the other rivers could be used as basis for water transport infrastructure.
- A developed public transport could increase the mobility of labour force across the border.
- Better infrastructure of touristic attractions and leisure activities (e.g. building bicycle routes and footpaths) could contribute to the increase of the number of tourists who arrive in the area.

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

- Setting up co-operation in the field of preventive medicine, diagnosis of infections and chronic diseases and creating a cross-border strategy for handling these challenges.
- Creation and development of commonly used health infrastructure.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle in the frame of cross border programmes.
- Cross border co-operation in the form of common strategies in climate change adaptation. (Vulnerability analysis, development of adaption measures and their implementation).

- Jointly operated early warning systems regarding flood, water and air pollution, development of monitoring system and monitoring of qualitative and quantitative indicators of water resources.
- Co-operation network of non-governmental rescue teams and organizations.
- Formation of local and voluntary fire protection units with the ability to take part in cross border tasks.

3.8 Lessons learnt from previous experiences in cross-border programmes

Structure of Thematic Objectives in the HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013

Main findings regarding the structure of TOs of the currently running HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013:

- TO1 Business and SME development, TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage, TO4 Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty and TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation were represented in the Top 5 areas of development both in the case of submitted and contracted projects.
- Among submitted projects Thematic Objective 2 (Support to education, research, technological development and innovation) was the 4th most represented objective in the top 5 areas. After contracting, projects under Thematic Objective 8 (Common challenges in the field of safety and security) replaced TO 2 in the top 5 also representing approximately 10% of the projects.
- The proportion of projects under Thematic Objective 4 (Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty) almost doubled among the contracted projects compared to the rate among the submitted ones (from 9,4% to 16,3%). This translates into the high quality of proposals in that area.
- Thematic Objectives 5 (Support to local & regional good governance), 7 (Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems), 9 (Promotion of and cooperation on sustainable energy and energy security) were highly underrepresented both among submitted and contracted projects.
- Regarding the Top 5 TOs, on average 22% of submitted projects were contracted.

ROM evaluations of HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013

Key findings and recommendations of the ROM evaluations by priority of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 accomplished in period 2011-2013 which included the monitoring of 25 projects³:

³Priority 3 (Increase border efficiency) has not been evaluated in the examined period.

Priority	Key findings
1. Promote economic and social development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict follow up of detailed work plans would be necessary to control delayed implementations • Ownership issues to be handled in advance • Support agreements with and between authorities in order to help implementation and sustainability • Take actions to increase synergy between different projects of same intervention area • Strengthen the indicator set of projects to make results measurable • Further attention to project institutional and financial sustainability, request phase out strategies • Give more attention to gender equality • Platform to foster cooperation and integration between the projects in the targeted regions
2. Enhance environmental quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take actions to avoid additional costs and cost escalations • Cost of the works to be carried out can be a challenge especially for larger projects • Take actions to avoid delays of payments for Ukrainian partners • Identify outcome oriented indicators at the result and Specific Objective levels, better impact indicators suggested • Strict follow up of detailed work plans to avoid delays in implementation and need to extension, • Strengthen sustainability of the project outputs already during implementation • Take measures to assure financial and institutional sustainability
4. Support people to people cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure logical linkage between the activities-results and the Specific Objectives, foster project cycle thinking during the planning of projects • Some cases additional indicators suggested • Construction elements may cause delay – needs special focus • Strengthen sustainability of project outputs • Improve the communication between partners • Initiate co-operation with other projects to increase impact, sector meetings to increase synergy

Summary of experiences gathered via interviews

- Approximately 70 % of the projects were bilateral; the ratio of projects with four partners is very low.
- Partner-seeking events worked well - coordination on 3 levels: (1) Partner search forum, (2) trainings for potential beneficiaries, (3) national level information days for potential beneficiaries.
- For many of the potential applicants' project documents are rather complex and frequently changed during the application and the implementation process.
- Some projects were poorly designed which could be developed by improving the application forms with more demanding criteria and setting up more specific evaluation criteria/grid.
- Slow evaluation of applications caused difficulties in keeping timeframes and budget of the project. The time span from the launch of a call for proposal till the contract signature is very long.
- Delayed payment was a horizontal problem along the implementation of the programme.
- Financial risks of Large Infrastructure Projects, delays in implementation and procurement procedures should be taken into account.

4 Programme's strategy

4.1 General objective and vision of the joint operational programme

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed with the objective of strengthening the prosperity and stability of regions in the border area and avoiding the emergence of dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours.

In line with the ENP objectives the HUSKROUA cross border co-operation programme for 2014-2020 aims to intensify the co-operation between the regions of Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska of Ukraine and the eligible areas of the Member States in order to initiate progress on the fields of existing social, economic, infrastructural and environmental difficulties.

Based on the intention written above the following vision was defined for the programme implementation:

*In 2030 the area along the borders of Ukraine with the three Member States of Hungary, Slovakia and Romania is a **cooperative cross-border region** that efficiently functions and works together in the field of **promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage, environmental protection, climate change adaptation and disaster management**. The **cross-border accessibility among Ukraine and the three Member States does not hinder day-to-day cross-border cooperation, while safety and security and including border management is assured** on an adequate level. **Cooperation** is an integral and natural part of the daily life of the **people living and authorities operating** here.*

4.2 Selection process for the Thematic Objectives

The selection process for the Thematic Objectives – that has been carried out in the light of the 10 Thematic Objectives from which a maximum of 4 could be included in the JOP - contained numerous steps in order to take into consideration all outcomes, findings and standpoints in the course of the planning process and contained the following activities:

- Assessment of the results of the questionnaires for initial orientation and pre-selection of Thematic Objectives and Priorities, which was filled in by 48 organisation as county and city councils, chambers, ministries, development agencies and departments, not for profit organizations, significant regional and local institutions, and current lead partners.
- statistical analysis of projects' data of the on-going HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013 – LSPs excluded – where data have been categorised and analysed considering the possible Thematic Objectives for the period 2014-2020,
- analysis of relevant strategic documents of the cross-border area which were defined in five main categories in the Inception Report of the planning process as documents for Neighbourhood Policy, Hungarian/Slovak/Romanian/Ukrainian national and regional and local documents, other possible – non- country-specific documents, and related CBC programmes,
- extraction of the key findings of the ROM evaluation of the current Programme,
- conducting a group interview with the participation of the JTS staff,
- conducting altogether 33 individual interviews (2 EU-level, 11 national-level and 20 regional level).

- collection of potential LIP ideas on LIP data sheets filled in and collected by the regional and national authorities.

The following table summarises the aspects arisen from the different information sources listed above and also the recommended 4 versions regarding the possible structure of thematic objectives. The black cells regarding the TO & Priorities questionnaire mean the highest priorities of the countries regarding TOs. In the listed types of sources of information the possible and mostly preferred Thematic Objective was searched.

Source of information			TO1	TO2	TO3	TO4	TO5	TO6	TO7	TO8	TO9	TO10
TO & Priorities questionnaire (lower value=high priority)	HU	2,42	2,52	2,28	1,85	1,83	2,77	2,1	2,33	2,76	2,97	2,78
	SK	3,02	3	2,69	2,1	3,46	3,25	3,08	2,93	3,3	3,66	2,73
	RO	2,53	2,64	2,83	2,15	2,81	2,69	2,41	2,15	2,32	2,79	2,54
	UA	2,95	3,07	3	2,65	3,25	3,22	2,48	2,7	2,77	3,02	3,33
	average		2,81	2,70	2,19	2,84	2,98	2,52	2,53	2,79	3,11	2,85
Statistical analysis (ranking)			4		1	3		2		5		
Document analysis (suggested by countries)			UA	RO	RO			RO	SK	UA, RO, SK		RO
ROM evaluations	ROM evaluations do not provide information regarding the selection of TOs											
Group interview					X			X		X		X
Beneficiary interviews (ranking)			2	1	2	3		2	4			
LIP data sheets (number of projects)				1	6							

Suggested TOs taking all above into consideration*			TO1	TO2	TO3	TO4	TO5	TO6	TO7	TO8	TO9	TO10
Version 1 (focused programme)	Contains only:				X			X		X		
Version 2	Certain:				X			X		X		
	and select maximum 2 from TOs 1, 2, 4 and 7											
Version 3 (social focus)				X	X	X		X		X		
Version 4 (economy & accessibility)			X		X			X	X	X		

Based on the findings of all information resources above and taking into consideration the suggested TO structure versions provided by the expert team, the Joint Task Force evaluated and discussed the possible versions and decided on the Thematic Objectives of the Programme for 2014-2020 as described in Chapter 4.3.

4.3 Selected thematic objectives

Based on the preliminary needs assessment, stakeholder interviews and workshops the following thematic objectives were selected by the decision of the Joint Task Force:

- **TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage**
- **TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems**
- **TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security**

The selected thematic objectives are taking into account the identified needs of the border area, the planned content of the mainstream OPs in the member states, the experiences of the previous programme and the opportunities defined in the situation analyses.

4.4 Planned activities within the selected thematic objectives

The following priorities will support the selected thematic objectives in line with the provisions of the programming document:

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

Priority 1: Promoting local culture and historical heritage along with tourism functions

The objective of the priority is to develop the eligible area as a joint tourism destination based on its cultural, historical, religious values with the preservation of historical buildings.

The planned measures will support the development of cultural-historical heritage along a tourism function. Renovations of historic buildings without real cross-border tourism function and also tourism service or programme development, which are not built on cultural-historical-religious heritage and do not demonstrate real cross-border dimensions are excluded from the priority.

The priority contributes to the thematic objective via forming the basis of local cultural events, preserving buildings with historical heritage and creating market for local products with the promotion of touristic activities on cross border platforms.

Preservation of historical heritage includes the following types of actions:

- Preservation and restoration of historical heritage sites (buildings, historical parks and gardens in accordance with monument restoration requirements with the goal to create a network of touristic sites as basis of thematic routes and thematic packages in the cross border region.
- Surveys on buildings of cultural, historical, and religious heritage to form the bases of cross border thematic routes.

Tourism services include the following types of actions:

- Development of joint cross-border touristic destinations, thematic routes, packages connecting historical cultural or religious heritage sites and other attractions and services.
- Joint promotion activities and information provision on cross-border routes and related attractions (including the development of maps, joint online information sources and information materials, modern IT tools and applications for the promotion of routes and attractions, signs, tourism cards, etc.).
- Organisation of joint cultural events with cross-border added value linked to historical, cultural, and religious heritage.
- Support of the development and promotion of traditional local (handicraft, (organic) agricultural) products at touristic sites to foster local economic effects.
- Creating cross-border standard of services through the development of new or existing regional product-specific trademarks and quality systems.
- Exchange of experiences among organisations related to cultural religious and historic heritage.
- Training for local stakeholders in tourism, cooperation, promotion and networking.

TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Priority 1: Sustainable use of the environment in the cross border area - preservation of natural resources, actions to reduce GHG emission and pollution of rivers

The objective of the priority is to support the preservation and sustainable use of common natural values in the border area, to initiate actions for energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources as well as to reduce the risks caused by wastes on the quality of waters.

Within the frame of the priority the following types of actions are foreseen:

Preservation and sustainable use of common natural values:

- Protection of landscape, maintenance of biodiversity and eco-systems with cross border relevance via common developments like protected areas co-operations, sustainable forestry managements systems, ecological and traditional agricultural production etc.
- Protection of water resources, adaptation to the more frequent water extremities through integrated water management actions.
- Joint ecological education programmes.
- Co-operation between institutions, authorities and civil organisations for the sustainable use of natural resources; support for the harmonisation of relevant regulations.

Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources:

- Supporting investments to increase renewable energy production, energy efficiency, energy savings and recycling.
- Elaboration of joint low-carbon strategies.
- Exchange of best practices and expertise, study tours, education on energy efficiency.
- Strengthening competences and skills in the field of eco-innovation and low-carbon solutions.
- Harmonisation of local renewable energy production strategies for biomass, hydro power and geothermal energy.

Waste management and wastewater treatment:

- Sharing best practices, setting up of small scale pilot systems for wastewater treatment, communal and industrial waste management.
- Surveys on water quality problems of river basins crossing the border.
- Setting up water quality monitoring systems of rivers crossing the borders.
- Development of landfills that are suitable for recycling and fulfil environmental requirements.
- Joint awareness campaigns.

TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems

Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods

The objective of the priority is to improve the cross-border mobility of persons and goods, create the basis of economic co-operations and reduce the disparities of regions via the development of transport and border crossing infrastructure and services.

Types of actions in the frame of the priority:

- Preparation activities and/or building, modernisation and upgrading of transport infrastructures leading to and crossing the border to improve the opportunities for transboundary mobility.
- Developing border crossing infrastructure and improvement of border management systems connected with transport infrastructure developments.
- Building, modernisation and upgrading of bicycle paths, routes leading to and crossing the border.
- Development of cross-border public transport initiatives, harmonisation of systems, acquisition of rolling stocks.
- Awareness-raising activity regarding the importance of environment-friendly transport system (low emission and low noise pollution of cross-border transport).
- Development of IT solutions for public transport facilities.

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations

The objective of the priority is to create technical background, strategies and co-operation platforms in order to prevent and handle natural and man-made disasters that may endanger the citizens of the border area.

Types of actions in the frame of the priority:

- Harmonising activities in the field of flood prevention, development of flood and inland water prevention infrastructure.
- Setting up joint early warning systems for natural disaster incidents.
- Strategic and technical planning and establishment of joint monitoring systems on environmental (air, water, soil) pollutions.

- Support/cooperation/network of non-governmental and public rescue teams/organisations.
- Database regarding natural disasters incidents.
- Joint training programmes and workshops, exchange of experiences, study tours.

Priority 2: Support to the development of health

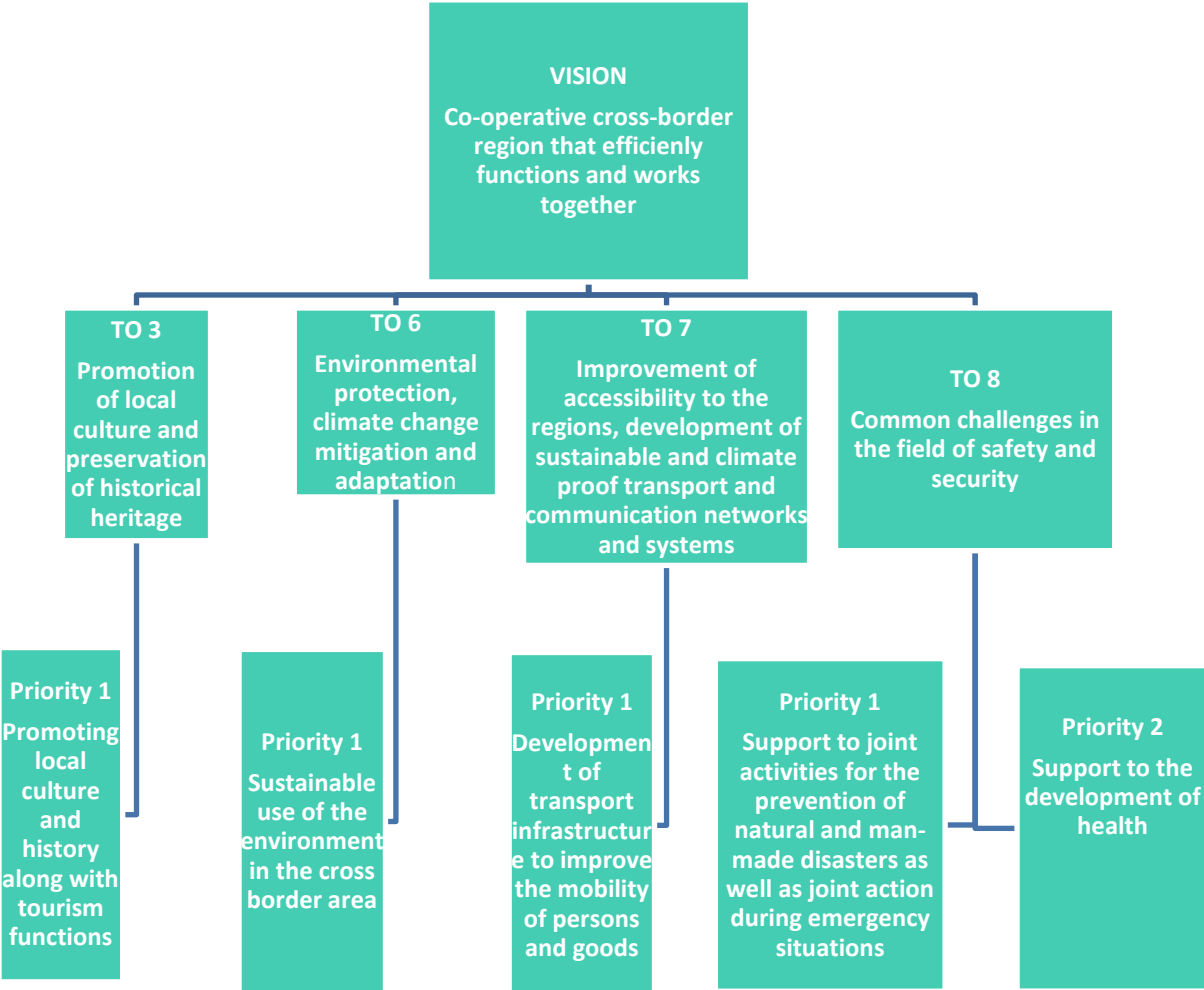
The objective of the priority is to improve the preventive activities, the availability and level of health care services and health related social programs for the citizens in the border area.

Types of actions in the frame of the priority:

- Improvement of health care and prevention infrastructure and equipment related to cross border service provision, joint capacity development.
- Joint development and establishment of patient care areas.
- Exchange of know-how, joint training programmes, joint prevention programmes, joint support services.
- Co-operation between institutions on the field of human epidemiology.
- Improvement of health related social care services infrastructure.

4.5 Hierarchy of the vision, objectives and priorities of the Programme

The diagram below shows the interrelation among the overall objective and areas of interventions of the Programme.



4.6. Expected results

With the realisation of the activities planned in Chapter 4.4 the Programme intends to achieve the following results through the selected priorities:

Thematic Objective	Priority	Expected result
TO 3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	Priority 1: Promoting local culture and history along with tourism functions	A network of renewed cultural and historic sites (buildings and their environment and infrastructure) which forms the bases of touristic products of the programming region (thematic routes crossing the border, cultural programmes with cross border effect) with which the number of visitors can be increased in the area.
TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	Priority 1: Sustainable use of the environment in the cross border area	Increased capacity in the programming area to address challenges in the field of environmental protection and climate change mitigation. Successful protection of common natural values with demolishing the effects of borders on habitats and increasing the awareness of people living in the area. Improved water quality of rivers crossing the borders as a result of interventions related to waste management and waste water treatment. Increased awareness, competence and skills of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency interventions among citizens, businesses and institutions. As a final outcome less dependency on imported energy sources in the programming area.
TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods	With the support of the priority labour force and businesses become more mobile in the border region and the economic activities are increasing including the number of visitors of touristic attractions.
TO 8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations	The risk of natural and man-made disasters should be decreased and the handling of such cases should be more effective with the use of new infrastructure elements, common strategies and co-operation platforms created for the programming area.
	Priority 2: Support to the development of health	Joint prevention programmes, improved health care infrastructure and cross border institutional co-operations are foreseen to improve health conditions of citizens and reduce the risk of human epidemiology hazards crossing the border.

4.6 Result indicators

The effects and results achieved by the Programme will be tangibly measured through the following indicators:

Thematic Objective	Priority	Result indicator	Source of verification	Baseline value ⁴	Target value
TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	Priority 1: Promoting local culture and history along with tourism functions	Additional number of visitors to the reconstructed or modernized sites (visitors)	Aggregation of data from project level beneficiary reports after the implementation of the projects (project sustainability reports).	0	24.000
TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	Priority 1: Sustainable use of the environment in the cross border area	Increased capacity in environmental protection and climate change mitigation (Based on surveys (baseline, mid-term, final) among key stakeholders e.g. water directorates, relevant NGOs institutions, authorities)	Aggregate data from projects and project applications; Source of verification: Uniform methodology survey conducted by Programme at three dates: - baseline survey; - mid-term survey conducted as part of the ongoing (mid-term) evaluation - final survey conducted in the last three months of programme implementation	3.5	4.5

⁴ Baseline values and a target values will be defined in a later phase during the preparation of the JOP.

TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods	Additional number of vehicles using the built, modernized transport and/or border management infrastructure (average number of vehicles per day)	Aggregation of data from project level beneficiary reports after the implementation of the projects (project sustainability reports).	0	1.200
		Increase of number of passengers using transport systems improved with the support of the programme (number of passengers)	Aggregation of data from project level beneficiary reports after the implementation of the projects (project sustainability reports).		31.000
TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations	Risk management index (RMI) of the cross-border area ⁵	Aggregate data from projects and project applications; Source of verification: Uniform methodology survey conducted by Programme Authorities at three dates: - baseline survey; - mid-term survey conducted as part of the ongoing (mid-term) evaluation	2.67	3.50

⁵Following the methodology as described in „A System of Indicators for Disaster Risk Management in the Americas”, OMAR D. CARDONA, Instituto de Estudios Ambientales, IDEA, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Manizales (<http://www.unisdr.org/2005/HFdialogue/download/tp3-paper-system-indicators.pdf>). The survey shall be conducted among the disaster management authorities of the four countries.

			- final survey conducted in the last three months of programme implementation		
	Priority 2: Support to the development of health	Medical equipment density	Source of verification for the Programme: Aggregate data from projects level	1,7	2,5

4.7 Expected outputs, output indicators

With the implementation of the planned activities the Programme is planned to have the following outputs by the end of the programming period:

Thematic Objective	Priority	Output indicator	Source of verification	Quantified target value	Method of calculation
TO 3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	Priority 1: Promoting local culture and history along with tourism functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organisations using programme support for promoting local culture and preserving historical heritage(CO16) 	Annual implementation report of the Programme	40	-
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of improved cultural and historical sites as a direct consequence of programme support(CO17) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	20	Approximately 500000 EUR/site Total : 10 million
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of cross-border cultural events organised and touristic products developed using ENI support(CO18) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	30	Approximately 40 000 EUR/event Budget: 1,2 million
TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	Priority 1: Sustainable use of the environment in the cross border area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of persons actively participating in environmental actions and awareness raising activities (CO17) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	6000	Approximately 200 EUR/participant
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of waste, wastewater, energy efficiency or renewable energy production interventions(programme specific indicator) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	30	Approximately 400.000 EUR/project
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status, ha (CO15) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	800	Approximately 5000 EUR/ha

Thematic Objective	Priority	Output indicator	Source of verification	Quantified target value	Method of calculation
TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total length of newly built roads (km) (COI26) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	5	Average 2,95 mEUR
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total length of newly built bicycle roads and bicycle paths (km) (programme specific indicator) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries		Average 450 kEUR/km
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads (km) (COI27) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	40	Average 1 050 kEUR/km
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total length of reconstructed or upgraded bicycle roads and bicycle paths (km) (programme specific indicator) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries		Average 50kEUR/km
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of public transport lines with increased service level as direct consequence of the support (lines)(programme specific indicator) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	4	250 000 EUR/line

Thematic Objective	Priority	Output indicator	Source of verification	Quantified target value	Method of calculation
TO 8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of co-operating organisations in disaster management(programme specific indicator). 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	8	2 from each country
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population benefiting from flood protection measures services as a direct consequence of the support, persons (COI31) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	25 000	Estimation based on population density in riverside areas
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures services as a direct consequence of the support, persons (COI32) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	5000	Estimation based on population density in forest areas
	Priority 2: Support to the development of health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population covered by improved health services as a direct consequence of the support (COI30) 	Aggregation of data from project level reports of beneficiaries	178 000	Calculation based on the health infrastructure density

4.8 Relation between the ENI strategic objectives and the thematic objectives of the Programme

1. Promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders

The JOP serves the strategic objective via:

- Increasing number of tourists with the development and promotion of heritage (TO3)
- Improvement of the mobility of persons and goods (TO7)
- Increasing the usage of info-communication tools to share business information and provide services for citizens (TO7)
- Improvement of the preventive activities, the availability and level of services of health (TO8)

2. Address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security

The JOP serves the strategic objective via:

- Supporting sustainable waste and wastewater management systems (TO6)
- Supporting the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources (TO6)
- Initiating measures on energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources (TO6)
- Developing environmentally friendly transport infrastructure (TO7)
- Creating technical background, strategies and co-operation platforms to the prevent and handle natural and man-made disasters (TO8)
- Support to the improvement of health services and prevention (TO8)

3. Promotion of better conditions and modalities to ensure the mobility of persons, goods and capital

- Building, modernisation and upgrading of roads leading to and crossing the border (TO7)
- Development of cross-border public transport initiatives, harmonisation of systems (TO7)

4.9 Contribution and coherence with the planned interventions towards macro-regional strategies and other Union-financed programmes in the countries and regions concerned

The planned interventions were collected and summarised according to the selected priorities of the Programme and show a strong level of contribution and coherence towards macro-regional strategies and other Union-financed programmes in the countries and regions concerned as it is detailed in the tables below according to the 4 selected Thematic Objectives.

During the implementation phase of the Programme, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFA) as Managing Authority will ensure operational coordination mechanisms to facilitate synergies and to prevent double funding by internal work processes and meetings

- to harmonise implementation of the ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 with all other relevant EU programmes in the programme area,
- to harmonise implementation of the ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 with the national regional development programmes.

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	
Programming document	Planned interventions
1. Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (HU)	Development of national and international attractions (UNESCO sites and sites maintained by Gyula Forster Centre), cultural and religious thematic routes, complex networks of historic heritage sites.
2. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	TDM-based development of tourism. Main tourism branches: wine, cultural, health, thermal and active tourism. Cultural programmes (e.g. support of cultural events) and joint tourism product development.
3. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (HU)	Coordinated tourism development: attractions, thematic routes, complex packages as well as related services and marketing, TDM and tourism clusters, community development, protection and development of cultural values in the rural areas.
4. Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovakia – Hungary 2014 – 2020	Supporting the harmonised protection, development and utilisation of the common cultural heritage of the border region (renovation of cultural, built heritage sites; development of cross-border tourist products and services), development of cultural heritage sites (studies and plans, reconstruction). Common tourist management and marketing, development of joint tourist destinations, products and thematic routes, development of tourist infrastructure and tourist services.
5. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Development of tourism infrastructure and the linked recreational infrastructure, promotion of tourism potential.
6. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Promotion and economic valorisation of tourist potential with local features. Rehabilitation and conservation of the built patrimony and its valorisation by tourism.
7. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Restoration, protection and valorisation of cultural patrimony Economic valorisation of the balneary/wellness tourist potential – economic valorisation of tourist potential with local specificity – recreational public tourist infrastructure
8. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Promotion of Satu Mare County as a cultural and health tourist destination, as well as a business destination for foreign and local investors, promotion of locally produced traditional food products Development of tourism and related services (with accent on health and cultural tourism) Cross-border cooperation in the field of tourism
9. Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (HU, SK, RO, UA)	Development of new and existing Cultural Routes relevant in the Danube Region, theme paths and joint products; Ensure the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage by developing relevant clusters and networks of heritage sites, museums, interpretation and visitor centres; Develop and implement education, training and capacity building to support quality tourism (among 'indicative actions')
10. Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Poland –Slovakia 2014 -2020	Modernisation and construction of the tourism infrastructure near culture and historical heritage, joint cross-border activities for education, joint workshops
11. Rural Development Programme Hungary 2014-2020	Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
12. Rural Development Programme for Romania 2014-2020	Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

Programming document	Planned interventions
13. Rural Development Programme for Slovakia 2014-2020	Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Priority6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Programming document	Planned interventions
1. Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (HU)	Energy production from solar, geothermal, biomass and water, increasing the energy efficiency of buildings owned by enterprises complex energy efficiency and renewable energy investments of enterprises, intelligent buildings. Main target groups: Enterprises (excluding agriculture related activities).
2. Environment and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme (HU)	Water management data collection, reservoirs, flood protection interventions, (major projects in the Tisza valley).
3. Regional and Urban Development Operative Programme(HU)	Public transport infrastructure, bicycle roads, local renewable energy production, energy efficiency of municipality buildings. Target groups: Municipalities and their institutions.
4. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	Local and county strategies for adaptation to climate change Protection against flood and inland water. Recycling industrial waste, waste water management, landscape rehabilitation, use of renewable energy resources, water quality improvement, and landscape and nature protection, raising awareness of sustainable development.
5. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (HU)	Support to use of renewable energy resources, waste management, nature and biodiversity protection, complex water management, protection against flood and inland water, raising awareness of environmental protection, protection and development of natural values in the rural areas.
6. The Operational Programme the Quality of Environment 2014-2020 (SK)	Sustainable use of natural resources through development of environmental infrastructure Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change Energy efficient low-carbon economy in all sectors
7. The Integrated regional Operational Programme 2014 – 2020 (SK)	Improving the quality of life in the regions with an emphasis on the environment
8. The Water Plan of The Slovak Republic (SK)	Interventions aiming at achieving a good ecological and chemical status for surface waters. Prevent the pollution, and protect, enhance and restore groundwater bodies and to ensure the balance between abstraction and recharge of their volume. Reverse the significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of pollutants.
9. The Strategy of the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation of the SR (SK)	Local and county strategies for adaptation to climate change Protection against food and inland water. Recycling industrial waste, waste water management, landscape rehabilitation, use of renewable energy resources, water quality improvement, and landscape and nature protection, raising awareness of sustainable development.

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Programming document	Planned interventions
10. Program of the Waste Management of the SR for period 2011 – 2015 (SK)	Support the use of renewable energy resources, waste management, raising awareness of environmental protection. Targets in the waste management plan are focused on municipal waste, bio – waste, WEEE, packaging waste, used batteries and accumulators, end-of-life vehicles, used tyres, construction and demolition waste, wastes containing PCBs and PCB contaminated equipment, waste oils.
11. Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovakia– Hungary2014 – 2020	Supporting the harmonised protection, development and utilisation of the common natural heritage of the border region (protection of biodiversity; assuring the conditions for common water management), nature and environment protection.
12. Big Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Investments in the water and sewage sector in order to attain the requirements of the EU acquis in the field of environment, through the continuation of the integrated development of projects regarding water and sewage water. Investments in the waste sector in order to attain the requirements of the EU acquis in the field of environment, through the continuation of the integrated waste management projects of the counties. Improvement of the conservation level of species and habitats of community importance.
13. European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)	Priority Area 4 of the EUSDR "To restore and maintain the quality of waters" and Priority Area 5 "Environmental Risks" support the following actions under TO6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - surveys on water quality problems of river basins crossing the border, - setting up of water quality monitoring systems of rivers crossing the borders protection of water resources, adaptation to the more frequent water extremities through integrated water management actions
14. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Increasing energetic efficiency of public institutions, dwellings and companies. Investments in creation, rehabilitation, modernization and extension of drinking water and sewage network in integrated waste management systems and risk management systems. (also including: realization of joint environment protection plans with neighbouring regions, including regions from Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, realization of projects and joint monitoring of polluting factors) Rehabilitation of contaminated and/or polluted soils Preservation of biodiversity
15. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Supporting business environment to adapt their activities for a low-carbon economy. Supporting and facilitating the use of regenerating energy sources Biodiversity and Natura 2000 sites protection. Development and improvement of services for the prevention of emergency situations. Supporting the waste management and its valorisation. Extension and modernization of public utility networks (water, sewage, electricity, thermic, natural gas).

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Programming document	Planned interventions
16. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Energetic efficiency of public buildings, including consolidation measures Energetic efficiency of residential buildings, including consolidation measures – investments in public illumination – measures for urban transport (bicycle routes/ purchasing ecological electrical means of conveyance etc.) – regeneration and revitalization of urban areas (modernization of public spaces, rehabilitation of abandoned buildings/areas, historical centres, etc.)
17. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Minimizing the effects of natural risks on population and goods, assuring quality of surface waters, air, durable waste management, protection of biodiversity and natural patrimony Cross-border cooperation for the joint environment protection
18. Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (HU, SK, RO, UA)	Support strategic frameworks and develop concrete solutions to restore, conserve and improve a network of green infrastructures/ bio-corridors; Promote interlinking of natural habitats and wildlife corridors through the reduction of barriers; Promote awareness-raising and environmental education; Contribute to regional energy planning and -coordination of transnational relevance (among 'indicative actions')
19. EUWI – EU Water Initiative	Concerned goals of the initiative: 2. Better water governance: “to promote better water governance, capacity building and awareness”. 3. Better water management: “to improve efficiency and effectiveness of water management through dialogue and coordination”. 4. More cooperation on river basins: “to strengthen cooperation through promoting river basin approaches in national & transboundary waters”. Contribution to the following key objectives EUWI in EECCA (involving Ukraine): - Managing water in a way that contributes to water-, food- and energy security, and economic development; - Contributing to peace by developing inter-state cooperative structures for water management.
20. EMBLAS – Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea	Coherence with the project aim which is to strengthen capacities of the Georgia, Russian Federation and Ukraine for biological and chemical monitoring of water quality in the Black Sea, in line with EU water related legislation.
21. Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB)	Coherence with both specific objectives, that are: - to improve availability and quality of data on the ecological, chemical, and hydro-morphological status of trans-boundary river basins including groundwater, - to develop River Basin Management Plans for selected river basins/sub-river basins according to the requirements of the WFD.
22. Rural Development Programme Hungary 2014-2020	Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
23. Rural Development Programme for Romania 2014-2020	Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Programming document	Planned interventions
24. Rural Development Programme for Slovakia 2014-2020	<p>Priority 2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests</p> <p>Priority4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry</p> <p>Priority5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors</p>

TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems

Programming document	Planned interventions
1. Integrated Transport Development Operative Programme (HU)	Development of existing roads, increase of safety and reduce of negative environmental effects, increase of interoperability
2. Regional and Urban Development Operative Programme(HU)	Supporting local mobility and investments. Target groups: Municipalities, and enterprises in case of complex projects.
3. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	<p>Development of main, secondary and local CB roads, new roads to improve CB connection (e.g. Miskolc-Košice motorway, Domaháza-Petrovce, Bánréve-Lenartovce, Aggtelek- Dlhá Ves, Perecse-Janík, Hidasnémeti- Perín-Chym, Lácacséke- Pribeník).</p> <p>New bicycle roads to tourism, attractions and connecting EuroVelo, railway developments across the border, raising awareness of sustainable traffic forms, development of public transport, enhance traffic security.</p>
4. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (HU)	<p>Environmental friendly mobility</p> <p>Improvement of accessibility</p> <p>Bicycle road development</p>
5. Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure 2014 – 2020 (SK)	<p>Selected investment priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of environmentally friendly and low-carbon transport systems and promoting sustainable urban mobility, including inland waterways transport, ports and multimodal lines • Development and reconstruction comprehensive, interoperable railway system of high quality • Services to citizens and businesses • Effective public administration • Broadband and next generation network
6. Integrated Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (SK)	<p>Safe and environmentally friendly transport in the regions</p> <p>Improving the quality of life in the regions with an emphasis on the environment</p>
7. Strategy of Transport Development of the Slovak Republic to the year 2020 (SK)	<p>Sustainable development of transport</p> <p>Development of environmentally friendly and low-carbon transport systems promoting mobility</p>
8. The Strategic plan of the Transport Infrastructure Development Of the SR to the year 2020 (SK)	<p>Sustainable development of transport infrastructure</p> <p>Improvement of accessibility</p>

TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	
Programming document	Planned interventions
9. Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovakia - Hungary 2014 - 2020	Strengthening the harmonisation of public and environment-friendly transport and multimodality within the region and improving the quality of the services. Development of the cross-border intelligent transport system.
10. Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Poland – Slovakia 2014 – 2020	Construction and modernization of the cross-border network, especially construction/modernization of the road infrastructure
11. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Modernization and development of railway infrastructure Modernization and development of road infrastructure Development of durable urban transportation systems Extension of the Internet infrastructure, with special regard to rural areas and isolated communities
12. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Construction/ rehabilitation/ modernization of county ring roads
13. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of major transportation infrastructure including expressway, national roads, air transportation, and rehabilitation of rail infrastructure, as well as development of gas, sewage and water networks in rural areas • Cross-border cooperation for the improvement of cross-border transport infrastructure Cross-border cooperation for the improvement of cross-border communication
14. Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (HU, SK, RO, UA)	Contribute to the development of integrated transport frameworks; Encourage joint planning and development of urban, interurban and cross-border bicycle routes in the Danube region; Contribute to ensure accessibility of rural areas (among 'indicative actions')

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	
Programming document	Planned interventions
1. Human Resource Development Operative Programme (HU)	Development of health, disease prevention and health infrastructure
2. Environment and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme (HU)	Data collection system, integrated risk management system, information systems for citizens, new rescue and other equipment
3. Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovakia - Hungary 2014 - 2020	Assuring the conditions for common water management and common risk prevention and risk management. Common development of public services and their accessibility. Strengthening institutionalised cooperation in the programming region.
4. Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion 2014-2020 (SK)	Improvement and availability of health care and prevention infrastructure and equipment Improvement and availability of social care services infrastructure
5. Operational programme Quality of the Environment 2014-2020 –approved by the EC (SK)	Promoting risk management, emergency management and resilience to emergencies affected by climate change Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change with the focus on flood protection
6. Strategy of the Institutional System of Social Services in the SR (SK)	Improvement of social care services infrastructure and accessibility

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

Programming document	Planned interventions
7. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Increasing access to quality health care services Extension, diversification and improvement of the access of vulnerable groups and isolated communities to education, health care, social services, employment and living, also including the modernization of the related infrastructure
8. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Rationalization, completion and modernization of the existing regional medical network Development of regional network of social assistance centres
9. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Construction of regional hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rehabilitation/modernization/equipping of emergency hospitals in the county • rehabilitation/modernization/extension/ equipping of health care infrastructure • construction/rehabilitation/modernization/equipping of the community integrated intervention centres Integrated actions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction/rehabilitation/Modernization of social dwellings • Investments in health care, education and social infrastructure
10. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Improvement of health care services and increasing the level of education and training of the population with special regard to vocational training in line with the economic profile and development perspectives of the county Cross-border cooperation for providing medical services and joint solutions in emergency situations
11. European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)	Priority Area 5 of the EUSDR "Environmental Risks" supports the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - harmonising activities in the field of flood prevention, development of flood prevention infrastructure. - Setting up joint early warning systems for natural disaster incidents. Strategic and technical planning and establishment of joint monitoring systems on environmental (air, water, soil) pollutions.
12. Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (HU, SK, RO, UA)	Encourage more effective information sharing, mutual learning and a sustainable approach to managing the risks of floods; Contribute to the common transboundary implementation of the Flood directive (joint flood monitoring and alert systems) (among 'indicative actions')
13. Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Man-made and Natural Disasters in the ENPI East Region (PPRD East)	Activity areas of the programme as: Disaster risk reduction, Civil protection, Public awareness raising, Information exchange development Purpose of Phase 2 of the PPRD Programme: To contribute to the development of the Partner Countries' civil protection capacities for disaster prevention, preparedness and response through regional cooperation.
14. Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB)	Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessing current data and assessment tools availability; - Setting up WFD-compliant monitoring programmes; - Setting up training programmes on monitoring and laboratory QA/QC (quality assurance/quality control);
15. Annual Work Programme ISF Police 2015	Action: Direct award of action grants to provide emergency assistance Envisaged activity: Support to the carrying out of a pan-European waste water analysis study (ideally covering all EU Member States) and the drafting of a report assessing and comparing them with existing so-called activity indicators such as seizures, consumption surveys and drug related law enforcement offences. The conclusions of this report should be made clear for policy making purposes.

4.10 Coherence with national, regional and other strategies and policies

The coherence with national, regional and other strategies and policies of the planned areas of intervention will be ensured in the following ways:

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
1. Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (HU)	Protection of natural and cultural heritage
2. Regional and Urban Development Operative Programme (HU)	Support of local products, local markets to increase employment.
3. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	Overall objective: Sustainable and efficient use of natural and cultural resources; Strategic objective: Sustainable use of unique natural and cultural resources; Priorities: Improving the adaptive capacity of the society, Tourism
4. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (HU)	Overall objective: Creating an attractive natural, social, cultural and economic environment
5. Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovakia– Hungary2014 – 2020	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (Thematic objective 6.) To increase the attractiveness of the border area
6. Programme of economic and social development of Prešov Self-government Region for the period of 2008-2015 (SK)	Development of tourism, Creation of landscape and flood protection, Development of Regional Culture
7. Strategy of Maramureş County (RO)	Priority 4. Development of tourism through valorisation of the well-known potential of the county
8. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Specific objective 5: Supporting the development of urban areas Specific objective 7: Supporting valorisation of the existing tourist potential
9. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Objective 3. Increasing the quality of life of the population from the region Priority 3.4. Durable development of tourism
10. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Priority axis 5. Conservation, protection and durable valorisation of the cultural patrimony Priority axis 7. Diversifying local economies through the durable development of tourism
11. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Territorial marketing, Tourism development, Extension and intensification of territorial cooperation for the social and economic development of the County and strengthening its strategic position
12. Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development for the Carpathians	Establish supportive conditions for sustainable tourism products and services, including development of a marketing scheme for the promotion of the Carpathians as a unique sustainable destination. Develop innovative tourism management, fully integrating the needs of local people and economies and other supporting sectors, and respecting the preservation of natural and cultural heritage. Establish a continuous process of awareness raising, capacity building, education and training on sustainable tourism development and management at all levels.

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
13. Rural Development Programme Hungary 2014-2020	Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
14. Rural Development Programme for Romania 2014-2020	Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
15. Rural Development Programme for Slovakia 2014-2020	Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Priority6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
1. Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (HU)	Reduction of CO2 emission with the refurbishment of buildings and investment to renewable energy production.
2. Integrated Transport Development Operative Programme (HU)	Increase of energy efficiency in transport sector
3. Environment and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme (HU)	More effective disaster prevention to persons and values
4. Regional and Urban Development Operative Programme (HU)	Sustainable development of transport, increase of energy efficiency and the utilization of renewable energy sources
5. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	Overall objective: Sustainable and efficient use of natural and cultural resources Strategic objectives: Sustainable use of unique natural and cultural resources Increase share of resources of renewable energy in energy production and consumption Improving environmental condition and security Priority: Improving environmental condition and safety
6. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (HU)	Overall objective: Creating an attractive natural, social, cultural and economic environment Thematic strategic objective: Green economy, climate-friendly energy management, adaptation to the climate change Priority: Effective environmental management and adaptation to climate change
7. Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure 2014- 2020 (SK)	Activities aimed at promoting sustainable urban mobility can contribute to more efficient use of energy resources and to reduce the negative impacts (emissions, noise) on the environment.
8. Operational Programme Quality of Environment 2014-2020 (SK)	Climate change adaptation and mitigation focused on flood prevention
9. Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovakia– Hungary2014 – 2020	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (Thematic objective 6.)

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
10. Programme of economic and social development of Prešov Self-government Region for the period of 2008-2015 (SK)	Creation of landscape and flood protection Water Protection Using renewable energy Improving the management of waste management
11. The Strategy of PM 10 Reduction in Slovakia (SK)	The main is to achieve and maintain good air quality throughout the Slovak Republic. Strategic priorities are: monitoring of air quality and identifying sources of pollution, local heating, transport, soil and not reinforced surfaces, impact on public health and communication with the public.
12. The Water Plan of the Slovak republic (SK)	Achieving good water quality according to WFD criteria. Improvement of water status in compliance with WFD will basically support also the protection objectives specific for the given protected area.
13. Program of the Waste Management of the SR for period 2011 – 2015 (SK)	The strategic objective of Waste Management is diverting waste from landfilling, respectively reducing the amount of waste going to landfills. The main objective is to minimize the negative effects of the generation and management of waste on human health and the environment, as well as reducing the use of resources, and favour the practical application of the waste hierarchy as defined in Article 4 of the new Waste Framework Directive (prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery, disposal).
14. Big Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	PA 4. Environment protection and promotion of efficient utilization of resources PA 5. Biodiversity protection and conservation, cleaning of polluted soils and monitoring air quality
15. Strategy of Maramureş County (RO)	Priority 5. Protection and improvement of the quality of environment
16. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Specific objective 1: Promoting energetic efficiency Specific objective 2: Environment and biodiversity protection through specific investments
17. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Objective 1. Increasing the number of jobs and incomes Priority 1.3. Increasing the competitiveness of regional economy through supporting the transition towards a low-carbon economy Priority 3.7. Protection and conservation of natural environment
18. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Priority axis 3. Supporting the increase of energetic efficiency of public buildings Priority axis 4. Supporting durable urban development - financing of integrated projects on the basis of integrated urban development strategies
19. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Assuring durable development through environment protection and prevention of risks Extension and intensification of territorial cooperation for the social and economic development of the County and strengthening its strategic position
20. Rural Development Programme Hungary 2014-2020	Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
21. Rural Development Programme for Romania 2014-2020	Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
22. Rural Development Programme for Slovakia 2014-2020	Priority 2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry Priority 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
1. Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (HU)	E-inclusion, provision of a new generation national broadband network, increase of computerization of enterprises
2. Integrated Transport Development Operative Programme (HU)	Supporting the competitiveness of businesses with the development of the transport infrastructure; Increase of employment via better infrastructure for mobility
3. Regional and Urban Development Operative Programme (HU)	Increase the mobility of potential employees
4. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	Priority: Traffic, accessibility of labour market centres
5. Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure 2014- 2020 (SK)	Global objective of the OP is to promote sustainable mobility, economic growth, job creation and improving the business environment through the development of transport infrastructure, development of public passenger transport and the development of the information society. Transport investments shall be directed to build quality modern infrastructure, which improves accessibility, connectivity to regions, increasing their attractiveness to investors, thereby laying the foundations for greater competitiveness, business development, job creation and economic growth.
6. Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovakia– Hungary 2014 – 2020	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures (Thematic objective 7.) Enhancing regional mobility by increase of density of border crossing points. Improving environmentally friendly cross-border transport services
7. Programme of economic and social development of Prešov Self-government Region for the period of 2008-2015 (SK)	Development of transport infrastructure
8. Strategy of Maramureş County (RO)	Priority 2. Development and modernization of the transport infrastructure

TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
9. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Specific objective 1: Increasing accessibility, connectivity and mobility through investments in transport infrastructure
10. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Objective 2. Increasing the accessibility of the region and of the mobility of population, goods and information Priority 2.1. Development of a durable transport system and assuring the access and integration to major European and international transport networks
11. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Priority axis 6. Improvement of road infrastructure of regional and local importance
12. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Improvement of infrastructure as support for the economic development of the county in order to transform Satu Mare County into a logistic pole of transnational importance Extension and intensification of territorial cooperation for the social and economic development of the County and strengthening its strategic position

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
1. Human Resource Development Operative Programme (HU)	Development of the quality of public services in the field of health care, social interventions.
2. Environment and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme (HU)	More effective disaster prevention to persons and values
3. County Development Concept, Strategic and Operative Programme of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (HU)	Priority: Improving the adaptive capacity of the society
4. Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure 2014- 2020 (SK)	Active approach of public authorities to effectively eliminate the negative impacts of road development on a wide range of the travelling public act to increase road safety.
5. Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovakia– Hungary 2014 – 2020	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration (Thematic objective 11.). Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation
6. Programme of economic and social development of Prešov Self-government Region for the period of 2008-2015 (SK)	Creation of landscape and flood protection Improving the management of waste management Specialization and modernization of hospitals
7. Draft Regional Development Plan of the North-East Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Specific objective 3: Increasing access to quality health services Specific objective 4: Promoting social inclusion through the regeneration of declining rural and urban area

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	
Programming document	Strategic objective/policy
8. Draft Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 (RO)	Objective 3. Increasing the quality of life of the population from the region Priority 3.3. Improvement of access and development of educational and professional training, health and social infrastructure
9. Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (RO)	Priority axis 8. Development of health and social infrastructure Priority axis 9. Supporting the economic and social regeneration of disadvantaged communities from urban areas
10. Satu Mare County Development Strategy until year 2020 (RO)	Efficient valorisation of human resources, as support for increasing economic competitiveness and reducing inequalities in the county Extension and intensification of territorial cooperation for the social and economic development of the County and strengthening its strategic position

4.11 Coherence with EUSDR

The relevant EUSDR joint actions will be addressed through the following activities by the HUSKROUA 2014-2020 Programme:

Planned interventions of EUSDR	Relevant JOP TO	Planned JOP activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of new and existing Cultural Routes relevant in the Danube Region, theme paths and joint products; ▪ Ensure the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage by developing relevant clusters and networks of heritage sites, museums, interpretation and visitor centres; ▪ Develop and implement education, training and capacity building to support quality tourism (among 'indicative actions') 	TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and restoration of historical heritage sites (buildings, historical parks and gardens in accordance with monument restoration requirements with the goal to create a network of touristic sites as basis of thematic routes and thematic packages in the cross border region. • Surveys on buildings of cultural, historical, and religious heritage to form the bases of cross border thematic routes. • Development of joint cross-border touristic destinations, thematic routes, packages connecting historical cultural or religious heritage sites and other attractions and services. • Support of the development and promotion of traditional local (handicraft, (organic) agricultural) products at touristic sites to foster local economic effects. • Creating cross-border standard of services through the development of new or existing regional product-specific trademarks and quality systems. • Exchange of experiences among organisations related to cultural religious and historic heritage. • Training for local stakeholders in tourism, cooperation, promotion and networking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surveys on water quality problems of river basins crossing the border, ▪ Setting up of water quality monitoring systems of rivers crossing the borders protection of water resources, adaptation to the more frequent water extremities through integrated water management actions 	TO6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of water resources, adaptation to the more frequent water extremities through integrated water management actions • Sharing best practices, setting up of small scale pilot systems for wastewater treatment, communal and industrial waste management. • Surveys on water quality problems of river basins crossing the border.

Planned interventions of EUSDR	Relevant JOP TO	Planned JOP activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support strategic frameworks and develop concrete solutions to restore, conserve and improve a network of green infrastructures/ bio-corridors; ▪ Promote interlinking of natural habitats and wildlife corridors through the reduction of barriers; ▪ Promote awareness-raising and environmental education; Contribute to regional energy planning and -coordination of transnational relevance (among 'indicative actions') 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up water quality monitoring systems of rivers crossing the borders. • Development of landfills that are suitable for recycling and fulfil environmental requirements. • Joint awareness campaigns. • Protection of landscape, maintenance of biodiversity and eco-systems with cross border relevance via common developments like protected areas co-operations, sustainable forestry managements systems, ecological and traditional agricultural production etc. • Joint ecological education programmes. • Supporting investments to increase renewable energy production, energy efficiency, energy savings and recycling. • Elaboration of joint low-carbon strategies. • Exchange of best practices and expertise, study tours, education on energy efficiency. • Strengthening competences and skills in the field of eco-innovation and low-carbon solutions. • Harmonisation of local renewable energy production strategies for biomass, hydro power and geothermal energy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to the development of integrated transport frameworks; ▪ Encourage joint planning and development of urban, interurban and cross-border bicycle routes in the Danube region; ▪ Contribute to ensure accessibility of rural areas (among 'indicative actions') 	<p>TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation activities and/or building, modernisation and upgrading of transport infrastructures leading to and crossing the border to improve the opportunities for transboundary mobility. • Developing border crossing infrastructure and improvement of border management systems connected with transport infrastructure developments. • Building, modernisation and upgrading of bicycle paths, routes leading to and crossing the border. • Development of cross-border public transport initiatives, harmonisation of systems, acquisition of rolling stocks. • Awareness-raising activity regarding the importance of environment-friendly transport system (low emission and low noise pollution of cross-border transport). • Development of IT solutions for public transport facilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harmonising activities in the field of flood prevention, development of flood prevention infrastructure. ▪ Setting up joint early warning systems for natural disaster incidents. ▪ Strategic and technical planning and establishment of joint monitoring systems on environmental (air, water, soil) pollutions. 	<p>TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonising activities in the field of flood prevention, development of flood and inland water prevention infrastructure. • Setting up joint early warning systems for natural disaster incidents. • Strategic and technical planning and establishment of joint monitoring systems on environmental (air, water, soil) pollutions. • Support/cooperation/network of non-governmental and public rescue teams/organisations. • Database regarding natural disasters incidents.

