



CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2015

Cooperation programme
Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria
in the programme period 2014–2020
19 May 2016

1. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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-Austria for programming period 2014-2020 reports on the programming process and the implementation of the programme during the calendar years 2014 and 2015. 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, was approved by the Monitoring Committee and sent to the European Commission on 19 May 2016.

Both Member States, Slovenia and Austria 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 Austria, who were supported by the representatives of the Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat and external experts. 25 Task Force meetings were held during the programming process till September 2015.

On 29 January 2014 the conference for stakeholders was held in Radenci, attended by more than 200 participants. The event provided an opportunity for networking, sharing experience with project partners of other projects and the representatives of the programme bodies and for the development of ideas for potential projects.

The European Commission has approved the Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria on 16 September 2015. The approval was the legal basis for preparing and launching the Open Call for Proposals, which was published on 18 December 2015.

On 2 December 2015 the Kick-off event was organised in Laško (Slovenia) to present the Cooperation programme to the broader public and to announce the Open Call for Proposals. The event was attended by almost 400 people, keynote speakers from both countries, programme partners and interested applicants from the programme area.

Besides the Cooperation programme also Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria and Ex-ante evaluation of the Cooperation Programme V-A Slovenia-Austria 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 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-at.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 two joint cross-border Informational and publicity events were organised, 7,7 employees (FTEs) were employed and the website has been established. In relation to the financial data, no information is relevant for the years 2014 and 2015.

2. E-COHESION MEASURES SUPPORTED WITHIN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

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 First Level Control 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. First Level Control 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 Certifying Authority is currently in development and is expected to be ready once the projects start reporting.

CCI	2014TC16RFCB054
Title	Cooperation programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria
Version	1.0
Reporting year	2015 (including also 2014)
Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring Committee	19 May 2016