



**Hungary-Croatia**  
Cross-border Co-operation Programme

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION  
REPORT 2019  
INTERREG V-A HUNGARY-CROATIA  
COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2014-2020

**CITIZENS' SUMMARY**

# Programme Overview

## “Where Rivers Connect”

The Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 is a continuation of the earlier successful cooperation between the two Member States within the 2007-2013 period and focuses on deepening the cooperation within four thematic fields: Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs, Sustainable Use of Natural and Cultural Assets, Cooperation and Education.



The Programme area encompasses three border counties on the Hungarian side and eight counties on the Croatian side of the border. The total size of the Programme area is 31 085 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of approximately 2.1 million people, 46% of whom live in Hungary and 54% in Croatia (Source: Eurostat, 2011).

*“A cross-border region where rivers connect, not divide”*

## Management Structures

The Programme was created in co-operation between the two Member States, represented in the planning process by their regional level stakeholders (the counties of the programme area) and the national level institutions (ministries in charge of the thematic areas targeted by the Programme).

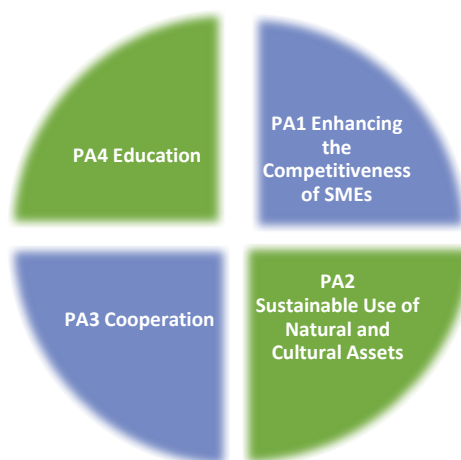
### The Programme implementing structure

<b>Managing Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</li> </ul>
<b>Croatian National Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds</li> </ul>
<b>Certifying Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hungarian State Treasury</li> </ul>
<b>Audit Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hungarian Directorate General for Audit of European Funds</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a bilateral body composed of representatives of the regional level (of the counties), of the line ministries and of organisations of civil society, acting as the main decision-maker of the Programme</li> </ul>
<b>Joint Secretariat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in charge of the day-to-day management of the Programme</li> <li>• providing support to applicants and beneficiaries within four offices: in Budapest, Pécs, Osijek and Čakovec</li> </ul>
<b>Hungarian Control Body</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working in Zalaegerszeg and Pécs, responsible for the first level control and approval of costs incurred during project implementation in Hungarian project parts</li> </ul>
<b>Croatian Control Body</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a unit of the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds in Zagreb<sup>1</sup>, performing the first level control activities related to the Croatian project parts</li> </ul>

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## Priorities and allocations

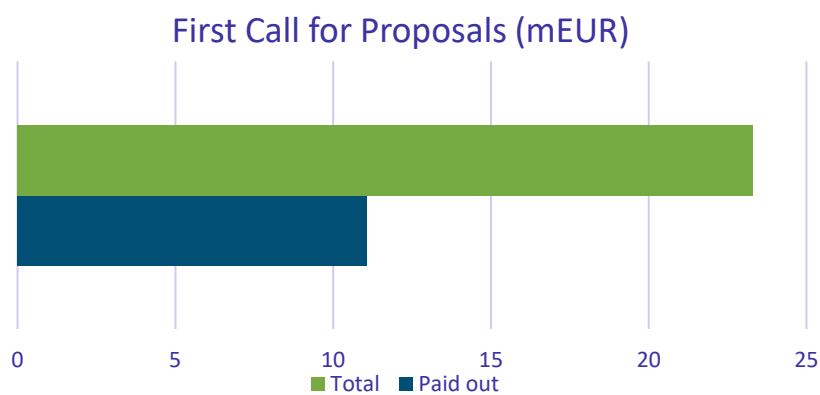
The Programme supports investments into four Priority Axis with a total allocation of 57,174,942 EUR of ERDF funding.



