



Hungary-Croatia
Cross-border Co-operation Programme

Interreg 
European Regional Development Fund

**Programming period 2014
2020**

Stories of COOPERATION



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

Foreword



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia 2014-2020 Projects Book. On behalf of the Managing Authority, we are delighted to present to you this captivating book that showcases a collection of exceptional initiatives from the border region of Hungary and Croatia. Each project featured in this book represents the spirit of collaboration

and the positive impact it has on the lives of people living in this beautiful region. The uniqueness of the Hungarian-Croatian border area also lies in the fact that the rivers do not separate us, but connect us, so exploiting the potential inherent in rivers offers many opportunities for cooperation. From economic development and cultural heritage preservation to environmental protection and social initiatives, these projects exemplify the diverse range of topics and areas in which the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Programme has made a significant difference. While reading this book, you will witness the power of cooperation, as partners from both sides of the border come together to address common challenges, share knowledge, and create long lasting solutions. From large-scale strategic projects to community-driven initiatives, each one of them has its own story and impact.

Since its inception, the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Programme has been helpful in driving positive change across participating regions. Our concerted efforts have not only boosted the professional relations, strengthened the bonds between our nations, but also laid down a foundation for sustainable development and prosperity.

In closing, we extend our sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to the success of the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Programme 2014-2020. Your dedication, passion, and commitment have been the driving force behind our achievements, and made a meaningful impact in the border region. Our journey does not end with the conclusion of this Programme; rather, it marks the beginning of a new chapter characterised by cooperation and shared aspirations. Together, let us continue to build bridges, foster collaboration, and create a brighter future.

Warmest regards,

Péter Kiss-Parciu
Deputy State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Dear Readers,

The collaboration between Hungary and Croatia serves as an excellent example of how neighbouring countries can effectively work together to enhance their regions. Reviewing the projects implemented during the 2014-2020 programming period clearly shows how the Hungary-Croatia Cross-border

Cooperation programme has built on mutual historic connections while paving the way for joint growth in the future.

The framework for cross-border cooperation between our nations was established well before Croatia joined the EU. It has evolved through several funding periods, each adapting and expanding to address new challenges. During the 2014-2020 period, the programme launched over a hundred joint initiatives, encompassing a diverse range of partners, thematic areas and budget scales. Whether the focus was on the environment, sustainable tourism or education, the projects brought together all societal groups in strong alignment with the EU cohesion aims. Many of the project stories in this booklet provide best practice examples that can inspire similar concepts for the future of this and other Interreg programmes.

Reflecting on the fruitful cooperation between Hungary and Croatia in the 2014-2020 period, it is clear that cross-border programmes and partnerships are essential for both the Hungarian and Croatian border areas. Our joint regional actions represent more than just financial endeavours; they demonstrate the power of cooperation in achieving a common vision of a more successful and connected Europe.

Considering the enthusiasm of the stakeholders on both sides of the border, I am confident that the success and visibility of our programme will continue into the future.

Warmest regards,

Domagoj Mikulić
State Secretary
Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds

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Foreword



Tempus fugit. 35 years of Interreg. 22 years of Hungarian-Croatian cross-border projects. 20 years of Hungarian, and 11 years of Croatian EU membership. 4 programming periods full of great projects, 110 of them in this past programming period alone. Many years, ever growing numbers, and all those organisations and people behind them who make cross-border cooperation work. It

is first and foremost them, our 'Interreg practitioners', whom I would like to dedicate this book to.

Any development programme is only as successful as its projects are. During the preparing of this publication, while going through all implemented cooperations in a structured manner, I came to realise once again how well the Hungary-Croatia programme has been performing. Each thematic area has had a great share of really useful and innovative projects which, as can be expected from Interreg projects, have contributed equally to the issue at hand which was identified jointly by the

partners, as well as to the mentality-forming, view-broadening and truly connecting cross-border dimension.

Within the circle of all co-financed operations those projects hold a special place which have already implemented the second or even third generation of their own cooperation. These examples of capitalisation on previous outcomes, results and linkages between organisations and people can serve as flagship projects for any programme and as positive examples worth to follow for partnerships implementing their first joint project.

In 2024 we find ourselves again at the crossroads of three programming periods, closing down 2014-2020, opening up 2021-2027 and already setting our sights at the horizon of Post-2027. With these 7-year periods Cohesion Policy is helping us to regularly come to a halt and take a look into the past, asking ourselves what we have achieved, and also into the future, thinking about new ways to go forward. My sincere wish is for Hungary-Croatia Interreg to fully embrace its outstanding results, distilled down also into the present booklet, and to take them always one step further, firstly in the upcoming 2021-2027 programme, but also beyond. And although time flies, let our motto for the future of Interreg always be: *Carpe diem.*

Márton Szűcs dr
Head of Joint Secretariat



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Overview of the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme 2014-2020

The Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Cooperation Programme was part of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) network which returned to using the name 'Interreg' for the 2014-2020 financial perspective. These programmes play a crucial role in the European Union's Cohesion Policy, contributing to its economic, social and territorial cohesion by addressing issues crossing borders between countries and regions. The objectives of Interreg programmes include fostering a common identity, creating an integrated physical space, promoting balanced development, and enhancing policies and governance. To achieve these goals, cross-border cooperation (CBC) programmes in particular identify shared challenges in border regions and implement measures to address them.

The 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme succeeded several previous programmes and funds. Cross-border cooperation projects between Hungary and Croatia began in 2002 when local actors along the border initiated the creation of the Hungary-Croatia Pilot Small Projects Fund under the Hungarian national PHARE programme. This initiative, also known as Interreg PHARE Programmes for 2002 and 2003, aimed at supporting non-profit cross-border cooperation and at preparing for future Interreg funding opportunities, once Hungary and Croatia would enter the EU.

From 2004 to 2006, cross-border cooperation between Hungary, Croatia, and Slovenia took a trilateral form in the Interreg IIIA Slo-Hu-Cro Neighbourhood Programme. This approach marked a significant development by incorporating both internal and external financial sources of the EU (i.e. ERDF for the member states and CARDS/PHARE for Croatia) into the same programme,

allowing Croatian partner organisations to participate as 'regular' project partners, instead of only delegating experts into projects as in the PHARE period.

The Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, approved by the European Commission (EC) on 13 March 2008, allocated € 52.4 million of EU contribution to this border region for the seven-year budgetary period. That programme also followed the principles and best practices of Cohesion Policy, establishing continuity with its predecessor.

Similar to the 2007-2013 iteration, the 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme also received co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund for both countries: the approval decision of the EC on 7 September 2015 established **a total EU contribution of € 60.8 million for joint developments.**

The Programme's guiding principle was to support selected cooperative strategic actions and pilot projects in several priority fields, rather than large-scale interventions. It focused on enhancing economic cooperation, addressing accessibility and business environment issues, preserving environmental assets, fostering network development among local administrations, and improving communication between educational institutions and key actors in the local economy.

In addition to providing technical assistance for the management structure, the Programme offered opportunities in four main priorities: economic development, sustainable use of natural and cultural assets, cooperation, and education.

Projects were required to be implemented within the Programme's eligible area, covering 3+4 NUTS 3 regions along the Hungary-Croatia border, on **a total territory of 31,028 km².**

EU co-financing was available for projects mainly through two open Calls for Proposals (2016 and 2019), but strategic projects were also implemented, with partnership and thematic content pre-approved by the Monitoring Committee (MC), the bilateral decision-making body of the Programme.

One significant innovation in the 2014-2020 period was the possibility of supporting small and medium-sized enterprises directly, in the frame of the 'Beneficiary Light Scheme' project of Priority 1, while Priority 2, 3 and 4 of the Programme were primarily open to non-profit organizations, including governmental institutions, development agencies, NGO-s, environmental management authorities, educational organisations, tourism boards and others.

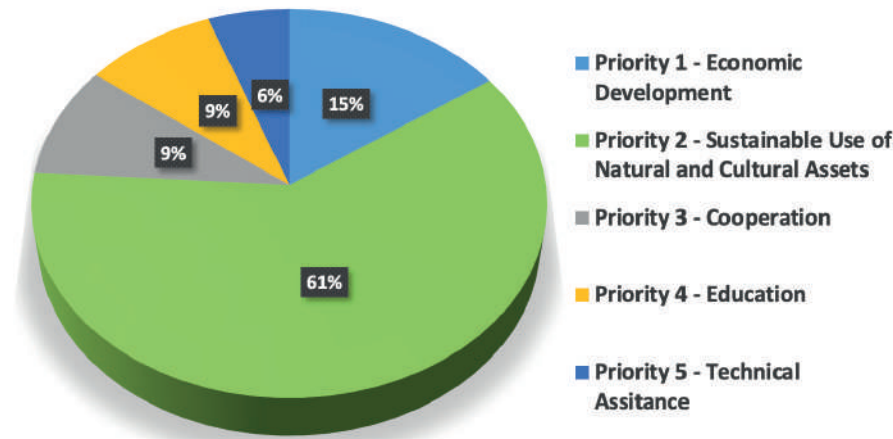
Activities eligible for financing included infrastructure developments, environmental protection programs, tourism initiatives, integration pathways for disadvantaged individuals, research infrastructure enhancements, joint feasibility studies, common curricula development, and people-to-people activities such as festivals and sports tournaments.

A key feature of the Programme was the Lead Beneficiary (LB) principle, requiring every project to have an LB serving as the main point of contact between the project and the Programme's management bodies. Projects were required to involve partner organisations from both Hungary and Croatia, with joint planning, staffing, financing and implementation to ensure a genuine cross-border impact.

The Programme placed a stronger emphasis on communication during this period, aiming at not only raising public awareness of EU-funded projects but also at underscoring the benefits of EU regional funding in general. The Joint Secretariat (JS), responsible for implementing the seven-year, strategically oriented Communication Plan, endeavored to utilise as many communication tools as possible to achieve the set targets. In addition to disseminating promotional materials, designing and regularly updating the Programme's website (www.huhr-cbc.com) and social media profiles (facebook.com/huhr.cbc, twitter.com/InterregHUHRcbc), the JS sought to establish tighter connections with the media. Success was evident on both sides of the border where media interest was high, even at the national level.

One of the main programme-level events, **the Opening Conference took place in Čakovec, Croatia on 10 September 2015** and hosted more than 200 guests. Beyond the regular programme events such as information days and partner search forums, another remarkable happening was the Best Practice Conference held in Zalakaros, Hungary on 15 November 2018 where more than 250 visitors were curious to learn about the projects' results. Besides panel discussions, several EU co-financed projects had the opportunity to disseminate their long-lasting achievements. European Cooperation Day / Interreg Cooperation Day was also promoted annually during this seven-year financial period.

Finally, **the Closing Conference of the Programme was held in Budapest, Hungary on 18 October 2023**, partly already promoting the upcoming, 2021-2027 programme as well. The **more than € 58 million approved for the new programming period on 21 March 2024** are also sure to significantly contribute to the further joint development of the common border region of Hungary and Croatia.





projects of the FIRST CALL

The First Call for Proposals

The inaugural Call for Proposals (CfP) in the Programme opened on 29 February 2016, with a submission deadline of 31 May 2016. It garnered 207 applications, marking the highest level of interest in Hungarian-Croatian cooperation to date.

The JS, with its colleagues working in Budapest, Pécs, Osijek and Čakovec, assisted those interested in preparing joint project ideas between eligible Hungarian and Croatian organisations. These projects fell under three main priorities:

PO2 – Sustainable Use of Natural and Cultural Assets, including heritage-based tourism development and environmental protection

PO3 – Cooperation between citizens and organizations

PO4 – Education in various levels, including preschool, primary, secondary, adult education, and higher education

Each Priority was further divided into specific objectives / components to encourage applicants to focus on targeted activities. These included:

2.1.1 Bicycle paths

2.1.2 Tourism attractions

2.1.3 Thematic routes and other tourism products

2.2. Restoring the ecological diversity in the border area

3.1.1 Thematic co-operation

3.1.2 People-to-people co-operation

4.1.1 Co-operation in higher education

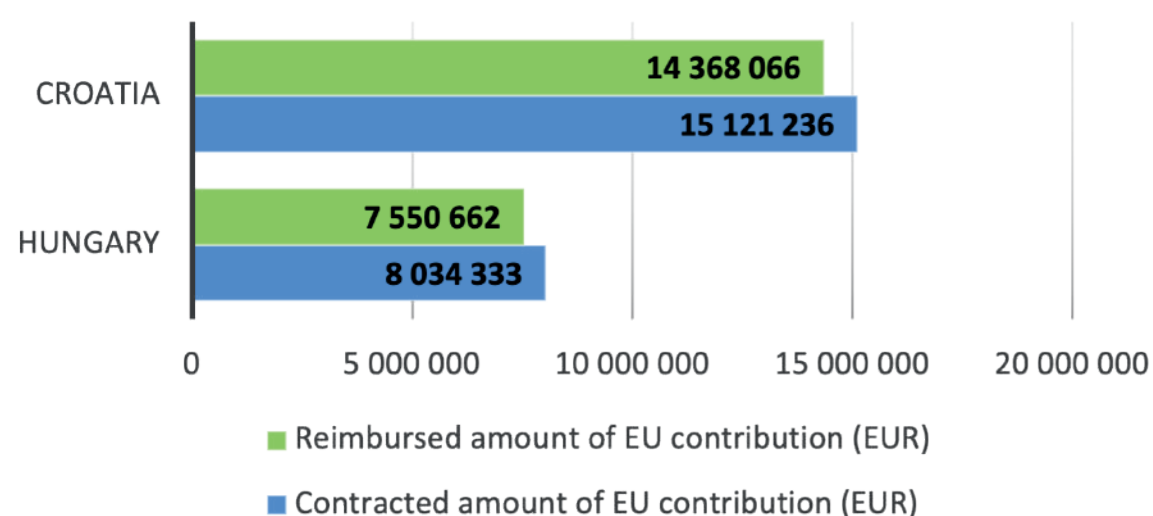
4.1.2 Co-operation in preschool, primary and secondary education and adult education

Seven information days, held in the border counties, positively influenced potential applicants by providing them with valuable insights into the Programme's requirements for joint projects.

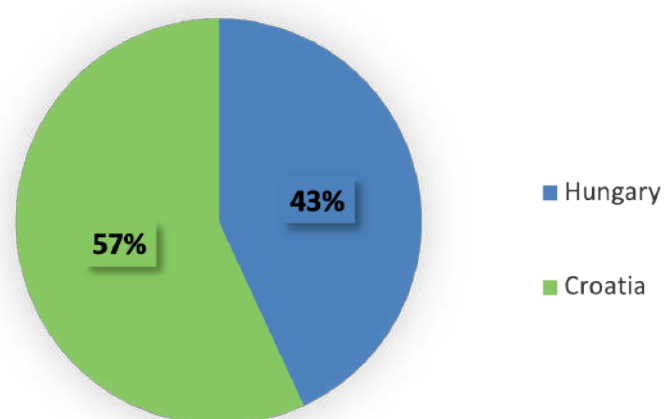
Out of the 207 applications received, the MC selected 54 projects for funding, totalling at over € 23.3 million of EU funding. One project withdrew, resulting in **53 projects receiving a total of € 23.2 million** of financial support from the EU. The projects had durations ranging from 16 to 20 months, depending on the selected specific objective / component. The selected projects covered a broad spectrum of investments and resulted in tangible outcomes such as new infrastructure for

active and eco-friendly tourism, as well as rehabilitation efforts for protected natural heritage sites. Additionally, investments in education services and facilities were made to empower local communities and attract new students to the region. Project implementation and reporting continued until mid-2021, with a total of € 21.9 million in EU funding disbursed to the project partner organisations (the Beneficiaries), representing a 94% absorption rate.

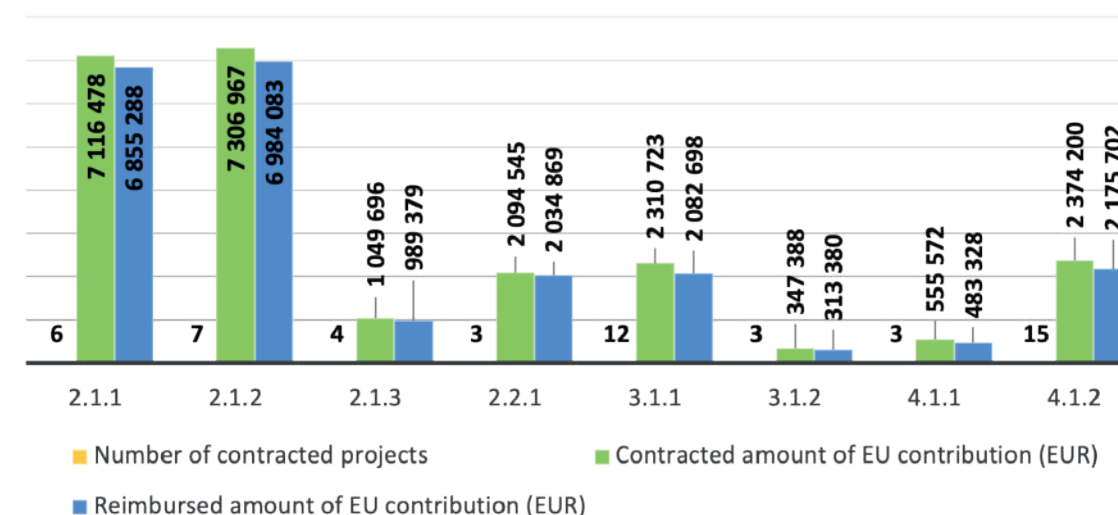
Amount of EU contribution per country



Number of supported organizations per country



Number of projects and amount of EU contribution per components



The first Cfp led to significant infrastructural investments and soft developments benefiting both residents and tourists in the cross-border region. Examples of achievements in Priorities 2, 3 and 4 include:

- Establishment of 110.3 km of newly paved and designated bicycle paths,
- Development of 518.2 km of thematic routes such as biking and hiking paths, greenways, pilgrim routes, gastro and wine trails, and equestrian tracks,
- Creation or renovation of 51 tourist attractions,
- Increase of 60,998 visits per year to supported cultural and natural heritage sites and attractions,
- Participation of 92 institutions in joint capacity-building actions,
- Involvement of more than 1,346 individuals in joint actions and events,
- Refurbishment of 6 educational premises in schools,
- Upgrade of 27 schools with technical equipment,
- Participation of 3,056 individuals in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities, and higher and vocational education across borders,
- Involvement of 483 marginalized individuals in training programs,
- 483 marginalised persons involved in training programmes.



Cycle in a network 2.0

Cycle in a network 2.0 - Improved cycling connections of South-Zala and Međimurje across space and time

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.1/0001

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of County Rank Town Nagykanizsa (HU)

B1: Tourism board of Međimurje county (HR)

B2: Međimurje County Road Administration (HR)

B3: Municipality Štrigova (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 463 336,79

Implementation period: September 2017 - July 2019

available to locals and tourists, the project contributed to a greener, healthier, and more sustainable region. It improved the accessibility of existing and potential tourist sites, integrated rural areas into the tourism flow, and sustainably utilized existing natural and cultural values. The project enhanced the tourism visibility and visitor numbers in South Zala and Međimurje County, promoting social and economic growth in the region by leveraging the multiplier effects of tourism (employment, revenue growth, investments).

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 11,66 km of asphalted bicycle path (separated bike lane on the Donji Kraljevec – Hodošan route; replacement of the existing gravel bike path with eco-asphalt between Goričan and Kotoriba);
- 4,28 km of gravel bicycle path (around Nagykanizsa Boating Lake) and two additional attractions (outdoor fitness park, playground);
- 17,28 km of new signed route (Murakeresztúr EV13 section, connecting Murakeresztúr – Belezna – Jankapuszta – Nagykanizsa-Miklósfa);
- One technical plan for the Štrigova bicycle information centre;
- One joint bicycle information system (Cyclist Welcome Classification System), ten service provider trainings, and one joint monitoring-operating body.

As a continuation of the previous project, the Cycle in a Network 2.0 project was realized through the partnership of the municipalities of Nagykanizsa (HU) and Štrigova (HR), as well as the Tourism board of Međimurje County and the Međimurje County Road Administration. The aim was to continue the cycling tourism developments initiated by the predecessor project, creating favourable conditions for the expansion of cross-border active tourism. Besides numerous infrastructural developments and organizing cross-border cycling programs, the project also focused heavily on developing and standardizing related services by introducing the Cyclist Welcome Classification System.

Beyond its investments, which expanded eco-friendly transportation options and further diversified the range of healthy leisure activities

Bike&Boat

Cross-border cooperation in multimodal tourism

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.1/0003

Partnership:

LB: Local Government of Mohács (HU)

B1: Town of Beli Manastir (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 937 374,90

Implementation period: September 2017 - April 2019

The tourism infrastructure of the border region was jointly developed by the municipalities of Mohács and Beli Manastir through the EU-financed Cross-Border Cooperation project. This initiative included investments in cycling infrastructure, with the most significant investment being the purchase of a cruise ship capable of carrying 50 passengers. In the project's target area, several developments in bicycle tourism infrastructure occurred in recent years. The towns involved recognized their common interest in infrastructure development due to the growing importance of tourism, benefiting from good accessibility (Corridor V/c and VII), rich natural reserves (Danube-Drava NP, Kopački rit), and historical heritage (Mohács, Osijek, Baranja hills).

The project's general objective was to enhance the area's touristic attractiveness by improving the quality and connectivity of the bicycle route network to Eurovelo 6 and 13, and to increase touristic attractions with a pleasure boat.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Improving the quality of connections between the central parts of Mohács and Beli Manastir by establishing capillary routes to existing magisterial routes;
- Enhancing tourism services by providing new shipping opportunities;
- Conducting promotional activities to attract more tourists from major European countries;
- Raising awareness about environmentally friendly transport around local heritage sites among the youth and local population.

