



Interreg
Slovakia-Austria
European Regional Development Fund



Annual Implementation Report 2021

of the

COOPERATION PROGRAMME
INTERREG V-A SLOVAK REPUBLIC - AUSTRIA



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1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB003
Title	Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria
Version	2021.0
Reporting year	2021
Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring committee	26.5.2022

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

The Annual Report 2021 of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria Cross-border Cooperation Programme has been prepared pursuant to Annex X of Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2015/207. The report is intended to give an overview of the activities that were undertaken in the frame of the implementation process, focusing on the year 2021.

During the course of the implementation of the Programme, 8 rounds within 4 Calls for proposals (hereinafter referred to as “CfP”) covering the complete budget of the Programme for Priority axes (hereinafter referred to as “PA”) 1, 2, 3 and 4, i.e. EUR 71,339,118 from ERDF were closed and evaluated since the launch of the CfP in December 2016, with 78 project proposals submitted. After the 8th round, which was closed on 30th November 2020, no more round followed in 2021.

However, selection of project proposals submitted in the 8th assessment round of CfP was carried out during the 10th meeting of the Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as “MC meeting”) held on 9-10th March and 12th April 2021 (in online format). Out of 9 submitted project proposals within the 8th assessment round totalling EUR 13.25 mn from ERDF, 8 were approved by the MC in the total amount of EUR 10.95 mn from ERDF. More specifically, 2 submitted applications were approved with conditions within PA 1; 5 submitted applications were approved with conditions in lowered ERDF contribution, i. e. 34.6 % of ERDF, and 1 application was rejected within PA 2; no application was submitted and approved within PA 3; and 1 submitted application was approved with conditions in lowered ERDF contribution, i. e. 49.7 % of ERDF within PA 4.

As for the CfP for the Technical Assistance (PA 5), which was launched in June 2017, no more assessment round followed in 2021.

As of the end of the reporting period, 55 projects (49 without projects of Technical Assistance) have been approved by the Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as “MC”) under the Programme in the total amount of EUR 82.75 mn from ERDF, which represents 109.04 % of the Programme allocation. For 53 projects (47 without projects of Technical Assistance), decisions on their approval have been issued; for 2 projects previously approved by the MC decisions on their approval have not been issued since in both cases, project applications were withdrawn by beneficiary before their issuance. By the end of reporting period, 49 projects were contracted (43 without projects of Technical Assistance) in the amount of EUR 73.04 mn from ERDF – 96.25 % of the programme allocation. In addition, the 1 project application



submitted within PA 4 in the 8th assessment round and formerly approved by the MC in lowered ERDF contribution was contracted in the maximum intensity of ERDF contribution (i. e. 85 % from ERDF) since sufficient funds were released back to the Programme in PA 4 already in 2021. Disbursement rate has reached EUR 30.21 mn from ERDF, i. e. 39.80 % of the programme allocation. All the implemented measures throughout the previous years of Programme implementation have led, among others, to successful fulfilment of the N+3 rule for 2021.

Besides the 1 MC meeting, Programme bodies had 11 Task Force (TF) meetings, out of which 8 were held in the “Programming group” format (TF members + external experts), as well as more than 10 technical meetings with the relevant stakeholders (including representatives of MA, RB’s, JS, national, regional authorities, EC and relevant Ministries) related to preparation of the 2021-2027 Programme.

In order to support the effective implementation of projects and of the Cooperation programme, the MA in close cooperation with JS organized “Lead beneficiary and partner seminar”. Due to the uncertain situation related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the seminars were organized for each project submitted and approved within the 8th assessment round in a form of individual online consultations.

Regarding the information and publicity activities, 16 newsletters were sent out to the subscribed readers in 2021. The MA/JS continuously informed the target groups about the stages of the implementation, provided useful information, downloadable documents, and project news via the Programme website and through Facebook. In addition, “Keep” database with project information has been regularly updated.

On the occasion of the European Cooperation Day, a joint event was organized by Interact in Vienna on 18-19th September 2021. Together with the Interact and Interreg Central Europe programme, the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria programme was presented to visitors of the famous street festival “Südwind”.

The regular “Annual Event of the Programme” did not take place in 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic situation and the travel restrictions. Instead an alternative activity was prepared at the end of 2021 – an online competition for primary and secondary school students called “Become a reporter in the border region”, which aim is to bring the Programme and its results closer to younger generations.¹

In the reporting year, 4 audits were carried out on the Programme, 1 system audit on the level of the MA, national controller, JS and paying unit (21-012), 1 audit of operations on the Slovak side (21-013), 1 system audit on the Austrian side (21-027), 1 audit of operations on the Austrian side (21-026) and audit of assurance package (management declaration and annual summary) (21-014).

The system audit of the MA/national controller/JS and paying unit (21-012) was conducted by the Government Audit Office. In total, the system audit identified 26 findings, out of which 25 findings were at the level of the MA/national controller/JS and 1 finding was at the level of the paying unit. 3 findings (ineligible expenditure) had the financial impact and 6 findings were systemic (insufficient audit trail from verification of payment claims/list of declared expenditure/public procurement verification, incomplete data or late inserted data in ITMS2014+, incorrect application of data from ARACHNE). Other findings were non-financial and non-systemic.

¹ More detailed information regarding information and publicity activities in 2021 is available in the Annual communication plan of the Programme.



Audits of operations on the Slovak side identified 5 findings in total. 1 finding had the financial impact and was related to the administrative financial control of the public procurement and 2 were systemic (exceeding the deadline for processing minor/major project change, deadline for sending the draft of amendment, not concluding the amendment after each major change, not updating the data in ITMS2014+ in accordance with the current amendment to the contract and not meeting the deadline for issuing the Decision of the approved application). The MA adopted effective measures to avoid the occurrence of findings identified by both audits in the future.

The system audit and audit of operation on the Austrian side was conducted by the audit firm BDO, spol s.r.o. Within system audit 1 finding was related to JSPV (insufficient proof of the verification of the economy and of the efficiency of the expenditure in the Grant application approval process). 1 finding was related to the FLC City of Vienna (not respecting the set deadline for administrative controls of list of declared expenditure). 4 findings were related to the FLC Lower Austria (2 out of 4 findings with the financial impact and were related to the incorrect application of the financial correction according to the COMMISSION DECISION of 14.5.2019 laying down the guidelines for determining financial corrections to be made to expenditure financed by the Union for non-compliance with the applicable rules on public procurement No C(2019) 3452 final and other 2 were related to not respecting the set deadline for administrative controls of list of declared expenditure and insufficient audit trail of administrative control of list of declared expenditure and public procurement verification). 2 findings were related to the FLC Land Burgenland (not respecting the set deadlines for administrative controls of list of declared expenditures and insufficient audit trail of administrative control of list of declared expenditure and public procurement verification).