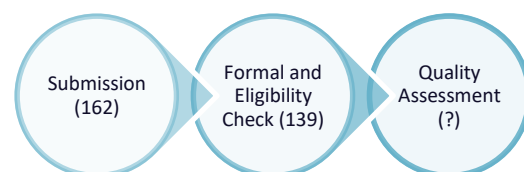
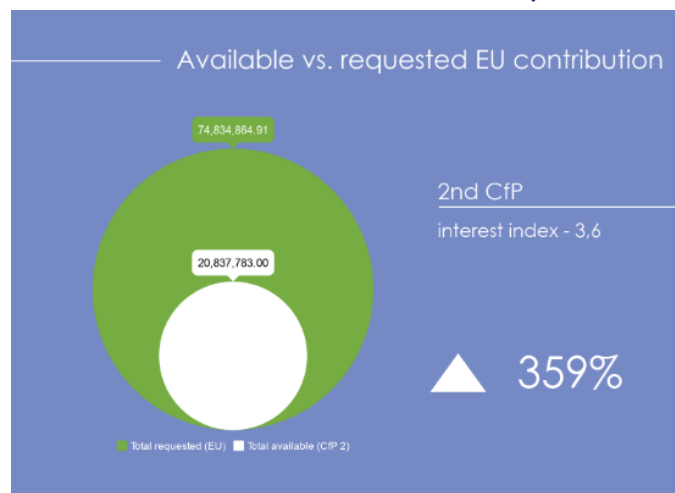
# Achievements

## Calls and Projects

**The First Call for Proposals** of the Programme was launched on 28 February 2016 with more than 200 applications received. After the evaluation 54 projects were awarded a total of more than 23.3 million EUR within three Priority Axes. Most of the First Call projects have been finalized by end of 2019, with almost half of the ERDF funding already paid out to the projects ranging from investments in ecotourism infrastructure to gastronomy festivals; from joint educational programmes to cross-border renewable energy schemes.



**The Second Call for Proposals** of the Programme was launched on 31 January 2019 and during the three months that it was open to project proposals received 162 applications via the electronic system, being the first fully electronic Call for Proposals within the Programme. The second half of 2019 was dedicated primarily to the evaluation process of the applications with the final selection to follow early in 2020.



## Strategic Projects

The Programme features two strategic projects that were included in the programming document at the planning stage and aim at rehabilitation of mine-contaminated area and SME development respectively.

### Demine HU HR II

- Implementation period: 24 months
- Budget: 3 529 399.70 EUR
- 36 minefields removed
- 1.5 km<sup>2</sup> cleared of mine threat
- Mine awareness raised