Planned interventions of EUSDR	Relevant JOP TO	Planned JOP activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage more effective information sharing, mutual learning and a sustainable approach to managing the risks of floods; ▪ Contribute to the common transboundary implementation of the Flood directive (joint flood monitoring and alert systems) (among 'indicative actions') 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint training programmes and workshops, exchange of experiences, study tours.

Regarding the objectives and priorities of the EUSDR concerning the JOP, the specific practical arrangements will be addressed in the selection criteria. These criteria will integrate the macro-regional dimension and help funding projects in this field in accordance with the Joint Statement made by the ministers in charge of EU funds of countries of the Danube region during the EUSDR Annual Forum. EUSDR actors have an overview of both the targets of the Strategy and other EU programmes available in the target area, therefore National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators can be invited to take part in the Joint Monitoring Committee.

5 Structures and appointment of the competent authorities and management bodies

The content of this chapter is in line with

the general REGULATION (EU) No **232/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument,

the REGULATION (EU) No **236/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action,

the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No **897/2014** of 18 August 2014 laying down specific provisions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (further: ENI CBC Implementing Rules) and

the Programming document 2014-2020 ENI Cross Border Cooperation (Draft August 2014).

The bodies and functions described in the present Chapter are separated from each other according to paragraph 1 (a) of Article 30 of the ENI Implementing Rules. A programme level description of the Management and Control System will be elaborated after the adoption of the JOP.

5.1 Programme level bodies

The following programme level bodies are involved in the management of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC 2014-2020 programme:

Management body	Organisation	Task
Joint Monitoring Committee	Members delegated to it according to Article 22 of the ENI CBC IR.	Responsible for monitoring the implementation of the programme.
Managing Authority	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Hungary) Deputy State Secretariat for Regional and Cross-Border Economic Cooperation	Managing and implementing the joint operational programme
Intermediary Body	Széchenyi Programme Office*	Providing management services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring system management + administration • unit dealing with financial transfers (Financial Transfer Unit) • process management tasks
Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)	Hosted by Széchenyi Programme Office*	Supports the activity of JMC, AA and the MA in delivery of its day-to-day management tasks

Management body	Organisation	Task
Branch offices of the JTS	In the eligible programme area in Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine	On-site information offices help and assist the work of the JTS.
Audit Authority (Directorate General for Audit of European Funds Hungary)	Directorate General for Audit of European Funds Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AA as independent audit body shall be responsible for the designation audits. • The Audit Authority of the programme ensures that audits are carried out on the management and control systems, an appropriate sample of projects and the annual accounts of the programme.
and representatives to the group of auditors referred to in Article 28(2);	<p>HU: Institution: Directorate General for Audit of European Funds Hungary; Department/Position: Directorate for Economic Development and Auditing International Funds</p> <p>SK: Institution: Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic; Department/Position: Audit and Control Section</p> <p>RO: Institution: Romanian Court of Accounts - Audit Authority; Department/Position: Unit for European territorial cooperation programmes</p> <p>UA: Institution: Accounting Chamber of Ukraine Departments/Positions: Defence and Law Enforcement Audit Department, Head Controller and Director of the Department and Auditor Agricultural Industry, Nature Protection and Emergencies Audit Department, Chief of the division and Senior Auditor Chairman Advisor</p>	

*Széchenyi Programme Office (SZPO) is the intermediary body, hosting the JTS and the department providing management services. The department providing management services performs horizontal tasks for all CBC programmes with participation of Hungary, which are managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Managing Authority. The JTS and the department providing management services are functionally independent and separated units of SZPO, which is a State owned public company.

5.1.1 Composition of the Joint Monitoring Committee and tasks

The Joint Monitoring Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the programme. According to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014 of 18 August 2014 the Joint Monitoring Committee shall be composed of one or more representatives appointed by each participating country. Representatives will be appointed on a functional basis. Other persons may be appointed as observers by the Joint Monitoring Committee and participating countries, whenever possible shall ensure suitable participation of all actors concerned and in particular local stakeholders, including civil society organisations and local authorities.

The Commission shall be involved in the work of the Joint Monitoring Committee as an observer and shall be invited to each meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee at the same time as the representatives of the participating countries.

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall draw up and adopt its rules of procedure by unanimity and shall seek to take decisions by consensus. It may put certain decisions to a vote, particularly those relating to the final selection of projects and the grant amounts allocated to them in accordance with its rules of procedure. Each participating country has equal voting rights regardless of the number of representatives it has appointed. The secretary, the Commission or any other observer have no voting rights. The chairperson of the Joint Monitoring Committee shall act as moderator and lead the discussions. The chairperson has no voting rights.

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall be chaired by a representative of the Managing Authority or the Joint Technical Secretariat, as it is set out in the rules of procedure.

The Joint Monitoring Committee shall meet at least once per year. It shall be convened by its chairperson at the request of the Managing Authority or upon duly justified request of any participating country or the Commission. It may also take decisions through written procedure at the initiative of its chairperson, the Managing Authority or any participating country in conformity with its rules of procedure. Minutes shall be drawn up after each meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee. The minutes are approved by the JMC. Copies of these minutes shall be shared with the representatives of the participating countries, the Commission and any other observers.

Composition of the Joint Monitoring Committee:

Component	Requirement
1. Representatives appointed by each participating country	One or more representatives appointed by each participating country (the number of representatives does not change the proportion of votes; each country has only one vote). As preferable, two governmental representatives per participating country will be delegated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one of them by the ministries responsible for territorial development,• and, considering the importance of the external relations development, the ministries of foreign affairs of the participating countries. Their representatives will be invited as second governmental member of the Joint Monitoring Committee.
2. Chairperson	The chairperson has no voting rights.
3. Secretary	Nominated by the MA according to the Article 22(5) of the IR, no voting rights.

Component	Requirement
4. Observers	
4.1 Invitees, advisors	<p>1. Whenever possible and appropriate, participating countries shall ensure suitable participation of all actors concerned and in particular local stakeholders, including civil society organizations and local authorities, in order to ensure their participation in the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>2. Representatives of the ministries of finance of participating countries and other participants may be invited in an advisory capacity to the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>Observers have no voting rights.</p>
4.2 Commission	The Commission shall be invited to each meeting, as an observer and without any decision-making power and no voting rights.
4.3 Representatives without voting rights	The representatives of the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall be present at the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee.

Tasks of the Joint Monitoring Committee:

- Follow the programme implementation and progress towards its priorities using the objectively verifiable indicators and related target values defined in the programme.
- Examine all issues affecting the programme performance.
- Issue recommendations to the Managing Authority regarding the programme implementation and evaluation.
- Monitor actions undertaken as a result of its recommendations.
- Approve the Managing Authority's work programme and financial plan, including planned use of technical assistance. Monitor the implementation by the Managing Authority of the work programme and financial plan.
- Approve the criteria for selecting projects to be financed by the programme.
- Be responsible for the evaluation and selection procedure applicable to projects to be financed by the programme.
- Approve any proposal to revise the programme.
- Examine all reports submitted by the Managing Authority and if necessary, take appropriate measures.
- Examine any contentious cases brought to its attention by the Managing Authority.
- Examine and approve the annual report referred to in Article 77 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Examine and approve the annual monitoring and evaluation plan referred to in Article 78 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Examine and approve the annual information and communication plans referred to in Article 79 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Give the prior approval to the changes of the programme financial plan which may be directly made by the Managing Authority in accordance with Article 6(1) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- May request, pursuant to Article 6(2) (3) (4) (5) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, the revision of the Programme as a result of any of the following: (a) review of the programming document; (b) major socioeconomic changes or substantial changes in the programme's area; (c) implementation difficulties; (d) changes in the financial plan beyond the margin of flexibility

referred to in Article 6 (1) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules or any change significantly affecting the nature and objectives of the programme; (e) audits, monitoring and evaluations.

- May request, before the expiry date of the period of execution, the discontinuation of the Programme which cannot be implemented due to problems arising in relations between participating countries and in other duly justified cases.
- The main principles governing the work of the JMC and its decision-making shall be confidentiality, equal treatment, impartiality, transparency, non-discrimination, objectivity, fair competition and respect of the programme rules.

5.1.2 Managing Authority and its designation process

The Managing Authority appointed by the countries participating in the Programme is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Hungary.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Hungary)

47 Bem rkp, Budapest, Hungary - 1027

The Managing Authority (MA) shall be responsible for managing and implementing the joint operational programme, including technical assistance in line with the principle of sound financial management and the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and shall carry out any controls necessary in accordance with the rules and procedures provided by the relevant regulations. Detailed information on the organisation, internal structure and on the segregation of functions of the MA shall be included in the DMCS.

The designation procedure of the Managing Authority:

1. The designation procedure of the Managing Authority shall be based on a report and an opinion of an independent audit body that assesses the compliance of the management and control systems, including the role of intermediate bodies therein, with the designation criteria laid down in Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No **897/2014** of 18 August 2014 laying down specific provisions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument. The audit body shall take into account, where relevant, whether the management and control systems for the programme are similar to those in place for the previous programming period, as well as any evidence of their effective functioning. The independent audit body shall be the Audit Authority (Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, Hungary) which is functionally independent of the Managing Authority. It shall carry out its work in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards.
2. The Member State shall submit the formal decision referred to in Article 25(1) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules to the Commission as soon as possible after the programme adoption by the Commission. The formal decision of the Member State shall be a governmental decree of Hungary.
3. Within two months of receipt of the formal decision referred to in Article 25(1) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, the Commission may request the report and the opinion of the independent audit body and the description of the management and control system as regards, in particular, those parts concerning project selection. If the Commission does not intend to request these documents, it shall notify the Member State as soon as possible. If the Commission requests these documents, it may make observations within two months of

receipt of these documents which shall be reviewed taking into account the observations. When the Commission does not have any initial or further observations it shall notify the Member State as soon as possible.

4. Where existing audit and control results show that the designated authority no longer complies with the criteria laid down in Annex I of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 897/2014 of 18 August 2014, the Member State shall, at an appropriate level, set the necessary remedial action and fix a period of probation according to the severity of the problem, during which such remedial action shall be taken. Where the designated authority fails to implement the required remedial action within the period of probation determined by the Member State, the Member State, at an appropriate level, shall end its designation.

The Member State shall notify the Commission without delay when:

- a designated authority is put under probation, and provide information on the remedial actions and the respective probation period, or
- following implementation of remedial actions the probation is ended, or
- the designation of an authority is ended.

The notification that a designated body is put under probation by the Member State shall not, without prejudice to the application of Article 61 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, interrupt the handling of payment requests.

Where the designation of a Managing Authority is ended, the participating countries shall appoint a new authority or body, as referred to in Article 20(1) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, to take over the functions of Managing Authority. That body or authority shall undergo the designation procedure foreseen in paragraph 1 and the Commission shall be notified thereof in conformity with paragraph 3. This change shall require a revision of the programme pursuant to Article 6 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.

5. The provisional indicative timeline of the designation process is as follows:

	Step	Date or timeframe
1.	JOP adoption by the EC	31 December 2015
2.	DMCS submission by the MA to the Audit Authority	15 January 2016
3.	Designation process:	15 April 2016
3.1.	Document analysis, on-the-spot audit	1 month
3.2.	Compilation of the draft designation report	0,5 month
3.3.	Reconciliation of the report with MA; Preparation/Follow up of the action plan	1 month
3.4.	Finalisation of the designation report/issue of designation opinion	0,5 month
4.	Formal decision by Hungary on the designation	30 May 2016

Tasks of the Managing Authority

- Be responsible for managing the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and ensuring that the decisions of the Joint Monitoring Committee comply with the applicable law and provisions.
- Programme management tasks:
 - Support the work of the Joint Monitoring Committee and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the programme in achieving its expected results and targets.
 - Draw up and, after approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee, submit the annual report and the final report to the Commission.
 - Share information with intermediate body the Joint Technical Secretariat, the Audit Authority and beneficiaries that is relevant to the execution of their tasks or project implementation.
 - Establish and maintain the IMIS 2014-2020 computerised system according to Article 26 (1) (d) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
 - Carry out where relevant environmental impact assessment studies at programme level.
 - Implement the information and communication plans in accordance with Article 79 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
 - Implement the monitoring and evaluation plans in accordance with Article 78 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
 - Perform analysis of the internal controls of the Programme and the effectiveness of the internal control system within MA on regular basis.
- Tasks related to the selection and management of projects
 - Draw up and launch the selection procedures.
 - Manage the project selection procedures.
 - Provide the lead beneficiary with a document setting out the conditions for support for each project including the financing plan and execution deadlines.
 - Sign contracts with beneficiaries.
 - Manage projects.
- Tasks related to technical assistance:
 - Manage the contract award procedures.
 - Sign contracts with contractors.
 - Manage contracts.
- Tasks related to financial management and control of the programme:
 - Verify that services, supplies or works have been performed, delivered and/or installed and whether expenditure declared by the beneficiaries has been paid by them and that this complies with applicable law, programme rules and conditions for support of the projects. (Verifications shall include administrative verifications for each payment request by beneficiaries and on-the-spot project verifications. The frequency and coverage of the on-the-spot verifications will be proportionate to the amount of the grant to a project and the level of risk identified by these verifications and audits by the Audit Authority for the management and control systems as a whole. On-the-spot project verifications may be carried out on a sample basis. Where the institution hosting the Managing Authority is also a beneficiary under the programme, arrangements for the verifications shall ensure suitable segregation of functions.)
 - Ensure that beneficiaries involved in project implementation maintain either a separate accounting system or a suitable accounting code for all transactions relating to a project.

- Put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified.
- Set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure a suitable audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of Article 30 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in Article 68 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Draw up and submit payment requests to the Commission in accordance with Article 60 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Draw up the annual accounts.
- Take account of the results of all audits carried out by or under the responsibility of the Audit Authority when drawing up and submitting payment requests.
- Maintain computerised accounting records for expenditure declared to the Commission and for payments made to beneficiaries.
- Recover the amounts unduly paid in line with ENI CBC Implementing Rules
- Keep an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts reduced following cancellation of all or part of the grant.

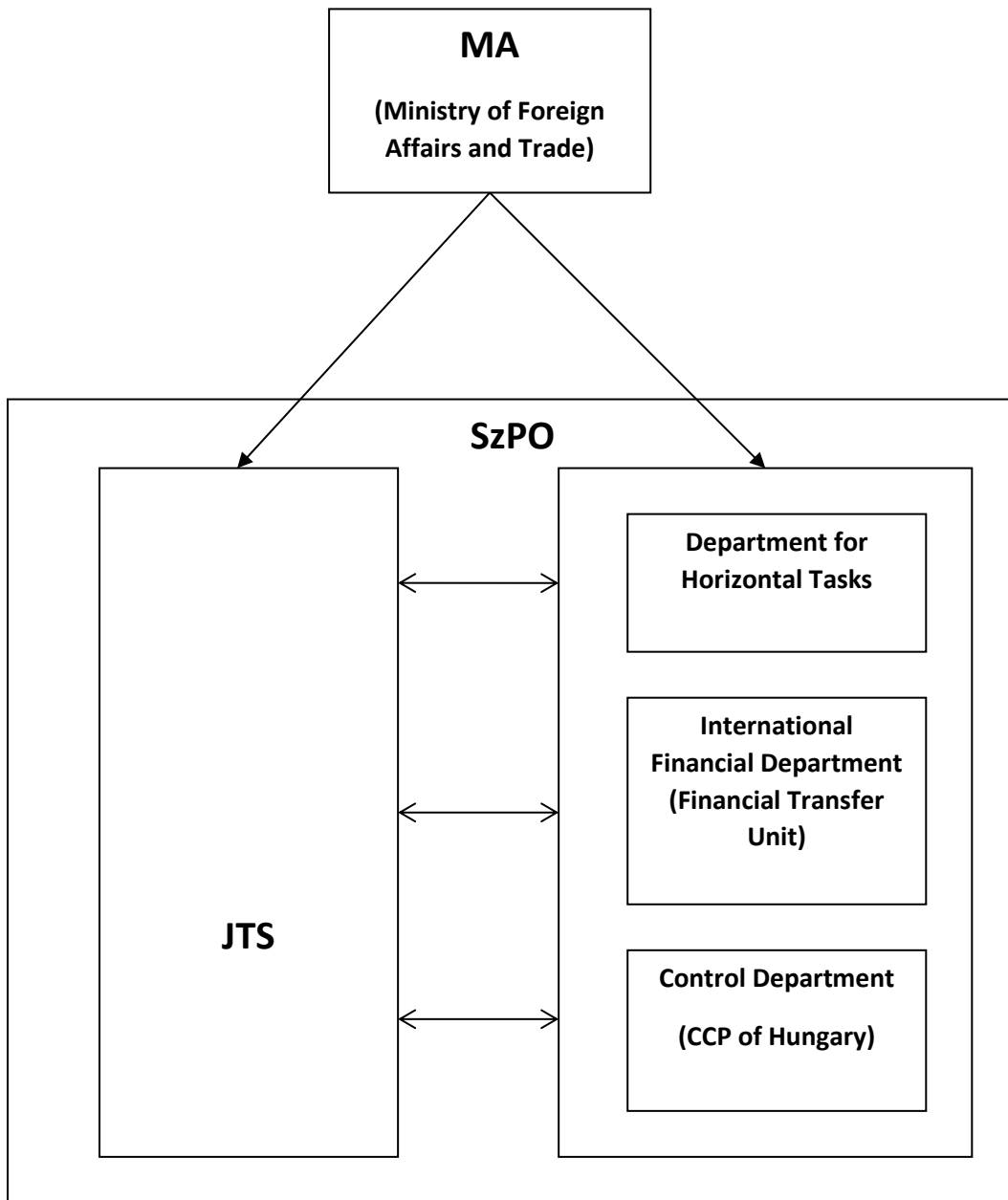
5.1.3 Procedure for setting up the Joint Technical Secretariat

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) is hosted by **Széchenyi Programme Office Non-profit Llc.** (2 Szép Street, 1053 Budapest, Hungary). The JTS is set up as a functionally and professionally independent unit within SZPO, operates under the professional guidance of the Head of JTS. This is ensured by the provisions of the Organizational and Operational Rules of the SZPO.

The JTS shall support the MA, the Joint Monitoring Committee and the Audit Authority in day-to-day operational management tasks as well as operational follow-up and financial management of the projects. The technical assistance budget shall finance the operation of the Joint Technical Secretariat and branch offices. The JTS shall assist the Managing Authority, the Joint Monitoring Committee and, where relevant, the Audit Authority, in carrying out their respective functions and shall inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under programmes and assist beneficiaries in the project implementation.

As the continuation of the existing implementation system of the HU-SK-RO-UA ENPI CBC Program 2007-2013, Széchenyi Programme Office assures the personal and technical conditions for the operation of the Joint Technical Secretariat and the International Directorate, (including Financial Transfer Unit, Control Department (CCP of Hungary), etc as hosting organization. The JTS and the units of the International Directorate are functionally independent and separated units of SZPO, which is a State owned public company.

The links between the MA, the JTS and the three departments, including its Financial Transfer Unit (FTU) and the Control Contact Point (CCP) of Hungary are shown in the following chart:



Detailed information on the organisation, internal structure and on the segregation of functions of the JTS will be included in the DMCS. The staff of JTS is employed under the rules of the Hungarian labour law.

The JTS, being hosted by a Hungarian legal entity shall use the procurement rules of Hungary.

Detailed tasks of Joint Technical Secretariat:

- Organising and acting as a secretariat for meetings of the JMC.
- Preparation and the mailing of the documentation.
- Drawing-up the minutes of the meetings.

- After approval by the JMC, following the endorsement by the MA launching calls for tenders and calls for proposals for the selection of projects.
- Receiving and registering project applications.
- Co-ordinating and carrying out the activities related to project generation and application procedures, technical preparation of JMC decisions on project selection.
- Following up the selection of projects by the JMC.
- Carrying out operational follow-up and financial management of the projects. As a delegated task from the MA, the JTS approves the narrative report and verifies the expenditures declared based on the reports of the national controllers and auditors.
- Implementing the information and visibility plan.
- Preparing and making available standardised forms compliant with the relevant rules for project applications and for project assessments for all projects.
- Preparing project documentation, contributing to assessment of applications' eligibility and quality.
- Co-operation with national bodies.
- Co-operation with organisations, institutions, networks and media relevant for the objectives of the programme.
- Participating in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme.
- Implementation of Technical Assistance projects under the responsibility of the MA.
- Preparing any other documentation required by the JMC.

Although the MA bears overall responsibility for the programme, the MA delegates certain tasks to Széchenyi Programme Office, acting as intermediate body and hosting the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS).

The relevant arrangements between the Managing Authority and the intermediate body shall be formally recorded in writing. The intermediate body shall guarantee its solvency and competence in the domain concerned, as well as its administrative and financial management capacity.

According to the principle on segregation of functions, the tasks and functions of the JTS and the department dealing with the transfer of Community funds (Financial Transfer Unit) to the beneficiaries are clearly separated within the Széchenyi Programme Office. All financial transfers-except transfers regarding TA projects- require MA approval and two signatures of the Financial Transfer Unit. The Financial Transfer Unit is functionally independent from the JTS and from all other Programme bodies, including the CCP. According to the Organizational and Operational Rules of the Széchenyi Programme Office the JTS is a functionally independent unit in the hosting institution and in line with the relevant legislation and contracts the head of the JTS is performing the leadership independently from other units but under the supervision of the Managing Authority.

The JTS will be established based on the principle of continuity, meaning that the JTS of the HUSKROUA ENI 2014-2020 program will be a direct continuation of the JTS of the HUSKROUA ENPI 2007-2013 Programme. It will be based on the human, infrastructure and administrative capacity of the previous programme's JTS, providing a smooth transition of the two programming periods. Continuity principle with the consent of the participating countries will be respected.

Tasks of branch offices:

According to the decision of the participating countries branch offices shall be set up in the participating countries. The JTS establishes branch offices in Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania

for the purpose of informing potential beneficiaries of activities planned under the programme. The responsibility of the branch offices of the JTS is to publicise activities under the joint operational programme to provide anyone who may be interested with information and may provide assistance to the MA/JTS in the project evaluation and implementation follow-up. In no event, may the branch office be entrusted with a task involving exercise of public authority or the use of discretionary powers of judgment regarding projects.

Hosts of the branch offices will be a public or public equivalent body in all participating countries but in Ukraine non-profit making private body with public service mission may perform this function. The following information about each branch office shall be included in the DMCS:

- name and legal status of the hosting institutions,
- indicative internal structure and information on the staff to be employed;
- applicable labour law;
- applicable procurement rules which the branch office shall use.

Branch offices established in Ukraine shall follow the relevant procurement rules described in the financial agreement concluded between Ukraine and the European Commission. Detailed tasks to be carried out by the BOs shall also be described in the DMCS. Procurement by branch offices shall be limited to ordinary running costs and costs for communication and visibility activities.

5.1.4 Intermediate body

According to Article 20 (3) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules intermediate bodies may be appointed to carry out certain tasks of the Managing Authority under the responsibility of the latter. 'Intermediate body' means any public or private body which acts under the responsibility of a Managing Authority, or which carries out duties on behalf of such an in relation to beneficiaries implementing projects;

Széchenyi Programme Office (SZPO) is the intermediate body, hosting the JTS and the International Directorate (including Financial Transfer Unit, Control Department, as hosting organization. The International Directorate providing management services performs horizontal tasks for all CBC programmes with participation of Hungary, which are managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Managing Authority. The JTS and the International Directorate providing management services are functionally independent and separated units of SZPO. SZPO is a 100% State owned public company.

The SZPO provides – as intermediate body – the following management services:

- Management and daily operation of the programme monitoring and information system (IMIS 2014-2020 system)
- Transferring payments to the projects/beneficiaries on the basis of the JTS approval. Payments shall be validated by the MA.
- Carrying out process management tasks

The units in SZPO performing the aforementioned management services are functionally independent within the SZPO and from the JTS, which is ensured by the provisions of the Organizational and Operational Rules of the SZPO. Detailed information on the organisation, internal structure and on the segregation of functions of the IB shall be included in the DMCS.

5.1.5 Audit Authority and the members of the group of auditors

The appointed single Audit Authority is the **Directorate General for Audit of European Funds Hungary** (105-113 Bartók Béla Street, Budapest, 1115, Hungary).

The Audit Authority is functionally independent from the programme and national level management bodies and the beneficiaries. It shall carry out its work in accordance with internationally accepted auditing standards.

The Audit Authority shall be assisted by a group of auditors comprising a representative of each participating country in the programme. The representatives have to be functionally independent from the programme and national level management bodies and the beneficiaries. The group of auditors shall be set up within three months of the designation of the Managing Authority. It shall draw up its own rules of procedures. It shall be chaired by the Audit Authority.

Where audits are carried out by a body other than the Audit Authority, the AA shall ensure that this body has the necessary functional independence.

Tasks of the Audit Authority:

- Ensure that audits are carried out on the management and control systems, on an appropriate sample of projects and on the annual accounts of the programme.
- Submit an audit strategy for regarding the performance of audits to the Commission within 9 months of the signature of the first financing agreement in accordance with Article 8(2) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules. The audit strategy shall set out the audit methodology on the annual accounts and on projects, the sampling method for audits on projects and the planning of audits for the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2017 until end 2024. The updated audit strategy shall be submitted to the Commission together with the programme annual report.
- Draw up, in conformity with Article 68 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, an audit opinion on the annual accounts for the preceding accounting year and an annual audit report.
- The AA as an independent audit body will also be in charge of the designation audit.

5.2 National level bodies

5.2.1 National authorities of all participating countries

National level authorities of the participating countries:

Management body	Organization	Task
National Authority (NA) – Hungary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Counterparts of the MA; responsible for the coordination of the programming process in their countries in the programme preparation period and they bear the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the programme on their country's territory.
National Authority (NA) – Slovakia	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic	
National Authority (NA) – Romania	Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration of Romania – General Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation, National Authorities for European Programmes Unit	
National Authority (NA) – Ukraine	Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Directorate of International Technical Assistance Coordination	

Tasks of the National Authorities:

- Set up and operate an effective management and control system at national level.
- Ensure the overall coordination of the institutions involved at national level in the programme implementation, including, inter alia, the institutions acting as control contact points and as member of the group of auditors.
- Represent the own country in the Joint Monitoring Committee, participation in JMC meetings
- Support the Managing Authority in its obligation referred to in Article 30(2) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.
- Prevent, detect and correct irregularities, including fraud and support the Managing Authority in the recovery of amounts unduly paid, together with any interest, pursuant Article 74 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, on their territories. Notify these irregularities without delay to the Managing Authority and the Commission and keep them informed of the progress of related administrative and legal proceedings.
- Responsibility for recovering amounts unduly paid to a beneficiary as described in Chapter 6 and pursuant Article 75 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules,
- Ensure co-financing for the Slovak/Romanian/Hungarian side.
- Signing bilateral agreement or memorandum of understanding (Slovakia, Romania, and Ukraine) with the MA regulating the responsibilities between the participating countries.

The National Authority of Hungary and the Managing Authority are – in case of the ENI programme – independent from each other, as there is no hierarchical relationship regarding the tasks of the NA between the Head of the MA and Head of the NA. Head of the MA is the Deputy State Secretary for Regional and Cross-border Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, while

Head of the NA function is fulfilled by an appointed government counsellor. However, in order to clearly separate functions according to the standing orders of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Deputy State Secretary doesn't have any right to instruct the Head of NA in issues and matters related to the tasks of the national authority.

5.2.2 Control contact points, national controllers and auditors

Control Contact Points (CCPs) are to support the Managing Authority in its control of the programme obligations.

Management body	Organization	Task
Control Contact Point in each participating country	<p>Széchenyi Programme Office Non-profit Lc. in Hungary</p> <p>Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic</p> <p>Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration of Romania, General Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation, First Level Control Directorate</p> <p>Ministry of Finance of Ukraine in a cooperation with State Audit Service and Audit Chamber (by agreement)</p>	Support the Managing Authority in its control of the programme obligations.
National controllers*	<p>HU: Széchenyi Programme Office Non-profit Lc.</p> <p>SK: Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic</p> <p>RO: Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration of Romania</p>	Examination of expenditures declared by the beneficiaries.

*In the Member States 'public officers' in the meaning of Article 32 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules are called as 'national controllers', as in the ENPI 2007-2013 programme. In Member States, the body performing the national controllers' task is the Control Contact Point as well.

Role and functions of the Control Contact Points:

- Organisation of trainings for controllers, where information will be provided to them about the programme, the rules of project implementation, reporting, and national rules on the examination of expenditures declared by beneficiaries.
- Elaboration of guidelines, templates and checklists for controllers and beneficiaries in order to assist them in preparing their reports;
- Preparation of internal guidelines and checklists for the controllers.
- Clarification of national rules (procurement, labour, tax, etc...) to MA
- Support to MA during on-the-spot checks in their countries & any additional checks
- In case of Ukraine, the CCP provides trainings for auditors, sets up a long list of pre-selected auditors, and project beneficiaries will select their own auditor for project expenditure verification by themselves from the adopted list.

National controllers and auditors

According to paragraph 1, Article 32 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, expenditure declared by the beneficiary in support of a payment request shall be examined by an auditor or by a competent public officer being independent from the beneficiary. In the Member States 'public officers' are called as 'national controllers', as in the ENPI 2007-2013 programme.

In the Member States, the body performing the national controllers' task is the same institution as the Control Contact Point. CCPs in the Member States will not get involved in 2nd level control tasks, which is conducted by the Managing Authority and delegated to the JTS.

In case of Ukraine, a decentralized system will be applied, meaning the Ukrainian Control Contact Point will establish a list of professional auditors certified to conduct verifications. The auditors shall meet the requirements set out in Article 32 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.

Tasks of the national controllers and auditors

Examination of the expenditure in the payment request declared by the beneficiary (whether the costs declared by the beneficiary and the revenue of the project are real, accurately recorded and eligible in accordance with the contract). This examination shall be performed on the basis of an agreed-upon procedure, based on the international standards, and includes in particular:

- Examination of the delivery of the products and services co-financed.
- Examination of the soundness of the expenditure declared.
- Examination of the compliance of such expenditure with Programme, Community and national rules.
- Validation of the expenditure incurred by the controlled project partner.
- Validation of the content of both the activities and the finances of the partner report.
- Drafting a report and a checklist on the control performed.
- Signing a report on the factual findings.
- Prevention, detection and correction of irregularities for beneficiaries

Auditors in Ukraine shall undertake their examination in accordance with: (a) the International Standard on Related Services 4400 Engagements to perform Agreed-upon Procedures regarding Financial Information as promulgated by International Federation of Accountants (IFAC); (b) IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, developed and issued by IFAC's International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants.

For public officers, these procedures shall be laid down at national level taking into account international standards.

- **Hungary**

In Hungary the tasks of the Control Contact Point (CCP) will be implemented by the Széchenyi Programme Office Non-profit Llc. (hereinafter: SZPO), which is owned by the Hungarian Prime Minister's office. Expenditure declared by the beneficiary/national partner in support of a payment request will be examined by the CCP being independent from the beneficiary. The relevant SZPO employees are competent public officers (national controllers) in Hungary and dispose of the necessary professional expertise including experience on previous programme and ability to perform examinations based on procedures and standards laid down at national level taking into account

international standards. The tasks of the CCP will be implemented by the Central Control Unit (Budapest) and East-Hungarian Control Unit (Mátészalka) within the Control Department of the SZPO. The Central Control Unit will have a co-ordinating role at programme level, while control tasks will be implemented by the unit located in the border region in Mátészalka.

Since the SZPO is responsible for the implementation of first level control and expenditure verification tasks in the 2007-2013 programming period in all ETC, IPA and ENPI programmes Hungary, the continuity between the 2 programming periods will be ensured and experience gained during the previous period will be used in the new one.

As regards the second level control, the Managing Authority will be assisted by the Joint Technical Secretariat.

- **Slovakia**

The tasks of the CCP will be performed by the functionally independent unit of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR, the Unit of Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes Implementation Control HU-SR, PL-SR and programme ENPI. The Unit of Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes Implementation Control HU-SR, PL-SR and programme ENPI bears responsibility for the national control administration and administrative verification of expenditures of Slovak partners including public procurement procedures check for the current HU-SK-RO-UA ENPI CBC Programme and continuously will be ensured the implementation of the future quadrilateral ENI CBC Programme. The departments entrusted with the tasks of the National Authority and with the tasks of the CCP are functionally independent institutional units of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR. Detailed information on the independence of functions and on the segregation of tasks shall be included in the DMCS.

- **Romania**

Romania appointed the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration of Romania as the CCP in Romania. The function of CCP shall be performed by a specialised and functionally independent unit within First Level Control Directorate, responsible with first level control for the cross border cooperation programmes in the programming period 2014-2020.

The first level control unit within the Ministry will carry out itself the expenditure verifications at project level for the Romanian beneficiaries. The staff of the first level control unit consist of public officers having the necessary expertise in performing their work as according to the Implementing Rules. The departments entrusted with the tasks of the National Authority and with the tasks of the CCP are functionally independent institutional units of the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration. Detailed information on the independence of functions and on the segregation of tasks shall be included in the DMCS.

- **Ukraine**

In Ukraine, the tasks of the Control Contact Point will be implemented by the Ministry of Finance in a cooperation with State Audit Service and Audit Chamber (by agreement). The CCP will pre-select independent external auditors for expenditure verification via call for expression of interest; then it will produce and maintain a long list of auditors meeting the criteria established in the Regulation. Project beneficiaries in case of NGOs will select their own auditor for project expenditure verification by themselves from the adopted list of independent auditors approved by the Ministry of Finance of

Ukraine. The verification of expenditures will be implemented by the auditors and supervised by the CCP.

6 Programme implementation

6.1 Summary description of the management and control systems

In order to ensure an effective, transparent and correct implementation of the Programme, a set of processes and procedures are defined and regulated within the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020, as stipulated in Article 30 of the Implementing Regulation. It contains the description of the functions of the bodies involved in the management and control of the Programme, including division of functions within each body, their internal organisation in compliance with the principle of separation of functions between and within such bodies, the description of the management procedures to be applied during programme implementation, the arrangements for auditing the management and control systems, the accounts and operations, and the apportionment of liabilities among participating countries in case of systemic deficiencies.

The DMCS pays special attention to the separation of functions of the bodies involved in the management and control of the Programme, including the separation of functions between and within them. The bodies involved in the management and control of the Programme are described in Chapter 5.

For ensuring an effective and transparent project selection, the Programme may apply two different types of **project selection procedures**: Open and Restricted Calls for Proposals. Details regarding these procedures are provided under Chapter 6.2 “Description of project selection procedures” and will be available in the relevant Call for proposals. The projects selected for financing will enter in the **contracting procedure** phase, regulated within the DMCS. After concluding the grant contracts, the beneficiaries start the project implementation, as the applicable rules are laid down in the Project Implementation Manual as well.

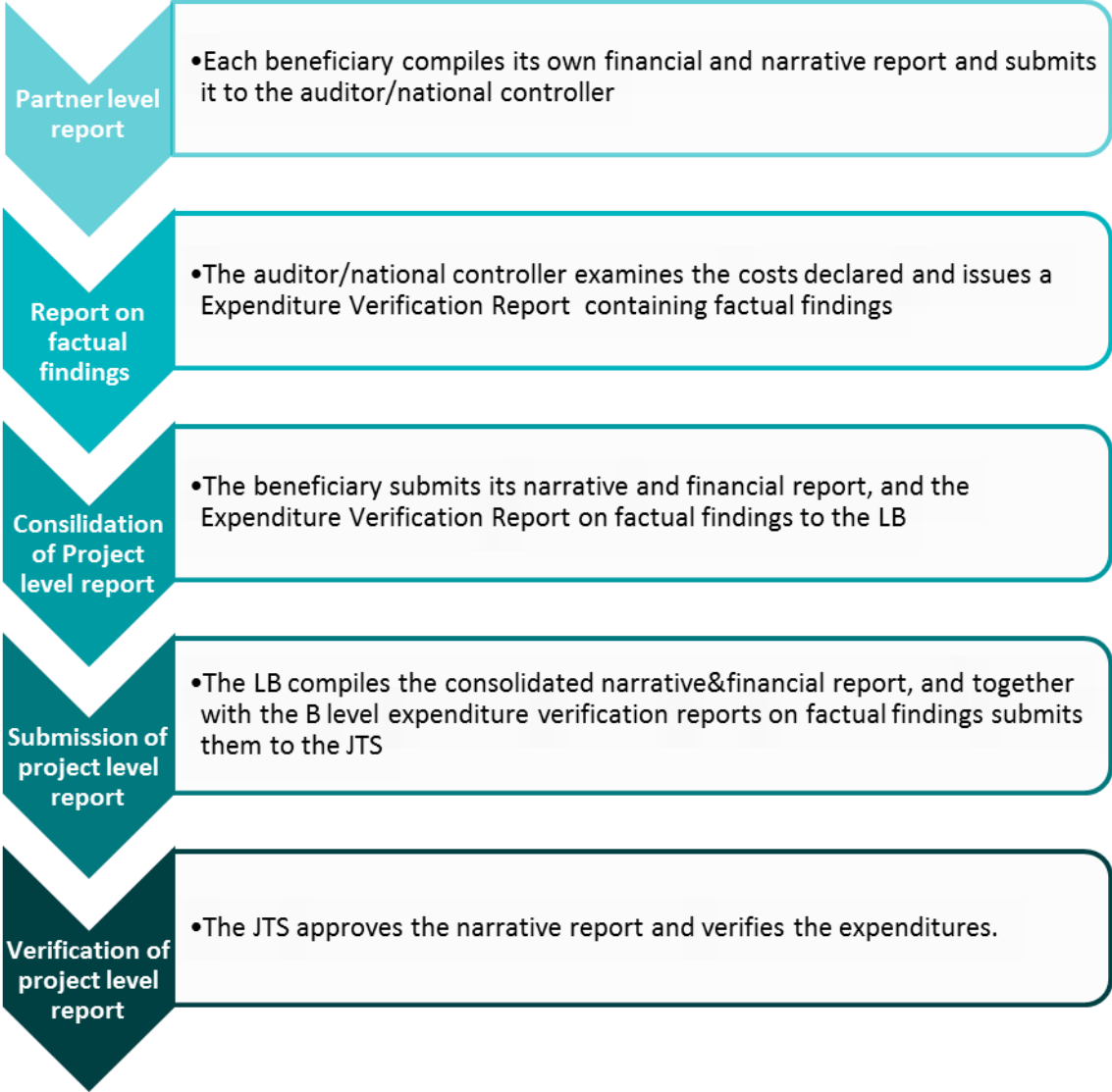
In order to ensure that the expenditures incurred during implementation comply with the rules defined by the program, and the correctness and regularity of expenditure declared is ensured, in line with Article 32 of Implementing Regulation, the participating countries will set up a system of **Verification of expenditures**.

For this purpose, in the Member States, a centralized system will be applied, which means that the verifications are performed by competent public officers (national controllers) under the supervision of the relevant Control Contact Point. In case of Ukraine, a decentralized system will be applied, which means that the Ukrainian Control Contact Point will establish a list of professional auditors certified to conduct verifications. Detailed rules for designation of controllers and selection of auditors are defined in the DMCS (see section 5.2.2 above).

Based on the conditions laid down in the grant contracts, each beneficiary will prepare a partner level report which will be submitted to the relevant auditor/national controller for verification. Auditors and national controllers shall be independent from the respective beneficiary and they will examine whether the costs declared by the beneficiary and the revenue of the project are real, accurately recorded and eligible in accordance with the contract provisions. The examination is performed on the basis of an agreed-upon procedure applicable in the relevant country.

As a result of the verifications performed, the auditors and controllers issue an Expenditure Verification Report containing factual findings. In line with Article 46, the Lead Beneficiary collects the Expenditure Verification Reports from all the project partners and submit a project level report to the JTS. The report will be accompanied by a narrative report detailing the activities performed during the relevant period of project implementation. The project level reports will be submitted during the project implementation and at the closure of the project, according to the provisions of the grant contract. As a delegated task from the MA, the JTS approves the narrative report and verifies the expenditures declared based on the reports of the national controllers and auditors. The JTS and the MA have the right to perform at any time document based verifications or carry out on-the-spot project verifications.

The partner and project level expenditure verification is as follows:



Regarding the TA cost, the verification is performed by MA with the possible involvement of independent external experts. The MA will select the experts according to the relevant public procurement rules.

The Description of Monitoring and Control System defines in details the procedures to be followed in case of payments towards the beneficiaries.

The payments towards the beneficiaries are based on approved requests for payment, which shall be submitted by the beneficiaries to the JTS/MA according to the provisions of the grant contracts, usually together with the project level reports. In line with Article 63 of the ENI Implementing Regulation, the Lead Beneficiaries can submit a request for payment immediately after the conclusion of the grant contracts (pre-financing) in an amount indicated in the contract. The subsequent requests will be filed in as stipulated in the contracts. The structure of payments, including pre-financing(s), interim payments and final payment is included in the DMCS.

The MA shall ensure that payments to projects are processed as quickly as possible according to the signed contract. No amount shall be deducted or withheld, unless it is supported by the signed contract and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied reducing these payments. The EU funds are paid to the Lead Beneficiary, who shall ensure that the beneficiaries receive the total amount of the grant as quickly as possible and in full.

In line with Article 59 of the Implementing Regulation 897/2014, the MA shall open a programme account in Euro, exclusively dedicated to receiving ENI contribution from the European Commission and making payments towards the Lead Beneficiaries and the TA Beneficiaries. All the financial transfers in between the programme stakeholders are made in Euro.

According to Article 30 (1) f) of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules the management and control system shall include systems and procedures to ensure an adequate audit trail.

In case of the institutions involved in the management of the Programme (programme and national level) the Description of Management and Control System and the Procedures Manuals of these institutions include the audit trails. The DMCS and the Procedures Manuals cover all processes of all the bodies for the entire programme and project cycle. All the processes making up the programme and project cycles are broken down to consecutive activities.

In case of the beneficiaries, audit trail is ensured by project implementation Manual and the provision of ENI CBC Implementing Regulation, stating that the beneficiaries shall keep all documents related to their project for five years from the date of payment of the balance for the Programme. In particular they shall keep reports, supporting documents for the accounts, accounting documents and any other document relating to the financing of the projects. Detailed instructions to the beneficiaries on keeping the project documentation are given in the grant contract. The partnership agreement to be completed and signed by the Lead Beneficiary and the beneficiaries shall also contain the above obligations. In case of non-compliance with these rules the beneficiaries will bear the consequences laid down in the grant contract.

The provision of the IR on electronic data systems for accounting, storage, monitoring and reporting will be accomplished by the IMIS 2014-2020 system. Detailed description of the system is in Chapter 6.11. As the MA entrusts execution of tasks to another body (namely to the JTS and to the intermediate body), the DMCS describes in detail the systems for monitoring and reporting of this entrustment. Based on the experience gained during the period 2007-2013, roles and responsibilities clearly stipulating in the framework agreement between the relevant bodies, namely the MA and the Széchenyi Programme Office. The agreement entrusts the MA to carry out continuous monitoring activity by requesting periodically report on tasks performed. The MFA will be entitled to have on-site visit and may set performance indicators in order to measure the fulfilment of the intermediate body and the JTS. Furthermore the IMIS 2014-2020 will be important tool for the MFA to follow all projects and programme level indicators and achievements. Additionally, the Description of the Management and Control System covers other aspects related to

- arrangements for auditing the functioning of the management and control systems;
- to management procedures for prevention, detection and correction of irregularities, including fraud and the recovery of amounts unduly paid;
- to contract award procedures for technical assistance;
- to the role of national authorities and responsibilities of participating countries and
- the Plan for the allocation of appropriate human resources with the necessary skills, at different levels and for different functions in the organisation.

6.2 Description of project selection procedures

The projects within the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme will be awarded financial support based on evaluation and selection procedures via Calls for Proposals. The Calls for Proposals will be launched during programme implementation period, in accordance with the decision of the JMC. The Calls will contain guidance for potential applicants and the rules to be followed during the entire selection procedure. The Programme may apply two different types of Call for Proposals:

1. Open Call for proposals procedure
2. Restricted Call for proposals procedure

In order to ensure the widest possible participation and the requisite transparency, the principle of publicity shall be applied for all types of calls for proposals. All annexes of the call are published on the programme's website. It is envisaged that the call is also published on the website of the NAs and on the website of the participating counties/regions. After the launch of the call for proposals, the JTS holds information sessions which all the potential applicants can attend. The information to be disseminated in all targeted regions must be harmonised in a non-discriminatory way. If the JMC, either on its own initiative or in response to the request for clarification amends information in the call for proposals, a corrigendum with the changes must be published subject to the same publicity conditions as those for the call for proposals. The corrigendum may extend the deadline to allow candidates to take changes into account.

6.2.1 Open Call for proposals procedure

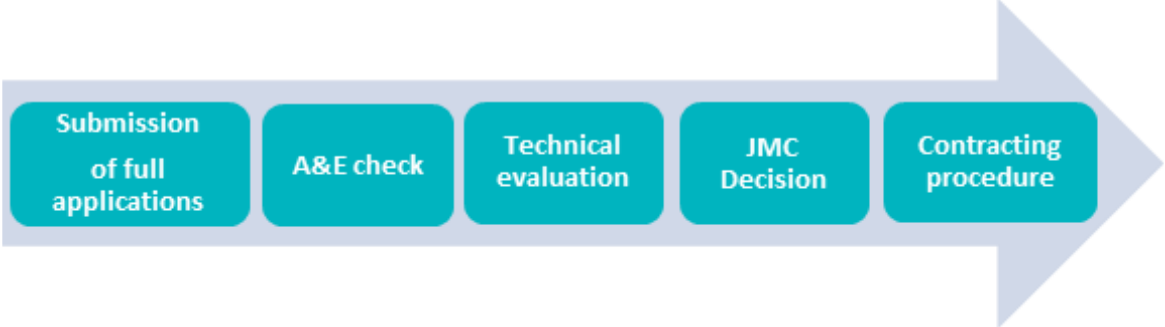
Within the Open Call for proposals procedure the participation will be opened to all interested, eligible applicants, who will have to prepare and submit within a given deadline a full documentation of their project. The content of the application is determined in the relevant Call for proposal and in line with the provisions of Article 43 of the Implementing Regulation.

The submitted proposals are checked from *administrative and eligibility* point of view by the JTS. In line with the provisions of the ENI Implementing Regulation, the JTS may be assisted in this task by the BOs. Based on this verification, the JTS prepares an evaluation report with a list including the applications complying with the administrative and eligibility criteria and those which did not meet the requirements.

Those applications which complied with the administrative and eligibility criteria, will be evaluated from technical quality point of view. In the *technical evaluation* procedure the JTS will involve independent external assessors. The applications will be attributed to assessors matching the content of each proposal with their field of expertise to be selected from expert pool. The expert pool is created after launching an open call for experts in all four countries, taking into account the principle of publicity as described above. Each application is evaluated by at least two independent assessors, who

will award scores based on an evaluation grid with a predefined set of criteria to be set in a Selection and Assessment manual to be approved by the JMC.

Based on the scoring given by the assessors, the JTS prepares a technical evaluation report including a list of the proposals ranked per priority, by number of points awarded. The JMC approves the Technical Evaluation Report and based on the ranking list, approves the projects with the best evaluation scores within the limit of the available budget and decides on the maximum amounts to be awarded in each case. The JMC may also draw up a reserve list in case of each Priority, containing eligible applications that cannot be funded due to the lack of available resources. The MA may perform checks anytime during the selection process in order to control and supervise the effectiveness and quality of the evaluation.



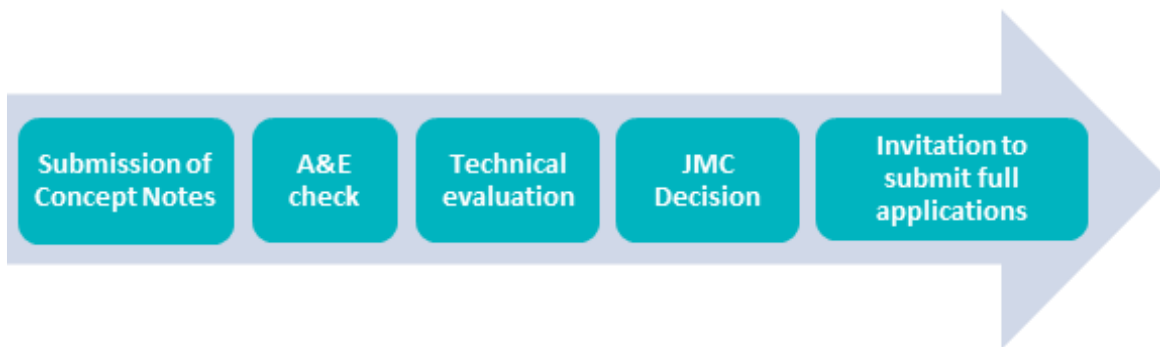
6.2.2 The restricted call for proposals procedure

In certain cases the JMC may decide to apply Restricted Call for proposals procedure. This type of procedure may be applied mainly in case of projects containing elements of infrastructure, where the documentation is more complex and its preparation requires more time and resources. Infrastructure type projects mean projects with work elements.

The restricted procedure means that the participation is opened to all interested, eligible applicants but only those who have been shortlisted on the basis of a concept note, are invited to submit a full application. The final decision about financing is based on the selection of full applications with.

In the first phase the applicants are invited through a Call for proposal to submit a Concept Note, which will comprise at least the following elements: a short description of the project idea, information on the Lead Beneficiary and the project partners, planned activities, the programme specific output indicator(s)planned to be addressed by the project, and a draft estimated budget as well as the timeframe for implementation.

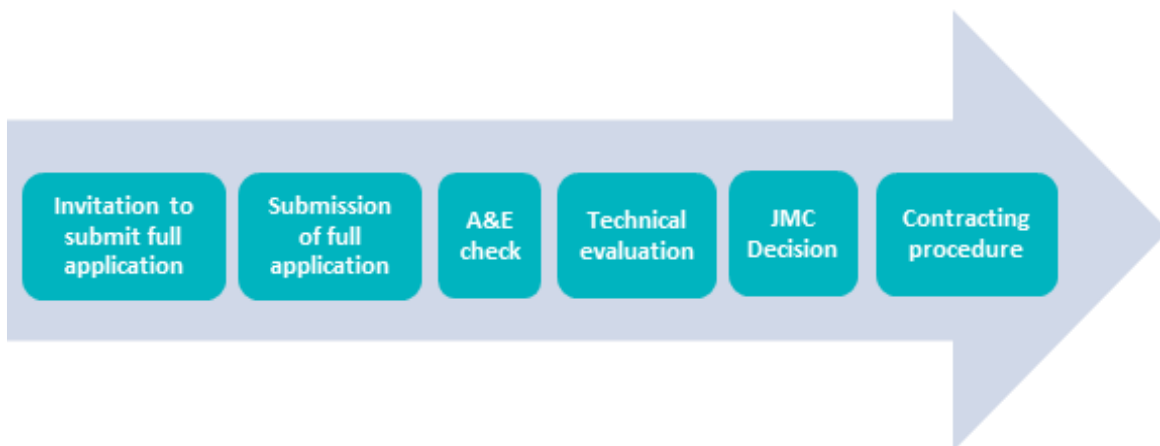
The submitted Concept Notes will be assessed and selected following the procedure applied in the case of Open Calls for Proposals. The monitoring committee may decide, whether the A&E checks would be skipped or merged with the technical evaluation if it is needed for the certain call. However, the JMC may decide on the evaluation report on administrative and eligibility criteria and on the technical evaluation report at the same time. Based on the Technical Evaluation Report (as in case of the Open Calls, independent external assessors will be involved in the technical evaluation procedure), the JMC will decide about a list of Concept Notes considered as of high quality, which will be invited to develop their projects into full applications. The content of the full application will be determined in the relevant Call for proposal and will be in line with the provisions of Article 43 of the Implementing Regulation.



The full applications received in the second phase will be assessed using the same procedure as in the case of the Open Calls.

Based on the Technical Evaluation Report, the JMC will decide about a list of the selected projects and on the maximum amounts possibly available to be awarded in each case. The JMC may also draw up a reserve list in case of each Priority, containing eligible applications that cannot be funded due to the lack of available resources. Based on a JMC decision, LIPs may be selected through restricted call for proposals.

Detailed rules of the evaluation and selection process will be regulated in a Selection and Assessment Manual. The Manual shall be approved by the JMC.



"After the decision of the JMC, the Managing Authority will consult the list of projects recommended for funding with the European Commission to avoid double funding and promote synergies with existing projects, where possible. Following this consultation the Joint Monitoring Committee may decide to reject initially recommended proposals."

6.2.3 Complaint handling procedure

The procedure established will cover complaints against decisions taken by the Programme bodies during the project assessment and selection process, with the purpose of ensuring a transparent and fair treatment towards all applicants. In case an applicant considers that the selection process was biased by an error, the Lead Beneficiary of the given application is entitled to file in a complaint to the MA/JTS. The MA, assisted by the JTS, examines the complaint and prepares its technical examination regarding the merit of the complaint. Detailed description of this procedure will be presented in the call for proposal.

6.3 Provisional indicative time-frame for programme implementation

The Programme has the following indicative plan for the years 2015-2024:

	2015. I.	2015.II.	2016. I.	2016.II.	2017. I.	2017.II.	2018. I.	2018.II.	2019. I.	2019.II.	2020. I.	2020.II.	2021. I.	2021.II.	2022. I.	2022.II.	2023. I.	2023.II.	2024. I.	2024.II.
Submit the proposal for the programme to the Commissior	■																			
Adoption of the programme by the Commissior		■																		
Designation process (MA)			■																	
Launching call for proposals				■			■			■										
Evaluation and award decisions					■	■		■	■		■	■								
Contracting and start of project implementation						■	■		■	■		■	■	■						
Implementation of the projects																				
Programme management		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
Closure of the programme																			■	■

According to the ENI Implementing Regulation, all contracts shall be signed before 31 December 2021 and all project activities financed by the Programme shall end on 31 December 2022 (Article 18). The Programme shall end on 31 December 2024 at the latest. (Article 15)

Based on the advancement of the Programme, the JMC may decide on additional call for proposals or the cancellation of planned call for proposals.

6.4 Description per priority of nature of support

The programme finances activities in the form of grants awarded to projects through open or restricted Calls for Proposals. The Calls for Proposals will be launched based on the decisions of the JMC, as the indicative timetable above shows the timeframe for programme implementation. The programme will not make use of financial instruments.

Based on the decision of the Joint Task Force, the programme has not used the direct award procedure (Article 41 of ENI CBC Implementing Regulation). According to the decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee direct award can be used for humanitarian aid projects.

According to Article 38 (4) of the ENI CBC Implementing Regulation, the share of the Union contribution allocated to large infrastructure projects and contributions to financial instruments referred to in Article 42 may not exceed 30 %.

6.5 Description of planned use of technical assistance and applicable contract award procedures

Technical Assistance is necessary to support the Participating Countries in implementing the programme. Taking into consideration the size and diversity of the programme area, 10% of the EU funds allocated to the programme will be used for Technical Assistance.

The TA budget will be used for assistance required to manage, monitor and evaluate the programme.

Furthermore, the TA budget should be used for tasks aimed to improve and assure proper programme implementation at project level (e.g. thematic seminars, information and publicity measures, evaluation) and to increase the overall quality of funded projects.

In line with IR Article 34 of the ENI CBC Implementing Regulation the following activities can be financed within the scope of TA in order to ensure the efficient administration of the programme:

- activities in connection with the preparation, selection and evaluation (involving meetings of the JMC) and support of projects;
- activities in connection with the support to joint structures;
- supporting the activities of the National Authorities and of the CCP;
- management and work of the Managing Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat and its Branch Offices, the intermediate body providing horizontal services
- monitoring and on-site visits of operations (projects);
- the setting up and operation of an electronic data system for accounting, storage, monitoring and reporting;
- preparation of reports (e.g. annual reports, mid-term evaluation, etc.);
- audit activities;
- information and publicity activities;
- promotion and assistance to potential beneficiaries;
- preparatory activities concerning the 2021-2027 programming period.

Activities covered by TA will be financed using the project management approach. All programme management activities to be supported from the programme TA shall be prepared in form of “TA fiche”. The JMC shall decide on the financing of the TA projects based on the TA fiche, which contains

the tasks of the TA recipients. Based on the decision of the JMC, the MA signs a contract with the TA recipients for TA activities that may be delegated to the JTS. The subsidy contract entails the eligible activities and costs of the TA projects.

TA projects are implemented by the organisations hosting the programme management bodies (TA recipients). The costs incurred during the implementation of these projects are pre-financed by the programme Technical Assistance budget. The TA recipients must respect and follow the program level eligibility rules and procedures including the applicable procurement procedures. In line with the provisions of Art 37 (1) of Implementing Regulation 897/2014, the TA recipients established in a Member State shall apply the national laws, regulations and administrative provisions while performing the procurement activities, while the TA recipients established in Ukraine shall follow the relevant procurement rules described in the financial agreement concluded between Ukraine and the European Commission.

Potential TA beneficiaries:

- MA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Hungary
- National Authorities and CCPs
- JTS - Széchenyi Programme Office as hosting organization
- Intermediate body – Széchenyi Programme Office
- Branch Offices
- Audit Authority (Group of Auditors) – Directorate General for Audit of European Funds Hungary

6.6 Description of the monitoring and evaluation systems

Programme monitoring and evaluation shall aim at improving the quality of the design and implementation, as well as assessing and improving its consistency, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The findings of monitoring and evaluations shall be taken into account in the programming and implementation cycle.

1.9.1 Day-to-day monitoring,

In order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the implementation of the programme, monitoring activities on programme level need to be carried out. The programme level monitoring and evaluation is supported by the pre-set indicators defined in Chapter 4.7. The Managing Authority is responsible for setting up a system to gather reliable financial and statistical information on implementation for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

On project level, the monitoring consists of processes performed to observe project implementation, therefore potential problems can be identified in a timely manner and corrective action can be taken, when necessary. The collection and measurement of indicators is a continuous task, projects need to inform the programme bodies about the reached indicators in every narrative project progress report.

1.9.2 Indicative monitoring and evaluation plan for the whole duration of the programme:

An **ex-ante evaluation** of the HUSKROUA ENI programme, incorporating the requirements for strategic environmental assessment, was carried out by independent evaluators with the aim to improve programme quality. The recommendations of the evaluation were taken into account during the drafting of the JOP.

According to Article 78 (3) of the ENI CBC Implementing Regulation the Managing Authority shall carry out **result-oriented programme** and project monitoring (ROM) in addition to the day- to-day

monitoring. In case of ROM, the main objective and task is to have independent opinion on the project/programme implementation and progress in the achievement of results. An independent assessment provides for a system of checks and balances as well as enhances accountability and transparency of use of the EU resources. ROM observations and recommendations are provided for consideration and use by the responsables/management of on-going projects/programme and feed into the future programme cycle Methodology on the conduction of ROM shall be included in the annual monitoring and evaluation plan.

According to Article 17 of Regulation 236/2014 no later than 31 December 2017, **amid-term review** of the ENI CBC programming Document report shall be submitted by the Commission on the implementation of the ENI CBC Instrument. It shall cover the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2017 and shall focus on the achievement of the objectives of the ENI CBC Instrument by means of indicators measuring the results delivered and the efficiency of the Instrument. Participating countries are requested by the Commission to provide all the data and information necessary.

According to Article 78 (1) of ENI CBC Implementing Regulation, programme monitoring and evaluation shall aim at improving the quality of the design and implementation, as well as at assessing and improving its consistency, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The findings of monitoring and evaluations shall be taken into account in the programming and implementation cycle.

According to Article 78 (2) of the ENI CBC Implementing Regulation, **an annual monitoring and evaluation plan** shall be carried out by the Managing Authority. The annual plan shall be submitted to the Commission not later than 15 February each year.

In addition to the mid-term evaluation, an evaluation of the Joint Operational Programme, or a part thereof, may be carried out at any moment by the Commission or the MA.

Evaluations will be carried out by internal or external experts that are functionally independent of the authorities responsible for programme implementation.

An evaluation should assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme's activities and support. Emphasise shall be on results and impacts. The primary users of the information received will be the programme bodies involved in the management of the programme – it is a valuable source of information for the day-to-day management of the programme and reporting on its implementation, communication on its achievements, as well as for the decision making in the JMC. At the same time, this information can be useful to improve programme procedures and to better plan monitoring, control and audit activities (on-spot checks, MA controls, provide information to the Audit Authority and the group of auditors for their audits on projects, etc.).

The findings of evaluations shall be taken into account in future programming exercises as well. It is essential to communicate the results and findings of the evaluations and disclose the information gained within the evaluation process. The results of the evaluations will be sent to relevant programme and national bodies. The outline of the evaluation's findings will be disclosed to the public through the communication channels the programme plans to use.

The following **indicative monitoring and evaluation plan** is foreseen in the programme:

Nr.	Title	Task	Time or frequency	Responsible
1.	Ex-ante evaluation	To improve the quality of the JOP.	In the programming phase.	Programme level bodies
2.	Day-to-day monitoring (Ongoing)	Observe project implementation	Continuous.	MA, NA, JTS and CCPs
3.	Result-oriented programme and project monitoring (ROM)	Assess the results achieved, which were aimed by the projects and by the programme itself in the given time period.	Started after the first grant contract signed Frequency: once a year, on a sample of projects.	MA, JTS
4.	Mid-term review of the ENI CBC Programming Document	Assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the ENI CBC instrument at its halftime focusing on the Programming document	In 2017 III-IV. quarter (covering period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2017).	European Commission, (MA)
5.	On-going (mid-term)evaluation	Assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme's activities and support. Emphasis will be on results and impacts, and the measurement of actual values of programme indicators.	In 2017 III-IV. quarter (covering period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2017).	MA
6.	Ex-post evaluation of the ENI CBC instrument	Assess the performance of the ENI CBC instrument as a whole.	After programmes closure, before the mid-term of the next financial period.	European Commission

The base of all evaluation and monitoring activities are the expected results, which are defined in the programme strategy. They, along with the indicators supposed to measure their achievement, show what the programme was planning to accomplish with the available financial resources when its strategy was designed. Regular collection of the indicators (at least once a year, but according to the needs) and review of the progress towards the set indicator targets along with the financial absorption data helps to see if the programme is well on track and if its strategy is still relevant or it has to be changed.

After project closure, every Lead Beneficiary shall report on the follow-up of the project (project sustainability report). The sustainability report shall contain data on the relevant programme level result indicators. Sustainability report shall be handed in once a year within five years of the project closure or within the period of time set out in state aid rules, where applicable.

The main information collection system and tool is the IMIS 2014-2020 system. With the IMIS 2014-2020 the programme implementing bodies are capable to follow all project and programme level indicators and achievement.

As regards the human resources involved the monitoring activities will be implemented in principle by internal resources (MA/JTS staff). Ex-ante evaluation is performed by external experts. In case of ROM, external evaluators might be contracted. No additional staff is foreseen for these activities.

The results of the monitoring and evaluation activities are communicated on the one hand internally (to all bodies involved in the programme management), on the other hand to the wider public.

Based on the outcome of the monitoring and evaluation activities, the programme's time frame and financial plan shall be regularly updated. Also, the monitoring and evaluation plan is to be reviewed and updated.

6.7 Information on fulfilment of regulatory requirements laid down in Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

The SEA of the Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 was planned and carried out in line with the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (further: SEA Directive) and national legislations. The assessment object of the SEA was the Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020. The Participating Countries of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 are Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine. The geographical frame covers core regions and adjoining regions. The time frame for the Strategic Environmental Assessment was determined by the description of the development trend related to the expected state of the environment, and the possible impacts on the environmental issues. The time frame for the development trends related to the expected state of the environment and the possible impacts on environmental issues - is the programming period 2014-2020 plus two years.

The SEA has been carried out during the preparation of the Programme and has been completed before the approval and submission to the Commission in order to ensure the high level protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental aspects into the preparation and adoption of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 with special regard to the promotion of sustainable development.

The SEA process in line with the EC Directive and national legislations

The SEA process carried out stages requires by the SEA Directive as identification of the relevant environmental authorities in the Participating Countries, Screening, Scoping, drafting the Environmental Report, adoption of the draft Scoping Report and Environmental Report by JTF, consultation on the Scoping Report, public consultations and public access to documents (based on relevant Government Decisions) in case of the Environmental Report, completion of the Environmental Report taking into account the results of the consultations, decision-making, monitoring, adoption of the Environmental Report by the competent authorities.

The Environmental Report (Annex 1: Methods of the SEA) describes the whole SEA process implemented and the stages of the process with timeframe, outputs and legal reference. Besides the future Managing Authority, all Participating Countries of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 were involved in the SEA process.

The involvement of stakeholders and the involvement of the public in the SEA process was a key element in the consultation process. The relevant environmental authorities have been identified in close co-operation with the National Authorities of the Participating Countries.

Within the SEA procedure related to the Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 the involvement of the relevant environmental authorities and the public was carried out through two consultation actions:

- Article 5 (4) of the SEA Directive – Consultation on the Scoping Report
- Article 6.2 and Annex 1 of the SEA Directive – Consultation on the Environmental Report

The consultation process gave the opportunity to the stakeholders and the public to express their opinion. The consultation on the Scoping Report resulted that the relevant environmental stakeholders from the participating countries declared that they agree with the Scoping Report. Some of the stakeholders sent environmental related recommendations that are directly related to the content of the operational programme and which were taken into consideration on the JOP.

In the frame of the consultation of the Environmental Report a Non-technical summary of the Environmental Report has been provided for consultation to facilitate the comprehension of the Environmental Report by the public. The consultation on the Environmental Report disclosed the opinion the stakeholders and the public. Most of the received comments expressed the agreement with the content of the Environmental Report. Slight amendments were suggested in the received comments, mainly in relation to the environmental key problems and focus point in the eligible area, mitigation and prevention measures for the potential environmental impacts.

During the whole SEA process close co-operation with the programming was realized. Close co-operation with the planners was coordinated both in the phase of the elaboration of the Scoping Report and the Environmental Report in order to ensure that the environmental effects of implementing the Programme to be taken into account during its preparation and before its adoption.

The content of the Environmental Report in line with the EC Directive

The Environmental Report includes all the sections which are required by the SEA Directive. Non-technical summary of the Environmental Report and a statement summarizing how the environmental consideration has been integrated into the JOP were also provided.

Results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process:

The Strategic Environmental Assessment was an integral part of the programming process. The assessment process resulted that the Strategic Environmental Assessment process provided a high level of protection of the environment and contributed to the integration of environmental aspects into the preparation and adoption of the Programme.

The Environmental Report presents the reasonable Programme alternatives assessed from the environmental objectives and geographical scope point of view. Basically the alternatives comprise the gradually elaborated draft of the Programme and the “zero option” as the non-implementation of the Programme. Besides the analysis of ‘with and without’ the implementation of the Programme two potential alternatives have been raised during the environmental assessment, from which one intermediary alternative was taken into account selected on the bases of reasons detailed in the Environmental Report. The result of the comparison is that the best alternative is the implementation of the Programme.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment influenced the content of the JOP by the results of the consultations, the statements and recommendations of SEA which have been continuously discussed with the Task Force and the programme planners. The Strategic Environmental Assessment gave clear

recommendations included both in the final Scoping Report and in the final Draft Environmental Report. All the recommendations were discussed with the consultant responsible for the Joint Operational Programme and were taken into account in the final version of the JOP.

The overview on the main SEA recommendations, the results of the consultation process and how these have been considered in the Programme is given in the final Environmental Report and the Official Statement.

A monitoring system has been proposed and included in the Environmental Report based on the relevant environmental objectives specified in order to lay down the monitoring measures for significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Programme. As a general rule and with the purpose to avoid confusion and duplication the indicators proposed for the programming document have been analyzed from environmental point of view and JOP indicators which are relevant for the environmental issues, environmental objectives and guiding questions have been applied as SEA indicators. The Environmental Report proposes additional environmental indicators in case of those environmental objectives that are not covered by Programme indicators. Thus the proposed SEA indicator system consists of JOP Result indicators, JOP Output indicator and Indicators proposed by the SEA.

The SEA indicator system consists of the following indicators (name of the indicator and the type of indicator (R – JOP Result indicator, O – JOP Output indicator, I – Indicator proposed by the SEA)):

- Surface area protected in order to attain a better conservation status (ha) - O (TO6 P1)
- Increase in average size of non-fragmented land parcels – I
- Increased capacity in environmental protection and climate change mitigation (Based on surveys (baseline, mid-term, final) among key stakeholders e.g. water directorates. relevant NGOs institutions, authorities) - R (TO6 P1)
- Number of active participants in best practice sharing events, awareness campaigns and education programmes - O (TO6 P1)
- Number of public transport lines with increased service level as direct consequence of the support (lines) - O (TO7 P1)
- Increased capacity in environmental protection and climate change mitigation (Based on surveys (baseline, mid-term, final) among key stakeholders e.g. water directorates. relevant NGOs institutions, authorities) - R (TO6 P1)
- Number of co-operating organisations in disaster management - O (TO8 P1)
- Size of population served by improved prevention system (number of citizens served) - R (TO8 P1)
- Progress in management of contaminated sites (expressed per management step and against established targets where relevant) – I
- Number revitalized brownfield or recultivated old landfill sites or projects promoting the development of HNV farming – I
- Municipal waste generation (Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) kg/capita) – I
- Municipal waste recycling rates (The total recycling of municipal waste stated in percentage of the generated amount) – I
- Water exploitation index (WEI) – I
- Number of waste, wastewater, energy efficiency or renewable energy production interventions - O (TO6 P1)
- Size of population served by improved prevention system (number of citizens served) - R (TO8 P1)

- Number of projects targeting cooperation in landscape protection, management and planning – I
- Number of awareness raising actions on the protection of natural and cultural landscape – I
- Number of actions promoting waste/landfill recovery or land recycling – I
- Rate of selectively collected waste by the population – I
- Increased capacity in environmental protection and climate change mitigation (Based on surveys (baseline, mid-term, final) among key stakeholders e.g. water directorates. relevant NGOs institutions, authorities) - R (TO6 P1)
- Number of organisations using programme support for promoting local culture and preserving historical heritage - O (TO3 P1)
- Number of improved cultural and historical sites as a direct consequence of programme support - O (TO3 P1)
- Size of population served by improved health and health related social services (number of citizens served) - R (TO8 P2)
- Improved healthcare related services with cross border effect (services) - O (TO8 P2)
- Number of actions targeting the increase in rate of population connected to wastewater treatment plants. – I
- Number of actions serving the improvement of drinking water quality – I
- Energy consumption for households per square meter – I
- Share of renewable energy to final energy consumption (%) - I
- Number of public transport lines with increased service level as direct consequence of the support (lines) - O (TO7 P1)

The Environmental Report presents the detailed indicator system with implementing information.

6.8 Rules on eligibility of expenditure

The rules on eligibility of costs are detailed in Articles 47 to 51 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules. According to Article 48 and Article 49 the programme may establish additional eligibility rules for the programme as a whole and may declare other categories of costs as ineligible..

The programme does not exclude the possibility of using lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing. Given the rules in Article 47 and 50 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, the JMC may decide on the use of these kinds of forms of financing together with launching the call for proposals. Different rules might be set up per priority or/and by type of call to be approved by JMC. According to Article 67 of the ENI CBC IR, expenditures occurred in national currency of the participating countries other than EUR will be converted into EUR using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission of the month during which the expenditure was submitted for examination in accordance with Article 32(1) of the Implementing Regulation.

This method set out by the time of the Programme approval should apply throughout the programme duration for all Participating Countries. The same method shall apply throughout the programme duration by the Member States both to the expenditures related to technical assistance and to the expenditures related to projects.

Due to the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on 24 February 2022 activities of most projects have been paralyzed, the beneficiaries in Ukraine, especially those in the public sector faced significant difficulties in implementing and financing the project activities, which led to the need for extension of the projects' terms, and consequently – the reporting periods.

In this unstable economic situation, the risks for depreciation of the Ukrainian currency continue to grow. Over the period from February 2022 to May 2023, the exchange rate of the national currency of Ukraine (as of Inforeuro) has decreased significantly. Later submission of the reports due to the extended project duration just increases the financial risks for the Ukrainian beneficiaries.

In order to eliminate financial risks and to prevent the negative consequences, it is appropriate ***to derogate exceptionally from the above rule on the applicable exchange rate method for Ukrainian beneficiaries***, securing for them the conversion of expenditure in national currency into the currency of the report (euro) using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission of the month during which the payment of an expenditure was incurred.

Article 13 of the regulation (EU) 2022/2192 offers 3 options for the use of the euro, out of which option a) seems to be the most favourable for the Ukrainian beneficiaries in case the term 'incurred' meant as the payment date.

Therefore, according to the Joint Monitoring Committee decision taken in written procedure closed on 02 June 2023, starting from that date, the changes can be applicable for **any project related costs of the Ukrainian Beneficiaries but exclusively those that are not yet approved by MA**, i.e. not included in an approved interim Project Report nor in an approved final Project Report.

6.9 Irregularities and recoveries: Apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries

According to Article 71 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, the Managing Authority shall in the first instance be responsible for preventing and investigating irregularities, making the financial corrections required and pursuing recoveries.

For the sake of effective and efficient recovery procedures, the JMC may decide on requesting financial guarantees from the beneficiaries. Detailed rules on financial guarantees shall be regulated in the call for proposals.

According to Article 74 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, the Managing Authority shall be responsible for pursuing the recovery of amounts unduly paid. Where the recovery relates to a breach of legal obligations on the part of the Managing Authority stemming from the ENI CBC Implementing Rules and Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 the Managing Authority shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the Commission..

Where the recovery relates to systemic deficiencies in the programme management and control systems, the Managing Authority shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the Commission in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries as laid down in the programme.

Where the recovery relates to a claim against a beneficiary established in a Member State and the Managing Authority is unable to recover the debt, the Member State in which the beneficiary is established shall pay the due amount to the Managing Authority and claim it back from the beneficiary. Where the recovery relates to a claim against a beneficiary established in a CBC partner country and the Managing Authority is unable to recover the debt, the level of responsibility of the CBC partner country in which the beneficiary is established shall be such as it is laid down in the relevant financing agreements referred to in Articles 8 and 9 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules.

In line with the Implementing Regulation, the HUSKROUA ENI CBC programme will apply the following rules:

- Each participating country bears liability for possible financial consequences of irregularities caused by the Lead Beneficiaries and Beneficiaries located on its territory in conformity with Article 74 (4)-(5) of the ENI Implementing Rules.;
- In case of a systemic deficiency (irregularity) that cannot be linked to a specific participating country, the liability shall be jointly and equally born by the participating countries. In case of systemic deficiency (irregularity) that can be linked to a specific country (e.g. deficiency in the national control system), the respective participating country shall bear the liability.
- for the technical assistance expenditure :
 - The country of TA Beneficiary, which committed the irregularity, shall bear the financial responsibilities.
 - In case of a systemic irregularity of the TA expenditure, where their regularity cannot be linked to a specific participating country's TA Beneficiary, the liability shall be jointly and equally born by the participating countries

If the Lead Beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from a project partner or if the MA does not succeed in securing repayment from the Lead Beneficiary, the Member State on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is established shall pay the due amount to the Managing Authority in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries as laid down above. The MA will reimburse the funds to the Union once the amounts are recovered from the Lead Beneficiary/beneficiaries/participating countries.

In case the Lead Beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from a project partner or if the MA does not succeed in securing repayment from the Lead Beneficiary, and the beneficiary concerned is established in Ukraine the relevant procedures of recovery will be laid down in the Financing Agreement according to Article 74 (5) of the ENI Implementing Rules.

Should the MA bear any legal expenses for recovery recourse proceedings – initiated after consultation and in mutual agreement with the respective participating country – even if the proceedings are unsuccessful – it will be reimbursed by the participating country hosting the Lead Beneficiary or beneficiary responsible for the procedure mentioned above.

6.10 Rules of transfer, use and monitoring of co-financing

Co-financing shall amount to at least 10 % of the European Union's contribution to the Programme. The ENI share in case of projects in principle is fixed to 90%, while the TA is 100% financed by EU funds, in the maximum limit of 10 % of the Union's total contribution, According to Article 13(1) of Implementing Regulation, the co-financing shall come from any sources other than EU.

Aid granted by participating countries under the programme shall comply with the rules on State aid within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty of the functioning of the European Union and – where applicable - with State aid provisions of any bilateral agreements between the participating countries and the EU, in particular chapter 10 of Title IV of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine.

6.11 Description of IT systems for the reporting and exchange of computerised data between the Managing Authority and the Commission

According to Article 30 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules an electronic data systems for accounting, storage, monitoring and reporting shall be set up by the programme.

The IMIS 2007-2013 electronic data exchange system operated under HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013 already largely complied with these norms. The IMIS 2014-2020 will support both the project cycle and the programme implementation and meet accepted security standards to ensure that the documents held comply with national legal requirements and can be relied on for audit purposes.

During the 2007-2013 period the system was capable for fully supporting all back office functions, inter alia

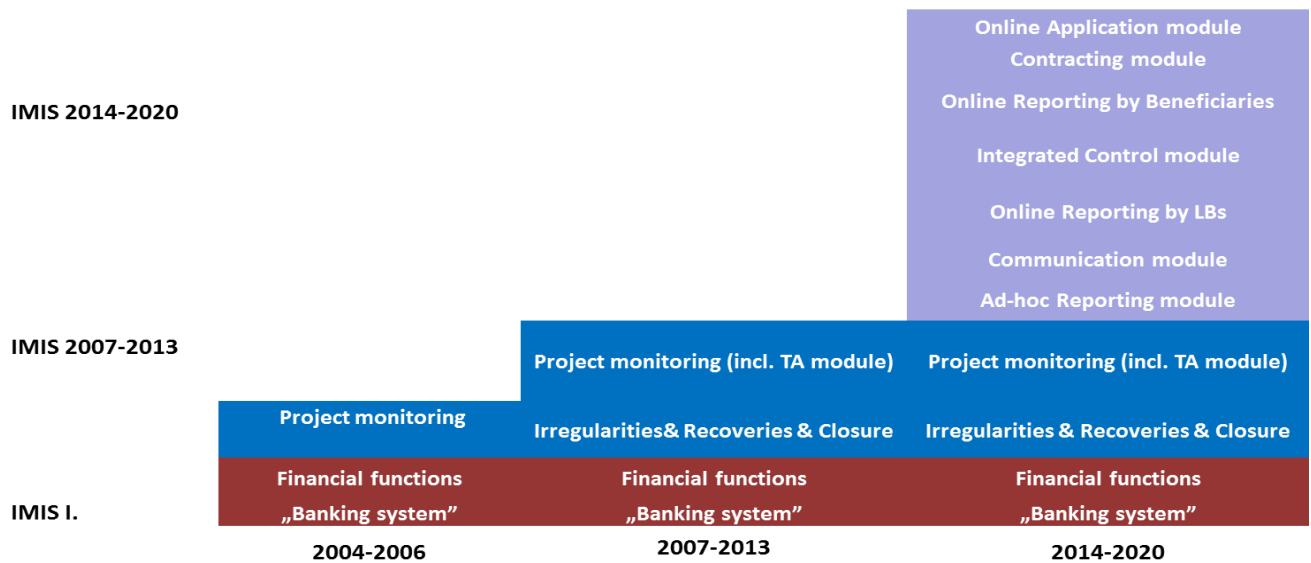
- Payments to projects electronically through the system
- Automatic preparation of the payment claims and all related official documents to the EC
- Follow all bank account transactions;
- Reporting and monitoring irregularities, managing recoveries, pending recoveries
- Generating financial statistics and reports (withdrawals and recoveries, eligible expenditures, payments etc.)

- Programme and project life-cycle (incl. TA) covered

In order to support the integrated management of the Hungary Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI Cross-border Cooperation Programme, the IMIS2014-2020 shall be developed in line with the new regulation, requirements, programme rules and experiences from the present system development and operation phase. One of the key changes in the functionality shall be the usage of the online application module and online submission of Interim/Final Reports and Payment Request on project level and the extension of partner level online reporting and control module for the whole programme area. A communication module has to be also introduced, as well as advanced ad-hoc reporting tools. The system has to be also improved in terms of user friendliness, meaning a completely new user interface, visual identity.

Indicatively, the developed IMIS plan to be composed of the following modules and main functions:

- Online Application module
- Project module (Contracting, contract modifications, handling project life cycle)
- Reporting (including partner level online reporting, integrated control module and project reporting)
- Integrated Control module for all participating countries
- Online Reporting module for Lead Beneficiaries
- Communication module (inbox/outbox)
- Ad-hoc Reporting tool
- Technical Assistance module



The data exchange with the EC will be carried out electronically. The IMIS system will be able to communicate and be compatible with the KEEP database developed by INTERACT in order to ensure the smooth upload of data and exchange of information needed by the Commission.

The development, implementation, support and maintenance of the programme monitoring and information system shall be financed from the TA budget.

6.12 Principles of communication

Communication is a strategic element in the successful implementation of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC programme 2014-2020.

The overall goal of the Communication Strategy is to ensure the information flow about the framework, EU support, goals, results and impacts of the Programme addressing information and communication needs for internal actors involved in programme implementation as well as for external actors benefiting from programme implementation and also the general public.

The specific objectives of the Communication Strategy ensure the visibility, awareness, promotion of opportunities and results, adequate assistance, good level inner and outer communication and knowledge/information transfer of the Programme. As a result, the communication activities will highly contribute to and enhance the success of the Programme.

Responsible bodies for the implementation of the Communication plan will be the Managing Authority, the Joint Technical Secretariat, the Branch Offices and the Joint Monitoring Committee.

The effectiveness of the information and communication measures and the progress in the implementation of the Communication Plan will be surveyed and monitored throughout the implementation of the Programme in order to assure the attainment of the objectives of the Communication Strategy and Plan.

A wide range of communication channels and techniques will be used throughout the implementation selected on the basis of the experience of the currently running ENPI Programme

In 2014-2020 an improved version of the IMIS monitoring and information system will help the communication and implementation at all programme levels. The system aims to be a practical tool in performing tasks and fostering the flow of information among all the participants of the Programme.

The revision of the visual identity of the current programme (2007-2013) will be implemented and according to its results, the visual appearance of the Programme might be changed.

For the detailed Communication Plan: Communication Strategy and Indicative Annual Information and Communication Plan for the first year please see Chapter 10.2 in Annexes.

6.13 Language(s) adopted by the programme

As the Programme is multinational, according to Article 7 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules, the working language used is English in order to facilitate management and shorten the completion periods.

Interpretation and translation costs will be covered from the technical assistance budget at Joint Operational Programme level and the budget of each individual project at project level.

7 Indicative financial plan

7.1 Thematic objectives by source of funding

Indicative financing plan of the HU-SK-RO-UA ENI CBC Programme, Providing the EU Contribution and the co-financing if known for the whole programming period for each thematic objective and for Technical Assistance				
<i>Thematic objectives by source of funding (in euros):</i>				
	EC Funding (a) *	Co-financing (b)	Co-financing rate (in %) (c) **	Total funding (d) = (a)+(b)
Thematic objective 3	13 989 613	2 692 632	19,25%	16 682 245
Thematic objective 6	16 776 393	2 296 146	13,69%	19 072 539
Thematic objective 7	11 862 344	1 903 330	16,05%	13 765 674
Thematic objective 8	25 123 949	3 676 809	14,63%	28 800 758
Technical Assistance	6 199 701	0	0,00%	6 199 701
Total	73 952 000	10 568 917	14,29%	84 520 917

* In accordance with the Strategy Paper.

** Co-financing rate shall be calculated on the basis of the Community contribution to the joint operational programme, in accordance with articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014 of 18 August 2014 laying down specific provisions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument

Thematic Objective	Priority	Allocation by TOs (%)	Allocations in the percentage of the total budget (%)	EC funding allocation (EUR)
TO 3	Priority 1	20,65%	18,92%	13 989 613
TO 6	Priority 1	24,76%	22,69%	16 776 393
TO 7	Priority 1	17,51%	16,04%	11 862 344
TO 8	Priority 1	37,08%	33,97%	25 123 949
	Priority 2			
Technical Assistance			8,38%	6 199 701
TOTAL:			100%	73 952 000

7.2 Programme financial table

Financial table describing the provisional yearly allocations of Programme's commitments and payments (in Euro, current prices)

	A	B	C	D
	INDICATIVE PROVISIONAL COMMITMENTS BY THE EC	CO-FINANCING	PROGRAMME'S INDICATIVE PROVISIONAL COMMITMENTS - EC funding	PROGRAMME'S INDICATIVE PROVISIONAL PAYMENTS - EC funding
2015				
Projects		0	0	0
TA		0	0	0
TOTAL 2015	8 476 935	0	0	0
2016				
Projects		0	0	0
TA		0	0	0
TOTAL 2016	9 767 535	0	0	0
2017				
Projects		0	0	0
TA		0	0	0
TOTAL 2017	14 915 905	0	0	0
2018				
Projects		0	0	0
TA		0	5 699 701	0
TOTAL 2018	12 835 744	0	5 699 701	0
2019				
Projects		5 159 447	33 074 758	7 518 066
TA		0	500 000	2 797 009
TOTAL 2019	13 863 310	5 159 447	33 574 758	10 315 075
2020				
Projects		1 616 115	10 360 145	7 769 893
TA		0	0	13 365
TOTAL 2020	14 092 571	1 616 115	10 360 145	7 783 258
2021				
Projects		2 964 775	19 005 763	17 282 164
TA		0	0	434 587
TOTAL 2021	0	2 964 775	19 005 763	17 716 751
2022				
Projects		779 967	5 000 000	12 615 004

TA		0	0	798 402
TOTAL 2022	0	779 967	5 000 000	13 413 406
2023				
Projects		48 613	311 633	11 426 112
TA		0	0	1 061 943
TOTAL 2023	0	48 613	311 633	12 488 055
2024				
Projects		0	0	11 141 060
TA		0	0	1 094 395
TOTAL 2024	0	0	0	12 235 455
TOTAL 2015-2024	73 952 000	10 568 917	73 952 000	73 952 000
TOTAL CO-FINANCING RATE			14,29%	14,29%

Depending on the conditions laid down by the EC in the relevant modifying decision, participating countries intend to finance preparatory actions under TA budget 2007-2013.

8 Risk analysis and mitigating measures

The table below lists the risk factors estimating their level of likelihood and impact and also describes the possible mitigating measures and responsible management units. The identified risks and related mitigating measures are to be followed on a regular basis and reported annually to the Joint Monitoring Committee.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measures	Responsibilities
External factors				
Overlaps with other programmes in the eligible area	Low	Low	Clearly defined selection criteria for awarded projects focusing on the priorities of the eligible area.	MA, JTS
Unfavourable geopolitical environment	Medium	High	Measures for this risk are beyond the responsibilities and capacities of the Programme management.	-
Internal factors				
Deficiencies of the efficient usage of funds (irregularities, fraud)	Low	High	Ensuring the development and usage of an effective audit and control system and an effective monitoring system.	MA, JTS, AA, NA
Delays in project selection and decision making processes	Medium	Medium	Development of flexible communication channels and procedures regarding project selection and decision making.	JTS, JMC
Delays in implementation processes (e.g. verification of progress reports, payment requests)	Medium	Medium	Ensuring effective procedures and adequate staff.	JTS, MA
Delays in the implementation of LIPs having significant financial stake in the programme	Medium	High	Early launch of LIPs, regular and hands-on project monitoring.	MC, MA, JTS
Difficulties of finding cooperative cross-border project partners	Low	Low	Development, effective marketing and usage of information events and partner search forums.	JTS
Inadequate number /qualification of personnel for the programme management	Low	High	Capacity building and trainings for the management according to the needs of the Programme.	JTS, MA
Information shortage of stakeholders	Medium	Medium	Strengthened information channels in order to reach effectively the key stakeholders.	JTS, Branch offices
Reluctant stakeholders without interest in the Programme in the cross-border area	Low	Medium	Effective and systematic information campaigns and marketing of best practices.	JTS, Branch offices
Instability /missing contents / delayed development of the IT system	Low	High	Thorough planning and timely implementation of the development of the monitoring and information system.	MA, JTS

9 Description of ways to mainstream cross-cutting issues

9.1 Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability was taken into account as a horizontal principle during the programme preparation. Special measures in order to ensure environmental sustainability will be included in the calls for proposals. The following priorities and operations will contribute to the requirements of environmental protection, climate change mitigation and resource efficiency:

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

Type of action	Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue
Priority 1: Promoting local culture and historical heritage along with tourism functions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and restoration of historical buildings in accordance with monument restoration requirements • Development of touristic destinations, thematic routes connecting historical cultural or religious heritage sites 	Preferring environmental-friendly materials and technologies in promotion activities and the preservation works of buildings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion activities and information provision on routes and attractions • Organisation of joint cultural events with cross-border added value linked to historical heritage 	Preferring environmental-friendly materials and technologies in promotion activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the production of traditional local products at touristic sites 	Using local resources and preferring organic agriculture.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating cross-border standard of services 	Including environmental sustainability in the standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of experiences among organisations related to cultural religious and historic heritage • Training for locals in tourism, cooperation, promotion and networking 	Using environmentally friendly methods as much as possible during information and experience exchange, networking. Travelling by environmentally friendly ways of transportation or using the modern methods of communication.

TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Type of action	Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue
Priority 1: Sustainable use of the environment in the cross border area - preservation of natural resources, actions to reduce GHG emission and pollution of rivers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of natural parks and forestry management systems with cross border effect • Protection of landscape, biodiversity and eco-systems 	Protection and sustainable development of the transboundary flora and fauna.

Type of action	Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of water resources, adaptation to the more frequent water extremities through integrated water management actions 	Sustainable protection of transboundary waters and making environmentally friendly and sustainable decisions in connection with climate change mitigation issues (floods), work, investments in the field of water management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint ecological education programs 	Raising awareness on environmental sustainability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation between institutions, authorities and civil organizations 	Sustainable use of natural and human resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the harmonization of relevant regulations 	Acting jointly on a common basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of measures to increase energy efficiency, energy savings and recycling 	Raising awareness on environmental sustainability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of joint low-carbon strategies 	Reduction of environmental impacts by low-carbon strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of best practices and expertise 	Study tours, education on energy efficiency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening competences and skills in the fields of eco-innovation and low-carbon solutions 	Study tours, education on eco-innovation and for low-carbon solutions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of local renewable energy production strategies for biomass, water and geothermal energy 	Reduction of environmental impacts through rationalisation of strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing best practices, setting up small scale pilot systems 	Exchange of experiences and raising awareness on the importance and content of environmental sustainability, implementation of surveys and pilot projects, planning and setting up monitoring systems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys on water quality problems of river basins crossing the border 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of water quality monitoring systems 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness campaigns 	

TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems

Type of action	Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue
Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building, modernization and upgrading of bicycle paths, routes leading to and crossing the border 	Preferring environmental-friendly materials and technologies in the road works.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of cross-border public transport initiatives, harmonization of systems 	Preferring environmental-friendly materials and technologies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising activity regarding the importance of environment-friendly transport system 	Raising awareness on low emission and low noise forms of cross-border transport.

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

Type of action	Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue
Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonising activities in the field of flood prevention, development of flood prevention infrastructure 	Reduction of environmental impacts through rationalisation of strategies, activities and infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up joint early warning systems (fire, avalanches) 	Early warning systems to prevent or get ready to disaster events thus reducing damages.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic and technical planning and establishment of joint monitoring systems on environmental (air, water, soil) pollutions 	Reduction of environmental impacts through a joint monitoring system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database regarding natural disasters incidents 	Reduction of environmental impacts through benefiting a joint database.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing awareness and knowledge and developing skills to develop local and regional strategies 	Prevention and mitigation of the impacts of global climate change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support/cooperation/network of non-governmental rescue teams/organisations 	Sustainable use of natural and human resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint training programmes and workshops, exchange of experiences, study tours 	Mitigating environmental impacts through the development of the transboundary human resources.

Beyond these thematic priorities and actions the issue of environmental sustainability will be taken into account on programme level as well. This means the application of good environmental practices during the implementation of the programme, in particular in relation to energy efficiency, the sustainable use of the resources needed, and lowest possible production of waste, sustainable use of transport and the evolvement of sustainable operational functions of the organisational structure.

9.2 Democracy and human rights

Regarding democracy and human rights, several aspects are embedded in the strategy as horizontal issues or modalities to be applied in projects across any of the priorities selected as follows:

TO3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

Type of action	Type of human rights concerned/ Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue
Priority 1: Promoting local culture and history along with tourism functions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and restoration of historical buildings in accordance with monument restoration requirements 	Right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Type of action	Type of human rights concerned/ <i>Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of touristic destinations, thematic routes connecting historical cultural or religious heritage sites 	Right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Right to freedom of speech. <i>Enhancing relations, mutual understanding and tolerance.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of joint cultural events with cross-border added value linked to historical heritage 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of the production of traditional local (handicraft, (organic) agricultural) products at touristic sites 	

TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Type of action	Type of human rights concerned/ <i>Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue</i>
Priority 2: Preservation and sustainable use of natural resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation between institutions, authorities and civil organisations for the sustainable use of natural resources 	Right to a standard of living adequate. Right to freedom of speech. Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. <i>Enhancing communication on different levels of the society can result in more complete solutions and discussions for a good standard quality environment.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the harmonisation of relevant regulations. 	

TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

Type of action	Type of human rights concerned/ <i>Ways of contribution to the cross-cutting issue</i>
Priority 2: Support to the development of health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of health care and prevention infrastructure and equipment related to cross border service provision, joint capacity development, 	<p>Right to a standard of living adequate. Right of equal access to public service in his country.</p> <p><i>Development of healthcare and social care system taking into account the situation of the peripheral regions.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint development and establishment of patient care areas 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of know-how, joint training programmes, joint prevention programs, joint support services 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operation between institutions on the field of human epidemiology 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of social care services infrastructure 	

In summary, the thematic objectives and priorities of the Programme are expected to positively contribute to the following aspects of human rights:

- Right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- Right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.
- Right of equal access to public service in his country.
- Right to social security.
- Right to work.
- Right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- Right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community, enjoy the arts and share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- Right to freedom of speech.
- Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Beyond these thematic priorities and actions, the issue of democracy and human rights will be taken into account on programme level as well. This means that considerations related to democracy, good governance and human rights and the reduction of discrimination will be considered throughout the implementation of the programme in the forms of exchange of good practices, transparent selection, reporting and financing, publicly available project data and results.

9.3 Gender equality

Promotion of gender equality is mainstreamed within the Programme as a horizontal issue. Both men and women shall have equal access to the opportunities and benefits of the Programme. All projects will have to adequately consider gender related issues – such as equality of opportunity, rights, distribution of benefits, responsibilities for men and women. This may include the integration of a gender perspective when planning e.g. training activities, considering the likeliness of increased gender equality beyond the project ends, etc. Special measures in order to ensure gender equality will be included in the calls for proposals. Gender related issues will be considered on programme level as well at the development and operation of the different programme bodies.

9.4 HIV/AIDS

The challenges posed by the presence, spreading and prevention of HIV/AIDS will be potentially handled in the frame of **Thematic Objective 8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security, Priority 2: Support to the development of health**, through the following possible types of actions:

- Improvement of health care and prevention infrastructure and equipment related to cross border service provision, joint capacity development,
- Joint development and establishment of patient care areas,
- Exchange of know-how, joint training programmes, joint prevention programs, joint support services,
- Co-operation between institutions on the field of human epidemiology,
- Improvement of social care services infrastructure.

10 Annexes

10.1 Detailed analysis of the socioeconomic and environmental situation of the programme area

The detailed analysis of the programme area was performed by using the following information sources:

- data acquired from the national statistical offices of the participating countries,
- EU statistical database,
- regional, country-specific data extracted from the relevant strategic planning document
- final reports of relevant projects,
- websites of relevant organisations,
- open data sources (e.g. openmaps.eu), and
- relevant regulations.

10.1.1 General introduction – territory, population, economy and labour market

The area covered by the analysis consists of 10 counties/regions (HU: 2 counties, SK: 2 regions, RO: 3 counties, UA: 3 regions) in the cross-border area which spreads out a territory of almost 83.000 km². The cross-border region is inhabited by slightly more than 8 million people representing 9,7% of the inhabitants of the participating countries. The 3 biggest areas regarding population are the three Ukrainian regions with 3,5 million inhabitants altogether. The most populated region is Ivano-Frankivska in Ukraine with 1.5 million inhabitants representing 17,5% of the cross-border area's population. The county with the smallest population is Satu-Mare in Romania inhabited by 361.000 people representing 4,5% of the eligible area's population.⁶

Distribution of territory and population

Regarding the share of population per eligible county compared to the whole programme area, the Hungarian counties (7-8% each) and Slovak regions (10% each) represent about the same share; 15-20% of the programme area's population per country. The Ukrainian regions represent almost half of the population of the programme area (44,6%), while the Romanian counties have a share of 20%. Regarding territorial distribution, the size of counties' territory in comparison to the entire programme area follows almost the same pattern as the population size: the Hungarian counties (7-8% each) and Slovak regions (8-10% each) represent about the same share (15-20%); The Ukrainian regions represent almost half of the territory of the programme area (41,9%); the Romanian counties have a share of 23,2%.