4 findings at the level of 2 beneficiaries (out of 5 beneficiaries) were identified during the audit of operations on the Austrian side. 2 findings out of 4 had the financial impact and were related to insufficient application of the Eligibility rules in practice and conflict of interest and violation of public procurement rules. Effective measures were taken to avoid the occurrence of findings identified by both audits on the Austrian side in the future.

No findings were identified during the audit of assurance package (management declaration and annual summary).

In the reporting year, no evaluation activities have been carried out. Although according to the updated Evaluation plan (approved by the MC at its 6th meeting in October 2018) second stage of the evaluation (ex-post evaluation) was scheduled to be initiated in 2021, due to numerous project changes resulting in significant project prolongations, the launch of the second stage of the evaluation has been postponed and is now expected by the end of 2022. The MA will prepare updated Evaluation plan for the MC approval during 2022.



Reimbursement of funds

Disbursement

Disbursement on national level

Cumulative expenditures approved by the Certifying Authority (hereinafter referred to as "CA") as of 31st December 2021 amounted to EUR 38,193,318.27, out of which EUR 30,304,750.72 from ERDF. In 2021, expenditures in the amount of EUR 12,432,842.83 were approved.

As of 31st December 2021, the disbursement after deducting irregularities and recoveries from ERDF in the amount of EUR 98,582.08 amounted to EUR 30,206,168.64 that represents 39.80 % of the total programme allocation (EUR 75,892,681.00).

Progress in disbursement in comparison to 31st December 2020 represents an increase of EUR 12.39 mn from ERDF, i.e. increase of 16.33 percentage points.

Disbursement towards the EC

As of 31st December 2021, the CA declared expenditures in the total amount of EUR 34,325,739.98 from ERDF (out of which 3 interim payment applications in the total amount of EUR 13,970,858.96 from ERDF in 2021), which amounts to 45.23 % of the total programme allocation. The N+3 rule was successfully achieved by 31st December 2021.

Financial flows towards the EC

In 2021, the CA received payments on its account for Interreg V-A SK-AT from the EC in the total amount of EUR 12,340,537.99 from ERDF, out of which:

- EUR 1.00 constitutes the technical payment for pre-financing for the year 2021 in the amount of EUR 1,517,853.62, which was offset against the balance of Accounts for the 6th Accounting year (EUR -1,751,088.68);
- EUR 12,340,536.99 represents 90 % of the reimbursement of interim payment applications approved by the EC, reduced by the outstanding balance of Accounts for the 6th Accounting year.

Cumulative payments of EUR 39,482,455.07 were received from the EC within the programme.

Interests

The cumulative amount of generated interest as of 31st December 2021 is EUR 2,565.41 (out of which EUR 565.27 in 2021), which is used to finance the programme on an ongoing basis.

Certification of expenditures and of Management and Control Systems

In 2021, no certification verifications were carried out within Interreg V-A SK-AT.



Irregularities and financial corrections

In the reporting period from 1st January 2021 until 31st December 2021, the CA permanently deducted irregularities within Interreg V-A SK-AT payment requests towards the EC and within Accounts in the total amount of EUR 111,549.81 for all sources of funding (out of which EUR 94,817.36 from ERDF). Within Interreg V-A SK-AT, no expenditures were temporarily excluded by the CA for the 6th accounting year.

Table: Overview of the amounts deducted at the level of the Priority Axis

Priority Axis	Amounts permanently deducted		Amounts temporarily excluded from Accounts according to Art. 137 (2) CPR					
			Amounts temporarily excluded		Amounts re-declared towards EC		Balance of amounts temporarily excluded	
	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution
305010	41 207,48	35 026,36	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
305020	2 994,85	2 545,62	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
305040	67 347,48	57 245,38	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	111 549,81	94 817,36	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

Source: CA, MF SR

Implementation Process and Measures taken

After a rather sluggish start of the Programme (with reasons explained in previous AIRs), the MA together with Programme partners continued to follow the measures adopted in 2018 and in the following years (see AIR 2018). These measures were further developed and consistently applied also in 2021 (see chapter 5 in this AIR), which resulted in a steady progress in Programme implementation and successful achievement of Programme's targets and commitments (e.g. N+3 rule for 2021).

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

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
PA 1	Contributing to a smart cross-border-region	<p>Open call for proposal (hereinafter referred to as "CfP") was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 19,683,142 from ERDF (25.9 % out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on Investment Priority 1b)². The corresponding specific objectives are:</p>

² In accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5



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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen the collaboration of key actors in the regional innovation system in order to enhance knowledge transfer, capacity building and the establishment of common frameworks, common research and innovation activities and joint research facilities. ▪ Improve the capacity of the cross-border educational system to provide human resources knowledge and skills demanded by the regional innovation system. <p>The 1st and 2nd assessment rounds were closed in 2017 with 15 project applications submitted (EUR 24.9 mn) and 3 projects approved by the MC in 2017 (EUR 11.2 mn). 2 projects were approved with conditions at the 5th MC meeting in the amount of EUR 1.4 mn under the 2nd round of CfP in 2018.</p> <p>Under the 3rd and 4th rounds launched in 2018, 4 and 1 projects were submitted respectively in the total amount of EUR 5.9 mn. At the 6th MC meeting, 2 projects (one with conditions) under the 3rd round of CfP were approved in the overall sum of EUR 1.6 mn. At the 7th MC meeting, the only submitted project within this PA under 4th round was approved in the amount of EUR 1.54 mn.</p> <p>Under 5th round, no project application was submitted, thus the MC did not select projects within this PA at the 8th MC meeting.</p> <p>Under 6th round, 5 projects were submitted in the total amount of EUR 4.19 mn and under 7th round, 1 project was submitted in the total amount of EUR 0.78 mn. The project selection from the 6th and 7th round took place at the 9th MC meeting on 14th-15th July 2020, where 3 projects were approved in the total amount EUR 2.62 mn.</p> <p>Finally, under 8th round, 2 project applications were submitted and approved with conditions at the 10th MC meeting on 9-10th March and 12th April 2021 in the total amount of EUR 1.53 mn.</p> <p>Overall, EUR 20.02 mn from ERDF (101.71 % of the allocation) was allocated to 13 projects selected by the MC until the end of the year 2021, out of which 12 projects were contracted by 31st December 2021.</p>
PA 2	Fostering natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity	<p>Open call for proposal was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 27,820,000 from ERDF (36.7 % out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on the Investment Priorities 6c) and 6d)³. The corresponding specific objectives are:</p>

