



Interreg 
SLOVENIA – CROATIA
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2014/2015

Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia
for the programme period 2014–2020
16 May 2016

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual implementation reports is part of the annual implementation report 2014/2015, the first 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 programming process and in implementing the programme during the calendar years 2014 and 2015. The report complies with Article 50(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, which requires the Managing Authority to submit an Annual Implementation Report within fifth month (31 May) of the end of each full calendar year of implementation. According to the Article 14 of the Regulation 1299/2013 this first report shall cover the financial years 2014 and 2015, as well as the period between the starting date for eligibility of expenditure and 31 December 2013.

The report was prepared by the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, acting as the Managing Authority of the programme in cooperation with its programme partners. The Monitoring Committee approved the Annual Implementation Report 2015 on 16th May 2016 in the frame of the 1st Written Procedure.

Both Member States, Slovenia and Croatia were in the years 2014 and 2015 very much involved in the preparation of the Cooperation Programme, in particular by analysing and identifying the needs of the programme area, defining the priorities and related specific objectives and allocation of the available ERDF funds. The Task Force established for the preparation of the respective document and reaching decisions within the programming process was composed of representatives from Slovenia and Croatia, who were supported by the representatives of the Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat and external experts. 14 Task Force meetings were held during the programming process till September 2015.

4 workshops with stakeholders were held from 20th till 23rd January in Krapina (HR), Pivka (SI), Celje (SI) and Bale (HR), attended by more than 270 participants. Feedback was gathered from stakeholders on the appropriateness of proposed indicative actions for the challenges and needs of the programme area. Events offered opportunities for networking and for the development of ideas for potential projects.

In March 2015 draft Cooperation Programme was published on the programme website and further inputs from stakeholders were sought in the course of online public consultation. 11 comments were received.

The European Commission has approved the Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia on 30 September 2015. The approval was the legal basis for preparing both the Strategic and Open Call for Proposals, which were planned for early 2016. In Autumn and Winter 2015 the Joint Secretariat was preparing the Application Pack with all the forms and manuals. For the new perspective a new information system eMS has been established, as well as a new program website has been launched.

On 9 December 2015 the Kick-off event was organised in Celje (SI) to present the Cooperation

programme to the broader public and to announce the Open Call.

Besides the Cooperation programme also Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia and Ex-ante evaluation of the Cooperation Programme V-A Slovenia-Croatia have been prepared by external experts during the concerned reporting years.

The programme uses the e-monitoring system (eMS) developed by Plot in cooperation with Interact. The eMS system and its functionalities fully comply with the e-Cohesion regulatory requirements (according to audit opinion).

The e-Cohesion requirements are fully supported through following measures:

- ✓ The Application Form is filled in online through the web access and is available to all programme partners instantly (based on the user rights).
- ✓ The communication with the applicants and the beneficiaries is performed through the eMS Communication portal.
- ✓ The assessment for selection of operations is carried out online and is available to all project and programme partners according to their user rights and assessment timeline.
- ✓ The contracting is implemented through automatic e-generation of documents.
- ✓ The expenditure verification process of the FLC is foreseen to be implemented through the online system – reports and all supporting documents necessary for the audit trail will be uploaded (eMS) by the beneficiaries. FLC verification procedures and forms are completely concluded through eMS.
- ✓ The Progress Reports and requests for payments can be generated within the monitoring system.
- ✓ Information submitted into the system is available in structured format, so electronic transfer of data is assured.
- ✓ Connection from eMS to bookkeeping software of CA is currently in development and is expected to be ready once the projects start reporting.

The new programme website has been created, however in order to retain the recognisability and the sustainability the programme kept the same web-domain www.si-hr.eu as it was in 2007-2013 period.

In relation to the indicator data, the progress can be measured only on the level of the Technical assistance, where 5 joint cross-border Informational and publicity events were organised (4 workshops with stakeholders and Kick off conference), 4,8 employees (FTE) were employed, 3 at Joint Secretariat and 1,8 at Certifying Authority, the website has been established and Programme communication strategy was prepared and approved.

In relation to the financial data, no information is relevant for the years 2014 and 2015.