



Call for Proposals

in the frame of the
**INTERREG V-A SLOVAKIA-HUNGARY
COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

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1. Introduction

The Hungarian Prime Minister's Office acting as the Managing Authority of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic acting as the National Authority are announcing the first Call for proposals in the frame of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme.

The Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme [Programme] was approved by EC Decision C(2015) 6805 on 30 September 2015. The aim of the Programme is translated into Priority axes [PA] which are explained in detail in the Cooperation Programme document. In the frame of the present call the following priority axes are open:

- PA1 - Nature and culture
- PA2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility
- PA4 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people

Each project proposal has to contribute to the Specific objective of the given PA. The Specific objectives can be reached through supported actions which serve as a guideline for project generation. The achieved results of the projects must contribute to the programme result indicator, as the project outputs have to contribute to at least one from the Common and programme specific output indicators of the Specific objective.

The overall European Regional and Development Fund [ERDF] support for financing projects within the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme is 146 460 448 EUR. **The indicative ERDF amount available under the present Call for proposals is 67 475 822 EUR.** The Monitoring Committee reserves the right to award different amount of the available funds.

Submitted proposals will be evaluated based on evaluation criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee. The Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat are responsible for coordination of the assessment process. The administrative and eligibility assessment will be provided by the Joint Secretariat. Quality assessment will be provided by external assessors using the assessment grids, published as part of Application package. The public support will be assessed in line with the State aid rules according to the EU legislation. In the frame of the present Call state aid activities might be foreseen. Please note that State aid schemes are under development by Member states. In case the scheme is not available until the Monitoring Committee decision on project approval, national co-financing for projects falling under the state aid scheme shall not be provided.

The Managing Authority may modify the terms of the Call by amendment at any time prior to the deadline for submission of applications. The amendments may not affect the eligibility and the evaluation criteria. In order to afford reasonable time for Applicants to fulfil the modified terms of the call, the Managing Authority may extend the deadline for the submission of applications. If the Applicant submitted the application before publishing an amendment, the Applicant cannot suffer disadvantage due to the modified terms of the conditions.

The Managing Authority after consultation with the National Authority may decide to cancel the Call for proposals procedure at any stage, but particularly if

- there have been irregularities in the procedure, in particular where these have prevented equal treatment;
- exceptional circumstances or force majeure render the normal implementation of the planned actions impossible.

If the Call for proposals is cancelled, the information on cancellation will be published on the www.skhu.eu website. Any potential losses from cancellation are not entitled for compensation.

2. Priorities and objectives

PA1 - Nature and culture

Specific objective 1.1 - To increase the attractiveness of the border area

1. **Allocated ERDF funds:** 25 386 977 EUR
2. **Selection procedure:** One step application procedure
3. **Timeframe:** Open from 29/07/2016 until 31/10/2016
4. **Total¹ project size:** 200 000 EUR to 3 000 000² EUR.
5. **Project duration:** 24 months³

6. Expected achievements

Projects contribute to an increase of the attractiveness of the border area. As a result of the projects new, integrated tourist areas with own products and brand will be developed. The interventions will be carried out in an environmentally sound way with a view to guaranteeing the higher attention toward the natural and cultural values of the common region. It is expected that the number of visitors coming from the neighbouring country will significantly grow on each side of the border and long-term, strategic cooperation starts in many small regions for protecting natural and cultural heritage.

7. Indicative list of eligible actions

- Supporting the cooperation and development of cultural heritage sites;
- Maintaining and promoting natural heritage;
- Design cross-border action plans, set up models and test pilot actions to better capitalize the regions cultural and natural heritage and to combine tourism with the promotion and protection of the regions natural and cultural heritage;
- Developing small scale quality tourism linked to local environmental or cultural features;
- Design and construction of local access roads linked to sites of cultural and natural heritage;
- Joint development of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross-border infrastructure for eco-tourism.

8. Indicative list of eligible Applicants

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- Churches;
- European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC);
- Non-governmental organizations (NGO);
- Development agencies;
- Municipalities, county municipalities;

¹ The total amount consists of ERDF contribution, the national co-financing and the own contribution.