³ In accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5



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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen common approaches to valorise the natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable way in order to further develop the programme area as an attractive tourism destination. ▪ Strengthen the cross-border integration of functional ecological networks and green infrastructures in order to preserve biodiversity and to contribute to the stability of ecosystems. <p>The 1st and 2nd assessment rounds were closed in 2017 with 14 project applications submitted (EUR 21.3 mn) and 8 projects approved by the MC in 2017 (EUR 15.9 mn). 3 projects were approved with conditions at the 5th MC meeting in the amount of EUR 2.7 mn under the 2nd round of CfP in 2018.</p> <p>Under the 3rd and 4th rounds launched in 2018, 3 and 1 projects were submitted respectively in the total amount of EUR 3.8 mn. At the 6th MC meeting, 2 projects under the 3rd round of CfP were approved with conditions in the overall sum of EUR 2.6 mn. At the 7th MC meeting, the only submitted project within this PA under 4th round was approved in the amount of EUR 0.62 mn.</p> <p>Under 5th round, 1 project application was submitted in the amount of EUR 4.41 mn, which was subsequently approved at the 8th MC meeting.</p> <p>Under 6th round, 1 project was submitted in the total amount of EUR 0.52 mn and under 7th round, 1 project was submitted in the total amount of EUR 0.82 mn.</p> <p>The project selection from the 6th and 7th round took place at the 9th MC meeting on 14th-15th July 2020, where 1 project was approved in the total amount of 0.52 mn.</p> <p>Finally, under 8th round, 6 project applications were submitted in the amount of EUR 9.23 mn, out of which 5 project applications were approved with conditions in lowered ERDF contribution, i. e. 34.6 % of ERDF at the 10th MC meeting on 9-10th March and 12th April 2021 in the total amount of EUR 6.93 mn.</p> <p>Overall, EUR 33.84 mn from ERDF (121.64 % of the allocation) was allocated to 21 projects selected by the MC until the end of the year 2021, out of which 18 were contracted by 31st December 2021.</p>
PA 3	Supporting sustainable transport solutions	<p>Open call for proposal was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 9,655,000 from ERDF (12.7 % of the total programme allocation).</p>

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
		<p>The Priority Axis rests on Investment Priority 7c)⁴. The corresponding specific objective is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve joint planning, coordination and practical solutions for an environmentally friendly, low-carbon and safer transport network and services in the programme area. <p>Within 1st and 2nd assessment round of CfP, no projects were submitted. In 2018, the first project under this PA was submitted within 3rd assessment round of CfP in the amount of EUR 5.03 mn from ERDF. However, the assessment of this project (“VYSOMARCH”) was suspended due to the fact that declarations on property ownership were not submitted within the given deadlines – condition which was valid at the time of the project submission.</p> <p>The same project was resubmitted within 4th assessment round of CfP and was subsequently approved at the 7th MC meeting.</p> <p>Under 5th round, 2 project applications were submitted in the total amount of EUR 3.53 mn, however, none of them was approved at the 8th MC meeting.</p> <p>Under 6th round, 1 project was submitted in the total amount of EUR 3.07 mn. No project was submitted under the 7th round CfP.</p> <p>The project selection from the 6th and 7th round took place at the 9th MC meeting on 14th-15th July 2020, where 1 project was approved in the total amount of EUR 3.07 mn.</p> <p>Finally, under 8th round, no project application was submitted, thus the MC did not select projects within this PA at the 10th MC meeting.</p> <p>Overall, EUR 8.09 mn from ERDF was allocated to 2 projects selected by the MC until the end of the year 2021.</p> <p>The factors that determine the underperformance of this PA are, among others, the financial and organisational complexity of projects, which implies that there is only a limited number of potential beneficiaries (almost exclusively from public sector) with the capacity to undergo such challenge. Moreover, the investments in cross-border infrastructure projects are often subject to public opinion of residents concerned, which may vary.</p> <p>Taking into account that no more project applications are expected to be submitted in PA3 in the last years of programme implementation and the significant number of unspent resources within PA 3, a proposal for modification of the Interreg V-A SK-AT Cooperation programme that</p>

⁴ in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5

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
		contains reallocation of the remaining financial resources in the amount of EUR 1.56 mn from the PA 3 into PA 2 was approved by the MC and submitted to the European Commission via SFC2014 on the 23 rd December 2021 (see Chapter 5).
PA 4	Strengthening cross-border governance and institutional cooperation	<p>Open call for proposal was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 14,180,979 from ERDF (18.7 % out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on Investment Priority 11⁵. The corresponding specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen the institutional cooperation in the cross-border area through mobilizing stakeholders and building the capacities for planning and acting in the framework of multi-level governance. ▪ Strengthen the links between institutions providing pre-primary and primary education (kindergartens and primary schools) to jointly develop and implement educational programmes. <p>The 1st and 2nd assessment rounds were closed in 2017 with 10 project applications submitted (EUR 17.4 mn) and 4 projects approved by the MC in 2017 (EUR 5.4 mn). 3 projects were approved with conditions at the 5th MC meeting in the amount of EUR 4.3 mn under the 2nd round of CfP in 2018.</p> <p>Under the 3rd and 4th rounds launched in 2018, no projects were submitted under this PA, thus the MC did not select projects within this PA at the 6th and 7th MC meetings.</p> <p>Under 5th round, 1 project application was submitted in the amount of EUR 0.29 mn, however, the project was not approved at the 8th MC meeting.</p> <p>Under 6th round, 2 projects were submitted in the total amount of EUR 1.80 mn and under 7th round, 4 projects were submitted in the total amount of EUR 2.63 mn.</p> <p>The project selection from the 6th and 7th round took place at the 9th MC meeting on 14th-15th July 2020, where 5 projects were approved in the total amount of 3.56 mn.</p> <p>Finally, under 8th round, 1 submitted project application was approved with conditions in lowered ERDF contribution, i. e. 49.7 % of ERDF at the 10th MC meeting on 9-10th March and 12th April 2021 in the total amount of EUR 2.48 mn.</p>

⁵ in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5



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
		<p>Overall, 16.36 mn EUR from ERDF was allocated to 13 projects selected by the MC until the end of the year 2021, out of which 11 projects were contracted by 31st December 2021.</p>
PA 5	<p>Technical assistance</p>	<p>The call for proposal was launched on 21st June 2017 with the total amount of EUR 4,553,560 from ERDF (6% out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The corresponding specific objective is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the efficient and smooth implementation of the cooperation programme. <p>In 2017, 5 project applications in the total amount of EUR 4.30 mn from ERDF were submitted and out of them 4 were approved. The remaining TA project of MA/JS (TA004) in the amount of EUR 1.97 mn from ERDF was approved in January 2018 within <i>per rollam</i> procedure.</p> <p>All 5 TA projects in the total amount of EUR 4.30 mn from ERDF had been contracted prior to the reporting period of this AIR.</p> <p>Furthermore, in 2020, 1 additional TA project has been submitted in the total amount of EUR 0.13 mn from ERDF. The project was subsequently approved by the MC in the full requested amount and contracted in February 2021.</p> <p>In 2021, no more assessment round followed.</p> <p>TA beneficiaries proceeded with their tasks related to the overall management, implementation, control and audit as well as the publicity of the programme.</p> <p>Overall, EUR 4.42 mn from ERDF was allocated to 6 projects selected by the MC until the end of the year 2021. By 31st December 2021, all projects were contracted.</p>