### Beneficiary Light Grant Scheme

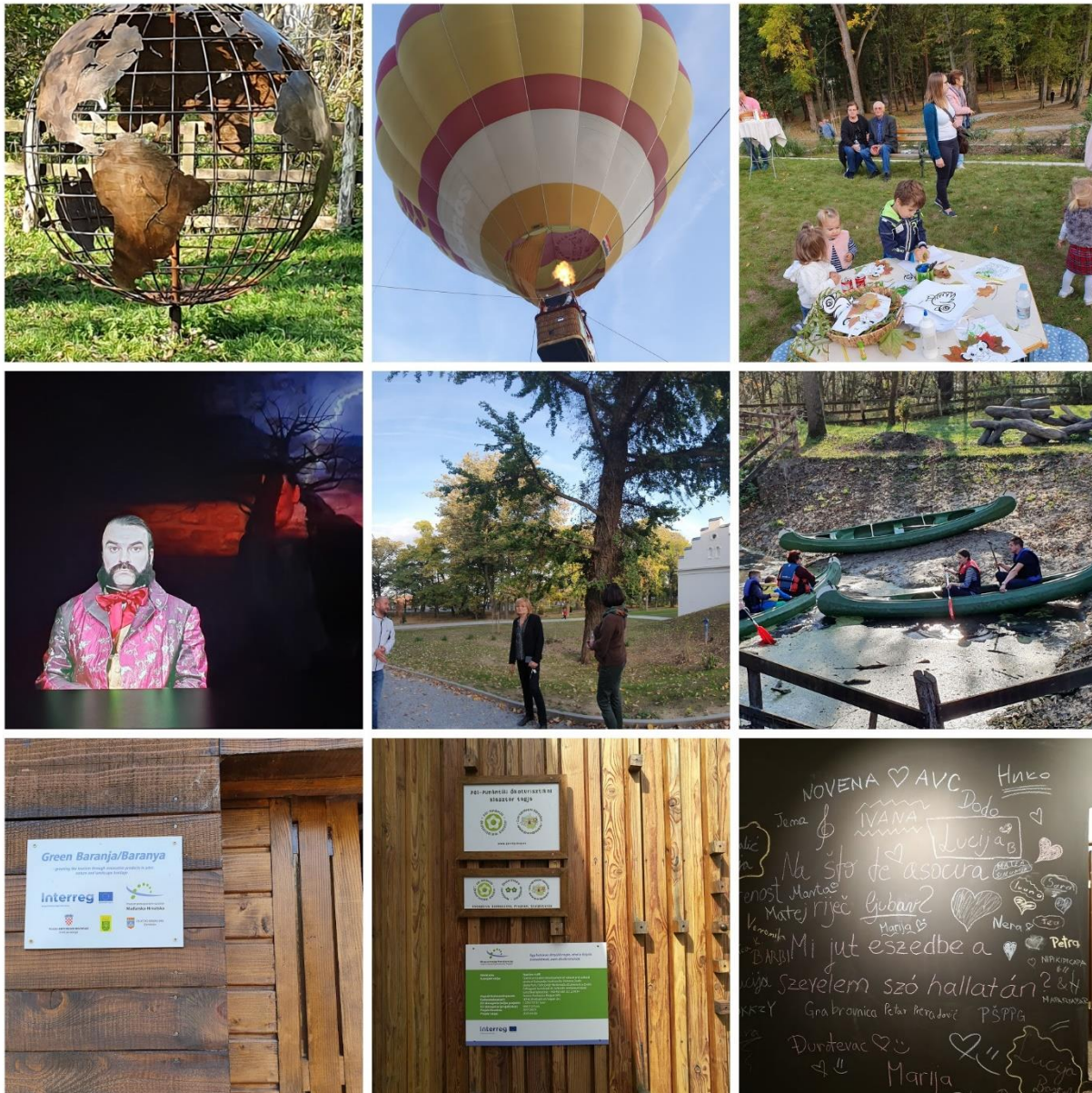
The project supported within the Priority Axis 1 has been allocated a total of 12.5 million EUR in a two-tiered grant scheme to support the cross-border projects devised by SMEs from the region. By the end of 2019 the B Light Scheme has completed three rounds of Calls for Light Concepts and three rounds of development of Concepts into projects.





## Project Results

During 2019 most of the still running First Call projects have come to end and left the HU-HR cross-border region with many new tourism attractions developed, cross-border cultural events elaborated, active and healthy lifestyle promoted in various ways and the regional educational institutions connected in research and innovation projects. A number of energy efficiency measures, waste-management options and smart living initiatives have been introduced, too.



# Communication

## Project Development, Info Days and Partner Search Forum



To aid the stakeholders of the cross-border region in the preparing of joint applications, four Information Days were organised at the beginning of March 2019 (in Lenti, Čakovec, Osijek and Kaposvár), the last occasion being accompanied by a Partner Search Forum as well. During the entire time when the Call was open, members of the JS (including the colleagues in the regional offices in Pécs, Osijek and Čakovec) were continuously receiving project managers of interested organisations for personal consultations about their project ideas.

## Further Information

[www.huhr-cbc.com](http://www.huhr-cbc.com)



[www.facebook.com/huhr.cbc](https://www.facebook.com/huhr.cbc)



[@InterregHUHRcbc](https://twitter.com/InterregHUHRcbc)



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<sup>i</sup> **The merger of the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia implementing the control activities in the reporting period with the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds entered into force on 1 January 2019 (OG 2/2019). The previous roles and responsibilities of the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia have been transposed to the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds**