



**ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
2018**

Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia
for the programme period 2014–2020
May 2019

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PART A - DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ("LIGHT REPORTS") (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the Cooperation Programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

This is the fourth Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia for programming period 2014-2020. It reports on the progress achieved under the CP in implementing the programme during the calendar year 2018.

The report was prepared by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, acting as the Managing Authority (MA) of the programme in cooperation with the Joint secretariat (JS) and programme partners. The Monitoring Committee (MC) discussed and approved the Annual Implementation Report 2018 on the 8th MC meeting held on 4 June 2019.

All programme structures and both Member States, Slovenia and Croatia were in the year 2018 very much involved in the implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

In 2018, the implementation of the programme ran very actively with approving 19 additional projects (17 projects approved within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call and 2 approved strategic projects FRISCO), sending the payment requests to the European Commission (EC) etc. The MA and JS met three times with the programme partners (National Authorities (NAs), Certifying Authority (CA), First Level Control (FLC)) at the Bilateral technical meetings (BTM) to discuss topics related to the programme implementation.

On 13 and 14 June 2018, the MC members met at their 6th meeting in order to decide on the project applications received within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call. **17 projects (12 projects in the frame of priority axis 2 and 5 projects in the frame of priority axis 3) in the amount of 16.950.225,51 EUR ERDF funds were approved in 2018 for co-financing.** With the approval of the 17 projects within the 3rd deadline all available funds within the Open Call were allocated.

On 19 July 2018 the ceremonial signing of the first Subsidy contracts for the approved projects within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call was organised and by the end of September all 17 contracts were signed. For the beneficiaries of these projects the workshop on reporting for the projects approved in the frame of the 3rd deadline was held on 28 November 2018 in Ljubljana. On the 6th MC meeting also the AIR for 2017 was discussed and approved. Also the discussion regarding the strategic project FRISCO 2.2 containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Mura

took place on the 6th MC meeting. The MC members agreed that after the completion of the assessment the decision regarding the project will be taken via written procedure. On 23 August 2018 MC members approved **FRISCO 2.2. project within the 7th written procedure in the amount of 2.545.915,91 EUR ERDF.**

The 7th MC meeting was organised on 12 December 2018 were MC members approved the fourth and final Strategic project under Priority axis 1 – Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins **FRISCO 2.3 containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Drava and Kolpa in the amount of 2.593.585,45 EUR ERDF.** The ceremonial signing of the contract took place on 15 February 2019.

With the approval of the FRISCO 2.3 project all available funds within the Priority axis 1 and also all available programme funds were allocated and committed meaning that all Subsidy contracts for all 38 approved projects (altogether 34 approved projects within the 1st, 2nd and 3rd deadline of the Open Call and 4 strategic projects) were signed.

In order to assure a smooth implementation of the programme on all levels, the MA and JS organised the presentation of the new version of the electronic Monitoring System to the representatives of the Group of Auditors (GoA) on 7 November 2018. Also the International training for the use of the Arachne Risk Assessment Tool for representatives of national control units from Croatia, Austria, Hungary and Slovenia was organised by the MA/JS on 4 July 2018.

System audit and audit of the projects

In 2018 system audit was concluded and the audit established that the system works well while some improvements are still needed. The programme partners reacted on all findings and corrective actions were taken in cases where needed.

In 2018 the Group of Auditors (GoA) performed audits of 4 projects (DETOX, FRISCO1, Mala Barka 2 and TA3-SI NA/FLC). Irregularities were found in 2 projects (DETOX and FRISCO1). The irregularities were individual cases and are not of systemic nature and all financial corrections have been made for the found irregularities.

The main findings of the project audits are described in point 5 of this document.

Other information and publicity measures

In line with the Communication strategy along with the workshops for applicants and ceremonial signing of contracts for the approved projects also one major annual event of the programme was carried out on 26 September 2018 in the frame of the European Cooperation Day 2018. The event promoted the joint cultural heritage from Slovenia and Croatia. The aim was to present the successful cross-border projects dealing with the preservation of the cultural heritage that are implemented with ERDF funds. More than 100 participants from Slovenia and Croatia which arrived with organised bus transportation had a closer look at the projects that are being implemented within the programme (Riviera4Seasons 2 and Mala barka 2).

In the frame of the programme's website 50 news on activities, events and relevant information were published in 2018. Also the additional section was added to the programme website where the news on project activities and results are published.

Reimbursement of funds

By 15 February 2019 altogether 38 Subsidy contracts without the TA projects (37 signed by the end of 2018 and 1 on 15 February 2019) in the amount of 43.068.037,56 EUR ERDF funds were signed which represents 99,9 % of the funds available for projects. Including the 6 Technical Assistance (TA) projects (altogether 44 projects) the programme has committed 99,9 % of all available funds.

In relation to the financial data total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31.12.2018 and certified to the Commission amount to 10.358.728,49 EUR. By the end of 2018 three projects fully implemented the activities. All other approved projects are still in implementation therefore in relation to the indicator data the progress can be mostly measured only on the level of the selected projects (see table 2).

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
A.1	1. Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins	<p>In 2018 within Priority axis 1 the strategic project containing non-structural flood risk reduction measures with the acronym FRISCO1 which was approved in 2016 was in full implementation. The implementation of the FRISCO 1 and other FRISCO projects was closely monitored by the MA/JS, National Authorities and Monitoring Committee regarding the progress in performing the activities and also regarding the achievements of the financial plan. Due to the fact that the progress of the FRISCO 1 project was not completely in line with the plan several meetings were organised by the MA/JS in order to discuss the reasons for the deviations from the plan. The partnership of the project presented the solutions in order to improve the project implementation.</p> <p>In 2018 also FRISCO 2.1 project containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Sotla and FRISCO 2.2 project containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Mura started with the implementation. After the initial delays in the implementation of the FRISCO2.1 project due to the problems regarding the public procurement the works on the river Sotla started in December 2018. The works on the river Mura within the FRISCO 2.2 project have also started in December 2018 meaning that the Key implementation step (Transboundary river basins where works have started) for 2018 was successfully reached and even exceeded due to the fact that works have started in 2 river basins in 2018.</p> <p>As already described in 2018 the project FRISCO 2.2 containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Mura was approved within the 7th written procedure in the amount of 2.545.915,91 EUR ERDF and the contract was signed on 13 December 2018.</p>