3.2 Common and programme specific indicators

Tab 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective)

Priority Axis	Specific objective	ID	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Observations
PA1	1.1	R1.1	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to strengthen the regional innovation system	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.8	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.6		2.5		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
	1.2	R1.2	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to improve higher education and lifelong learning	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.5	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.2		2.1		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
PA2	2.1	R2.1	Monthly average of cyclists and pedestrians at the counting point "Freiheitsbrücke" (Morava/March)	persons	15,066	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					21,020		13,732		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
	2.2	R2.2	Number of major bottlenecks along the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor which interrupt the wildlife corridor	number	12	2014	9 (reduction by 25%)							N/A		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
PA3	3.1	R3.1	Capacity in public cross-border transport on an average work day	Total capacity in person	30,700	2014	31,314					38,280		31,340		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
PA4	4.1	R4.1	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to strengthen institutional capacities	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.9	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.2		2		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
	4.2	R4.2	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to strengthen the cooperation between educational institutions	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.3	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.0		2.1		In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.



Tab. 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority)⁶

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA1	*F	1b.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in research & innovation related collaboration activities (P)	number	25		0	0	0	2	4	11	24*			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 24
	*S											7	16			
	*F	1b.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to research & innovation (P)	number	5		0	0	0	0.1 ⁷	0.2	7.6	11.6			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 11.6 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											15	22			
	F	1b.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes related to research & innovation (P)	number	125		0	0	0	5	117	552	780			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 780 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											445	500			
	*F	1b.1.4	No of research facilities developed (P)	number	1		0	0	0	0.1	2.2	4.5	4.5			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 4.5 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											6	6			
*F	1b.1.5	No of new researchers in supported entities (EU)	number in FTE	20		0	0	0	1	4	2	2			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2	
*S											2	32				

⁶ All data were obtained on the basis of the recalculation in ITMS2014+ from 10th May 2022 with the status as of 31st December 2021.

⁷ Value from approved Monitoring report represents a partially developed product.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
*F	1b.1.6	No of research institutions participating in cross-border projects (EU)	number of organisations	6		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 7 The target value has been already achieved.**
												0	7			
*F	1b.2.1	No of jointly developed major products & services related to higher education and lifelong learning (P)	number	4		0	0	0	0	1	1	2			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2	
											2	14				
*F	1b.2.2	No of institutions directly involved in cooperation aiming at better quality of higher education and lifelong learning (P)	number	20		0	0	0	0	11	13	15			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 15	
											14	53				
*F	1b.2.3	Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (EU)	persons	500		0	0	0	0	856	1,862	3,644			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 3,644 The target value has been already achieved.**	
											4,050	5,120				

*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of organisations/entities participated in research & innovation related collaboration activities and a higher number of participants participated in joint training schemes related to research & innovation than expected at the time of contracting.

**Due to increased projects' performance and/or interest for implementation of projects within the Specific Objective, the actual achievement of outputs (F) and/or the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S) is higher than the target value, i. e. a lower number of jointly developed major products & services related to research & innovation, a lower number of participants in joint training schemes related to research & innovation, a lower number of research institutions participating in cross-border projects, a lower number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (EU) as well as a lower number of research facilities was expected to be delivered at the beginning of the programme period.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA2	*F	6c.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in cultural & natural heritage development (P)	number	80		0	0	0	12	20	36	40			Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 37
	*S											46	46			
	*F	6c.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to cultural & natural heritage development (P)	number	16		0	0	0	2	7	11	15			Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 12
	*S											97	97			
	*F	6c.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	400		0	0	0	0	881	961	1,327			Value for completed projects: 61 Value for partially implemented projects: 1,266 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											3,855	3,855			
	*F	6c.1.4	Increase in expected number of visits at supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attraction (EU)	number	32,000		0	0	0	0	3,150	6,115	6,657			Value for completed projects: 6,115 Value for partially implemented projects: 542
	*S											20,699	20,699			
	F	6d.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in the development of green infrastructures (P)	number	34		0	0	0	0	11	40	42			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 42 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											36	38			
	*F	6d.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to ecological networks and green infrastructures (P)	number	8		0	0	0	8	13	24	33			Value for completed projects: 12 Value for partially implemented projects: 21 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											58	60			
	F	6d.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	194		0	0	0	83	3,800	6,722	11,453			Value for completed projects: 1,826 Value for partially implemented projects: 9,627 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											10,460	10,510			



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE									Observations (if necessary)		
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		2023	
*F	6d.1.4	Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (EU)	hectares	1,000								35,609	39,732.42			Value for completed projects: 134 Value for partially implemented projects: 39,598.42 The target value has been already achieved.**
*S									1.50	72.5	40,947	41,119.70				

*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of organisations/entities participated in the development of green infrastructures and a higher number of participants participated in joint training schemes than expected at the time of contracting.

**Due to increased projects' performance and/or interest for implementation of projects within the Specific Objective, the actual achievement of outputs (F) and/or the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S) is higher than the target value, i. e. a lower number of participants in joint training schemes, a lower number of organisations/entities participating in the development of green infrastructures, a lower number of jointly developed major products & services related to ecological networks and green infrastructures, and a lower surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (EU) was expected to be delivered at the beginning of the programme period.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)			
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023				
PA3	*F	7c.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in the development of environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems (P)	persons	23		0	0	0	0	0	0	2			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2		
	*S											0	2					
	*F	7c.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems (P)	number	7		0	0	0	0	0	0	0				Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 0	
	*S											0	2					
	*F	7c.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	175		0	0	0	0	0	0	0					Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 0
	*S											0	0					



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)					
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023						
PA4	*F	11.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in institutional cooperation (P)	number	80		0	0	0	23	152	172	214*			Value for completed projects: 185 Value for partially implemented projects: 29 The target value has been already achieved.**				
	*S											61	128							
	*F	11.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to institutional cooperation, integrated frameworks and planning tools (P)	number	8		0	0	0	0	3.5	3.8	8.8				Value for completed projects: 6 Value for partially implemented projects: 2.8 The target value has been already achieved.**			
	*S											18	31							
	*F	11.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	200		0	0	0	0	938	1,396	2,122					Value for completed projects: 1,099 Value for partially implemented projects: 1,023 The target value has been already achieved.**		
	*S											2,457	2,507							
	*F	11.2.1	No of jointly developed major products & services related to pre-primary and primary education (P)	number	5		0	0	0	0	0	0	4						Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 4	
	*S											4	4							
	*F	11.2.2	No of educational institutions directly involved in cooperation at pre-primary and primary level of education (P)	number	25		0	0	0	97	116	116	116							Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 116 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											116	116							
*F	11.2.3	Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (EU)	number	625		0	0	0	0	0	0	0			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 0					
*S											0	0								



*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of organisations/entities participated in institutional cooperation than expected at the time of contracting.

