



Interreg 
SLOVENIA – CROATIA
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2017

Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia
for the programme period 2014–2020
June 2018

1. BACKGROUND

This is the third 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 2017.

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 2017 on the 6th MC meeting held on 13 and 14 June 2018.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

All programme structures and both Member States, Slovenia and Croatia were in the year 2017 very much involved in the implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

In 2017 the implementation of the programme ran very actively with approving 12 additional projects from the 2nd deadline of the Open Call, getting the positive opinion on the designation of the MA/Certifying Authority (CA), sending the first payment request to the European Commission (EC), closing the 3rd deadline for submission of project applications, etc. The MA and JS met three times with the programme partners (National Authorities (NAs), CA, First Level Control (FLC)) at the Bilateral technical meetings (BTM) to discuss topics related to the programme implementation.

On 9 and 10 May 2017 the MC members met at their 4th meeting in order to decide on the project applications received within the 2nd deadline for submission. **12 projects (11 projects in the frame of priority axis 2 and 1 project in the frame of priority axis 3) in the amount of 11.485.027,19 EUR ERDF funds were approved in 2017 for co-financing.** On 4 July 2017 the ceremonial signing of Subsidy contracts for the co-financing with funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was organised and all 12 contracts were signed. For the beneficiaries of these projects the workshop on reporting for the projects approved in the frame of the 2nd deadline was held on 26 October 2017 in Karlovac. On the 4th MC meeting also the AIR for 2016 was discussed and approved and the date for the 3rd deadline of the Open Call for submission of the applications was set for 27 September 2017.

The 5th MC meeting was organised on 28 November 2017 where the MC members approved the **Strategic project under Priority axis 1 – Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins FRISCO 2.1 containing structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Sotla in the amount of 1.426.746,25 EUR ERDF.** The contract was signed on 21 December 2017. At the 5th MC meeting also the Final implementation report for the OP Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013 was discussed and approved and the results of the 1st programme evaluation were presented.

In order to assure a smooth implementation of the programme on all levels, the MA and JS organised the training on the use of the eMS information system for all national control units on 21 March 2017 and the workshop on eMS for auditors from both countries on 31 May 2017.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

Within the 3rd deadline for the submission of projects in the frame of the Open Call which closed on 27 September 2017 two workshops intended for potential applicants were carried out on 13 June 2017 in Postojna and on 20 June in Marija Bistrica. In the frame of the workshops the MA and JS presented the participants the Cooperation Programme, information concerning the Open Call, the Rules on the eligibility of the expenditure, the requirements concerning information and communication, the annexes to the application form, the electronic Monitoring System (eMS) and most common mistakes of the previous two deadlines and how to prepare good/quality projects.



Workshops for the potential applicants within the 3rd deadline of the Open Call

Until the 3rd deadline 88 project applications were received. The assessment process started in October 2017 and was concluded in April 2018. The approval of the project applications submitted in the third deadline will take place on the 6th MC meeting on 13 and 14 June 2018.

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 2017 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 project 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 project was not completely in line with the plan several meetings including the site visit was 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 and also minor changes to the project were made in order to improve the project implementation.</p> <p>In 2017 on the 5th MC meeting first Strategic project containing</p>

		<p>structural flood risk reduction measures on the river Sotla with the acronym FRISCO 2.1 was approved in the amount of 1.426.746,25 EUR ERDF. The contract was signed on 21 December 2017.</p> <p>Altogether by the end of 2017 2 projects were contracted in the amount of 4.887.053,75 EUR ERDF which represents 49% of available funds within the priority axis (PA) 1.</p>
A.2	2. Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources	<p>In 2017 the final decision on the project applications received in the frame of the 2nd deadline for submission was reached by the MC. 11 projects were approved, within the Investment priority 6c 9 projects in the amount of 8.975.295,11 EUR ERDF and 2 projects within the Investment priority 6d in the amount of 1.778.102,66 EUR ERDF.</p> <p>Within the 2nd deadline of the Open Call in 2017 all 11 approved projects started with the implementation under this priority axis. The contracted ERDF amount for those 11 projects is 10.753.397,77 EUR ERDF. Altogether by the end of 2017 14 projects were contracted and in implementation in the amount of 14.403.678,12 EUR ERDF. Altogether 12 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>On 27 September 2017 the 3rd deadline closed. Altogether 88 project applications were received out of which 65 belonged to PA 2. The final decision on those projects is planned to be taken on the 6th MC meeting in June 2018.</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>One project was approved within the 2nd deadline of the Open Call within the priority axis 3 in 2017 and has started with the implementation. The contracted ERDF amount for this project is 731.629,42 EUR. Altogether by the end of 2017 3 projects were contracted in the amount of 1.985.386,86 EUR ERDF.</p> <p>Within the received projects in the 3rd deadline of the Open Call 23 out of received 88 projects belong to priority axis 3. The final decision on those projects is planned to be taken on the 6th MC meeting in June 2018.</p> <p>At this stage no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA 3.</p>
A.4	4. Technical assistance (TA)	<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</p>