		<p>On the 7th MC meeting on 12 December 2018 the fourth and final Strategic project FRISCO 2.3 containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Drava and Kolpa in the amount of 2.593.585,45 EUR ERDF was approved. The ceremonial signing of the contract took place on 15 February 2019.</p> <p>Altogether by the end of 2018 4 projects were approved in the amount of 10.026.555,11 EUR ERDF which represents 100% of available funds within the priority axis (PA) 1.</p>
A.2	2. Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources	<p>In 2018 the final decision on the project applications received in the frame of the 3rd deadline for submission was reached by the MC. 10 projects were approved, within the Investment priority 6c in the amount of 9.487.428,92 EUR ERDF and 2 projects within the Investment priority 6d in the amount of 4.154.719,78 EUR ERDF.</p> <p>Within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call in 2018 all 12 approved projects started with the implementation under this priority axis. The contracted ERDF amount for those 12 projects is 13.642.148,70 EUR ERDF. Altogether by the end of 2018 26 projects were contracted and in implementation in the amount of 28.045.826,82 EUR ERDF (99,9 % of available funds). Altogether 22 projects are within the Investment priority 6c which shows very high interest of projects in conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p>At this stage no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA 2.</p>
A.3	3. Healthy, safe and accessible border areas	<p>In 2018 the final decision on the project applications received in the frame of the 3rd deadline for submission was reached by the MC. 5 projects were approved within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call within the priority axis 3 and have started with the implementation. The contracted ERDF amount for those 5 projects is 3.308.076,81 EUR. Altogether by the end of 2018 8 projects were contracted in the amount of 4.995.655,63 EUR ERDF (99,9 % of available funds).</p> <p>At this stage no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA 3.</p>
A.4	4. Technical assistance	<p>The allocation of the TA funds aims at ensuring the efficient and smooth implementation of the cooperation programme and at a proficient operation of all bodies which are needed for the frictionless and successful programme implementation, e.g. MA, JS, FLC in Slovenia and Croatia, CA, Audit Authority (AA) in Slovenia/Audit Body in Croatia (AB), NA in Slovenia and NA in Croatia. The TA is divided into 6 projects and the total ERDF amount for all TA projects is 3.000.000 EUR.</p> <p>In 2018 the following activities were implemented within the TA projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementation, management and monitoring of the programme,

- organisation of two MC meetings (approval of projects, update on the current stage of programme implementation, Annual Implementation Report 2017, irregularities, audits, update on information and publicity activities - EC Day 2018, etc.),
- one workshop for reporting was carried out,
- trainings for the use of the eMS information system for were organised,
- three BTM meetings, namely on 18 January 2018 in Vuglec Breg, on 8 May 2018 in Ljubljana and on 10 October 2018 in Donja Stubica, to discuss topics related to the programme implementation were organised,
- “Enjoying cultural heritage” event was organised under the auspices of the EC Day initiative (26 September 2018),
- advising/support to partners of already submitted project applications and face-to-face meetings with Lead Partners (LPs)/Project Partners (PPs) of approved projects,
- advising/supporting the LPs/PPs of the implementing projects and checking the LPs progress reports,
- site visits for the approved projects were carried out according to the Site visit plan for 2018,
- preparation of three written procedures for the MC,
- preparation or update of programme documents,
- 17 Subsidy contracts have been prepared and signed for the approved projects of the 3rd deadline of the Open Call,
- Ceremonial signing of the contracts for projects approved within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call was organised on 19 July 2018 in Ljubljana.
- closure activities for the OP Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013,
- the programme website has been updated with news, FAQs, information on programme and project implementation, etc.

At this stage, no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA 4 (Technical Assistance).

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority are transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

TABLE 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

Automatic from SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
5bRI	Share of targeted transboundary river basins area under flood risk	%	6,47%	2014	5%	6,47 %	6,47 %	6,47 %	6,47 %	6,47 %						Data provided by Ministry of the environment and spatial planning show no change in this indicator
6cRI	Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area	Number	4,911,583	2013	5,750,000	4,911,583	4,911,583	4,911,583	4,911,583	5,919,310						No data for Slovenia is available for 2018. The data used for SI is from 2017. (SI: 3,161,866; HR: 2,757,444)
6dRI1	Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area-species	Number	Species CS: 2,050	2014	Species CS: 2,052	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,050						No new data is available for 2018 – new measurements are planned in 2019

6dRI2	Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area-habitat	Number	Habitat CS: 2,070	2014	Habitat CS: 2,072	2,070	2,070	2,070	2,070	2,070						No new data is available for 2018 – new measurements are planned in 2019
11RI	Level of cooperation quality in the field of health, social care, safety and mobility services within the programme area	Average score from 0 to 5	2,22	2015	3,33	2,22	2,22	2,22	2,22	2,6						Data collected with online survey, following the Methodological document of indicators

TABLE 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes).

S – Selected operations F – Fully implemented operations*	ID	Indicator (<i>name of indicator</i>)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
S	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	1500			0	953	1609						The target value set in the CP is already reached (plan in the selected projects).
F					0	0									
S	5b-1	Transboundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed	Number	6			6	6	6						The target value set in the CP is already reached (plan in the selected projects).
F					0	0									
S	5b-2	Transboundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented	Number	4			0	1	4						The target value set in the CP is already reached (plan in the selected projects).
F					0	0									
S	5b-3	People with increased professional capacity due to their participation in cross-border activities in transboundary flood risk	Number	20			20	20	20						The target value set in the CP is already reached (plan in the selected projects).
F					0	0									

F		and river basin management												
S	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	50,000	0	0	62,800	203,300	289,732					<i>The target value set in the CP is already reached and exceeded due to the high expected number of visits (plan in the selected projects).</i>
F														
S	6c-1	Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage	Number	15	0	0	17	45	69					<i>The target value set in the CP is already reached and exceeded (plan in the selected projects).</i>
F														
S	6c-2	New or improved cross-border sustainable tourism products and destinations integrating natural or cultural heritage	Number	20	0	0	13	40	62					<i>The target value set in the CP is already reached and exceeded (plan in the selected projects).</i>
F														
S	6c-3	Persons participating in capacity building activities	Number	500	0	0	600	5539	7997					<i>The target value set in the CP is already reached and exceeded due to the high number of</i>

* **S** - Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]

F - Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

TABLE 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority Axis	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Mile-stone for 2018	Final target (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
1	Financial	5bFI	Payments: certified total amount of eligible expenditure	EUR	1,720,000 EUR	11,795,950 EUR	0	0	0	138,736.47	1,693,779.95						Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31.12.2018 and certified to the Commission is stated
1	Output	5b-2	Transboundary river basins with pilot	Number	0	4	0	0	0	0	0						Within the approved projects FRISCO 2.1, FRISCO 2.2 and FRISCO 2.3 there are 4 river basin with pilot structural flood risk

			structural flood risk reduction measures implemented															reduction measures in implementation. The value will be reported after the completion of projects covering this indicator.
1	Key implementation step	5bK1	Transboundary river basins where works have started	Number	1	4	0	0	0	0	2							Within the approved projects FRISCO 2.1 and FRISCO 2.2 works have started on 2 river basins in 2018.
2	Financial	6FI	Payments: certified total amount of eligible expenditure	EUR	3,963,439 EUR	33,028,657 EUR	0	0	0	135,975.05	6,643,383.68							Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31.12.2018 and certified to the Commission is stated
2	Output	6c-1	Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage	Number	0	15	0	0	0	0	16							Within the approved projects there are 69 small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage planned. By the end of 2018 the achieved value for small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage is 16.
2	Key implementation step	6cKI	Restoration or construction works at heritage sites or at supporting visitor infrastructure started	Number	5	15	0	0	0	0	32							Achieved value in by the end of 2018.