⁶ HCSO, SOSR NIS, SSSU (Population data: HU, RO, UA: 2011, SK: 2013; territory data: 2013)

County/Region	Corss-border area			
	Population	Territory (km2)	Share of population	Share of territory
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	559 272	5 936	7,0%	7,2%
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	686 266	7 250	8,6%	8,7%
Hungarian counties	1 245 538	13 186	15,5%	15,9%
Košický	794 689	6 753	9,9%	8,1%
Prešovský	818 916	8 974	10,2%	10,8%
Slovakian regions	1 613 605	15 727	20,1%	19,0%
Maramureş	505 788	6 304	6,3%	7,6%
Satu-Mare	360 969	4 418	4,5%	5,3%
Suceava	709 364	8 553	8,9%	10,3%
Romanian counties	1 576 121	19 275	19,7%	23,2%
Zakarpatska	1 252 700	12 777	15,6%	15,4%
Ivano-Frankivska	1 405 500	13 928	17,5%	16,8%
Chernivetska	919 300	8 097	11,5%	9,8%
Ukrainian regions	3 577 500	34 802	44,6%	41,9%
Total:	8 012 764	82 990	100%	100%

Table 1: Population and territory in the eligible area

Source: HCSO,SOSR NIS, SSSU (Population data: HU, RO, UA: 2011, SK: 2013; territory data: 2013)

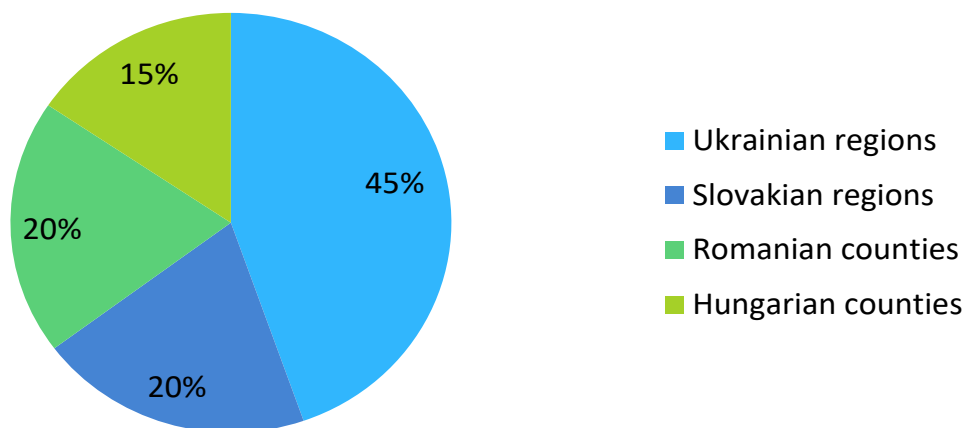


Figure 2: Share of population in the eligible area of the Programme

Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (Population data: HU, RO, UA: 2011, SK: 2013; territory data: 2013)

Regarding distribution of population according to age groups the proportion of people above the age of 65 is the highest in two Ukrainian regions: Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska while this rate is the lowest in the two Slovak regions. The Ukrainian counties of Zakarpatska and Chernivetska have the highest proportion of people under the age of 15 and also the lowest proportion of people from 15 to 64 years. Satu-Mare, Maramureş, Košický and Prešovský counties/regions all have the proportion of active age group (from 15 to 64 years) around 70%.⁷

⁷ HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (HU, RO, UA: 2011, SK: 2013)

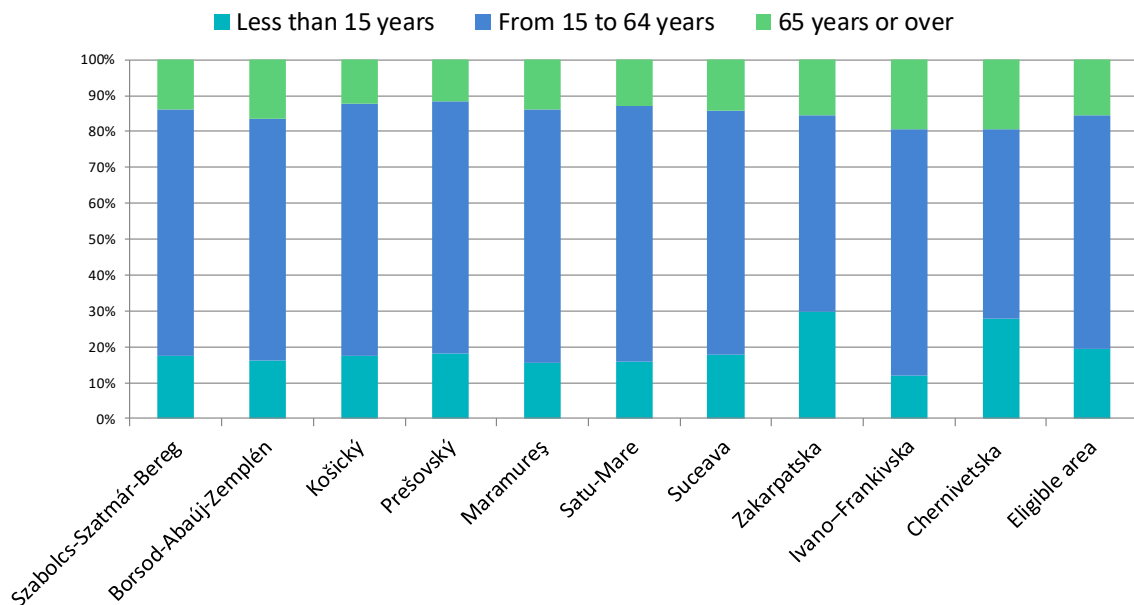


Figure 3: Distribution of population according to age groups in the eligible area
 Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (HU, RO, UA: 2011, SK: 2013)

Ageing index and dependency ratio

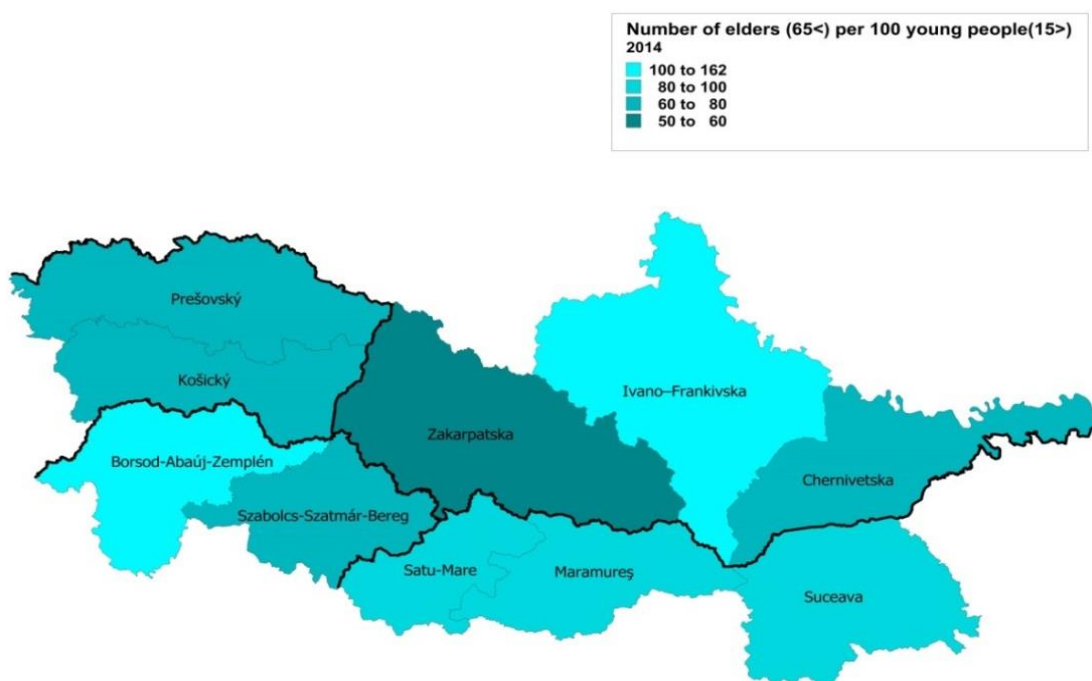


Figure 4: Ageing index in the eligible area of the Programme HUSKROUA ENPI CBC 2007-2013
 Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (2013)

The values of ageing index⁸ show that the ratio of population between 0-14 years and the population of over 65-year-old people: Hungarian counties are leading (90,7%) followed by Romanian counties (83,2%), Ukrainian regions (80,7%) and Slovak regions (60,8%). The situation is the worst with very high rates in Ivano-Frankivska Region (UA - 160,8%) and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (HU - 100,6%) and the best in Zakarpatska Region (52,1%); Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Košický, Chernivetska and Prešovský regions are also in a good situation having rates between 64-80%.

County/Region	Ageing index	Dependency ratio of elderly people (65+)
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	79,4%	20,1%
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	100,6%	24,4%
Košický	71,4%	17,6%
Prešovský	64,8%	16,7%
Maramureș	89,2%	19,4%
Satu-Mare	81,3%	17,9%
Suceava	80,3%	20,8%
Zakarpatska	52,1%	28,5%
Ivano-Frankivska	160,8%	28,1%
Chernivetska	69,7%	37,2%

Table 2: Ageing index and dependency ratio in the eligible area of the Programme HUSKROUA ENPI CBC 2007-2013
Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (2013)

Dependency ratio⁹ is the highest in the Ukrainian regions, with Chernivetska leading (37,2 elderly for 100 active persons). The situation in Košický and Prešovský regions and in Satu-Mare County is much more favourable with about 17 elderly for 100 active persons.

Natural change of population

In Hungary the natural change of population was more hectic compared to the other eligible areas in the other 3 countries. A peak in the natural change could be observed in 2006 in the country as a whole and the **Hungarian counties**. Two years later there was another peak of positive growth in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén but this could not be observed in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County. The peaks were followed by a significant decline, but growth started again in the last few years. Taking into account of all the peaks and the new growth segment also, the index of natural change of population could not step over to be positive, which means that over the past decade the number of deaths was constantly higher than the number of births.¹⁰

The **regions of Slovakia** can also be characterised by the pattern also valid for the country as a whole. In the first phase of the studied period (until about 2007) stagnation can be observed regarding the natural change of population. This was followed by a strong growth, which peaked around 2009. After 2011, however - like in Romania - a strong downturn can be observed in the natural change of population. This trend continues until the end of the examined period and the decline does not seem to stop. Despite this the situation of natural change is favourable in the country and also in the regions

⁸ Ageing index is calculated as the number of persons 60 years old or over per hundred persons under age 15

⁹ Dependency ratio is the number of persons 65 years and over per one hundred persons 15 to 64 years

¹⁰Based on data from Euro Stat

concerned, since the last decade the number of births was permanently exceeded the number of deaths.¹¹

Each of the three **Romanian counties** could be characterised by a strong growth of population till 2008 in the past decade; which peak was followed by a similarly intense decline in the natural change of population. This also can be observed in the whole country. Only Suceava of the eligible counties can show continuous values where the number of births in exceeds the number of deaths. The country as a whole is also characterized by relapse after that and the projection from 2008 onward. Altogether, on country-level the number of deaths permanently exceeds the number of births in the period examined. In Romania and in the eligible counties a slight increase has started since 2011.¹²

The **Ukrainian regions** are characterised by the same trend in the decrease of natural death and in the increase in the number of births over the past 10 years. Natural change of population became positive in absolute terms in 2011 in Chernivetska Region and in 2012 in Ivano-Frankivska Region. Indicators of Zakarpatska Region have the most favourable best in this respect: its dynamics of trends are very similar to the regions mentioned before, but the number of births is permanently higher than the number of deaths since 2006 in Zakarpatska. There is an overall positive growth regarding the whole of Ukraine. In 2003, the number of deaths was 350,000 more than the number of births; 10 years later, this figure shows that the number of deaths is higher only by 150,000 than the number of births; the positive trend seems to continue.¹³

Regarding the **eligible programme area as a whole** the number of deaths were constantly higher than the number of births in the Hungarian counties and in two of the Romanian counties (Maramureş and Satu Mare). In all the other regions the number of births is higher than the number of deaths meaning that the population is growing.

¹¹Based on data from Euro Stat

¹²Based on data from Euro Stat

¹³Based on data from State Statistics Service of Ukraine

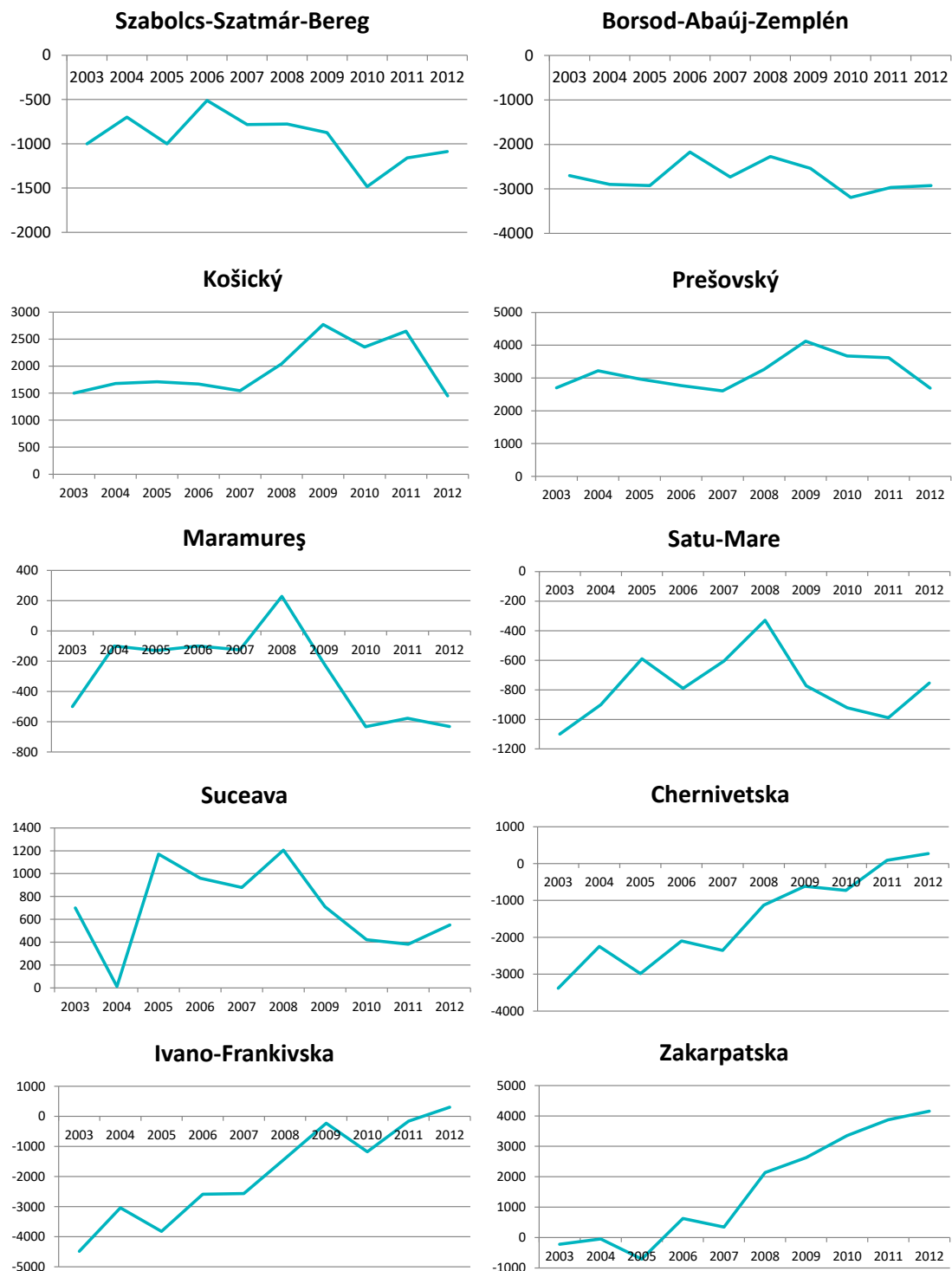


Figure 5: Natural change of population in the eligible area, 2003-2011
Source: EuroStat, State Statistics Service of Ukraine

Total population change

Both in **Hungary** and in the eligible counties the population decreased during the examined period and the decline seemed to stop and increase a little in the recent few years. On country level in **Slovakia** the population continued to grow after a temporary downturn in 2010. In the eligible border regions a 2009 peak was followed by the slowing of population growth. In **Romania**, in Satu Mare County a continuous decline of population growth can be observed in the studied period. In Maramureş County the population grew only in 2005 since then the population has decreased. In Suceava County most of the period was characterized by a growing population until 2010, after it the growth of population turned negative. Considering Romania as a whole, as it has been mentioned earlier, there was a great emigration in 2007, which caused a significant loss in the total population. Subsequently, the population began to stagnate. Regarding total population change for Ukraine no regional-level data was available.

Net migration

During the whole study period, Hungary was characterized by immigration, although with a declining pace. In contrast, the two **Hungarian counties** could be described very similarly regarding emigration. In 2008 both county reached a low point of net migration, the subsequent growth phase followed by that could not result yet in a positive migration balance.

Košický region is characterized by immigration - although decelerating - for most of the study period. However, a significant break came in 2009, with the consequence that in 2010 the migration balance turned negative. **Prešovský region** can be characterized by continuous emigration; in 2009 a fracture also can be observed, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of emigrants. Regarding Slovakia a continuous decline in emigration can be observed throughout the first half of the period; after 2007 emigration was decisive. It is encouraging, however, that from 2011 Slovakia's migration was characterised by a vigorous re-growth.

Regarding the Romanian counties net migration data show a diverse picture. In 2005 in **Maramureş County** the index of net migration reached a peak. In that year the number of immigrants was more than the number of emigrants. The 2005 peak was followed by a significant decline in the next year, but then - by the end of the study period - lasting growth can be observed: the balance of migration tends are very close to zero. There were two crisis (in 2004 and 2006) which can be observed in the studied period in **Satu Mare County**, then the index stabilized around zero value, so the balance of migration does not have a significant effect on the population change of the county. In **Suceava County** the number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants in 2005 and 2010. In 2011 immigration was dominant again. Romania as a whole is characterized by stagnant emigration, but around 2007 a very significant immigration wave took place, which is likely to be explained by the EU accession.

Regarding net migration for Ukraine no regional-level data was available.



Figure 6: Net migration in the eligible areas of the Member States, 2003-2011
Source: EuroStat

Population density

The population density of the counties and regions in the eligible **border area** is typically lower than the population density of the country they are situated in; Košický region and the Ukrainian regions are exceptions. The Romanian counties have the lowest population density, while the three Ukrainian regions are the more densely populated areas besides Košický region. The Slovak regions show a great difference to each other.

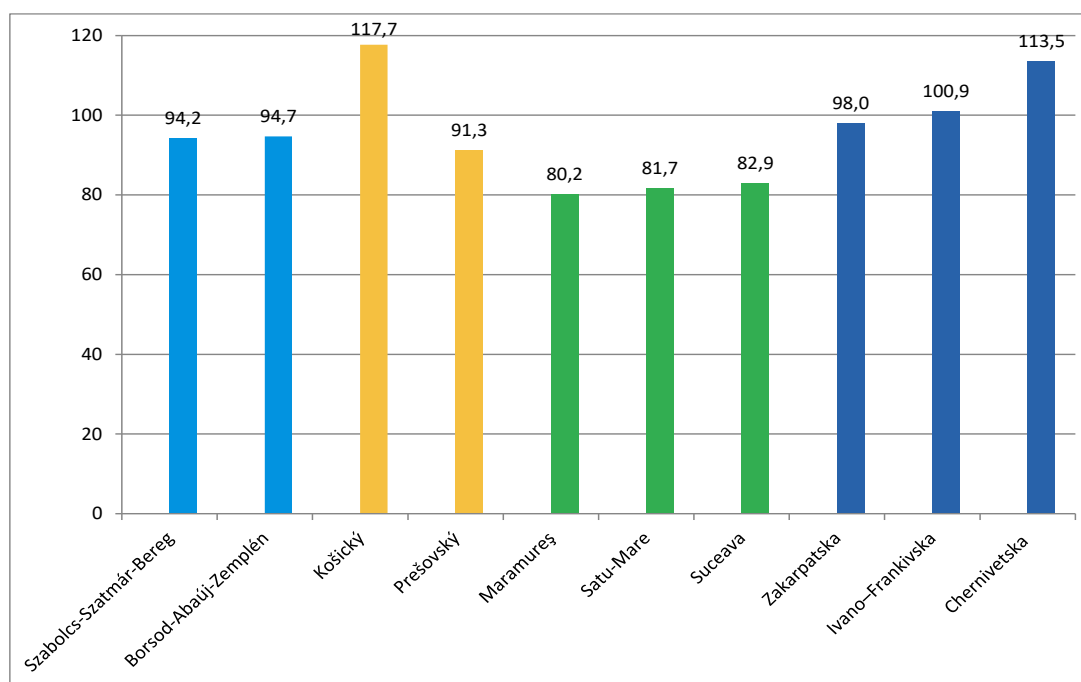


Figure 7: Population density in the eligible area (person /km²)

Source: HCSO, SOSR NIS, SSSU (based on population data: HU, RO, UA: 2011, SK: 2013; territory data: 2013)

Roma minority

In **Hungary** the Roma population has an uneven geographical distribution in the territory of the country. The majority of the Roma population lives in regions significantly affected by social and economic problems (in the North Hungary and East Hungary regions). The ratio of the Roma population to the entire population is one of the highest in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**, nearly 15 percent. More than 60% of Roma live in the countryside, in a rural environment, mostly in segregated residential zones, in rather poor housing conditions. The employment rate of the Roma population barely reaches 20%. The 10 percent employment rate amongst Roma women is particularly alarming. These figures are coupled with an extremely poor state of health (Roma die 10 years younger than non-Roma on average), a low educational level (barely 20% of them reach secondary final examinations) and ghetto-like housing conditions without modern conveniences. Crime and ethnic conflicts are particularly rife in these areas. The poverty rate amongst the Roma population in 2009 was near the 2000 figure and reached 70%. A number of economic and social processes are negatively affects the most disadvantaged regions and social groups. In international comparison, the employment rate is low; education is not competitive, while people accumulate a dangerous level of debt. These processes have a multiplied effect on the Roma population. Segregation and discrimination are simultaneously the cause and consequence of these processes. In other words, it is a cyclically regenerated phenomenon that is passed down from one generation to the next. As regards discrimination at the work place, most disadvantaged are discriminated according to the skin colour/ethnic origin, age and gender.¹⁴

Examining 2011 data the total number of minority population exceeds 5% in **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** and 92% of them is Roma. Roma minority has a significant concentration of the country's two

¹⁴National Social Inclusion Strategy – Extreme Poverty, Child Poverty, The Roma – (2011–2020), December 2011, Ministry of Public Administration and Justice State Secretariat for Social Inclusion

easternmost counties (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg), where 13% of the population belongs to them, and more than one-third of Roma population in the country lives here. The proportion of children is very high and the proportion of old-aged in the Roma population is low in the county. Low employment in the high dependency ratio producing low-income households is a serious problem. One-fifth of the adult Roma population live on disability pension. Another very significant group of the Roma population is on parental leave. The surveys on the participation of the Roma population on the labour market and surveys on household incomes indicate that eight-tenths of the Roma households are below the poverty line.¹⁵

Roma population living in **Slovakia** regularly appears among the groups mostly affected by poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. With this ethnicity, several disadvantageous factors apply: they are affected by poverty interconnected with demographic conditions, unemployment, low-skilled and low-paid work, and lack of education and discrimination. The Roma population as a group jeopardized by poverty is explicitly mentioned also in political documents and action plans of the Slovak Republic addressing poverty or social exclusion. 440 000 Roma resided in the territory of the Slovak Republic in 2011, which represents around 8 % of the total population. Regionally, the Roma are mostly concentrated in the **Prešovský, Košický** and Banská Bystrica regions. The unemployed constitute the largest group within the Roma population aged 16-64: 72 % of Roma men and 75 % of Roma women are unemployed. In an identical survey using identical methodology 20 % of Roma men and 11 % of Roma women claimed they were employed (UNDP. 2010). Although the Roma population living in Slovakia varies ethnically, socially and culturally, the majority of population generally perceives the Roma population as a unified group, which chose to differ and lives on the border of the society. Generally the Roma maintain a much more favourable attitude towards the majority than the majority does to the Roma population. Roma perceive the majority as a part of their social world; they want to see themselves as a part of the majority. A large part of the Roma considers the members of the majority society their own, which points to a high level of identification with the majority population. The Roma minority often consider Slovaks to be a reference group with which they would like to identify.¹⁶

According to the Communication "An EU framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020", the European Commission, based on the data from of Council of Europe, estimated an average number of Roma from Romania of 1,850,000 people, representing a percentage of 8.32 % out of the total population of **Romania**. Regarding education, a large percentage of early school leavers are represented by Roma minority. School segregation is a form of discrimination that leads to unequal access to quality education. In 2007 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports issued the Order no 1540 on banning school segregation of Roma children and on the approval of the Methodology for the prevention and elimination of school segregation. Roma people represent a large part of the poor population. According to the Survey on the Family Budgets conducted by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection – MLFSP, they represented 20.6% of all people living in absolute poverty, 35.2% of people living in severe poverty and 44.4% of people living in food poverty. Lack of decent housing and utilities, documents of property on houses and lands lead to social exclusion, blocking the access to social assistance, medical assistance, education and, in general, to all citizen rights. Roma people live mostly in peripheral areas of towns (83%), in compact communities (77%). Roma people continue to be subject to discrimination as regards their access to public services, labour market and

¹⁵Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office

¹⁶National Roma Integration Strategies of Slovakia for the Decade of Roma inclusion 2005 – 2015

presentation in the media, and these attitudes are maintained by negative stereotypes and prejudices rooted in the public consciousness.¹⁷

In **Ukraine**, Roma minority constitutes a very heterogeneous community and live in different regions of Ukraine, where the density of the Roma population varies throughout the country. According to estimations by local Roma NGOs, the largest concentrations of Roma live in **Zakarpatska Region** (42 580 persons); In Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska the number of Roma inhabitants are below 4000 persons. Roma minority in Ukraine are divided into several sub-groups according to certain characteristics, such as the region where they live, the main language spoken, the profession of their ancestors and religion. Almost all Roma groups in Ukraine are sedentary. There are a few semi-nomadic groups living in the west of the country, although their movements within Ukraine are mostly seasonal and labour-related. The general situation of Roma in Ukraine is problematic. Roma continue to face particular challenges in accessing quality education, housing and civil registration documents, as well as in their relation with the police. In addition, the Ukrainian authorities should place special emphasis on ensuring access to quality education for all Roma, combating the segregation of Roma in schools, and assigning them to special classes. The processes of civil registration and, in particular, birth registration for Roma need to be facilitated. Relations between the police and Roma need to be addressed by providing training for law enforcement and prosecution officials against all forms of harassment or discriminatory behaviour by the police in order to raise awareness of the situation of Roma people and to counter prejudices. In addition, policies building trust and understanding between Roma communities and the police should also be developed.¹⁸

The **GDP** shows the relatively low economic performance of the cross-border area: the proportion of the border population in the total area of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine (9.74%) exceeds the share of the region regarding GDP (7.7%). The difference is particularly large in case of Chernivetska, Zakarpatska and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg.

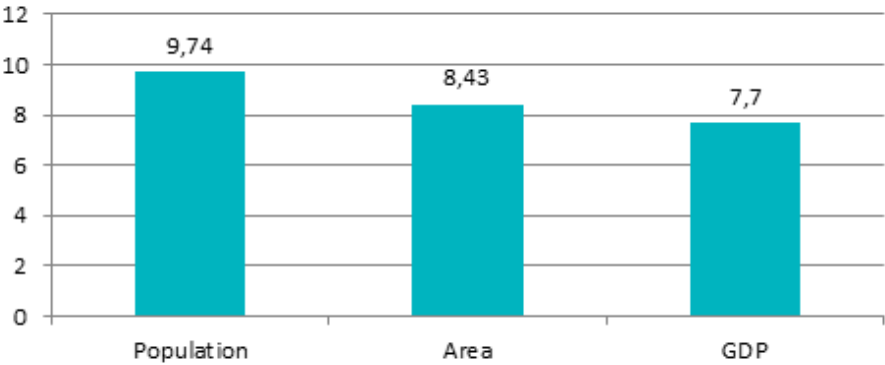


Figure 8: Share of the eligible area of national indicators (Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine combined)
 Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (2011, %)

¹⁷ Strategy of the Government of Romania for the Inclusion of the Romanian Citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2012 – 2020

¹⁸ Situation Assessment Report On Roma In Ukraine And The Impact Of The Current Crisis, Warsaw August 2014, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The values of the counties show significant intra-regional disparities:

- The position of Košický is conspicuous since this county produces the biggest part, 24.4% of the total GDP of the eligible area.
- The economic performance of the Romanian and Ukrainian regions is well below the average performance of the eligible area.

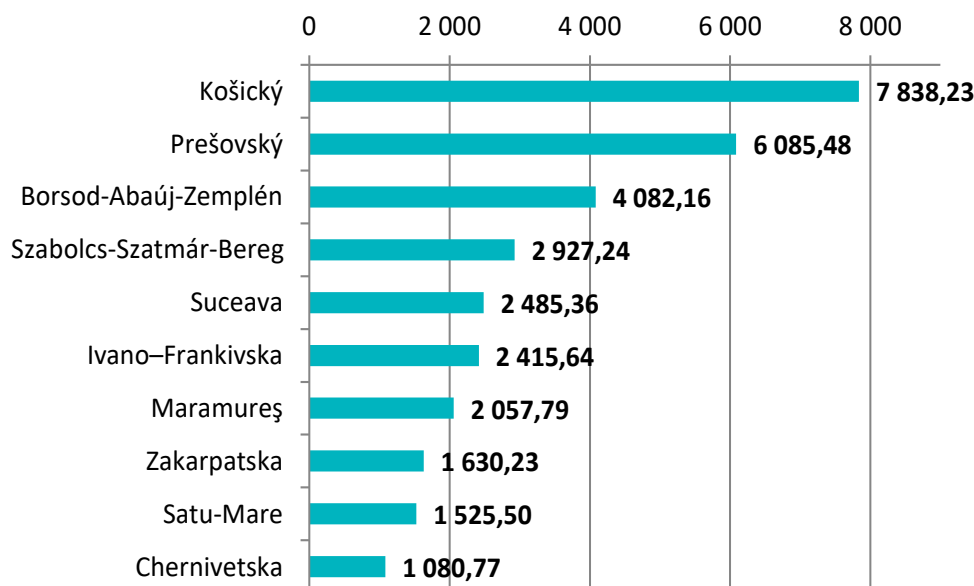


Figure 9: GDP of the counties (2011, million EUR)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

The trends of the last years are controversial: the Ukrainian regions lost one-third of their GDP from 2008 to 2009, while the rest of the eligible area faced a decline of 7-17%. Since 2010 the tendencies are mainly positive, however, only few of the regions reached pre-crisis levels.

Regarding the GDP per capita values of the regions of the eligible area are well under the EU28 (25.100 PPS – source: Eurostat, 2011) and the national averages as well. The position of Slovakia and particularly Košický region is remarkable: its value is almost nine times as much as Chernivetska with the lowest data. The crisis had an obviously negative influence on this indicator, but 2010 represented a turning point from this aspect, too. Although the Ukrainian regions are still the last ones in comparison to its GDP per capita ratio (PPS), the increase was even in these regions (the largest between 2009 and 2011, more than 35% compared to the 4-12% of the other regions). The average GDP per capita in the eligible area is 17,8% of the average in the EU28. Regarding the eligible regions, the highest GDP per capita in Košický region is 50%, the lowest PPS value for Chernivetska is 4 and 7% of the EU28 average.

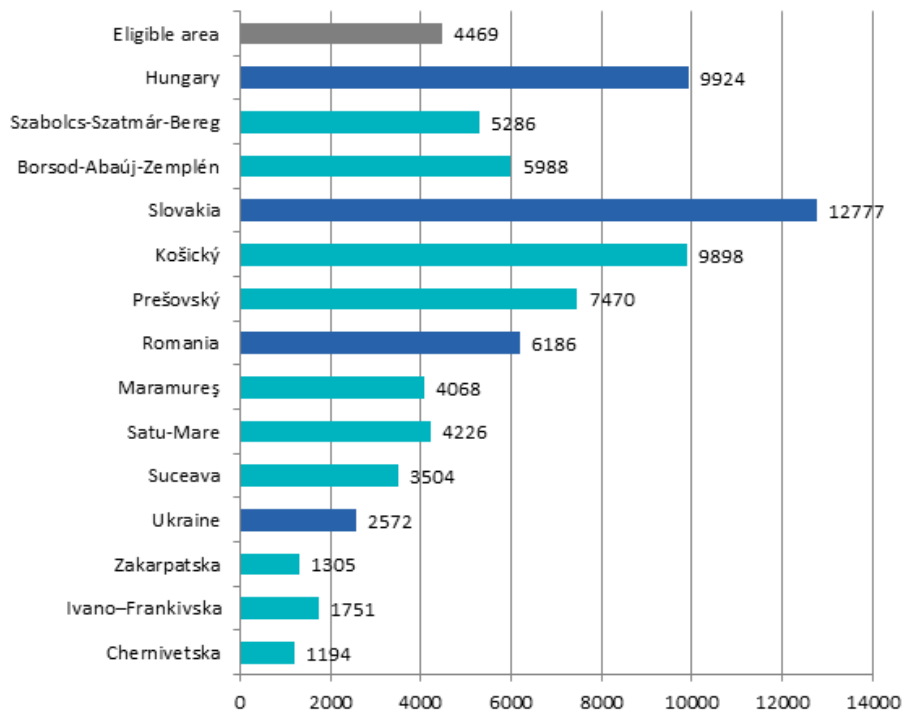


Figure 10: GDP/capita (PPS) of the eligible regions (2011, EUR)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

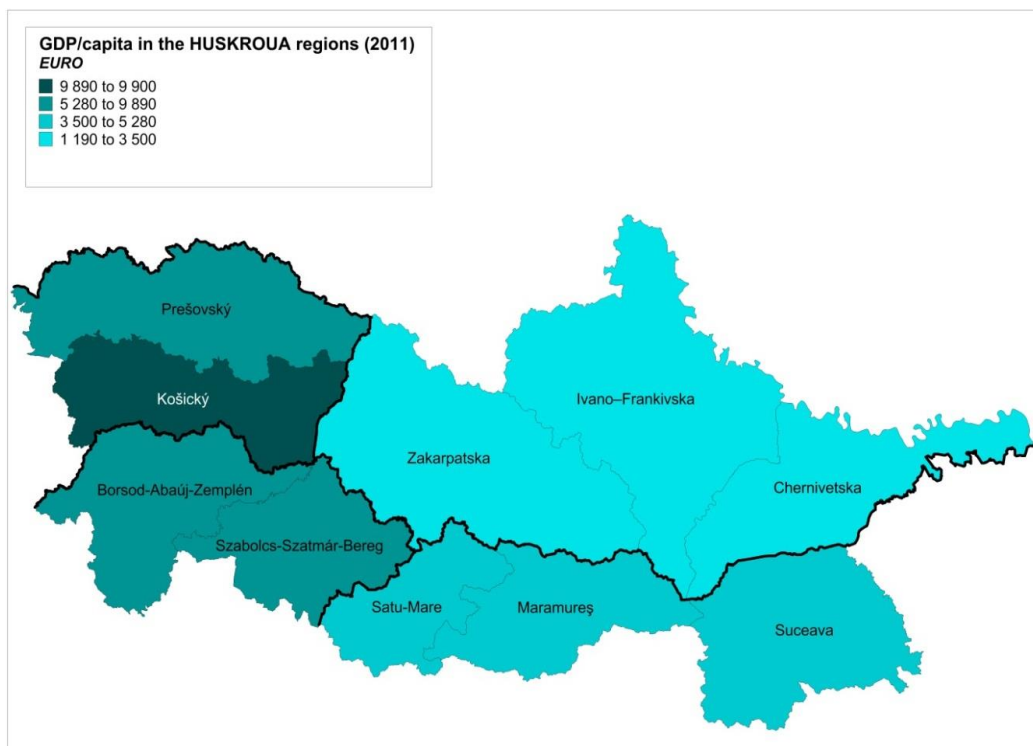


Figure 11: GDP/capita (PPS) of the regions (2011, EUR)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

The **number of corporations and unincorporated enterprises** in the cross-border area is more than 150,000, but the distribution of businesses is uneven.

Region	Number of registered corporations and unincorporated enterprises 2012
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	16 927
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	17 013
Hungary	33 940
Košický	16 829
Prešovský	15 068
Slovakia	31 897
Maramureş	9 102
Satu-Mare	6 716
Suceava	9 945
Romania	25 763
Zakarpatska	21 376
Ivano-Frankivska	25 306
Chernivetska	17 637
Ukraine	64 319
TOTAL:	155 919

Table 3: Number of registered corporations and unincorporated enterprises, 2012
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Business density (number of enterprises per thousand inhabitants) is far below the national averages; additionally, the values show certain intraregional disparities: the difference between the highest (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) and the lowest (Suceava) value is more than two-fold.

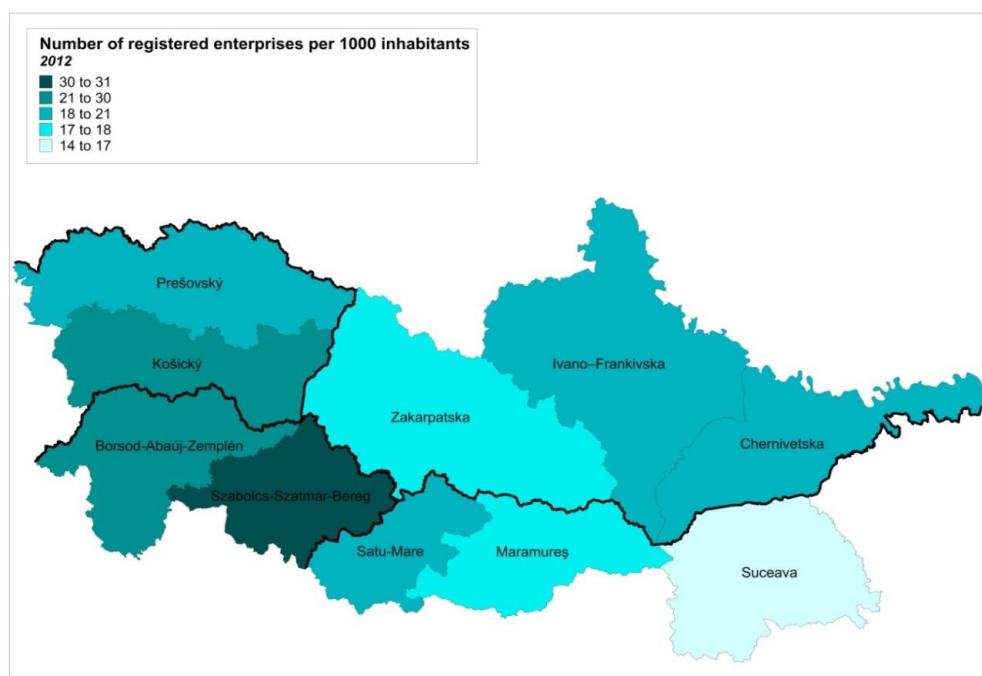


Figure 12: Number of registered enterprises in the programme area, 2012
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Economic development seems to correlate with delinquency; where the value of GDP per capita is the highest; the number of crimes per thousand inhabitants is usually the lowest. The number of crimes is the highest in the Romanian counties and does not seem to follow the pattern mentioned before. The definition and methodology of data collection are different in the different countries, so not all these values and relations can be taken as granted.

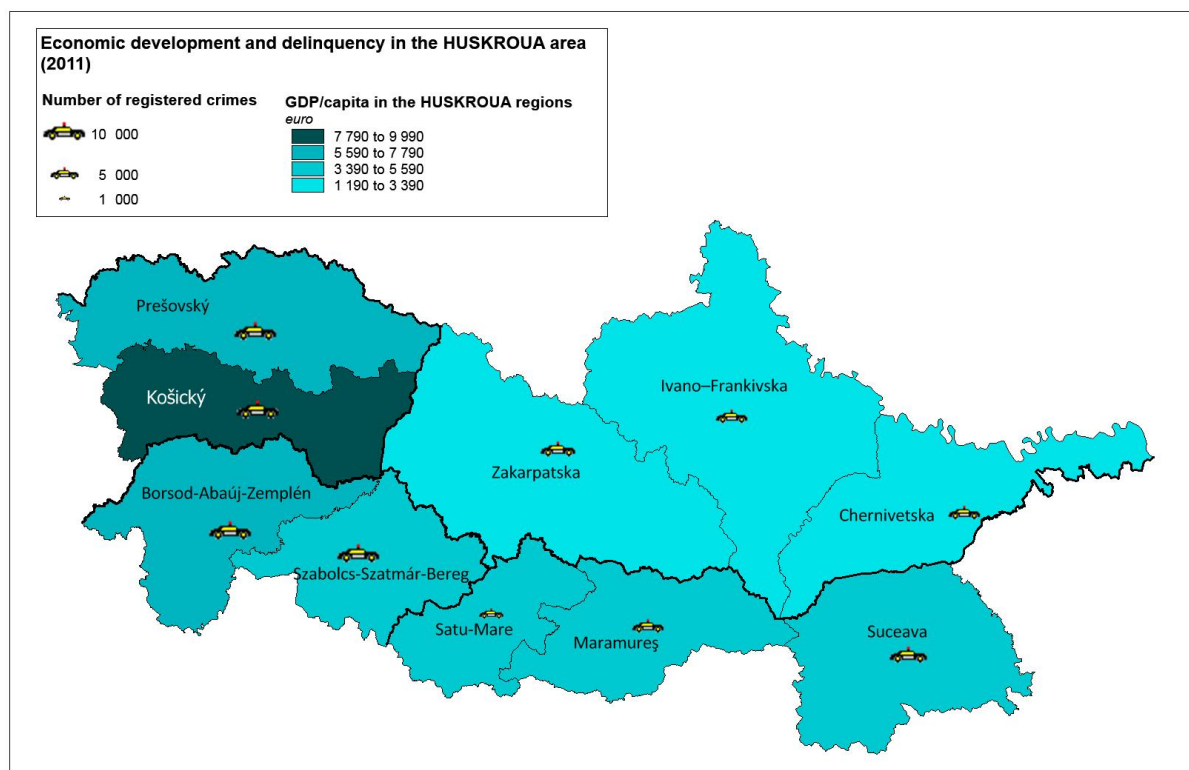


Figure 13: Economic development and delinquency in the HUSKROUA area, 2011
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Region	Gross added value in percentage of GDP (2011)		
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Industry and construction	Services
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	7,98	26,02	50,77
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	4,22	34,29	46,27
Hungary	3,92	25,67	55,18
Košický	2,86	34,02	26,43
Prešovský	4,45	35,58	24,65
Slovakia	3,11	32,7	25,91
Zakarpatska	2,9	0,65	4,2
Ivano-Frankivska	3,9	1,4	4,7
Chernivetska	3,5	0,3	2,2
Ukraine	9,9	11,1	0,8

Table 4: Gross added value in percentage of GDP in the regions (2011)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Value added to GDP ratio reveals a lot about the economic structure of the region. This could only be analysed in three countries; as the Romanian statistics were not available. Data shows that in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishing values of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Prešovský and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén are above the national average. Data for all three Ukrainian regions are considerably below the national average. Regarding industry and construction, the Slovak regions are around the national average. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County is worth to be pointed out, as the industrial added value is 10 percent higher due to the presence of several major companies in the chemical or machine industry. Data for each of the Ukrainian regions is far below the Ukrainian average; according to the data the presence of industry in the region is minimal. In case of Ukrainian regions only data for services represent higher values their national average, but in the light of their proportion to the GDP, these values are extremely low. The values for the Slovak and Hungarian regions are around the national average.

Size of companies/enterprises

The major part of the employees in the three member states on country-level work for companies that employs 10 or more employees. Conversely, in the border regions, mostly small businesses are present as employers. In the Romanian counties 11-14% of employees work at a company that employs less than 10 people. For Ukraine no regional-level data was available.

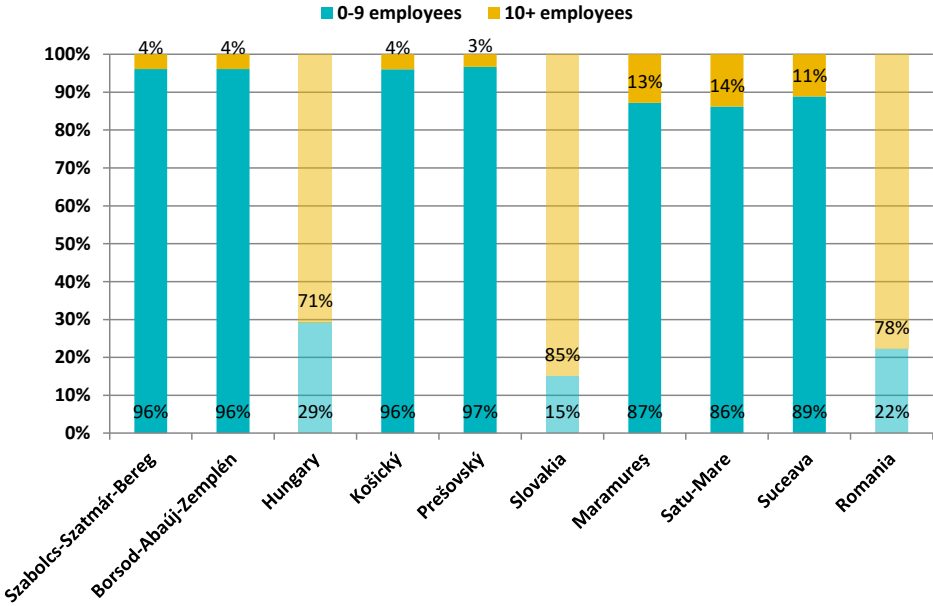


Figure 14: Employees of active enterprises by size of enterprise, 2010
Source: EuroStat

Activity/Participation rate¹⁹

The participation rate in the neighbouring areas tends to increase very slowly except the Romanian counties where after a lower rate in 2011 it does not show a clear decrease or increase.

¹⁹ Activity/Participation rate expresses the percentage of the population, both employed and unemployed that constitutes the manpower supply of the labor market, regardless of their current labor status.

The participation rate in the cross-border area varies between 54% and 70% in 2013. In Hungary and Slovakia the county/regional rates are lower than the national average. Participation rates are the highest in the cross-border area in all three regions of Ukraine and those are equal to the country-level rate. In Hungary, Slovakia and Romania the border areas are lagging behind the national average. The only exception is Satu Mare County, where the participation rate is 1.4 percentage points higher compared to the country-level rate.

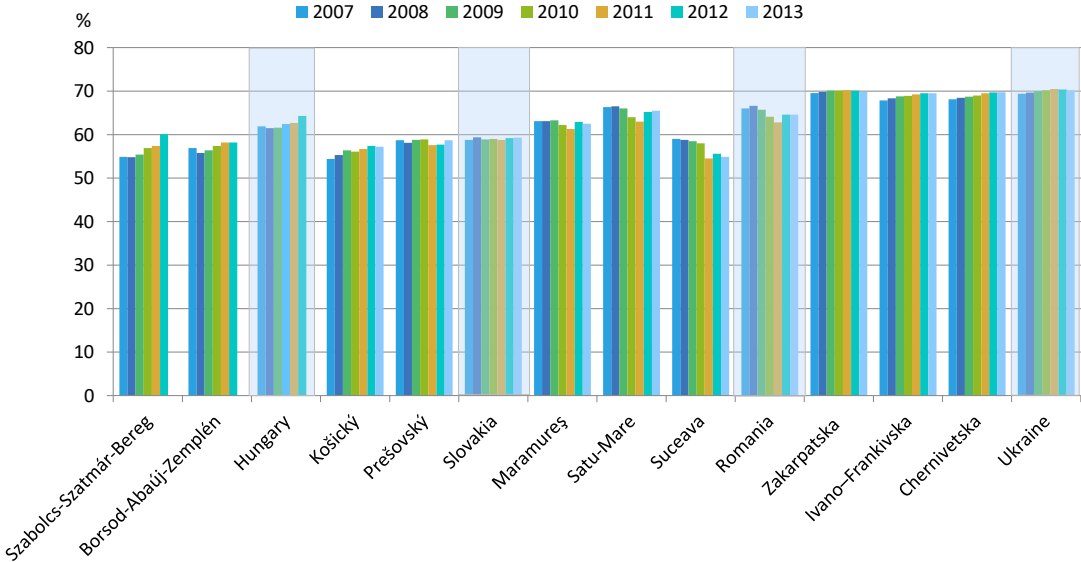


Figure 15: Participation rate in the eligible area of the Programme HUSKROUA ENPI CBC 2007-2013
 Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU, 2007-2013

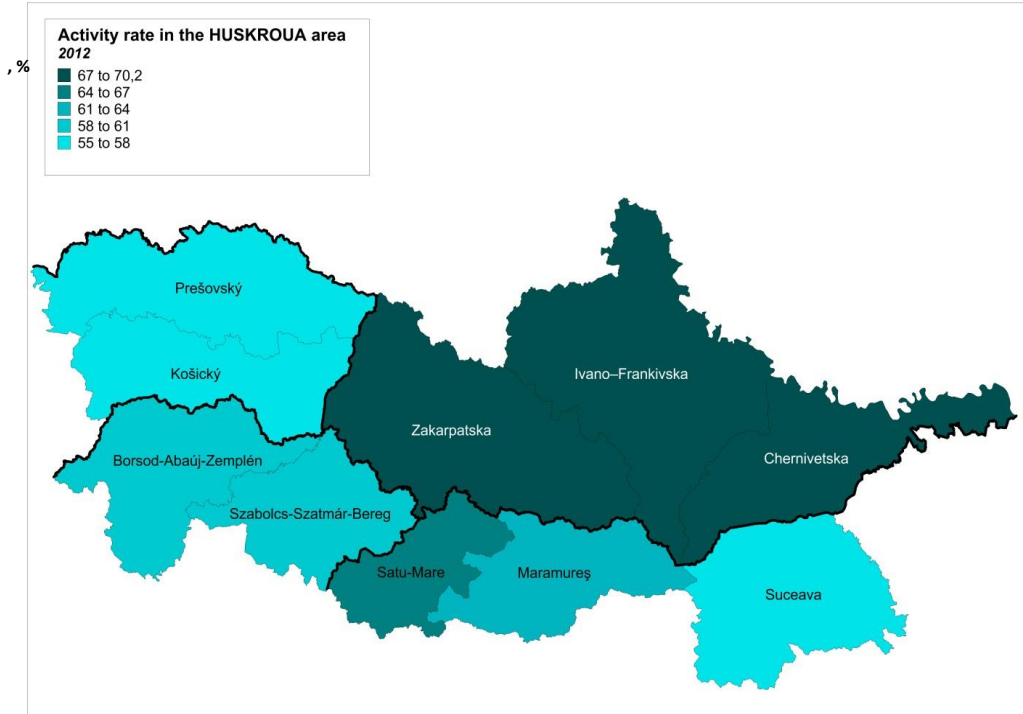


Figure 16: Activity rate (%) in the eligible area
 Source: HCSO,SOSR, NIS, SSSU (2012)

Employment rate²⁰

The employment rate in the cross-border region varies between 48% and 62,5% in 2012 and shows increasing trends in all areas except Suceava. The lowest employment rates can be found in the Hungarian counties (48,1% and 50,3%) and Suceava (52,5%). Satu Mare (62%) Maramureş (60,4%), Chernivetska (57,9%) and Zakarpatska (57,5%) have the highest rates in the cross-border region.

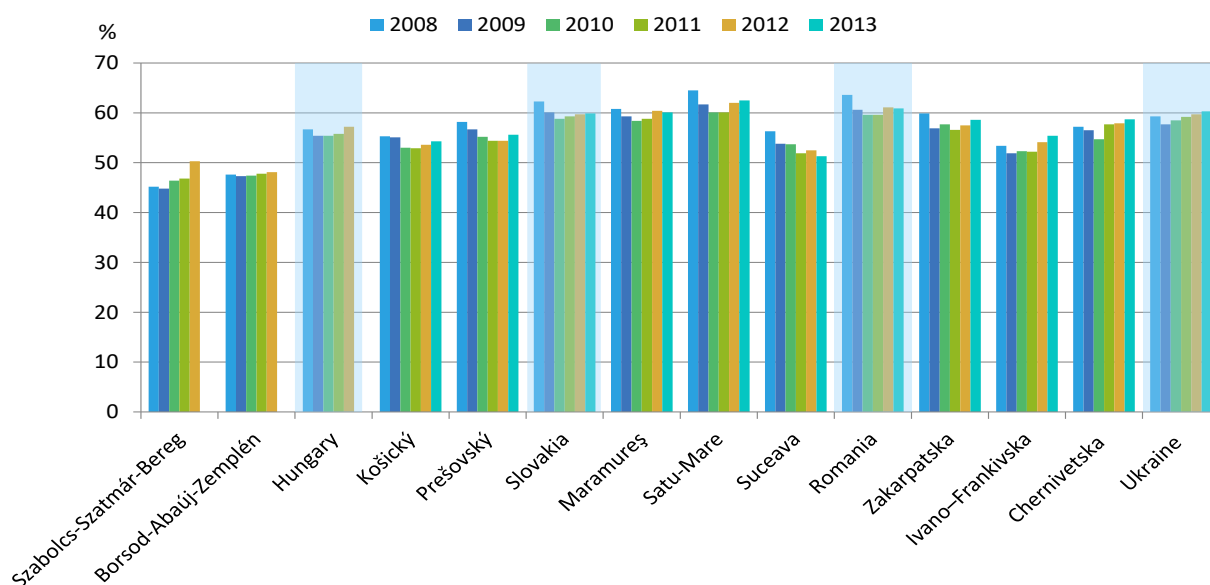


Figure 17: Employment rate in the eligible area
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU, 2008-2013

Unemployment rate²¹

Unemployment rate in the cross-border area is characterised by a much dispersed range between 4,1% (Maramureş County) and 19,7% (Košický region).

In 2012 in the Hungarian counties and Slovak regions the unemployment rate is rather high (between 16,2% and 19,7%) and these rates are well above the country-level rates: in Hungary the county rates are 1,5 times higher, in the Slovak regions 1,3 higher than the country-level rates.