**Due to increased projects' performance and/or interest for implementation of projects within the Specific Objective, the actual achievement of outputs (F) and/or the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S) is higher than the target value, i. e. a lower number of organisations/entities participating in institutional cooperation, a lower number of jointly developed major products & services related to institutional cooperation, integrated frameworks and planning tools, a lower number of participants in joint training schemes and a lower number of educational institutions directly involved in cooperation at pre-primary and primary level of education was expected to be delivered at the beginning of the programme period.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)			
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023				
PA5	*F	5.1.1	No of projects committed and successfully closed (P)	number	53		0	0	0	0	1	2	3			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 3		
	*S											53	53					
	*F	5.1.2	Number of major publicity events (P)	number	8 (1 per year in the period 2015-2022)		0	0	1	5	7	10	10				Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 10	
	*S											12	13					
	*F	5.1.3	Number of compulsory information events for beneficiaries at project start (P)	number	10 (2 per year in the period 2015-2019)		0	0	1	5	9	13	17					Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 17
	*S											17	17					
F	5.1.4	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA (EU)	number in FTE	18		0	0	9.7	12.9	14.035	16.167	16.775			Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 16.775			
*S											14.450	14.450						

*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA (EU) was delivered than expected at the time of contracting.

*F = Aggregate (cumulative) value - outputs realized through projects [actual achievement of outputs]

*S = Aggregate (cumulative) value - outputs to be implemented through selected projects [forecasts provided by beneficiaries]

Data source: ITMS2014+

3.3. Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework⁸

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

PA	ID	Indicator Type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target 2023	Actual status in 2021	Observations
PA1	F0001	Financial indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 1	EUR	3,010,363	23,156,638	11,468,949.40	Value for completed projects: 0 Value is for partially implemented projects: 11 468 949,40
	K1	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (1b)	number	4	9	12	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 2 Value for partially implemented projects: 10
	1b.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to research & innovation	number	0	5	11.6	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 11.6
PA2	F0002	Financial indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 2	EUR	4,254,824	34,560,093	12,962,005.55	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 12,962,005.55
	K2.1	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (6c)	number	6	12	10	Value for completed projects: 1 Value for partially implemented projects: 9
	6c.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to cultural & natural heritage development (6c)	number	0	50	15	Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 12
	K2.2	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (6d)	number	4	8	8	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 1 Value for partially implemented projects: 7
	6d.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to ecological networks and green infrastructures (6d)	number	0	25	33	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 12 Value for partially implemented projects: 21
PA3	F0003	Financial Indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 3	EUR	764,559	9,528,143	2,550,142.03	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2 550 142,03
	K3	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (7c)	number	3	2	2	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2
	7c.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to environment friendly and low carbon transport systems (7c)	number	0	12	0	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 0
PA4	F0004	Financial indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 4	EUR	2,168,856	16,683,505	7,684,076.93	Value for completed projects: 442,650 Value for partially implemented projects: 7,241,426.93
	K4	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (11)	number	4	13	11	Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 8
	11.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to institutional cooperation, integrated frameworks and planning tools	number	0	8	8.8	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 6 Value for partially implemented projects: 2.8

Data source: ITMS2014 +

⁸ Submitted in Annual Implementation Reports from 2017 onwards



3.4. Financial data

Tab 4.: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
The financial allocation of the priority axis based on the Cooperation programme						Cumulative data on the financial progress of the Cooperation programme					
Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support* (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Total funding (EUR)	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%) [column 7/ column 5 × 100]	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR) ERDF	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%) [column 10/ column 5 × 100]	Number of operations selected ⁹
PA1	ERDF		Total eligible cost	23,156,638.00	85	25,935,622.38	112.00	25,769,529.19	11,510,156.88	49.71	12
PA2	ERDF		Total eligible cost	32,729,412.00	85	36,715,971.29	112.18	36,371,182.19	13,092,547.78	40.00	18
PA3	ERDF		Total eligible cost	11,358,824.00	85	9,528,142.24	83.88	9,501,414.34	2,550,142.03	22.45	2
PA4	ERDF		Total eligible cost	16,683,505.00	85	15,328,825.33	91.88	15,041,826.67	7,778,959.60	46.63	11
PA5	ERDF		Total eligible cost	5,357,130.00	85	5,463,573.80	101.99	5,463,573.80	3,385,984.36	63.21	6
Total				89,285,509.00		92,972,135.04	104.13	92,147,526.19	38,317,790.65	42.92	49

Data source: ITMS2014 +

⁹ Number of contracted projects

Tab. 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the transmission made by 31 January

Categorisation dimensions											Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected	
PA1	ERDF	58 Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	1		24	AT127	4,757,336.84	4,757,336.84	2,529,126.12	1	
									AT130	2,896,175.86	2,896,175.86	1,539,683.70	1	
									SK010	2,894,573.67	2,894,573.67	1,538,831.94	1	
									SK021	2,963,201.26	2,963,201.26	1,575,316.18	1	
		60 Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking				1		13	AT112	90,468.96	90,468.96	0	1	
									AT122	84,308.25	84,308.25	0	1	
									AT124	99,558.96	99,558.96	0	1	
									SK010	110,554.96	110,554.96	0	1	
						19		SK021	99,247.64	99,247.64	0	1		
								AT112	90,468.96	90,468.96	0	1		
								AT122	84,308.25	84,308.25	0	1		
								AT124	99,558.96	99,558.96	0	1		
						20		AT130	199,503.85	199,503.85	0	1		
								SK010	310,540.35	310,540.35	0	2		
								SK021	99,247.64	99,247.64	0	1		
								AT121	170,440.72	170,440.72	0	1		
						24		AT125	170,440.72	170,440.72	0	1		
								AT126	170,440.72	170,440.72	0	1		
								AT127	170,440.72	170,440.72	0	1		
								AT130	806,189.11	806,189.11	308,786.29	3		
						SK010		806,670.65	806,670.65	308,786.29	3			
						SK021		436,244.53	436,244.53	308,786.29	1			
						AT111		106,455.24	106,455.24	30,400.39	1			
						AT112		196,924.20	196,924.20	30,400.39	2			
	AT121	106,455.24	106,455.24	30,400.39	1									



							AT122	190,763.49	190,763.49	30,400.39	2
							AT124	99,558.96	99,558.96	0	1
							SK010	253,485.89	253,485.89	40,816.75	2
							SK021	202,595.46	202,595.46	29,513.01	2
		65 Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change			1	11	AT111	404,388.10	403,063.99	246,487.92	1
							AT112	404,388.09	403,063.98	246,487.92	1
							AT127	404,388.09	403,063.98	246,487.92	1
							SK010	404,388.10	403,063.99	246,487.92	1
							SK021	404,388.09	403,063.98	246,487.92	1
		117 Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences			1	19	AT130	135,738.54	133,741.05	19,435.94	1
							SK010	138,839.36	136,796.24	19,879.93	1
						24	AT130	135,738.54	133,741.05	19,435.94	1
							SK010	138,839.36	136,796.24	19,879.93	1
		118 Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes			1	19	AT112	398,300.64	381,079.73	61,298.93	1
							AT127	322,235.19	308,303.04	49,592.37	1
							AT130	1,697,445.71	1,646,427.86	837,580.46	4
							SK010	1,754,118.06	1,703,327.59	883,762.74	4
							SK021	426,266.45	407,836.41	65,602.91	1