2	Output	CO2 3	Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares (ha)	0	31,000 ha	0	0	0	0	152.55						Within the approved projects there are 32,432.97 ha of surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status. By the end of 2018 the achieved value for surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status is 152.55 ha.
2	Key implementation step	6dK I	Surface area of habitats planned to be supported based on selected projects in order to attain a better conservation status	Area covered (ha)	10,000 ha	31,000 ha	0	0	0	221.82	32,432.97						
3	Financial	11-FI	Payments: certified total amount of eligible expenditure	EUR	707,757 EUR	5,897,975 EUR	0	0	0	17,917.29	1,193,659.62						Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31.12.2018 and certified to the Commission is stated
3	Output	11-1	Institutions participating in cross-border structures	Number	3	45	0	0	0	0	35						Within the approved projects there are 104 institutions participating in cross-border structures. By the end of 2018 the achieved value for institutions participating in cross-border structures is 35.

3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

TABLE 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014¹ [Model for transmission of financial data]² and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority Axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31.12.2018 and certified to the Commission
A.1	ERDF	Total	11.795.950,00	85,00%	8.744.670,20	74,13%	8.744.670,20	921.833,42	7,81%	3	1.693.779,95
A.2	ERDF	Total	33.028.657,00	85,00%	33.010.760,58	99,95%	32.359.211,16	3.630.459,99	10,99%	26	6.643.383,68
A.3	ERDF	Total	5.897.975,00	85,00%	5.877.242,15	99,65%	5.844.653,74	558.632,01	9,47%	8	1.193.659,62
B.1	ERDF	Total	4.968.331,00	60,38%	4.968.330,64	100,00%	4.968.330,64	808.390,23	16,27%	6	827.905,24
Total			55.690.913,00	82,80%	52.601.003,57	94,45%	51.916.865,74	5.919.315,65	10,63%	43	10.358.728,49

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia.

¹ OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

² Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic priority dimension	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (€)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Nr. of operations selected
1	ESRR	087	01	03	07	05	22	HR041	4.070.950,00	4.070.950,00	921.833,42	1
1	ESRR	087	01	03	07	05	22	SI021	4.673.720,20	4.673.720,20	0,00	2
2	ESRR	085	01	02	07	06	22	HR041	579.177,41	550.532,89	100.095,76	1
2	ESRR	085	01	02	07	06	22	SI021	2.553.908,00	2.521.658,00	0,00	1
2	ESRR	086	01	03	07	06	22	HR036	1.528.377,31	1.476.212,16	211.352,98	1
2	ESRR	086	01	03	07	06	22	SI021	2.333.997,64	2.290.195,09	0,00	1
2	ESRR	090	01	02	07	06	15	HR043	875.472,55	875.472,55	0,00	1
2	ESRR	091	01	02	07	06	15	SI011	829.360,00	730.869,62	119.697,17	1
2	ESRR	091	01	02	07	06	15	SI021	1.524.792,25	1.452.712,18	194.337,63	1
2	ESRR	091	01	03	07	06	15	SI018	982.694,30	968.691,76	0,00	1
2	ESRR	093	01	02	07	06	15	SI012	1.221.544,01	1.221.544,01	452.488,62	1
2	ESRR	093	01	02	07	06	15	SI021	1.593.700,00	1.562.950,00	603.973,78	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	HR031	2.164.455,00	2.164.455,00	243.726,20	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	HR036	1.144.622,45	1.119.836,72	0,00	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	HR042	2.319.560,02	2.309.033,20	0,00	2
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	HR046	2.443.414,74	2.425.507,74	45.451,36	2
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	SI011	836.515,00	799.624,00	122.414,24	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	SI012	926.678,47	897.052,72	113.455,97	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	SI015	1.503.000,00	1.421.700,00	0,00	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	SI021	1.779.988,17	1.779.988,17	141.703,61	1
2	ESRR	094	01	02	07	06	15	SI024	1.416.321,06	1.395.102,80	0,00	1
2	ESRR	094	01	03	07	06	15	HR044	720.289,93	720.289,93	0,00	1
2	ESRR	094	01	03	07	06	15	SI012	908.448,52	908.448,52	663.518,99	1
2	ESRR	094	01	03	07	06	15	SI017	1.239.205,95	1.206.782,55	506.949,52	1
2	ESRR	094	01	03	07	06	15	SI024	745.050,00	740.700,00	0,00	1
2	ESRR	095	01	02	07	06	15	SI024	840.187,80	819.851,55	111.294,16	1
3	ESRR	112	01	02	07	11	20	HR031	860.740,50	860.740,50	92.960,68	1
3	ESRR	112	01	02	07	11	20	SI021	1.052.257,70	1.052.257,70	0,00	1
3	ESRR	112	01	02	07	11	20	SI024	938.486,77	938.486,77	0,00	1

3	ESRR	112	01	02	07	11	21	SI024	982.058,59	970.554,49	419.794,57	2
3	ESRR	119	01	02	07	11	21	SI024	142.587,80	139.711,77	45.876,76	1
3	ESRR	120	01	02	07	11	21	SI012	574.947,20	561.388,92	0,00	1
3	ESRR	120	01	02	07	11	24	HR04D	808.163,58	808.163,58	0,00	1
3	ESRR	120	01	02	07	11	24	SI021	518.000,01	513.350,01	0,00	1
4	ESRR	121	01	07	07		18	HR041	775.000,00	775.000,00	70.192,32	2
4	ESRR	121	01	07	07		18	SI012	322.580,64	322.580,64	37.790,76	1
4	ESRR	121	01	07	07		18	SI017	350.000,00	350.000,00	35.240,35	1
4	ESRR	121	01	07	07		18	SI021	2.971.600,00	2.971.600,00	573.945,88	2
4	ESRR	122	01	07	07		18	SI021	274.575,00	274.575,00	45.610,46	1
4	ESRR	123	01	07	07		18	SI021	274.575,00	274.575,00	45.610,46	1

TABLE 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support* envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area³	0	0	0	0

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

³ In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

The Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC) acting as the Managing Authority published a tender for the evaluation of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia for the period 2014–2020 on 6th November 2018. The contract was signed in January 2019.

The purpose of the evaluation was to evaluate the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the results and effects of the projects, financed by the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia for the period 2014–2020 and the programme itself. The evaluation included the following: evaluation of the performance of program structures and processes, analyses of reporting procedures, reimbursement of funds, roles of partners and effectiveness and efficiency in projects management.

The evaluation was based on two online surveys, interviews with beneficiaries, interviews with programme structures (namely MA/JS, NA, FLC and CA), data review (provided from JS and eMS), and documents review.

The main findings of the evaluation:

The programme bodies operate effectively within the framework established for the programme implementation. The programme structures (MA/JS, NA, FLC, CA) are sufficient at the moment, nevertheless a problem can arise, if any of the personnel is absent for a longer period of time.

The quality of cooperation between programme partners is perceived as good. There are regular bilateral meetings or phone/on-line/email communication, all problems are solved quickly and in constructive manner. In general, there are no main differences between the Slovenian and Croatian side in approaches and views to cooperation and expectations.

In the application process the applicants had a support in the form of workshops and individual face to face consultations from NA and JS. They were both assessed well by the applicants. The workshops and consultations were especially useful for applicants who already had their ideas developed and had their questions prepared beforehand.

Another tool that was used during the application phase (and implementation) was Implementation manual for beneficiaries. The vast majority of applicants (successful and unsuccessful) used it and majority found it useful or very useful. Among successful applicants all (100 %) LPs used the manual. The manual is well structured into key contents/phases and offers sound guidance to applicants and beneficiaries which was also reflected in the online survey.