² In case of border crossing roads, bridges and ferries, the total eligible expenditure might be higher than the stated limit, but Commission's position on small-scale infrastructure (Ref. Ares(2015) 481089 - 05/02/2015) shall be respected.

³ In duly justified cases up to 36 months in case of border crossing roads, bridges or ferries or project with total budget above 2 million Euro.

- Universities and research institutes;
- Chambers;
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations).

9. Result indicator: Total number of visitors in the region

10. Output indicators

- Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions;
- Total length of newly built roads;
- Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status;
- Length of reconstructed and newly built green ways.

PA 2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility

Specific objective 2.1 – Increasing the density between border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border

1. **Allocated ERDF funds:** 16 690 000 EUR
2. **Selection procedure:** One step application procedure
3. **Timeframe:** Open continuously with deadlines of 31 October and 31 January in every year
4. **Total⁴ project size:** Not specified⁵
5. **Project duration:** 36 months
6. **Expected achievements**

The aim of the Specific objective is to increase the density between border crossing points along the Hungarian-Slovak border. As a result of the implementation of activities the density of border crossing road infrastructure will be increased, travelling time from regional and sub-regional centres to the TEN-T corridors will be shortened, and consequently the specific greenhouses gas emission will decrease.
7. **Indicative list of eligible actions**
 - Preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, feasibility studies, technical plans, purchase of permissions (*activity shall not be supported separately*);
 - Construction of cross-border roads, bridges and ferries and infrastructure, including passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions (as additional activities) with clear and direct link to the TEN-T network.
8. **Indicative list of eligible Applicants**
 - Public institutions;
 - Planning institutions;
 - State owned companies with objectives related to the objective of the priority (public transport);
 - Municipalities, county/regional municipalities.
9. **Result indicator:** Average distance between border crossing points
10. **Output indicators:** Total length of newly built roads

⁴ The total amount consists of ERDF contribution, the national co-financing and the own contribution.

⁵ The approximate cost for building 1 km of road is 1.400.000 € taking into account the big differences (geomorphological characteristics, presence of bridges, etc.) in the technical parameters of potential projects.

Specific objective 2.2.1 – Improving cross-border public transport services

1. **Allocated ERDF funds:** 10 980 000 EUR
2. **Selection procedure:** One step application procedure
3. **Timeframe:** Open continuously with deadlines of 31 October and 31 January in every year
4. **Total⁶ project size:** 100 000 EUR to 1 000 000 EUR⁷
5. **Project duration:** 24 months⁸
6. **Expected achievements**

Thanks to the planned interventions the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres and the internal permeability of the border region will be improved. Increase in number of users of public transport facilities decreases the pollution. As a result the number of cross-border public transport services and the passengers using these services will increase which indirectly improves also the level of social interconnectivity.
7. **Indicative list of eligible actions**
 - Development of cross-border intelligent transport systems (ITS), passenger information systems, on-line schedules, e-ticketing, mobile apps, common tariff systems;
 - Development and integration of cross-border public transport services, establishing transport associations;
 - Investments on infrastructure (e.g. vehicles - buses, ferries, boats -, bus and railway stations, ferry ports),
 - Investments contributing to a better accessibility of urban functions;
 - Development of demand-driven cross-border transport services;
 - In case of activities related to road constructions passive noise reduction (noise barriers, protecting trees) solutions (*activity shall not be supported separately*).
 - Preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts; elaboration of recommendations concerning legal-administrative bottlenecks hampering cross-border mobility e.g. allowance of cabotage, ease of international transport rules between the two states etc. (*activity shall not be supported separately*);
8. **Indicative list of eligible Applicants**
 - Public institutions;
 - Private institutions serving public interests;
 - State owned companies;
 - European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC);
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGO);
 - Development agencies;
 - Municipalities, county/regional municipalities;
 - Universities and research institutes for transport.
9. **Result indicator:** Change in the volume of cross-border public transport
10. **Output indicators:** Number of new public transport services started within the framework of the programme

⁶ The total amount consists of ERDF contribution, the national co-financing and the own contribution.

⁷ In case of border crossing roads, bridges and ferries, the total eligible expenditure might be higher than the stated limit.

⁸ In duly justified cases up to 36 months in case of border crossing roads, bridges or ferries.