The Town of Mohács served as the Lead Beneficiary, responsible for all project activities on the Hungarian side, leveraging its experience and success in managing EU funds. The Croatian partner, the Town of Beli Manastir, handled activities on the Croatian side. Both towns have a long-standing partnership as twin towns.

The direct target groups included the citizens of Mohács (population: 17 738) and Beli Manastir (population: 10 068), as well as the broader populations of the Mohács microregion (50 800) and Osijek-Baranja county (304 800), totalling 355 600 people. Indirectly, the project targeted approximately 50 000 tourists, students, and cycling associations visiting the Mohács micro region, Baranya, and Osijek-Baranja County.



EV13 Gap

Filling the gap - completion of the cross-border section of EuroVelo 13 between Drávatamási and Virovitica

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.1/0006

Partnership:

LB: Virovitica-Podravina County (HR)

B1: Town of Barcs (HU)

B2: Virovitica Podravina County Tourist Bord (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 685 120,04

Implementation period: November 2017 - December 2019

The project emerged as a focal point in bicycle tourism, forming part of the international cycling route EuroVelo 13. While benefiting from previously reconstructed bicycle infrastructure through past IPA CBC HU-HR projects, there remained a necessity for further developments to bicycle road sections and of additional services to enhance the appeal of this cross-border bicycle touristic destination. Addressing these gaps was vital to bolstering attractiveness among tourists on EV13.



Experience indicated that enhancing cycling infrastructures could swiftly boost cycling tourism without adversely impacting the environment, as seen with other forms of tourism. The project aimed to elevate existing cycling infrastructure and offer supplementary content to enrich this cross-border cycling destination.

The EV13 Gap strove to furnish safe, high-quality cycling routes, and the project contributed to the development of capillary bicycle touristic routes that minimized interaction with motor vehicles. The project aligned with the program goal of leveraging the region's natural and cultural heritage assets into income-generating tourism attractions.

Cycling, recognized as an environmentally friendly form of tourism, the project not only minimized environmental impact but also promoted the natural values of the cross-border area along the river Drava. Situated within UNESCO's transboundary biosphere reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, the project significantly contributed to promoting natural heritage and fostering a tourism form that generated income for the local economy without negative repercussions.

The intervention area focused on creating sustainable joint regional tourism products, encompassing natural and rural values. Sustainability in bicycle tourism can be achieved by integrating it with other tourist forms, such as rural, green, wine, gastronomic, active, and nature tourism. Thus, the project aimed to augment the cycling destination's value by merging it with nature and wine-gastronomy tourism. With a duration of 26 months and locations spanning from Barcs (HU), Drávatamási (HU), to Virovitica (HR), and Kapela Dvor (HR), the project targeted more than 100 cyclists, 50 youngsters, 20 journalists, and touristic operators.

The LB was responsible for additional bicycle services and tour content creation, while B1 for bicycle road construction and promotional activities in Hungary, and B2 for cycling promotion and event organization in Croatia. The project's cross-border nature was evident as partners collaborated to enhance the attractiveness of the cross-border bicycle destination, developing action plans, organizing promotional cycling activities, and improving bicycle road connections between border cities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Bicycle repair stations, bicycle storages, and thematic resting places were built;
- An 8,5 km long missing segment of EV13 bicycle route was constructed;
- A cross-border action plan regarding bicycle tourism was delivered.

BYPATH

BicYcle PATH that connects Mailath castle and Siklós fortress

In Croatia, the construction of bicycle paths plays a pivotal role in tourism development and cultural heritage promotion. The bicycle path linking the border with Hungary to the town centre aimed to enhance collaboration with Hungarian counterparts. Recognizing the advanced bicycle routes in Hungary, efforts focused on developing similar infrastructure on the Croatian side. Key tourist attractions like the Mailath castle and parks in Donji Miholjac were targeted for promotion. The 16-month project targeted border region citizens, tourists, and cyclists, aiming to popularize bicycle tourism with the help of marketing strategy and through events like the Cycle Art festival.

In Croatia 3,07 km newly bicycle path was constructed. A bike gazebo, bike racks, benches, tables, garbage bins and solar lamps were set up along this constructed bicycle way. These new equipment serve as a resting place and information point for tourists. On the Croatian side five bicycles were purchased promoting of cyclotourism. City of Donji Miholjac takes care of and manages this bicycles. In Hungary, the renovation of the Harkány-Siklós bicycle route emerged as a primary focus due to its popularity and deteriorating condition.

The route's significance stemmed from its proximity to tourist attractions such as the spas and castles in Siklós and Harkány. Additionally, efforts included signage along the existing route to improve accessibility, with bilingual signs providing information in Croatian and Hungarian. Safety considerations led to the

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 3,07 km new and paved bicycle path was constructed;
- Further bicycle tourism service elements were created such as two bike gazebos, five bike racks, two benches and tables, six garbage bins and 20 solar lamps;
- Bicycle guides were trained;
- A marketing strategy was developed;
- A Cyclo Art festival and bicycle conferences were held;
- A mobile application supporting the local and regional bicycle tourism was created.



reconstruction of the bike park in Siklós, with bilingual information points serving both Hungarian and Croatian visitors.

The project also encompassed the installation of bicycle stands, resting areas, and informational tables along the route. The project's innovative aspect included the development of a mobile application for bikers to access route information and tourist attractions. Marketing initiatives, including the establishment of an information point in Siklós and a comprehensive marketing campaign, aimed to promote project outcomes. This campaign utilized various media channels to garner public attention and support for the project results. Additionally, events such as a bicycle manifestation and a bike conference provided platforms for testing and discussing the new infrastructure and promoting cycling in the cross-border region.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.1/0008

Partnership:

LB: City of Donji Miholjac (HR)

B1: Municipality of Siklós (HU)

B2: Tourist Board of the City of Donji Miholjac (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 810 205,20

Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

Happy Bike

Unlimited bicycle experience along the Mura and Drava Rivers

Aligned with the Programme's priority specific objective, the project's primary goal was to leverage the exceptionally rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage of the Drava-Mura region to stimulate economic growth in the participating regions (Letenye, Grad Prelog, and Grad Ludbreg). Through infrastructure developments implemented within the project, the aim was to attract a greater number of visitors.

The establishment of the Letenye-Prelog-Ludbreg bicycle route and nature interpretation trail, spanning approximately 100 km, aimed to enhance access to picturesque, nearly untouched natural areas and other potential tourist sites throughout the Drava-Mura region for both locals and visitors. A notable feature of the project was the Letenye-Prelog-Ludbreg capillary bicycle route, which facilitated connectivity across the Croatia-Hungary border and linked to the Eurovelo network.

The project intended to increase visitor numbers to the involved areas, ensuring at least one overnight stay. To achieve this, besides establishing and improving necessary infrastructure conditions, the partnership organized a series of pioneering events to lay the groundwork for a long-term cycling culture on both sides of the HU-HR border.

The areas involved in the Happy Bike project included Zala, Međimurje, and Varaždin Counties, benefitting at least 11 settlements and making around 60 cultural and natural attractions accessible. The main target group for the investments, such as the creation of the Cyclist's Visitor Centre in Letenye and Oporovec, were individuals seeking healthy physical activities, outdoor recreation, and relaxation opportunities.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.1/0009

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Letenye (HU)

B1: Local Government of Prelog (HR)

B2: Local Government of Ludbreg (HR)

B3: County Roads Administration of the Varaždin County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 866 282,16

Implementation period: November 2017 - June 2019

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Establishment of bicycle centre Letenye where cyclists are able to relax, store and repair bicycles;
- Establishment of rest place for cyclist in Oporovec providing new services to cyclists (e.g. free WIFI access, self-services for cyclists);
- Establishment of 14 relax and info points alongside the newly designated bicycle paths (around 100 km-long);
- Placement of 232 traffic signs alongside the newly designated bicycle capillary routes;
- Improved connections to the Eurovelo network from both sides of the border;
- Creation of three thematic bicycle routes (based on natural and cultural values) in the areas of Letenye, Prelog and Ludbreg;
- Development of a trilingual mobile app providing accurate and up-to-date information to cyclists on the bicycle routes and related natural and cultural assets;
- Successful organisation of three day Summer Cycling Camp for primary school kids to promote healthy lifestyle.



Cyclo-Net

Extension of cross-border cyclotourism networks through development of capillary bicycle paths in Križevci and Zalakaros

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.1/0011

Partnership:

LB: Town of Križevci (HR)

B1: Local Government of Zalakaros (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 1 354 158,75

Implementation period: November 2017 - June 2019

The project aimed to develop essential cycling infrastructure to brand Križevci (HR) and Zalakaros (HR) as active tourism destinations. This involved connecting these areas through capillary bicycle paths to the Eurovelo 13 international cycling corridor and national cycling route networks, encouraging cyclists to explore natural environments, enjoy local cuisine and wine, and extend their stays, thus increasing guest nights in the area.

This objective was pursued through four thematic sets of activities jointly implemented by the partners. Initially, partner-specific forums were organized with cycling tourism representatives from county, regional, and state levels to position Križevci and Zalakaros within national cycling networks and their connections to Eurovelo 13. Following this, joint workshops were conducted with local authorities, tourist boards, and cycling associations to assess the current cycling infrastructure. The conclusions and recommendations from these forums and workshops were summarized in a document that served as the basis for preparing a joint action plan for cycling and active tourism development and promotion in Križevci and Zalakaros.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Joint action plan and a tourism package created on cycling and active tourism;
- 4 350 m of capillary bicycle paths in Križevci, 2 943 m of capillary bicycle paths in Zalakaros;
- Two cyclists bridges, 550 m of access road to viewing point;
- Two resting points constructed and equipped and 36 bike parking stalks set in ten locations in Križevci;
- Mountain bike trails in the hill above Križevci decorated;
- Implemented media campaign, four cycling promotion events held in Križevci, one international cycling race organized by Zalakaros.

Continuing with strategic planning activities, a joint map was prepared showing Eurovelo 13, national cycle routes, capillary routes in Križevci and Zalakaros, and possible paths to reach them from Eurovelo 13 and national routes. Additionally, the project connected cycling tourism to other aspects of tourism through the creation of an active tourism package, including new rural and active tourism programs such as equestrian and wine events designed for specific target groups. An innovative element of the project was the organization of an international cycle race to promote the cycle corridor and the area's attractions, involving Croatian and Hungarian cyclists. The race started from Križevci, with three resting points along the route, and concluded in Zalakaros by evening.

The results of the project included improved tourism capacities, recognizability, and attractiveness of Križevci and Zalakaros; enhanced infrastructure and increased events in the cross-border region; direct benefits for cyclists, visitors, tourists, and local inhabitants; increased number of visitors and length of stays, resulting in more guest nights; and an overall boost in visitors' spending by expanding the cycling-related tourism offer.



Two Rivers one Goal

Sustainable water tourism along Mura and Drava River

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0004

Partnership:

LB: Mura Region European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation LL (Mura Region EGTC) (HU)

B1: Municipality of Goričan (HR)

B2: Municipality of Donji Vidovec (HR)

B3: Municipality of Legrad (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 715 942,67

Implementation period: May 2017 - April 2019

This initiative aimed to develop a joint water-based tourism product along the Mura and Drava Rivers, aligned with sustainability principles, and create an attractive tourism destination image for the area.

The planned activities ensured the development of a competitive and sustainable tourism offer based on existing natural and cultural resources. Tourism attractions developed on both sides of the border (info point, lake, exhibitions, boat tours infrastructure, resting place) were part of a combined offer, all interrelated and complementary.

A strong added value of the project lay in its environmental impact. All project activities were conducted in the NATURA 2000 protected area, making the investments environmentally friendly and highlighting the importance of sustainable water tourism. The target groups directly benefiting from the action included tourists, tourist boards, and tourism-oriented organizations. Indirectly, the local public, local and regional authorities, and

tourism-related SMEs benefited from the project. A strong joint component and cross-border impact were achieved through a long-term cooperation agreement signed between LB, Bs, and tourist boards and tourism-oriented organizations from both Hungary and Croatia. This agreement ensured a lasting impact of the project on the target area.

This new joint sustainable water tourism product diversified the existing tourist offer and increased the competitiveness of the HU-HR CBC area along the Mura and Drava Rivers. The activities enhanced the region's attractiveness, increased the annual number of tourists, and reduced tourism seasonality. This unique joint tourism product improved the general touristic image of the target region, ensuring an "all-year-round, diverse, service-oriented quality destination committed to authenticity and sustainability."

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- An info point/visitor centre to promote the new tourism product and an upgraded artificial lake in Goričan (HR);
- Seven mobile piers along the river (four in Hungary and three in Croatia), two boat storages for organizing boat tours, a resting place in Murakeresztúr (HU);
- An exhibition space/visitor center in Molnári (HU) showcasing the culture, tradition, and tourism potential of the Mura River;
- An exhibition space in Donji Vidovec (HR) promoting gold panning on the Mura River.



Sokci

Converting the region's Sokci cultural heritage assets to tourism attractions

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0006

Partnership:

LB: Local Government of Mohács (HU)

B1: Municipality of Čepin (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 805 256,57

Implementation period: July 2017 - August 2019

The Sokci population, a source of the region's cultural diversity, sought to maintain its community and preserve its culture and traditions despite its decline. Recognizing the importance of developing and managing Sokci cultural heritage, a project aimed to convert this rich heritage into new tourist attractions with cross-border effects, thereby increasing the area's tourist appeal and fostering economic growth.

The Local Government of Mohács, located along the Danube River in Baranya County, was the Lead Beneficiary, responsible for activities on the Hungarian side. The Municipality of Čepin was the Croatian beneficiary, handling activities on the Croatian side. Two associated partners, the Sokci Reading Circle of Mohács and the Cultural Artistic Society "KUD Ivan Kapistran Adamović" Čepin, represented the Sokci community and implemented joint cultural events.

The project's main cross-border effect was the enrichment of the region's tourism portfolio and the deepening of sub-regional, cross-border cooperation between the participating beneficiaries. The target groups included local and foreign tourists and the area's residents.

The main objectives of the project were to strengthen cross-border links within the Sokci community, valorise their heritage for tourism, and promote it. During the project, the Sokci community house in Mohács, owned by the Town of Mohács, was reconstructed and converted for tourism purposes, with related equipment purchased. Additionally, four cultural events were supported: the Tambura Festival on June 16, 2018; Danube Wash on July 7, 2018; Sokci Bean Cooking Festival on August 4, 2018; and the International Folk Dance Festival on August 20, 2018.

Within the framework of the project, the obsolete Cultural Center in Čepin was redesigned and renewed, and infrastructure equipment, traditional folk costumes and instruments, a stage, interactive equipment, and furniture were purchased. Two events took place during the project: Čepinko čijalo from January 19, 2018, and September 28-30, 2018, and Čepinski suncokreti, facilitating cooperation with Mohács Sokackör. The KUD "IK Adamović" award was presented at various events. To support Sokac cultural heritage and cross-border cooperation, video films were recorded, promotional materials were created, and newspaper articles were published. On February 22, 2019, the Čepin Cultural Center was officially opened.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Reconstruction of two authentic and attractive cultural centres;
- Organization of six joint cultural and historical heritage events for tourists and the public;
- Enhanced tourist attractions based on Sokci culture, traditions, and events, diversifying the region's tourism portfolio;
- Improved cultural network among Hungarian and Croatian Sokci communities;
- Attraction of 10 000 visitors to cultural heritage sites and events.



Attractour

Revitalisation of cultural heritage into tourism attractions in Međimurje and Letenye area

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0010
Partnership:
LB: Public Instituion for the Development of the Međimurje County REDEA (HR)
B1: Međimurje County (HR)
B2: Tourism Board of Međimurje County (HR)
B3: Municipality of Letenye (HU)
B4: University of Pannonia (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 1 274 386,23
Implementation period: September 2017 - April 2019

The Attractour project aimed to develop distinctive tourism destinations in Međimurje (HR) and Letenye (HU) and the surrounding area by revitalizing cultural heritage into tourist attractions and creating innovative joint tourism packages.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Determined strategic framework to position cross-border area as active tourism destination (one joint supply-demand analysis, one joint strategic plan, three joint tourism packages);
- Improved tourism offers by investment in attractions and establishment of visitor centres (two attractions in two refurbished buildings, two visitor centres, and promotion material);
- Positive attitude towards natural and cultural values promoted (one joint training for existing tourist guides, four workshops for preschool children, one study visit for students and joint event for public).

This was to be achieved through:

1. Preparation of a strategic framework to boost the diversification of the tourism offer, which focused on bicycling and water-based tourism common in the area.
2. Investment in tourism attractions and the establishment of info/visitor centres in Čakovec and Letenye.
3. Building a positive attitude towards cultural and natural values through training, workshops, and a study visit for different target groups.
4. Promotion of tourism destinations (as destinations of active tourism—bicycling and water-based sports) and joint tourism packages through an integrated promotion campaign.

The project addressed challenges in the project area: untapped tourism potential of historically significant sites, the need to present the tourist offer adequately in visitor centres, and the need to create attractions that meet the expectations of modern tourists seeking engaging tourism experiences. The project covered the Muramente subregion and Zala hills in Hungary, and Međimurska County in Croatia. Target groups included tourism service providers—the Tourist Board of Međimurje County and Letenye’s Cultural Centre, which would operate the two tourism attractions; tourists arriving and staying in Međimurje and the area surrounding Letenye; persons with disabilities, primarily those with visual impairments; preschool and elementary school children; students from the project area; and tourist guides.

Preradović & Csokonai

Preradović & Csokonai - celebration of romantic poets of the cross-border area

The project aimed the profound influence of literature on fostering cultural connections between diverse peoples, serving as a channel for the transmission of intellectual, cultural movements and societal shifts across nations. From the Middle Ages through the 18th Century, Hungary and Croatia enjoyed a symbiotic relationship, sharing historical, cultural, and literary bonds facilitated by political ties. However, as the 19th Century ushered in the era of early romanticism, both nations embarked on separate cultural trajectories, leading to a sense of estrangement. This project sought to revive the cultural rapport between Hungary and Croatia by exploring their shared literary heritage.

By discovering common roots and values in the history of literature, the initiative aimed to deepen understanding between the two countries, bridging cultural disparities and fostering closer ties. Central to this endeavour was the examination of the works and legacies of Petar Preradović, a prominent Croatian poet, and Csokonai Vitéz Mihály, a renowned figure of Hungarian enlightenment. Through the reconstruction of Petar Preradović’s



PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0011
Partnership:
LB: Municipality of Pitomača (HR)
B1: Municipality of Csurgó (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 1 272 362,22
Implementation period: October 2017 - December 2019

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Birth House of Petar Preradović was reconstructed and equipped, an interactive and audio-visual exhibition was created;
- Establishment of an interactive theatre room and a permanent exhibition in Csokonai Museum;
- A strategy of pedagogic and interactive content focusing on literature was delivered;
- A common marketing and service concept and operation plan for both institutions (birth house and museum) was created;
- Several commemoration events were delivered such as poetry evenings with literature discussions, theatre plays, memorial tree planting;
- Day of Hungarian Literature celebrated, audio-visual competition and amateur literary translation contests.

Birth House and Csokonai Museum in Csurgó, alongside the development of interactive exhibits and educational materials, the project endeavoured to transform these sites into vibrant tourist attractions. By promoting cross-border interactions among tourists, visitors, literature associations, and students, the project aimed to stimulate dialogue and collaboration.

Key activities included the reconstruction of cultural heritage sites, the development of interactive content and marketing strategies, as well as the organization of commemorative and literary events. Through these activities, the project achieved several benefits, including enhanced cultural interpretation infrastructure, greater appreciation for the shared values of both nations, and the cultivation of new avenues for literary exploration and research. Ultimately, the project aspired to foster enduring partnerships and promote cross-cultural understanding between Hungary and Croatia.

HU-CRO Wine Stories II

Hungarian-Croatian Wine Stories II

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0013

Partnership:

LB: Town of Orahovica (HR)

B1: Town of Villány (HU)

B2: Virovitica Podravina County Tourist Board (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 787 182,01

Implementation period: May 2017 - November 2018

The two municipalities of Orahovica and Villány share a unified perspective regarding wine production, both situated within prominent viticulture regions. Consequently, they jointly endorsed a robust and favourable portrayal of wine tourism within their respective locales. Having previously engaged in two collaborative HU-HR cross-border cooperation initiatives, these municipalities expressed a desire to perpetuate this mutual learning dynamic through the present project, which aimed to cultivate cross-border tourism centered around shared cultural heritage. Establishing connections between culturally akin regions is pivotal for constructing a sustainable tourism product and realizing the desired multiplier effect.

Both municipalities, with a focus on wine tourism, hosted a series of wine-themed events celebrating their respective traditional wine varieties and viniculture traditions. The primary beneficiaries of this initiative were tourists exploring the cross-border region, who stood to gain valuable insights into the shared wine and culinary cultures of these two areas.

Moreover, the involvement of local government representatives in each other's events facilitated the exchange of best practices, thereby fostering the sustainable development of cultural tourism within their respective regions. Similarly, members of viticulture associations had the opportunity to glean insights into innovative grape-growing techniques from their counterparts in neighbouring regions, while also reaping the benefits of increased tourist footfall resulting from enhanced tourism infrastructure. Building upon past collaborative efforts, the project sought to introduce novel joint events alongside refined iterations of successful initiatives, culminating in a heightened influx of visitors to the region.