There are no bigger difficulties with the programme procedures, processes and forms. There were some difficulties at the application stage, the applicants had the most difficulties with applying in two languages, they would prefer just one. The application in both languages caused them difficulties also at the administrative and eligibility (AB) check, as due to lack of translations they did not pass AB check. As this was registered by the programme structures there was a change in the application procedure which allowed five working days to correct the translation mistake in one field of the application for the 3rd deadline of the Open Call.

Besides language difficulties applicants also had problems with completing financial plan and reviewing the application in the system.

Face to face meetings were organised with beneficiaries of approved projects before the signature of the Subsidy contract. The purpose of the meetings was to clarify any open issues, a lot of attention was put to discuss and explain indicators, also eligibility of expenditure and reporting. Besides LP also other PPs were invited to face to face meetings. Not only successful, but also unsuccessful applicants could come to consultations, to clarify the project weaknesses. Beneficiaries were satisfied with the meetings, nevertheless according to JS, beneficiaries often sought explanations for the information that was already published on the website. Often such questions represented additional burden for the JS staff.

In the reporting process all programme bodies are involved at different steps. The first body in the process is FLC, if there are delays, all other steps are slowed down. Due to work overload (checks on different programmes at the same time) and mistakes of beneficiaries which cause amendments, the first step can represent a bottleneck in the process.

To avoid mistakes and explain the rules of reporting several workshops on reporting were organised for beneficiaries, as well there is an Implementation manual for beneficiaries and instructions for reporting on the programme level as well as separate instructions for Slovenian and Croatian beneficiaries issued by the FLCs.

Despite the Open Call, applicants mainly applied to the Call in the last days, reason for that can be, that they are not used to Open Calls, which can also be the reason why they mainly didn't see Open Call as a simplification of administrative procedures.

Despite some difficulties with the eMS, it is seen as a simplification of administrative procedures as well from beneficiaries as programme bodies.

The main difficulties the beneficiaries had with the eMS were: slowness of the system, the size of the attachments is too small, there was a constant risk of losing the text inputted, work in eMS is time consuming, the system is not optimized.

For programme bodies eMS has on one hand simplified the work, as everything is electronic, on the other hand there are more functionalities needed.

The satisfaction with the eMS is positive, but there is still room for improvement.

For beneficiaries the most often mentioned difficulty regarding administrative procedures is funding (reimbursement of ERDF contribution), which is in their eyes slow. Nevertheless, funding is related to reporting and confirmation of the reports (financial and content), which can be delayed also due to errors of beneficiaries.

During the project implementation the beneficiaries can contact their Contract Manager for explanations and clarifications. Beneficiaries are very satisfied with the communication with their Contract Managers, they find them helpful.

According to beneficiaries, partnerships were not very difficult to form, majority of project partners or lead partners knew at least some of the partners beforehand. By the legal status, majority of the Lead partners are Municipalities / Counties (17 out of 34), followed by the research and development organizations (10) and 1 private company. The majority of PP are (according to the survey) public institutions and municipalities, followed by NGOs and Universities/research organisations. There are 7 SMEs participating in the programme.

The distribution of Croatian institutions is more equal across regions (županija), compared to distribution of beneficiaries in Slovenia, where in Ljubljana there is high concentration of beneficiaries, also Obalno-Kraška region stands out, compared to other regions.

The lead partners (LP) are predominantly coming from Slovenia (23 out of 38; 60,5 %). In the case of strategic projects, the share of both countries is equal (50 % LP from Slovenia, 50 % LP from Croatia). In PA 2 Slovenian institutions are leading 15 projects (out of 26; 58 %), while in PA3 Slovenian institutions are leading 6 projects (out of 8; 75 %).

Communication activities

The achievement of objectives of the Communication strategy is progressing well. The majority of indicators has been already achieved or highly surpassed (e.g. number of visits to the website (526 % achieved indicator); Number of participants at workshops (397 % achieved indicator). The communication activities are implemented in with the communication plan, the communication of funding opportunities has finished, and promotion of programme/project results is starting. The programme website is well structured, beneficiaries assess it as good in terms of usefulness of information, transparency and general impression.

The programme is adopted very well by beneficiaries. Beneficiaries participating in the programme are despite minor difficulties satisfied with the programme and mainly plan to participate also in the next programming period.

The assessment of PAs is presented in chapter 9.1.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

In 2018 there were no specific direct problems which would endanger the performance of the programme. The projects from the 1st and 2nd deadline of the Open Call continued with the implementation of their activities. Another 17 projects from the 3rd deadline of the Open Call and 2 strategic projects with structural measures were approved by the MC and they started with the implementation.

However, we had to address some challenges regarding the issues that could affect the performance of the programme. One is the implementation of the FRISCO projects which were closely monitored by the MA/JS, National Authorities and Monitoring Committee regarding the progress in performing the activities achievements of the set milestones in performance framework and achievements of the financial plan. Due to the fact that the progress of the FRISCO projects was not in line with the plan several meetings were organised by the MA/JS in order to discuss the reasons for the deviations from the plan. The partnership of the projects presented the main problems, the solutions and also changes to the projects were made in order to improve the projects implementation. The progress of the projects was also reported by the partnership on Monitoring Committee meetings. Delays of the FRISCO 1 project also affected the readiness, preparation and submission of the Strategic projects containing structural flood risk reduction measures (namely FRISCO 2.1 – river basin Sotla, FRISCO 2.2 – river basin Mura which was approved in August 2018 and FRISCO 2.3 project for the Drava and Kolpa river basins which was approved in December 2018). In order to closely monitor the progress and readiness of the planned and later approved Strategic projects containing structural flood risk reduction measures several actions were taken such as regular communication of the JS contract manager with the project partnership, meetings of the MA/JS, National Authorities and project partners were we have discussed the reasons for delays and the actions needed to resolve them. The timeline and the deadlines for the submission of the next Strategic project/s containing structural flood risk reduction measures were set by the MC, partnership of the FRISCO project/s presented the achievements and planned activities of the approved and planned FRISCO projects on each MC meeting and also on each Bilateral technical meeting the program partners discussed the status of the Strategic projects and agreed on the actions that need to be taken to assure that the planned activities and indicators set in the CP are achieved.

Because of the above described issues that were affecting the implementation of the strategic FRISCO projects we have identified also the risk of not fully achieving the Performance framework

financial indicator defined in the CP for the year 2018 within the 1st priority axis. All the necessary actions were performed by the Programme structures to achieve the set values. After the initial delays in the implementation of the FRISCO2.1 project due to the problems regarding the public procurement the works on the river Sotla started in December 2018. The works on the river Mura within the FRISCO 2.2 project have also started in December 2018 meaning that the Key implementation step (Transboundary river basins where works have started) for 2018 was successfully reached and even exceeded due to the fact that works have started in 2 river basins in 2018.