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data				
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected	
PA2	ERDF	85 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	6		18	AT125	321,877.81	321,877.81	0	1	
									AT126	426,781.56	426,781.56	0	2	
									SK010	415,423.06	415,423.06	0	2	
									SK021	321,877.81	321,877.81	0	1	
									22	AT111	364,643.71	356,404.16	76,869.26	1
										AT112	293,900.18	287,259.16	61,956.07	1
										AT122	342,352.68	339,041.41	229,875.44	1
										AT125	654,473.56	649,282.93	516,525.64	1
								AT126	2,851,654.19	2,788,693.75	1,323,613.87	5		
								AT127	587,590.95	581,887.48	415,614.48	2		
								AT130	1,851,705.43	1,791,813.51	914,290.41	4		
								SK010	4,367,177.06	4,290,514.07	1,587,978.83	7		
		SK021				1,510,694.22		1,493,730.11	988,769.01	4				
		6				18		AT126	104,903.75	104,903.75	0	1		
								SK010	93,545.25	93,545.25	0	1		
		6				19		AT112	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1		
								AT127	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1		
								SK010	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1		
								SK021	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1		
						SK023		49,779.22	49,779.22	21,886.66	1			
24	AT112		31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1								
	AT127		31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1								
	SK010		31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1								
	SK021	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1									
SK023	49,779.22	49,779.22	21,886.66	1										
6	15	AT112	725,080.31	725,080.31	723,541.28	1								
		86 Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites				6		18	AT126	104,903.75	104,903.75	0	1	
		90 Cycle tracks and footpaths				6		19	AT112	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1	
									AT127	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1	
									SK010	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1	
									SK021	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1	
									SK023	49,779.22	49,779.22	21,886.66	1	



							SK010	725,080.31	725,080.31	723,541.28	1
91 Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas						18	AT126	104,903.75	104,903.75	0	1
							SK010	93,545.25	93,545.25	0	1
						22	AT126	1,152,276.46	1,149,527.10	55,274.12	1
							SK010	1,439,231.84	1,435,797.80	69,039.22	1
						15	AT123	1,219,929.73	1,203,096.95	601,171.76	1
							AT125	1,219,929.73	1,203,096.95	601,171.76	1
						18	SK010	1,219,929.73	1,203,096.95	601,171.76	1
							AT126	2,109,490.65	2,109,490.65	0	1
						19	SK010	2,109,490.65	2,109,490.65	0	1
							AT112	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
						19	AT127	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
							SK010	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
						19	SK021	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
							SK023	49,779.22	49,779.22	21,886.66	1
94 Protection, development and promotion of public cultural heritage assets						23	AT111	133,609.75	132,161.72	84,860.92	1
							AT112	479,516.17	469,272.58	217,529.92	2
						23	AT122	133,609.75	132,161.72	84,860.92	1
							AT124	133,609.75	132,161.72	84,860.92	1
						23	AT125	1,343,499.89	1,337,130.42	775,367.08	3
							AT126	1,293,508.12	1,293,508.12	264,699.01	1
						23	AT130	1,427,117.87	1,425,669.85	349,559.93	2
							SK010	1,700,270.91	1,693,901.43	415,051.94	3
						23	SK021	2,746,830.41	2,733,063.10	1,018,939.75	4
							AT112	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
						24	AT127	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
							SK010	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
						24	SK021	31,112.01	31,112.01	13,679.16	1
							SK023	49,779.22	49,779.22	21,886.66	1

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA3	ERDF	36 Multimodal transport	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	7		18	AT126	3,087,333.33	3,087,333.27	1,331,541.49	1
									SK010	2,825,466.67	2,825,466.67	1,218,600.54	1
								22	AT111	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT112	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT121	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT122	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT123	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT124	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT125	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT126	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT127	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT130	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
								SK010	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1	
SK021	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1									

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data										
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.							
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected							
PA4	ERDF	115 Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal pathways for reintegrating into education and training	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	11		19	AT112	712,225.68	694,746.95	552,368.16	1							
									AT126	712,225.68	694,746.95	552,368.16	1							
									AT127	712,225.68	694,746.95	552,368.16	1							
									AT130	712,225.68	694,746.95	552,368.16	1							
									SK010	712,225.68	694,746.95	552,368.16	1							
									SK021	712,225.68	694,746.95	552,368.16	1							
		119 Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance						07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	11				18	AT111	248,579.79	247,752.98	100,542.50	3	
															AT112	560,002.39	559,175.59	139,536.16	5	
															AT122	199,117.33	198,290.52	20,227.07	3	
															AT123	201,605.44	201,605.44	36,121.59	2	
															AT125	455,673.84	455,673.84	119,216.41	3	
															AT126	418,072.60	418,072.60	75,115.25	3	
															AT127	418,072.60	418,072.60	75,115.25	3	
															AT130	935,004.38	934,177.57	540,560.86	4	
															AT212	111,090.70	111,090.70	61,781.10	1	
															SK010	1,369,378.97	1,368,552.10	677,549.84	7	
															SK021	465,046.95	464,220.15	139,536.16	4	
															19	AT111	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2
																AT112	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2
																AT122	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2
		AT130						104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2									
		SK010						104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2									
		SK021						104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2									
		21						AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1								
								AT112	183,864.56	183,037.76	121,321.52	2								
								AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1								
AT126	168,556.75		168,556.75	119,667.97	1															
AT127	168,556.75		168,556.75	119,667.97	1															

120 Capacity building for stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectorial and territorial pacts to mobilize for reform at national, regional and local level	24	AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		SK010	183,864.56	183,037.76	121,321.52	2
		SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT112	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		SK010	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
	18	AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT112	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		SK010	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
	19	AT111	66,709.41	64,984.74	1,653.56	2
		AT112	399,751.16	384,320.80	191,414.94	3
		AT113	89,935.14	88,364.17	0	1
		AT121	333,041.75	319,336.06	189,761.39	1
		AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT123	477,089.45	457,455.75	271,837.26	1
		AT124	333,041.75	319,336.06	189,761.39	1
		AT126	333,041.75	319,336.06	189,761.39	1
		AT127	333,041.75	319,336.06	189,761.39	1
		AT130	74,516.73	72,655.68	1,653.56	2
		SK010	796,794.37	765,295.05	411,133.99	3
		SK021	348,349.56	333,817.07	191,414.94	2
	21	AT111	66,709.41	64,984.74	1,653.56	2
		AT112	66,709.42	64,984.74	1,653.56	2
		AT113	89,935.14	88,364.17	0	1
		AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
		AT130	74,516.73	72,655.68	1,653.56	2
		SK010	78,133.53	76,209.30	1,653.56	2
SK021		15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1	
24		AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1
	AT112	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1	
	AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1	
	AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1	
	SK010	15,307.81	14,481.01	1,653.56	1	