Specific objective 2.2.2 – Improving cross-border logistic services

1. **Allocated ERDF funds:** 6 938 080 EUR
2. **Selection procedure:** One step application procedure
3. **Timeframe:** Open continuously with deadlines of 31 October and 31 January in every year
4. **Total⁹ project size:** 200 000 EUR to 2 000 000 EUR
5. **Project duration:** 24 months¹⁰
6. **Expected achievements**

Thanks to the planned interventions the interconnectivity of regional centres and sub-centres as well as economic areas along the border will be improved. Increase in volume of rail and inland waterway transport decreases the pollution. As a result of the PA, logistic service providers start to cooperate in order to create synergies across the border. The users of integrated logistic services will increase and in this way economic cohesion of the border area will be strengthened.
7. **Indicative list of eligible actions**
 - Realization of cross-border cooperation initiatives in the field of logistics, development of integrated service systems, infrastructure and ICT applications;
 - Investments on infrastructure (e.g. railway stations, ferry ports and roads linking new ports to the existing transport network).
 - Preparation of investments: elaboration of studies, analyses, concepts (*activity shall not be supported separately*);
8. **Indicative list of eligible Applicants**
 - Public institutions;
 - Private institutions serving public interests;
 - State owned companies;
 - European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC);
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGO);
 - Development agencies;
 - Municipalities, county/regional municipalities;
 - Universities and research institutes for transport.
9. **Result indicator:** Change in the volume of cross-border good transport
10. **Output indicators:** Number of new logistic services started within the framework of the programme

⁹ The total amount consists of ERDF contribution, the national co-financing and the own contribution.

¹⁰ In duly justified cases up to 36 months in case of border crossing roads, bridges or ferries.

PA 4 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people

Specific objective 4.1 – Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens

1. **Allocated ERDF funds:** 7 480 765 EUR
2. **Selection procedure:** One step application procedure
3. **Timeframe:** Open from 29/07/2016 until 31/10/2016
4. **Total¹¹ project size:** 100 000 EUR to 500 000 EUR
5. **Project duration:** 24 months
6. **Expected achievements**

Projects under this priority axis will facilitate the improvement of the level of cross-border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross-border cooperation between citizens. The level of cross-border inter-institutional cooperation depends on two main factors: the capacity of the institutions of the border area which can be improved (among others) by mutual exchange of experiences; and the professional level and strategic basis of cooperation between different institutions from both sides of the border. The Small project fund is not available in the present Call for proposals.

7. Indicative list of eligible actions

- Strengthening and improving the cooperation capacity and the cooperation efficiency between different organisations (public authorities) of particular sectors (e.g. education, health care, social care, risk prevention, water management, culture etc.) through common professional programmes, trainings, exchange of experiences, capitalisation and know-how transfer, etc.
- Support of activities focusing on the improvement of cross-border services provided jointly, development of small infrastructure necessary for joint service provision.

8. Indicative list of eligible Applicants

- Public institutions;
- Private institutions serving public interests;
- State owned companies;
- European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC);
- Non-governmental organizations (NGO);
- Development agencies;
- Municipalities, county / regional municipalities;
- Organizations set up by special law, providing public services (e.g. foundations, associations);
- Universities and research institutes;
- Chambers;
- Churches.

9. Result indicator: Level of cross-border cooperation

10. Output indicators

- Number of cross-border products and services developed;
- Number of documents published or elaborated outside of the framework of SPF;

¹¹ The total amount consists of ERDF contribution, the national co-financing and the own contribution.

- Number of cross-border events;
- Number of people participated in cooperation;
- Number of women participated in cooperation;
- Number of participants from socially marginalised groups, including Roma.

3. Eligibility criteria

Eligible area

Supported projects are required to be implemented within the eligible area of the Programme. The Programme Area covers 13 NUTS III level regions adjacent to the Slovak-Hungarian border. In Slovakia 5 self-governing regions and in Hungary 8 NUTS III level regions are eligible as set out in the following table:

Slovakia	Hungary
Bratislavský samosprávny kraj	Győr-Moson-Sopron megye
Trnavský samosprávny kraj	Komárom-Esztergom megye
Nitriansky samosprávny kraj	Pest megye
Banskobystrický samosprávny kraj	Budapest főváros
Košický samosprávny kraj	Nógrád megye
	Heves megye
	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén megye
	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megye

Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants have to be registered or have to have a branch office registered in the programme area and have to fit in legal criteria described in the Applicant’s manual (Part II - Eligibility criteria). The present Call does not include support for Small and medium sized enterprises.