The audits of 4 projects have been performed in 2018 (projects FRISCO 1, TA 3, DETOX, MALA BARKA 2), where 4 irregularities with financial impact (in the amount of approximately 59.000 EUR) have been detected. Most of the discovered irregularities were connected to public procurements, errors in calculation of daily allowances ect. In case of Detox project, it was discovered by the Audit Authority (AA) that the PP Municipality of Sv. Ana was not the owner of the real estate but has signed a long term lease contract, which has later been discovered as not appropriate with the owner who is a natural person. According to the AA opinion the actual recipient of the funds was the owner therefore 50% correction for the investment was applied by the AA. This caused to increase the total amount of irregularity to 2% therefore on the basis of a letter from the AA, MA/JS has prepared a list of projects with investments in infrastructure and checked if in any of the other cases PP is not the owner. MA/JS has not discovered any further irregularities and also sent an official letter to all the LP about the meaning of appropriate legal basis and warning on possible irregularities while FLCs were also informed to pay special attention to this issue. Due to this irregularity detected in the Detox project the Total Error Rate (TER) was 2,91% however with several performed corrective measures the Residual Total Error Rate (RTER) was reduced to 0%. The Residual Total Error Rate was also confirmed as 0% by the European Commission in 2019.

Beginning of the year 2018 was also challenging for the programme structures due to the closure activities of the OP Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013 overlapping the activities of the 2014-2020 programme which was already in full implementation. The closure activities for the 2007-2013 programme were successfully concluded and closure documents were submitted to the EC by the end of March 2018.

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

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6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

The citizen's summary is prepared as a separate document and will be uploaded in the SFC and published on the programme's website.

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia.

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia.

8.1. Major projects

TABLE 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/ submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation – financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement; 5. design	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract ⁴ (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)
<i>Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia.</i>														

⁴ In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

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Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them.

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable for CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia.

TABLE 8: Joint action plans

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations (if necessary)

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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PART B - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS - Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

Introduction

Overall, the programme is progressing relatively well in all Priority Axes.

Until the end of 2018, in total 44 projects were contracted (1 was contracted in beginning of 2019) under all four Priority Axes: 4 strategic projects under Priority Axis (PA)1, 34 projects under PA2 and PA3 and six Technical Assistance projects under PA 4.

For PA2 and PA3 the funds available were allocated through one Open Call (published 15.01.2016) with three deadlines (11.03.2016, 14.11.2016, 27.09.2017). Strategic projects under PA1 and Technical assistance projects (PA 4) were directly approved by the MC.

Under PA1 there were 4 strategic projects (FRISCO1, FRISCO 2.1, FRISCO 2.2 and FRISCO 2.3) approved. Croatian project partner is leading 2 strategic projects (Hrvatske vode), 2 are led by Slovenian project partner (Direkcija RS za vode). Under PA4 there were 6 projects approved. The main objective of TA is to provide efficient and frictionless enforcement of the cooperation programme.

The geographical distribution of approved projects under PA2 and PA3 by the location of project partners shows that only three (out of nine eligible) Slovenian regions (Obalno-kraška, Osrednjeslovenska and Podravska) have been represented within the 1st deadline of the Open Call, while in Croatia the partners and ERDF distribution were more diversified among seven participated regions. During the 2nd deadline already six Slovenian regions were represented, and in the last 3rd deadline all nine regions were represented. The least represented partners are from Spodnjeposavska, Zasavska and Primorsko-notranjska region. All Croatian regions participated at the 2nd and 3rd deadline, and the least represented are partners from Varaždinska, Zagrebačka, Karlovačka and Krapinsko-Zagorska županija.

Contracted ERDF per region shows that the most funds on Slovenian side went to PP coming from Osrednjeslovenska region, followed by Obalno-kraška region and Podravska region. On Croatian side most ERDF funds went to PP coming from Primorsko-goranska županija, Grad Zagreb and Istarska županija.

The progress in the achievement of the programme objectives is assessed on the basis of reported outcomes of the projects, which were approved until 31 December 2018, and their expected contributions to the programme output indicators and specific objectives.

PA1 (5b) - Specific objective 1.1: Flood risk reduction in the transboundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins

100% of ERDF funds allocated to PA1 were contracted for four strategic projects prepared by the Croatian and Slovenia water authorities that are going to contribute to coordinated flood risk management and to reduce flood risks through the implementation of non-structural and structural measures in 6 targeted river basins. All projects under the Priority axis 1 are still in progress. Key implementation step 5bKI is achieved by the two transboundary river basins where works have started in 2018.

Expected contribution of approved projects to the programme output indicators:

The approved projects are expected to contribute 100% to the achievement of the target value of output indicators 5b-1, 5b-2 and 5b-3 and CO20. FRISCO 1 project is contributing to CO20 (Population benefiting from flood protection measures), 5b-1 (Transboundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management) and 5b-3 (People with increased professional capacity due to their participation in cross-border activities in transboundary flood risk and river basin management) indicators. FRISCO 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 projects are contributing to CO20 and 5b-2 (Transboundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented) indicators. The target values for the set output indicators within the PA1 should be reached if the planned values of the approved project will be achieved. Planned and achieved values can be seen in Tables 2 and 3 of this document.

The activities on the implementation of strategic projects are closely monitored also by the Monitoring Committee.

PA2 - Specific objective 2.1 (6c): Active heritage preservation through sustainable tourism

The highest interest of applicants measured in a number of received applications under all three deadlines of the Open Call for PA2 and PA3 was for the investment priority 6c.

Twenty-six approved projects, which account for 61% of ERDF funds allocated to PA2, are expected to contribute to the programme specific objective through the development of new or upgrading the existing sustainable tourist products. These are based on the valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage of the programme area. As regards to selected themes, the protection and valorisation of maritime heritage in the coastal areas, ethnological heritage of rural areas, historical parks, network of museums and castles, ethnobotanics, and development of different tourist packages (with culinary, active holidays, traditional customs) integrating dispersed cultural heritage in six programme eligible regions were supported. The programme area is expected a benefit from new maritime heritage interpretation centres, tourist info centres, visitor centres and new packages and programmes for selected target groups, including solutions for monitoring of visits to the cultural and natural heritage sites. Much emphasis is given to capacity building activities and promotion of the new tourism products. Modern technologies are planned to be used in product development (virtual museums, virtual reality applications, 3D experience ethno house...).

Expected contribution of approved projects to the programme output indicators:

Values of two indicators, firstly indicator CO09 increase in the expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attraction and secondly, 6c-3 Persons participating in capacity-building activities, have far exceeded the targeted values. The planned value for CO09 within the approved projects is 289.732 visits per year (targeted 50.000), of those achieved so far 126.771 (44%), and 253% of targeted value. The planned value for indicator 6c-3 within the approved projects is 7.997 persons (targeted 500), of those achieved so far 1.706 (21%) which represent 339% of targeted value.

The planned value for indicator 6c-1 within the approved projects is 69 small-scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of cultural and natural heritage (targeted 15), of those achieved so far 16 (23%) which represent 107% of targeted value.

The planned value for indicator 6c-2 (New or improved cross-border sustainable tourism products or destinations integrating natural or cultural heritage) within the approved projects is 62 (targeted 20), of those achieved so far 1 (1,6%) and 5% of targeted. The implementation of this indicator is low due to the fact that this indicator is realized by the end of the project and by the end of 2018 no projects from PA2 were concluded.

The planned value for indicator CO01 (Number of enterprises receiving support) and indicator CO02 (Number of enterprises receiving grants) within the approved projects is 7 which represent 100% of targeted value.

