



Interreg 
SLOVENIA – CROATIA
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2016

Cooperation Programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia
for the programme period 2014–2020
June 2017

1. BACKGROUND

This is the second 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 2016.

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 (MC) discussed and approved the Annual Implementation Report 2016 on the 4th MC meeting held on 9 and 10 May.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

All programme structures and both Member States, Slovenia and Croatia were in the year 2016 very much involved in the implementation of the Cooperation Programme in particular in the preparation of the Open Call and Application documentation, Implementation manual for beneficiaries, Programme guidelines for programme structures, preparation of the Description of Management and Control System and in information and publicity activities.

By the end of 2015 and in the beginning of 2016 the Joint Secretariat prepared the Application Pack with all the forms and manuals for the submission of the Strategic project under Priority axis 1 – Integrated flood risk management in transboundary river basins. The first part of the project containing non-structural flood risk reduction measures with the acronym FRISCO1 was submitted via eMS system in January 2016. The project was approved on the 2nd Monitoring Committee meeting on 11 April 2016 and the ceremonial signing of the ERDF contract took place on 20 May 2016 in Podčetrtek (SI).

On the 2nd Monitoring Committee meeting on 11 April 2016 also 6 Technical Assistance projects were approved to ensure the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme. The allocation of the Technical Assistance funds aims to ensure a proficient operation of all bodies which are needed for the frictionless and successful programme implementation, e.g. Managing Authority (MA), Joint Secretariat (JS), First Level Control (FLC) in Slovenia and Croatia, Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) in Slovenia/Audit Body in Croatia (AB), National Authority (NA) in Slovenia and National Authority in Croatia.

By the end of 2015 and in the beginning of 2016 the Joint Secretariat also prepared the Application Pack with all the forms and manuals for the submission of the project within the Open Call for proposals for Priority axis 2 – Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources and Priority axis 3 – Healthy, safe and accessible border areas. Open Call was launched on 15 January 2016, published in the Official gazette of the Republic of Slovenia and together with the Application pack also published on the programme website www.si-hr.eu. In 2016 two deadlines for the submission of the project applications within the Open Call were set.

All activities regarding the designation process started in 2016 with the preparation of the Description of Management and Control System (DMCS) and all required Programme guidelines. The DMCS with

required annexes was submitted to the Audit Authority in the beginning of August 2016. In the beginning of March 2017 positive opinion on the compliance of the MA/CA with the designation criteria was issued by the auditors.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

Within the first deadline for the submission of project proposals, which was on 11 March 2016, two workshops intended for potential applicants in the frame of the Open Call were carried out. The first workshop for applicants took place on 17 February 2016 in Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia. The second and content wise same workshop was carried out on 22 February 2016 in Opatija, Croatia. More than 300 participants attended the workshops. In the frame of the workshops, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat briefly presented the participants the Cooperation Programme, information concerning the Open Call, presented the Rules on the eligibility of the expenditure, the requirements concerning information and communication, the annexes to the application form and the electronic Monitoring System (eMS), in which applicants will enter and submit their project applications.



In the first deadline of the Open Call 91 project applications were received and after the selection process 5 project applications were approved by the MC on the 3rd MC meeting held on 30 and 31 August 2016. 3 projects were approved under Priority axis 2 and 2 projects under Priority axis 3.

Within the 2nd deadline for the submission of project proposals, which ended on 14 November 2016, additional two workshops intended for potential applicants in the frame of the Open Call were carried out. The first workshop took place on 10 October 2016 in Tuhelj, Slovenia. The second and content wise same workshop, was carried out on 11 October 2016 in Črnomelj, Slovenia. Both workshops were attended by more than 200 participants, which shows that there was still a great interest of potential applicants.