In order to be considered eligible, Applicants have to act in partnership with at least one cross-border partner from the other side of the Slovak-Hungarian border. Applicants shall cooperate in the development and implementation of projects. For further details please refer to Applicant’s manual (Part II - Eligibility criteria).

Eligible costs

Project expenditures must be directly related to project activities necessary for the implementation of the project and have to be included in the detailed project budget as part of the Application form. Cost subject to reimbursement in a given project must occur in the given project period indicated in the Subsidy contract, which becomes the eligibility period of expenditures of the project. Only exceptions are costs in connection with preparation activities, of which eligibility period falls between 1st of January 2014 and the project start date defined in the Subsidy contract. Preparation costs must occur and outputs and deliverables must be performed in the above mentioned period. The total eligibility period of the programme falls between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2023.

Limited portion of activities not exceeding 20% of overall project budget can be carried out outside the programme area in exceptional and fully justified cases. Detailed information on the eligible costs is included in Applicant’s manual (Part IV– Eligible expenditures) and Guide on eligible expenditures.

4. Form of finance

The projects' total budget consists of ERDF contribution, the national co-financing and the Beneficiaries' own contribution.

Form of finance in Slovakia: total eligible expenditure at beneficiary level in Slovakia will be financed in line with the valid Financing Strategy of ESI Funds¹² as follows:

Beneficiary	Rate of ERDF contribution	Rate of national co-financing	Rate of own contribution
State administration organizations	85%	15%	0%
Other public administration organizations	85%	10%	5%
Higher territorial units and their budgetary and contributory organizations	85%	10%	5%
Municipalities and their budgetary and contributory organizations	85%	10%	5%
NGOs/NPOs	85%	10%	5%
Private sector out of state aid schemes	85%	5%	10%

Form of finance in Hungary: Total eligible expenditure at beneficiary level in Hungary will be financed as follows:

Beneficiary	Rate of ERDF contribution	Rate of national co-financing	Rate of own contribution
Central budgetary organization	max. 85%	max. 15%	min. 0%
Other organization	max. 85%	max. 10%	min. 5%

The ERDF support provided to Beneficiaries is non-repayable grant. Funding will take the form of reimbursement to all Beneficiaries. For Beneficiaries registered in Hungary the ERDF contribution of the contracted ERDF allocation of their project part might be entitled for advance payment from national resources according to *Government Decree 126/2016. (VI.7.) on the implementation of programmes financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-accession funds in connection with the European territorial co-operation in the 2014-2020 programming period*¹³.

The amount of the national co-financing for Beneficiaries registered in Hungary is available as advance payment according to the *Government Decree 126/2016. (VI.7.) on the implementation of programmes financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-accession funds in connection with the European territorial co-operation in the 2014-2020 programming period*.

¹² <http://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=9349>

¹³ 126/2016. (VI.7.) Kormányrendelet a 2014–2020 programozási időszakban az Európai Regionális Fejlesztési Alap és az Előcsatlakozási Támogatási Eszköz egyes, határon átnyúló együttműködési programjainak végrehajtásáról.

Lead Beneficiaries registered in Slovakia will contract the ERDF funds by signing the Subsidy contract with the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary as Managing Authority. Beneficiaries registered in Slovakia will conclude National co-financing contract with the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development in Slovak Republic as National Authority. The conclusion of the Subsidy contract is a prerequisite to signing the National co-financing contract.

Lead Beneficiaries registered in Hungary will conclude Subsidy contract with the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary as Managing Authority for the ERDF funding of the project. Beneficiaries registered in Hungary will conclude the Hungarian National co-financing contract with the Prime Minister's Office in Hungary. The conclusion of the Subsidy contract is a prerequisite to signing the National co-financing contract.