In Orahovica, the transformation of a disused locksmith's workshop into a visitor centre – a structure reminiscent of the façades of wine cellars in Villány – characterised the innovative approach to bolstering tourism infrastructure. Furthermore, the revitalization

of public squares in Villány created favourable spaces for leisure activities, school recitals, and public sporting events, thus enriching the overall tourism experience and fostering socio-economic growth across the region. Outlined within the project's framework were specific objectives and corresponding indicators of success, ranging from the development of tourism infrastructure to the enrichment of the tourism offer with innovative products and the promotion of wine and food culture education. Through diligent implementation of these activities, the project aimed to realize its intended outcomes and catalyse the expansion of the touristic repertoire, while promoting shared cultural values and facilitating socio-economic development throughout the cross-border region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The cross-border region's wine tourism infrastructure was developed by a 291,80 m² of total usable area after reconstruction of Visitor centre in Orahovica and by a 1953,79 m² of reconstructed public squares in Villány (Diófáster);
- Tourism offers were enriched with innovative tourism products;
- Training programmes increased the level of education on wine and food culture in the cross-border region of tourism service providers and wine producers.



Tourism 4 All

Common tourism development of natural and cultural assets of Suhopolje - Noskovačka Dubrava - Zselic Starry Park

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0014

Partnership:

LB: Virovitica-Podravina County (HR)

B1: SEFAG Forest Management and Wood Industry Share Co. (HU)

B2: Public institution for Management of Protected parts of Nature and Ecological Network of Virovitica-Podravina County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 274 757,11

Implementation period: September 2017 - October 2019

The project aimed to ensure benefits for the population on both sides of the region through the creation of a joint cross-border tourism attraction. It represented an innovative approach by combining three seemingly unrelated elements such as culture, nature, and astronomy into one coherent and integrated concept. The focus was on preserving, revitalizing, managing, promoting, and marketing natural and cultural heritage sites in the cross-border region of Virovitica-Podravina County and Somogy County.

The project sites boasted rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage with a high level of protection. For instance, the Park in Suhopolje is a protected cultural heritage near the Castle Janković. The Informational-Educational Centre in Noskovačka Dubrava is situated in the former mansion of Count Drašković, within various protected areas like the Regional Park Mura-Drava-Danube, Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, and NATURA 2000. Similarly, the Zselic Starry Sky Park is located within the Zselic National Landscape Protection Area (NATURA 2000 area).

The project aimed to develop tourism products, services, and adequate infrastructure in the cross-border area by creating attractions easily accessible to tourists, with a focus on sustainability and tourist interests. The project contributed to converting the region's natural and cultural heritage into tourism attractions.

The direct target groups were ranging from participants in events to representatives of public institutions, tourism boards, and tourism agencies. Indirect target groups encompassed all inhabitants of Virovitica-Podravina County and Somogy County, as well as economic and trade enterprises operating in the tourism sector, tourists, and visitors. The results aimed to

increase visitors, raise interest and knowledge about natural and cultural heritage among relevant stakeholders, improve natural and cultural heritage into tourism attractions, and inform the public about the project. The cross-border impact was evident through joint organization of events, enhancing cooperation to create complete tourism attractions and products based on natural and cultural heritage.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- An international astronomical summer camp in Zselic, a nature camp in Noskovačka Dubrava, and bicycle tours from Noskovačka Dubrava to Zselic were organized;
- A conference related to light pollution and astronomy was delivered;
- The park with a surface of 1 280,40 m² in Suhopolje was revitalized;
- The Zselic Starry Park with a surface of 16 845,7 m² was developed;
- A spectacle lake (Ropoly valley) was constructed;
- 36 bicycles, vests and helmets were purchased;
- Map of tourism attractions, program packages and tours from Noskovačka Dubrava to Zselic Starry Park were created;
- Designed bicycle and horseback riding routes through the ancient Janković territory were created.



Green Baranja / Baranya

Green Baranja / Baranya - greening the tourism through innovative products in joint nature and landscape heritage

The project aimed to enhance sustainable economic development and nature management in the Croatian and Hungarian Baranja/Baranya region through the creation of unique green tourist products, joint marketing efforts, and festivals. The project focused on the Baranja area in Croatia and the Baranya County in Hungary, incorporating three protected areas: Kopacki Rit Nature Park in Croatia, the Danube-Drava National Park, and Western-Mecsek Hills Landscape Protection area in Hungary.



PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.2/0016

Partnership:

LB: Association for Nature and Environment Protection Green Osijek (HR)

B1: Danube-Drava National Park Directorate (HU)

B2: Municipality of Bilje (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 177 079,71

Implementation period: December 2017 - October 2019

Key indicators included the direct benefit to over 5 000 individuals, renewable energy supply to eight locations, and the establishment of seven new information points. Challenges such as unemployment, insufficient tourism facilities, limited marketing, and cross-border cooperation were addressed. The project aimed to develop a strong regional tourism identity and joint cross-border green tourism programs, targeting local communities, minorities, domestic and foreign tourist operators, educational institutions, and the business sector.

It involved the creation of new innovative green tourism facilities and infrastructure, including 16 land art installations, two tree houses, educational and tourist facilities, seven information boards, and the reconstruction of cultural and heritage sites for 4 visitor centres. Activities also included organizing water tour-guide courses, securing equipment for active and green tourism, branding Zlatna Greda (HR) tourism centre as environmentally friendly, and organizing festivals with participants from Hungary and Croatia.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- In Eco centre Zlatna Greda a 309 m² of entrance paths was developed;
- 60 resting points for visitors were created;
- Two wooden tree houses were created;
- Solar panels for electricity and water heating were installed;
- The Bat Museum in Abaliget (HU) and its surroundings were developed;
- The walls of former Monastery on Jakab Hill (now only ruins) were stabilized
- At Old-Drava Visitor Centre in Szaporca (HU) an outdoor shower and dressing cabins, a bike storage, a canoe storage, and an outdoor oven were installed;
- A hiking, cycling and water sports map of Villány-Sellye (HU) region was created;
- Virtual 360° panorama tours, marketing strategy, mobile application and hot spots (internet accesses) for seven settlements were made.

Bee2Be

Cross-border touristic routes of honey & bees

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.3/0008

Partnership:

LB: The City of Virovitica (HR)

B1: Local government of Baranya County (HU)

B2: Tourist board of the city of Virovitica (HR)

B3: Development Agency VTA (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 214 467,20

Implementation period: June 2017 - January 2019

The entire programme area has an exceptional potential for beekeeping development and honey production, with unpolluted nature and a low percentage of heavy industry and environmental pollution in general. The flora of the cross-border region is mainly composed of plants and herbs suitable for honey production, such as acacia and meadow honey.

The Project Bee2Be targeted beekeeping and apiculture development in the Virovitica-Podravina County in Croatia and Baranya County in Hungary. The main objective of the project was to capitalize on rich natural resources, great conditions, and unexploited potentials for honey production through the development of human resources, creating professional capacities for apiculture development, and enhancing the tourist offer along the Honey Trails.

The biggest problem for tourism development in this region is poorly developed tourism infrastructure, low level of tourist offers, and lacking tourist point of interests. The project addressed

several real challenges such as: the low utilization of tourism potential of beekeeping, the lack of data on the usefulness of bee products, lack of connectivity of beekeepers in the project area, insufficient exchange of knowledge and experience of beekeepers between Hungary and Croatia, lack of organized public events / trade shows on the subject of beekeeping, the low level of culture of consumption of bee products.

Beyond addressing all these above the project emphasized the importance of bees in the ecosystem. Due to project achievements young people recognized traditional activities in honey making as entrepreneurial interest. The developed ethnological museum material about bees and beekeeping enriched the tourist offer in the region. The restrictive legislation of honey making were also revised. Honey makers and their products has been strongly linked to the tourist offer of cross-border area. The project's primary target groups were beekeepers and their associations, local tourist offers operators and agencies.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A strategy for beekeeping was developed;
- Trainings for beekeepers to become animators were delivered;
- A joint honey festival in St. Ambrus Day was realized;
- A honey competition with Croatian and Hungarian beekeepers' participation was organized;
- A trilingual brochure with a map of the „Bee Safari“ Honey Tour thematic path was created;
- A mobile application about utilizing honey and honey-products was developed.



DRAWA

Development of touristic navigation on Drava waterway between sections of 0+000 – 198+600 rkm

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.3/0010

Partnership:

LB: South-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate (HU)

B1: Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure - Inland Navigation Directorate - Waterway Sector - Branch Office Vukovar (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 235 770,74

Implementation period: June 2017 - February 2019

In this project, a detailed study was conducted on water transportation along the Drava River, leading to the development of a trilingual mobile application to facilitate safe and well-planned water tours. This application also enabled shipping organizations to document ongoing changes related to shipping and shipways. The Drava River, serving as a border river between Hungary and Croatia, plays a pivotal role in enhancing cross-border effects in both countries. Tourists visiting the Drava River region contribute to the local economy by spending money on meals, accommodation, services, and entertainment, thereby generating additional revenue in this previously underdeveloped area.

The main objective of the project was to cultivate a culture of water tourism on the Drava River, leveraging its natural beauty and attractions. A multilingual mobile application was developed to facilitate navigation on the river, providing information on tourist sights, landing points, and safe waterways. The project targeted tourists, NGOs, and nature enthusiasts, aiming to enhance their experience while visiting the area.



Over the past few decades, there has been a noticeable rise in ecotourism, rural tourism, and adventure tourism, driven by a growing interest in sustainable development and diverse tourism opportunities. Water tourism, a subset of adventure tourism, has gained significant popularity.

The project aimed to boost tourism in the unspoiled areas along the Drava River, attracting more visitors and promoting awareness of protected areas while involving local communities in their preservation. Efforts focused on developing sustainable tourism outside protected zones. Water tourism was expected to improve local livelihoods and entrepreneurship. This initiative aimed to capitalize on the growing value of water tourism, benefiting rural areas and promoting international passage among Mura, Drava, and Danube Rivers.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A mobile application was developed for smartphones, showcasing tourism opportunities along the river to increase tourism and ship traffic on the River Drava;
- A tourist guide was created, exploring tourism offerings in the Drava area, detailing settlements along the Croatian-Hungarian border and their attractions, sightseeing spots, and points of interest;
- Following the riverbed survey, a waterway model for ship traffic was developed, including navigational water levels, river bends, and water management facilities.

Eat Green

Sustainable table - Culinary traditions and innovations along Baranya Greenway

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.3/0022

Partnership:

LB: Gyeregyalog.hu Southern Transdanubian Active and Ecotourism Public Association (HU)

B1: Municipality of Cserkút (HU)

B2: Alliance of Hungarian Entrepreneurs in Croatia (HR)

B3: Municipality of Kneževi Vinogradi (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 324 695,35

Implementation period: May 2017 - June 2019

The project represented a direct continuation of the previous IPA initiative, "Go Green," which saw successful collaboration among three of the partners involved in the current proposal. The project aimed to unlock the potential of lesser-known areas of traditional gastronomy along Baranya Greenway. The objective was to innovate profitable food-related products that addressed sustainability concerns while enriching the region's tourism offerings. Activities centred on reintroducing wild edible plants, medicinal plants, and wild mushrooms into cuisine, reviving old kitchen technologies, and hosting workshops and festivals to promote this culinary approach.

Adjustments to the project's website included a new menu structure, an inventory of wild edible plants with connected recipes, and online games to engage children. Joining the partnership was Cserkút, to refurbish an unused building into a culinary hub. This hub offers various unique culinary experiences, aligning with the Local Government of Cserkút's vision. B2, a new partner, aimed to embed eco-consciousness into collective thinking through festivals, camps, and awareness events, while also supporting marketing efforts for the project and Baranya Greenway tourism.

B3, as the fourth partner, planned infrastructural developments like the Green Market, supporting local producers, and offered training for tourism service providers and improve festival infrastructure. The project's 20-month duration involved activities across settlements along Baranya Greenway, targeting various groups such as tourism service providers, local producers, eco-conscious consumers, and disadvantaged communities. Project goals included encouraging intergenerational cooperation, preserving artisanal heritage, promoting eco-consciousness,

inspiring healthy living, and fostering acceptance and inclusion. Cross-border activities aimed to broaden perspectives, enhance creativity, and strengthen friendships, tolerance, and understanding. The project's unique attractions elevated the region's appeal, attracting more visitors and fostering economic growth.

The project's strength lay in its emphasis on local resource utilization, fostering long-term sustainability and development. It contributed to the growth of eco-consciousness, inspired environmentally friendly behaviour and healthy living, and advocated for inclusion through the participation of marginalized communities. Cross-border activities facilitated the exchange of ideas, broadened perspectives, and nurtured friendships, tolerance, and understanding.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Establishment of a visitor and local producer-friendly Green Market in Kneževi Vinogradi with fixed stalls;
- A fully equipped culinary venue in Cserkút with indoor and outdoor spaces offering diverse gastronomic experiences;
- A traveling museum was created, consisting of an enclosed cargo trailer, a specially designed tent, folding tables and chairs for outdoor events, and a collection of vintage kitchen utensils organized in ten thematic suitcases;
- The results were an increased number of guest nights and a significant number of people directly benefiting from the project.

CultuREvive Tour

Sustainable development of eco - cultural tourism of Koprivničko-križevačka county, Međimurska county and Zala county

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/2.1.3/0024
Partnership:
LB: Folkart Association of Zala County (HU)
B1: Tourist Authority of Koprivnica (HR)
B2: Center dr. Rudolf Steiner (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 274 762,77
Implementation period: June 2017 - January 2019

In the previous HU-HR IPA Programme, the partners implemented two cultural-themed projects jointly, called CultuREvive I and II. The successful collaboration encouraged the partners to ensure long-term maintenance based on previous results and to create an innovative tourism product based on shared cultural and natural heritage, facilitating the exploitation of sustainable and value-added eco-resources. The main objective of this project was to create an eco-cultural, handicraft tourist route branded as CultuREvive

Tour, as well as to utilize and promote the created product. The route connects the artisans of the project area, who manufacture their products using natural materials from the region, and who are open to learning, expanding, transferring their knowledge, and cooperating with other tourism actors.

The present project was based on the implementation of three main activities: developing a tourism route, popularizing the established thematic route, and promoting eco-cultural handicraft production through knowledge-transfer and dissemination. After developing project image elements, the partners established info points in every county, placed in existing tourist or craft facilities. These points primarily aimed to promote the established tourism route and other regional attractions. The stations of the thematic route were marked with small wooden information tables indicating the masters dealing with eco-productive production. At the info points, a representative basket presents the region's ecotourism craft products.

To promote the thematic route professionally, the partners organized two study trips for masters, professional partners, and the press. The project also integrated environmental education, emphasizing the close relation between natural raw materials, crafts, culture, and environmental protection. The main project output was the "CultuREvive Tour" thematic route, alongside other outputs that helped promote the route and natural raw material-based handicraft production. All activities were implemented in cross-border joint cooperation, including workshops, training, seminars, camps, and dissemination events to share best practices, exchange experiences, and promote environmental consciousness among both visitors and local tourism service providers.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A touristic route called "CultuREvive Tour" was established with participation of 15 eco productive masters and touristic spots and info points indicated with info tables;
- Four promotional events were organized about the touristic route and of eco-productive handicraft;
- Workshops were organized about the eco-productive handicraft and with the aim of experience exchange;
- An eco-craft and bagpipe making camp for youth was organized.



Oak protection

Protection of the English oak in the cross-border area

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/2.2.1/0002
Partnership:
LB: Mecsekerdő PLC. (HU)
B1: Croatian Forests Ltd. Našice Branch Office (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 542 847,92
Implementation period: September 2017 - June 2019

The importance of forests in environmental protection has grown significantly over recent decades, prompting the EU to prioritize forest, biodiversity, and soil protection through initiatives like the EU Forestry Strategy and Action Plan. However, climate change has posed severe challenges for forest management. Milder winters and increasingly extreme precipitation patterns have altered soil water balance and microclimates, shifting forest zones. Consequently, many invasive species, more resilient to these changes, have proliferated, while native species are declining due to habitat loss.



The partnership was deeply concerned about drought and groundwater scarcity. In Croatia's Koška Forestry, approximately 10 000 m³ of English Oak die annually, highlighting the vulnerability of this valuable species. Other native species, such as tan, ash, and beech, face similar threats in Hungary. Additionally, invasive species like acacia, amorphous, and tree of heaven are overwhelming native species, with Mecsekerdő Zrt. reporting over 400 hectares of infested areas, including 155,17 hectares predominantly affected by amorphous. Given their shared challenges, geographical proximity, and existing professional relationships, the two forestry organizations decided to collaborate on finding solutions to these problems. The 22-month project aimed to halt the deterioration of habitats formed by indigenous tree species (e.g., English oak), prevent the spread of invasive species, and objectively explore processes to develop comprehensive solutions. Two main activities were essential for achieving these objectives:

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented and installed a joint groundwater monitoring system consisting of 60 monitoring wells and seven weather stations in the monitored areas. Improved forest management techniques contributed to better conservation;
- Surveyed invasive plant species in the cross-border areas of Mecsekerdő Forestry and USP Našice Forestry. Cleared a minimum of three types of non-native vegetation in Sellye Forestry, covering 155,17 hectares;
- Conducted two international studies adaptable for other forestries and researchers;
- The project resulted in better habitat conservation, increased awareness, and shared knowledge among various stakeholders;
- A mobile application was created to highlight the issue's significance for all stakeholders, including hikers and local residents, through popular knowledge dissemination.

RED FAITH

Restoring Ecological Diversity of Forests with Airborne Imaging Technologies

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.2.1/0004

Partnership:

LB: Local Government of Baranya County (HU)

B1: Mecsekerdő Plc. (HU)

B2: Croatian Forests LLC. (HR)

B3: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek - Faculty of Education (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 412 591,64

Implementation period: October 2017 - September 2019

The project focused on preserving and restoring the ecological diversity of forests, including Natura 2000 sites, by introducing airborne monitoring technology. This technology aimed to prevent the spread of invasive species, diseases, insects, and other damages by supporting detailed, up-to-date monitoring with airborne imaging for forestries and other habitat-managing organizations. Specific objectives included accelerating responses to hazards, protecting and restoring natural assets, enhancing forest engineers' knowledge, raising awareness of forest values, and fostering cross-border cooperation.

The project also aimed to use the spectacular aerial images in educational materials for forest schools, organizing training for children at forest houses in Mecsekerdő (HR) and Hrvatske Šume at Tikveš (HU). The latter facility was renovated to accommodate visitors. Forest schools were equipped with multimedia devices to visualize training materials, all jointly developed. It also aimed to develop events focused on specific plants, animals, and biotopes, with special attention to programs for school-age children. Forest schools for 100 children were organized to meet this goal.

The project partners managed over 124 000 hectares of forests, with a significant portion (76% in Hungary) designated as Natura 2000 sites. The project encompassed the entire forest-land of the border area by involving supporters. Given the cross-border nature of forests and hazards, cooperation is essential.

Initially, forestries compared current survey methods, research airborne technologies, and define monitoring parameters. As a pilot action, 24 838 hectares was monitored using aerial imagery. Experts evaluated the pilot results, including species differentiation, stock calculations, and identifying invasive species and diseases. The images were integrated into digital regional planning maps for energy and environmental investments using ArchGIS. In Croatia, drones captured low-altitude photos where irregularities were identified.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Facilitated knowledge sharing on forest management, monitoring, and interventions, generating active and motivated groups of forest and environment experts;
- Accelerating responses to emerging hazards (invasive species, diseases, pollution) through faster monitoring across 24 838 hectares;
- Enhancing the protection and restoration of natural assets in wetland areas and forest reserves by enabling forestries to select appropriate interventions based on aerial images, covering 24 838 hectares.

Aljmaski rit&Boros Drava

Ecological revitalization of Boros-Dráva and Aljmaski rit branches to renew aquatic habitats, increase biodiversity and fishing tourism possibilities

The Aljmaški rit area, spanning 2 616 hectares, is situated between the settlements Nemetin (HR) and Aljmaš (HR) on the right bank of the Drava River. Its present appearance resulted from the cutting of the Drava and Danube meanders at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th Century. Since then, the Drava River had cut its riverbed along this area due to the performed river regulation works, whereas the cut river arms gradually filled with organic sediment during the Drava and Danube floods.

The Boros-Drava river branch is located in the floodplain of the Drava River, in Baranya County on the administrative area of the village Old in Hungary. The Lanka canal transports water to Lake Boros and then into the Drava. The river branch has been divided in half by the Hungarian-Croatian borderline. The branch is part of the Natura 2000 ecological network and the Duna-Drava National Park.

According to the results of multidisciplinary investigations and studies for both areas, Aljmaški rit and Boros Drava, both water bodies were greatly eutrophicated and that the ecological balance was exceptionally deteriorated. Thus, the implementation of water management activities on restoration and conservation of these floodplains areas were necessary.

The overall objective of the project which was to restore and preserve biodiversity of important indigenous and other habitats in these highly sensitive environmental areas of NATURA 2000 at the national, regional, and global levels with implementation of hydro technical works and measures on River Drava floodplains. These joint activities improved cross-border cooperation on establishing sustainable environment in both countries in the same way.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A better conservation status of aquatic and wetland habitats have been reached on 4 hectares on Croatian side and 3,2 hectares on Hungarian side;
- Over 75 000 m³ fine sediment was dredged and removed from the Aljmaški rit oxbow and 48 300 m³ fine sediment was removed from the Boros/Drava oxbow in the Hungarian side;
- Indigenous fish species were released;
- Installation of new fishing piers on the banks of the oxbows were also implemented.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/2.2.1/0016

Partnership:

LB: Croatian waters, Legal entity for Water Management (HU)

B1: South-transdanubian Water Management Directorate (HU)

B2: Alliance of Fishing Associations of Baranya County (HU)

B3: Greens of Croatia (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 139 105,89

Implementation period: September 2017 - April 2019

The cross-border cooperation increased through joint approach to the revitalization of aquatic ecosystems in both countries, as well as improving the water conditions and benefiting the local community. The intervention areas of the project were 4 hectares on Croatian side and 3,2 hectares on the Hungarian side. After the hydro technical works in these water bodies, a better conservation status of aquatic and wetland habitats is to be reached. After project closure the positive changes in water quality is followed-up by regular bio-monitoring measurements, since the long-term effect of such interventions can be measured only on the long run. This successful project is a good example of how to harmonize human activities with the conservation of habitats, protecting biodiversity and indigenous species.