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA5	ERDF	121 Preparation, implementation, monitoring, inspection	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable			18	AT111	357,772.54	357,772.58	233,925.52	5
									AT112	357,772.54	357,772.54	233,925.48	5
									AT121	87,499.86	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT122	87,499.86	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT123	87,499.86	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT124	87,499.86	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT125	87,499.90	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT126	87,499.86	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT127	87,499.86	87,499.86	37,856.41	2
									AT130	426,816.54	426,816.54	167,854.92	5
									SK010	276,818.10	276,818.10	167,855.23	4
									SK021	276,816.50	276,816.50	167,854.92	4
		122 Evaluation and studies						18	AT111	235,150.09	235,149.97	159,892.15	3
									AT112	235,149.97	235,149.97	159,892.15	3
									AT121	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT122	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT123	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT124	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT125	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT126	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT127	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
									AT130	235,149.97	235,149.97	159,892.15	3
									SK010	235,149.97	235,150.09	159,892.15	3
									SK021	235,149.97	235,149.97	159,892.15	3
		123 Information and communication						18	AT111	316,106.01	316,106.01	225,962.70	4
									AT112	316,106.01	316,106.01	225,962.70	4
									AT121	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
AT122	45,833.33		45,833.33	29,893.63	1								
AT123	45,833.33		45,833.33	29,893.63	1								



										AT124	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
										AT125	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
										AT126	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
										AT127	45,833.33	45,833.33	29,893.63	1
										AT130	235,149.97	235,149.97	159,892.15	3
										SK010	235,149.97	235,149.97	159,892.15	3
										SK021	235,149.97	235,149.97	159,892.15	3

Data source: SFC2014



Tab. 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 ¹⁰ 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 area	0	0	0	0

Data source: ITMS2014 +

¹⁰ ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.



4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Updated Evaluation plan approved by the MC at its 6th meeting in October 2018 foresees an evaluation in two phases:

- 1st phase (2018-2019): focus on three main tasks: a) revisiting the programme strategy; b) investigating options to reduce the administrative burden and c) evaluating and illustrating key impacts of the programme. If possible, at this stage, the evaluation will seek to build a bridge to the strategic objectives of the forthcoming period 2021-2027.

According to the updated Evaluation plan, evaluation activities have been initiated in 2019. In terms of time range, the evaluation covered progress from the beginning of the programming period, i.e. 1st January 2014 till 31st December 2019 (cut-off date).¹¹

- 2nd phase (2021-2022): focus on programme impacts and achievements towards specific objectives. In the second stage, it is intended to assess the achievements also from a broader perspective, i.e. from the perspective of the strategic EU objectives.

According to the above-mentioned updated Evaluation plan, the 2nd phase of the evaluation has been foreseen to start in 2021. However, due to numerous project changes resulting in significant project prolongations, the launch of the second stage of the evaluation has been postponed and is now expected by the end of 2022. Throughout 2023, the impact assessment shall be carried out. The MA will prepare updated Evaluation plan for the MC approval during 2022.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

5. a) Issues and measures taken

After a rather sluggish start of the Programme, in 2021 the MA together with Programme partners continued to follow the measures adopted in 2018 and further developed in the following years in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the Programme. In fact, in 2021 the Programme was already in a phase where most projects were in full implementation. In this sense, the stress of the Managing Authority (MA) with the involvement of all management bodies was given mostly on the acceleration of the implementation process, and especially on commitment and disbursement of funds.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic situation had still a significant impact on the implementation of the Programme. More specifically, a negative effect on the overall implementation of projects was evident in the amounts of expenditures and payment requests submitted for verification. It was therefore necessary to proceed with further transitional measures addressing the existing challenges on both Programme and project level.

¹¹ A summary of results and recommendations is available in AIR 2020. For more detailed information see also the final Mid-term evaluation report.



To address current challenges on the level of the Programme and to maximize the overall performance of the Programme and its impact in the Programme area through achieving the full use of funds allocated for the Programme, and with the aim to avoid possible losses at the end of the programming period, a proposal for modification of the Interreg V-A SK-AT Cooperation programme that contained reallocation of the remaining financial resources in the amount of EUR 1.56 mn from the PA 3 into PA 2 was prepared by the MA.

Even though the preparatory steps for infrastructure investment to be implemented within the current Programme period had been agreed on and financed in the previous period, de facto only 3 project applications were submitted under the PA 3, out of which 2 were approved by the MC in the total amount of EUR 8.09 mn from ERDF. On the other hand, based on statistical and empirical data, and supported by the structure of project applications submitted within 8th round, PA 2 enjoys the highest absorption and interest among potential applicants, what makes it highly relevant for the Programme area.

Taking into account that in the last years of Programme implementation no more project applications are expected to be submitted in PA 3, and the significant number of unspent resources within PA 3, a decision to amend the Programme was taken in the 10th MC meeting held on 9-10th March and 12th April 2021, and officially entered into force after the 28th written procedure (ČŠ 2021/28) on the 30th July 2021 (a day of informing the MC members about results of the 28th written procedure and sending out the minutes). After meeting all the requirements given by the Slovak and European legislation, the planned Programme revision was submitted to the European Commission via SFC2014 on the 23rd December 2021.

Even after considering the shifted funds, however, interest of applicants for implementation of projects within PA 2 and 4 still exceeded the financial allocation at disposal. Because of their high quality, but due to a lack of funds at the time of project approval, projects submitted within 8th round of CfP for PA 2 and for PA 4 were approved in a temporarily lowered ERDF contribution. Once savings from the already completed projects are returned back to the Programme, most likely at the end of 2021, 2022 and 2023, they shall be distributed equally to the Slovak and Austrian project partners until the maximum rate of ERDF contribution (i. e. 85 % from ERDF) is reached.

Nevertheless, there was a real threat presented by the Slovak Programme partners that the initially lowered rate of ERDF contribution might endanger a full project implementation, especially on the side of Slovak project partners (in some cases, securing sufficient funds in the municipal and/or local budgets might not be possible). After several consultations with the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (further referred to as "MIRDI SR") held in March 2021, the MA introduced a proposal for financial assurance of the Slovak project partners in the form of (interim) over-contracting. In line with this proposal, a maximum of 85 % from ERDF would be provided for the Slovak project partners at the time of contracting, whereas the financial gap of around EUR 2.3 mn would be covered by the state budget within the chapter of MIRDI SR until the time when savings from completed projects are released back to the Programme. Based on realistic calculations and estimates of the MA, enough funds should be released back to the Programme in the form of savings until the end of its implementation period. In the end, no over-disbursement is expected.