Applicants are requested to demonstrate the availability of own contribution by own declaration. If own contribution or a part thereof are secured from the budget of a municipality, city or county a resolution of the respective council must be attached to the application. The resolution must state the name of the project and the amount of allocated commitments.

State aid rules might change the rate of ERDF and national co-financing. Further information can be reached in Annex III. of the Application Form (State Aid declaration).

5. Specific annexes

Property ownership conditions

In case the project includes construction/reconstruction works, Applicants shall prove the ownership, or provide permission to use or operate of the affected land and/or buildings at least for 10 years from the date of submission of the Application form except for applications containing land acquisition.

In case the affected land or building will be purchased in the frame of the project¹⁴, Applicants shall submit the letter of intent of the current owner on selling of the property and an appraisal report¹⁵ of an independent property appraiser in order to justify the market price together with the Application form.

In case the project contains construction of border crossing roads, bridges or ferries and land acquisition¹⁶ is necessary, Applicants may submit the proof of ownership not later than six month after the receipt of the notifying letter on the approval of the project from the Managing Authority. Managing Authority reserves the right not to conclude the ERDF contract in case the proof of ownership is not provided within the given deadline.

Technical plans and building permissions

Each Beneficiary having construction/reconstruction works that require building permission is obliged to submit the Technical plans and Building permissions to the Application form.

In case the project contains construction of border crossing roads, bridges or ferries and land acquisition¹⁷ procedure is necessary, Applicants may submit the building permissions - regarding the above mentioned construction parts - not later than six month after the receipt of the notifying letter on approval of the project from the Managing Authority (in this case the proof of the request for building

¹⁴ The purchase of land not built on and land built on is eligible if the price of the purchase does not exceed 10% of the total eligible expenditure for the project concerned.

¹⁵ Report cannot be older than 90 days from the date of submission of the Application form.

¹⁶ Purchase or expropriation according to national legislation.

¹⁷ Purchase or expropriation according to national legislation.

permits shall not be submitted with the Application form). Managing Authority reserves the right not to conclude the ERDF contract in case the building permission is not provided within the given deadline.

In case of construction/reconstruction works that does not require building permission and technical plans, Applicants shall submit declaration issued by architect registered at engineering chamber or chamber of architects stating that the planned construction/reconstruction works does not require building permission. In these cases *Simplified building documentation* should be attached to the Application form that includes short textual description of the planned construction/reconstruction works in English, simplified drawings (if available), photo documentation of the current situation and budget estimation.

Conditions set by EIA legislation

In case the project includes construction/reconstruction works Applicants are required to demonstrate compliance with national environmental impact assessment procedures. (For further information please see Applicant's manual Part V – Submission procedure.)

Compliance with the rules of the Natura 2000 network

Applicants are required to demonstrate the effects of the project on Natura 2000 sites in line with relevant national legislation. (For further information please see Applicant's manual Part V – Submission procedure.)

The complete list of mandatory annexes to be submitted with the Application form is described in the Applicants' manual Part V – Submission procedure.

6. Submission procedure

Projects must be submitted according to the guidelines provided in the Applicant's manual Part V – Submission procedure. The signed (and stamped) Application form has to be submitted in English. Supporting documents issued by National Authorities and technical documentation shall be submitted in Slovak or Hungarian.

Applications shall be submitted in paper form and electronically on a CD/DVD. The paper version has to include one original and two copies. If relevant, Applicants shall use predefined templates available as a part of the Applicant's package. The CD/DVD version shall contain all documents in a format described in the Applicant's manual.

The applications have to be delivered personally or by a courier or sent by postal service until the indicated deadline to the following address:

Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Joint Secretariat
Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit Ltd.
1053 Budapest, Szép u. 2., IV. emelet, Hungary

The keeping of the deadline will be closely observed in case of all applications, regardless of the way of submission. The conditions of the submission are described in Applicant's manual Part V – Submission procedure.

For detailed information please visit the Programme website or contact directly the Joint Secretariat or Info Points. Contact or queries can be made via the programme's website (www.skhu.eu).

The Joint Secretariat publishes answers to frequently asked questions ([FAQ](#)) through the aforementioned website. Throughout the duration of the Call, Information days for Applicants will be concluded. More information will be posted on the program's website.