CATCH

Co-operation between Public Administration in Cross-Border regions of Croatia and Hungary for Serving Citizens Better

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0003
Partnership:
LB: Government Office of Somogy County (HU)
B1: State Administration Office in Međimurje County (HR)
B2: State Administration Office of Osijek-Baranja County (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 189 082,50
Implementation period: June 2017 - September 2018

The project aimed to develop cross-border official procedures by establishing structured cooperation among territorial public administration actors, civil servants working in the public administrations in the Croatian and Hungarian beneficiary organizations involved, identifying common challenges, and exploring areas for improving service provision for citizens in border areas through cooperation actions.



A coordination framework was elaborated to manage joint activities during and beyond the project's duration, allowing for continuous improvement of cooperation actions. A permanent working group was established to develop tools for communication and strengthen

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- As a result of joint development, four public administration procedures were revised and renewed for citizens from neighbouring countries, including bilingual forms and direct exchange of information between administrations;
- Recommendations were presented for modern ICT e-government solutions, and two green papers were elaborated to promote further initiatives in cross-border procedures and e-government;
- The establishment of a permanent framework to coordinate cross-border procedures was also initiated.

official liaisons, with openness to further organizations in the future. Practical-level cooperation between public administrations was enhanced to promote the exchange of experience in topics related to territorial public administration reform, service efficiency improvement, and joint testing of solutions in areas such as one-stop-shop centres, eGovernment solutions, connectivity of registries, and quality management.

Several public administration procedures at the territorial (county) level were revised to improve cross-border procedures, remove existing obstacles, and provide mutual availability of information on procedures and services in both Croatian and Hungarian. Opportunities for service improvement through cooperation between administrations were identified in fields such as pensions, social affairs, registries, and enterprise launch.

Tangible outputs included analyses of customer perspectives, a thematic conference, a permanent working group with thematic meetings, a compilation of administrative good practices, a Citizens' eGuide, and a bilateral coordination framework. Two study visits were organized to showcase one-stop-shop procedures in Hungary and eGovernment solutions in Croatia, with seminars for interactive learning and skill improvement.

EE SUN

Energy Efficient Sustainable Urban Neighborhood

The EU's 2020 and 2030 CO₂ reduction targets obligated EU countries to streamline energy consumption and decrease fossil fuels in their energy mix. With urban areas constituting over two-thirds of Europe's energy consumption, local residents play a significant role in energy conservation. Local authorities have been encouraging tenants to reduce expenses by rationalizing overhead costs.

During the 1960's and 1970's, both Hungary and Croatia erected numerous residential block buildings to address urbanization challenges. These buildings, predominantly constructed with industrial technology such as panels or shutters, were intended for temporary use. However, many now require significant refurbishment due to aging infrastructure. Despite limited energy efficiency (EE) investments, block-of-flat houses have been neglected due to the complexities involved in refurbishment, encompassing legal, technological, financial, and organizational challenges within a multi-ownership environment.

The EE SUN initiative aimed to assist block-of-flat houses in the cross-border region by involving 24 pilot buildings (12 in Hungary, 12 in Croatia) in joint EE analyses. The findings included in a joint methodology were disseminated throughout the region, promoting sustainable development by reducing CO₂ emissions.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A comprehensive analysis of current energy efficiency (EE) block-of-flat refurbishment practices in the cross-border (CBC) region was conducted including the identifying of tenant needs, analysing legal issues and regulations, determining technical requirements, and exploring competitive financing schemes;
- A guide for EE block-of-flat refurbishments and a questionnaire for tenants was developed;
- The developed methodology was tested in 12 Hungarian and 12 Croatian pilot projects, conducting energy audits, recommending cost-effective refurbishment technologies, and identifying possible financing schemes;
- Disseminated results through networking sessions and information events for tenant organizations, focusing on the possibilities of EE refurbishments.

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0004
Partnership:
LB: IMRO-DDKK Environment Nonprofit Plc. (HU)
B1: Međimurje Energy Agency Ltd. (HR)
B2: Public Institution County Development Agency of Osijek-Baranja County (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 173 418,14
Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

Specific objectives included identifying legal, financial, and technological constraints regarding EE in urban residential blocks, assessing housing infrastructure quality and refurbishment needs, and raising awareness among residential block community operators about the benefits of energy efficiency refurbishment.

To achieve these objectives, the project addressed both the supply and demand sides of the issue, implementing a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) based methodology to build trust and alliances between the different actors in the innovation quadruple helix. This involved tenants and their associations (Target group 1), local authorities, public utility companies (TG2), EE constructor SMEs (TG3), EE financing institutions (TG4), and knowledge organizations (Project Partners). The main expected output was a common CBC EE refurbishment methodology based on tenants' real needs tested through pilots. Networking assessments and events facilitated cooperation between TG2, TG3, and TG4, while information events informed TG1 about their EE refurbishment needs.



EcoSmartCities

Ecological Smart and Sustainable Cities

With constant growth in urban areas, population, and economy, urban locations strongly need innovative waste management solutions to enhance waste management quality, to increase the use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES), to reduce costs, to make operations more efficient, and to lessen environmental impact. Through diverse pilot actions, capacity building of various target groups, and the evaluation and development of innovative and sustainable waste management solutions, the project aimed to address these needs. Additionally, the project promoted good neighbourly relations and encouraged harmonic, balanced, and sustainable development.

The project mainly targeted the citizens of Ludbreg (HR) and Zalaegerszeg (HU), teachers and students of elementary schools, utility companies, NGOs, and stakeholders involved in environmental protection and waste management. Project partners were responsible for successfully implementing pilot actions, identifying innovative waste management solutions for the future, and gaining capacities and experience to effectively upgrade their waste management systems. More importantly, they promoted innovative approaches to waste management to other local authorities, organizations, and citizens.

The main project outputs, which ensured benefits for target groups and served as tools for replication and sustainability, included an analysis of public opinion on citizens' habits and knowledge about efficient waste management; innovative and green waste management infrastructures; IT solutions; the "Zero Waste Concept"; and capacity-building materials. The project's topic knew no boundaries, and the issues it addressed were better solved through a cross-border approach.

The project provided benefits to target groups, enabling local authorities to offer better services to citizens at lower costs using RES and environmentally friendly methods.

Citizens, teachers, and students benefited from improved waste management services, better communication with local authorities, and educational opportunities and cross-border events.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0012

Partnership:

LB: City of Ludbreg (HR)

B1: Municipality of Zalaegerszeg City of County Rank (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 174 201,55

Implementation period: October 2017 - January 2019

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Public opinion analysis conducted and innovative and green waste management infrastructure installed in Ludbreg and Zalaegerszeg;
- IT solutions and training programs developed and implemented based on the "Zero Waste Concept" cross-border document;
- Events and campaigns organized for awareness and education on eco-friendly practices.



ATDS II

Amusement Tourism Development Strategy II

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0014

Partnership:

LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 176 040,35

Implementation period: June 2017 - October 2018

The overall objective of the project was to establish an efficient basis for further tourism and economic development in the cross-border region through enhanced institutional capacities and joint sectoral planning. Since the project was an extension of previously established cooperation, its implementation further deepened their relations and helped to form joint territorial governance frameworks for coordinated actions related to strengthening the tourism sector as an important economic sector in the cross-border region.

The specific objectives of the project were the development of documentation for amusement infrastructure and building institutional competences related to the management of tourist projects. The target groups that directly benefited from this project were local and regional authorities, development agencies, and organizations. Indirectly benefiting groups included the local and regional economy, the entire tourism sector (hotels, private accommodations, etc.), and the labour market, as the entertainment infrastructure would be a precondition for opening new job opportunities.

The outputs of the project included technical documentation for a family entertainment centre in Koprivnica, comprehensive international market research for entertainment infrastructure on Lake Balaton, feasibility studies for a family entertainment centre in Koprivnica (HR) and entertainment infrastructure on Lake Balaton, investor search and attraction plans, and joint cross-border investor search and attraction guides. The project resulted in increased capacities related to joint sectoral planning through the joint development of common approaches to identified common problems and challenges.

The project strongly focused on contributing to the achievement of the long-term vision for the programme area, characterized as an area of diverse cooperation, facilitated by appropriate cross-border connections, shared knowledge, enriching economic, institutional, and individual relationships.

As the project ATDS II was a continuation of a successful project implemented under the IPA HUHR CBC programme within the same partnership, the cross-border impact was further extended based on the previous project and its outputs. The biggest benefit of this project was to be realized during the sustainability phase through the capitalization of results because the developed documentation would enable the establishment of two amusement parks/entertainment centres and significantly help in branding the area as a tourist destination and a region of strongly developed economy.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A technical documentation of family entertainment centre in Koprivnica was delivered;
- A comprehensive international market research for entertainment infrastructure on Lake Balaton was developed;
- A feasibility study for family entertainment centre in Koprivnica and entertainment infrastructure on Lake Balaton was delivered;
- Two investor search and attraction plans and one joint cross-border investor search and attraction guide were developed;
- Two joint trainings for capacity building were realized as well as two investor search events and conferences.



EVcc

Electric vehicle competence and experience centre

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0015
Partnership:
LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)
B1: Regional Energy Agency North (HR)
B2: Local Government of Baranya County (HU)
B3: University of Pécs (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 186 129,12
Implementation period: November 2017 - February 2019

In the past decades, electro-mobility has become a very important topic and a crucial tool in the fight against climate change. There has been an increase in electric vehicles on European roads, directly supporting European, national, and local policies aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions. However, the increase in electric vehicles was relatively slow due to unmet expectations of vehicle price reductions and communities' lack of preparedness and encouragement for electric vehicle adoption. Additionally, there was a lack of awareness among local populations regarding the benefits of electric vehicles. Local communities required planning documents to guide the implementation of electro-mobility, addressing challenges, and available technology, and planning and implementation methods.

Thus, the project aimed at education of various stakeholders, including transport planners, energy agencies, public transport companies, private businesses, and citizens. Joint demonstration activities were also delivered to familiarize local communities and citizens with electro-mobility technology, accompanied by documents for knowledge transfer. The overall objective of the

project was to enhance the capacity of Koprivnica (HR) and Pécs (HU) communities to develop and implement electro-mobility measures.

Specific objectives included increasing the expertise of beneficiaries' personnel, raising awareness of sustainable mobility among citizens, developing a joint electro-mobility document for stakeholders, establishing informal electric vehicle competence and experience centres, initiating joint pilot activities, and purchasing electric vehicles and charging stations for demonstration purposes. A joint expert group was set up to conduct these activities, aiming to enhance the beneficiaries' capacity to address the emerging electro-mobility movement's needs. The partnership collaborated to develop documents, conduct pilot actions, disseminate knowledge, and educate citizens on electro-mobility issues.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- An electric vehicle for demonstration purposes was purchased;
- A comprehensive study on electro-mobility in cross border area was delivered;
- Expert workshops were held for eight employees of all of the partners and other interested organisations and their representatives;
- 12 info days were held for general public, 6 days in Koprivnica and 6 days in Pécs to disseminate knowledge about e-mobility;
- An AC charging station was installed;
- A joint study on possibly e-bus line was developed.



RefurbCulture

Energy efficient refurbishment in cultural heritage buildings

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0016
Partnership:
LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)
B1: Municipality of Hévíz (HU)
B2: Regional Energy Agency North (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 153 160,22
Implementation period: June 2017 - September 2018

The cross-border area boasts rich cultural and historical heritage buildings owned by local municipalities, which are responsible for their maintenance and upkeep. However, a common challenge faced by all cross-border cities is the lack of funding and strategies for refurbishing these buildings, leading to a decline in the attractiveness of public spaces and underutilization of valuable cultural heritage.

When planning refurbishments, municipalities must prioritize energy efficiency to reduce maintenance costs. Investing in energy efficiency is crucial for achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for sustainable growth, with a particular emphasis on public buildings. Additionally, the lack of plans and strategic documents for refurbishing cultural heritage buildings exacerbates the issue. This project aimed to address these challenges by developing construction documentation for energy refurbishment of two nominated cultural heritage buildings, one in Koprivnica in Croatia, the other in Hévíz in Hungary.

The introduction of energy efficiency measures reduced energy consumption, enhancing the protection and preservation of cultural heritage in the cross-border area.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two researches and analyses of implemented refurbishments of cultural heritage buildings on each side of the border, including their effects on tourism;
- Action plan for energy refurbishment of cultural heritage buildings developed, identifying buildings, required refurbishments, implementation methods, and financing opportunities on each side of the border;
- Construction documentation for the energy refurbishment of two cultural heritage buildings, located in Koprivnica and Hévíz, was prepared.

Moreover, the project sought to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience in preparing and implementing energy efficiency measures in heritage buildings.

Each heritage building required customized energy solutions, as modern techniques might not have been applicable. Therefore, the project focused on elaborating tailored construction documentation for their energy refurbishment. Key activities included researching and analysing implemented refurbishments and relevant methods, developing action plans for energy refurbishment, and integrating them into a common cross-border strategy. The objective of the project was to promote energy efficiency, leading to lower CO₂ emissions and a cleaner environment. Additionally, it served as a positive impact and motivational tool for communities, fostering better energy efficiency and reduced economic costs.



AgriShort

Establishing short food supply chains and competitive agricultural sector in the cross-border region through institutional cooperation

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0018

Partnership:

LB: Public Institution for the Development of the Međimurje County REDEA (HR)

B1: PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County (HR)

B2: Zala Thermal Valley Association (HU)

B3: Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 175 717,97

Implementation period: May 2017 - August 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Situation analyses and common approaches documented, along with the creation of trainings, an online tool for knowledge transfer, and an IT system for SFSCs functioning;
- Effective working relationships facilitated through the exchange of good practices, including trips to Austria, project meetings, and the transfer of knowledge from different EU countries;
- The project designed and implemented ICT technologies to support the agriculture sector, responding to the expressed need for enhanced cooperation and capacity building among stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

In the cross-border area of Koprivničko-križevačka, Međimurska, Zala, and Somogy Counties, there was a demand to increase knowledge and experience among agricultural institutions, a common interest. The project aimed to encourage institutions to participate in developing the agricultural sector by introducing short food supply chains (SFSCs). Institutional support was essential if these institutions had comprehensive knowledge. The intensity of cross-border agricultural cooperation was very low, making this project a crucial incentive for future joint activities.

Partners aimed to raise awareness of agriculture's importance in the cross-border area and encouraging institutions to collaborate and develop the sector through education and SFSCs. A significant part of the program's territory was targeted through promotional activities and learning processes. Various organizations—public bodies, NGOs, companies, citizens, and other entities—were directly involved in the project's implementation.

The project created new joint structures and shared processes to ensure effective cooperation in the border area. The goal was to bring the SFSCs concept closer to the population with the support of institutions through mutual cooperation and education. The main target groups included staff from local, regional, and national institutions and authorities in the program area, as well as regional and sectoral development agencies, local, county, and regional self-governments, and the border region population.



Local products for the people

Thematic cooperation to make a joint method for more efficient use of local products

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0023

Partnership:

LB: Market Ltd. Osijek (HR)

B1: Pécs Asset Management Plc. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 224 060,00

Implementation period: August 2017 - November 2018

The project was implemented in the cities of Osijek (HR) and Pécs (HU), and the 40 km radius thereof. The term of the project was 16 months. The primary target group was the local small- and primary producers. The secondary target group was the market customers and the disadvantaged people whose situation and quality of life would thus be improved.

The partners made a joint needs survey/study, procured the assets necessary for the implementation, created the sample project providing care for disadvantaged people, installed InfoPoints, and spread information about the other Party's culture and products among the locals living on the other side of the border. The purpose of these InfoPoints was to influence the food consumption habits of the local residents in a positive way and help them discover and gain knowledge of the values of small- and primary production activities, which were implemented in the joint longer-term marketing strategy. A proposal for solution, a comparison of operation in Pécs and Osijek, a sharing of experiences and good practices were delivered.

A common methodology was developed. Remaining fruits and vegetables offered by the vendors were collected and forwarded – either processed or unprocessed – to the disadvantaged by mediator NGOs. The mediators delivered the surplus fruits and vegetables accumulated on the producers' market to those in need with their bicycle transport vehicles, promoting the "green approach" in transport and shortening the supply chain between producer and consumer at the same time. The procurement of bicycle towing rickshaws to transport the products. A joint marketing campaign with respect to the Osijek and Pécs (Búza Square) markets was delivered. Bilingual signs in both markets were established. Formation of a Croatian corner on the Hungarian market hall and a Hungarian corner on the Croatian market hall were created, where the vendors and producers could display their wares brought from the other side of the border. The Hungarian-Croatian cooperation reduced the distance

between the two cultures and promoted their getting to know each other's values and traditions. By thinking together and sharing experiences, both parties could learn new approaches and procedures, doubtlessly resulting in a synergy effect. A huge advantage of the project was the emphasis put on locality by the exploitation of local values. In addition to helping the local producers, it also facilitated the reduction of emigration from rural areas to cities and last but not least the improvement of the quality of life of disadvantaged individuals. The "think local, act global" principle and striving for sustainability were values that were in accordance with the EU's approach.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Remaining fruits and vegetables offered by the vendors were collected and forwarded – either processed or unprocessed – to the disadvantaged by the mediator NGOs;
- InfoPoints were installed where information on local products were collected in the two markets halls;
- A Croatian corner on the Hungarian market hall and a Hungarian corner on the Croatian market hall were formed where the vendors and producers could display their wares brought and produced from the other side of the border;
- Market parades were organized with thematic scenery at the two locations with cultural programs, marketing of handicraft products and making food together from local ingredients.



DESCO

Development of strategic cross-border cooperation between Letenye, Ludbreg and Prelog

This project was based on a mutual need to strengthen cooperation between local municipalities and other stakeholders with similar characteristics. Due to the general economic crisis permeating much of Europe, linking institutions, civil society representatives, businessmen, and a wide circle of stakeholders had become a necessity. As small municipalities, Ludbreg (HR), Letenye (HU), and Prelog (HR) had few opportunities to participate in large initiatives or programs, leading to a lower flow of new information, knowledge transfer, or policy transfer.

The overall objective of the project was to provide the opportunity for joint participation in strategic development for each partner individually and for the entire cross-border area to meet the needs of all involved stakeholders. The project brought together three municipal partners from two countries to improve cooperation between municipalities, institutions, and citizens. The specific objectives of the project were:

1. Exchange of experience and knowledge among participants from the Croatian and Hungarian sides.
2. Strengthening links and partnerships between local governments, civil society, small and medium enterprises, and citizens on both sides of the border.
3. Strengthening the common identity and promoting local strategic development that would spill over to the cross-border area.

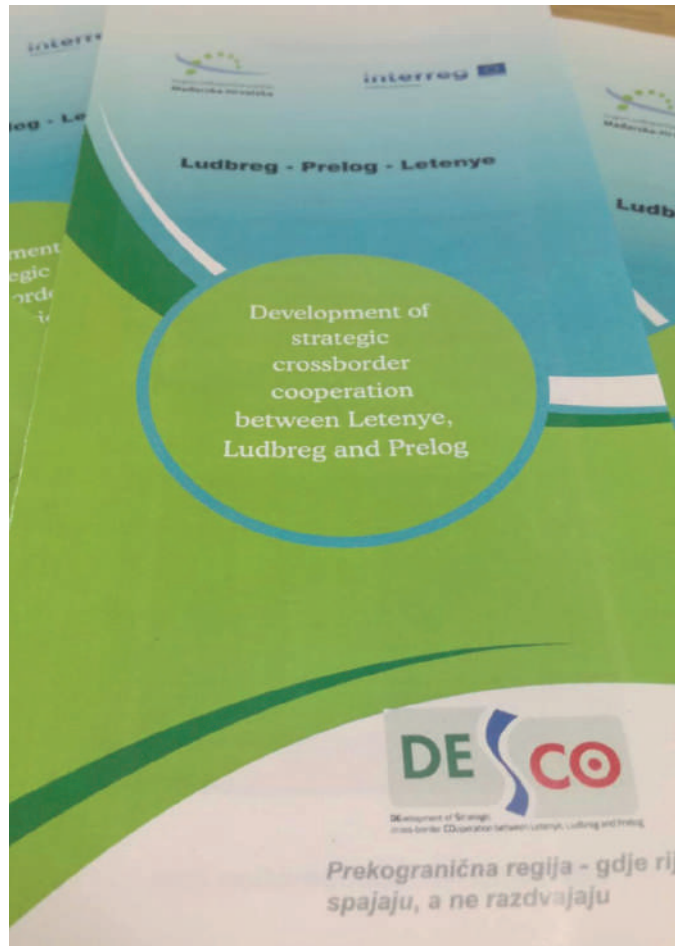
To strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders involved, networking and cooperation would lead to greater opportunities for knowledge transfer, new information, business cooperation, and improved positions for all. The main target groups benefiting from the project were the citizens of Ludbreg, Prelog, and Letenye. The direct target groups included employees of the cities Ludbreg, Prelog, and Letenye, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, local producers, and non-profit organizations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- International Economic Forum organised in order to transfer good practices within cities, to gather input for developing strategies and a joint action plan, and identify joint projects and future initiatives;
- Six strategic documents, one joint action plan, one list of joint projects, one list of joint future initiatives and a manual on project cycle management was elaborated;
- Fostered collaboration, raised awareness, and facilitated the exchange of experience and cooperation between Croatian and Hungarian stakeholders.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0027
Partnership:
LB: City of Ludbreg (HR)
B1: Local Government of Prelog (HR)
B2: Municipality of Letenye (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 224 109,13
Implementation period: November 2017 - February 2019



SUECH

Sustainable energy use in CBC area of Croatia and Hungary

The primary goal of the project was to enhance cross-border cooperation (CBC) in sustainable energy use and contribute to the overall strategy of the program to promote appropriate CBC connections and shared knowledge to foster sustainable and value-added exploitation of the region's natural resources. Sustainable energy use, efficient resource use, and reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) has been among EU policy priorities for a long time. The EU has been actively implementing the 20-20-20 policy, with member states having obligations to meet the policy goals in their national targets. National governments, as well as other players like industry, local governments, academic institutions, and civil society, has roles in efforts to meet these goals.

