



Interreg 
SLOVENIA – CROATIA
 European Union | European Regional Development Fund



CITIZENS' SUMMARY

2020

Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia, April 2021



BACKGROUND



“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.”

This is a brief summary of the **Annual Implementation Report (AIR)** for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia for the programming period 2014-2020. It reports on the progress achieved under the CP in implementing the programme during the calendar **year 2020**. 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. It was approved by the Monitoring Committee (MC) on 20 May 2021 and sent to the European Commission (EC).



The Programme has three **priority axis** and related specific objectives:

PA 1: Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins

Specific objective 1.1:
Flood risk reduction in the transboundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins

PA 2: Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources

Specific objective 2.1:
Active heritage preservation through sustainable tourism

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

PA 3: Healthy, safe and accessible border areas

Specific objective 3.1:
Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas

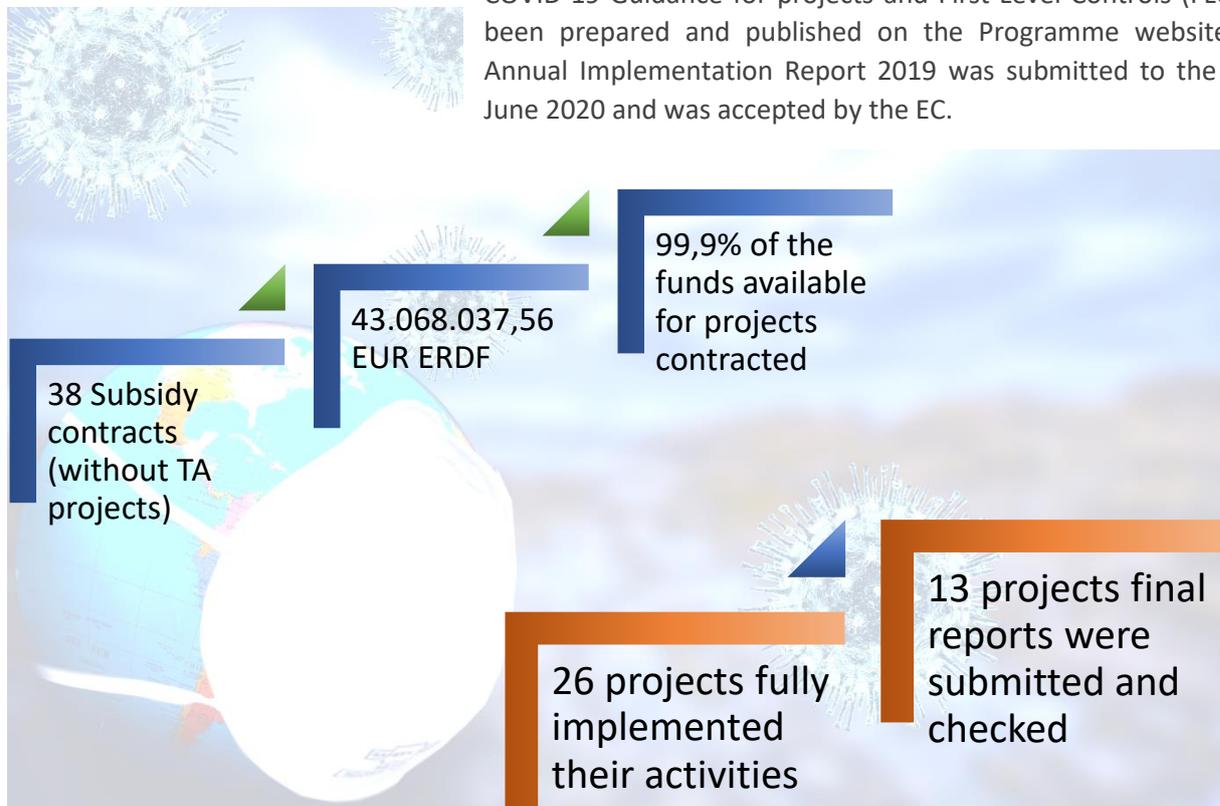
OVERVIEW



OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME



The year 2020 was a very challenging year, but nevertheless all programme structures were doing their best to cope with the challenges and were especially intensively working on the activities related to the implementation of approved strategic FRISCO projects and approved projects within the 1st, 2nd and 3rd deadline of the Open Call. Furthermore, due to COVID-19 pandemic special COVID-19 Guidance for projects and First Level Controls (FLC) has been prepared and published on the Programme website, the Annual Implementation Report 2019 was submitted to the EC in June 2020 and was accepted by the EC.