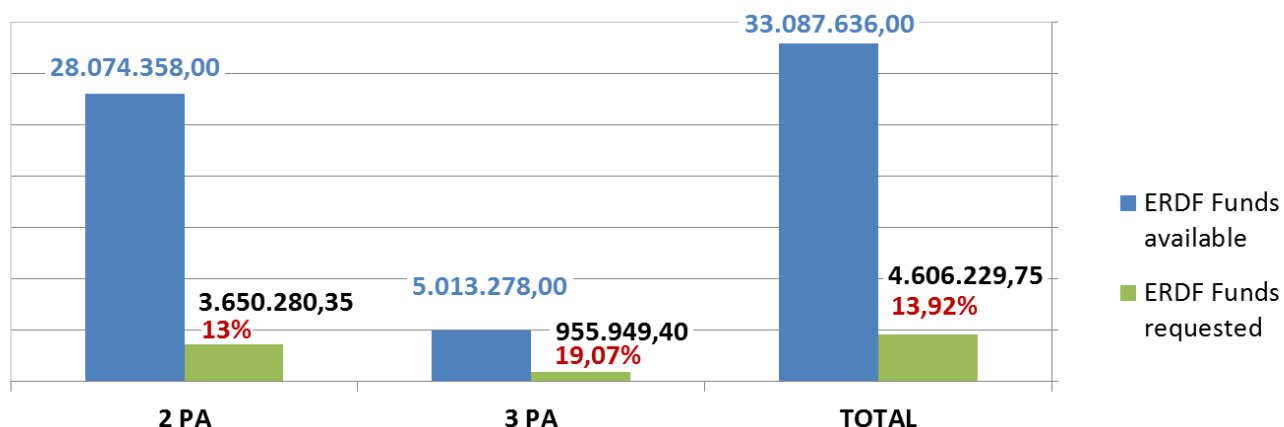
Also one thematic workshop regarding the Investment priority 6d (Protecting and restoring biodiversity) was held on 16 October 2016 in Samobor, Croatia by Slovenian and Croatian National Authority.

Until the 2nd deadline 112 project applications were received. The assessment process started in November 2016 and was concluded in April 2017. The approval of the project applications submitted in the second deadline will take place on the 4th MC meeting on 9 and 10 May 2017. 12 project applications were approved by the MC within the 2nd deadline of the Open Call.

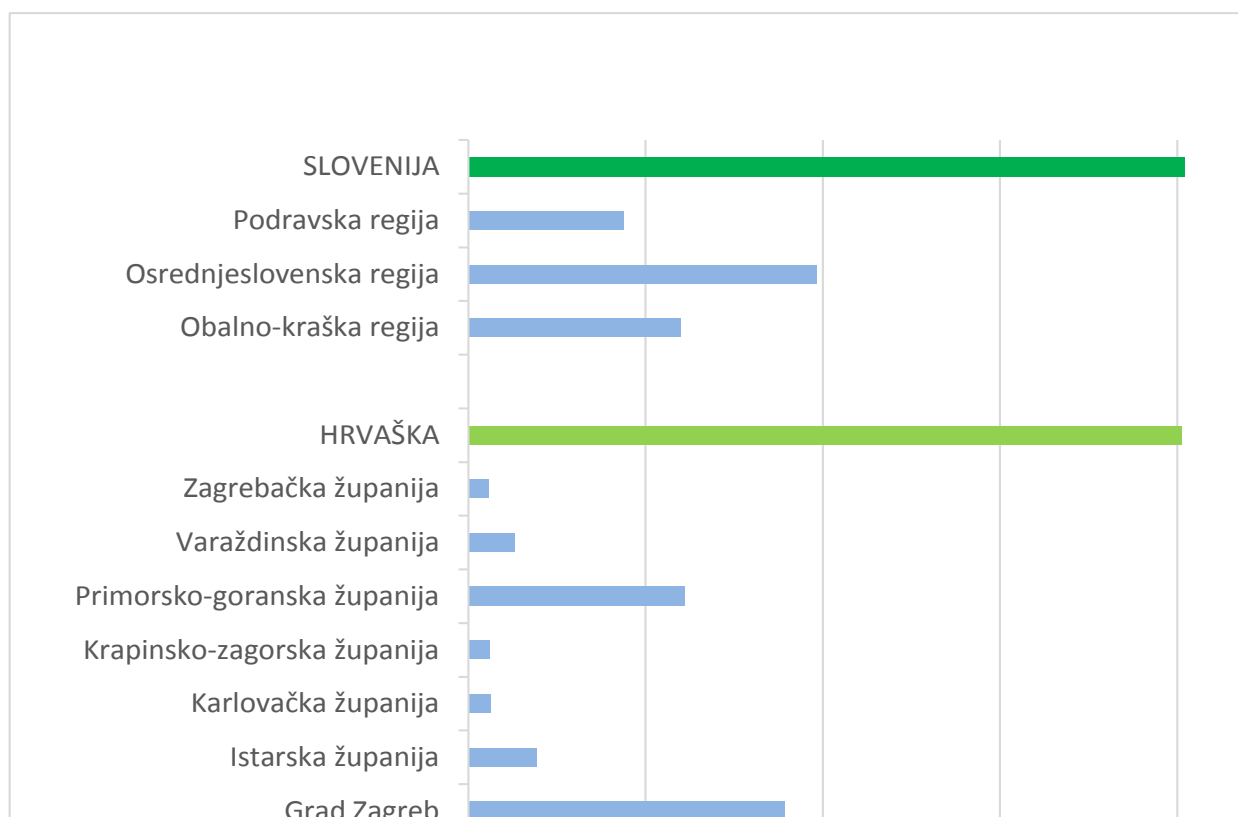
To ensure the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme 3 Bilateral technical meetings with Programme partners were also organized in 2016.