The City of Osijek is among the leading local governments in Croatia and the CBC region, working on issues of sustainable energy use by implementing energy efficiency measures and developing renewable energy sources. It started cooperation with Hungarian partners through successfully implemented CBC projects like CHEE, EE Pannonia, FEDREE, and CHREN, where the usage of renewable energy sources (RES) and the economic benefits were primary topics. Significant capacity building and cooperation has been developed through these projects on both sides of the border.

In the frame of the SUCH project strategic and technical documents were developed needed on both CBC and local levels to implement various activities promoting sustainable energy use. Educational and dissemination activities also helped to foster sustainable energy use in the entire CBC region. This project had a strong dissemination and public awareness component to promote activities promoting sustainable energy use to experts, local governments, academic institutions, and the general public in the entire CBC region. The transfer of best practices from old EU members enabled project partners to learn about existing best practices in the EU and implement them in the CBC region. The project activities resulted in increased capacity of project partners and other stakeholders to foster and implement projects in sustainable energy use. The project also resulted in increased knowledge and awareness of the general public about sustainable energy use, its importance, and benefits.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0030
Partnership:
LB: City of Osijek
B1: Renewable Energy Sources Osijek Ltd. (HR)
B2: Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja Ltd. (HR)
B3: NGO EU Centar (HR)
B4: Inno-Motive Regional Development, Innovation Transfer and Educational Center Non-Profit Lc. (HU)
B5: Municipality of Kozármiszlény (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 209 932,66
Implementation period: June 2017 - May 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The project developed a new CBC network of institutions and organization in sustainable energy use;
- Guidelines were developed for development of sustainable energy usage activities in the region;
- A study of potential of development of RES projects in Osijek was delivered;
- Technical documentations for energy efficient constructions of buildings in Osijek and in Kozármiszlény were developed;
- A technical documentation was delivered for development of solar photovoltaic plant on campus of University of Osijek.



2Regions2Sustain

Cross-border Co-operation on Creating Sustainable Region and Source Efficient Society

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0032
Partnership:
LB: "Unikom" Ltd. (HR)
B1: BLOKOM Non-profit Ltd. (HU)
B2: Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja Ltd. (HR)
B3: Pécs Urban Development Non-profit PLC. (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 232 057,96
Implementation period: June 2017 - September 2018

Meeting the EU goals in waste management, as set by the Directive on Waste, Resource Efficient Europe, and Circular Economy package, is a crucial issue for both Hungary and Croatia. Hungary has taken initial steps with the Mecsek-Drava project, aiming to coordinate waste management for 313 municipalities across Baranya, Somogy, and Tolna Counties, following the waste hierarchy outlined in the Directive on Waste. Meanwhile, Croatia has made limited progress, primarily through individual projects in select municipalities like Osijek.

The project in Osijek aimed to engage waste management stakeholders to address regional waste management challenges and educate citizens on circular economy principles. Both countries had the opportunity for cross-border cooperation to explore

mutual benefits in joint waste management. However, national authorities tended to overlook this opportunity, despite the EU directive emphasizing cooperation among Member States for waste management planning and prevention programs.

The project aimed to explore various options, including joint usage of recovery facilities and green employment, to pave the way for joint waste management through analysis and guidelines development. Leading waste management companies in the region, Unikom in Croatia (Osijek) and BLOKOM in Hungary (Pécs) covered a significant population with their services and had experience in EU-funded projects.

These agencies, being involved in the project, conducted numerous projects and were capable of supporting expert organizations in stakeholder engagement and public awareness campaigns on circular economy principles. The project's objective was to establish preconditions for a circular economy in the cross-border area by fostering connections and cooperation among relevant stakeholders. This involved networking events, a study tour, and the development of guidelines for joint waste management. Recommendations were provided to regional and national authorities on integrating the benefits of cross-border cooperation into future waste management schemes.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A comprehensive analysis of current waste management system in border area border region was delivered including legal background and obligations of EU member states and national legislation;
- A guideline was developed for improvement the system of waste management in the region focusing on possibilities for joint waste management in the border area with special emphasis on bio-waste management;
- Recommendations were proposed on possibilities in the new forms of CBC green employment and on circular economy needs;
- 3 617 bio-waste bins were distributed to households in Osijek and Pécs, improving waste collection infrastructure;
- More than 250 people were educated on separate waste collection and composting, with 2 425 people receiving a home composting guide.



RuRES

Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in a function of rural development

The three key targets of the EU 2020 climate and energy package were a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990), 20% of EU energy from renewable energy sources (RES), and a 20% improvement in energy efficiency (EE). To achieve these goals, a set of measures and directives were adopted, including the EU Emissions Trading System, setting national emission reduction goals, Directive 2009/28/EC for promoting RES usage, and Directive 2012/27/EC on EE.

The utilization of RES and EE measures in rural areas was deemed crucial in reaching these targets. RES could be used for both heating and power supply in areas not connected to the energy grid instead of relying on fossil fuels. The project conducted scientific research and proposed RES and EE measures for rural development in the cross-border region. The partnership had already implemented the REGPHOSYS project to find the optimal configuration of photovoltaic systems, establishing cooperation between the two institutions.

The RuRES project aimed to continue this cooperation, involving a new partner, Kaposvár University. The project's results included establishing processes for regional institutional cooperation in EE and RES, innovative approaches to environmental protection, and management. The project was implemented in Osijek, Pécs, and Kaposvár over a duration of 16 months. The indirect target groups encompassed members of scientific communities in RES and EE, local authorities responsible for rural development, and small agricultural economies in the cross-border region. The LB developed and proposed small energy systems based on RES and EE in rural areas, test systems were proposed in the laboratory for RES, and a demonstration system in a rural

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.1/0033
Partnership:
LB: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology (HR)
B1: Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HU)
B2: Kaposvár University (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 192 813,02
Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A comprehensive model was developed for stakeholders and local governments to shows their RES and EE potentials and suggestions what to develop;
- New equipment were purchased for a simulator to demonstrate how to build a small-scale proper RES system in a rural area;
- A book in three languages was delivered, which summarized the most important results of the project for the scientific audience and for stakeholders;
- Trainings were held for local stakeholders in rural areas in Osijek-Baranja County, in Baranya County and in Somogy County.

area was delivered. As the general outcome of the project recommendations for EE measures in the rural region were provided. B1 developed a model for eligible settlements, conducted a survey on socio-cultural circumstances, and analysed the citizens' attitudes toward RES and EE. Kaposvár University gave recommendations for sustainable waste management, investigate biomass potential, waste for energy purposes, and analysed the local biogas potentials.



Revive

Revive old wrestling styles through long-term and sustainable cooperation

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.2/0002

Partnership:

LB: Wrestling Club Slatina (HR)

B1: South-Zselic Sport Association Szigetvár (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 126 575,93

Implementation period: September 2017 - August 2018

Since its establishment until today, Wrestling Club "Slatina" in Slatina and the South-Zselic Sport Association in Szigetvár achieved excellent results in all wrestling disciplines and competition categories at national and international levels. The overall project objective was to create a new process through organizing international competitions, wrestling camps, leagues, seminars, and training sessions to ensure effective cooperation between the two cross-border wrestling clubs. Specific objectives included improving mutual understanding, exchanging experiences, developing human skills, and laying the foundation for continued cooperation.

The project, implemented in Slatina, Szigetvár, and Kaposvár over 12 months, targeted direct beneficiaries such as the two wrestling clubs, 200 boy competitors, 60 female competitors, 80 wrestling camp participants, 5 trainers, and 70 competition participants. Indirect beneficiaries included visitors and residents from both sides of the border, benefiting from tourism offer development.

The project aimed to increase operational capacity, enrich tradition, strengthen cooperation, and create conditions for future competitions involving other clubs. This cooperation intensified partnerships, enhanced future cooperation, facilitated networking, and provided a model for cross-border cooperation. It also laid the groundwork for future projects and activities, potentially expanding the wrestling league and camp to include other clubs and further strengthening sports activities between the two nations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 200 competitors took part in the international tournament for boys in Szigetvár;
- 60 competitors took part in the international competition for girls in Slatina;
- 40 members from both teams took part in the wrestling camp in Kaposvár;
- 40 competitors from both teams took part in competitions in framework of the wrestling league;
- Sport equipment were purchased;
- Ten coaches attended the seminars for coaches;
- A seven-day wrestling camp in Kaposvár was organized;
- A common wrestling league Slatina-Szigetvár was established.



CBC-ORIENT

Cross-border cooperation in Orienteering

This project was based on the prior collaboration between the Orienteering-Pécs Foundation and the Orienteering Club Sova. The project aimed to engage young people in healthy lifestyles through sports activities, develop cultural awareness and tolerance, and help them discover their identities and roles as young individuals in a European context. The primary goal was to popularize foot orienteering in the border area. Orienteering, which combines physical and mental elements, involves navigating from the start to the finish of a course by visiting control points in a predetermined order using a map and compass. Participants choose the best route based on terrain characteristics, and the winner is the one with the fastest completion time. This low-cost sport is suitable for both genders and all ages from 10 to 80.

In Hungary, orienteering has a rich tradition and many experts, though it lacked widespread recognition due to insufficient funding. Pécs has a 60-year history of orienteering. In contrast, orienteering was less established in Croatia, but the Orienteering Club Sova, as a project partner worked diligently to attract young people to the sport. The project aimed to develop a long-term and sustainable partnership between Croatian and Hungarian orienteering organizations in the border area. Planned activities included exchanging experiences related to school-orienteering programs and practices. This collaborative partnership facilitated the sharing of best practices and the development of training materials for both organizations. The project also aimed to provide basic infrastructure for school-orienteering programs at both partner organizations by preparing

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.2/0004

Partnership:

LB: Foundation for the "Orienteering - Pécs" (HU)

B1: Orienteering Club "Sova" (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 50 932,00

Implementation period: July 2017 - June 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Organizing professional workshops and preparing a guide for orienteering trainers;
- Conducting school-orienteering presentations;
- Organizing joint competitions and youth training camps;
- Hosting a cultural event;
- Implementing the "GREEN SPORT" program.

maps and purchasing necessary equipment. Another key goal was to organize events adhering to environmental and nature protection principles, popularizing the "GREEN SPORT" program, and raising awareness about separate waste collection and recycling. The project showcased positive experiences of cooperation and promoted a positive image of sport to society. It aimed to reach the public of the Interreg Programme by motivating more young people to engage in physical activity in nature, supporting them in developing essential life skills, fostering social equity and inclusion through low-cost sport, improving access to sport in the area, and increasing motivation for physical activity across all ages.



SportOverBorders

Sport Cannot Stop at Borders

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/3.1.2/0013

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Hévíz (HU)

B1: Municipality of Zalaegerszeg City of County Rank (HU)

B2: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B3: Town of Čazma (HR)

B4: Sport Association of Hévíz (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 169 880,41

Implementation period: May 2017 - August 2018



Sport does not recognize borders, neither national, geographical, nor linguistic differences; it serves as a soft but important means to connect people. Over the last decades, due to new inventions, there has been a significant decrease in the amount of physical effort necessary to do daily tasks. As a result of sedentary lifestyles, physical activity decreased, and the risk of cardiovascular diseases and obesity increased in direct proportion. Due to virtual and online possibilities, personal contacts declined, and social isolation became one of the main challenges facing society.

Therefore, it was necessary to promote public awareness and information campaigns about the importance of physical activity and healthy living, emphasizing the significance of making local people aware of their responsibility to know and accept others' cultures.

To achieve this goal, a comprehensive approach was needed. Thus, this project aimed to involve and attract people at the local and regional levels through various activities and ensure the continuity and sustainability of cooperation through a wide range of events and different agreements between local governments and sports organizations. The project lasted for 16 months with the direct involvement of two Croatian and two Hungarian municipalities and a sports association supported by ten stakeholders from partner cities. The project opened with a 3-day-long sports festival in Koprivnica targeting local people, guests, and tourists from the partner towns. It was a colourful festival with sports, gastronomic, and cultural events to familiarize participants with sport opportunities, matches, and the multi-coloured culture of these regions.

Within this frame, the choose-your-sport event gave the possibility for visitors to meet and try different kinds of sports, which could help them choose one and do it regularly. Car-free days as awareness-raising events combined with European Cooperation Day were organized in Koprivnica and Zalaegerszeg (Sept 2017) with the participation of guests from the other partner towns and vice versa in Hévíz and Čazma (Apr 2018). In the school period (2017/2018), training camps for 30 participants were planned in every partner city in a selected sport to prepare children aged 14-20 for the next (2018) summer challenge-cup.

The selected sports for training camps were handball (Hévíz), judo (Zalaegerszeg), football (Čazma), and basketball (Koprivnica). Besides sports training, children participated in language courses and various community-building and cultural activities to learn about and accept each other's cultures. The project closed with a 3-day-long public closing event in Hévíz. Each partner involved local supporting stakeholders in the organization and implementation of programs.

This cooperation strengthened cross-border relations between partners, civil sphere, and local people. It gave a good example for regions' civil and public institutions on how to build their capacity and network and how to increase their visibility.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Four cities cooperated;
- Over 120 children attended to sport events;
- Several training camps and competitions were organized;
- A catalogue on sports facilities of involved cities was prepared.

ISD Uni

Integrated Settlement Development Knowledge Centres in the HU-HR border zone

In the past, despite the EU having set integrated settlement development (ISD) as a guiding principle in settlement/urban developments, there was no higher education course in ISD in the cross-border area. While the practicing profession had relevant and expanding experiences and knowledge based on the place-based particularities of the border region, the right ISD implementation endeavours were not supported by the knowledge centres of border zone higher education organizations.

The overall project objective was to jointly develop and deliver an ISD pilot course to increase the educational offer of concerned local higher education institutions and strengthen their competences/knowledge centres. The joint research activities and educational courses formed the backbone of the project, it promoted the enlargement of a specific local knowledge base regarding ISD, based on the built architecture values of the border region.

The project therefore fostered improvement in communication between higher educational institutions by improving the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres for increasing the specific knowledge base in the region. The project activities were carried out in the border zone, with locations of activities in Pécs (HU), Koprivnica (HR), and Varaždin (HR).

The ISD pilot course was targeted for the spring university semester of the 2017/2018 educational year. Direct target groups were university students; architects, urban-territorial planners, civil engineers; lecturers and staff of beneficiaries; indirect ones were represented by staff and decision-makers of local municipalities, and by further higher education organizations.

On the ground, ISD practices were provided by B2 and ISD related Croatian experiences by University North. Academic studies and the ISD pilot course were based on these experiences and focused on six thematic areas (ISD methodology and Good Practices, settlement investment, built areas, transport, green areas, sustainable architecture, and vision). Results included an increase in the number of experts of ISD (36 students + professionals) and an increase in the number of newly established higher educational cooperation (University of Pécs and North University). An ISD curriculum was developed which took into consideration the needs of the common border area in terms of cross-border built environment.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.1/0001

Partnership:

LB: University of Pécs (HU)

B1: University North, Department for Civil Engineering (HR)

B2: Local Government of Baranya County (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 168 221,62

Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Study visits were developed in the field of ISD;
- A book of ISD academic studies were published;
- A comprehensive ISD curriculum was developed;
- A ISD pilot course was developed and implemented.



V-educa 2

Vocational education 2

The V-educa 2 project, continuing from its predecessor, aligned with the Programme's emphasis on environmental protection and sustainability. It addressed Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB), as defined by EU Directive 2010/31/EU, with implementation deadlines set for public (2018) and private buildings (2020). Increased awareness of environmental protection and renewable energy sources (RES) had created demand for new technological solutions, necessitating greater competencies and experience. By establishing a robust system capable of providing solutions, the project aimed to drive sustainable construction and a greener cross-border area.

Implementation focused on micro regions driving educational innovations and energy efficiency. University students, professors,

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two national cross-border analyses of energy-efficient construction and one cross-border analysis in English were conducted;
- Two case studies of exemplary energy-efficient construction projects on each side of the border were produced;
- A jointly developed curriculum and content on nZEB for a summer school were created in English;
- A five-day summer school was held in Hungary and Croatia, along with two study tours;
- A guide to cost-optimum nZEB construction was developed in Hungarian and Croatian;
- Two university educational programs in the cross-border area were upgraded and improved.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.1/0004
Partnership:
LB: Regional Energy Agency North (HR)
B1: University North (HR)
B2: South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)
B3: University of Pécs (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 201 879,17
Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

and employees in construction activities were primary targets, with wider impact on the private and public sectors, and citizens. Activities included case studies, curriculum development, a 10-day summer school, and construction documentation for cost-optimum nZEB construction.

Outputs such as jointly developed curriculum and construction documentation contributed to expanded educational offerings by local higher education institutions. The project fostered an educated, motivated workforce, benefiting the local and regional economy and improving higher education quality. It enhanced universities' ability to educate students on modern topics, leveraging workshops and equipment for continued development in Building Information Modeling (BIM) and nZEB-related actions, ensuring compliance with national and EU obligations. The project fostered motivated and competent students and professors, while promoting awareness and engagement in nZEB within the private and public sectors.

ImproveMED

Improved Medical Education in Basic Sciences for Better Medical Practicing

The rationale behind the ImproveMED project stemmed from the recognition by LB and B1 being the major educational institutions in the region, of the need to reassess medical education, particularly regarding the role of basic sciences, due to population aging and healthcare professional migration. This project evolved as an extension of the successful Health Impulse IPA HUHR project, resulting in complementary research and diagnostic laboratory facilities.

ImproveMED aimed to enhance medical professionals' competencies by developing a joint educational postgraduate

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Training courses have developed and delivered, in written and online materials in three languages in advanced courses in physiology, immunology and microbiology, biochemistry and biotechnology, system biology, pharmacology, experimental epidemiology, biostatistics and bioinformatics, anatomy and histology;
- Higher educational premises have been refurbished and upgraded with technical equipment;
- A joint education and training scheme has been developed;
- A joint study programme was open online for potential applicants from both side of the border with courses material in three languages;
- Laboratory trainings have also been performed in three languages in both institutions.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.1/0009
Partnership:
LB: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek (HR)
B1: University of Pécs (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 185 471,70
Implementation period: June 2017 - October 2018

training program in basic medical sciences, providing advanced theoretical and practical laboratory training. Through mutual knowledge transfer, development of joint study programs, laboratory training, and curriculum finalization, the project sought to increase educational offerings, strengthen international recognition, and improve clinical practice.

The project spanned 16 months, involving university teachers, course developers, trainers, and students from both institutions, with expected outputs including developed training courses, refurbished educational premises, upgraded technical equipment, and participants in joint education and training schemes. The cross-border nature of the project ensured equal participation and distribution of activities, with the resulting study program open online for applicants from both sides of the border, offering course materials in three languages and conducting laboratory trainings in three languages as well.



E.B.M.**Erasing Borders with Music****PROJECT DETAILS****ID:** HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0001**Partnership:****LB:** Primary School Vladimir Nazor Virovitica (HR)**B1:** Croatian Nursery, Elementary and Secondary School and Students Hostel "Miroslav Krleža" Pécs (HU)**B2:** Music School Jan Vlačimsky Virovitica (HR)**EU contribution:** EUR 117 344,55**Implementation period:** September 2017 - August 2018

Two cities, Virovitica (HR) and Pécs (HU), situated close to the border between Hungary and Croatia shared the same interest and connected three schools to raise awareness among children about the importance of transmitting cultural heritage. The project aimed to overcome language barriers and create new cooperation and knowledge exchange through joint activities.

The two cities were ready to learn from each other and develop cross-border cooperation and improve education in local schools through a proposed project that contributed to the specific goal of improving the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres to increase knowledge in the region. The project involved organizing musical and cultural workshops to enrich the knowledge of students from three schools in the cross-border areas. All organized musical and cultural workshops extended through specific activities in which children and teachers collected practical knowledge and experience on both sides of the border.

Ten joint activities, including educational-cultural workshops and music workshops, were organized in the two cities over a 12-month period. The direct target group consisted of more than 500 individuals, aged 7-15, including 15 professors. The indirect target group included all residents of Virovitica-Podravina County and Somogy County, as well as representatives of local authorities and the media. Partners participated equally in the project implementation, with LB being responsible for the entire implementation, including organization, project reports, coordination, financial aspects, opening conference, and three joint project activities.

B1 was in charge of organizing four joint project activities, the closing conference, progress report, project visibility, and communication with partners. B2 was responsible for organizing three joint project activities and project visibility. All tasks and responsibilities were clearly defined to avoid implementation problems, including organizing opening and closing conferences, ten jointly organized workshops, developing a new website, publishing six articles in the local newspaper, and distributing leaflets.

The outputs included the development of ten joint activities, upgrading educational premises with technical equipment, and involving 500 participants directly in joint activities. The awareness among children has been increased about the common musical and cultural values of the cross-border region. Higher sense of belonging to a borderless community has been developed, and the involvement of disadvantaged groups of children in extra education and social inclusion has been increased. The project has increased awareness among children on common musical and cultural values of the cross-border region and development of higher sense of belonging to community without borders.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The project raised the level of knowledge and skills in playing musical instruments and learning about cultural diversities;
- The project has increased motivation of children and young people by organizing music and cultural workshops;
- The project has improved knowledge and skills of teachers and professors through organized professional workshops;
- The project helped increased involvement of disadvantaged group of children in music education to increase social inclusion;
- A musical studio has been upgraded with technical equipment.