Specific objective 2.2: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services

Four projects were approved under the specific objective 2.1., two in 2nd and two in 3rd deadline of the Open Call. The projects are ensuring the durability of the conservation and restoration of target species in Natura 2000 areas of the rivers Sotla and Kolpa, Risnjak National Park, the Radensko polje area and the Kamačnik canyon. Furthermore, project activities will support the maintenance of a stable population of terns on gravel habitats along the Sava and Drava rivers and improve its conservation status in Natura 2000 sites and improve conservation status of large carnivores (lynx, wolf, and bear) in the Natura 2000 areas Javorniki-Snežnik, Notranjski trikotnik and Gorski kotar and Lika.

Expected contribution of approved projects to the programme output indicators:

Contracted values of the 4 approved projects exceed the targeted values of all output indicators set for this specific objective. The achievement of the planned indicators by the end of 2018 is relatively low due to the fact that all the projects are still in implementation and 2 of the only began with the implementation in second half of 2018.

- The surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (CO23) has achieved so far 0,5% (152,55 ha) of the targeted value (31.000 ha). The planned value within the approved projects is 32.432,97 ha which represent 105% of the targeted value.
- Implemented practical demonstrations of measures in nature in support of biodiversity (6d-1) has achieved 20% (2 demonstrations) of the targeted value (10). The planned value within the approved projects is 29 which represent 290% of the targeted value.
- By the end of 2018 projects reported 45 persons with improved practical skills and competences for implementation of biodiversity protection measures and valorisation of ecosystem services (6d-3) which represents 18% of the targeted values (250 persons). The planned value within the approved projects (650 persons which represent 260% of the targeted value) is expected to be reported in the next two years.
- None of the joint studies and tools for assessing and promoting ecosystem services was developed so far (6d-2) due to the fact that all projects are still in the implementation phase. The planned value within the approved projects is 13 and has surpassed the targeted value 3 by 433%. It is foreseen that the indicator will be achieved in the next two years.

PA3 (11) - Specific objective 3.1: Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas

Eight approved projects within this specific objective are primarily addressing the institutional cooperation in the field of social and health care and are focused on the provision of services for citizens, elderly persons, person with dementia, etc.

The projects are going to facilitate the increased exchange of good practices between cooperating institutions, identification of solutions for optimisation of services for people with dementia, a joint programme for deinstitutionalised long-term care for the elderly, day care centre. Joint cross-border protection and rescues operation team will be established for elementary natural disasters (floods, earthquakes). A sustainable network of key medical institutions in the area of emergency medical service in the cross-border region will also be established. All projects will contribute to capacity building targets of the programme by training of persons providing home care services, persons working with people with dementia, social workers, citizens etc.

The expected contribution of the approved projects to programme output objectives:

- As planned within the approved projects 104 institutions will be participating in CB structures. So far achieved are 35 institutions, which represents 78 % of the set target value for indicator 11-1 (45 institutions).
- It is expected that 1.724 persons representing institutions and stakeholders in the programme area will improve skills and competencies. So far achieved are 549 persons which already represents 183% of the set target value for the indicator 11-2 (300 persons).

PA 4 – technical assistance

The expected contribution of the approved projects to programme output objectives

Achievement of the set targets is progressing well and without significant difficulties. Majority of the indicators' targeted values under the Priority Axis 4 are by the end of 2018 already achieved or surpassed as seen from the Table 2 of this document. The only indicator which will probably not be achieved 100% is the number of joint CB projects implemented and concluded. The target value is 57 projects implemented and concluded. By the end of 2018 99% of all available programme funds were committed and 44 projects approved which means that this indicator is by now only 77 % achieved.

Programme Evaluation plan and Communication strategy approved by MC and are being implemented as planned.

Overall assessment of the achievement of the programme objectives

On the basis of the expected contribution of approved projects to the programme output indicators, the programme is progressing well towards the achievement of specific objectives 1.1, 2.1, 2.2. and 3.1 as well as PA4 and communication strategy.

Regarding the achievement of the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework it can be seen from Table 3 of this document that all milestones for 2018 have been reached or even exceeded except for 5bFI (Payments: certified total amount of eligible expenditure) within the PA1. The achievement of this indicator represents 98,5% of the set value for 2018. The reasons for the slight underachievement are explained in Points 5 and 14 of this document.

9.2 Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the

arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

The principles set out in the Article 7 of the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013 were taken into account in the programme implementation.

The horizontal principles and their explanation were included in the Implementation manual for beneficiaries – Part 1 (about the programme). Applicants had to self-assess contribution of the project to horizontal principles as positive, neutral or negative in the application forms and justify the assessment with concrete activities undertaken in the project.

The MC adopted the quality assessment criteria for the projects to be supported under PA2 and PA3. Under assessment of the set of strategic criteria the contributions of the projects to the promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination was observed by the assessors. The projects demonstrating positive contributions were assessed with 1 point for each of the two principles. The maximum score of points under strategic set of criteria is 39 for projects submitted.

Horizontal principles were also observed in the assessment of the strategic projects approved under PA1.

The need for respecting the horizontal principles was promoted on all informative workshops for potential applicants to Open Call and also reporting workshops. All projects have to respect horizontal principles. In application forms, all projects approved under PA2 and PA3 assessed contributions to the promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination as positive.

Under PA1 (4 projects) the measures aiming at flood risk protection will contribute to equal opportunities for the development of the areas exposed to the risk of floods. The Project FRISCO 1 will contribute to the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination because flood risk prevention measures will create development opportunities for the population in areas threatened by flood risks. This should be achieved with the joint activities within the project area that will assure this area with new solutions and knowledge about the risk of floods and also prevent flooding. With these activities, the project area will gain more opportunities for the development which did not exist before.

Also, FRISCO 2., FRISCO 2.2 and FRISCO 2.3 plan activities in accordance with the principles of equal opportunities and will not generate discrimination of any kind (gender, race, religion, age...). At all public events and other activities for the general public, special attention will be paid to accessibility of the venue.

All 34 projects under PA2 and PA3 observe the two horizontal principles, while specific contributions are expected in particular through ensuring open access to participation in the project activities for men and women equally and with respect of non-discrimination.

In projects, equal opportunities and non-discrimination for all target groups are ensured. The use of project outputs for people with disabilities, older people, different religious beliefs and regardless of sexual orientation are ensured.

Projects will further allow free access to project results and knowledge. The tourist infrastructure, where relevant, will be constructed/renovated in a way to allow access to persons with disabilities.

Specific attention in ensuring equal opportunities is devoted to the elderly and persons with dementia. Contribution to quality of life is expected by improved institutional capacities to provide better services and promote social inclusion.

In projects, a balanced number of men and women participating in project activities are ensured. Project activities will promote equal participation of both genders. The end users of services are the population in the program area without any gender differences.

Mainly all projects partners use gender-sensitive language and visual aids in their communication and dissemination material. Some partners are especially vigilant not to use any stereotypes and to use inclusive language.

9.3 Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

The principles set out in Article 8 of the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013 were also taken into account in the programme implementation. Topics such as environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience, and risk prevention and management are to a great extent included in the programme priorities (in particular PA1 and PA2).

Sustainable development as horizontal principle was included in the Implementation manual for beneficiaries – Part 1 (about the programme) together with concrete examples of how it can be promoted in projects. The applicants had to self-assess contribution of the project to sustainable development as positive, neutral or negative in the application forms and justify the assessment with concrete activities undertaken in the project.

The MC adopted the quality assessment criteria for the projects to be supported under PA2 and PA3. Under assessment of the set of strategic criteria the contributions of the projects to sustainable development was observed by the assessors. The projects demonstrating positive contributions were assessed with 1 point. The maximum score of points under strategic set of criteria is 39 for projects submitted.

Sustainable development was also assessed in the assessment of the strategic project approved under PA1.

Under PA1 non-structural measures will contribute to coordinated flood risk management. Actions proposed in the project aim at mitigating climate change effects and natural disasters due to increased risk of flooding and will address improvement of common knowledge base and capacities, joint planning and coordination. The planning aspects of the project will formulate concrete structural measures in flood prevention that will be preferentially based on environmentally sustainable and ecosystem-based solutions.

In terms of expected contributions, the projects under PA2 (SO 2.1) address sustainable tourism development and include actions to increase awareness of the visitors and local population on the importance of preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and its valorisation. The projects are about to observe in implementation efficient use of resources, use of communication technologies instead of travels, and similar.

Projects under PA2 SO2.2 (Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services) directly relate to sustainability in the view of the environment. The project "VEZI NARAVE" directly improves the status of meadows and aquatic species and habitats and contributes to the lasting ability ecosystems for the provision of ecosystem services. In addition to favourable conditions in nature, the project directly contributes to the preservation of natural resources, the development of niche and sustainable forms of economic activity.

Another example is project "LIKE" - the project contributes positively to the ecological, economic and social dimension of sustainable development. The project will reduce the negative impacts on nature, ensure the preservation of natural resources, and protect the biodiversity of the karst edge. The economic dimension will be stimulated by opening up new opportunities for ecotourism and organic farming.

9.4 Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Figures calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on categorisation data.

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation of the programme (%)
A.1	7,432,969.30	74.13%
A.2	3,122,608.14	11.12%
Total	10,555,577.44	22.89%

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

The Monitoring Committee has been formed in respect of Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The process of selection and nomination of MC members has been coordinated on each side by the National Authorities (NA). NAs also cooperated in the cross border context in order to complement and secure high level of representation of relevant sectors and territories.

The MC comprises members with voting rights and members in advisory capacity. The voting members were nominated with a view to represent all relevant sectors addressed by the Cooperation Programme. The members include representatives of the local and regional levels, civil society, economic partners, and ministries.

The functioning of the MC has been effective. MC members in both partner countries organise preparatory meetings where relevant topics are discussed and opinions aligned nationally. Preparation also allows for more efficient and effective discussion at MC meetings.

MC is supported by Joint Secretariat. MC members have access to relevant materials and information on the intranet. Members of all bodies are presented on the web page with their contacts (email, telephone number).

The programme partners are informed about all programme activities (workshops, bilateral meetings...) and are invited to all programme events organised by MA and JS. Programme partners are also involved in the communication/publicity activities, activities regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

The quality of cooperation between programme partners is perceived as good. There are regular bilateral meetings or phone/on-line/email communication, all problems are solved quickly and in constructive manner.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

The Evaluation plan was approved on the 3rd MC meeting on 30 and 31 August 2016. According to the Evaluation plan the first evaluation was performed in the first half of 2017. The second evaluation was planned in 2019 – evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness. The evaluation was conducted between January and May 2019. The overall objective of the second evaluation was to evaluate the functioning of the program structures and the implementation of the program / projects with a view to identify operational and ineffective issues and identify the necessary improvements.

According to the Evaluation plan this evaluation will be followed by the Impact assessment of the program I in spring 2020 (the results will also give guidelines for the new programming period and will be included in the annual report for the year 2019) and Evaluation of the impact of the program II by the autumn of 2022 (which will be the basis for the preparation of the final report of the program).

The evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness was prepared in May 2019 and the results of the evaluation are summarised in Point 4 of this document.

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The general objective of communication is to enhance the public awareness of the EU support for projects in the area of CBC through the effective use of communication instruments, especially by communicating the existence of the European Funds and added value that the cohesion policy represents for the CP Interreg Slovenia- Croatia in the period 2014-2020 through the wide array of instruments.

In regard to the information and publicity measures carried out under the Communication strategy following activities were carried out in 2018, mainly promoting projects' results and impact of the CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia. The main communication activities on promoting the funding opportunities are finished because all the funds were already committed by the end of 2018 and the main focus is on the promotion of the project/programme results/achievements, benefits and best practices.

The majority of indicators were already achieved or even surpassed, regarding the fact that the programming period is not finished yet we can say that all indicators are expected to be surpassed.

The cumulative values by the end of 2018 of the implemented activities as well as reached results based on the list of communication tools are:

Direct communication:

11 workshops for potential applicants and beneficiaries were organised with 993 participants (target values are 12 workshops and 250 participants).

In order to help the project development, the JS/NA also carried out individual consultations with potential applicants.

Altogether 6 promotional events (other than workshops) were organised with 847 participants (target values are 8 events and 800 participants) – Kick-off event which was organised already in 2015, one major event which promoted the funding opportunities and presented the achievements of the CP was organised together with the final conference of the OP Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013 in 2016, ceremonial opening of the JS branch offices in Buzet and Krapina in 2016 and 2017 and organisation of the EC-day in 2017 and 2018.

On-line communication:

By the end of 2018 the number of visits to the programme website was 52.642 visits (target value is 10.000 visits).

Web site www.si-hr.eu is well recognized and used by beneficiaries. They mainly use it at least monthly or weekly for searching instructions and project news. Beneficiaries find it transparent, information on the web page is useful also general impression is good.

The web page is in three languages – Slovene, Croatian and English. All the information the applicants and beneficiaries need for application and implementation of the projects are published on the website.

By the end of 2018 more than 100 news on activities, events and relevant information were published on the website and 610 members were registered to the e-news (target value is 500 addressee). Currently, there are 299 subscribers to the e-news (until 27.07.2018 there were 610 subscribers, but due to GDPR all already subscribed to the mailing list had to subscribe again, hence the number dropped to 299).

The interactive map was prepared and published on the programme website containing the descriptions of all the projects and project partners of the co-financed projects of the OP SI-HR 2007-2013 and also the co-financed projects of the CP SI-HR 2014-2020 are added regularly.

Communication with media and PR / Media communication – advertising:

To all public events, the national and local media from both countries are invited so that the Programme and projects can be promoted in the national and local media and presented to the general public.

Publication activities (printed communication tools):

Regarding the number of information material, 800 issues of the programme brochure and 100 issues of the Cooperation Programme document were printed and distributed at the events (target value is 1000 issues).

Regarding the knowledge of the programme website 93,5% of the people that participated in an on line survey has already visited programme website (target value is 90%).

Other (additional) tools:

On the occasions of the public events, participants received the purchased promotional items (notepads, pens, etc.).

Moreover, in the frame of the programme, the uniform visual identity is used for all programme documents (e.g. invitations, handouts, presentations), on the programme website and e-newsletters, on the promotional materials, publications and other activities.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

As stated in the CP under Priority Axis 1: Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins concentrates on a predefined border river basin's territory, where only a cross-border and territorial based approach can lead to effective results in flood risk prevention. The strategic FRISCO projects (1, 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) respect an integrated approach in planning and implementation, taking into account economic development, climate change, spatial planning and sustainable solutions for flood risk mitigation.