In 2020 the spending on the programme level made a big leap which resulted in a long list of Applications for Payments submitted by the programme to the EC.

The MA and JS met once with the programme partners (National Authorities (NAs), Certifying Authority (CA), First Level Control (FLC)) at the Bilateral technical meeting (BTM) on 8th May 2020 to discuss the topics related to programme implementation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was organised on-line.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the MC members were not able to meet at the MC meeting in 2020 and therefore, the 10th MC meeting was organised on-line on 26 January 2021.



WHAT HAS CHANGED?



38
subsidy contracts

26
projects fully
implemented their
activities

improved
quality of life in
the program
area

Joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management were developed for six transboundary river basins within FRISCO 1 project and flood risk reduction measures were implemented. Within FRISCO2.1 project including the modernization and upgrading of the Vonarje Dam. This is a key structural flood risk reduction element in the Sutla/Sotla river basin. With the completion of all FRISCO projects **more than 1600 people are planned to benefit from flood protection measures, 20 people will gain increased** professional capacity due to their participation in cross-border activities in transboundary flood risk and river basin management and in **4 transboundary river basins flood risk reduction measures will be implemented (Sotla/Sutla, Mura, Drava, Kolpa/Kupa)**. By the end of 2020 works have started on all 4 transboundary river basins and flood risk reduction measures were **implemented on 1 transboundary river basin (Sotla/Sutla)**.

From the approved projects within PA2 the **achieved value** of increased number of **visits to cultural or natural heritage sites was 734.310, 44 small scale investments** in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage were performed, **42 new or improved** cross-border sustainable products were developed, and **14.377 persons participated** in capacity building activities by the end of 2020.

152,77 ha of surface area of habitats attained a better conservation status and **286 persons gained improved** practical skills and competences for the implementation of biodiversity protection measures and valorisation of ecosystem services by the end of 2020.

Within PA3 73 institutions participated in new cross-border structures and **1.942 persons gained improved** skills and competences in CB service delivery by the end of 2020.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES

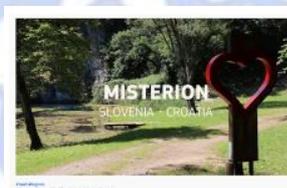


green connections

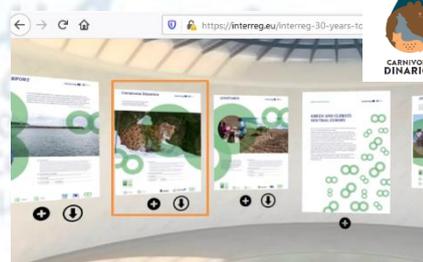


In line with the Communication strategy one major annual event of the programme was carried out on 17 September 2020 in the frame of the **European Cooperation Day 2020** which was organized together with the project VEZI NARAVE/VEZE PRIRODE, and was due to the COVID-19 pandemic organized as two separated events with limited number of participants, one in Slovenia in Nimno by Rogaška Slatina and the other one in Risvica near Kumrovec in Croatia.

In 2020, to celebrate the "Interreg 30 Years" anniversary, Interact has organised a **Project Slam** promoting innovative communication approaches to Interreg results, the themes for 2020 were Neighbour cohesion, Youth cooperation and Green connections. Among more than 150 EU projects also 13 projects from our Programme participated and the **project HITRO** ranked among the top 8 in its category "We all have a neighbour" and finally took **3rd place** with the final TED Talk video. Project **Carnivora Dinarica** has also been recognized as one of the **best examples** of cross-border cooperation in the green category and participated in the EC virtual exhibition. Furthermore, also the project Mala barka 2 has taken the award for the **best EU project of Croatian counties** in the category of cross-border cooperation. In December 2020 another two of our **project Misterion and CrossCare** were selected for the European Union Campaign - **Stories from the Regions**.



Stories from the regions: Cooperation at three cross for the elderly between Croatia and Slovenia



MORE INFORMATION



The latest programme news and information on events implemented within the programme are available on the programme website: www.si-hr.eu



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