With reference to Austrian beneficiaries, members of the MC representing the Austrian regions (i. e. Vienna, Burgenland and Lower Austria) acknowledged that application of over-contracting is not necessary in relation to Austrian project partners considering the gradual increase in the intensity of ERDF contribution (up to 85 % of ERDF).

On the level of the projects, there were further prolongations requested from the project partners resulting in rescheduling of activities, and several revisions of budgets had to be taken on. To address this specific situation on the project level, simplification of change management procedures was introduced, first in regard to the “personal and travel cost” budget line, where numerous budget shifts were requested mainly due to (re-)introduction of travel bans and restrictions. Later in 2021, the initially adopted ceiling for consideration of minor changes related to personal and travel costs was increased so that up to 100 % of the amounts contracted could be shifted and still considered as a minor change. In addition, similar measure was adopted for further budget lines – i. e. “expenditures on external expertise and other external services”, “equipment expenditures”, and “investments”.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, many projects submitted lowered amounts of expenditures and as the reimbursement was not as high as planned, the fulfilment of targets (including N+3 target) and commitments of the Programme were endangered. In order to alleviate the risk of de-commitment and ensure the cash-flow of the Programme, the possibility of 100 % co-financing rate from the ERDF for the accounting year from 1.7.2020 to 30.6.2021 was applied (approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Programme already in 2020). Consequently, this measure also contributed to the fulfilment of N+3 rule for 2021. Following the adoption of the Regulation (EU) 2022/562 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 which amends Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards Cohesion’s Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE), the Programme also intends to apply this measure also for the accounting year from 1.7.2021 to 30.6.2022.

A more detailed overview of the measures taken and/or implemented in 2021:

1. Taking steps for fulfilment of N+3 rule for 2021

- Application of 100 % co-financing rate from the ERDF for the accounting year from 1.7.2020 to 30.6.2021;
- Further simplification of programme documentation, e. g. Manual for Beneficiaries;
- Increasing frequency of ad hoc consultations for beneficiaries in online format, per telephone or in person on a daily basis;
- Interactive communication with applicants and beneficiaries on a daily basis;
- Ongoing monitoring of status of Programme’s implementation on a weekly basis;
- Lead beneficiary and partner seminars were organized by JS for the applications from the 8th round in an online format individually with each project, i. e. seminars were organized for 7 approved projects (1 approved project withdrew its application before issuance of decision, 1 project application was rejected);
- Providing specific assistance to Austrian applicants with ITMS2014+;
- Providing active support for beneficiaries during the project’s implementation (mainly with submission of expenditures and payment requests).



2. Implementing measures to improve the efficiency of the implementation and to accelerate the disbursement of funds:

- At the FLC level:
 - Shortening of periods for verification of lists of expenditures from 90 days to shorter periods (currently approximately 60 days on SK side);
 - Providing a possibility to submit expenditures below the set threshold of 10 000 €;
 - Active communication with beneficiaries on a daily basis and providing support with submission and completion of necessary documentation.
- At the JS level:
 - Enhanced communication with the beneficiaries aimed at timely and correct submission of list of expenditures and payment requests;
 - Active communication with beneficiaries on a daily basis with the aim to increase the number of submitted lists of expenditures and payment requests;
 - Providing active assistance to beneficiaries with submission of expenditures;
 - Providing active support with uploading of relevant documentation into ITSM2014+;
 - Providing specific assistance to Austrian beneficiaries with ITMS2014+;
 - Accelerating the processes on each stage of project cycle – e. g. through prompt issuance of decisions, swift contracting of projects from 8th round, improved communication with beneficiaries, fast management of submitted change requests;
 - Shortening of periods for processing the payment requests;
 - Monitoring of the FLC and JS performance with the aim to achieve internal financial targets.
- At the MA level:
 - Revision of the financing plan of the SK-AT cooperation programme – reallocation of uncommitted funds from PA3 to PA2;
 - Adoption of the (interim) over-contracting for Slovak beneficiaries;
 - Monitoring of the status of submitted and processed lists of expenditures and payment requests on a daily basis;
 - Active communication with beneficiaries with the aim to increase the number of submitted lists of expenditures and payment requests;
 - Enhanced public-awareness about the Programme – JS provided full support to the Euronews team and helped with the coordination of the shooting of video regarding the project Nemonet that was part of the Smart Regions. Video is available on the following link: <https://www.euronews.com/search?query=nemonet>;
 - Uploading documents into ITMS2014+ together with beneficiaries in order to facilitate and accelerate the process of submission and approval;
 - Issuing instructions and guidance for ITMS2014+.

3. Ensuring the fulfilment of programme indicators:

- Maximizing the overall performance of the Programme and its impact in the programme area through achieving the full use of funds allocated for the Programme and securing



the fulfilment of programme indicators through approval and implementation of good projects;

- Providing a sufficient number of trainings, seminars and “open days” for applicants and beneficiaries;
- Active communication with applicants, regional partners and other partners within the programme;
- Continuation of intensive communication with beneficiaries with the aim to accelerate the process of submission of expenditures, minimise errors on the beneficiary side and secure the submission of payment requests according to agreed schedules;
- Ongoing monitoring of status of Programme’s implementation on a weekly basis (or shorter if necessary).

In addition, pursuant to the Decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic of 29th August 2019, the Programme was put under “crisis management” (according to Slovak national legislation) due to non-satisfactory results achieved in 2018, which resulted in closer monitoring from the Central Coordination Body (CCB). The Government decree bound the MA to provide from September 2019 on regular weekly reports per PA’s (contracting and disbursement status) and monthly reports on progress in Programme implementation and fulfilment of goals. The closer monitoring and reporting continued also in 2021 and shall continue until the “crisis management” is revoked.

All the above-mentioned measures implemented and further developed since 2018 have led, among others, to the successful fulfilment of N+3 rule for 2021 (in relation to the financial commitment for 2018), by certifying and declaring expenditure of EUR 34.33 mn to the EC.

5. b) Assessment whether progress is sufficient

Building on significant progress in Programme implementation in 2018, during the reporting year the MA together with programme partners continued to use its best efforts to ensure the smooth and steady implementation of the Programme.

However, it must be stated that the Programme still carries its legacy of the past that resulted in the delayed implementation. On the one hand, the commitment rate of the Programme shows also due to over-contracting very satisfactory results – 103.07 % of the Programme allocation (as compared to 93.39 % of the Programme allocation in 2020); on the other hand, the disbursement rate of 39.80 % remains rather low (as compared to the disbursement rate of 23.48 % in 2020). The main reasons for the delays within the Programme are explained in previous AIR’s. From the information and data mentioned above it is evident that there was significant effort made to ensure progress in Programme implementation.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

See annex to this report.

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Not relevant.



8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS

8.1. Major projects

Not relevant.

8.2. Joint action plans

Not relevant.