Priority Axis 2 – Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources actions shall focus on mobilising the natural/cultural potential of the hinterland and small/medium towns. The projects selected in all three deadlines of the Open Call focus primarily on the preservation and promotion of the cultural/natural heritage in the small urban areas and rural areas which are less populated and include only small and medium towns which will benefit

from the implementation of the project activities by improving their economic stability and recognisability. Also, there are projects that address bordering territories of Natura 2000 sites, forests or karst areas.

Priority Axis 3 - aims at enhancing institutional capacities and CB networks to provide efficient service delivery in areas with significant delivery gaps. The projects aim at reducing the difference in accessibility to optimal emergency services between rural and urban centres, establishing different cross-border partnerships which will establish cross-border cooperation in the field of healthy ageing, social security, civil protection and rescue, urgent medical help.

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

For the purpose of reinforcing the capacity of authorities, Joint Secretariat (JS) members and the Managing Authority (MA) regularly attended trainings organised by Interact (Raising project quality, Financial and Project management, Indicators and data collection, Finance management camp...). Also trainings regarding the eMS system were organised for the programme authorities and throughout the year regular meetings with the authorities (JS/MA) from CP Slovenija-Austria and CP Slovenia-Hungary and also other Interreg programmes were organised to share the experience and to reinforce the knowledge of programme management.

All the relevant guidelines for the beneficiaries were prepared and detailed information regarding the project implementation, reporting process and regarding the program rules in general were presented to the beneficiaries of the approved projects at workshops, face-to-face meetings and communication with JS contract managers.

There were several workshops organised for beneficiaries regarding reporting by MA/JS, namely:

- 1st workshop on reporting, 13. 02.2017, Šmarješke Toplice, SI
- 2nd workshop, 26.10.2017, Karlovac, HR
- 3rd workshop on reporting 28.11.2018, Ljubljana, SI

Also reporting workshops for the Croatian beneficiaries (presented by Croatian FLC as part of the MA/JS reporting workshops) and Slovenian beneficiaries (separate workshops organised by Slovenian FLC) were organised.

At the workshops the following topics were presented: (a) instructions on information and communication, (b) instructions on reporting, (c) practical presentation of reporting in the electronic monitoring system (eMS), focusing on the most common mistakes that occur in the reporting process.

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

The programme is contributing to the European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) during implementation. Various

priority areas of EUSDR and EUSAIR are reflected in the thematic objectives of the programme, as laid down in the CP.

Within the application, the contribution to the relevant macro-regional strategies has to be described by the project partners. The 22 projects approved within all three deadlines of the Open Call of the CP Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia are contributing to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). The approved projects are contributing to the following pillars and priority areas of macro-regional strategies:

Priority areas of macro-regional strategies:

a) EUSDR (Slovenia, Croatia):

Main pillars: Connect the region, Protecting the environment, Strengthening the region, Building prosperity

- PA 03 – Culture and tourism

1st deadline

ENJOY HERITAGE

DETOX

Mala barka 2

2nd deadline

Riviera4Seasons2

CLAUSTRA+

ECool-Tour

Prebujanje / Buđenje

ZELENO ŽELIMO

ŽIVA COPRNIJA

MISTERION

KRASn'KRŠ

Uživam tradicijo

3rd deadline

RIDE&BIKE II

INSPIRACIJA

MITSKI PARK

kuTura

Prehistory Adventure

NATURE&WILDLIFE

MINE TOUR

In cultura veritas

LIVING CASTLES

Kaštelir

- PA 05 – Environmental risks (FRISCO 1, FRISCO 2.1, FRISCO 2.2, FRISCO 2.3)

b) EUSAIR (Slovenia, Croatia):

Main pillars: 1. Blue growth, 2. Connecting the region, 3. Environmental quality, 4. Sustainable tourism

- Topic 4.1 Diversified tourism offers (the same projects as EUSDR PA03 (Culture and tourism))

Example of a projects contributing to the EUSDR are all four FRISCO projects. The first project (FRISCO 1) which started in April 2016 with the objective to improve coordinated flood risk

management and reduce flood risks. The main outputs will be sets of joint models, maps and tools for each of the six target transboundary river basins (Kupa/Kolpa, Sutla/Sotla, Drava, Mura, Dragonja and Bregana) with the associated design documentation for optimal structural measures, improved physical alert systems, and the outputs of awareness rising/capacity building activities. The ultimate beneficiary of the project is the affected population in the border area between Slovenia and Croatia. The Project's objectives can only be achieved through cross-border cooperation because, in line with the Floods Directive, the flood risk management planning should be done following the river basin approach in order to determine the optimal measures. The Project is original because of its comprehensiveness, both in terms of the spatial coverage (all transboundary river basins) and in terms of the scope of the measures (all key non-structural measures covering preparedness, prevention and response).

FRISCO 2.1, FRISCO 2.2, FRISCO 2.3 are investment projects, where cross border cooperation is of vital importance as any flood risk reduction measure on a transboundary river needs to be bilaterally coordinated to avoid one-sided approaches that could endanger the other side.

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

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12. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (ARTICLES 21(2) AND 22(7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14
Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework	
Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018 Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

PART C
PART C - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The CP is expected to contribute most to the sustainable growth objectives, followed by smart and inclusive growth.

- Sustainable growth is promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy
- Smart growth - Developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation
- Inclusive growth - Fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial Cohesion

The Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia-Croatia aims at promoting sustainable, safe and vibrant border area by fostering smart approaches to preservation, mobilization and management of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the people living and working in or visiting the area. The programme contributes to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through PA 1, PA 2 and PA 3.

PA1- Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins and PA3 - Healthy, safe and accessible border areas contribute to the pillar Inclusive growth – employment and skills and Sustainable growth – climate, energy and mobility flagship. The contribution is assessed through the indicators as stated below:

- 104 institutions participating in cross-border structures (11-1),
- 1.724 persons representing institutions and stakeholders from the programme area with improved skills and competences in CB (11-2),
- 20 people with increased professional capacity due to their participation in cross-border activities in transboundary flood risk and river basin management (5b-3),
- 6 transboundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed (under PA 1, 5b-1).

PA 2 - Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources mainly contribute to the two pillars, Sustainable growth- competitiveness and Smart growth – innovation and digital society with the specific objective 2.1: Active heritage preservation through sustainable tourism. The contribution is assessed through the indicators as stated below:

- an increase in the number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attraction by 289.732 visits per year at the programme area (CO09),
- 62 new or improved cross-border sustainable tourism products or destinations integrating natural or cultural heritage (6c-2),
- 13 new joint studies and tools for assessing and promoting ecosystem services developed (6d-2),

Projects implemented under the PA2 and PA1 are contributing to the development of the business environment and improvement of the framework conditions for innovation to strengthen the innovation chain and boost the levels of investments.

PART C

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN – PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

By the end of 2018 all the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework were fully achieved except the financial indicator 5bFi (Payments: certified total amount of eligible expenditure) within the PA1 for which the achievement is 98,5%. The reason for not fully achieving this milestone are delays in the strategic FRISCO projects implementation which are described in point 5 of this document.