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	Within Priority axis 1 the first part of the strategic project containing non-structural flood risk reduction measures with the acronym FRISCO1 was approved and started with the implementation. The contracted ERDF amount is 3.460.307,50 EUR.
A.2	2. Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources	<p>Within the 1st deadline of the Open Call 3 projects were approved and started with the implementation within the Priority axis 2, Investment priority 6c. The contracted ERDF amount for the 3 projects is 3.650.280,35 EUR.</p> <p>The problem was that no projects were approved under Investment priority 6d (only 7 submitted project applications which were not administratively compliant or not in line with the programme requirements regarding the content). To address this problem thematic workshop regarding the Investment priority 6d was organised by Slovenian and Croatian National Authority to promote this priority and to further educate the applicants how to prepare good projects in line with the programme requirements.</p>
A.3	3. Healthy, safe and accessible border areas	Within the 1 st deadline of the Open Call 2 projects were approved and started with the implementation within the Priority axis 3. The contracted ERDF amount for the 2 projects is 955.949,40 EUR.
A.4	4. Technical assistance	<p>6 Technical Assistance projects were approved to ensure the efficient implementation of the Cooperation Programme and to ensure a proficient operation of all bodies which are needed for the successful programme implementation, e.g. Managing Authority (MA), Joint Secretariat (JS), First Level Control (FLC) in Slovenia and Croatia, Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) in Slovenia/Audit Body in Croatia (AB), National Authority (NA) in Slovenia and National Authority in Croatia. The total ERDF amount available for the Technical assistance is 3.000.000 EUR.</p> <p>Activities within this priority axis in 2016 were financed from the Technical Assistance of the 2007-2013 programme.</p>

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



Committed ERDF funds per region within the 1st deadline of the Open Call + strategic project FRISCO1



4. OTHER INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES IN 2016

In line with the Communication strategy along with the workshops for applicants also other promotional events were organised such as the Ceremonial signing of the ERDF contract for the strategic project FRISCO 1 which took place on 20 May 2016 in Podčetrtek, Slovenia and Ceremonial signing of ERDF contracts for the 5 project approved within the 1st deadline of the Open Call which took place on 18 October 2016 in Rijeka, Croatia.



In 2016 also 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 on 29 November 2016 in Brežice, Slovenia. More than 120 participants attended the event.



Also the programme website was upgraded with the Interactive map where all the projects and project partners of the co-financed projects of the OP SI-HR 2007-2013 and CP SI-HR 2014-2020 are presented.

5. REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

In the previous years (2014-2016) the initial pre-financing payments were transferred from the European Commission (EC) to the Certifying Authority (CA). During the reporting period no expenditure were certified to the EC and no irregularities detected.

All approved projects and projects of technical assistance are in implementation phase. In relation to the indicator data, the progress can be measured only on the level of the selected projects. No projects fully implemented the activities by the end of 2016.

6. 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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