amount for all TA projects is 3.000.000 EUR.

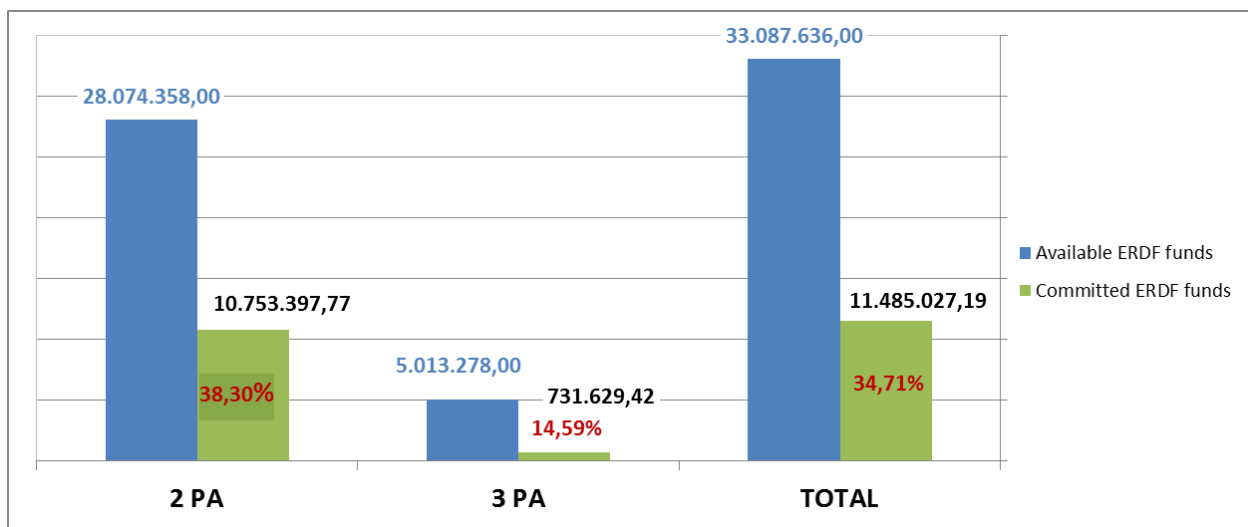
In 2017 the following activities were implemented within the TA projects:

- 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 2016, results of the 1st evaluation of the programme, anti-fraud, conflict of interests, irregularities, audits, update on information and publicity activities - EC Day 2017, etc.),
- three workshops, two intended for potential applicants and one for reporting were carried out,
- on 21 March 2017 the training on the use of the eMS information system for all national control units and on 31 May 2017 the workshop on eMS for auditors from both countries were organised,
- three BTM meetings, namely on 28 February 2017 in Stična, on 3 July 2017 in Zagreb and on 18 October in Ljubljana, to discuss topics related to the programme implementation were organised,
- "Pohorje tour" event was organised under the auspices of the EC Day initiative (23rd September 2017),
- advising/support of potential applicants, 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 all 5 approved projects from the 1st deadline of the Open Call were carried out,
- preparation of the corrigendum and related documentation of the Open Call,
- assessment of the project applications submitted in the frame of the 3rd deadline of the Open Call,
- preparation of two written procedures for the MC,
- preparation or update of programme documents,
- 13 Subsidy contracts have been prepared and signed,
- Ceremonial signing of the contracts for projects approved within the 2nd deadline of the Open Call was organised on 4 July 2017 in Slovenska Bistrica.
- 453.676,25 EUR ERDF (in total 574.337,03 EUR) have been certified,