Though according to statistical data the unemployment rates are much lower in the Romanian counties (between 4,1% and 5,5%) and Ukrainian regions (between 7,9% and 8,7%) these values are results of different data calculation methodologies and do not reflect the real situation.

²⁰ Employment rate is the proportion of working age adults employed.

²¹ Unemployment rate is the ratio of number of persons unemployed and the number of persons in the labour force. The labour force is the sum of the numbers of persons employed and unemployed.

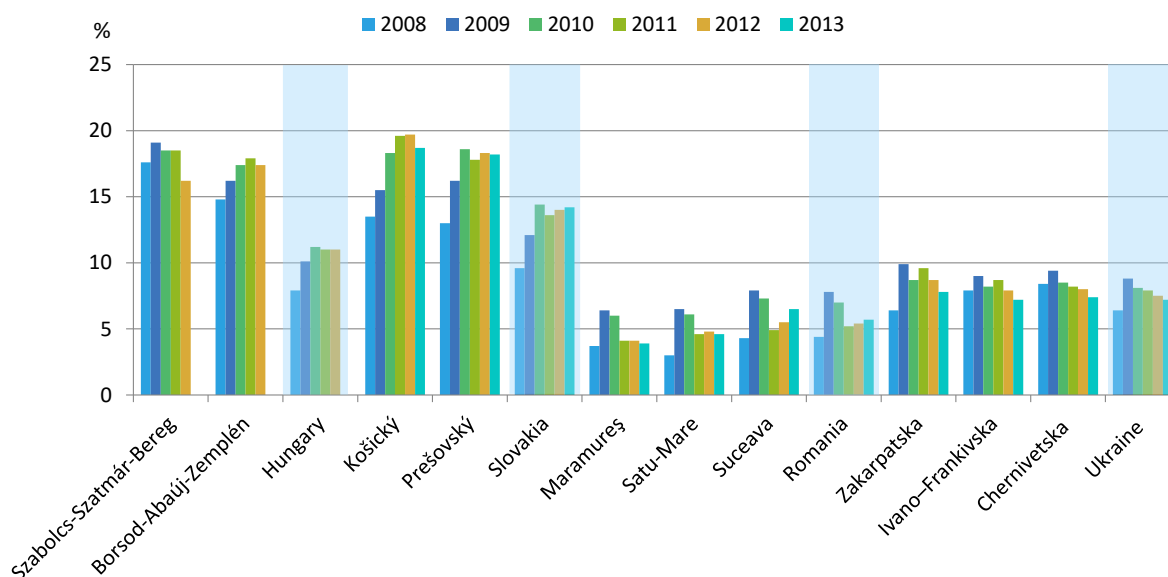


Figure 18: Unemployment rate in the eligible area of the Programme HUSKROUA ENPI CBC 2007-2013
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU, 2008-2013

10.1.2 Local culture and preservation of historical heritage (TO3)

Local culture and historical heritage

County/Region	Number of museums		Number of protected buildings and monuments	Proportion of museums		Proportion of protected buildings and monuments
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	20	22	867	9,8%	10,3%	5,1%
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	50	52	1492	24,5%	24,3%	8,8%
Hungarian counties	70	74	2359	34,3%	34,6%	14,0%
Košický	10	10	2007	4,9%	4,7%	11,9%
Prešovský	13	13	3919	6,4%	6,1%	23,2%
Slovakian regions	23	23	5926	11,3%	10,7%	35,1%
Maramureș	25	25	582	12,3%	11,7%	3,4%
Satu-Mare	15	16	310	7,4%	7,5%	1,8%
Suceava	30	30	517	14,7%	14,0%	3,1%
Romanian counties	70	71	1409	34,3%	33,2%	8,3%
Zakarpatska	14	14	1493	6,9%	6,5%	8,8%
Ivano-Frankivska	22	24	3944	10,8%	11,2%	23,3%
Chernivetska	5	8	1774	2,5%	3,7%	10,5%
Ukrainian regions	41	46	7211	20,1%	21,5%	42,7%
Eligible area	204	214	16905	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Table 5: Commonly available data on cultural and historical heritage units in the programme area (2011, 2012)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

There were 214 museums in the cross-border area altogether. Most of the museums (52) are located in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (24,3% of the cross-border area). Altogether there are only 23 museums in the Slovak regions but the number of protected buildings and monuments is very high here. Ivano-Frankivska has outstandingly high number and proportion of protected buildings and monuments (3944, 23,3%). From 2011 to 2012 the number of museums increased only in the two Hungarian counties (2-2 institutions), Ivano-Frankivska in (2 institutions) and in Chernivetska (3 institutions).

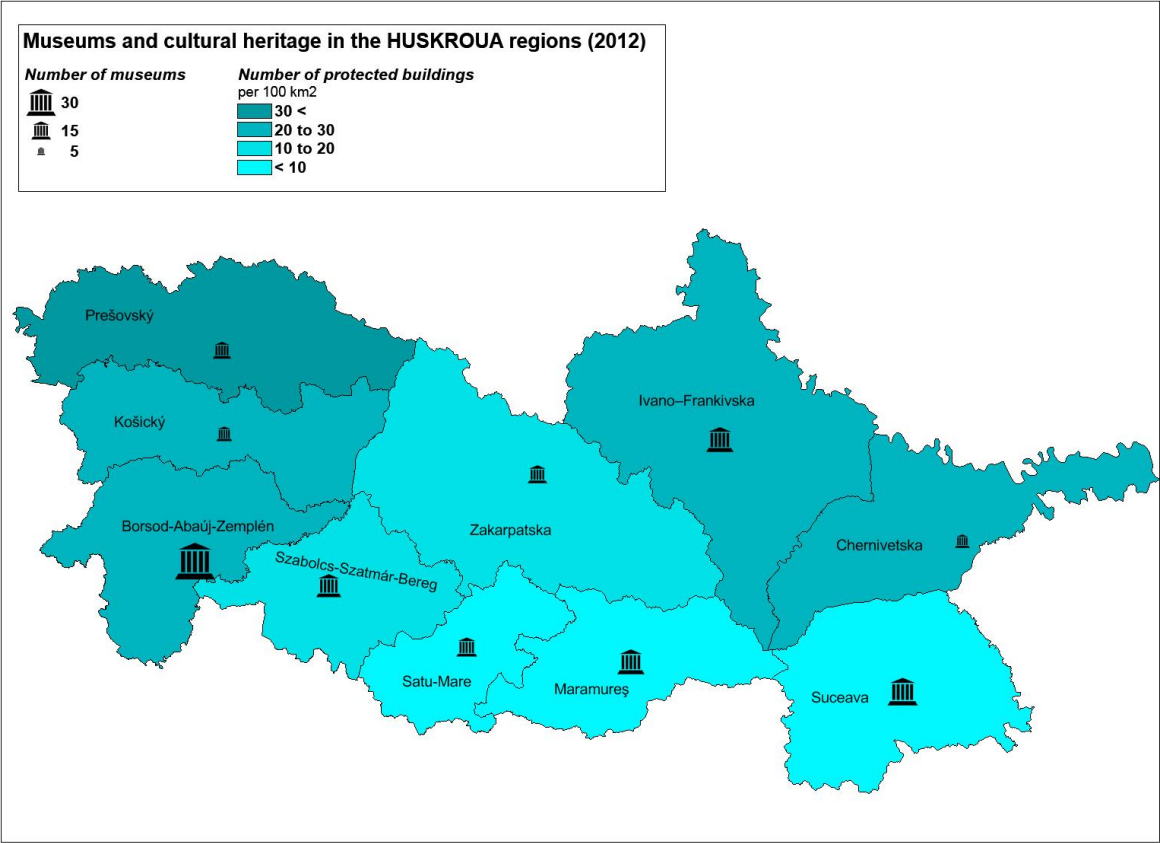


Figure 19: Museums and cultural heritage sites in the programme area
 Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Seven UNESCO cultural world heritage sites are located in the affected area as well. The following sites are under cultural protection:

Country	Location
Hungary	• Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape
Slovakia	• Levoca, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments • Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve • Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area
Romania	• Wooden Churches of Maramureş • Churches of Moldavia
Ukraine	• Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans

Table 6: UNESCO cultural world heritage sites in the programme area
 Source: <http://whc.unesco.org>

Tourism

From 2007 to 2013 major changes happened in the Ukrainian regions regarding the **number of accommodations** (number of bed-places) in Zakarpatska and Ivano-Frankivska Regions where the number of accommodations increased more than 2,5-fold, from (Zakarpatska 255% (from 3600 to 9800), Ivano-Frankivska 278% (from 2900 to 8000)). There were no major changes regarding the number of bed places in the **Hungarian** counties (round 10000 In Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, around 20000 in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) and **Slovak regions**(14000 in Košický region, 3000 in Prešovský region). In the **North-East Region of Romania** there is a very low level of used functioning accommodation capacities (21,5% in 2013) and the average length of stay is also low (2,14-2,36 nights/tourist) though the capacity of public accommodation establishments grew by 30-40% in Maramureş (from 3600 to 4800) and Suceava (from 6800 to 9600) counties.²²

Regarding the importance of tourism the **number of tourists compared to the population** of the specific region was examined to facilitate the comparability of the areas. In this respect Hungary leads as the tourist traffic in public accommodations equals to 85% of the population concerned. The corresponding value in Slovakia is 70%, in Romania, 35%, and 17% in Ukraine. In Hungary, regional data show that the two counties concerned do not belong to the most visited counties. According to the results that are proportional to population, the ratio of accommodations in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** is the half (46%) of the national average, while the same rate in **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** is only the one-fourth (23%) of the national average. Among the Slovak regions, the ratio of public accommodations in **Košický** region is roughly the half of the national average, but in **Prešovský** region it is 10 percent higher. In Romania rates of **Suceava** are close to the national average, however **Satu-Mare** and **Maramureş** both fall short by 15 percent below. Among the Ukrainian regions the values in **Chernivetska Region** are slightly below, in **Zakarpatska Region** are on the same level, while in **Ivano-Frankivska Region** is minimally higher.²³

Altogether it shows that the western part of the programme area hosts **more visitors** (Prešovský and Košický regions and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County). The **proportion of foreign tourists** in all affected regions is lower than the national averages. The number of foreign tourists at public accommodations compared to the population is insignificant in the three regions of Ukraine. Reasons for this may include the lower permeability of the border compared to the other countries concerned.²⁴

Regarding the **average length of stay**, significant difference was observed between the regions of the three countries (Romanian data was not available). The average length of stay in public accommodations varied between 1,9 to 3,2 nights in case of the regions of Hungary and Slovakia. The values of the average length of stay in public accommodations in the Ukrainian regions significantly exceeded that. In 2012, the average length of stay in Chernivetska Region was 3 nights, in Ivano-Frankivska Region 4,1 nights and in Zakarpatska Region an average of 7,7 nights.

²²Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, National Institute of Statistics (Romania) and State Statistics Service of Ukraine; Capacity of public accommodation establishments (number of bed-places),2007-2013

²³Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, National Institute of Statistics (Romania) and State Statistics Service of Ukraine; tourist arrivals at public accommodation establishments, 2007-2013

²⁴Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, National Institute of Statistics (Romania) and State Statistics Service of Ukraine; tourist arrivals at public accommodation establishments - of which: international, 2007-2013

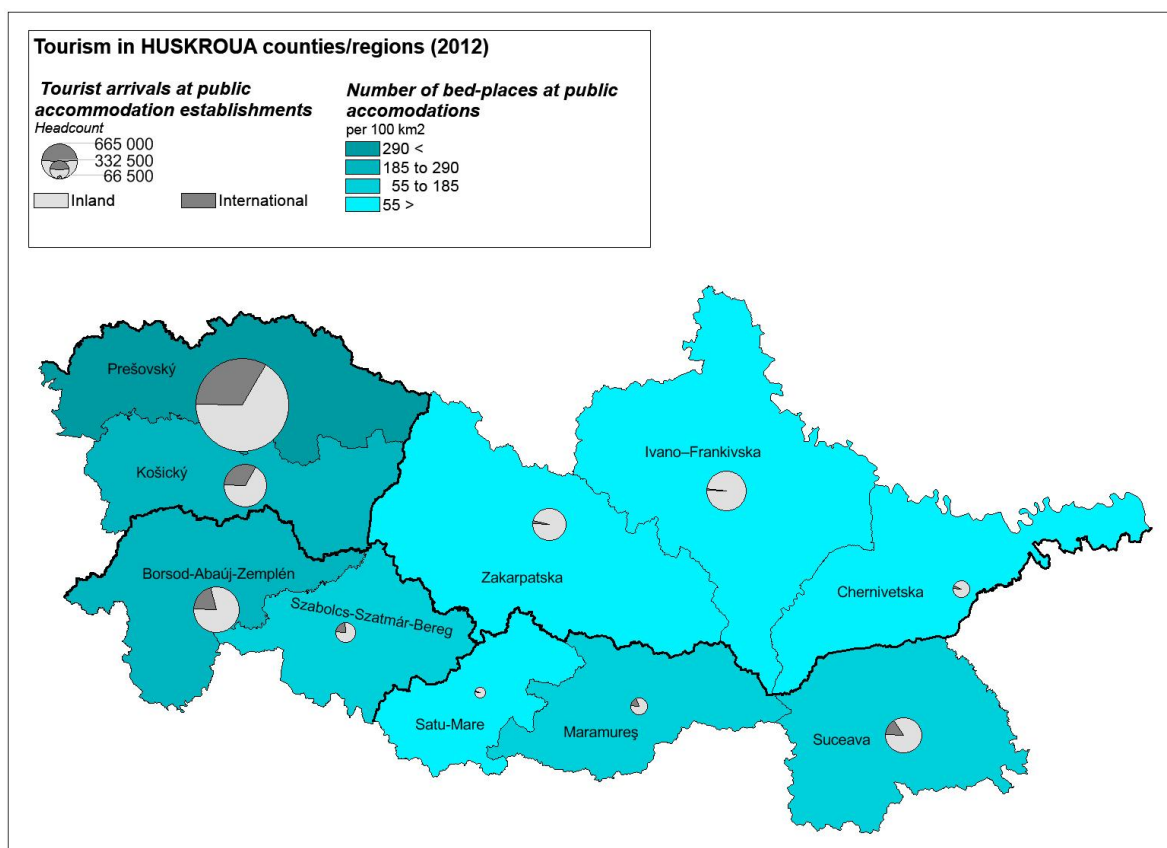


Figure 20: Tourism in the programme area (2012)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Touristic attractions

In the **Hungarian counties** creative touristic attractions based on cultural and historical heritage can be the bases of a competitive tourism sector. There is a need for the development of local employment capacities, support of the local market potentials, utilizing local resources. In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the income-generating capacity of the tourism is low and it is related to the tourism attractions. There are two **UNESCO world heritages** in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén: Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape and the Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst; in addition, high number of other cultural sites and values can be found here. The castles of Boldogkő, Cserépvár, Dédes, Diósgyőr (in Miskolc, the capital of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén), Füzér, Sárospatak, and Szerencs are all very famous and visited cultural and historical sites. As natural sites the Dripstone cave of Aggtelek, Bükk National Park and Lillafüred (the latter two are very close to Miskolc, the capital of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) are the most attractive places to visit in the county. There are 357 monuments, 20 museums, 60 top events per year in **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg**. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County is famous for its folk architecture, folk art, music and dance traditions. Special attractions are the wooden bell towers, the 13th-century church and the coffered ceiling Csaroda Tákos Reformed Church in Mátészalka. Famous spas in the county are the Salt Lake Beach and Spa in Nyíregyháza and Szatmár-Bereg Hospital and Spa in Fehérgyarmat. There are three famous historical sites in the county: Máriapócs as natural shrine and Nyírbátor with its reformed church and the Castle of the Báthory family, and the Castle of Kisvárda.

The **Slovak regions** characterised by the landscapes and the forests are situated across the borders. **Prešov region** has numerous potentials for tourism and recreation like cultural and historical monuments, attractive towns of Levoča, Prešov, Bardejov, Poprad and Kežmarok. Regarding the quality of cultural facilities, Prešov region produces a stable network of cultural facilities that has the similar quality and quantity as the national standard. There are five permanent theatres (2012), 13 museums, 4 galleries, 338 libraries. The Prešov region owns 358 cultural-educational facilities. Four of the 7 sites listed in the UNESCO World Heritage list in Slovakia are located in the territory of Prešov region: Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve, Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area, Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Levoča, and the associated cultural monuments. Situated in the Prešov region as part of the Tatran National Park (TANAP) the High Tatras is one of the country's most beautiful and spectacular natural sites as well as home to many rare species of flora and fauna. **Košický region** is considered to be the second largest region in the Slovak Republic. The city of Košice is the second largest city in Slovakia and has an array of cultural and historical monuments. In the southern and south-eastern part of the region stretches the Slovak Karst National Park. A number of caves and pits are classified as UNESCO heritage sites. Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians are both transboundary UNESCO world heritage sites. The region is rich in captive historical monuments especially castles or their ruins, several castles and many churches. Lower Zemplín falls is among the most visited tourist sites in the region. Slovensky Raj - Slovak Paradise (hiking, mountain biking, skiing) and the Slovensky Kras - Slovak Karst (hiking, mountain biking) are beautiful natural sights in the region. Spis Castle and its surroundings is the largest medieval castle complex in Central Europe and a UNESCO cultural world heritage site. The biggest attractions are the cultural and historical monuments of the city of Kosice, Aragonite Cave, Ice cave in Domica, Jasovská cave, Gombasecká cave, Zemplínska reservoir, Herliansky geyser, Krasna Horka castle, Betliar, Slovak Paradise, Spis Castle and surroundings, ski resort Plejsy, Vinianske mountain lake, wooden churches in the Russian Bystrej (UNESCO) and Inovce, climatic spa Štós.

The North-West region of Romania could be characterized by insufficient exploitation of tourist resources, lack of information and promotional instruments for the regional tourism and inadequately valorised valuable resources of the cultural patrimony and insufficient infrastructure for tourism and recreation. **Satu Mare County** disposes a decay of historical and cultural heritage. The main tourist attractions in the county are: the "Oaş Country", with its strong Romanian folk traditions, on the North Eastern side of the county, the Oaş Mountains, the cities of Satu Mare and Carei, Tășnad Resort, the fortresses of Ardud and Medieșu Aurit. A low level of knowledge of **natural and cultural resources with the need of promotion**, poorly developed tourist infrastructure and services, still low quality of tourist services, lack of proper territorial marketing for the promotion of Satu Mare County as a cultural and health tourist destination, lack of quality tourist information centres, lack of databases of events to be promoted, low quality of the accommodation network, low rate of camping facilities, low rate of theatre-, cinema- and museum visitors. **Maramureș County** is home to many villages where century-old traditions are still part of daily life. The inhabitants of this area have preserved the rural culture and crafts of their Dacian ancestors. Maramureș villages are distinguished by their unique wooden churches with tall spires and shingled roofs. The local craftsmanship can be best observed in the monumental Maramureș gates, guarding the entry to the houses. Some of the most beautiful wooden gates are found in the villages of Vadulzei, Desesti, Giulesti, Budesti, Sarbi, Barsana and Oncesti. The Wooden Churches of Maramureș - in Surdesti, Plopis, Rogoz, Ieud, Poienilezei, Barsana, Budesti and Desesti - have been recognized by UNESCO as some of the most important sites of world heritage. Famous tourist site is the Merry Cemetery in Sapanta with its colourfully decorated wooden crosses.

Sighetu Marmatiei is an important tourist and cultural centre in the region. Maramureş is dominated by a landscape of mountains and rolling valleys. The Gutai, Lapus, Tibles Maramureş and Rodnei Mountains are cut by passes named Huta, Gutai, Prislop, Setref, and Botiza. Three large valleys cross the region: Viseu, Iza and Mara. The Rodnei Mountains National Park, a natural reserve filled with a rich diversity of flora and fauna, has been awarded biosphere status by UNESCO. Other places worth to explore are the Vaser River Valley - the narrow gauge railway 'Mocanita' and the tarns, waterfalls, volcanic mountains, caves and the geological reserve of Creasta Cocosului.

Ivano-Frankivska Region is a home to more than 400 preserved areas; 30 out of those are of all-national importance, the rest of a local importance. There is a strict nature reserve Gorgany that was created in 1996. There are five national parks in the region (Carpathian National Nature Park in Verkhovyna/Nadvirna, National Nature Park in Hutsulshchyna/ Verkhovyna, Halych National Nature Park in Halych, Verkhovyna National Nature Park in Verkhovyna, and National Nature Park Synyohora in Bohorodchany). There are numerous natural monuments of feature and habitat management areas. Ivano Frankivskaregion is home of numerous cultural festivals. There are numerous natural and architectural benchmarks that are scattered throughout the region. One of the famous festivals is the Ukrainian International festival of ethnic music and land art "Sheshory". On the territory of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast are located numerous monuments of architectural heritage like the city of Halych (national preserve). The Church of the Holy Spirit located in the city of Rohatyn as well as the Manyava Skete near the village of Manyava in Bohorodchany Raion are visited sites. The oblast also accounts for some number of various wooden churches of Boykos and Hutsuls traditional architecture. In the western part of the region visitors can find the Carpathian Train that still uses the narrow gauge railway system. Train is used for its direct purpose transporting wood as well as for a tourist recreation. The biggest benchmark of the region is the Hoverla Mountain, the tallest in the country. Near the Manyava Skete the highest waterfall in Ukraine is located, the Manyava waterfall (22m). In the same Bohorodchany Raion visitors may find the local mud volcano located near the village of Starunia. The museum "Pysanka" was built in 2000 and is the only one in the world. Another interesting historical site is the cavern complex in the Dovbush Rock; the rock complex is located about 7 miles (11 km) south west from Bolekhiv near village of Bubnysche. **Zakarpatska Region** is situated in the Carpathian Mountains of western Ukraine, the only Ukrainian administrative division which borders upon four countries: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. The Carpathian Mountains play a major part in the oblast's economy, making the region an important tourist and travel destination housing many ski and spa resorts. Major attractions of the region are castles and ruins. The most notable is the castles of Uzhgorod and Mukachevo, The castles of Khust, Vynohradiv, Korolevo, Nevytske, Serednie, and Kvasovo also serve as a popular attraction. Unfortunately, most of them are neglected. The region is also famous for its wooden churches in Srednie Vodyane, Verkhnye Vodyane, Danylovo, Kolodne, Krainykovo, Nyzhnie Selyshche, Olexandrivka and Sokyrynysia. Only a few synagogues have survived from the large number of them in Zakarpatska. Two of them are still worth to note, the synagogue of Uzhgorod and Khust.

Among the castles the Schönborn Palace in Karpaty is the most beautiful, but it's worth visiting Perényi Castle in Vynohradiv, the Bethlen-Rákóczi castle in Berehove the castle of Rákóczi ("White House") in Mukachevo. In **Chernivetska Region** the most famous attractions are the Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Khotyn Fortress State historical-architectural preserve, and Kozmodemyanivska church (church of Cosmas and Damian). In **Ukraine** the condition of preservation of historical sites is inappropriate. A prolonged stay without appropriate care and maintenance has led most monuments to the verge of destruction, especially monuments of architecture and urban planning. Medieval castles situated in Nevytske, Serednie, Vynohradiv and

Many are in poor condition, almost on the verge of destruction. Restoration of these sites has not been funded by the government for a long time and investments by private funds and organizations are insignificant. There is an uncontrolled restoration of churches by religious communities. About 40 percent of wooden churches in the region are in poor condition, and some of them are on the verge of total destruction. The condition of roofs, walls, foundations is problematic. There is no proper accounting system of church utensils, fire alarm, and lightning protection. Uncontrolled restoration caused a number of cases when the exterior and the interior of the monuments suffered significant damages. The current system of registration, restoration and usage of historical sites is inappropriate. There is a need to improve accounting, protection, preservation and use of cultural heritage, research, monitoring of compliance with the legislation of monument protection.

In **all regions** the information system in tourism needs development in order to make connections to the national and European information systems. Management and promotion of tourism at the regional level needs to be developed. The infrastructure to support tourism is underdeveloped and in poor technical condition. Cross-border cooperation for tourism development is insufficient. Awareness raising campaigns to the public are rare and protection of tourist attractions and visitors is low. Regional culture also needs better management to take the advantages of the opportunities.

Potentials for religious tourism

Religious tourism today is connected to cultural and heritage tourism since sacred sites, churches, monasteries and abbeys are not only places of religious rituals and prayers but they are monuments, ecclesiastical buildings and heritage sites as well. Holy places and sacred sites are nowadays being seen as tourist attractions and cultural resources. The Via Maria Pilgrimage Route in **Hungary** goes through Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County and **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County**. There are many accommodation possibilities along the route and numerous pilgrimages throughout the year. In the pilgrimage of **Monok** (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) there is a celebration of the Holy Cross in the calvary hill every third Sunday of September. Sajópálfala is also a visited pilgrimage destination in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. The St. Elizabeth Road Pilgrimage passes Northern Hungary and connects Sárospatak (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) and Košice (Košický region). **Máriapócs** (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County) is one of the most famous places of Greek Catholic pilgrimage.

In the **Slovak** border region, the St. Anne pilgrimage site in Rudník (**Košický** region) along the Hungarian-Slovak border, one of the largest shrines of the middle Highlands. Its history dates back to the 13th century when the local pilgrimage launched a miracle attributed to St. Anna when a little girl was born blind and her eyes were healed by a nearby spring. In **Prešovský** region, **Cervenýkláštoris** a unique cultural and historical relic set in the wonderful natural environment of Pieniny under the majestic mountain 'Tri koruny'. The monastery was successfully restored in the years 1956-1966. The best building, from an architectural point of view, is the Gothic **Church of St Anton** from the end of the 14th century with one nave of unusual length restored in the Baroque style. The main altar is in the Baroque style, built in 1745. Numerous Orthodox and Greek Catholic **wooden temples** of high cultural and historic value adorn the region of Upper Zemplín is the most eastern region of Slovakia.

In **Romania**, one of the most famous religious sites, the painted monasteries of Bukovina are located in Bucovina which is a historical region currently divided between Ukraine and Romania (**Chernivetska and Suceava**), located on the northern slopes of the central Eastern Carpathians and the adjoining plains. The best-preserved monasteries are the monasteries in Humor, Moldovita, Patrauti, Probota, Suceava, Sucevita, and Voronet. Another famous site is a small church, located in the village of Arbore.

Seven of these churches were placed on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1993. The eighth church, Sucevita, is waiting for to be added to the list. Deemed masterpieces of Byzantine art, these churches are one-of-a-kind architectural sites in Europe. Far from being merely wall decorations, the murals represent complete cycles of religious murals. The purpose of the frescoes was to make the story of the Bible and the lives of the most important Orthodox saints known to villagers by the use of images. Their outstanding composition, elegant outline and harmonious colours blend perfectly with the surrounding landscape. Remeti in **Maramureş County** owns Pauline monastery which is important from the viewpoint of tourism.

Religion has always been an important issue in **Ukraine**. For centuries, religious traditions have featured in local culture and this is certainly evidenced by the many religious sites in Ukraine. Churches, cathedrals, monasteries, synagogues and other religious sites are popular attractions for tourists visiting the country. From architectural wonders to more humble places of worship, the religious buildings in Ukraine give one a chance to ponder upon the country's history and culture through the ages. The most famous religious site in the border region is the Uzhgorod Synagogue. Since World War Two the Jewish synagogue has been forgotten as a religious institute with all related symbols removed. Instead it has taken on a new persona and is now commonly known as the famed 'Uzhgorod Concert hall'. Uzhgorod Synagogue was adopted as a concert hall due to its amazing acoustics. The Ukrainian concert hall is home to the talented Regional Philharmonic Society and the Folk Choir of Zakarpatska. Most famous and visited places of worship in Zakarpatska: Nisnie Bolotne, Boronyavo, Nankovo, Korolevo, Mukachevo, Uzhgorod, Uzhgorod-Gerény, in Ivano-Frankivska: The Church of the Holy Spirit, built in 1598, is located in the north of the Oblast in the small city of Rohatyn, in **Chernivetska**: Kozmodemyanivska church (church of Cosmas and Damian).

Local products in tourism

In **Hungary** culinary products are leading the list of products could be offered for tourist: plum jam prepared traditionally in copper pot, bread baked in the traditional outside oven. As for local crafts, the border region can be characterised by painted bottles, leather and carved wood products. **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** can be characterised in the respect of the local products for tourism by Hungarian specialities like the local brandy made from the local plum of Szatmár or apple of Szabolcs and cherry of Újfehértó and the connected local gastronomy. In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén** in addition to the local food tasting, the rich history of our region four wine regions provides a wide range of wine to taste those who prefer a light white wine, full-bodied red, or even the sweet wine. Local artisans prepare gifts and everyday objects from hemp. The plum is the base for jams, marmalades, compotes and alcoholic beverages.

In the **Slovak** region, carved wooden figures, črpáks (wooden pitcher), fujaras (a folk instrument on the UNESCO list) and valáškas (a decorated folk hatchet) and above all products made from corn husks and wire, notably human figures represent the souvenirs for tourist. Also, products from local organic farming are sold as local product (jams, honey). Regarding culinary, the traditional food products are represented by the milk products which making in Slovakia is truly a long tradition which extends to the prehistoric times. It is indirectly proven by the archaeological findings of sheep bones and ceramics for straining coagulated milk discovered in the Domica cave which date back to 2,000 years BC. There are two types of cheese which are famous. The so-called bryndza as it is known nowadays was a result of a protected technology of grinding and mixing sheep cheese with special brine. Nowadays, Slovak products made of sheep's milk represent products of high quality with special characteristics. They are

connected to a particular territory or place and their name is connected to their historical trademark. On the basis of these and other attributes, the Slovak Republic has actually three protected geographical indications for sheep milk products registered in DOOR: EU database of agricultural products and foods. From the geographical point of view, the area of bryndza production is concentrated in a mountainous part of Slovakia, where there are suitable conditions for sheep breeding. Thanks to the long tradition of its production as well as its constant popularity at present, bryndza has become a part of a tourist trademark of Slovakia. It is often a part of a diet of many Slovaks not only because of its unique taste but it has several positive health effects. Another traditional Slovak product on the basis of sheep's milk is Slovenskáparenica.

In the **North-Eastern region of Romania** the landscape is filled with wild flowers is that the land is farmed on a small scale, with traditional hay making systems and the use of natural rather than chemical fertilisers. However this small scale system also makes it difficult for farmers to sell their products within the increasingly large scale and complex European agricultural system therefore local sale could be a good solution. Local milk collection and processing centres allow farmers to comply with EU food safety requirements and to market a range of local dairy products. Another growing local industry is jam using wild and cultivate fruits. A range of over twenty different jams are produced by local women from family recipes who sell them through local and sometimes national markets. There is plenty of opportunity to visit the region, stay in local homes and experience elements of rural life such herding, bee keeping, bread making, and charcoal making. **Satu Mare County** is keeping a diversity of traditions, handicraft and customs, with tourist valorisation potential. The handicraft of pottery is still being kept in Vama village, where a recognized pottery centre can be found. Sheltered by shady valleys and mountains, the able hands of the people of **Maramureş** gave birth to the art of crafting the bits and pieces of everyday life. Be it household items, decorative objects, tools, they all bear the mark of the Maramureş region and its ancestral symbols. From the clay cup and bowl, to the traditional bed throws in the festive room, from the wooden spoon to the imposing wooden gate, they all are the expression of beauty and of the spirituality that characterize the Maramureş soul. In **Suceava County** the tradition of pottery, an ancient handicraft, can be found, being practiced on these lands from old times. Presently, it is being continued by well-known pottery masters from Rădăuți and Marginea. In the same time, another handicraft kept in Suceava County is egg painting. In Ciocănești village the National Festival of Painted Eggs is being organized.

In **Zakarpatska Region** the industrial hemp is cultivated, and wonderful gifts - towels, tablecloths and even souvenirs – are made from it. This plum is grown in significant areas – including Hungary, Romania and Zakarpatska. Weaved baskets and traditional pottery are specialities of artisan masters in Zakarpatska. As an economic region Zakarpatska Region generates a surplus of lumber and forest products, wine, fruit and vegetables. The mineral springs and picturesque landscapes still represent a largely undeveloped potential that is rapidly gaining popularity as an area for resorts and tourism. **Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska Regions** can offer products grown in the Carpathian forests like mushrooms and berries, and finely crafted wooden items, woollen clothing, linen, embroidery, woven goods, ceramics and pysankas. In the region inhabited by Hutzuls, animal skins, woodcarvings, embroidery, and weavings can be offered to the tourists as local products.

In all eligible regions the following local products can be exploited: active holidays, eco-holidays, interactive rural way of life holidays for students, gastronomic experiences, and holidays at wine makers, exhibition of traditions and the local culture.

Cultural events, festivals

Almost all the municipalities in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** offer cultural programmes throughout the year for visitors, including such prominent events as the Miskolc Opera Festival, Kaláka International Folklore Festival, Zemplén Festival, Borsodi or Abaúj Arts Festival, the Harvest Festival in Tokaj involving several settlements from Hegyalja and Bükkalja. During the festival season - in addition to arts - other values can be discovered in the county, the whole county, its villages, towns, small areas burst into life. Open-air stages, churches, concert halls, castles, streets provide spaces for quality entertainment and an unforgettable experience for the participants. Numerous cultural events take place in **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** regularly. Nyíregyháza (the county seat) has two amphitheatres to expand the cultural offer. Regarding the number of cultural events the region does not lag behind the national average. The most prominent and regularly organized festivals with international reputation are: Vidor Festival Nyíregyháza, Meeting of Theatres in Kisvárda, Tiszadob Piano Festival, Tarpa Plum Festival, Cinke Festival, Plum Jam Festival in Szatmárcseke, the Bright Days in Mátészalka, Nyírbátor Music Festival, "Taste Hungary" Festival in Nyíregyháza. These programmes go back for decades both in case of the historical and the culinary festivals, which show the activity of the county's rich cultural offerings and its values.

Košice, the capital of **Košický** Region is the home of the State Philharmonic Košice (Štátnafilharmónia Košice), established in 1968 as the second professional symphonic orchestra in Slovakia. It organizes festivals such as the Košice Music Spring Festival, the International Organ Music Festival, and the Festival of Contemporary Art. It is also the home of the Philharmonia Cassovia orchestra. In 2008 Košice won the competition among Slovak cities to hold the prestigious title European Capital of Culture 2013. The artistic and cultural program stems from a conception of sustained maintainable activities with long-lasting effects on cultural life in Košice and its region. The most important cultural events in the region are: Slavosovce - November - Feast of the local customs traditions, Markusovce - October – Musica Nobilis: International festival of music, Kosice - May - The days of the Kosice town, Michalovce - April - The spring of the music of Michalovce, Michalovce - May - Festival of folklore, Kralovsky Chlmec - September - The party of the vintage of Medzibrozie. In the **Prešovský** Region there are numerous cultural events throughout the year: VysokeTatry - August - The Annual pilgrimage to Krivan's summit, Poprad - March - The musical spring of Poprad, Strpske Pleso - April - The carnival, Poprad - May - Competition of folk and country groups, Stary Smokovec, Tatranska Lomnica, Strbske Pleso - June - Summer opening of the tourist and thermal season, Vysoke Tatry - July - Cultural summer of the Tatras, Mengusovce - July - Mengusovske rodeo, Vysoke Tatry - August - The Annual pilgrimage to Rysy's summit, Poprad - November - Festival of jazz, Castello di Spis - May - Summer opening of the tourist season, Kamienka - June - The international festival of folklore of the Ruthenians and of the Ukraines, Raslavice - June - Festival of Saris dances and songs, Bardejov - July - the Rolando's games, Presov - November - International Jazz Festival, Humenne - June - Regional festival of folklore of the Ruthenians and of the Ukraines.

Satu Mare County is hosting a series of folk events related to different moments or important activities in the life of the local community. Among these one could mention: Sâmbra Oilor, festivals related to the fabrication of "pălincă" (brandy), a traditional product of the area, or the Oaşweddings, recognized for their specific folk costumes and rituals. Other (multicultural) events organized along the county are: the International Palinca Festival, Festival of Wine, gastronomic festivals, Satu Mare County Days, days of cities and communes, "Partium" Hungarian Days, Folk Festival of Nationalities from Bogdand, German Cultural Days, "No Barriers" International Cultural Festival, Halmeu Strawberries Feast, Samfest Cultural Festival, Hunting with Hounds from Mărtinești, Anniversary of AdyEndre poet's birth

etc. The immaterial patrimony of **Maramureş** is given by its rich traditions and customs. Thus, the number of major cultural events that are carrying on these traditions and customs is high, covering each month of the year with events of high interest. Among those one can mention: „Festival of winter customs - Marmația” from Sighetu Marmației, „Horea at Prislop”, or „Sânzienele” are only of few of these events. A special place is taken by the festival – unique in the world – „The long way to the Merry Cemetery”, organised in the 2010-2014 period. Events organised in **Suceava County** are: “Sânziene Fair” in Suceava, National Festival of Trout in Ciocănești, Medieval Art Festival at Cetatea de Scaun Suceava, Christmas in Bucovina (organized in Suceava), Easter in Bucovina, Pilgrim in Bucovina, to Cacică and Putna, Snow Fest in Vatra Dornei.

Zakarpatska Region is famous for its cultural events and festivals. The large number of exhibitions, fairs and festivals take place in the region every year. In January inhabitants have a chance to visit traditional fest of honey, festival “Red wine”, in February – fest “Uzhhorodskapalachinta” (fair of pancakes). In spring citizens and tourists are invited to the “Sakura-fest” to witness the most beautiful period in the region – sakura blossom. Also, the following fest and festivals take place in the region: Festival of mineral water, Festival of humour and satire, “Vyshyvanka festival” (festival of national clothes), fair “Gold autumn” and many other interesting festivals and other cultural events. In **Ivano-Frankivska Region** there are also many interesting cultural events worth to be visited. Such events as festival of Christmas carols, festival “Christmas in Carpathians” and other dedicated to Christmas celebrations usually take place in the region. Very interesting are exhibition “Hutsulskesillya” (Hutsul wedding), festival “Spring ball in winter Carpathians”, theatre fest “Melpomena of Halych” and others. In spring people visit International Food Festival, many festivals, dedicated to Easter holiday, Fest of blacksmiths; in summer – Fest of Ukrainian song, Fest of youth, Fest “Ivana Kupala”; in autumn – festival of patriotic song, festival of mushrooms, youth festival “Students’ autumn”. **Chernivetska Region** has variety of cultural events. As in every Ukrainian region many events dedicated to Christmas are visited by citizens of the region and tourists in winter. In spring citizens and guests are invited to Bukovyna tourism fair, Fast of the family, Ukrainian national festival “Vyshyvanyy rid” (festival of national clothes); in summer - Festival of street orchestras, Beer festival, also many fairs; in autumn - Celebrating the Day of Chernivtsi, Culinary arts festival "Bukovina hospitality", Regional folklore festival "Autumn Wedding" and others.

Organisations in tourism, information available on touristic attractions

Regarding **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** and **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** organisations in tourism are represented by TourInform offices throughout the counties (12 in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, 3 in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg) and the local offices of the Hungarian Tourism Destination Management Organisations Association, local and regional tourism offices/societies and travel agencies. Information on touristic attractions is available on nationwide, thematic or local websites, and there are examples of the usage of modern technology (Tokaj: Guide@hand mobile application). The system of websites is difficult to follow and there is almost nothing is available online in English or in the neighbouring languages (Ukrainian, Slovak, and Romanian). Cooperation with national/regional/local and international tourism bodies are promoted by TDM organizations.

Regarding the **Košický** and **Prešovský** regions, regional tourist offices and destination management companies provide services for the tourism sector and for tourists. Destination management companies include S-Tours, travel agency Dowina, Supravia, all created in early 1990s. Satur is the former state monopoly operator. Slovakia Green Tours is British run and much younger. Avance is a

full service travel and event agency. In central Slovakia Discover Slovakia Tours are based in Zvolen, which arranges custom tours around the country. T-Ski are based in the High Tatras mountains. Pilgrim Tours also focuses on the High Tatras. SlovakiaHiking.net is run by certified tourist guides in Sliac.

Regarding the **Romanian counties**, in total there are 5 tourist information centres in the North-West region: 3 in Cluj County, 1 in Bihor și 1 in Maramureș. In June 2014 a new Tourist Information Centre was inaugurated in Satu Mare, having as mission the promotion of Satu Mare County as cultural, historical, economic and religious value in European context. Presently, there are ongoing projects of Maramureș County Council and local public authorities for the creation of tourism promotion and information centres in Baia Mare, Borșa, Seini, and Vișeu de Sus, as part of a tourist information and promotion network. The main tourist promotion associations from Satu Mare and Maramureș counties are: Maramureș Infoturism, the Association for the Promotion and Tourist Development Maramureș, “NaturăSănătate Turism Satu Mare” Association, and “Pro Turism” SM Association. In June 2013, in the North-West region there were 329 tourism agencies licensed by the National Authority for Tourism, out of which the greatest number in Cluj county (167), followed by Bihor (75) and Maramureș (38). In Satu Mare County a significant progress can be notice in the last few years related to the documentation of tourist objectives. A series of project were implemented – or are still ongoing – for the elaboration of tourist information and promotion materials, conception of tourist routes and informing/training related to the valorisation of tourist potential of some objectives in the county. Some major tourist attractions have developed information websites (e.g. Tășnad resort www.tasnad-statiune.ro). Moreover, different information portals were developed in accordance with some specific tourist attractions – e.g. the webpage of Satu Mare Wine Route (<http://vinulsatmarean.ro/>) or the religious patrimony from Satu Mare and its surrounding cross-border areas – the route of Medieval Churches. The most important thing is that a joint brand was developed („Satu Mare – Hospitality is our tradition”), which is assuring coherence of all these activities.

In **Zakarpatska Region** tourism development is determined as strategic direction of the region. Annual monitoring of the tourism industry in the region confirms the positive trends in its development. They are reflected mainly in the growth of a network of spa, recreation and hotel facilities of Zakarpatska. One of the most popular types of tourism in the Carpathians is health tourism with the use of mineral and thermal water. Thus, many tourists visit the modern sanatorium complex "Polyana", "Susirya", "Thermal-Star," "Carpatia", “Zakarpattya” and other. As was shown by the research, in recent years in the region 13 tourist information centers have been established, which are present in almost all administration units of the region. However, existing potential not realized primarily because of the lack of a fully adapted to market conditions, government development policy in the sphere of domestic tourism. The main problems are: lack of sufficient qualified staff and specialized educational institutions for their preparation; no legislative mechanism of registration of private farms that provide rural tourism services. In **Ivano-Frankivska Region** in general, the region has 96 tourist complexes, resorts and hotels (incl. private houses, used as hotels) that can simultaneously accommodate up to 8 thousand tourists. Very popular are ski resort “Bukovel”, and organizations, providing services of kayak competitions on the rivers Prut and Cheremosh and hang-gliding. The disadvantage of the tourist sector is that the owners of such organizations are oriented on wealthy consumers. The other tourists create demand on the so-called "green tourism" or “agrotourism”. Tourism Ivano-Frankivsk region is one of the most important sectors of the economy which contributes to improvement of the economic development of the region. However, the tourism and recreational facilities needs financial resources to be improved. In **Chernivetska Region** there are 17 kinds of tourist and recreational facilities in Chernivtsi region. They are ski centers, hotels and tourist complexes, tourist centers, sanatoriums, resorts, recreation centres, international sports and tourist complexes. Thus, the region has many

opportunities to invite many tourists from all over the world. But there are many problems in the sector. They are related to low institutional support, and as a result, the state of the industry has the following disadvantages: outdated infrastructure; outdated utility lines; worn-out electricity supply network; hotels and other places of temporary accommodation in need of reconstruction; need of reconstruction of Chernovtsy airport, which is far behind from European characteristics.

10.1.3 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation (TO6)

Aggregate potential impact of climate change

Climate change is a significant factor influencing the future development of the EU and its neighbouring regions. Improving the capacity to adapt to climate change is high on the agenda of the European Union. In fact, two of five Europe 2020 headline targets (reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing renewable energy use) are directly linked to this issue. There is an ever increasing body of evidence / research results that can be applied (not ignoring some level of uncertainties when dealing with climate change projections).The ESPON Climate project²⁵ introduces a standard set of indicators to assess climate change and its impacts in the NUTS3 regions of the European Union.

The first indicator is the “Aggregate potential impact of climate change” shows the weighted combination of physical, environmental, social, economic and cultural potential impacts of climate change. From this perspective, 3 out of the 7 regions (Prešov, Satu Mare, Suceava) face low negative impact, Maramureş, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Košice face medium negative impact, while Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is in the worst category (highest negative impact).

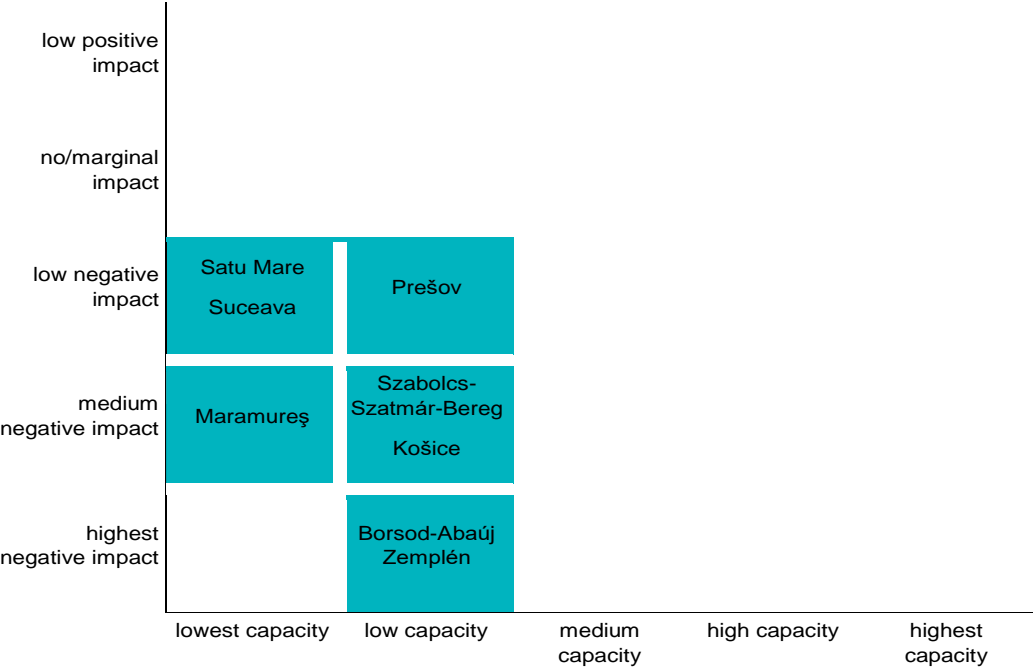


Figure 21: Aggregate potential impacts of climate change (2013)
 Source: ESPON Climate – Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies – Final

²⁵ESPON Climate – Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies – Final Report http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/AppliedResearch/CLIMATE/ESPON_Climate_Final_Report-Part_B-MainReport.pdf

Adaptive capacity

The overall adaptive capacity of the area is also a crucial indicator. Unfortunately, the eligible area does not exhibit an optimistic situation: all the Romanian counties are characterised by the lowest overall capacity to adapt to climate change – in fact, they are amongst the lowest 25% of all European and CBC NUTS3 regions, while the Hungarian and Slovak regions have just a slightly better situation by having low overall capacity to adapt.²⁶

Vulnerability to climate change

The combination of regional potential impact and the overall adaptive capacity of the given region present its vulnerability to climate change. This complex indicator highlights a fairly critical picture: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is characterized by highest negative impacts, Maramureş, Satu Mare, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Košice exhibit medium level of negative impacts, and only Prešov, Suceava can face low negative impacts.