**B.I.R.D.S.****Border Isn't Restriction for Developing Skills**

The project was aiming at improving the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres to increase the level of knowledge in the region. The vision of the project was to enable children and teachers from both schools to exchange specific knowledge about biodiversity, including disadvantaged groups, with an emphasis on the natural values of the cross-border region along the Drava River. The main objective of the project was to improve institutional and cross-border cooperation through education on specific biodiversity within the project area.

The specific objectives of the project were to develop a new and positive attitude about cross-border cooperation at an early age and to raise the level of motivation among children from both primary schools through involvement in joint educational activities and workshops. The locations of the project were the City of Virovitica (HR), the City of Barcs (HU), and the Municipality of Čađavica (HR). Through the implementation of the project activities, the target group visited the protected landscapes of exceptional biodiversity of Jelkuš (HR) and Križnica (HR), which were included in the composition of the Regional Park Mura-Drava and a biosphere reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, as well as in the ecological network Natura 2000.

The target group of the project was children from two primary schools – LB and B1 schools, totalling 168 children, and 14 of their teachers, who were directly involved in the project for successful implementation. The indirect target group included all residents of Virovitica-Podravina County and Somogy County, as well as representatives of local authorities and the media. Project partners participated in the implementation of the project on an equal basis.

All tasks and responsibilities were clearly defined to avoid problems in the implementation of activities, including organizing two opening conferences and two closing conferences, ten jointly organized workshops, developing a special new website, publishing twelve articles in the local newspaper, and organizing a study trip for participants. The outputs included developing ten formal training workshops, upgrading two educational premises with technical equipment (LB and B1), involving 168 participants directly in joint activities, and including four children from LB who were disadvantaged.

PROJECT DETAILS**ID:** HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0004**Partnership:****LB:** Primary School Ivane Brlić-Mažuranić Virovitica (HR)**B1:** Educational District Centre of Kaposvár (HU)**B2:** Public Institution for Management of Protected Natural Areas and Ecological Network of Virovitica-Podravina County (HR)**EU contribution:** EUR 115 361,85**Implementation period:** September 2017 - September 2018**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- A trilingual "B.I.R.D.S Project Handbook" was delivered;
- Several study trips and training workshops were organized for participants educating them on environmental and cultural assets of the region;
- Three educational premises were upgraded with technical equipment.



**Border Isn't Restriction
for Developing Skills**



4E4K

4 Elements 4 Kids from cross border co-operation and education adjusted for pre-school children

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0005

Partnership:

LB: Kindergarten Cvrčak Virovitica (HR)

B1: Croatian Nursery, Elementary and Secondary School and Students Hostel "Miroslav Krleža" Pécs (HU)

B2: Development Agency VTA (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 97 636,26

Implementation period: September 2017 - October 2018

The vision of the project was to enable children and educators from two kindergartens to exchange ways of working with children and using recycled materials by including children from disadvantaged groups and minorities. The main objective of the project was to improve institutional and cross-border cooperation through education on biodiversity within the project area.

The specific objectives of the project proposal were to develop a new and positive attitude about cross-border cooperation at an early age and to raise the level of motivation among children. The main target group were children from Kindergartens. The project was located in the City of Virovitica (HR), City of Pécs (HU), and settlement Otrovanec (HR). Throughout the implementation of project activities, the target group cooperated by participating in every activity, whether in the City of Virovitica or in the City of Pécs.

The total number of direct beneficiaries was 198 children from two Kindergartens aged between 3 to 7 years, including 6 children with disadvantages and 80 children from minorities. Additionally, there were 30 staff members (28 educators and two Heads of Institution) who took care of the children during implementation and travel time. The indirect target group included other children from both Kindergartens, residents from the City of Virovitica, Virovitica-Podravina County, inhabitants from the City of Pécs, and Somogy County, representatives of local authorities, and journalists.

All partners had specific roles to transfer their knowledge and ways of working with children and were responsible for the successful implementation of activities they held. Exceptional attention was given to the security of every child, and parents had to give educators permission to transport children across the border.

Partners participated on an equal basis regardless of gender, disadvantages, or minorities. Tasks and responsibilities were clearly defined to avoid problems in project implementation, including opening and closing conferences, joint workshops, study trips, and project promotion.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Publication of "Mini collated paper" and "Traditional games from our area";
- Development of a new training material - a working plan for educators;
- Increased awareness among children on common natural and cultural values of the cross-border region and a higher sense of belonging to the community without borders, as well as increased involvement of disadvantaged groups of children in extra education, leading to increased social inclusion.



I-DARE

Development of dual training and introduction of tertiary systems in the field of mechanical engineering and electrical engineering professions

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0006

Partnership:

LB: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pécs-Baranya (HU)

B1: TERA Tehnopolis Ltd. (HR)

B2: VIDRA Virovitica-Podravina County's Regional Development Agency (HR)

B3: Local Government of Baranya County (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 199 885,41

Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

The project aimed to improve the image of certain professions and increase the number of young people participating in vocational training, thereby boosting the skilled workforce. The project also aimed to enhance the current system for becoming an entrepreneur through innovative solutions and the introduction of e-learning methods. Following an assessment of various professional needs, the project involved further training for teachers, corporate trainers, and mentors to connect vocational trainers to the highest possible level of vocational training development with a practice-oriented approach.

An intensive exchange of knowledge and experience was deemed necessary, aiming to establish a virtual cross-border "business training and entrepreneurial methodology centre" within the "Pécs-Osijek-Virovitica" triangle. Given the labour market difficulties in both countries, joint responses were sought to further develop professional training through innovative solutions, harmonize training systems, and adapt enterprise programs. According to the project plan, the training programs and content were developed, and the involvement of targeted companies was completed.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Training 100 participants in writing business plans and writing 100 business plans using the e-learning tool;
- Identifying the best 20 business plans and organizing an Elevator Pitch presentation for them;
- Selecting and promoting two success stories (one being the best business plan and the other the most successful incubated participant).



Numerous events and articles were published, along with an innovative textbook – an e-manual for easier business plan writing and using the web application for it. An e-learning tool, a web application for writing business plans, was also developed, offering a one-stop-shop tool, mentoring possibilities, a simplified financial section, and the ability to upload attachments. The durability of results was ensured by having the best business plans evaluated by a multidisciplinary professional team.

RE.M.I.S.E

Cross-border co-operation for the development of social and solidarity economy through the elaboration and implementation of a joint adult education training programme

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0008

Partnership:

LB: University of Pécs (HU)

B1: Open University Koprivnica (HR)

B2: Human Innovation Group Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 132 674,66

Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

In the past decades, social enterprises in the European Union garnered attention for combining business and social aspects in their operations, contributing to social cohesion, integration, solidarity, and local employment. In 2010, 6.5% of the economically active population in the EU worked in the social economy, with 4.7% in Hungary and only 0.6% in Croatia. This was partly due to the lack of necessary skills, competences, and special knowledge among managers and employees of social enterprises for effective operation in the social economy sector.

Additionally, there was a lack of domestic or cross-border relations and knowledge transfer between organizations in the field of social economy, and they lacked an international perspective. To address these issues, a partnership focused on adult education and organization development designed a project proposal. Their objective was to identify the resources and potentials of the social economy sector in the border region, assess the operation and development needs of social enterprises, and jointly develop a training curriculum for 'Managing social enterprises'. The training involved 12 participants (including two job-seekers) from both countries and was implemented through blended learning methods, combining participatory education with e-learning. The project included practical training in both countries and study tours to Hungary, Croatia, and Italy to learn about the operation of social enterprises and cooperatives.

A social economy fair in Koprivnica (HR) displayed products and services of social enterprises from both countries, fostering the establishment of a network among project participants. A website was created to sustain the partnership beyond the project's closure. The partners planned to present their project experiences at a professional conference, aiming to extend the results widely. The

project aimed to train well-skilled experts on both sides of the border to manage social cooperatives and enterprises effectively, achieving economic, employment, social, community development, and environmental goals. The project impact included contributing to the employment potential of the Hungarian-Croatian cross-border region, reinforcing social cohesion, supporting regional development programs, and promoting sustainable development and environmental protection. The project was planned to be implemented in Baranya and Koprivničko-križevačka Counties.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A representative situation analysis of the target area was conducted about the characteristics of already existing social enterprises, obstacles hindering the sector's development, best practices and development needs;
- A curriculum for 'Managing social enterprises' training programme containing 90 hours of theoretical and 30 hours of practical elements was elaborated;
- Several training were implemented in both target areas of the project, in Croatia and Hungary, with 12-12 participants (2-2 job-seekers) who had the opportunity to attend the practical training in the other country as well;
- Individual skills development and coaching was offered for social enterprises involved in the project.



RoboTech

Cross border development of robotics in primary schools

The overall aim of the RoboTech project was to increase knowledge about robotics in primary schools in the HU-HR cross-border area, with a focus on learning new technologies. Specific objectives included involving robotics as an extracurricular activity in primary schools, introducing new knowledge and learning methods in programming and robotics, and providing expert education to gain theoretical and practical knowledge using modern educational technologies, such as robotics sets. Project activities were implemented in the areas of Koprivnica-Križevci and Zala Counties.

The Lead Beneficiary was responsible for achieving project activities and monitoring the fulfilment of partners' project activities. The outputs included the joint development of a program for an extracurricular course in "Robotics," equipping six schools with robotics sets and laptops, and organizing webinars for teachers. Sixteen teachers were educated by robotic experts, and a competition was organized for them to develop simple robotics modules.

Additional education for teachers was conducted to help them work in the field of robotics and improve their acquired knowledge. Ninety students were educated in robotics, and two cross-border competitions were organized for primary school students to develop simple robotic modules. Furthermore, two webinars were organized to exchange experiences and connect teachers from the cross-border area to the project. The project was promoted to the public through a website, e-brochure, and other promotional materials. The choice of robotics was based on its ability to stimulate concentration, creativity, innovation, and teamwork. It also develops entrepreneurial spirit and competences in the technological field and supports the application of new technologies in everyday life.

Robotics is seen as an interdisciplinary field that connects technical culture, mathematics, information technology, and physics. Overall, the project aimed to increase advanced knowledge and skills in primary schools and develop human resources for future careers through cross-border, multicultural, and multilingual knowledge transfer.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0011

Partnership:

LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Zalaegerszeg Public Education District Centre (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 186 001,30

Implementation period: July 2017 - October 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A common module was developed for curriculum in "Robotics" for primary schools;
- Two trainings for teachers were held in robotics;
- Online educational materials were developed in robotics;
- Three cross-border competitions were held for primary school teachers and students.



STILL

Sports, ICT and language competences in the service of conservation of craftsmanship and entrepreneurship tradition and competitiveness in the labor market of students from Slatina and Szigetvár

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0012
Partnership:
LB: Primary School Eugen Kumičić Slatina
B1: Educational District Centre of Szigetvár
B2: Secondary School Marko Marulić Slatina
EU contribution: EUR 212 499,26
Implementation period: May 2017 - September 2018

Based on established joint cooperation in previously implemented projects through the first call of the IPA CBC HU-HR 2007-2013 programme, project beneficiaries developed new teaching contents using an innovative approach in educational programs (based on a combination of sports and craftsmanship and entrepreneurship) within this project.

The present project developed a positive attitude towards cross-border cooperation between people from an early age through joint activities and events, ultimately enriching the competencies of pupils. It raised awareness of common natural and cultural values of the border region among children and young adults and developed a sense of belonging to the broader community of the region. The project's overall and specific objectives were directly in line with the program's specific objective – to improve the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres for increasing the specific knowledge base in the region. The project lasted 16 months, with activities implemented in Slatina (HR) and Szigetvár (HU). Direct target groups were involved in project activities, including teachers and pupils from various grades, as well as children with disabilities. Indirect target groups included inhabitants of Slatina, Szigetvár, and their surroundings.

During project implementation, a project team was established, with coordination responsibilities of the LB. Each project beneficiary formed its own team to aid in the harmonization of activities. The methodology proved operationally successful due to previous experiences in teamwork and good communication during and after previous joint projects. Results and outputs included developed new teaching contents, achieved positive attitudes

towards cross-border cooperation, improved infrastructure for joint activities, and cross-border impacts that improved the role of educational institutions and created joint teaching contents.

Children formed friendships with peers from different regions, positively affecting their self-confidence and communication skills. Pupils with disabilities were recognized as equal members of society. The project also contributed to the further establishment of HU-HR friendship, decreased language barriers between Croatia and Hungary, and fostered cooperation among various institutions, companies, and organizations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- New teaching contents were developed by using innovative approach in educational programs;
- A sports curriculum and a handicraft e-curriculum was created;
- Over160 pupils participated in joint activities;
- A playground has been renovated in Slatina in total of 1.567,50 m² surface area;
- A 85,34 m² wardrobe was renovated;
- New playground and digital education equipment were purchased (smart whiteboards, baskets, mesh, goalpost).



HU-HR Fruit Trees

The Forgotten Forest Fruit Trees

Fruit trees as forest tree species contributed to the conservation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems. However, in recent years, due to excessive logging, which occurred because the wood mass of almost all fruit trees was very valuable, their share in the forest ecosystems was significantly reduced.

The fruits of these trees also played an important role in nature, serving as food for many species of animals in late autumn and winter, which regulated the strength of harmful organisms. Due to the reduced numbers of wild apples (Malus silvestris), wild pears (Pyrus communis), wild service trees (Sorbus torminalis), rowans (Sorbus domestica), and wild cherries (Prunus avium) in the forests, it was necessary to highlight their importance and raise awareness about these ecologically significant plant species. Thus, rare fruit tree seeds were collected and planted in a modern greenhouse at LB's premises and developed in the nursery at B1's premises.

Through the planting of forest fruit trees, the project contributed to the biodiversity protection of the cross-border area, leading to an increase in the creation of oxygen and an improvement in the quality of human life and health. LB provided the ability to grow forest fruit trees in modern greenhouses, while B1 aimed to grow fruit trees through the further development of the existing nursery using traditional technology. The project lasted for 16 months and achieved the following results: educated teachers of both schools to spread knowledge in the area of old forest fruit tree species; modernized two vocational curricula for forestry technicians and electricians; constructed modern greenhouses with necessary equipment at Virovitica (HR) and developed the existing nursery using traditional technology at Kaposvár (HU).

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0013
Partnership:
LB: Technical School Virovitica (HR)
B1: Kaposvár Centre of Vocational Training (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 136 081,68
Implementation period: May 2017 - September 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two vocational curriculums were modernized for forestry technician and electrician and water management technicians;
- A modern greenhouse with the necessary equipment was constructed at LB;
- An existing nursery using traditional technology was developed at B1;
- A common HU HR analysis and conclusions of the current situation of forest fruits were delivered;
- A computer database using GPS data about the visited forest crops was created.

Seedlings of forest fruits were also cultivated under optimal ecological conditions, free from extreme climates, resulting in higher-quality wood mass compared to those grown in traditional nursery settings. The project raised awareness about the importance of forest fruits for the environment and biodiversity. Planting forest fruit trees were supported by using GPS and by a computer database about the visited forest crops. The project developed new teaching content, resulting in the modernization of the curriculum for forestry professions of both schools participating in the project.



CHEC

Croatia-Hungary Educational Cooperation

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0022

Partnership:

LB: Csokonai Vitéz Mihály Calvinist Grammar School, Primary School and Dormitory (HU)

B1: Secondary School "Fran Galovic" Koprivnica (HR)

B2: Pálóczi Horváth Ádám Calvinist Art School (HU)

B3: PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 201 418,90

Implementation period: September 2017 - December 2018

The project aimed to enhance mutual understanding of each other's countries and a region in a cross-border area. It recognized the importance of going beyond tourist attractions to understand the history, heritage, and cultural values embedded in everyday life. The initiative focused on educating children about their cultural identity and fostering respect for diversity.

Three schools, with support from a regional development agency, played a central role in this project. They aimed to educate students about their own culture while exploring differences and similarities with neighbouring cultures.

The project involved extracurricular activities for students in dance, music, science, and sports, with the goal of increasing awareness of local cultural knowledge in the HU-HR border region. It also aimed to establish long-term cross-border educational cooperation to foster positive attitudes and curiosity about each other's traditions. By doing so, the project aligned with the program's objective of improving the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres and promoting cooperation in education. The project was implemented in Csurgó, Nagybjalom on the Hungarian side, and in Koprivnica on the Croatian side over 16 months, the project encouraged interactions between students, teachers, and communities on both sides of the border.

The project activities included learning traditional dances and songs, conducting scientific experiments, and participating in joint sports training; students gained cross-cultural knowledge and built friendships. The project also introduced new ICT solutions and aimed to improve participants' physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Overall, the project aimed to deepen cooperation between educational institutions, share knowledge and best practices, and increase participation in joint cross-border events.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A folk dance camp was organized, over 120 students was taught to folk dances from both sides of the border;
- A dance competition was delivered successfully;
- The Day of the Talented Students in Music was organized;
- Science days were organized in Csurgó and in Koprivnica including drawing exhibition, video conferences; scientific experiments;
- Handball tournaments were organized in Csurgó and Koprivnica.

JOLLIZI

Joint Learning Legrad i Zákány

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0029

Partnership:

LB: Educational District Centre of Kaposvár (HU)

B1: Elementary School Legrad (HR)

B2: PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 169 957,49

Implementation period: July 2017 - October 2018

Legrad (HR) and Zákány (HU) are located geographically close to each other, separated by the River Drava and the border. The elementary schools of these settlements had a friendly relationship mostly represented by people-to-people connections. Teachers and pupils had met and known each other from the two schools. The project aimed to deepen this relationship and to improve it to become more of a school-to-school cooperation, including not only the staff but also the children and the educational activities themselves.

The project involved three main objectives: the development and piloting of new curricula, organizing joint learning events based on the curricula, and purchasing the equipment and works necessary to implement the learning events. In the project, the two schools jointly developed three new thematic cross-border curricula (to supplement the mandatory curriculum

elementary schools) who were introduced to those cross-border values that really connected the communities. Teachers were also a target group who were able to effectively present and introduce these values to the younger generation as a result of the project. These newly elaborated thematic cross-border curricula and education materials were the primary deliverables beyond the improved educational cooperation.

These newly developed curricula are applicable in other elementary schools of the HU-HR cross-border area after the pilot implementation. Hence, the results of the project made a greater, sustainable, and beneficial effect on the border area. Furthermore, the two schools' educational premises were refurbished and improved with new equipment and infrastructure (improvements of the project thematic building, audio-visual infrastructure, sports field, and the creation of an environment-themed playground).

These improvements served the purpose of the project as they helped the pilot implementation of the three curricula and the supporting non-formal joint learning events. Beyond all these, a joint sports event was held where students from both schools could participate and get to know each other besides the formal and non-formal educational activities. A workshop was also held about the issues and applications of regional development to improve the capacities and understanding of the staff of elementary schools regarding project life cycles and implementation.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Three joint cross-border thematic curricula were developed newly in the following fields: "Shared history", "Familiar cultures", and "Connecting Drava";
- Folk dance and music themed learning events were organized;
- A one-week summer camp for students was delivered;
- A one-day boat trip for children on the Drava River was organized;
- A one-day cross-border bicycle tour for children was delivered;
- Workshops for teachers were organized about regional development and about the usage of new teaching equipment (such as smart boards);
- An environmental protection thematic playground was created and a sports field upgraded with equipment totalling of a 1000 m² surface.



requirements) and implemented them in the two schools as a pilot program, supported by non-formal learning events. The target group of the three thematic cross-border curricula were the children of the cross-border area (students of the two

VEC Sharing

Cross-border Vocational Education Capacity Sharing

The main objective of the project was to enhance the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres for increasing the specific knowledge base in the region. This was achieved by improving students' and teachers' competencies in welding, cooking, baking, confectionery, and agriculture through the joint exchange of knowledge with colleagues from the other side of the border.

Besides implementing professional practices, preparing new curricula, and creating a joint cookbook, the project aimed for students to gain new knowledge about the cross-border area, improve their skills, make new friendships, and become motivated to participate in future projects. To further foster friendships, a sports competition for students was organized. Professors were expected to increase their knowledge in the project-involved subjects and become motivated for new projects through Project Cycle Management (PCM) training, which allowed them to collaborate on new project ideas.

The project's methodology involved delivering two-week-long professional practices. The first set of practices included student exchanges for welders, with Hungarian students traveling to Croatia and vice versa. To support the development of students' competencies, teachers compared the existing Hungarian and Croatian curriculums in welding, enhancing them with new information gained through the professional practice.

Professional practices were also planned for cooks, confectioners, and bakers. Through two two-week-long practices, students had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge by cooking and baking new and traditional dishes typical of the cross-border area. Professors documented all the recipes and collaborated to create a joint cookbook.

The final professional practice included two one-week-long training sessions in farming/agriculture in Pitomača (HR) and in Csurgó (HU), where students observed good practices in ecological farming.



PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0030

Partnership:

LB: Craft School Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Kolping János Nagyváthy Secondary Technical School and Vocational School (HU)

B2: Kolping Catholic Secondary Technical School and Student Hostel of Nagybjom (HU)

B3: Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County (HR)

B4: Stjepan Sulimanac High School (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 207 013,23

Implementation period: October 2017 - January 2019

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A sculpture exhibition was organized by welders in Croatia;
- Four sports tournaments hosted across Croatia and Hungary and an inter-curricular curriculum template developed for welders, enhancing skills in various occupations;
- Two-week professional practice sessions for cooks, bakers, and confectioners organized in Hungary and Croatia, and a labour market analysis conducted for entrepreneurs to identify employment opportunities.

ECOTOP2

Life long learning programmes for increased growth capacity in ecotourism

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0031

Partnership:

LB: Križevci College of Agriculture (HR)

B1: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Zala County (HU)

B2: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Somogy County (HU)

B3: Kaposvár University (HU)

B4: Tourism Authority of Koprivnica (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 171 642,62

Implementation period: June 2017 - September 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Lifelong Learning course organised in marketing in ecotourism and piloted it in specific regions, organized capacity-building programs for ecotourism trainers, and facilitated professional study visits to enhance their capacities;
- Collaboratively created language skill development materials created, and a study on the inclusion of marginalized groups in ecotourism conducted;
- Competitiveness of participants in the labour market enhanced through educational activities, improving their skills and knowledge. Methodologies applicable for future opportunities in adult education and vocational training developed, while laying the groundwork for the inclusion of marginalized populations in ecotourism initiatives.

The project addressed the problems detected in the previous project ECOTOP 1, in which research and studies indicated that while an ecotourism offer existed, it was not sufficiently developed to meet the needs of modern tourism activities. This primarily related to marketing issues – many people had excellent facilities, but they were not widely known. Others had excellent pre-conditions to develop family businesses in the ecotourism sector (with unused facilities close to the river Drava or lakes on both sides of the border) but lacked the know-how to start such business undertakings.

The project team of ECOTOP 2 believed that supervised lifelong learning programs and language skill development workshops, where participants could learn the practical aspects of their profession, held significant value. The project facilitated ecotourism providers in the cross-border region to become competitive service providers, promoting knowledge-based

economic development on both sides of the border. It also established a knowledge transfer network among partner institutions providing educational programs for ecotourism development in Koprivnica-Križevci, Zala, and Somogy County.

The project generated a lifelong learning program in marketing for ecotourism, language course materials for service providers, and a study on including the Roma and mentally or physically ill populations in the ecotourism offer. It also involved pilot testing these programs with more than 300 participants directly involved or interested in ecotourism, who participated in exchange programs, business plan competitions, language courses, or marketing courses.

The partnership structure included institutions from all relevant segments: higher education, tourism authorities, and business support institutions (chambers), which was necessary for quality development of activities. The project built on the experience of LB, B1, B2, and B3. The project idea was based on their combined knowledge and responded to the common problem of insufficient ecotourism offerings in the region on both sides of the border.



DUO PACK

Dual Education - Practical Approach to Concrete Knowledge

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0032

Partnership:

LB: Croatian Chamber of Economy of Varaždin County (HR)

B1: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Zala County (HU)

B2: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Somogy County (HU)

B3: Croatian Chamber of Economy of Bjelovar County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 85 096,05

Implementation period: August 2017 - November 2018



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Virtual database containing prospective businesses willing to host trainees for practical experience;
- Memos of cooperation signed by the partners, workshops and study trips conducted, and joint courses and round tables facilitated, engaging relevant stakeholders from both countries;
- Teachers, chamber officials, and decision-makers equipped with knowledge and methodologies related to dual education through various educational events, ultimately contributing to the advancement of the younger generation and fostering local economic development.



Research in Croatia indicated that company-based apprenticeships were needed and could be operational, but linkages between stakeholders and public support mechanisms were weak, leaving much room for improvement. Additionally, the existing scheme in Croatia, with more focus on theory and practice in schools rather than in companies, often failed to meet labour market demands. Attention had not been paid to the challenges facing youth, vocational schools, or employers in achieving occupational proficiency. Vocational education was not typically framed in terms of students' or employers' needs.

The project aimed to raise awareness among vocational school teachers, students, chamber representatives, and decision-makers about the importance of gaining personal skills through company-based apprenticeships. By exchanging best practices and experiences among project stakeholders in dual education, the project improved sustainable educational and business development in the border regions.

Target groups included vocational school teachers, chamber representatives, and regional decision-makers in education, specifically those dealing with the potential introduction of a dual education system in Croatia. They were acquainted with Hungarian methodologies to effectively participate in the introduction of dual education in Croatia. Indirect target groups were students, who would see different approaches and specific performances required by various trade groups and companies in the project implementation area.

The final result of the project was a bilingual (Hungarian and Croatian) professional study compiling Hungarian experiences and the different, less positive Croatian experiences regarding the potential for the Chamber to coordinate the dual training system in Croatia, following the example of the neighbouring country.

Phys-Me

Improving the educational system in Physics for general and vocational education in the Croatia-Hungary border region for secondary schools

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0033

Partnership:

LB: Electrical Engineering and Traffic School Osijek (HR)

B1: High school A.G.Matos Đakovo (HR)

B2: Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja (HR)

B3: Valeria Koch School Center (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 190 471,21

Implementation period: June 2017 - September 2018

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A new curriculum in physics and a new exercise book was delivered;
- Over 120 students of high school were educated based on the developed curricula;
- A joint trip to Germany was organized visiting the Technical Museum in Munich and Industrial park in Ulm to help students and teachers learn about the EU good practice;
- A 10-day Joint Science Summer Camp was organized where the best 60 students and teachers were selected in order to gain new experiences in practical work;
- A "Phys-Me Fair" was organized for children including the final conference.

Partners identified a common need to modify a part of the educational process in the field of teaching students in a new, interesting, and adequate way. For such an undertaking, it was necessary to form partnerships and jointly create a new document that would be the basis for further education and also the guidelines for new curricular reform.

Physics was chosen as a curricular subject because in the field of market employability, careers regarding physics are listed as deficient. This situation was the same on both sides of the Cross-Border with obsolete equipment for conducting experiments dating back to the 1970's.

Partners created a new teaching document, a pilot curriculum for joint workshops, with the help of experts and at the same time equipped laboratories and classrooms with suitable equipment. An additional document - manual for teachers was also created.

These documents served as future guidelines for the multiplication and transmission of knowledge. The project's overall objective was to raise the level of specific knowledge and skills of students in cross-border grammar and vocational schools and prepare them for further education and the labour market. The specific objective was to modify existing curricula in the field of Physics in order to be enforceable in practical teaching. The project was carried out at locations on both Croatian (Đakovo and Osijek) and Hungarian sides (Pécs).

The main activities were held in Osijek, as the Lead Beneficiary was from Osijek, but equal representation and media publicity of programs were present on both sides of the cross-border. The duration of the project was planned for a period of 16 months because it was implemented during the school year and contained a great selection of extracurricular activities. The direct targeted groups were students and teachers of the partner schools. All educational activities were joint, and costs were closely divided among the partners. Three partners were connected by joint interests in the field of education, and B2 had a significant role of logistical and technical support, promotion, and key communication and coordination of the partnership.



EN-EFF

New concept training for energy efficiency

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1601/4.1.2/0035

Partnership:

LB: Croatian Chamber of Economy of Varaždin County(HR)

B1: Public Instituion for the Development of the Međimurje County REDEA (HR)

B2: PORA Regional Development Agency of Koprivnica Križevci County (HR)

B3: Zala County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion (HU)

B4: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pécs-Baranya (HU)

B5: Entrepreneurs' Centre of Somogy County Foundation (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 151 115,10

Implementation period: August 2017 - November 2018

The EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in Article 9 introduced “nearly Zero-Energy Buildings” (nZEBs) as buildings with very high energy performance. Future requirements had to be implemented from 2019 for public buildings and from 2021 for all new buildings. Each EU Member State had to elaborate its own nZEB definition. Both Croatia and Hungary had already adopted definitions, but their national approaches were different. Workforce education and training in new energy-efficient and renewable technology were vital for further implementing nearly nZEBs. At that time, there was no coherent education and training for energy efficiency of buildings from either the Croatian or Hungarian side.

The aim of the project was to contribute to education, training, and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing a joint training scheme for implementing nZEB principles. The partnership created, tested, and assessed a new innovative syllabus and prepared educational didactical materials for practical training for multipliers, teachers, and professionals based on nZEB recommendations.

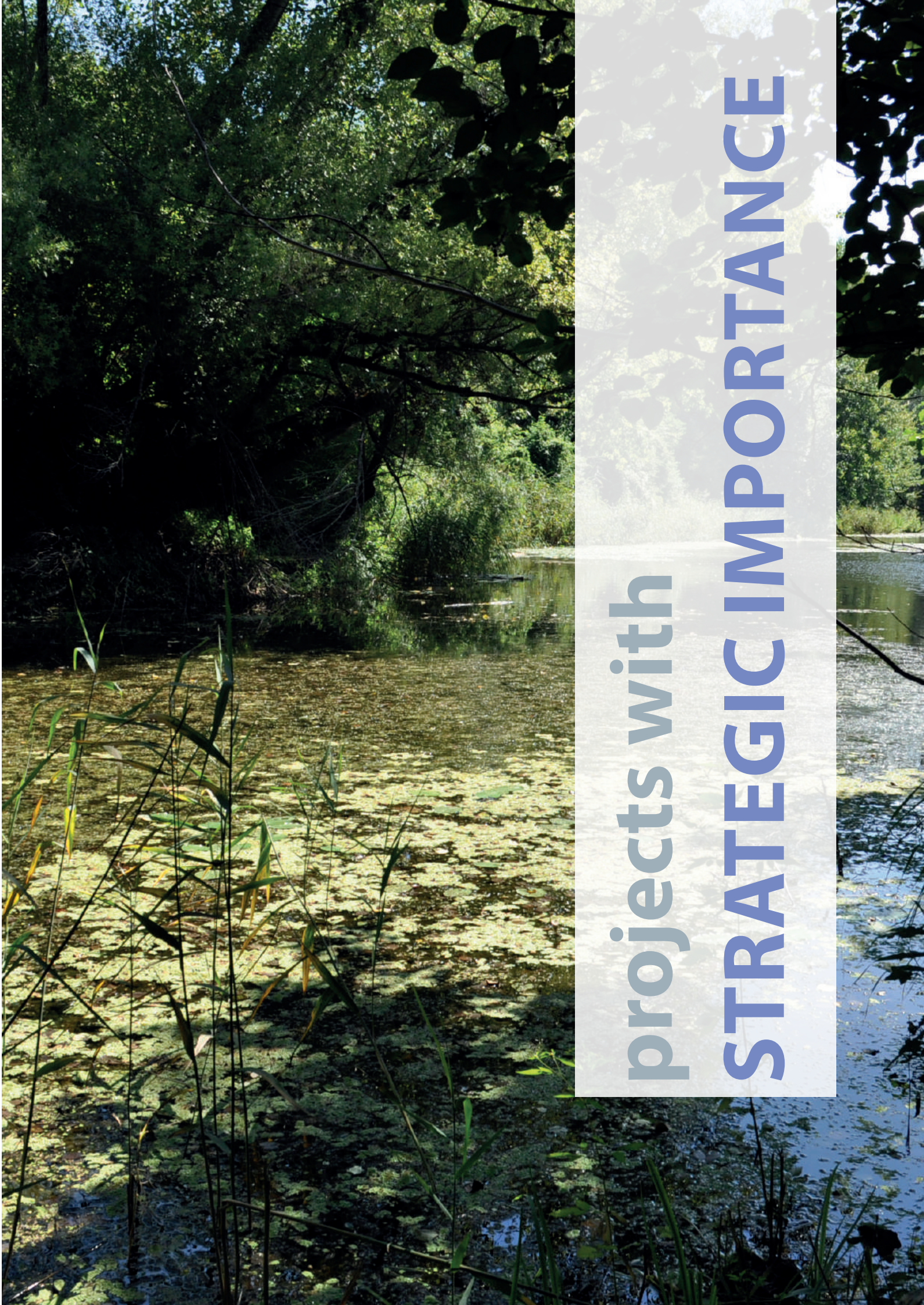
The main target groups were Croatian and Hungarian vocational secondary construction schoolteachers who transferred knowledge to students and contributed significantly to implementing the new syllabus needed for working in construction occupations. Publicity activities were crucial. Building owners needed to be informed about necessary investments.



Expected results included acquainted knowledge and methodology among target groups to effectively implement principles of nearly nZEBs in the cross-border area. Most activities had a cross-border impact. The workforce in the cross-border area became more mobile and competitive, making it easier to find jobs or new business niches with knowledge of nZEB requirements.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Preliminary surveys carried out and national documents developed, leading to the creation of national syllabuses on nZEB by experts compiled, resulting in the production of bilingual teaching materials;
- Joint workshop organised for stakeholders followed by pilot trainings to test the newly developed syllabuses;
- Twelve workshops organized to inform public and private building owners about legislative requirements.



projects with
STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

B Light Scheme

Fostering value added business cooperations between SMEs operating on different sides of the Hungary-Croatia border

Recognising the need for joint economic development, one pillar of the strategy for Hungary and Croatia for the 2014-2020 programming period became fostering value added business cooperation between SMEs operating on different sides of the border. Priority Axis 1 of the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 thus aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the common border region.

The HUHR Programme adopted the Open Projects / Beneficiary Light Scheme. This model involved a core partnership with open light partner positions and a financial framework for SMEs within a single project. In the later stages of project implementation, the key beneficiaries selected light partners for funding. This approach alleviated administrative burdens for SMEs, as all administrative and reporting responsibilities were managed by the key partnership. The direct target groups of the HUHR Programme were business support institutions in the border area and the cooperating SMEs. Indirect target groups included county and local governments, chambers of commerce, additional business support institutions, employment agencies, private business service providers, and the local population.

By assistance of a special development partnership, SMEs developed joint projects aiming at establishing the following types of business cooperation: joint product, technology and service development, supplier chains, common marketing, future establishment of a joint venture. By enhancing business cooperation focusing on joint product and service developments, value added production of cooperating SMEs was improved and enterprises became more stable and profitable, which was expected to have a positive impact also on employment.

A crucial element of this strategic project / development scheme was built-in project generation and management support for cooperating SMEs, with the involvement of development agencies and enterprise development foundations operating in the programme area, for the entire lifetime of the SME partnerships (i.e. from project generation over concept note and full application to the actual implementation period of the selected projects). A strong mentoring mechanism was of key importance to the entrepreneurs, who were not the typical beneficiary group of Interreg programmes and

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1602/1.1.1/0002 – B Light Scheme

Partnership:

LB: Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments – HAMAG-BICRO (HR)

B1: Zala County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion – ZMVA (HU)

B2: Entrepreneurs' Centre of Somogy County Public Foundation – SMVKK (HU)

B3: Baranya County Development Agency Non-profit Ltd. – BMFÜ (HU)

B4: Public Institution for the Development of the Međimurje County – REDEA (HR)

B5: PORA Regional development agency of Podravina and Prigorje for promotion and implementation of development activities in Koprivnica-Križevci County – PORA (HR)

B6: VIDRA Virovitica-Podravina County's Development Regional Agency – VIDRA (HR)

B7: Public Institution Development Agency of Osijek-Baranja County – ŽRA OBŽ (HR) and the Light projects

EU contribution: EUR 9 960 299,07

Implementation period: February 2017 - April 2023

who need assistance in properly adapting to the administration rules of ERDF support in an international setting. In the framework of the support scheme there were 31 SME cooperations contracted and successfully implemented, in 4 open calls for proposals, with a total of 67 SMEs (34 Hungarian and 33 Croatian) involved. Including project development activities as well, altogether 587 enterprises have received non-financial support from the non-profit partner organisations operating the main partnership of the strategic project.

The foreseen results of the HUHR Programme included increasing gross value added per capita in the industry and service sectors. The project was anticipated to have a significant cross-border impact, surpassing previous SME development initiatives. Also aimed to foster more intensive and sustainable long-term cooperation between SMEs, benefiting the entire border region. Additionally, the project was envisioned as a role model for future cross-border SME cooperation programs.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The project successfully enhanced business cooperation, particularly focusing on joint product and service developments, resulting in improved value-added production among collaborating SMEs.
- Throughout the support scheme, 31 SME co-operations were contracted and effectively implemented across four open calls for proposals.
- A total of 67 SMEs, comprising 34 Hungarian and 33 Croatian enterprises, were involved in these collaborations.
- In addition to project development activities, a total of 587 enterprises received non-financial support from the non-profit partner organizations operating within the main partnership of the strategic project.

Diabetic footwear – best preventive to sensible diabetic feet

Diabetic foot syndrome is challenging to manage due to the reduced wound-healing ability in individuals with diabetes, leading to an increased risk of new wounds and more complex treatment. Consequently, prevention is crucial. With this in mind, the consortia of Croatian OrtoStep Ltd. from Osijek and Hungarian Orto-a Ltd. from Pécs collaborated on the B Light project "Diabetic Footwear – best preventive to sensible diabetic feet". Together, they developed semi-orthopedic shoes specifically designed for certain foot deformities or conditions, utilizing their technical expertise and materials from custom-made orthopedic production. These shoes can be tailored to the patient's needs and measurements, offering a customized fit and protection in various areas to ensure optimal individual comfort and prevention.



Cross-border cooperation in the creative industry through developing new high quality leather glove brand and innovative IT solutions for it's sales and marketing (HUHR Gloves)

In the "Cross-border cooperation in the creative industry through developing new high-quality leather glove brand and innovative IT solutions for it's sales and marketing" project, a niche brand of leather cycling gloves was developed for scooter drivers and urban cyclists. With the increasing popularity of bicycles, scooters, and e-rollers, there was a growing demand for better quality accessories beyond the existing synthetic sports gloves.

B Light partners Szilvio Ltd. from Pécs and STUDIO 33 Ltd. from Osijek recognized this market need and collaborated to create a new high-quality leather glove brand called Mantocco. Mantocco targets the fashion-conscious young generation using electric rollers, bicycles, electric mopeds, luxury cars, and more. The project also introduced innovative IT solutions, including an online application for web and mobile devices, allowing customers to customize their gloves by selecting the type, design, size, material, lining, color, buttons, and zippers. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has renewed the importance of wearing gloves, positioning Mantocco as a stylish alternative to latex gloves for everyday use.



Supporting the development of the HU-HR border region by a common strategy jointly formulated by the various actors of the cross-border area

The Interreg V-A HU-HR Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 was nearing its end, prompting the need for a new strategy for 2021-2027 to address significant socio-economic changes at both EU and national levels. Pannon EGTC led this initiative, aiming at fostering joint development in the Hungary-Croatia border area. The effort involved 66 members from both sides of the border, focusing on issues requiring cross-border cooperation.

The project's overall objective was to facilitate efficient joint development by analysing the current situation and creating a common strategy for the 11 counties involved: Zala, Somogy, and Baranya in Hungary, and Međimurska, Varaždinska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Bjelovarsko-bilogorska, Virovitičko-podavska, Požeško-slavonska, Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska in Croatia. This strategy aligned with the Interreg Regulation for the 2021-2027 financial perspective, providing a foundation for the future cooperation programme.

Key outputs included an impact assessment of the (then) ongoing 2014-2020 cooperation programme, a comprehensive situation analysis, an overview of the policy environment, a joint development strategy for the border region, and five strategic project ideas. The project also focused on extensive communication activities to ensure knowledge transfer and public promotion of results. The project's implementation depended on approval by the Monitoring Committee, with future proposals requiring agreement from the Programming Committee for 2021-2027. Secondary research tools such as macroeconomic data analysis, document reviews and statistical analyses with infographics were employed. Stakeholder consultations, including in-depth interviews, workshops and surveys, were integral to the strategy's development.

Pannon EGTC committed to maintaining the tools, partnerships and processes created during the project to ensure ongoing cooperation. The project enhanced Pannon EGTC's capacity, supporting cross-border initiatives and networking activities more professionally and effectively, thereby strengthening its role as an integrator of cross-border actors.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1902/3.1.1/0001

Partnership:

LB: Pannon European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Ltd. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 246 153,62

Implementation period: September 2019 - April 2023

The project aimed at promoting effective joint developments in the Hungary-Croatia border region by analysing the current situation and assessing the impact of the ongoing 2014-2020 Interreg programme. It sought to develop a common strategy, jointly formulated by various participants in the program area, and to create strategic project ideas that would form the basis for future development actions.



Specific activities:

Detailed situation analysis, which includes the following data: geographical accessibility / features, description of the demographic-economic situation, environmental features, infrastructural features, human resources, SWOT analysis, main development needs and challenges.

Methods: application of the regulations contained in the relevant regional and national documents, review of strategy documents; in-depth interviews with key actors, 7 workshops (3 HU, 4 HR) with active stakeholder participation (HU / HR); survey.

Review of the policy environment, including: exploration and evaluation of existing EU and national development strategies, regulations and central programs relevant to the development of the border area; examination, collection and analysis of future EU intervention preferences for 2021-2027 and relevant EU level documents (HU / HR).

Impact assessment of the HU-HR Interreg Programme for the period 2014-2020: the impact assessment looked into how ERDF support has contributed to the objectives of each Priority Axis / Specific Objective, by trying to separate the impact of projects in the programme area from parallel development processes.

Joint development strategy: Elaboration of a joint development strategy of the HU-HR border region in line with the relevant national development strategy document(s). Methods: 5 thematic workshops (2 HU, 3 HR), in-depth interviews, questionnaire survey (HU / HR).

Complex strategic project ideas: Outlining at least 5 complex strategic project ideas that clearly serve the strategic objectives of the cross-border area, by planning the objectives, potential partners, main content elements, results and impacts and the indicative budget. Methods: 5 project workshops (2 HU, 3 HR), in-depth interviews (HU / HR).

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The project facilitated efficient joint development by analysing the current situation and establishing a common strategy for the 11 counties involved: Zala, Somogy and Baranya in Hungary, and Međimurska, Varaždinska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Bjelovarsko-bilogorska, Virovitičko-podavska, Požeško-slavonska, Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska in Croatia.
- Key outputs included an impact assessment of the ongoing cooperation programme, a comprehensive situation analysis, an overview of the policy environment, a joint development strategy for the border region and five strategic project ideas.
- The project prioritized extensive communication activities to ensure knowledge transfer and public promotion of results.



De-mine HU-HR II

De-contamination of war-affected territories

Croatia was mine-contaminated due to the Homeland War (June 1991 - December 1995). Some minefields extended into Hungarian territory between the River Drava and River Danube, posing dangers to local inhabitants. After the successful completion of the De-mine HU-HR project, it was evident that mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)-suspected areas remained along the River Drava in Croatia and near the Hungarian border, due to historical military activities. During the project, 118 mines and 3 UXOs were found and destroyed, and 25 UXOs were found in Hungary within a 25-meter strip along the border.