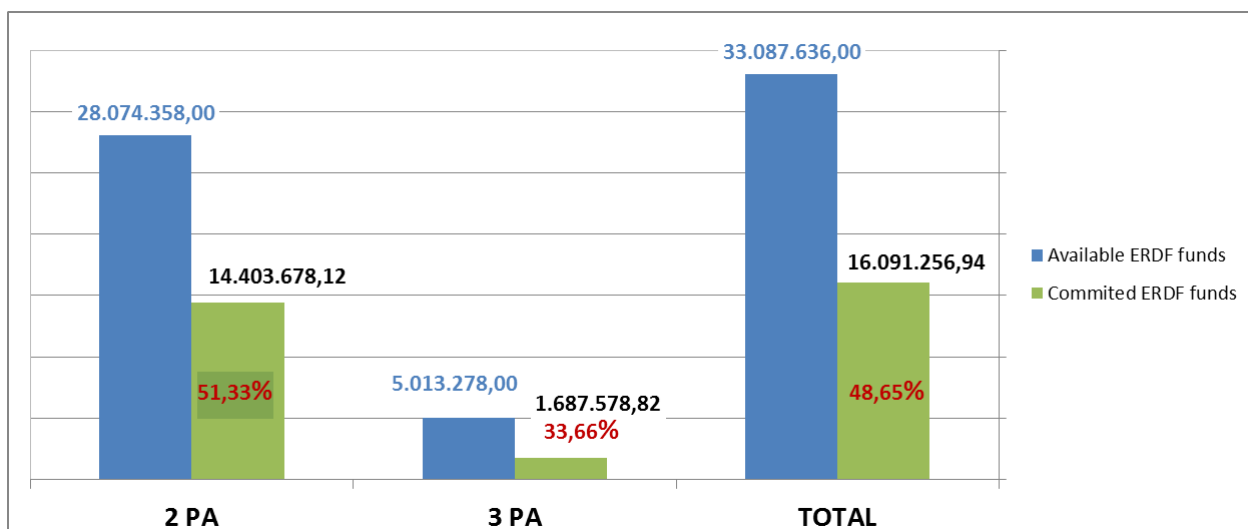
- two payment requests were sent to the EC,
- closure activities for the OP Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013,
- the programme website has been updated with news, FAQs, information on programme and project implementation, etc.

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

Share of the ERDF funds committed within the 1st and 2nd deadline of the Open Call (PA2 and PA3)



Share of the ERDF funds committed within the 1st and 2nd deadline of the Open Call (PA2 and PA3)



4. OTHER INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES IN 2017

In line with the Communication strategy along with the workshops for applicants and ceremonial signing of contracts for the approved projects within the 2nd deadline of the Open Call also one major annual event of the programme was carried out on 23 September 2017 together with two other CBC programmes (Slovenia-Austria and Slovenia-Hungary) in the frame of the European Cooperation Day 2017. The event was organised as a hike over the Pohorje hill of Maribor, Slovenia. The aim was to present the projects and programmes that are implemented with funds from the ERDF. A group of 350 participants from Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Austria which arrived with organised bus transportation had a closer look at the projects that are being implemented. On 3 February 2017 also the ceremonial opening of the JS branch office in Krapina was organised.

In the frame of the programme's website 50 news on activities, events and relevant information were published in 2017.



Subsidy contracts signing of the approved projects from the 2nd deadline of the Open Call and strategic project FRISCO 2.1



European Cooperation Day 2017



Opening of the JS branch office in Krapina

5. REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

By the end of 2017 altogether 19 Subsidy contracts in the amount of 20.978.310,69 EUR ERDF funds were signed which represents 49 % of the funds available for projects (1st, 2nd and 3rd priority). Including the Technical Assistance (TA) projects the programme has committed 52 % of all available funds.

In relation to the financial data 453.676,25 EUR ERDF (in total 574.337,03 EUR) funds were certified by CA. In 2017 two payment requests were sent to the EC in the amount of 321.515,80 EUR. All approved projects are still in implementation phase. No project fully implemented the activities by the end of 2017.

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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