The ESPON Climate study introduces a climate change classification of European regions, identifying 5 different types:

- Southern-central Europe (6 regions in the programme area fall into this category)
- Northern-central Europe (it includes Prešov)
- Northern Europe
- Mediterranean region
- Northern-western Europe

Considering the climate change projections for Southern-central Europe, the affected regions can expect a strong increase in mean temperature, a strong decrease in frost days and also strong increase in summer days. With regard to precipitation, the regions can also expect strong decrease of precipitation during summer months. Predictable changes in Northern-central Europe are strong decreases in frost days and reducing number of days with snow cover.²⁷

UNESCO natural world heritage sites

The area has **2 natural heritage sites** protected by UNESCO:

1. Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst

The Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst – covering areas of **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** and **Košický region**- are outstanding for the large number of complex, diverse and relatively intact caves concentrated into a relatively small area. The caves are located at the north-eastern border of Hungary and the south-eastern border of Slovakia, this exceptional group of 712 caves, recorded at time of inscription, lies under a protected area of 56,651 ha and a large buffer zone. Karst processes have produced a rich diversity of structures and habitats that are important from a biological, geological and paleontological point of view. Shaped over tens of millions of years, the area provides an excellent

²⁶ESPON Climate – Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies – Final Report http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/AppliedResearch/CLIMATE/ESPON_Climate_Final_Report-Part_B-MainReport.pdf

²⁷ESPON Climate – Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies – Final Report http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/AppliedResearch/CLIMATE/ESPON_Climate_Final_Report-Part_B-MainReport.pdf

demonstration of karst formation during both tropical and glacial climates, which is very unusual and probably better documented here than anywhere else in the world. The caves display an extremely rare combination of tropical and glacial climatic effects; they make it possible to study geological history over tens of millions of years. The most significant cave system in the property is that of **Baradla-Domica, a 21 kms long cross-border network** richly decorated with stalagmites and stalactites, which is an important active stream cave in the temperate climatic zone and a Ramsar site. Also worth mentioning is the **Dobsina Ice Cave**, one of the most beautiful in the world. The close proximity of many different types of caves of diverse morphology, as well as important archaeological remains, makes the property an outstanding subterranean museum. Its ecosystems provide habitat for more than 500 troglobiont or troglophil species, including some which are local.²⁸

The Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst lie over a total area of 55,800 ha and topographically comprise limestone plateaus dissected by deep river valleys. This is the most extensively explored karst area in Europe. Hydrological conditions are characterized by a lack of surface streams, except between mountain basins, and the complex circulation of underground water. The flora is representative of both Pannonian and Carpathian elements. Approximately 70% of the territory consists of deciduous woodland dominated by hornbeam and oak. The fauna includes wolf, lynx, red deer, roe deer, wild boar, wild cat and badger. Nesting bird species include: rock bunting, black stork, corncrake, imperial eagle, dipper, Ural owl, saker falcon, short-toed eagle, honey buzzard. Of particular scientific interest are the cave and subterranean water fauna. Beetles and other insects are abundant. Cave worms are often found in sand and clay deposits whereas molluscs are associated with underground streams, and crustaceans occur including an endemic species of primitive carb. A total of 21 bat species have been identified in the Slovak Karst.²⁹ A significant aspect of the area is that the karst features of the caves contain a great deal of evidence pertaining to the geological history of the last several millions of years. The present karst landscape has been developing intermittently since the late Cretaceous period. There is one sizeable settlement (Silica) and two hamlets within the Slovak protected area and two villages (Aggtelek and Jósvalfő with approximately 1,100 inhabitants) inside the Aggtelek National Park's boundaries. There is a pollution problem which is contaminating cave waters and threatening the park's ecosystem which arises from the increased use of pesticides and fertilizers in the surrounding areas and from tourist's vehicles and nearby industry.³⁰

2. Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (SK: Prešov Region – UA: Zakarpatska Region)

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany is a transnational composite nature site. It includes ten separate massifs located along the 185 km long axis from the Rakhiv mountains and Chornohora ridge in Ukraine over the Poloniny Ridge (Slovakia) to the Vihorlat Mountains in Slovakia (the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany also include five other locations in various parts of Germany). Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians covers areas of **Zakarpatska and Prešov regions**. Over 70% of the site is located in Ukraine and covers 29279 hectares in the two countries. The area includes two national parks (Uzh National Park and Poloniny National Park), a

²⁸<http://anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu/index.php?lang=en>, <http://www.vilagorokseg.hu/caves-of-aggtelek-karst-and-slovak-karst>

²⁹<http://www.vilagorokseg.hu/caves-of-aggtelek-karst-and-slovak-karst>

³⁰<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/725>

biosphere reserve, and a few habitat controlled areas (mostly in Slovakia). Both national parks compose a separate biosphere reserve, the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.³¹

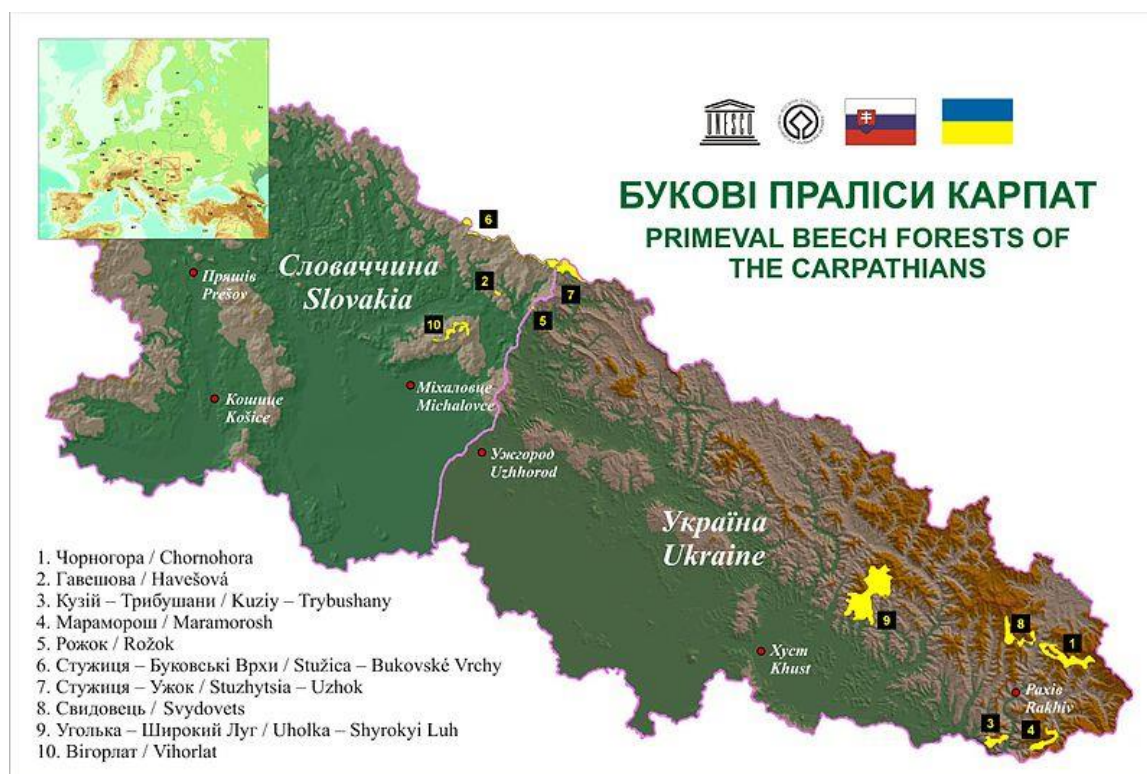


Figure 22: Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians

Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beech-whc.jpg>

#	Massif	Region	Type of nature reserve	Preserved area (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
1	Chornohora	Zakarpattia	Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	2 476,8	12 925,0
2	Uholka / Wide Meadow			11 860,0	3 301,0
3	Svydovets			3 030,5	5 639,5
4	Maramoros			2 243,6	6 230,4
5	Kuziy / Trybushany			1 369,6	3 163,4
6	Stuzhycia / Uzhok			Uzh National Nature Park	2 532,0
7	Stužica / Bukovské vrchy	Prešov	Poloniny National Park	2 950,0	11 300,0
8	Rožok		Prešov Preserved areas	67,1	41,4
9	Vihorlat			2 578,0	2 413,0
10	Havešová			171,3	63,9
Slovak regions, total:				29 278,9	48 692,6
11	Jasmund	Mecklenburg-	Jasmund National Park	492,5	2 510,5
12	Serrahn	Vorpommern	Müritz National Park	2 681,0	2 568,0
13	Grumsiner Forest	Brandenburg	Grumsiner Forest Nature Reserve	590,1	274,3
14	Hainich	Thuringia	Hainich National Park	1 573,4	4 085,4
15	Kellerwald	Hesse	Kellerwald-Edersee National Park	1 467,1	4 271,4
TOTAL:				36 083,0	62 402,2

Figure 23: Preserved area of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians

³¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primeval_Beech_Forests_of_the_Carpathians_and_the_Ancient_Beech_Forests_of_Germany

Source:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primeval_Beech_Forests_of_the_Carpathians_and_the_Ancient_Beech_Forests_of_Germany

The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany represent examples of on-going post-glacial biological and ecological evolution of terrestrial ecosystems and are indispensable to understanding the spread of the beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) in the Northern Hemisphere across a variety of environments. These undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions and represent all altitudinal zones from seashore up to the forest line in the mountains. Beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broad-leaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonization and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities after the last ice age, a process which is still ongoing. They represent key aspects of processes essential for the long term conservation of natural beech forests and illustrate how one single tree species came to absolute dominance across a variety of environmental parameters.³²

Protected natural areas

The **Natura 2000 sites** in the cross-border area (in the Member States) involve numerous sites primarily in the northern part of the eligible area (Košícký and Prešovský regions and in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County) and smaller but not least important sites in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Maramureş and Suceava counties concerning the area of the Western- and Eastern-Carpathians. The demarcation lines of protected habitats surely do not stop at the borders in reality and the Ukrainian part of the Eastern-Carpathian Mountains must involve other sites that would involve areas of similar characters as the Natura2000 sites according to the European Union's directives. The Western- and Eastern-Carpathians involve all eligible regions and counties except Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County.³³

³²<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133>

³³Based on information from <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu>

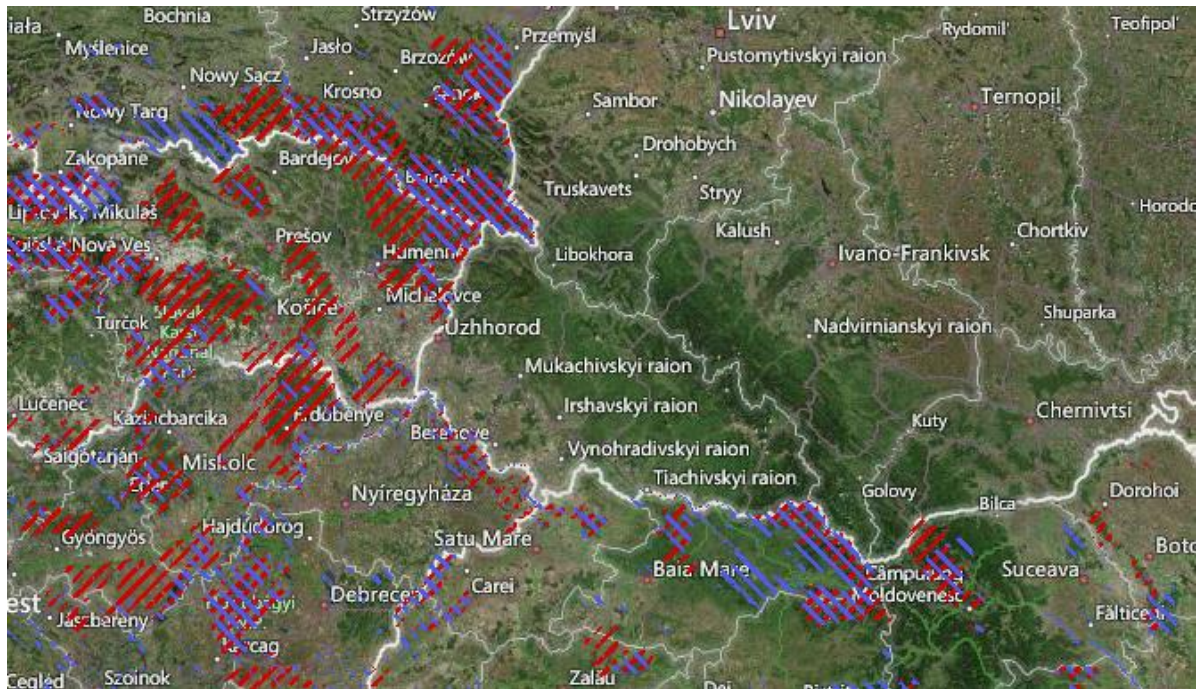


Figure 24: Natura 2000 sites in the Member States of the cross-border area (2015, blue: habitats sites, red: birds' sites)
 Source: <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu>

National parks and nature parks, protected landscape areas and biodiversity

Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is a home of 3 national parks on its territory: the Bükk National Park, the Aggtelek National Park and a small, northern part of the Hortobágy National Park in the southern tip of the county; the county also a host of 6 protected landscape areas (Lázberci, Borsodi-Mezőségi, Kesznyéteni, Tarnavidéki, Tokaj–Bodrozugyi and Zempléni).

Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County does not possess national parks hosts the Nyírség-Szatmár-Bereg protected nature landscape area including its main areas as Szatmár-Bereg Landscape Protection Area, Tiszadob and Tiszatelek-Tiszabercel Floodplain Conservation Areas. Besides the protected landscape areas 11 national nature conservation areas also can be found here. Caves of the counties are protected ex-lege. **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén** is characterised by oak, hornbeam, oak and beech forests and alder. There are many high mountain flora elements common in the Carpathians. Unique, rare protected habitats are featuring mountain meadows rich in orchids, water marshes, the colourful rocky silicate and acid soils, blueberry beech, birch woodlands. Significant populations of big game can be found here, including the Carpathian deer and the most of the protected species of domestic mammals can be found as well. Bird life is characterized by the presence of mountain species (for example: black stork and the grouse). Viper berus also lives here. The high number of smallest of insects and other invertebrates which do not occur elsewhere in the country add to the richness and value of the mountain ecosystem. The county is also a home to avocets, gray heron, and great egret as feeding and resting place. 41 nesting bird species have been observed by professionals. In the ash-forests of the **Szatmár-Bereg** Plain lives the rare subalpine endemic plant the Carpathian saffron too. In the waters of the Upper Tisza region there are about 45 species of fish occur. Amphibians and reptiles worth mentioning are the marsh frog, newt, potted newt, mountain or viviparous lizard (Csaroda, Bátorliget), the spotted salamander (Lónyai- and Bockerek forest) and the Viper Berus (Lónyai-,

Bockereki- and Déda forest). The White Tiszavasvári-based Conservation Area represents outstanding natural value due to the significant bird migration, including various herons and small colonies of aigrettes.³⁴

In the **Košický region** there are located, or partially interfere with it two national parks: Slovenský raj and Slovenskýkras, 2 protected landscape areas and 140 small protected areas, of which 40 national nature reserves, 47 nature reserves, 23 national natural monuments, 18 natural monuments and 6 protected areas. Most designated protected areas are located in the district of Rožňava (35), in the district of Košice vicinity (29), Spisska Nova Ves (24) and Trebišov (16). Least designated protected areas are located in the districts of Košice (3) and Gelnica (3). Natura 2000 ensures the favourable conservation status of populations of selected species of fauna and flora and the favourable conservation status of habitats. National list of proposed SPAs under the Birds Directive was adopted by the Government Resolution no. 636/2003. It contains 38 sites, of which there are 9 or interferes with the Kosice region. The proposed SPAs pays first level of protection and the protected bird areas shall be prohibited to carry out activities that may adversely affect the object of protection. Features of vegetation and species richness correspond to the natural conditions and anthropic activities in the territory. A significant factor affecting the character of the vegetation is more continental character of the climate (compared to now located further west regions), which determined the creation and existence of specific plant communities. Original composition and abundance of taxa can be observed today mostly only in hilly areas. Given the bedrock found here it provides for appearance of calcareous species. The species composition of vegetation reflects stepped topography of the Kosice region. There may allocate level plains and hilly areas up to altitude of 500 m characterized by oak and oak-hornbeam forests and lowland floodplain forests, foothill stage (sub-mountainous) of altitude 500-1000 m, originally covered with beech or beech and fir forests and lignite level to 1500 m represented by a mixed beech and fir, spruce and fir-spruce forests. In the rugged terrain (especially karst and mountainous areas) also generic inversion of plants can be observed. In the Kosice region there are the West Carpathian and Carpathian endemic species, bound to the rock, but also a steppe and grassland habitats. There are some rare species of mammals, as well as lower animal species. From the ornithological point of view the protected areas of the Kosice region represent one of the most important sites in Slovakia, but also of Europe (raptors, waders, passerines – Sennerybníky lakes). In the region there is a large species diversity of insects, bats, as well as deer. For amphibians, there are particular all four species of salamanders (frog and salamander), from the snakes very rare snorting and tree snakes. From the water and the water bound species are rare animal species such as crayfish, trout, and Carpathian brook lamprey. From hunting (furred and feathered) animals in the wild there are all important species such as deer, roe deer, wild boar, partridge, hare and the like. Of rare species whose hunting is strictly regulated, in view of the natural conditions, the largest populations of game animals are found in the district Rožňava. Nature and landscape protection means limiting interventions that may threaten, harm or destroy conditions and forms of life, natural heritage, the landscape and reduce its ecological stability, as well as the removal of such interventions. Nature conservation also means the care of ecosystems. In the Košický Region there are located, or partially interfere with it the two national parks – Slovenský raj and Slovenskýkras and two protected landscape areas - Vihorlat and Latorica. The total area of large protected areas is reaching 94 666 ha, accounting for 14.02% of the region. The stringent protection of nature is realized in the 4th and 5th level of protection for small protected areas, where 137 protected areas have been declared with a total area of 9 120.85 ha, which is 1.35% of the region. The total area of protected areas with the second to fifth

³⁴<http://magyarnemzetiparkok.hu/>

level of protection is 98 024,41 ha, representing 14.51% of the region without territory of NATURA 2000 sites. In the Košický Region there are 45 declared protected trees or groups recorded.³⁵

Five national parks(out of the 9 in Slovakia) and numerous national protected areas can be found in the **Prešovský region**: (TANAP, Nízke Tatry, Pieniny, Poloniny and Slovenskýraj). **High Tatras National Park (TANAP)** is Slovak national icon. It is an area of great natural beauty with rich variety of scenery and wildlife. Gerlachovský Peak is the highest Slovak mountain. It looms over the steep rocky hogbacks, ridges, saddlebacks, beautiful slopes and meadows. TANAP is also well known for high number of waterfalls and mountain lakes. High Tatras area is covered by deep spruce forests, dwarf pine zones and grassy uplands. Areas reaching higher altitudes than grassy uplands are mostly formed by rocks covered with lichens and mosses. TANAP is home to many rare animal and plant species called endemits. Brown bear, lynx, chamois (endemit), marmot, deer, wolf and wild boar are just examples of TANAP's fauna. You can spot a woodpecker, a blackbird, an eagle or a buzzard. All plants growing in the park area are protected. One can find edelweiss, gentians, bells and a summer ceps. Together with the neighbouring Polish Tatra National Parkthe park became a **UNESCO biosphere reservation area** in 1993. **Nízke Tatry National Park** (Lower Tatras National Park) is Slovakia's largest national park, with very extensive rounded mountains and magnificent valleys and numerous caves. Calcifuges and calcareous flowers are represented in the Low Tatras. The protected species which grow here are edelweiss, several species of saxifrage, pasque flower. Low Tatras are the only place in Slovakia, where a modified saxifrage and comma-shaped crimpy is growing. An interesting occurrence is Tatra ochyrea (moss) which is a Low Tatras endemic. A lot of hunted animals are living in forests of Low Tatras, represented by the deer, wild boars and roe-doe. Here living wild beasts are represented by martens, weasel, lynx, fox, wolf and in the outskirts the Mountain Wildcat. Favourable conditions are for the existence of brown bears. In the alpine zone are living typical alpine animals such as scratcher, marmot population and the population of chamois. **Pieniny National Park** lies in the Pieniny mountain range; it characteristic is by remarkable stony hills. Tri koruny (Three Crowns) is the most popular and most impressive one lying on the Slovak side. It has taken centuries for rivers to hollow those beautiful canyons embellishing the park today (Dunajec River and Lesníckypotok valleys). 200-300m deep Dunajec River valley is the most impressive one. It is rightly considered the largest canyon in Central Europe. The valley is home to many aquatic as well as terrestrial animals. European Otter, beaver, deer, bear, wolf and lynx from bigger animals; lizard, grass snake, European viper, different kinds of frogs and salamander form reptiles and amphibians, and falcon, buzzard or eagle-owl form birds. Dunajec River is home to about 20 different school of fish, for example pike and trout. The park territory is also home to many endemic plant species. **Poloniny National Park** does not have very ragged relief however the altitude difference reaches as much as 1,200m (3,936ft). The area is mostly covered with fir and beech forests. Stužica Carpathian primaeval forest with 400 years old beeches lies within the park's territory. Poloniny National Park is characteristic by free-ranging herds of the European bison and Stariná- Slovak largest reservoir of drinkable water. **National Park of Slovenský raj** is situated in the eastern part of Slovakia contains one of the biggest ice caves in Europe and an attractive landscape of karstic plateaux, gorges, waterfalls and caves. The monuments that testify the oldest history of the region and the country are also here. The prevailing spruce forest, which covers 90% of the Park area, is its most valuable asset. The base rock here is limestone and thanks to it, the local flora is remarkably varied. Animals are represented by 200 species, including the bear, lynx, wolf, deer and boar. Several species of rapacious birds nest in the rocks of the Park. Typical features are canyons, gorges and ravines (Sokol, Suchá, Belá, Piecky and Kysel'), which form picturesque rocky scenes with waterfalls, and which were created mainly by the rivers Hnilec and Hornád. 80% of the

³⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovak_Karst_National_Park, National list of SPAs Slovakia

area is covered with spruce forests combined with yew-trees. There are more than 200 caves and underground abysse. Among the caves, Dobšinskáľadovájaskyňa (DobšinskáľceCave) and Medvediajaskyňa (BearCave) are the best known ones. The area is covered with Norway spruce (*Piceaabies*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), fir, larch and Scots pine (*Pinussylvestris*). Important endemic plants in the area are the Carpathian harebell (*Campanula carpatica*), *Pulsatillaslavica*, *Hesperissilvestris*, *Liguria sibirica*, and *Saxifragapaniculate*. Other plants found in this area are the mountain tassel flower (*Soldanellamontana*), martagon lily (*Liliummartagon*), variegated monk's hood (*Aconitum variegatum*).³⁶

Regarding **Romanian counties**, the soil and climate conditions, the geographic position and the relief of the territory have favoured the apparition and development of some habitats of great diversity and value, which lead to the declaration of numerous natural protected areas, both of national and also of European and world-wide interest. Consequently, a number of 65 habitat types of community interest have been identified. The wild flora is characterized by 27 vegetal species of community interest, while a number of 310 animal species of community interest have been identified. Out of these 227 are birds and 83 are other animal species. As a result of this diversity, 22,04% of the territory of the region is being declared Natura 2000 site, which situates the region close to the European average. In accordance with Law no.5/2000, with Government Decision no. 1581/2005 and no. 1143/2007 in the **North-Western Region** a number of 170 natural protected areas of national interest have been declared. The total area of these protected areas is 281.845 ha, representing 7,37% out of the total area of the Region and 5,28% out of the total natural protected areas from Romania. Taken into account the total surface of protected natural areas of national interest the greatest part of these areas are situated in Maramureş County (60% out of the total surface of the county). From these areas of national interest, one could mention the Maramureş Mountains National Park (Category IUCN V - International Union for Conservation of Nature, V – Protected Terrestrial/Marin Landscape), as being the biggest one in Romania, with a 148.850 ha surface. At regional level, the Natura 2000 network comprises 71 sites of community interest (SCI) and 17 birds special protection areas (SPA), with a total surface of 724759 ha, representing 9,23% out of the total surface of Natura 2000 sites from Romania.³⁷ In **Suceava County** there are 27 natural protected areas on the territory of the county exist. There are high value of forests from ecological and economic point of view (valuable species), and the county has a rich hydrographical network, with a higher density than the national average, which could be valorised through the development of activities related to fruit growing and fishery. The biodiversity of the county is varied and rich. The infrastructure for the administration of natural protected areas is insufficiently developed, the percentage of high quality surface waters is low, the awareness of population and economic actors concerning the importance of protected areas is low, financial and human resources for the management of protected areas, of community interest species and habitats are insufficient.³⁸

In Ukraine, in **Zakarpatska Region** there are 456 nature reserves on the area of 177 thousand hectares (13,8 % of the total area of the region). There are: Uzhansky National Nature Park, National Park “Fascinated Land”, National Park “Synevyr”, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Regional Scenery Park “Prytysyansky”. In addition to this, there are 19 reserves of national importance, 41 reserve of local importance, 11 natural monuments of national importance, 329 natural monuments of local importance, 9 natural landmarks of local importance, 32 monuments of landscape art of local

³⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:National_parks_of_Slovakia

³⁷ Based on Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020

³⁸Based on the Economic and Social Development Strategy of Suceava County, 2011-2020

importance and 4 dendrological parks of local importance. The natural reserves of the region represent the main types of landscapes with their indigenous vegetation and therefore play a key role in shaping of qualitative environmental network and maintaining biotic and landscape diversity. The nature reserve fund of Zakarpatska can be considered one of the best in Ukraine. At the same time there are some problems. Thus, at the moment one of the main problems in environmental preservation in the region is progressive accumulation of waste as a result of inefficient measures of its utilization and disposal. Frequent floods caused by terrain features only complicate the situation with waste disposal. Very important is also to improve preservation of species listed in the Red Book and take measures on enhancement of public awareness on environmental protection. Forests cover an area of about 500000 hectares (this is 45% of Zakarpatska). There are about 2000 species of higher plants in the region. Most forest species are as follows: beech (58%), fir (31%), oak (7%), as well as birk, larch, alder, yew, pine, ash-tree and maple. 272 plant species of Zakarpatska are listed in Red Book. Zakarpatskais home for 80 species of mammals, 280 species of birds, 10 species of reptiles, 16 species of amphibians, 60 fish species, 100 shellfish species. Almost half of all fresh-water fish Ukraine indwell in Zakarpatska. 168 animal species of the region are listed to Red Book.³⁹ In **Ivano-Frankivska Region** the natural reserves of Ivano-Frankivsk region cover an area of 195633 thousand hectares. There are 1 Natural Reserve, 3 National Parks, 3 regional landscape parks, 60 nature reserves, 81 natural monuments, 5 dendrological parks, 8 monuments of landscape architecture and 195 natural landmarks. The basis of the reserve fund are national parks – they cover 44,2% of all protected areas, natural reserves – 2,8%, regional landscape parks – 24,9%, reserves - 24%. Quantitatively dominate nature monuments and natural landmarks - respectively 41,3% and 42,47% of all protected areas, but the area they cover is small (0.68 and 2.9%, respectively). Most protected areas (59,4%) are concentrated in the mountainous areas of the region, 19,3% - within the foothill areas, 21,3 % - on the plains. Significant value has the natural reserve "Gorgany" with area of 5,3 thousand hectares. The reserve was created to protect natural systems in high-mountain Carpathians. The other significant reserves in the region are Carpathian National Park (50,3 thousand hectares), which is the first and one of the largest national parks in Ukraine and which was created to protect ecosystems of Chornohora and Gorgany and natural reserve "Gustulshchyna", with area of 32,2 thousand hectares, which preserve biodiversity of Pokutsky Carpathians. For Biodiversity Ivano-Frankivsk region is one of the richest in Ukraine. Landscape, soil and climatic conditions as well as other natural factors caused diversity and richness of flora of Ivano-Frankivsk region. The following species dominate in forests of the region: pine, fir, larch, cedar, oak, alder, cherry and walnut. Among them we can meet European cedar (age reaches 3 thousand years) and European yew (*Taxusbaccata*) - most long-lived tree in Ukraine. The Red Book of Ukraine contains 228 plant species, which grow on the territory of the region. 56 species from those listed in the Red Book can be found only in Carpathians. In comparison with other regions of Ukraine fauna of Ivano-Frankivsk region can be characterized as much richer. There are 435 species of vertebrates (mammals - 74 species, birds - 280 species). 149 of all animal species living in the region are listed in Red Book of Ukraine.⁴⁰ In **Chernivetska Region** more than 12% of the area of Chernivtsi region is covered by protected areas (generally in the country – 4,65%). The total number of protected areas in Chernivtsi region is 331. The most important protected areas in the region belong to National Parks "Vyzhnytsy", "Cheremotsky" and "Hotynsky". National Parks "Vyzhnytsy" and "Cheremotsky" were created to preserve and restore natural landscapes, to conserve valuable natural objects of Carpathians of

³⁹Програма реалізації природоохоронних заходів на 2014 рік (Programm Implementation of Environmental Measures in 2014)

⁴⁰Вісник Івано-Франківської обласної ради та Івано-Франківської обласної держадміністрації. - Івано-Франківськ, 2007 (Journal of Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council and Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration. - Ivano-Frankivsk, 2007)

Bukovyna. National Park "Hotynsky" is created for preservation of valuable natural, historical and cultural objects of Dniester river basin. Rapid increase of number of natural preservation areas for the last 5 years (Natural parks "Cheremotsky" was created in 2009 and "Hotynsky" – in 2010) is the result of growing demand for ecotourism in the region. Development of ecotourism sector in Chernivtsi region is one of the important priorities, facing in spite of this, a range of problems. Thus, one of the important prerequisites for development of ecological tourism is necessity of creation of special organizations – entities, providing excursion and tourist services. In addition to this the sector of ecotourism requires support of authorities, and funding for elaboration of changes to relevant legal framework, infrastructure development etc. Equally important is also ecological education of population of the region. Within the protected areas of the region grow more than 1,600 species of plants, 106 of which are listed in the Red Book, which is a quarter of all species in Red Book. Fauna of the protected areas is represented by 392 species of vertebrate and more than 1500 species of invertebrate animals, 118 of which are listed in the Red Book (31%). More than 50% of territory of Carpathians is covered by forest. 31,2% of the Chernivtsi region is covered by forest. 140 plant species, growing in the region, are listed in the Red Book.⁴¹

River basins

Rivers in the cross-border area belong to the catchment area of Tisza River. The Tisza river basin is the largest sub-basin of the Danube river basin. The Tisza Catchment area takes almost 20 % of the Danube river basin. It comprise an area of 160 000 square kilometres in South-East Europe and is shared by five countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine) four of them are part of the eligible area (affected counties are: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Satu Mare County, Maramures County, Košický region and Prešovský Region). The Tisza begins near Rakhiv (Zakarpatska Region) in Ukraine, at the confluence of the White Tisa and Black Tisa. From there, the Tisza flows west, roughly following Ukraine's borders with Romania, then Hungary, and finally Slovakia. It enters Hungary at Tiszabecs. Then it traverses Hungary from north to south. There are more than 20 bigger rivers as tributaries of Tisza in the eligible cross-border area (Sajó, Hernád, Bodrog, Ondava, Latorica, Laborec, Uzh, Cirocha, Kraszna, Someş, Tur, Batar, Şugătag, Baia, Şaroş, Săpânţa, Valea Hotarului, Bicu, Sarasău, Valealepei, Iza, Vişeu). The Tisza river basin includes the mountainous Upper Tisza and the tributaries in Ukraine, Romania and the eastern part of Slovakia and the lowland parts mainly in Hungary and Serbia surrounded by the East-Slovak Plain, the Zakarpatska lowland (Ukraine), and the plains on the western fringes of Romania.

Rivers in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** include Tisza, which forms a natural border between Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg countries, Sajó and Bodrog tributaries of Tisza, and Hernád, a tributary to Sajó. The Tisza River dominates the water network, which enters at Zemplénagárd into the area and leaves it at the south, Tiszavalk. The county's rivers belong to the catchment area of the river Tisza. The county's surface water flows are rich, but the flow regimes follow the distribution of rainfall which is rather uneven, with large water flow variations. Regarding **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County**, the Upper Tisza region has many streams and rivers, but the county has little surface water. The most important of River Tisza's tributaries is the River Szamos, which is also characterised by great variations in water volume. There are irrigation systems, a water barrage and a

⁴¹ Природно-заповідний фонд області як перспектива розвитку екологічного туризму. Ємчук Т.В., Заблотовська Н.В (Natural Reserve Fund as the Prospect of the Development of Ecological Tourism. Yemchuk TV, Zablotoska NV)

Hydroelectric power station on the Tisza at Tiszalök. The county has a 329.5 km long river section, of which 250 kilometers is the Tisza, Someş 49.5 km and 30.0 km length of the river Tur. Other major rivers are Kraszna and Lónyai main channel (Eastern Channel). The condition of the backwaters of river Tisza is very different, with invaluable conservation, agriculture, recreation, environment and rural development aspects. Water shortage of surface waters exists only in the Nyírség. It can be said that the quality of surface and ground water development compared to the national average is generally improved, although the quality of surface water streams is determining that they originate from beyond the country's borders. The water quality of the tributaries from across the border - the Someş and Krasna, the Tur - varies widely, with the main causes of pollution sources (industrial, mining and municipal) beyond the country's borders.

In the **Košický** region there is relatively dense network of rivers. They belong to the river basin of Hornád, Bodrog and Slaná. The mountainous nature have upper stretches of the river Hornád, Hnilec, Bodva and Slaná, they have steep and narrow valley with inclinations of over 20%. The planar flows are characteristic for downstream sections of rivers Latorica, Laborec, Uh, downstream sections of Topľa and Ondava, the entire section of Bodrog in Východoslovenska lowland, and Hornád and Bodvain Kosická fold. The main flow of the Kosice region represents Hornád River and its tributaries. Surface waters are polluted by sewage and industrial effluents mainly from city of Košice but also by pollution fed from the upstream part of the flow Torysa. The water quality is in the range II. - V. classes in each group of indicators. Potential sources of water pollution is inappropriate manner of disposal of waste water in the municipalities of the Košice-okolie district, where only 8.85% of the total number of municipalities have the sewage system with wastewater treatment plant. In general it can be stated that all major streams and a large number of their tributaries have greatly contaminated water, from which it follows also finite nature of their use. The use of irrigation envisages continued contamination of groundwater. A specific problem in the basin of Hornád and Bodrog is the presence of sediment established in dams of PalcmanskaMaša, Ružín and Zemplínskašírava, which are contaminated. There are many rivers flowing through the **Prešovský** region. Torysa, Ondava, Topľa and Laborec rivers drain the central and eastern parts of the territory, Dunajec and Popradrivers drain the northern and western ones. Domaša Dam on Ondava River and Stariná Dam on Cirocha River have an important economic contribution on the region. Prešov District is also rich in mineral waters. The best known are Bardejov with its alkalic water springs and Vyšné Ružbachy with acidulous earthy water. They are popular spa destinations.

The hydrographical network of the **Satu Mare County** and its surroundings is being dominated by the hydrographical basins of Tisa, Someş, Crişuri, Crasna, Tur and Barcău rivers. The mineral water springs (Sâgeorz, Anieş, Leghia, Someşeni, Bixad, etc.) and thermal waters (Acâş) have a special role. Water sources from the region are, in general, of good quality, but in continuous degradation. Similarly, as it concerns the quality of surface waters in the region, this is worsening, as none of the water sources are being classified in category I (very good state) in 2011, compared with 725 km in very good state in 2006. Rivers of **Maramures** County: Tisza, Bistrita River, Someş River, Lapus River, Viseu River, Iza River, Sasar River, Firiza River, Suciú River. Several dozen small mountain rivers and creeks flow into the river Tisa. In the North of the county the river Tisa and the ridge of the Maramures Mountains make up the county's natural border with Ukraine. The rainy climate feeds a dense river system that totals 3000 km. Two river systems - the Tisa and the Someş - drain the country. The Tisa drains the rivers that flow down the surrounding mountains and across the Maramures basin: Viseu, Ruscova and Iza with their tributaries, such as the Mara and Cosau rivers. The Someş drains the rivers in the south-eastern part of the country: the Salajriver and Lapus with its main tributaries Cavníc and Sasar. The main rivers crossing **Suceava County** are: river Siret and its tributaries, river Suceava, Şomuzu Mare,

Moldova, and Bistrița (flowing from NW to SE). All the rivers from the territory of Suceava County are tributaries of river Siret. The greatest water quantities are being transported by the rivers of which basins are situated in the mountain region. River Moldova has the largest hydrographical basin, being followed by river Bistrița and river Suceava. The standing waters comprise natural lakes of small dimensions and artificial lakes arranged for complex purposes: reserves of industrial and drinking water, protection against floods, fishery, etc. The most numerous artificial lakes are the 6 lakes along river Șomuzu Mare.

Rivers of **Zakarpatska Region** are geographically located and belong to the basin of one of the largest tributaries of the Danube River - the river Tisza, which is the main waterway area in the region. The total length of the river Tisza is 967 km, Ukrainian part - 262 km. The river rises in Ukraine, Zakarpatska and flows roughly along the Romanian border and enters Hungary. After passing through Hungary, it flows into the Danube in Serbia. In early 2000, there was a sequence of serious pollution incidents originating from accidental industrial discharges in Romania. This series of incidents were described at the time as the most serious environmental disaster to hit central Europe since the Chernobyl disaster. Use of river water for any purpose was temporarily banned and all installations that could lead to further pollution have been closed.

In the territory of Ukraine in the Tisza basin surrounding areas floods reaching high intensity, causing flooding of large areas of the region. Development of effective measures to protect the Zakarpatska Region is the most important task of national importance. Indeed, for efficient solving related problems the cross-border countries have to be united, taking into consideration the fact, that flood cannot have any borders, and all territories, the river is flowing through, can be damaged. The river Prut is flowing through the territory of **Ivano-Frankivska** and **Chernivetska Regions**. The river begins in Ukraine and flows on the border of Moldova and Romania till it reaches the Danube in Odesa region. There is also a Hydro-Electric Station in Snyatyn (Ukraine). Floods on the Prut River are dangerous not only for the regions of Ukraine, but also for Romania and Moldova, where it flows. In 2008 year 65 administrative units were flooded, the river overflowed outwards covering area of 150 meters. But the flood in 2010 year was a much greater scale: the water level has been risen by about 6-7 meters. That's why it is very important to take measures on prevention such ecological disasters. Ecological state of surface water of the Prut river in the border area corresponds to general standards of water use. The water in the river in the border area is characterized as "moderately polluted".

Forests

The cross-border area (Slovak regions due to missing data are not included) owns 594.460 hectares (5.945 km²) protected natural area of national importance which is **7.2% of the territory of the cross-border area**. Within the region the largest areas of protected natural areas are situated in **Maramureș** (24,5% of the county's territory) **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén** (15% of the county's territory) and **Zakarpatska** (11.5% of the region's own territory). **The distribution of proportion of protected natural areas among the 3 countries: Ukrainian regions 48.5%, Romanian counties 27.9%, Hungarian counties 23.6%.⁴²**

⁴²Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, National Institute of Statistics (Romania) and State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Protected natural areas of national importance (hectare) 2011-2012

According to the map showing the proportion of forests in the cross-border area the forest cover exceeds 35% of the territory in 6 and 45% in 3 out of 10 areas. Among the countries concerned, Slovakia is considered to be the most wooded area. Based on 2012 data, the proportions of forest cover in both Slovak regions (Košícký 40%, Prešovský 49%). Ukraine also has similarly favourable endowments: 51% of the area Zakarpatska and 41% of Ivano-Frankivska are forest areas but Chernivetska Region has close to 30% forest cover. Counties of Romania also have more than 40% forest cover (42% in Maramureş, Suceava 51%); however Satu-Mare county possesses only 16%. Hungarian counties have forest cover between 20-30% (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén: 30%; Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg: 22%).

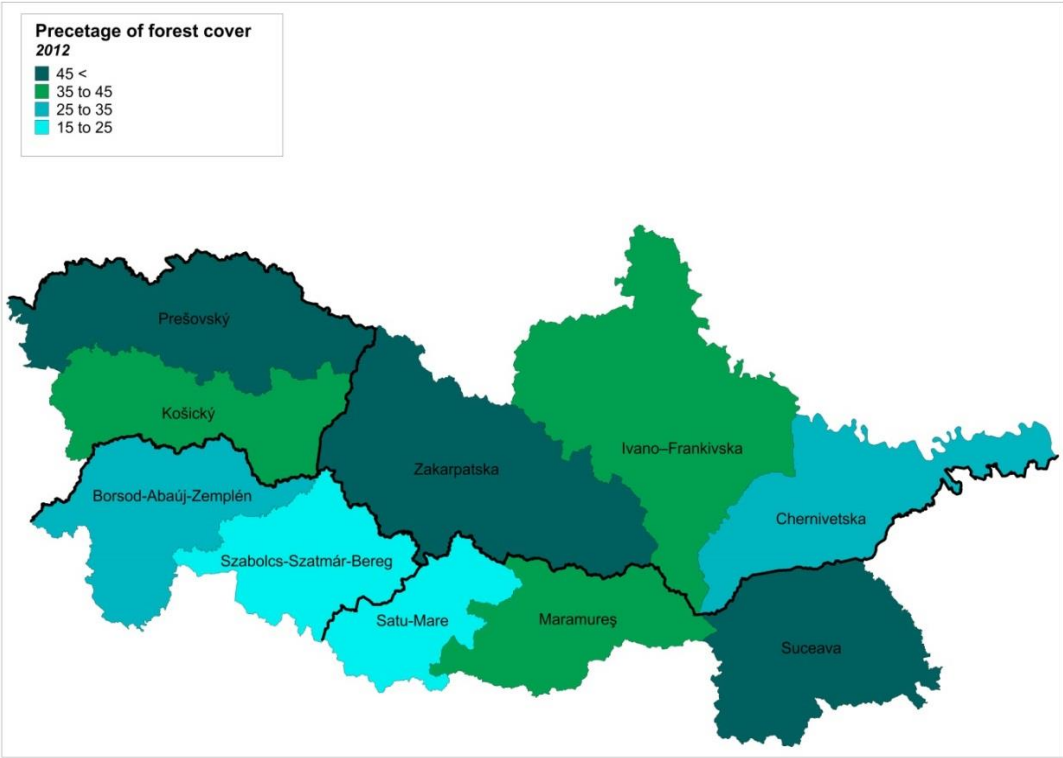


Figure 25: Percentage of forest cover in the programme area (2012)
 Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Wastewater treatment

Data regarding the share of **treated municipal wastewater** is rather insufficient, but it can be stated that the proportion of treated municipal wastewater **only in the Hungarian counties is 100%**, in the **Romanian counties it is about 75-80%**. Regarding the **Ukrainian regions in Ivano-Frankivska the proportion of treated municipal wastewater is 92%, the other 2 regions are lagging behind with 43-53%**. In **Prešovský region** the proportion of treated municipal wastewater is **slightly above 60%**.⁴³

⁴³Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, National Institute of Statistics (Romania) and State Statistics Service of Ukraine; share of treated wastewater,2007-2012

According to 2011 data, the proportion of households connected to **regular waste disposal system** is at least about 90% in the Hungarian and Romanian areas. Compared to this, Slovak regions have significantly lower rates around 60%. For Ukraine, this data was not available.⁴⁴

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**, the major industrial emissions are significant compared to the national average. No waste waters are drained without purification; the rate of only mechanically treated waste water is much lower than the national average. The number of homes connected to the sewage network was 287336 units in 2011. 65,8% of all units are connected to the sewage system, which is below the 72,5% of the national average (source: Central Statistical Office T-Star, 2011). The rate of properties connected to the sewage network is about 55-60%. This value changes depending on the nature of the settlements: in major cities - as Miskolc, Kazincbarcika, Tiszaújváros the connection rate is typically equal to or in excess of 80-90%, while in other types of settlements the rate varies between 15-85%, indicating a significant dispersion. Compared to 2010 the amount of treated waste water decreased by 37% in the county, this value is much higher than the national average.⁴⁵ In **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** 112 of 222 settlements are equipped with - partially or entirely - public utility sewage network in 2012. Sewage system agglomerations (small areas) have been formed by the settlements and as a result, the wastewaters of connected settlements are being cleaned in about 50 wastewater treatment plants. The proportion of households connected to the drainage system is 52% (2012). The county's major settlements - except Nagyecsed - have partial or full channel network. The vast majority of the municipalities, gravity type collection system networks were built. Low pressure system operates in four settlements, while a combination of the two systems in 10% of the settlements. Vacuum sewerage system is not functioning.⁴⁶

The persisting problem of all regions, in particular the rural ones, is the underdeveloped system of sewer networks and waste water treatment plants, which is also the cause of the high level of pollution of water courses. The share of inhabitants connected to sewerage with a waste water treatment plant in Slovakia increased but significant regional disparities also exist in this area. Development of public water supplies in **Košický and Prešovský regions** are lagging behind the national average.⁴⁷

In the **Romanian regions** the regional water systems need improvement and extension and at the same time, investments are needed for waste management. The quality of environment is needed to be improved; rehabilitation of contaminated sites and biodiversity protection is supported as part of the long-term sectorial strategies. In year 2012, the connection level of population to centralized water systems was only 56,7%. The **North-East Region of Romania** (including **Suceava County**) disposes a reduced share of localities and population connected to the drinking water network - 62,13% of connected localities (73,18% at national level in 2012), 45,25% of connected population (60,15% at national level), a reduced share of localities and population connected to the sewage network - 28,44% of connected localities (in 2012); 35,36% of connected population (46,78% at national level). The **North-West Region** of Romania (including **Maramureş** and **Satu Mare** counties) can be characterized by a series of polluting factors, uncontrolled storage of waste, contaminated industrial sites. Public utility infrastructure is critical, especially in rural areas and small cities. The majority of the Romanian cities in the eligible area face problems like water quality and improper waste management. In **Satu**

⁴⁴Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, National Institute of Statistics (Romania), Dwellings connected to the regular waste removal system in percentage of dwelling stock

⁴⁵Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

⁴⁶Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

⁴⁷National Regional Development Strategy Slovakia

Mare County the rate of households connected to the water pipework system takes up 52% on average (90% in urban areas and only 21% in rural areas). Public utility infrastructure and waste management infrastructure are insufficiently developed, though starting with year 2011 the county waste is being transported to the regional waste deposit so the impact on the environment is significantly reduced. In **Maramureş County** problems regarding sewage waters affect especially cities, land also localities that are lacking such systems, and due to non-purged or insufficiently purged mining waters as the final closure of mines and extraction activities were not followed by the construction of sewage plants for mining waters.⁴⁸

Wastewater treatment coverage is a less developed aspect of water service provision in the **Ukrainian regions**; the region is still significantly behind other parts of Europe in the area of wastewater treatment. The technical and construction standards (that are solid on technical grounds but often not concerned with economy of operation) still apply in Ukraine.⁴⁹

Solid waste collection

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the proportion of waste is household waste - despite the county's industrial nature - above the national average. Transported waste per capita is roughly equivalent to the national average. A significant proportion of homes involved in waste collection, which also exceeds the national average and a higher proportion of selective collection coated housing. However, the average of the amount of waste collected separately proportional to population is significantly lower than the national average. Since 2010, the waste in the county declined steadily. The county's waste management system developed in the framework of three separate regional waste management projects. The solid waste disposal sites (Sajókaza, Bodrogkeresztúr, Hejőpapi) can handle all of the county's municipal solid waste. In summary, the county has no urgent needs development regarding waste management; the performance of the county landfill disposals is suitable. However, because of the principles of modern waste management (recycling, energy efficiency) the systems should be developed and updated.⁵⁰ In **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** the amount of municipal solid waste transported has decreased in recent years from 267663 tons to 150626 tons. Level of selective waste collection from the public municipal solid waste is 4% (takes 6th place on national level). The selective waste collection included nearly 81 thousand homes (41.4% of homes) A total of 96 settlements are involved in separate waste collection.⁵¹

Košický Region belongs to smaller municipal waste producers in Slovakia. In 2007 waste production in the region increased (189.5 thousand t) and the region achieves a low percentage of waste utilization (4.8%). The percentage of inhabitants connected to the water supply system (76.3%), which is below the average of Slovakia, increased since 2004. On the other hand, only 57% of population is connected to the public sewerage network, which is also below the average of Slovakia. The region reports a decrease in the quantity of discharged waste waters. The level of their treatment is 75%, which is 20% less than in Prešovský Region.⁵² In 2003 **Prešovský** Region had the lowest municipal waste production

⁴⁸Development Plan of the North-West Region, Romania 2014-2020, Economic and Social Development Strategy of Suceava County, 2011-

⁴⁹<http://sos.danubis.org/eng/report/iv-access-to-services/c-wastewater-treatment>, 2012

⁵⁰Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

⁵¹Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

⁵²Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020, Municipal waste management in Slovakia

in Slovakia. In 2007 its production further decreased (187.9 thousand t) and Prešovský Region achieves the second highest percentage of its utilization (13.4%).⁵³

Generally, Romania has outdated technical equipment for waste management which does not comply demands for modern activities. However, with EU funds it has been implemented integrated solid waste management systems. Unlike 2003, in 2008 the amount of waste generated and uncollected is higher. **Maramureş County** Council is presently implementing the project titled „Integrated Waste Management System in Maramureş County”. County, through the improvement of services and reduction of the number of non-conform storage places in the county. The project is co-financed by the SOP Environment and will be finalized by 31.12.2015. The population covered by waste collection services in **Suceava County** the access is limited to sanitation services (only 61-69%).⁵⁴

In **Zakarpatska Region** because of the limited accessibility of the mountainous areas the existing problems with waste collection, recycling and disposal are more acute in comparison with the other regions. Problem of access to the areas lead to the problems of waste management, in particular with illegal waste dumps. In addition, a mountain river Tisza and its tributaries, which flow in Ukraine and in bordering countries – Slovakia and Hungary, indicate the need for a comprehensive approach to solving the problem of waste management in this area. The problem consists in the lack of equipment for the waste collection and transportation, recycling plants, as well as in education of population, especially living in the mountainous areas on waste collection and recycling. There is a need for construction of waste recycling plant; ordering, technical upgrading, rehabilitation and construction of landfills for the waste storage; purchase of equipment for the collection and transportation of waste (vehicles and waste containers); creation a network of points for solid waste collection; installation of units for biogas production etc. In **Ivano-Frankivska Region** waste landfills in Ivano-Frankivsk region are overflowed; construction of new solid waste faces opposition from citizens who want to protect the environment and recreational areas. This speaks for the need of waste recycling plants construction. According to the statistics, none of the 27 solid waste landfills in the region aren't constructed and operated properly. Mostly the landfills are not fenced, not each entrance is paved, most landfills work in overload; waste disposal process is not everywhere respected. The landfills are a source of intense pollution of atmosphere and groundwater. In **Chernivetska Region** there are 1 landfill, located in Chernivtsi, 10 dumps, located in cities and 305 dumps, located in villages. Technically, landfill doesn't correspond to requirements for safety waste storage and need to be reconstructed. Problems are also caused by some part of population, who often make illegal waste dumps. There is a need for construction of waste recycling plant; ordering, technical upgrading, rehabilitation and construction of landfills for the waste storage; purchase of equipment for the collection and transportation of waste (vehicles and waste containers); creation a network of points for solid waste collection; installation of units for biogas production etc.⁵⁵

Water resources to be protected

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the underwater and surface waters in the Bükk Mountains and Aggtelek Karst are highly sensitive, these are protected by law. Other protected areas are: Water Reservoir in Lázberc, catchment area of the Bódva and Hernád, area of the local settlements connected

⁵³Program of economic and social development of the Prešov Self-government Region for the period 2008-2015, Municipal waste management in Slovakia

⁵⁴ Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 and Economic and Social Development Strategy of Suceava County, 2011-2020 period

⁵⁵Based on the local experiences and data collection from regional documents of the Ukrainian local experts in the process of the planning the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020

with Tisza Lake. Important tasks are completing the drainage network of settlements in the catchment areas, and the efficient and appropriate treatment of municipal wastewater. Medical water wells located in Bogács certified Mezőkövesd and Tiszaújváros. Mineral water wells can be found in Bogács, Gönc, Miskolc, Sárospatak and Tiszaújváros. Near-surface water resources are more or less contaminated; soil and underground water almost everywhere in need of cleaning. The groundwater stocks contaminated mostly of iron, manganese, nitrate, ammonium, and bacterial contamination, water hardness problems also exist. Contamination is primarily caused by municipal and agricultural sources of pollution. The set of natural karst water resources are pure, but local pollution problems can occur.⁵⁶ **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** has 329,5 km long river section of which the Tisza River represents 250 km (enters top the Hungary at Tiszabecs Ukraine and leaves the county at Tiszadob), Szamos 49,5 km and River Túr 30 km length. Other major rivers are Kraszna and Lónyai Main Channel (Eastern Main Channel). Regarding the management point of view, rivers dispose favourable features, there are free water resources that can be utilized along all rivers of the county. The quality of surface and groundwater are better than the national average though it is important to state that the quality of waters is highly depend on the quality of the river in the neighbouring country where it comes from. The water quality of the tributaries arising from across the border - the Szamos, the Kraszna, the Túr - varies widely, according to the pollution quantity and sources (industrial, mining, municipal waste) of the other country. The area of water resources ensures the water needs of the local industry and agriculture. A total of 32 thermal wells some of with high iodide, bromide and fluoride content are located in the county.⁵⁷

In the **Slovak regions**, the most precious wealth of the region is nature, particularly the National park High Tatra is an important tourist centre. Mineral water reservoirs in several spas are also very important for regional tourism in the Prešovský Region. All rivers and their tributaries, also their catchment areas have to be protected in order to have healthy natural environment and ensure water resources for the locals. The main flow of the Kosice region represents Hornad River and its tributaries. Surface waters are polluted by sewage and industrial effluents mainly from city of Košice but also by pollution fed from the upstream part of the flow Torysa. The water quality is in the range II. - V. classes in each group of indicators. The worst class of water quality indicator shows coliform bacteria in the group of microbiological parameters, suggesting that there is the lack of urban waste water in villages. The major sources of water pollution are public sewerage of Kosice city and US Steel, s.r.o. Košice. Potential sources of water pollution is inappropriate manner of disposal of waste water in the municipalities of the Košice-okolie district, where only 8.85% of the total number of municipalities have the sewage system with wastewater treatment plant.⁵⁸

The natural Tisza River and its tributaries (Someş, Crişuri, Crasna, Tur and Barcău) of **Satu Mare County** and the mineral water springs (Sâgeorz, Anieş, Leghia, Someşeni, Bixad, etc.) and thermal waters (Acâş) are all included as water resources to be protected as these water sources are, in general, of good quality, but in continuous degradation. Concerning the quality of surface waters in the region none of the water sources are being classified in category I (very good state) in 2011, compared with 725 km in very good state in 2006. The quality of surface waters in **Maramureş County** (in 2010) from biological point of view is generally good and moderated, except for the following water surfaces: Cislă, Căvnic, Firiza, and Ilba – having a poor state, having a biological scarcity (lack of fish) and poorly represented non-vertebrate species. The greatest water quantities in **Suceava County** are being transported by the

⁵⁶Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

⁵⁷Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

⁵⁸ Based on information from Regional Development Plans for the concerned counties

rivers of which basins are situated in the mountain region so the protection of water can be achieved only through the reservation of quality in the mountain area. River Moldova has the largest hydrographical basin, being followed by river Bistrița and river Suceava. The standing waters comprise natural lakes of small dimensions and artificial lakes arranged for complex purposes: reserves of industrial and drinking water, protection against floods, fishery, etc. The most numerous artificial lakes are the 6 lakes along river Șomuzu Mare.⁵⁹

In **Zakarpatska Region** a source of water for the population is river water and groundwater. In addition, considering the location of the region, rivers are cross-border, so their protection from contamination is so important. The hydrographic network of the region consists of 152 rivers; length of each is more than 10 km. They all belong to the Tisza river basin. For protection of water of this basin the special body have been created – Water management department of Tisza basin, responsible for provision within the TiszaRiverBasin of state policy implementation in the field of management, conservation and restoration of water resources. However, rivers of the basin are polluted, in particular through the illegal waste storage etc., and consequently needs to be protected; such pollution leads also to bad quality of drinking water (water treatment plants are also outdated and need to be reconstructed). In **Ivano-Frankivska Region** there are 132 rivers; length of each is more than 10 km. They belong to the basins of two rivers - the Dniester and the Prut. In order to achieve good water quality, ensuring safe and efficient water use, biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecological situation in the basin in 2008 agreement on cooperation in use and protection of water resources of the Dniester river basin between the cities of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia and Odesa have been concluded. This agreement applies to water resources and water ecosystems of the Dniester river basin in Ukraine, including surface- and groundwater. Also in 2012 an international agreement for the protection of the Dniester river basin between Ukraine and Moldova has been signed. In **Chernivetska Region** flow 75 rivers; length each is more, than 10 km. They all flow into the Black Sea. The main rivers within the region are Prut and Siret (tributaries of the Danube) and Dniester (flows into the Black Sea). The protection of the rivers is regulated by regional and national target-oriented programs and national and international agreements. Thus, in 2008 agreement on cooperation in use and protection of water resources of the Dniester river basin between the 7 Ukrainian cities have been concluded. Also in 2012 an international agreement for the protection of the Dniester river basin between Ukraine and Moldova has been signed. Nevertheless, the rivers need to be protected more intensively, to ensure good quality of drinking water. It could be done only by means of proper waste management, qualitative waste water treatment, comprehensive measures on education of population etc.⁶⁰

Endangered species, invasive species

Most of the eligible area is covered by the Carpathians; covering an area of approximately 206,000 square km, the Carpathians are one of Europe's largest mountain ranges. Owing to its relatively intact habitats and particularly extensive forest complexes, the Carpathians are one of Europe's most valuable refuges of primeval forest fauna. This is possibly the last place in Europe where all "big game" species can be found. Moreover, Carpathian populations of brown bear, wolf and lynx, numbered in the thousands, are the largest montane populations of these species in Europe.

⁵⁹Based on the Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020, and Economic and Social Development Strategy of Suceava County, 2011-2020 period

⁶⁰Based on the local experiences and data collection from regional documents of the Ukrainian local experts in the process of the planning the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the less forested southern and south-western areas are characterized by the dominance of non-native species. Severe loss is the reductions of the high diversity hardwood forests (with high reproductive capacity) space of the floodplain. The protection of the areas along the Tisza the backwaters and lakes retained after the regulation of the Tisza, and natural floodplain vegetation characteristic of wetlands is a national interest. **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County**, does not have national parks; however, the size of the protected natural areas and nature reserves, the third highest among the Hungarian counties. The three forest reserves (Bockerek, and Déda, Bakta) located in the county also include a number of Natura 2000 sites.⁶¹

In the **Slovak Republic** there is more than one third of the indigenous species of plants in some level of endangerment. In Slovakia there has been described more than 28,800 animal species (including invertebrates), whereby the state of fauna endangerment is still more important (it is written in the Red lists). 769 is the total number of protected species living in the Slovak territory. Especially we should not forget to mention endemits, rare animal species living only in our country. It is for example a kind of a land slug named *Deroceras fatrense* and six-spot burnet or other invertebrates. Tatra chamois, marmot and Eurasian lynx belong among feral endemic species living in Slovakia. Great bustard is the biggest flying bird living in the European territory. Altogether there are about 50 species endangered and protected in the Slovak part of the cross-border area.⁶²

In the Romanian counties, due to the fact that some flora species are **endangered, vulnerable and rare**, they were placed on the list of protected species. Among these, one can mention the followings: Species of wild flora: *Cochlearia pyrenaica*, *Campanula alpina*, *Leontopodium alpinum*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Gentiana punctata*, *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Rhododendron kotschyi*, *Lychnis vernalis*, *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Pinus cembra* (representing about 4,26% out of the total existing flora species from **Maramureş County**). Species of wild fauna: *Rupicapra rupicapra carpatica*, *Marmota marmota*, *Lynx lynx*, *Tetrao urogallus*, *Lyrurus tetrix*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Corvus corax*, *Bubo bubo*, *Tyto alba guttata*, *Athena noctua*, *Asio otus*, *Stryx uralensis*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Huchohucho* (representing about 4,52% out of the total existing fauna species from Maramureş County). Threats and pressure on habitats, wild flora and fauna: infrastructure development, extension and development of human settlements, over exploitation of natural forests conducting to ecological disproportions in the mountain hydrographical basins, poaching of some species of hunting or economic interest.⁶³

Flora of **Zakarpatska Region** has more than 2000 species. Of these, 237 species of flora listed in the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 22 species of flora listed in the application of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Total number of species, listed in the Red Book of Ukraine is 263. There are around 600 species of invasive plants in the region. The greatest diversity of endangered species is concentrated in the Tisza river basin, where, 145 species of plants are listed in the Red Book. The total number of fauna species in the region is 30 428, which is 68% of the total number of animal species in Ukraine. 163 species are listed in the Red Book of Ukraine. In recent decades a number of invasive species of mammals and fish were revealed in the region. Flora of **Ivano-Frankivska Region** has over 1500 species of plants, more than half of the list of the flora of Ukraine. Almost a third of the natural flora of Ivano-Frankivsk, i.e. 418 species, requires full or partial protection. 162 species are listed in the Red Book of Ukraine and European Red List; 211 – in the Regional Red List. There are 3 species of invasive plants in the territory of the region. Fauna: Vertebrates are 435 species, mammals - 74 species, birds - 280

⁶¹<http://www.termesztvedelem.hu/>

⁶²<http://wwf.panda.org/>, <http://www.carpat.es.org/docs/publications/list.indd.pdf>

⁶³<http://wwf.panda.org/>, <http://www.carpat.es.org/docs/publications/list.indd.pdf>

species. About 200 species are in need of protection. Examples of invasive species to Ivano-Frankivsk region are well-known; they are Colorado beetle, nutria, musk-rat, black rat and other. Of the 1,600 species of flora in **Chernivetska Region** 2 species included in the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and 34 species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In general, the number of endangered species of vascular plants, algae, fungi and lichens amounted to 108. The fauna of Chernivtsi region is diverse. There are 118 species listed in the Red Book, 16 of them are listed in CITES, and 69 listed in the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. In the region there are no invasive species of animals.⁶⁴

Energy efficiency and renewable energy

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the goal is to reduce energy costs, as far as possible in parallel with the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the use of locally available and renewable energy sources. The implemented "Mikrovirka" program, with the use of local labour and local renewable energy sources built intelligently built up a so-called cooperative "Smart grid" system. In addition, in relation to forest cover dealing with the utilization of biomass for heating is particularly important, and can provide heating requirements of the local institutions and neighbourhood houses. In the county, the state of the art, new biomass power generation plants can be significant for locally produced biomass, which could reduce the county's dependence on hydrocarbon energy sources. The use of biomass not only elicits imported energy, but also enhances employment. Geothermal energy is an important source of renewable energy in the county, which can also be used to produce heat and electricity. The utilization of solar thermal and electrical energy use in the county is still a local need only. The environmentally-friendly solar energy could be substantial energy resource and cost savings can be achieved at the local level. Combination of solar equipment with biomass plants technologies may cause measurable changes.⁶⁵ In the current energy structure's renewable energy sources still play a minimal role in **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County**. However, due to the price of energy regulators and technological knowledge the use of these energy sources is increasing. In previous years, mostly the use of firewood characterized the supply and the Tiszalök Hydropower energy as renewable energy source was used. Today, more and more solar collector appears. Outstanding growth can be observed in the use of biomass, e.g. heating plant in Mátészalka. One of Europe's largest biogas plant was established in Nyírbátor. In the field of biomass utilization Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County has significant potential due to the high proportion of rural areas (however the raw materials for bio-energy are not used locally in the county). On the basis of geographical and hydrogeological structure Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County endowments of geothermal energy exploration are particularly favourable especially the Tiszavasvari-Nagyhalász-Kisvárda-Fehérgyarmat-Nagyecsed-Nagykálló area.⁶⁶

Solar energy has certainly the biggest potential in the territory of a cross border cluster (**Košice** self-governing region in Slovakia and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén region in Hungary). Solar energy is used by means of active solar systems to generate heat or electricity. Geothermal Energy has high potential as well. Geothermal waters in the area have lower temperatures between 45°C and 130°C, therefore these are suitable especially for heating. The all-important of them is the Košice basin (Ďurkov) with potential of about 300 MW. There are preparations underway to make use of the energy to heat the City of Košice, with a connection to the city central heat supply system. Biomass has very significant

⁶⁴Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

⁶⁵Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

⁶⁶Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

potential in both regions. It is comprised of materials of plant and animal origin, fit for energy utilisation. Biomass is considered in terms of CO₂ emissions to be a neutral fuel, since only as much CO₂ is released in burning it as is received by the plant while growing. Both Košický region and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County have moderate wind energy potential (600 GWH/y) as compared to seaside countries. There are few suitable sites in this country to install wind turbines, where winds average at least 5 m/sec.⁶⁷

The reduction of energy consumption and increased use of renewable energy resources are pressing challenges also for **Prešovský** region. The Prešov Region is witnessing a growing interest in the areas of renewable energy resources, green technologies and energy efficiency. The region is determined to play an active role in encouraging towns and municipalities to join the Covenant of Mayors with the aim of implementing long-term and sustainable energy policies in the region. The importance of such energy/climate alliances is gaining increased relevance, especially in light of the fast development and roll out of low-carbon emission technologies. In 2014 the European Investment Bank (EIB) was lending EUR 25 million to finance the development of public infrastructure in the Prešov Region. EIB funds will help to implement Regional Development Strategy of Prešov; the EIB will support the investment preparation of energy efficiency and renewable energy use in the region's public building stock via the European Union-funded ELENA facility. More specifically, the projects to be financed are aimed at upgrading the regional road network, developing education, social care and cultural facilities, as well as fostering energy saving measures and preventing floods. With the financial support made available through the ELENA facility (EUR 1.09 million) the Prešov Region will be able to prepare investments using innovative contractual set-ups like 'energy performance contracting', which will serve to refinance the investments through energy savings. The support will also help municipalities within the region to improve the energy performance of their buildings (schools, etc.) and public lighting.⁶⁸

According to the study titled „Study on the evaluation on the actual energetic potential of renewable energy sources from Romania” realised by the Ministry of Economy, the energetic potential of **Satu Mare County** is high, especially concerning hydro energetic, geothermal and biomass resources. An important reservoir in the county can be found underground, which could be exploited especially by drilling. According to the same study, as it concerns the identification of the best locations for the development of non-conventional electrical energy production, the localities of Satu Mare County can be placed in area III and are IV of solar radiation, representing a good and moderate potential, with a solar radiation intensity between 1200 and 1300 kWh/m²/year. The projects to be developed using this type of energy source can include the creation of photovoltaic parks on agricultural lands or the installation of photovoltaic panels on buildings with individual scope.⁶⁹

Zakarpatska Region has won first place in the energy efficiency ranking of Ukraine (Ukrainian Energy Index 2013), the results of which were presented at the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Forum. The overall efficiency of energy consumption in Zakarpatska was 64.3% of the EU level. In addition, Zakarpatska is one of 6 regions of Ukraine, where is a special pilot project to develop strategy of energy efficiency. It employs 4 areas- Mukachevo, Svalyava, Uzhhorod, Khust, which will be selected by 2 microprojects were communities. For this project in pilot areas and the region as a whole the Strategy (program) energy efficiency on 2015-2020 years and technical documentation have been

⁶⁷http://www.knowbridge.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=2&Itemid=16&lang=en

⁶⁸Program of economic and social development of the Prešov Self-government Region for the period 2008-2015, <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2015/2015-080-eib-continued-to-support-slovakias-growth-prospects-with-eur-556-million-in-2014.htm>

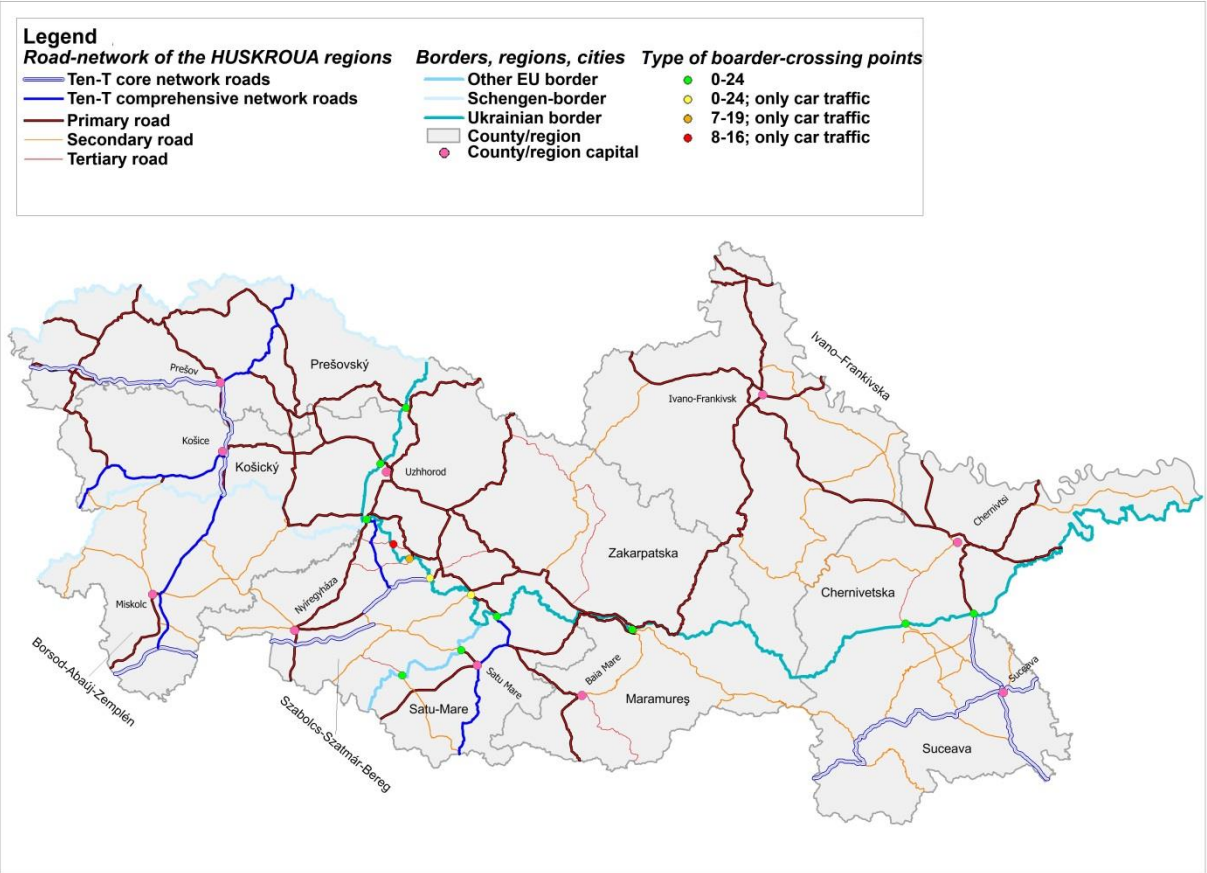
⁶⁹Study on the evaluation on the actual energetic potential of renewable energy sources from Romania

designed. However, the region is one of the few regions in Ukraine, receiving energy from generating sources, located in the territory of other regions. Thus, more than ninety percent of needs in electricity of the region are provided by Burshtynska TPS, located in the Ivano-Frankivska Region. By ranking on energy efficiency and renewable energy Ukrainian Energy Index (UEI) 2013 **Ivano-Frankivska Region** was determined as a region with medium “energy efficiency rate” (the region is on 11th place; its rate amounted to 58% of the EU level). Energy efficiency indicator in the region is for 3.8% higher than the average one in Ukraine. In assessing 4 areas - industry, agriculture, services, residential sector were considered. The largest share of energy consumption observed in the domestic households. According to ranking on energy efficiency and renewable energy Ukrainian Energy Index 2013 **Chernivetska Region** is one of the leading regions in terms of efficient energy consumption (the region is on the 5th place). Energy efficiency indicator in the region is for 8.5 % higher than the average one in Ukraine and constitutes 62.7% of the EU level.⁷⁰

10.1.4 Accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems (TO7)

Accessibility, transport

Traffic infrastructure development is one of the most important links between the countries, providing hundreds of opportunities for cross-border cooperation.



⁷⁰Ukrainian Energy Index 2013, Euro Stat, Strategy onEnergy Efficiency of Ukraine 2015-2020

Figure 26: Public road network in the HUSKROUA region (2014)

Source: <http://openmaps.eu/rastermaposmt>, <http://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=8/48.962/22.662>

Regarding the **motorways and main roads**, in the past ten years significant improvements have been accomplished and further developments are planned to eliminate missing links (e.g. motorway D1 in Slovakia) and bottlenecks as well as to improve the quality of infrastructure. It is especially important regarding the Ukrainian regions because of the low public road density.

County/Region	Length of national public roads	% of the eligible area	Length of railway lines	% of the eligible area	% in surface of the eligible area
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	2 156	11,6	391	7,3	7,2
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	2 585	13,9	510	9,5	8,7
Hungarian counties	4 741	25,5	901	25,5	15,9
Hungary	31 692		7570		
Košický	2 379	12,8	706	13,1	8,1
Prešovský	3 161	17,0	420	7,8	10,8
Slovakian regions	5 540	29,7	1126	29,7	18,9
Slovakia	18 044		3600		
Maramureş	1 783	9,6	207	3,8	7,6
Satu-Mare	1 715	9,2	218	4,0	5,3
Suceava	2 991	16,0	526	9,8	10,3
Romanian counties	6 489	34,8	951	17,6	23,2
Romania	84 185		10777		
Zakarpatska	636	3,4	604	11,2	15,4
Ivano-Frankivska	818	4,4	1384	25,7	16,8
Chernivetska	414	2,2	423	7,8	9,8
Ukrainian regions	1 868	10,0	2411	44,7	42,0
Ukraine	21 239		21700		
Eligible area	18 638		5389		

Table 7: Length and share of national public roads and railway lines compared to the territory (2012, km, %)

Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

The density of the road network (based on 2012 data) in the Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian regions is 350km road per 1000 km². Road density is slightly lower in Maramureş, where the value is 283km/1000 km². Road density of the Ukrainian areas is far below these values: in all three regions concerned the value for road density is 50-60km road/1000km². If we take a look at the roads between the counties/regions' seats of the cross-border area, we can see the data in terms of an unpleasant average speed which varies between 58.1 and 95.3 km/hour.

	Nyíregyháza	Miskolc	Košice	Prešov	Baia Mare	Satu Mare	Suceava	Uzhgorod	Ivano-Frankivsk	Chernivtsy
Nyíregyháza		95,3 km/h	59,0 km/h	65,4 km/h	64,4 km/h	65,0 km/h	66,5 km/h	67,4 km/h	66,0 km/h	61,8 km/h
Miskolc	116 km		59,9 km/h	70,2 km/h	78,3 km/h	70,4 km/h	72,0 km/h	65,3 km/h	73,6 km/h	68,1 km/h
Košice	123 km	87 km		75,5 km/h	78,3 km/h	65,1 km/h	72,7 km/h	60,4 km/h	63,8 km/h	64,5 km/h
Prešov	157 km	124 km	37 km		79,7 km/h	83,2 km/h	73,6 km/h	63,3 km/h	65,2 km/h	65,6 km/h
Baia Mare	162 km	269 km	346 km	381 km		61,6 km/h	67,0 km/h	64,4 km/h	58,2 km/h	58,3 km/h
Satu Mare	104 km	603 km	228 km	323 km	60 km		66,9 km/h	65,0 km/h	64,7 km/h	60,0 km/h
Suceava	491 km	598 km	675 km	710 km	346 km	388 km		58,1 km/h	65,3 km/h	65,2 km/h
Uzhgorod	93 km	149 km	97 km	116 km	176 km	143 km	420 km		64,5 km/h	65,1 km/h
Ivano-Frankivsk	341 km	448 km	350 km	375 km	252 km	273 km	222 km	257 km		62,3 km/h
Chernivtsy	442 km	549 km	491 km	516 km	314 km	351 km	83 km	398 km	136 km	

Table 8: Distance and average speed between county and regional seats

Source: maps.google.com

Infrastructural inequalities are also traceable concerning the **railway lines**. Railway lines are more accessible/dense in the southwest part of the cross-border region especially in the Slovak, Hungarian areas and in Satu-Mare in Romania. There is no rail connection between Chernivetska Region and Suceava County and also between Maramureş and Suceava counties. Cross-border railway connections are partly underused because of the long traffic time and the partly inadequate schedules.

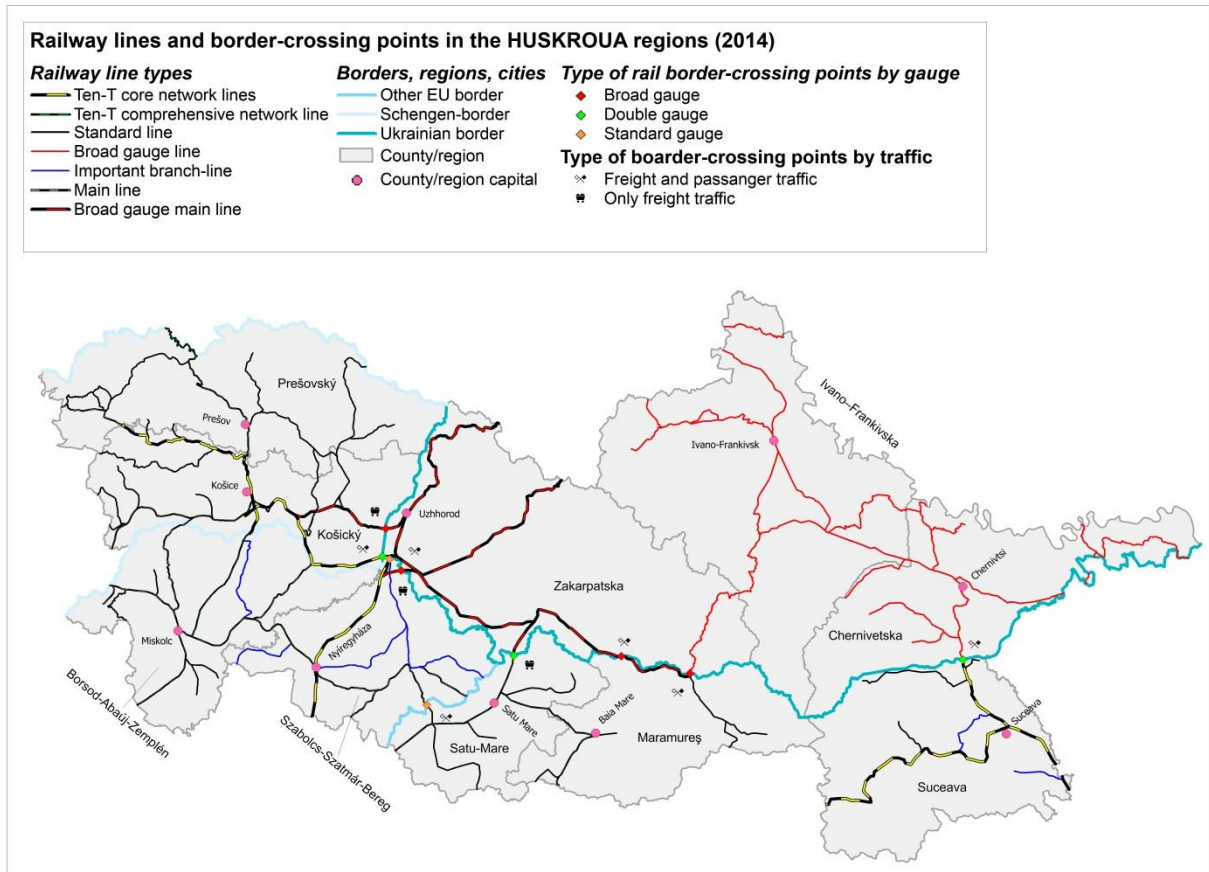


Figure 27: Railway lines and border crossing points in the HUSKROUA region (2014)

Source: <http://openmaps.eu/rastermaposmt>, <http://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=8/48.962/22.662>, <http://www.openrailwaymap.org/>

In **Hungary** slow traffic, bad road conditions, bottlenecks and lack of intermodal hubs can be observed in everyday life. In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén** the traffic from north to the south and vice versa overburdens some sections of the road network (TEN-T corridor V.) There are 4 railway BCPs (Miskolc-Košice railway line has international importance). Railway traffic does not support daily mobility. The non-used airport of Mezőkövesd would be suitable for international flights. The TEN-T corridor V. (motorway M3) crosses Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg. There are railway connections to Ukraine (Záhony the largest logistic centre in CEE, Eperjeske) and to Romania (Tiborszállás). Transport sector is a main source of air pollution. EuroVelo 11 is present. Deficiencies of transport system are: motorway M49, 2x2-lane main road 4, ferry crossings, and light railway.⁷¹

⁷¹Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept -2013, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012

In **Slovakia** investments should serve to fill the gaps and missing links in the infrastructure at national level and in the cross-border region with emphasis on the sustainable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective transport infrastructure due to the following facts: low quality of road network infrastructure, railway transport, intermodal transport, non-effective services of public transport, unserviceable integrated transport. The TEN-T corridors touch the region only without creating real North-South connections between the two neighbouring countries. In the Eastern area of the borderland there is a real need for a further North-South core network link. During the previous years, regression has been observed on rail traffic instead of expansion. However, daily commuting, strengthening of business and institutional cooperation shall force an increased integration of public transport facilities similar to the network developed around Vienna within the framework of Centrope initiative. The major part of the borderland suffers from a lack of proper transport connections that hinder the improvement of logistic facilities. Good logistic facilities could be better used in an integrated way and by creating cross-border intermodal logistics zones. The **Prešov Self-governing region** owns 17,5% of the road network of the Slovak Republic. Out of the roads, 19,8 % are primary, 16,5% secondary, 60,8 % tertiary. Share of highways is only 2.6%. The D1 motorway is the largest motorway linking across the Slovak territory from in the east-west direction and forms the backbone axis of the road network. The D1 motorway is part of the branch of the multimodal corridor following the route Bratislava - Žilina – Uzhhorod which significantly contributes to the improvement of accessibility especially in case of the links with Ukraine. The road infrastructure in the Prešov region is characterized by a relatively high density, but with a relatively low share of higher class roads. Prešov region ranks fourth in the density of the road network within the region in Slovakia. Low density of road networks in the region is in the districts of Kežmarok, Humenné and Snina, which is significantly influenced by the topography. Due to the high volume of cargo transit between Poland and Hungary in the region, it is necessary to address the completion of the expressway R4, which would serve the international transit traffic in that direction and improve mutual availability of Košice and Prešov with Miskolc, Budapest and Rzeszow. The rail network is insufficient as it consists of 420 km of railway lines and 41 km Tatra Electric Railway. The density of the railway network in the region in miles per 1 000 km² is 46.75 kilometres. The average density of railway lines in Slovakia is 73.26 km per 1 000 km² and Prešov has the lowest value of this indicator in Slovakia. The railway link is missing in the north-eastern part of the area in the districts of Stropkov and Svidník. In terms of air transport Prešov region has a dominant role with the international Poprad-Tatry airport. Regarding **Košický region**, Kosice Airport is a public civil airport for domestic and international air traffic. It provides scheduled and non-scheduled air transport. The passport and customs control is available 24 hours per day. The current condition of the airport, due to an increase of performances is not sufficient and in the near future the airport is preparing for its expansion, i.e., building new capacities for standing and parking of aircraft at the airport Košice. Terminal for passengers is one storey air-conditioned indoor facility; part of the terminal is the connection to the existing road transport. Location of Košice International Airport is about 6 km south of the city of Kosice and is located 10 minutes from the city of Kosice, 30 minutes from Prešov and 20 minutes from Slovakia - Hungary border. The length of the road network in Košický region is 2,379 thousands kms. The region accounts for 13.26 % for the length of the road network in Slovakia. Kosice region contributes only 10.3% on first-class roads of Slovakia. In terms of length of roads Košický region is comparable to other regions, but has a higher proportion of lower-level roads (2nd and 3rd class). In the Košický region there is along 586 km of roads II. class and 1421 km of roads III. class) and there is only a short stretch of highway. The density of the road network in relation to the size of the area in the Košický region is lower than average in Slovakia. The trend in recent decades, suburbanization, is the main challenge for urban transport. It increases the need for individual transport modes, thereby road congestion and adverse environmental impacts. 40% of CO₂ emissions

and 70% of emissions of other pollutants originate from urban transport. The worst quality of 2nd class roads are in the district of Košice-okolie, Rožnava, Spišská Nová Ves, and Gelnica. 1,379.46 km of the total length of roads are 3rd class (260 km) in a bad condition and 17,4 kilometres (1.26%) in a state of disrepair. The railway transport infrastructure in **Košický region** is characterized by a rather high density network with outdated technology; the technical basis of railway infrastructure is not sufficiently prepared to changing conditions and structure of the transport market. This situation is mainly due to the low technical level and quality of technical base rail and by its neglected maintenance and insufficient recovery. The backbone of the railway infrastructure network consists of the so-called SR triangle, whose arms form a line: Košice - Žilina - Bratislava and Bratislava - Zvolen - Košice. The other tracks are complementary or connecting basic corridors, and tracks of local and regional importance. Railway network is managed by the Slovak Railways (Železnice Slovenskej republiky). In the Košický region there is no narrow-gauge railway (except recreation Children's Railway in Košice). Broad track leads from Ukraine through Maťovce to Haniska in Kosice. It was built for the transport of raw materials from Zakarpatska to US Steel Ltd. Košice. The construction length of lines operated in the Košický Region is the largest - 706 km, which constitutes 20% of the total length of the railways on the Slovak territory (3592 km). Combined transport terminal in Dobra is located on the V. Pan-European rail corridor (Venice - Bratislava - Žilina - Košice – Čiernanad Tisou - Lviv and close to the transfer station in Čiernanad Tisou, the border with Ukraine and Hungary), offers in addition to the standard services provided in terminals also the transition of goods from broad gauge to normal gauge and vice versa. In Kosice region, indicative 60% of rail stops are in a poor state of repair (no waiting rooms, no toilet, no shelter, devastated, polluted). This fact is largely affecting passengers when choosing the type of public transport (train, bus). They are mostly stops and stations without employees due to the cancellation of sale of travel documents, or reducing the workforce. Significant impact on the low number of candidates on the rail has a location of the train stops outside of built-up areas and villages without access paths, and lighting.⁷²

Romania is ranked in the last place in Europe as regards the length of highways per 100.000 inhabitants. The road transport network is mainly (90%) made of two-lane roads, which presents a high risk for accidents, 4 times higher than at the highways. The critical state of road transport infrastructure is leading to a low level of inter-connection with the main economic and urban centres, and also with other intermodal transport nodes as ports and airports. Taking into consideration the existing deficiencies, the continuation of the highway constructions is necessary, in order to finalize the road networks situated on the central TEN-T network, even as the rehabilitation, modernization and enlargement of national roads, and construction of ring roads of localities. Regarding railway transportation, the length of electrical railways was 4.020 km, representing only 37,3% out of total length of railways, while the density of lines on 1000 sq km was only 45,2% (Source: *INSSE, 2012*). The wagon park is outdated (having more than 35 years of operation), and its use is inefficient (with a rate of utilization around 55%). The **North-East Region of Romania** can be characterized by reduced degree of modernization of county and communal roads, urban localities that are not connected primarily or secondarily to the road or railway TEN-T network. The **North-West Region of Romania** presents a relative isolation of the region in relation to the Pan-European transport corridors and the central TEN-T network, lack of highways, express ways and rapid railways to assure the connection with urban poles from other regions and countries, and the connection to the TEN-T network, reduced level of modernization of the road network, especially of county and local/communal roads, and railways, as well as lack of intermodal terminals for goods transport, low level of accessibility to some areas of the

⁷² Based on the Partnership Agreement of the SR for the years 2014 – 2020 and the related regional development programmes

country, resulting in the low level of attractiveness reduced level of investments, and poorly developed county road network with inadequate quality. Rate of non-modernized county roads (ballast-roads and cart-roads) in comparison to total county roads is still high (25% are not surface-roads in 2012). There is a lack of facile access to TEN-T corridors, and consequently to cities, which leads to the lack of mobility concerning a significant rate of labour force from rural areas. **Satu Mare County** has a peripheral location, therefore the direct access to the major transportation corridors is not ensured. In addition, the lack of a ring-road for Satu Mare City (the major traffic node of the county) and motorways, secondary national and county roads in poor condition can be mentioned as the disadvantages of this area. The railway infrastructure is in extremely bad condition, lacks of intermodal transport centres and other facilities and regular international flights (only inland flights to Bucharest operated by the TAROM operator). Regarding cross-border connectivity, the border of the North-Western region with Hungary is 265 km, with 4 border crossing points on road (persons and goods) and 2 railway border crossing points. Although the average distance between the border crossing points is 45 km, many settlements from the border region have reduced accessibility to these points due to the lack of connections, the degraded stage of roads or discontinuity of traffic networks. During the 2007-2013 programming period the construction of a number of 10 new cross-border roads was financed, but these cannot be used until the accession of Romania to the Schengen Space. The Borş - Ártánd and Petea - Csengersima border crossing points are amongst the most used on the Hungarian border, absorbing cca.25% of the road traffic along the border (15.000 vehicles from and 11.000 vehicles to Hungary each day, out of which cca. 40% trucks). Cross-border mobility is being hindered by the lack of TEN-T connections, the suspension of works to the Transylvania highway and lack of electrification on the TEN-F line. The road and rail traffic speed is the lowest between the municipalities of Satu Mare and Nyíregyháza, on this route the average speed being 57,3 km/h on road and 29 km/h on rail. The length of the border between the North-Western region and the neighbouring Ukrainian oblasts is 250 km (185 km terrestrial and 65 km fluvial on the Tisa river). On the 162 km border line belonging to **Maramureş County** there are 3 border crossing points, out of which one is assuring the railway connection with Ukraine. From Satu Mare to Ukraine there is one border crossing point, namely Halmeu – Diakovo (on road, goods traffic and railway), which is being developed through a large scale ENPI project of 7 million EUR (titled: the development of the Halmeu-Dyakove border crossing point, financed by the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013). The transport of people and goods on the external border of the European Union is being hindered by the reduced number of border crossing points and lack of their modernization, which is being a problem mainly to the inhabitants of Maramureş County. In the same time, one could mention the poor quality of roads and the differences between the railway gauges. Railways from the border region are also assuring links with Slovakia and Poland. The chances of the opening of new border crossing points with Ukraine are remaining reduced until the signature by Ukraine of a Partnership Agreement with the EU within the Eastern Partnership that would also ensure the access of Ukraine to the European economic space.⁷³

Zakarpatska Region is located in the south-west of Ukraine and is the geographical center of Europe. The main components of the transport space of Zakarpatska are the following: (i) favourable geographical and economical location at the intersection of the borders with Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Romania; (ii) availability of powerful transport hub Chop-Mukachevo-Batyevo-Uzhgorod (railways, motorways, air transport, in perspective - water transport) (iii) passage of the 5th (Crete) international transport corridor (Trieste-Ljubljana-Budapest-Bratislava-Chop-Lviv); (iv) opportunities, open due to the Laws of Ukraine "On special economic zone" Zakarpatska" and "On special investment regime in

⁷³Development Plan of the North-West Region of Romania 2014-2020

Zakarpatska". Thus, the region is an important transportation corridor between Europe and Asia. The strategic goal is the development and establishment of border transport infrastructure through full and effective use of existing and potential transport capacities of Zakarpatska. Traffic capacities of the region are 52 million tons of export, import and transit cargo per year. Cargo turnover of transport enterprises in 2013 amounted to 6763.6 million ton-km and increased in comparison to 2012 for 12.4%. Passenger turnover in 2013 decreased in comparison to 2012 for 8.5% and amounted to 1319.9 million pas-km. Length of motorways in the region is 3347,8 km, including 1100.4 km - national roads and 2247,4 - local roads, of which only 340 km belong to roads of I and II categories. Not less important in the region is railway transport, which serves for 42 % of cargo turnover and 40% of passenger turnover. Its infrastructure is less developed. Operational length of railways in the region is 604,4 km. One of the priorities of "Regional Development Strategy of Zakarpatska to 2015" is "development of tourism and recreation sectors" in the region. It is necessary to restore the railway connection from village Dilove through Romanian city Sighetu-Marmatiei to the village Teresva. It would connect railway systems of Zakarpatska, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions and create access to many cities in Romania. Therefore, based on the modern requirements of international transport market it is necessary to turn the efforts on improving border transport infrastructure, which will primarily have positive impact on the economy of cross-border regions. **Ivano-Frankivska Region** is located in the southwest of Ukraine and has beneficial geographic and transit location. Through an extensive network of paths the region is connected with many important economic regions of Ukraine and neighbouring countries in Europe, it is located in the area of international transport corridors, at the intersection of European routes. In the north of the region runs the European route E50 (France - Russian Federation), highways E40 (Venice - Kyiv) and E85 (Baltic Sea – Black Sea). The transport system of the region is represented by rail, road, air transport and includes 496 km of rail tracks, 4172,6 km of paved roads and 60,3 km of trolleybus lines. The largest share in cargo transportation accounted for road transport, but in recent years share of rail transport is growing. A similar situation is observed in the sector of passengers' transportation. Approximate annual cargo turnover by rail and road amounted to 12.5 million tons (rail - 3.3 million tons, road transport – 9,2 million. tons) and annual passenger turnover – 99,3 million passengers (rail – 6,3 million, road (bus) - 73 million passengers, trolleybus – 20 million passengers). Since Ivano-Frankivsk region is strategically focused on the development of tourism, an important perspective and need of this subsystem is improving the long-distance bus and rail traffic in the region, as well as signing agreements with international airlines to provide cheap air transportation from EU countries. In addition to this, the transport system within the territory of the region has to be reformed. **Chernivetska Region** is classified as the area with a high rate of transit, since it is the border region. Chernivtsi region has favourable transport and geographical location, a dense network of railways and roads, pipelines and power lines. The regional centre has convenient railway communication with European capitals: Bucharest, Sofia, Belgrade, and Moscow. The transport system of Chernivtsi region is an important tool for achieving social, economic, political and other goals, which ensures increasing quality of life. The study of the current state of the regional transport system development and functioning shows that it has significant opportunities and capacity reserves to service both domestic and international transportation, but its quality doesn't correspond to international standards. The state of the transport subsystem of Chernivtsi region can be characterized as unsatisfactory, despite the fact that region borders with two countries - Moldova and Romania. Network of public roads in the region consists of 2885.5 km roads, of which 117.3 km (4,1%) are the national roads and 95,6 km (3,3%) – international roads. The density of roads in the Chernivtsi region is 0.36 km per 1 m², what is higher than the average national level (0.28 km per 1 m²). For the low level of technique of roads speaks the fact that only 0.4% of all roads (namely 10,3 km) are equipped with electric lines. Sidewalks are only on 18,5% of the roads. The total length of road markings is only

1261 km, i.e. 43,7% of the total length of roads. In addition to this, some bridges, which connect the settlements, are in disrepair (since floods in 2008, 2010). To solve the numerous problems with the transport infrastructure it is necessary to analyse state of roads and bridges in the region, to repair roads of national and local importance, to provide high-speed rail and air links, to make markings.⁷⁴

Public transport according to the opinion of the participants of the stakeholder workshops, crossing the borders using public transport services is not an easy process. Cross-border public transport services basically hardly exist. There is no transport company offering its services across the border without changes. Public transport lines rest then turn back when reaching the borders. Passengers have to cross the border on foot and take another service meanwhile the timetables are not harmonised. The timeframe of crossing the border to/from Ukraine is unpredictable which makes the usage of public transport services more inconvenient.

10.1.5 Common challenges in the field of safety and security (TO8)

Floods

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the vast majority (more than three-quarters) of the catchment areas of the natural watercourse is situated abroad, so the water quality of the transboundary rivers (Tisza, Bodrog, Sajó, Hernád, Bódva) is heavily dependent on the natural factors and human interventions of the neighbouring countries. The upper section of the Tisza River and its tributaries has particularly fierce flows. Frequently, due to a heavier rainfall the border sections can indicate up to several meters of water level rise in one day in any time of year. There is no continuous flood protection system was built in the valley of the Sajó and Hernád, it is protected by bay areas and open spaces alternate each other. The Upper Tisza Region is at a high risk regarding floods. The Tisza floods approximately in every 1,5-2 years on average, more severe floods are in every 5-6 years, extraordinary floods take place from in every 10-12 years. Especially sensitive areas from the aspect of floods and inland water are Bodroghöz and Taktaköz which define the arability of the land and the development of the settlements.⁷⁵ Regarding the county's environmental safety, flood protection is the most important risk factor in **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County**. The county's flood threat is extremely high according to both national and international standards. The county's specificities that have a significant impact of floods: the bed of Tisza River is a series of pools, flood means the staying and storing water and that results in the slow passing and durability of significant flood levels. The flood situations on Tisza are strongly influenced by its tributaries; the outflow of the floods by the changes in water level of the Danube River. The annual peak water level can be observed in the spring and winter months. The further development of the national Vásárhelyi Plan plays an important role in solving the threatening situations; with its help the level of flood risk can be significantly reduced.⁷⁶

In **Košický Region** floods can occur throughout the year. In the spring and during summer floods appear most often due to a combination of precipitation and melting snow. In summer and autumn it is due

⁷⁴Based on the relevant and existing regional data and development programmes/plans

⁷⁵Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

⁷⁶Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

to convective storms, as well as regional rainfall. In the winter time it is due to the sudden melting of snow or freezes due to flow. During floods in period of January–August 2010 in the Košický Region 170 villages were affected in the districts of Trebišov, Košice-surroundings, and Michalovce. Uncorrected river basins, damaged dams, protective equipment, etc. increase the risk in flood damage, or may even cause further potential flood hazard. The problem associated with current flood situation is also financing of water services performed in the public interest. The situation has not improved even after transferring water from the agriculture sector to the Ministry of the Environment in 2003. There has been, however, a fundamental change that has been adopted legislation (Law no. 364/2004 on water and the Law no. 666/2004 on the protection of flood) that addresses the funding system of watercourses and drainage basins management and determine what is to be paid by the water users and by the state. The Government in order to ensure the reduction of flood risk in 2011 approved by order č.556 / 2010 of 27.8.2010 the preparation of a project Program Landscape Revitalisation and Integrated River Basin Management for the selected area of the country. In the Košický Region in the project are involved municipalities MaláLodina and Svinica in district Košice okolie (catchment area of Hornád), and Košice city district Ťahanovce. Kosice Self-governing Region and the Agency for Regional Development Košice in cooperation with the Prešov Self-governing Region, Slovak Water Management Enterprise and Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute are implemented the project "Improving flood management and flood protection planning for the Hornád basin in Slovakia". The main objective of the project is to improve urban planning and reducing economic losses due to flooding in the basin of Hornád (in the Košice Self-governing Region territory from the water reservoir of Ružín till south of the border with Hungary).⁷⁷

Extremely heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding, as well as long periods of drought resulting from global warming of the atmosphere, have generally increasing the frequency of occurrence in the territory of eastern Slovakia. Floods in **Eastern Slovakia** caused by extreme rainfall during local storms generally belong to the most destructive within the Slovak Republic. This requires a substantial change in access to water in the country with the need to increase its retention capacity in order to slow down runoff especially in periods with abundant rainfall and create water reserves for droughts periods. The specific problem of Eastern Slovakia, in particular of the **Prešovský region**, is a strong danger of floods. In the years 1993 - 2005 critical situation in the region was recorded up to 10 times as a result of flood, and more than 50 people died. According to experts opinion the increased threat of flooding in Eastern Slovakia is resulting, inter alia, from improper method of land and forestry management. In particular, in the Eastern lowland, Košice, Hornád and Poprad basins and Spišskošarišskémedzihorie the large blocks arable land are prevailing with a minimum representation of eco-stabilizing elements in the landscape structure. The areas of forests an permanent grasslands have the most important role to ensure the retention capacity and ecological stability of the country. The current state of most of the rivers and their catchment areas can be characterized from the flood protection measures as follows: significantly reduction of the natural retention capacity of river basins and increasing the speed of surface runoff in the country, thereby increasing the risk and frequency of floods, erosion rates is increasing and thus results in the reduction of soil fertility (especially in mountain and foothill areas), and there was a substantial reduction of the ecological functions of watercourses and thus the degradation of the natural aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Given the fact that retention capacity of the country has a direct impact on flood hazard area, it is necessary to address this issue comprehensively in a river basin as a whole. At present, however, there are still an important part of flood control the treatment of courses, construction of reservoirs, flood protection dikes, pumping stations of internal waters and drainage channels. Special role in mitigating the effects of flood waves

⁷⁷Plan of Regional and Social Development of Kosice Self-governing Region

are in eastern Slovakia dams such as Domaša and Vihorlat (ZemplínskaŠírava), Starina and dry polder Beša. Integral part of flood control measures is also provision of coordinated approach in flood protection with neighbouring countries on transboundary waters.⁷⁸

In the **North-West region of Romania** (Maramureş and Satu Mare counties) floods have the highest frequency in spring, as a result of melting snow, along with abundant spring showers, but also in summer, as a consequence of torrential showers. In spite of some hydro technical works undertaken for the protection against floods, a great number of territorial public administrations are still affected by this type of hazards. The most affected areas are the Ecedea Plain, the Lower Plain of Someş, and the plain of Criş rivers, namely Satu Mare, Maramureş and BistriţaNăsăud counties. There are floods each year in these counties, with material damages of different size. A significant share of the region, including the mentioned three counties, is part of the TisaHydrographicalBasin, with Ukrainian, Slovakian, and Hungarian neighbouring territories, a basin presenting one of the highest flooding risks at European level. The majority of floods are being caused by forest exploitations.⁷⁹ **Suceava County** is representing a risk area as it concerns floods, on a surface of 51.756 ha, in regions crossed by the major rivers of the county (Suceava, Moldova, Siret), as well as in hilly areas between Dragomirnei plateau and Obcina Mare, crossed by the smaller rivers of the county flowing mainly into river Suceava.⁸⁰

In **Ukraine** the Tisza and its tributaries in the Zakarpatska indicate the need for a comprehensive approach to solve the problem of environmental factors. The great influence on the origin and formation of human impacts of floods as those have caused a decrease in large areas of mature forest area and change their species composition, development and results of economic activity in areas endangered by floods. Activities regarding flood protection in Zakarpatska waterworks began in the 18th century. Some of them need to be reconstructed and renovated. Dams of different heights do not create a single complex that could provide reliable flood protection; their design does not meet modern technical requirements. The problem also lies in the fact that the current state of infrastructure and hydraulic flood control structures in Zakarpatska does not protect the population, industrial facilities and agricultural land from the harmful effects of water.⁸¹

General phenomenon is that the **frequency and level of floods** are continuously rising. The rising of these values are clearly could be shown by river Tisza which is the biggest river in the region (flood levels had been raised even after 21 months for 3 sampling stations with more than 50 centimetres):

Water sampling station by River Tisza	Standard flood level (2010)	Standard flood level (2013)	Difference from 2010 to 2013 (cm)	Standard flood level (2014)	Difference from 2013 to 2014 (cm)
Tiszabecs	120,96	122,74	+178	122,74	0
Túr- firth	117,32	118,89	+157	118,89	0
Tivadar	114,69	116,60	+191	116,6	0
Szamos- firth	111,99	113,43	+144	113,43	0
Vásárosnamény	111,83	113,08	+125	113,08	0

⁷⁸Program of economic and social development of the Prešov Self-government Region for the period 2008-2015

⁷⁹Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020

⁸⁰Economic and Social Development Strategy of Suceava County, 2011-2020 period

⁸¹The Comprehensive flood protection in the basin.Tisza in Zakarpatska region for the period till 2015

Water sampling station by River Tisza	Standard flood level (2010)	Standard flood level (2013)	Difference from 2010 to 2013 (cm)	Standard flood level (2014)	Difference from 2013 to 2014 (cm)
Kraszna firth	111,56	112,86	+130	112,86	0
Lónya	108,50	110,20	+170	110,2	0
Záhony	106,17	106,84	+67	106,84	0
Dombrád	102,62	103,86	+124	103,86	0
Tiszabercel	100,30	101,26	+96	101,85	+59
Lónyay main channel firth	99,20	100,18	+98	100,82	+64
Bodrog firth	98,49	99,43	+94	99,35	-8
Tokaj bridge	98,49	98,50	+1	99,3	+80

Table 9: Comparison of flood level values

Source: IstvánDajka: The Upper Tisza flood situation in the light of the new standard flood levels (2010), 16/2013. (III.12.) VM Regulation (HU), 74/2014 (XII.23.) BM regulation

Floods in the **Hungarian and Ukrainian catchment area** of the Upper Tisza became more and more intense compared to all previous floods over the last 20 years, and major flood control improvements were made. Calculations according to modelling and related to developments predict that water levels could rise nearly 20% by 2050. Climate change affects all rivers in the programme area and can only be successfully handled and fought only in cooperation of all the countries concerned.

Water resources, catchment areas

TiszaRiver is the major watercourse in the water network of in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén**, which enters the territory at Zemplénagárd and leaves at Tiszavalk. The county's rivers belong to the TiszaRiverBasin. The Sajó - before it flows into the Tisza collects the waters from Hernád and Bódva rivers. Bodrog River enters the Tisza at Tokaj. The county is rich in surface water and emerging water resources, but the level and runoff of rivers (streams) is very uneven due to the distribution of rainfalls. Besides natural water bodies, the following major reservoirs are important in the area: LakeHámor, reservoir in Lázberc and the Rakaca Reservoir. Drinking water and industrial water are supplied by karst water resources (e.g. Szinva source, Tapolca sources). The hot water sources of the Bükk and Zemplén Mountains created the basics of spa culture in the region. There are thermal wells that created spas in Bogács, Mezőkövesd, Miskolc-Tapolca, Sajóhídvég and Sárospatak (Végardó). The water supply of rural areas is ensured by groundwaters and soil layer waters (e.g. Artesian wells). The overuse of valuable karst water resources is being a serious environmental threat for decades, despite the fact that rainy weather of the past few years has filled the largest karst aquifer rocks reserves. Besides this, another significant task is the development of areas without sewerage and the reduction of pollution resulting from inappropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides.⁸²**Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** has 329,5 km long river section of which the Tisza River represents 250 km (enters top the Hungary at Tiszabecs Ukraine and leaves the county at Tiszadob), Szamos 49,5 km and River Túr 30 km length. Other major rivers are Kraszna and Lónyay Main Channel (Eastern Main Channel). Regarding the management point of view, rivers dispose favourable features, there are free water resources that can be utilized along all rivers of the county. The quality of surface and ground waters are better than the national average

⁸²Borsod-Abaúj-ZemplénCounty Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

though it is important to stated that the quality of waters is highly depend on the quality of the river in the neighbouring country where it comes from. The water quality of the tributaries arising from across the border - the Szamos, the Kraszna, and the Túr - varies widely, according to the pollution quantity and sources (industrial, mining, municipal waste) of the other country. The area of water resources ensures the water needs of the local industry and agriculture. A total of 32 thermal wells some of them with high iodide, bromide and fluoride content are located in the county.⁸³

In the **Prešovský** region there are upper sections of the main flow of Hornád, Torysa, Topľa, Ondava and Laborec, which are not yet significantly affected by anthropogenic activities. An exception is the river Poprad, the entire river basin of which is in Slovakia in Prešov region and on its 137 river kilometer passed to Poland. Also, two water reservoirs located in the Presov region, Starina and particularly Veľká Domaša significantly hydrologically, but also qualitatively affect the streams in which they lie. River basin of Poprad river includes a very important area of High Tatras mountains, where are eleven of water flows, which are being used to supply the whole area by drinking water. The water quality of these streams of water, which are the most important left tributary of the river Poprad is good, suitable after treatment for drinking purposes. A handicap is their low mineralization and also microbiological properties. Downstream of therapeutic, recreational and sports complex there is evidence of pollution of tributaries and the pollution is transported to the river Poprad. A substantial part of the groundwater resources in the Prešovský region, according to the decree of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic no. 151/2004 of 20 March 2004 on the requirements for drinking water and drinking water quality control, is satisfactory without requiring a demanding treatment. However, there are sites of groundwater resources with problematic and/or threatened quality of water, in which some sources are even proposed by Health Service for removal from use. These are the sites:

- river sediments of Cirocha river from Snina until the estuary and Laborec river from Humenné with continuation in **Košický Region**, containing increased concentrations of iron and manganese, oil substances and aggressive carbon dioxide,
- river sediments of Ondava river from Domaša with the continuation behind the border of Prešov region infiltrate surface waters of Ondava river, leading primarily to an increase in the values of NEL, ammonium and secondary of iron and manganese,
- Poprad river sediments, with the water typically containing high levels of iron, manganese, oil products and higher temperature,
- groundwater in alluvial sediments of Topľa river showing relatively good quality. However, the increased pH, chlorides, organic matter (CODMn) and coliform bacteria.

Some of the listed components in the waters of alluvial deposits of the rivers, especially in lowland areas have a natural origin (iron, manganese, high carbon dioxide, ammonium compounds, as well as sulphates and chlorides). Most of these resources are situated into the valley plains, used mainly in agriculture. There is also the industry, settlements, roads, railways and streams in the area of which the water sources are usually contaminated.⁸⁴

Rivers of **Zakarpatska Region** are geographically located and belong to the basin of one of the largest tributaries of the Danube River - the river Tisza, which is the main waterway area in the region. The total length of the river Tisza is 967 km, Ukrainian part - 262 km. The total basin area has 157 thousand kilometers (in the territory of Ukraine – 11.3 thousand km.). The river is formed by the confluence of the White and Black Tisa near Rakhov city in Zakarpatska. Main tributaries: Apshynets, Kosovo, Teresva, Derbachka, Tereblya, Borzhava. The rivers Prut and Dniester are flowing either through territory of **Ivano-Frankivska** or **Chernivetska Regions**. The Prut river is the left tributary of the

⁸³Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

⁸⁴Program of economic and social development of the Prešov Self-government Region for the period 2008-2015

Danube. The river originates from a spring on the Goverla slope. Length of the river is 967 km (in Ukraine - 272 km), basin area - 27 500 km². The main tributaries in the territory of Ukraine are: Pistinka, Rybnitsa, Cheremosh, Tlumachik, Chornyava. The Dniester river, which is the 3rd longest river in Ukraine and 9th in Europe, flows through territories of Ukraine (in Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi regions) and Moldova, and flows into the Black Sea forming the Dniester estuary. The average annual consumption of water in the estuary amounted to 300 m³ per second. The main tributaries in the territory of Ukraine are: Stry, Svicha, Limnytsya, Zbruch, Smotrych, Ushytsya. According to the experiences of the past years, **the contamination of the rivers** crossing the border, caused by the insufficient solid waste and waste water collection treatment systems is an existing problem.⁸⁵

Natural and man-made disasters, emergency situations

In **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the importance of disaster management enhanced due to the appreciation of the 2006 and 2010 floods. In 2010 Bódva broke the dam at Edelény causing huge damage to the people living there; in 2010, they floods followed each other on Sajó and its two tributaries, the Bódva and Hernád so the damns in the county should have been fortified and protected 630 km long; in spite of this, Felsőzsolca and Edelény was flooded. Extreme quantity of rain and snow could easily cause emergency situations as the management and protection against these situations are not fully resolved.⁸⁶ As it is mentioned earlier **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** possesses an extremely high flood threat according to both national and international standards resulting from the county's specificities that have a significant impact of floods and its dependence of the neighbouring countries where the rivers stem and where flows into. Man-made disasters are not typical in both the Hungarian counties. In case of disasters and emergency situations the county departments of the National Directorate for Disaster Protection provide support.⁸⁷ In Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County a civil-based rescue team has been organised to support the tasks of the national body.

Slovakia presently faces neither situations of disaster nor conflict. In the recent period some areas of the Slovak Republic were affected by floods caused by the increased storm activity. In this connection the Slovak Republic has made a considerable effort with the aim to stabilize situation and remove caused damages. The Slovak Republic has a specific mechanism to deal with disasters arising from relevant legal acts (the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on Civil Protection of Population, the Concept of Organization and Development of Civil Protection by 2015, Act on Management of the State in Crisis Situations except for the Wartime and Hostilities, Act on Integrated Rescue System, Act on Fire Protection, Act on Mountain Rescue Unit, Act on Flood Protection and the other operational documents including Territory Emergency Analysis, Population Protection Plan, Evacuation Plan, Plan of material and technical equipment of civil protection units, documentation for radiological, chemical and biological measures).

Cross-border relevance of the fires in Zakarpatska Region regarding the Slovak eligible regions can be stated that the NPO "Agency for Investment, Innovation and Development" together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Slovakia and Emergency Department of Zakarpatska Regional Administration are developing early warning systems (EWS) for the population of emergency endangered regions. Project financial support is provided by the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI CBC 2007-2013 Programme. This project aims to intensify and deepen cross-border cooperation between the two

⁸⁵The Comprehensive flood protection in the basin.Tisza in Zakarpatskaregion for the period till 2015

⁸⁶Borsod-Abaúj-ZemplénCounty Area Development Concept - 2013, Situation analysis

⁸⁷Szabolcs-Szatmár-BeregCounty REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT – 2012, Situation analysis

regions: Zakarpatska of Ukraine and Kosice region of Slovakia in readiness for emergencies caused by floods, fires and other natural disasters. The main objective of the project is to establish a joint early warning system in floodplains Uzh, Tisa, Latoritsa and Bodrog in order to reduce the risk of mortality, economic, financial losses and other damage during the floods in selected river basins. This project will have a positive impact in 27 Ukrainian cities with a total population of 331,500 people and in 31 municipalities of Slovakia - home to 32,126 residents. The project actions include: public procurement of EWS equipment; implementation of subcontract for EWS installation works; raise of public awareness on the topic; management and administration of the newly established system. With the establishment of early warning systems, the conditions will be created for the protection of the territory and reduce the possible consequences of natural disasters, ensuring readiness of emergency divisions and facilities for the timely evacuation of people and animals, removal of property. In Zakarpatska 25 new population alert sirens will be managed from checkpoint in Uzhgorod. 35 new sirens in Slovakia will be controlled from an existing EWS center in Kosice. After project completion, operational activities of the newly formed EWS will be funded by Slovak and Ukrainian partners independently. Activity of common facilities will be financed on the basis of bilateral agreement, which will be signed after project completion.⁸⁸

In the **Romanian counties** emergency situations are being administered by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) and its subordinated structures at territorial level. 15,5% out of the total of subunits are located in the region. There is a 42,35% rate of interventions on the basis of calls on regional level, compared with 38,15% rate of interventions on national level. Out of the total number of fires of 31.958 registered on national level in 2011, 3.972 were registered in the **North-Western region**, the most in Bihor county and the less in **Satu Mare County**. In 2011, in the North-Western region, SMURD⁸⁹ has intervened in 22.053 cases. In the region SMURD units are equipped with 2 reanimation ambulances of SMURD type, 31 ambulances type B and 8 ambulance type C. The best equipped counties are Bihor (with 12 crews) and Cluj (with 11), while Satu Mare having only 3 crews and Sălaj 2. In the latter two counties the number of interventions is also low. In the North-Western region there are a total number of 84 units of public and private SVSU⁹⁰, being organized according to legislation in operation. The number of units from the region is situated over the national average of 16 SVSU in Bistrița-Năsăud county (22), in Maramureș (19) and in Satu Mare (17) and below the national average in Cluj and Bihor (each with 12 units), respectively Sălaj (3). The equipment for emergency interventions is not distributed equally in territory, and their state is not satisfactory, more than 60% of these being outdated. In addition, there is lack of coordination of the services offered by the regional emergency hospital, the emergency units from county hospitals and the emergency system (ISU, SMURD, SVSU, mountain rescue etc.). Finally, there is lack of integrated call centres for emergency interventions, so that the objective of assuring a certain minimal standard duration for emergency situations in the region could not be fulfilled, this contributing to the increase of regional territorial inequalities.⁹¹

Zakarpatska Region has a border with Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Poland. Such location and peculiarities of landscape of the region let evaluate possible natural disasters as potentially dangerous for cross-border regions. Talking about fires, we can conclude, that they always are dangerous for territories of cross-border countries, especially when border shares territories with forest plantations.

⁸⁸Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI CBC 2007-2013 Programme

⁸⁹Mobile Service for Emergency Reanimation and Rescue Mobile Service for Emergency Reanimation and Rescue

⁹⁰Volunteer services for emergency situations

⁹¹Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020 and database of General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU)

Thus, the Romanian Maramureş Mountains Natural Park, which borders with Carpathian Natural Park, is under risk in case of fire on Ukrainian territory and vice versa. But, the most of border areas of both countries is protected by the river Tisa, which separate countries and serve as a natural border. The same natural mechanism of fire prevention is on the border with Hungary. The Slovak-Ukrainian border is less covered by forest, consequently the probability of fire spread is also less. The exception is the northern borders of Zakarpatska, where National Park “Uzhansky” is located. From Slovak side it borders with National Park “Poloninu” and from Polish – with Bieszczady National Park. This forest area can foster fire spreading if such disaster will happen in the territory of any of 3 cross-border countries. In **Zakarpatska** region 4 emergency situations have occurred in the region in 2014. According to statistic data, Zakarpatska Region is one of the regions with the highest rate of danger. Thus, emergency situation in the region are caused mainly by natural factors. This is determined by geographical location of the region – being located in mountainous landscape and in the basin of Tisza river, administrative units of the region subject to frequent flooding, snow breaks, earthquakes. One of the main objectives is to improve emergency warning systems and mechanism of emergencies prevention. According to the information provided by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 2 emergency situations of natural origin have been registered in **Ivano-Frankivska Region** in 2014, which is less than in 2013. During an emergency situation 19 persons have been injured. Also, 1865 fires have been registered, what is on 200 more, than in 2003. In general, Ivano-Frankivsk region is one of 5 regions with the smallest number of emergencies in Ukraine. For the last year in **Chernivetska Region** there has been only 1 emergency situation registered. It was disaster of natural origin. Thus, Chernivtsi region is one of the most safety regions in Ukraine. For 2014 year 1271 accidents occurred in the region, which is less, than in last year (1384). Because of the geographical location of region there is a danger of flooding. In Ukraine in the recent years the number of fires in Zakarpatska Region has significantly increased. It could be stipulated by a range of problems in this field: inconsistency of fire protection systems and the requirements of the law, technological obsolescence of fire safety equipment, insufficient public awareness on safety measures, etc.⁹²

Crime

Looking at the number of registered crimes in the cross-border area there is a decreasing trend in their number in the Hungarian counties, Slovak regions and Romanian counties. However the number of crimes significantly increased from 2012 to 2013 in all three Ukrainian regions (in Zakarpatska increased by 79%, in Ivano–Frankivska by 56% and in Chernivetska by 46%).

⁹²information provided by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, and the Regional program on fire safety in Zakarpatska region for 2013-2015

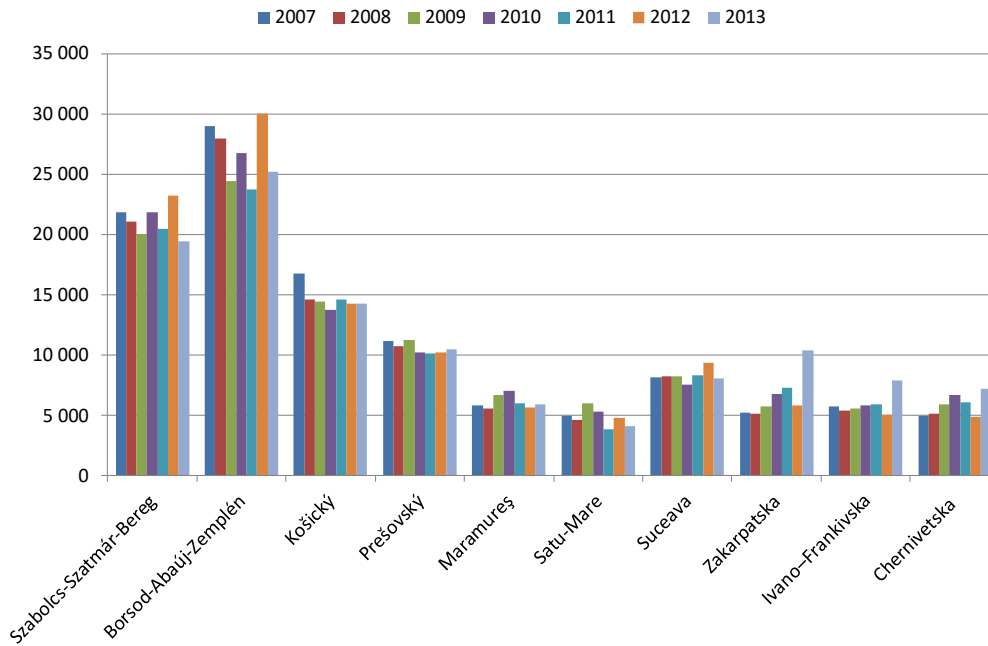


Figure 28: Number of registered crimes (2007-2013)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

The number of registered crimes per thousand inhabitants is under the national average in all 4 border areas. In 2013 its number is the highest in the Romanian counties (approx. 1.150 crimes) which are followed by the Ukrainian regions (570-820 crimes), Hungarian counties (around 360 crimes) and the Slovak regions (120-180 crimes).

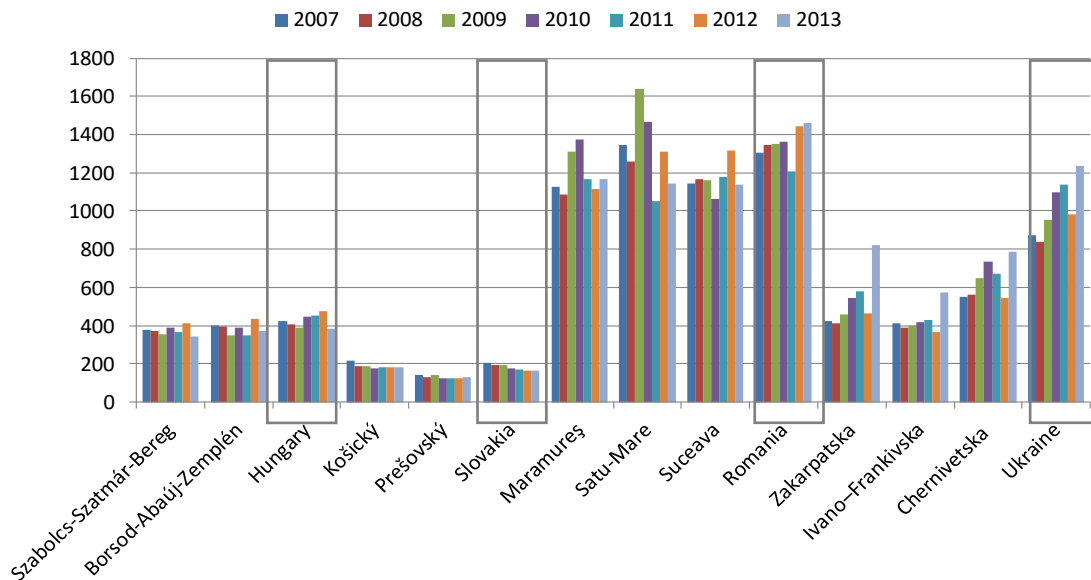


Figure 29: The number of registered crimes per thousand inhabitants 2007-2013
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

The map below shows the connection between the value of GDP per capita and the number of registered crimes per thousand inhabitants – in the counties with more GDP per capita the number of crimes per 1000 inhabitants is also less; the Romanian counties stand out with their extremely high values.

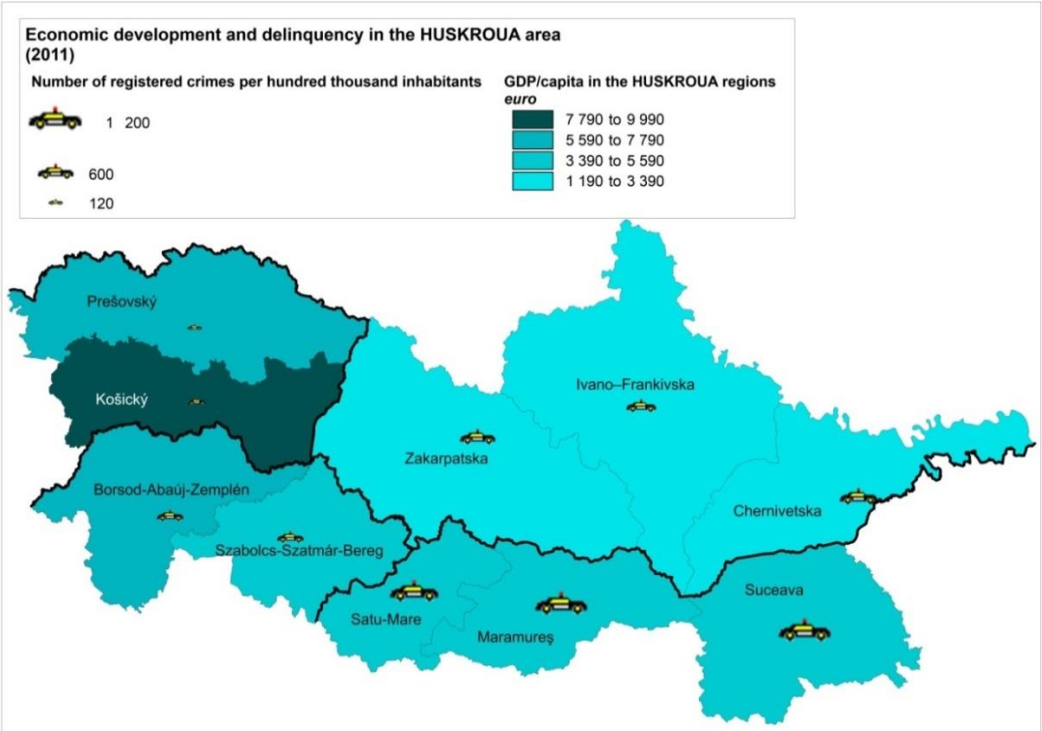


Figure 30: Economic development and delinquency in the programme area (2011)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

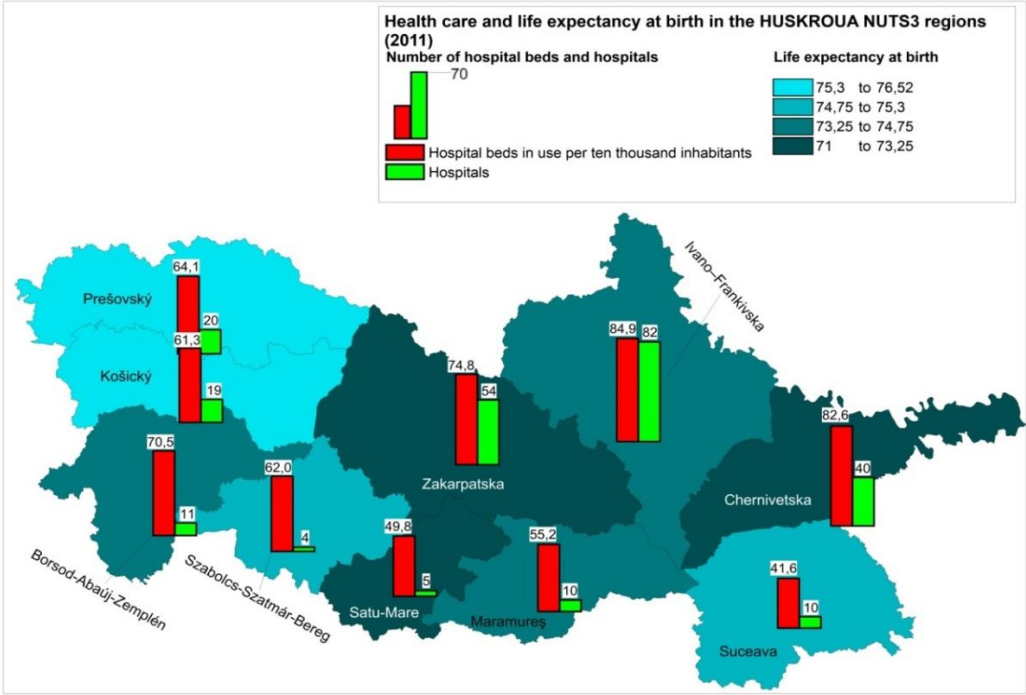


Figure 31: Health care system and the life expectancy at birth (2011)
Source: HCSO, SOSR, NIS, SSSU

Health infrastructure, public health and social care services

In **Hungary** there is a great need for the development of health infrastructure and public health services (especially for people in disadvantaged situation). The number of hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants is relatively high in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County**. Since the county in terms of the health care system has not got worse condition than the national average, it suggested that the background of the poor health status of the population are associated with health awareness. The availability and quality of health services in the county show regional disparities primarily due to the structure of small villages. The situation poses to encourage the development of services made available for small communities and small municipal projects need to take into account (for example the establishment of inter-municipal doctors' practices). In **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** there are 5 hospitals, 16 ambulance stations but the health status of the population is worse than the national average.⁹³

The health status of the population of **Slovakia** is not very favourable. It is influenced by a particular lifestyle, deterioration of the environment in some regions, unemployment, social situation and inappropriate living conditions of the parts of population (marginalized groups, Roma ethnicity). This is compounded by the lack of education of these parts of population, economic stagnation and economic crisis and the lack of integration of the Roma minority. Slovak health has persistent problems of excessive use of outpatient care, undeveloped overnight hospital care, preferring the institutional health care in economically underdeveloped regions. High financial demands of the health system are affected by the poor energy management related to poor state of buildings where medical equipment is located. Health, despite the financial underdevelopment threatening the stability of the system, the availability and quality of the performance, fulfils its mission and tasks. In health, there has been a change of legislation and property ownership, increase the financial burden on population health expenditure, reduced the availability of health services, increased cost of health care providers, but did not increase their income. In the **Prešov Self-government Region** the level of health care provision in the county hospitals is insufficient. General medical care in **Košický region** is sufficient in number. Weaker representation is mainly in the southern and northern areas of the Trebišov district and southern areas Rožňava and Michalovce districts. Health care providers in the field of general practitioner for adults, general practitioner for children and adolescents, gynaecology and dentistry, were based on the territorial principle divided into health districts. That division has been undertaken during the year 2008. At present the number of providers of general outpatient care sufficient. According to the Government Regulation no. 640/2008 Z.z. on the minimum public network of health care and in terms of the analysis of the Ministry of Health carried out in the year. 2009, the minimum public network of providers of first aid medical services (LSPP) in Košický region is oversized. Specialist medical care is concentrated mostly in the county town and district centers. Its concentration in the smaller settlements, mainly depending on the size of the population is lower. At present, the actual number of providers of specialized outpatient care is adequate.⁹⁴

In the **North-East Region of Romania** the level of poverty among the Romanian regions is the highest—the highest rate of poor population from Romania (23% in 2011). There are urban-rural disparities regarding medical care (56,9% of the inhabitants are living in rural areas and are deserved by 11,6% of the total medical employees in 2012; also 37 doctors/10.000 inhabitants in urban areas and 4 doctors/10.000 inhabitants in rural areas in 2012). Medical units lack of special equipment especially in small cities. In the **North-West Region of Romania** the amplification of the poverty and social

⁹³Based on data from Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Area Development Concept - 2013

⁹⁴ 2009 National report (data for 2008) for EMCDDA National monitoring centre for drugs

exclusion is a phenomenon, especially in Romany communities, including urban segregation in some districts of great cities. Although public emergency services benefited from a series of European financing for the acquisition of intervention equipment, the majority of the buildings and their equipment are in an advanced stage of deterioration. The under-dimensioned educational, health and social infrastructure is hindering social inclusion and development of human capital. Health services are provided in poor infrastructural conditions and are not adapted to the needs of beneficiaries. In many cases, emergency county hospitals lack of modern equipment. Besides health services, investments in social care services are also necessary. Medical and social care services are predominantly concentrated in urban areas. The poverty phenomenon is reaching alarming rates, the rate of poverty and social exclusion risk reaching 40,3% (relative poverty) in 2011. **Satu Mare County** can be characterized by number of beds in hospitals per 1000 inhabitants significantly lower than the national and regional average; a number of general practitioners per 1000 inhabitants (1,42) significantly lower than the national (2,3) and regional average (2,62) – *in 2009*, low level of life expectancy showing the reduced efficiency of healthcare in the county, still poor level of development of the healthcare infrastructure, migration of qualified health care personnel. Social care services are predominantly concentrated in the county capital and lack of medical care institutions/cabinets can be observed in the rural localities.⁹⁵

In **Zakarpatska Region** as of 01/2015 network of health care institutions includes 25 regional hospitals, 11 centers of primary medical care, 15 district hospitals and 7 municipal hospitals, 3 district clinics, 1 municipal clinic, 1 district dispensary, 2 district dental clinics, 278 outpatient clinics of general practice and family medicine and 285 feldsher-midwife stations. Further progress in the region becomes reorganization of primary medical care on the basis of family medicine. The public health sphere needs to be modernized and reformed due to European standards of insurance medicine; medical equipment in the health care institutions has to be substituted for the modern.

The region is also famous through its numerous sanatoriums, providing services of medical rehabilitation. In **Ivano-Frankivska Region** the network of regional healthcare institutions includes regional hospitals, 7 regional and district children's hospitals and centres, 2 infectious diseases hospitals, 2 oncologic dispensaries, 6 midwifery clinics, 7 tuberculosis prophylactic centres, 3 mental health clinics, 6 dental clinics, 267 outpatient clinics, as well as network of dispensaries and feldsher-midwife stations. There are also many sanatoriums and health-resorts in the region. But there are many problems in public health sector in the region. To provide qualitative health care services, existing outdated medical equipment has to be substituted, medical institutions have to be modernized, modern technologies of data storage has to be introduced. The number of health care institutions in **Chernivetska Region** constitutes 40 institutions (hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, midwifery clinics, tuberculosis prophylactic centres, mental health clinics, dental clinics etc.), 258 outpatient clinics, as well as network of dispensaries and feldsher-midwife stations.⁹⁶ There are also many sanatoriums and health-resorts in the region. As in many medical institutions in Ukraine, the available equipment also needs to be modernized.

⁹⁵Development Plan of the North-West Region 2014-2020

⁹⁶Based on data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine

Diseases

By the end of 2011, **Hungary** had reported a cumulative total of 2 115 HIV cases, 656 AIDS cases and 327 deaths among AIDS cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). For the year 2011, 162 new HIV cases, 32 new AIDS cases and 12 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 1.6 per 100 000 population. The majority (94%) of new HIV cases were male. HIV testing is mandatory for blood and tissue donors. A total of 1070 people living with HIV were seen for care in 2010. The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased from 279 in 2002 to 630 by December 2010. One facility in the country provides ART.⁹⁷ By 2010 in **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** the number of people with tuberculosis was doubled compared to previous years due to the social situation of the people in the county (unemployment is twice as much as the national average, number of homeless people is high). **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** the number of people diagnosed with tuberculosis is also alarming; the county remains the largest proportion of patients with tuberculosis in the country. The major factors of the spreading of TBC are deep poverty on the one hand, and on the other hand the high level of migration mostly from Romania and Ukraine. From 2012 lung screening is compulsory in the total area of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County in several villages and the county of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg.⁹⁸

In the **Slovak regions**, the proportion of HIV-infected remains low and non-epidemic. This also applies to high-risk population of injecting drug users. In 2008, however, was recorded low number of test subjects from this population, the tests identified three HIV-positive drug users. Mortality of the population in the last decade is affected by changes in the dynamics of mortality both positive and negative. This is particularly the mortality rate for priority groups of diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases, diseases of digestive system and diseases from external causes. The epidemiological situation in Slovakia confirmed that the incidence of tuberculosis is still under control. Slovakia is within European context the country with little or medium appearance of the TBC disease. According to the National Institute of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and Thoracic Surgery in Vyšné Hágy, which is a data processor for the national registry, in 2013 reported a total of 401 cases of tuberculosis (256 men and 145 women). Compared to 2012 is an increase of 56 cases. The number of new cases was 341. In 60 cases it was a recurrence of tuberculosis. The most prevalent form of TBC is pulmonary tuberculosis (344 cases). In 57 cases it was an extrapulmonary form, most commonly tuberculosis of the spine (17 cases), tuberculous pleurisy (11 cases), urinary-genital organs (6 cases), or extrathoracic lymph nodes (7 cases). The area with the highest incidence of this disease is the Prešov region. The lowest prevalence is recorded in the Trnava region. In the paediatric population under 14 years tuberculosis occurred in 38 cases. In 2013 7 patients died of tuberculosis, 27 cases were registered as the death of a patient with TBC. According to the geographical distribution in the Slovak Republic the areas with the highest incidence of TBC are the eastern regions of Slovakia (records from 2009) - Prešov Region 17.72 incidences / 100,000 inhabitants, followed by the Košice Region with 16.88 incidences / 100 000 inhabitants. In these areas, the situation is associated with a high rate of unemployment and tuberculosis there remains a serious social problem. The Slovak Republic belongs in the recent years to the Member States of the European Union with the lowest incidence of HIV infection. However, since the beginning of 21 century it is observed upward trend in the incidence of new cases of HIV infection. In 2013 it was recorded the highest ever number of cases in one calendar

⁹⁷ Data from WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

⁹⁸ <http://www.koranyi.hu/tartalom/bulletin/Evkonyv2007.pdf>, <http://www.regsom.sk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Z%C3%A1r%C3%B3tanulm%C3%A1ny.pdf>

year (83 cases, the incidence of 1.5 cases of HIV infection per 100 000 inhabitants of the SR) in comparison with 2012 (50 cases, the incidence of 0.9 per 100 000) was the rise in the incidence of cases by 66%. In the first half of 2014 a trend in the incidence of new cases of HIV infection did not continue strongly upward. Contrary there was a slight decrease compared to the same period last year. From 1.1. 2014 to 30.6.2014 it was diagnosed and epidemiologically investigated 37 new cases of HIV infection. 3 cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) were diagnosed and no death of patient with HIV infection case was reported. All cases occurred among the Slovak citizens, there was no evidence of HIV infection in the case of foreigners. Since the start-up of monitoring of cases of HIV / AIDS in the SR in 1985 until 30.6.2014 it was registered 676 cases of infection with human immunodeficiency virus among the Slovak citizens and foreigners. Of the 549 cases of citizens of the Slovak Republic, there were 472 men and 77 women. The 77 individuals (66 men, 11 women) underwent HIV infection to AIDS stage and recorded 51 deaths were recorded by HIV-infected persons (41 of them at the stage of AIDS). The majority of HIV infections in Slovakia was recorded in a group of men having sex with men and homosexual intercourse acquisition of infection was determined in 64.5% of cases. Heterosexual contact transmitted 24.0% of infections, 2.2% by injecting drug use (most of the 12 cases acquired outside the Slovak Republic), 0.2% by blood transfusion (one case of the disease outside the Slovak Republic in 1986) and in 9.1% of cases the transfer method was not specified. Most HIV-infected people are living in larger cities and the highest cumulative incidence of HIV infection has long been in the Bratislava region.⁹⁹

Among the factors that lead to an epidemic situation is the lack of stability, stress, financial problems, job loss, an increase in the number of people suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction. The spreading indicator of HIV/AIDS in **Zakarpatska Region** remains the lowest in Ukraine. As of October 1, 2014 this indicator was 27.8 per 100 thousand inhabitants of the region. In comparison to this, the average indicator, reflecting the situation with HIV in Ukraine was 323.7 per 100 thousand inhabitants. As of November 1, 2014 357 HIV-infected persons, including 88 patients with AIDS (7.2 per 100 thousand inhabitants) have been registered. Also, there are 34 children, born by HIV-infected mothers, in 28 of which the HIV diagnosis is not yet confirmed. During 10 months of 2014 in Zakarpatska region 61 new HIV infection contamination incidents (4.9 per 100 thousand inhabitants) have been registered. The AIDS was diagnosed in 36 persons (2.9 per 100 thousand inhabitants). For 9 months of 2014 compared to the corresponding period in 2013 epidemic situation in the region has changed. The negative is the fact that the spread of AIDS causes complications in epidemic situation with tuberculosis since tuberculosis is a common co-infection of AIDS. In 2014 115 people died of tuberculosis. The average number of tuberculosis infected persons in region does not exceed 60 per 100 thousand inhabitants. As for the alcohol and drugs, according to statistics the western regions of Ukraine belong, to the regions with low level of alcohol and drug dependency. Thus, number of patients with mental disorders caused by alcohol consumption in Zakarpatska Region amounted to 1300 (around 106 per 100 thousand inhabitants). This is 2 times less than, for instance, in Kiev region, which is leader in Ukraine by this indicator. The spreading indicator of HIV/AIDS in **Ivano-Frankivska Region** is twice higher, than in Zakarpatska: 58,0 per 100 thousand inhabitants. But, nevertheless, the region belongs to regions with low HIV-infection rate in Ukraine. For the time of the observation the epidemic 1022 of HIV-infected persons have been registered. As of 01/01/2013 669 HIV-infected persons, including 168 AIDS patients have been registered by regional centre for preservation of AIDS. In the last years the increasing of HIV-infection spreading in the region is noticed. The epidemic of HIV/AIDS affects the most workable and reproductive population groups of the region. Most incidents of HIV-infection contamination in the region have been registered in persons aged 25-49 years. What

⁹⁹ 2009 National report (data for 2008) for EMCDDA National monitoring centre for drugs

concerns TB, the region also belongs to regions with low level of morbidity. Number of tuberculosis infected persons varies between 60 and 80 persons per 100 thousand inhabitants. By indicators of alcohol and drug dependency Ivano-Frankivska Region belongs to regions with small number of addicted persons. Indeed, the region is considered as the most safe and favourable region in Ukraine (primarily because of low level of crime).The spreading indicator of HIV/AIDS in **Chernivetska Region** constitutes 82.4 per 100 thousand inhabitants. Chernivtsi region belongs to the regions with low HIV-infection rate and low mortality from AIDS-related diseases. Since the detection of the first incident of HIV contamination in 1994 and till it was officially registered 1260 incidents of HIV infection (in Ukraine - 255 975), including 292 incidents of AIDS (in Ukraine - 71 221), 141 death incidents of AIDS (in Ukraine - 33 672), 223 children born by HIV-infected women (in Ukraine - 42 655).By indicator of TB infection, region belongs to the regions with lowest number of infected people – less, than 60 per 100 thousand inhabitants. The similar situation can be observed in the sphere of alcohol and drug prevention – Chernivtsi region is one of the most “healthy” regions. For example, number of patients with mental disorders caused by alcohol consumption in the region amounted to 636 (around 70 per 100 thousand inhabitants), what is the lowest in Ukraine.¹⁰⁰

Smuggling and black market

Regarding smuggling and black market is the eastern part of Hungary that involves **Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County** and **Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County** beside Hajdú-Bihar County is one of the most affected areas and mainly limited to cigarette products. Most of the foreign products are from Ukraine. The most affected area in the eastern region is Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County near the border especially municipalities such as Mátészalka, Nyírbátor or Kisvárda where mainly Belarusian products are being spread. The highest percentage of illegal trade in cigarettes is being observed here for years.

In the **Slovak regions**, the crisis has meant that people are poorer, but the demand for certain goods, such as for medicines, it is still the same, so people looking for cheaper ways to get to them, which feeds trafficking. Until recently, trade in illegal goods mainly focused on luxury products, particularly women's accessories, jewellery and watches. Today, however, because of poverty extends to everyday objects as mentioned pharmaceuticals, but also cosmetics, electronics, spare parts and even food. In the case of trafficking, it is the world's most common drug trafficking, illegal prostitution, as well as illegal logging and trade in animals, alcohol, tobacco, violations of copyright protection, trade, fuel and so on. Cigarette smuggling through Slovakia-Ukraine border not only leads to a large tax losses, but also increases health risks given the dubious tobacco unknown origin contain. Action at national, European and international level should reduce incentives for smuggling, improve coordination and use of resources, exchange of information and encourage countries of origin to the fight against cigarette smuggling. Supply chain security should be enhanced and smuggling would face tougher sanctions. Black trade in goods in Slovakia is constantly flourishing. The custom office introduced intensive control of customs officers especially at the external borders of the European Union. Slovak market has particular problem with products with added consumption tax, which are tobacco, alcohol and mineral oils. The primacy of the illegal trade is so constantly tobacco and its products. They are imported mainly from the former Soviet Union countries. On the second place of the interests of black trades is liquor and third most profitable area of their business is the import of live endangered wildlife. Price one animal is determined by various aspects such as: the origin, nature and rarity of the animal or the difficulty of transportation. The price of one imported animal can climb up to the 5 thousand

¹⁰⁰Based on data from State Statistics Service of Ukraine

euros. Slovakia, despite the booming black market is not exporting black products abroad. However, it becomes also a transit country. An estimate of the total price of the goods annually smuggled to Slovakia is not made public. The goods to reach Slovakia from abroad are traded on the black market. Illegal trade has flourished over Slovakia, it has no center. Goods which are subject to excise duty and subject of breach of customs legislation forfeit the state and are then discarded.¹⁰¹

The percentage of cigarettes on sale in **Romania** that have been smuggled into the country is between 10-15%. Most of the smuggled cigarettes come from neighbouring Moldova and Ukraine, affecting heavily the counties near the border, according to a report from Novel Research polling company. The existence and increase of smuggling could be a result of both to the economic crisis and to insufficient measures taken to fight smugglers. Many people is said to rely on cheaper smuggled cigarettes, as they say they do not have enough money to pay for legitimate products. The historic high in smuggled cigarettes on sale was 36.2 per cent of total sales. This figure was registered in January 2010 following an increase in excise duties on tobacco. Romania remains a heaven for bootleg cigarettes and custom officers seize millions of packets each year. Criminal gangs and impoverished communities living near the borders with countries where prices are lower - Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine - have taken to smuggling as a means to earn a daily living. Romania belongs to significant source of human trafficking in Eastern-Europe. Romanian men, women, and children are subjected to forced labour in agriculture, domestic service, hotels, and manufacturing, as well as forced begging and theft in European countries, and forced prostitution. Children likely represent at least one-third of Romanian trafficking victims.¹⁰²

Because of favourable location of **Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska Regions** on the border with European countries regions face many problems of illegal trade. Illegal are different spheres of economy of the regions: currency market, land market, alcohol, fuel market, market of tobacco products etc. Because of political situation in Ukraine, primarily of currency fluctuations, volume of trade on the black market and smuggling is only increasing. Unstable economic situation in the regions stimulates an increase of black market of currency. State Border Service carries out comprehensive measures to meet the objectives to combat smuggling and corruption in the regions.

¹⁰¹www.aktuality.sk, www.euractiv.sk, www.hnonline.sk

¹⁰²<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/cigarette-smuggling-remains-high-in-romania>, Romania 2013

10.2 Communication Plan

10.2.1 Communication Strategy

10.2.1.1 Objectives and target groups

The **overall goal** of the Communication Strategy is to ensure the information flow about the framework, EU support, goals, results and impacts of the Programme addressing information and communication needs for internal actors involved in programme implementation as well as for external actors benefiting from programme implementation and also the general public.

The **specific objectives** of the Communication Strategy are:

- Ensure visibility and transparency of use of EU funding
- Promote the opportunities of the Programme
- Assist successful implementation (provide advice to beneficiaries, provide information to potential applicants, provide information to programme stakeholders)
- Ensure internal communication for efficient programme implementation (among beneficiaries and the implementing bodies at European, national, regional and local levels)
- Support the programme management bodies to acquire a comprehensive knowledge and skills in implementing and managing of cross-border cooperation projects
- Support communication among partners and to build long-lasting partnerships
- Receive feedback from public and beneficiaries
- Promote programme benefits and results achieved by the implemented cross-border projects
- Increase awareness of the programme, EU and national support.

The **main target groups** of the Programme have been identified considering the information needs and communication channels are:

- Potential applicants
- Final beneficiaries benefiting from the projects
- Programme bodies
- Government departments and agencies
- Mass media and general public
- Networks, Euro regions, associations, EU and transnational institutions
- Other EU-financed programmes operating in the programme territory

10.2.1.2 Participating responsible bodies

Body	Task
Managing Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements the information and communication plans in accordance with Article 79 of 897/2014 ENI CBC Implementing Rules. • Reports to the Commission on the annual communication plan in accordance with Article 79(4) of 897/2014 ENI CBC Implementing Rules and draws up the annual information and communication plan to be carried out and submit both to the Commission not later than 15 February. • It is making available on the programme website a list of awarded projects, in accordance with Article 44 of Implementing Regulation 897/2014
Joint Technical Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops an overall system for public relations connected to the programme and to elaborate. • Develops a common corporate identity for the programme to be used in all means of communication. • Develops an overall Communication Plan for the whole programme period, to be sent to the Commission within four months of the date of adoption of the operational programme. • Develop informational materials for dissemination (both electronic and hard copies). • Creates, maintains and updates the Internet homepage. • Organises information events with partners from the programme area. • Maintains necessary public relations with the media. • Responsive to any request of information. • Organises a major information campaign publicising the launch of the programme, even in the case of the absence of the final version of the Communication Plan, • Organises at least one major information activity a year. • Publicises the list of beneficiaries, the names of the operations approved and the amount of public funding allocated to the operations.
Branch Offices	Publicise activities under the Joint Operational Programme to provide anyone who may be interested with information.
Joint Monitoring Committee	Examines and approves the annual information and communication plans referred to in Article 79 of 897/2014 ENI CBC Implementing Rules.

10.2.1.3 Monitoring

The Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme has to be informed by the Managing Authority/Joint Technical Secretariat about the progress in implementing the Communication Plan, of information and publicity measures carried out and of the means of communication used.

The Joint Monitoring Committee has the task to examine and approve the annual information and communication plans referred to in Article 79 of 897/2014 ENI CBC Implementing Rules. The main purpose of the evaluation will be to survey how effective the information and communication

measures were in terms of visibility and awareness of the OP, as well as the role played by the Community. On the other side monitoring will be used in order to evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Communication Plan, assuring the attainment of its objectives.

10.2.1.4 Channels and tools

A wide range of communication techniques will be used throughout the implementation of the Programme.

- Internet and electronic tools

The Programme's **website** will be the main communication tool for the Programme that ensures the provision of latest information, accessibility, the latest information on main programme documents, contracted projects and contacts of the programme bodies. Some programmes have partner search tools on their websites where project ideas can be posted in order to find potential partners. The **IMIS 2014-2020** monitoring system of the Programme will be based on a management information system which allows data collection and monitoring at all levels. The system is to provide the competent bodies (JMC, MA, JTS, and NAs etc.) with a practical tool to perform their tasks and should also foster communication and the flow of information among the Participating Countries. The system will support both the project cycle and the programme implementation. **Social media, multimedia presentations** may also be used as information channels and tools.

- Events management

Various types of regional or local meetings will be organised during the programme. The **Opening Conference** will be the kick-off event of the Programme providing general information on the Programme at the national level. It will be followed by **partner search forums, conferences, seminars, European Cooperation Day, fairs, info-days, workshops, trainings** providing information for all future participants, beneficiaries and stakeholders and programme bodies. The objective of the partner search forums is to help potential applicants developing their projects and search for partners. There will be at least one major event in each year to promote the achievements and highlighting key messages and best practices of the programme. The **Closing Conference** at the end of the programme will focus on the achievements of the JOP.

- Direct communication

Electronic newsletters will inform the target audience about the latest programme news, achievements and developments and **direct mails** will offer the opportunity to convey current and direct information to the specific target groups. **Branch offices** (one per participating country) will publicise activities under the joint operational programme to provide anyone who may be interested with information. The JTS in parallel with the Branch Offices will provide professional advice to all potential and final beneficiaries on all aspects of the programme. The telephone enquiry lines will be complemented by an e-mail address for written communication and with the publication of the frequently asked questions on the website to enhance the transparency of the implementation. **Communication guidelines for projects** will be available, similar to the guideline in the current HUSKROUA ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013. Communication guidelines and package for projects will contain regulations about visibility

requirements, general requirements, special requirements, publications, promotional items, events, procurements, usage of the EU and Programme logo. The beneficiaries will implement their information and publicity activities according to the signed grant contract.

- Mass media relations

Events for the press(press release, press conference, other press events) and other **publications** (brochures, flyers, fact sheets) will help the implementation of the Programme. Advertising space may be bought to publicize the Programme in the public.

- Promotional items

Promotional items like mug, umbrella, notebook, USB, dossier, bag, pen, office equipment, t-shirts, etc. will be used in order to enhance the visibility of the Programme.

- Image and branding

The revision of the visual identity of the current programme (2007-2013) will be implemented and according to its results, the visual appearance of the Programme might be changed. The elements of the revised visual identity (logo, certain colours, etc.) will be consequently used on every single document, paper-based or electronic, produced in frame and for the purposes of the programme, besides the EU logo. A new programme motto might be developed and used together with the specific visual elements.

10.2.1.5 Intended results of the communication activities

The communication activities implemented successfully and effectively by the Programme bodies will highly contribute to and enhance the success of the Programme. The activities will ensure visibility, transparency, fluency of the internal and external communication, wide-ranged promotion and good recognition of the Programme.

The evaluation of the Communication Plan and the Strategy will show the results and impacts of that on the Programme. The evaluation of the plan will form the foundation of the Communication plan and strategy for the next programming period.

10.2.2 Indicative Annual Information and Communication Plan for the first year (2016)

Information and communication activity	Goal	Tool	Timing	Outcomes and indicators	Visibility measures
Revised image and branding for 2014-2020	To have the revised image for the programme.	Elements of the visual programme identity	By the middle of 2016	1 programme image is ready.	Website statistics.
Setting up the Programme's website	To have a working, fully developed website.	Internet and electronic tools (website)	By the 3 rd quarter of 2016	1 programme website is developed.	Website statistics.
Setting up the Branch Offices for 2014-2020	To be able to publicise activities under the joint operational programme to provide anyone who may be interested with information.	Direct communication (Branch Offices)	2 nd half of 2016	4 Branch Offices are set up (one in each participating country)	Number of personal inquiries, e-mails and incoming phone calls.
Organizing the Opening Conference	To provide general information on the Programme.	Events management (opening event) Mass media relations	2 nd half of 2016	1 Opening Conference.	Press releases, website.
Organising a major information campaign publicising the launch of the programme	To provide general information on the Programme at the national/regional/local level.	Events management (info-day) Mass media relations	2 nd half of 2016	1 implemented information campaign.	Press releases, website.
Preparation of the Communication guidelines for projects	To communicate visibility and communication requirements for projects.	Direct communication (guideline)	2 nd half of 2016	1 Communication guidelines for projects is ready.	n/a
Developing informational materials for dissemination	To have dissemination materials (both electronic and hard copies) ready.	Direct communication (Information material)	2 nd half of 2016	Dissemination materials are ready.	n/a
Launch of the first Call for Proposals	To start the effective implementation period.	Event management, Direct communication, Mass media relations	2 nd half of 2016	1 launched Calls for proposals.	Press releases, website.
Organising information events (info days, partner search forums, etc.)	To provide information on the Programme to possible applicants.	Events management (info-day)	2 nd half of 2016	Information events organized.	Press releases, website.

Information and communication activity	Goal	Tool	Timing	Outcomes and indicators	Visibility measures
Electronic newsletters	To inform the target audience about the latest programme news.	Direct communication (electronic newsletter)	From the 2 nd half of 2016	1newsletter have been sent out.	Number of e-mail addresses to be sent.
Preparation of promotional items	To enhance the visibility of the Programme.	Promotional items	End of 2016	1 plan for the design and sort of the promotional items exists.	n/a
Development of the Annual Information and Communication Plan for 2017	To make preparations for the next year.	Plan	End of 2016	1 version of the Annual Information and Communication Plan for 2017.	n/a
Continuous update of the Programme's website	To ensure up-to-date information flow.	Internet and electronic tools (website)	All year.	1 up-to-date Programme website.	Website statistics.
Maintaining necessary public relations with the media	To have good relations with the media.	Mass media relations (press release, press event/ conference)	All year.	Good relations with the media.	Press releases, website statistics, participation of press on events.