The De-mine HU-HR project, conducted as a precursor to this proposal, surveyed and partially cleared mine-contaminated areas. This survey identified mines and UXO-suspected areas along the Drava in Croatia and UXO-suspected areas near the border in Hungary. These areas were impacted by the proximity of the Beli Manastir - Osijek corridor, which was occupied during the war and recaptured in fierce fighting.

Historically, it became evident which areas required further clearance of mines and explosives to ensure safe use by the local population and tourists. A secure environment was essential for the development of village tourism, small farms, and the operation of the highly developed hunting and fishing tourism in the region. On the Hungarian side, the clearance operations affected the administrative areas of Old, Sátorhely, Udvar, and Kölked settlements. The project prepared an information database of UXO-suspected areas and carried out ammunition clearance on approximately 1.1 km², a third of the 3.4 km² target area.

Objectives:

Croatia: Continue the previous project, focusing on the Municipality Draž and minefields along the River Drava from the D1 border stone to Belišće, providing data for future CROMAC surveys.

Hungary: Conduct deeper surveys in the Danube-Drava National Park (DDNP) and surrounding areas, using detectors to scan up to 1.5 meters in depth. Detected UXOs will be handed over to the Hungarian Army for disposal.

Outcomes:

- **Safety:** All known minefields and UXO-suspected areas in the project regions was cleared.
- **Economic Development:** Cleared land is safe for local population activities, boosting hunting, fishing tourism, rural tourism, and small farms.
- **Environmental Protection:** Safe environments was created for the development of rural villages and tourism.
- **Cross-Border Movement:** Ensuring safe movement through Schengen internal borders.

Within the framework of the De-mine HU-HR II project, demining operations were conducted over an area of 1.53 km² in the floodplains of the Drava and Danube rivers, encompassing the administrative areas of Belišće, Valpovo, and Donji Miholjac, as well as the municipalities of Baranjsko Petrovo Selo and Draž. During these operations, a total of 36 minefields were cleared, resulting in the destruction of:

- 137 infantry mines (PMA-1, PMR-2A, PMA-3)
- 103 tank mines (TMM-1, TMA-3, TMA-5, TMRP6)
- 66 pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO)



Protected Areas: The 339.81 ha project area included sections of the Danube and Drava rivers, designated as national park and Natura 2000 areas, part of the Biosphere Reserve.

Ecological Restoration: Planted 1,200 large saplings and sowed lawns to restore disturbed areas post-clearance.

Border Marker Renovation: Renovated boundary markers along the D border section (D1-D211 and D260-D417), which had not been renovated since Croatia's independence. This included:

- Surveying and renovating 560 border signs.
- Cleaning approximately 70 kilometers of border opening.

Conclusion:

The De-mine HU-HR II project successfully identified and cleared significant areas of mine and UXO contamination, ensuring a safe environment that is critical for local economic development, particularly in tourism and agriculture. The De-mine HU-HR II project successfully cleared UXOs, restored

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1501/2.1.4/0001

Partnership:

LB: Croatian Mine Action Centre (HR)

B1: Baranya County Police Headquarters (HU)

B2: Duna-Drava National Park Directorate (HU)

Associated partners: Osijek-Baranja County and Osijek-Baranja Police Administration

EU contribution: EUR 2 999 989,74

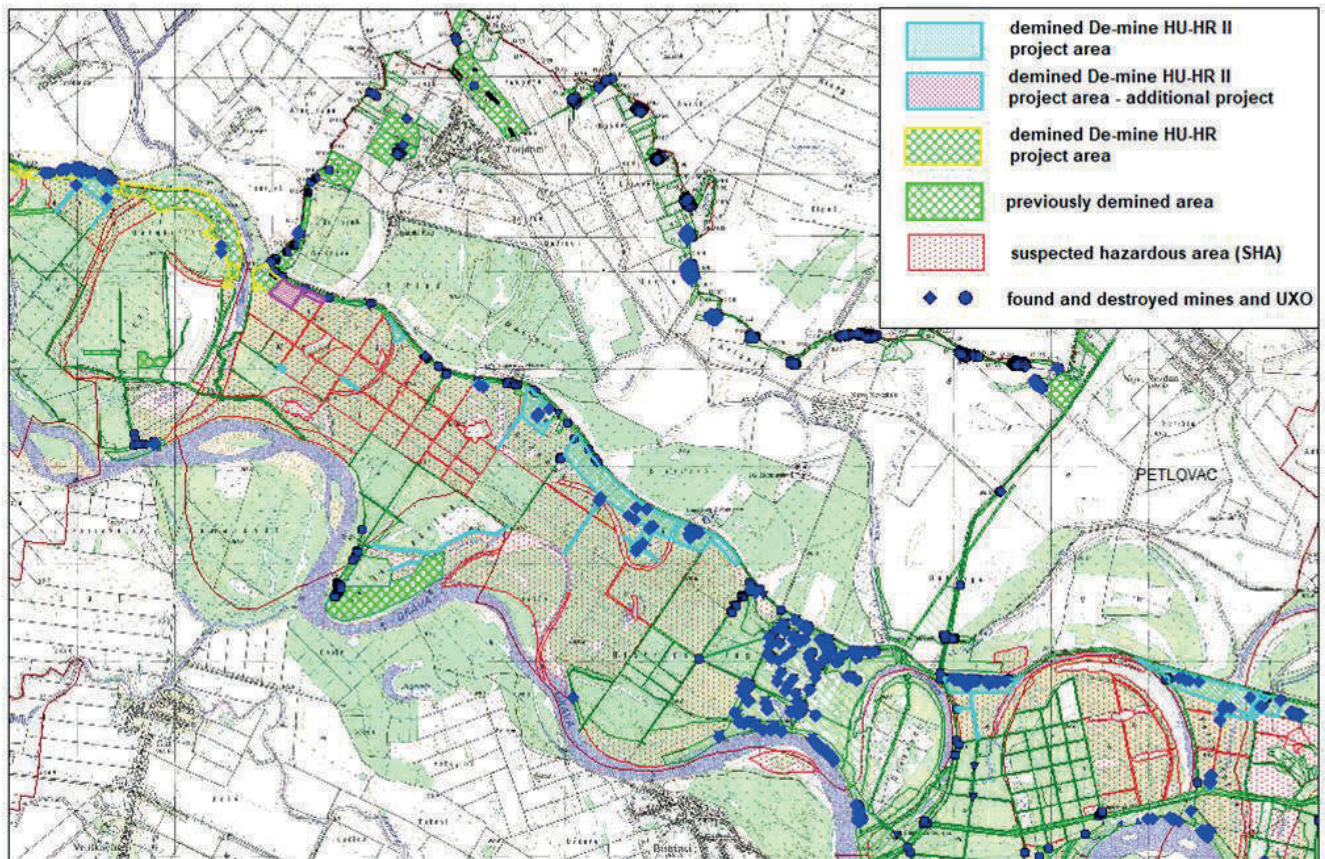
Implementation period: June 2016 - May 2018

ecological areas, and renovated border markers, ensuring both environmental protection and border maintenance. The border section marked D was brought to a state that allows for routine maintenance, aligning with the conditions of border sections B and C.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Significant progress was made in demining efforts - in Croatia, 118 mines and 3 UXOs were identified and destroyed, while in Hungary, 28 UXOs were found and eliminated within a 25-meter strip near the border.
- A total of 36 minefields were cleared during these operations, resulting in the destruction of 137 infantry mines, 103 tank mines, and 66 pieces of unexploded ordnance.
- Boundary markers along the D border section underwent renovation, addressing markers that had not been refurbished since Croatia's independence. This renovation included surveying and refurbishing 560 border signs and cleaning approximately 70 kilometres of border opening.
- Demining operations covered a vast area of 1.53 km² in the floodplains of the Drava and Danube rivers, spanning administrative areas in Croatia including Belišće, Valpovo, Donji Miholjac, and municipalities of Baranjsko Petrovo Selo and Draž.
- Ecological restoration efforts involved planting 1,200 large saplings and sowing lawns to rehabilitate disturbed areas post-clearance on the project area of 339.81 hectares.

De-mine HU-HR II - deminig project Inundation zone of Drava river



Preparation for constructing Mura Bridge and connecting road infrastructure facilities at Murakeresztúr (HU) and Kotoriba (CRO)

On November 8, 2018, regional stakeholders reached a significant milestone in enhancing transport connections at the Hungary-Croatia border. A joint political statement was concluded, reflecting the commitment of municipalities on both sides to strengthen cross-border cooperation and develop direct road accessibility near Murakeresztúr and Kotoriba. This statement added a new dimension to the anticipated Memorandum of Understanding between Hungary and Croatia, expected to be signed in 2020, which would formalize their intention to cooperate and pave the way for a Governmental Agreement.

This initiative was crucial in advancing efforts that began in 1996, including addressing the need for direct road accessibility identified in the 1996 Concept for the Muramente region, updating plans for a new road bridge from 2007, utilizing the 2015 feasibility study for cross-border infrastructure projects, and implementing the 2016 Hungarian Government decree (1007/2016) on establishing a road connection between Murakeresztúr and Kotoriba.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Produced documentation for a new building project, aimed at establishing a new border crossing point to alleviate territorial barriers and bottlenecks.
- By creating a direct road connection to facilitate tourism-related traffic a new feasibility study for a road bridge over the Mura at Murakeresztúr and Kotoriba was reviewed and drafted.
- This initiative aimed to promote regional socio-economic integration, enhance cooperation potential, stimulate tourism development, and advance cross-border sub-regions.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1902/2.1.4/0002

Partnership:

LB: Ministry of Construction and Transport (HU)

B1: Croatian Roads Ltd (HR)

B2: Mura Region – European Grouping of Territorial of Cooperation Ltd. (Mura Region EGTC) (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 782 335,15

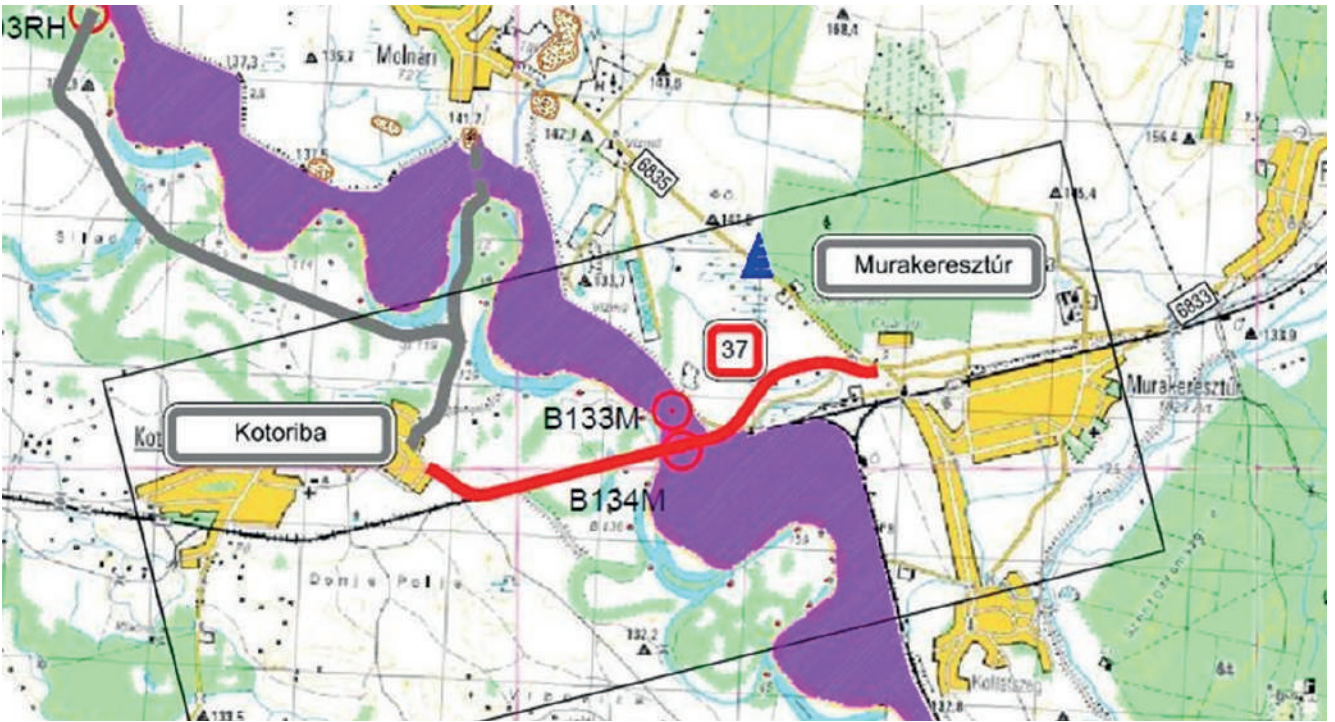
Implementation period: March 2020 – May 2023

The need for a cross-border road connection was justified by the geographical separation caused by the Mura River, which limited accessibility and hampered cooperation, especially for the peripherally located Kotoriba. The existing railway bridge over the Mura did not support road traffic.

The project aimed to contribute to the sustainable management of cultural and natural heritage sites in Hungary and Croatia by establishing a direct road connection to facilitate tourism-related traffic. It included reviewing and drafting a new feasibility study for a road bridge over the Mura at Murakeresztúr and Kotoriba, with a 22-month implementation period.

The target groups included municipalities, regional stakeholders, decision-makers, authorities, professional organizations, and inhabitants. The project was implemented in partnership with NIF

Ltd as the lead beneficiary, Hrvatska Ceste d.o.o as B1, and Mura Region EGTC Ltd as B2. NIF Ltd was responsible for the feasibility study on the Hungarian side, while Hrvatska Ceste handled the Croatian side. The EGTC coordinated communication activities. The project aimed to produce documentation for a new building project, establishing a new border crossing point to eliminate territorial barriers and bottlenecks, thereby promoting regional socio-economic integration, cooperation potential, tourism development, and the advancement of cross-border sub-regions.





projects of the SECOND CALL

The Second Call for Proposals

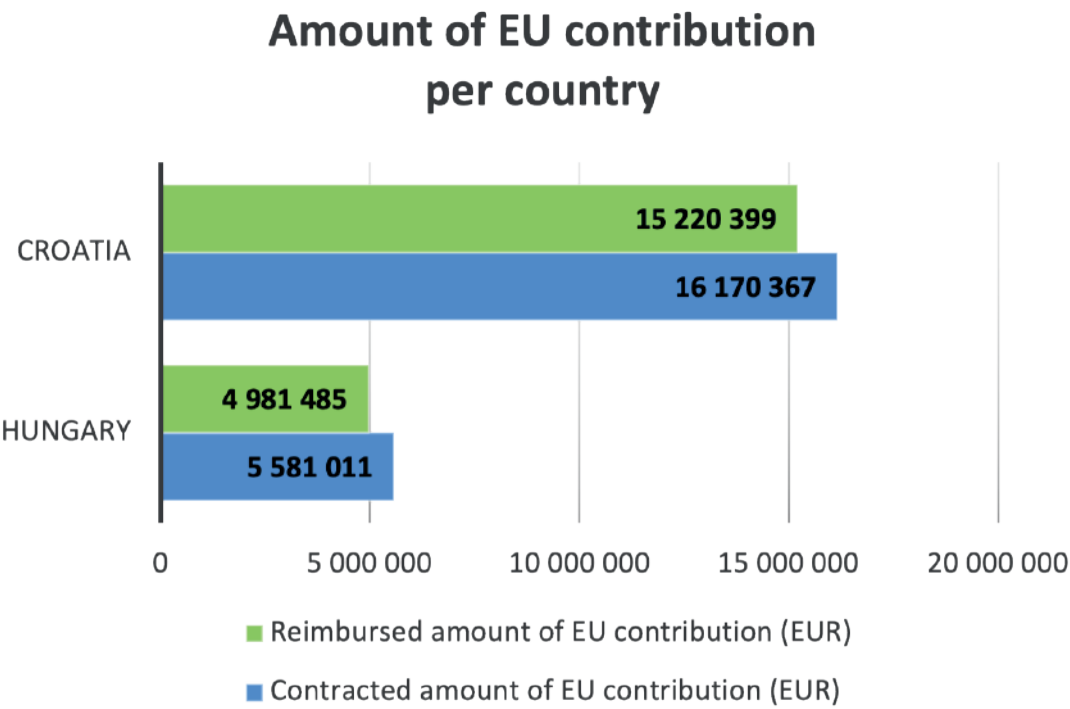
The CFP opening the remainder of the Programme's ERDF allocation introduced electronic submission for the first time on 31 January 2019, with a submission deadline of 3 May 2019. To assist potential project partners in the cross-border region with their joint applications, four information days were throughout the Programme's eligible area, with the final occasion including a Partner Search Forum as well.

All the while the CFP was open, members of the JS, including the colleagues in the regional offices in Pécs, Osijek and Čakovec, provided continuous support to interested organisations through personal consultations about the project ideas.

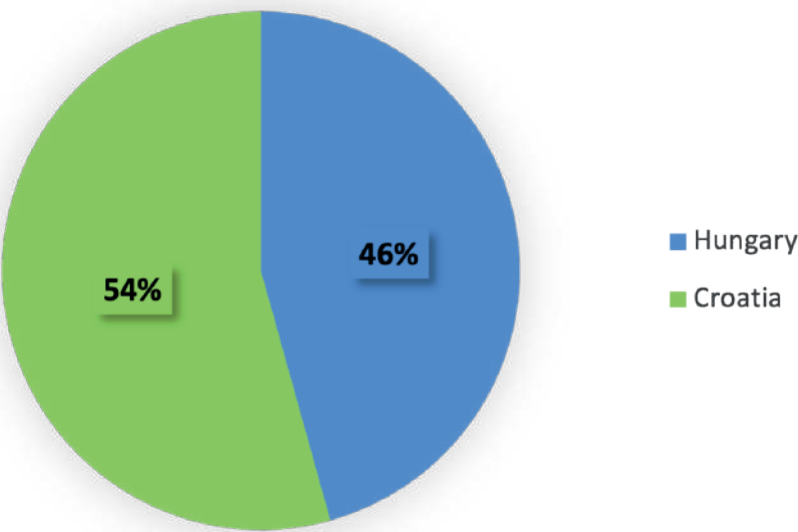
Out of the 162 applications received, the MC again approved 54 projects, totalling € 21.8 million in EU funding, through three rounds of project selection conducted during the course of 2020.

Similar thematic fields were opened as in the first CfP (Priorities 2, 3 and 4), except for Component 2.1.1, Bicycle road development. The geographical distribution of Beneficiaries and the allocated EU contribution amount remained similar to the previous Call. This time the implementation period for projects was extended to maximum 20-24 months, however, due to several waves

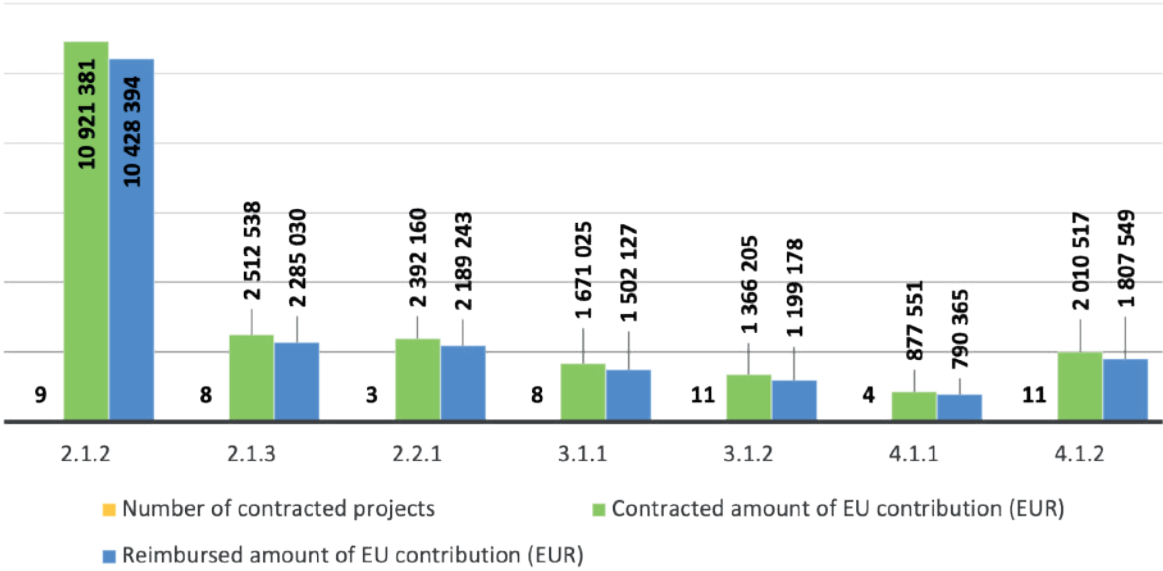
of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, there were challenges in implementing project activities on time. The Programme offered a flexible approach to affected projects, extending the originally planned implementation timeframe and advising Beneficiaries on alternative ways to organise project events, which were the most affected element of the projects in general.



Number of supported organisations per country



Number of projects and amount of EU contribution per components



Examples of achievements in Priorities 2, 3 and 4 include:

- Establishment/development of 354 km of thematic routes such as biking and hiking paths, greenways, pilgrim routes, gastro and wine trails, and equestrian tracks,
- Establishment/renovation of 44 tourist attractions,
- Increase of 225,524 visits per year to supported cultural and natural heritage sites and attractions,
- Participation of 141 institutions in joint capacity-building actions,

- Participation of more than 137,657 individuals in joint actions and events,
- Refurbishment of 6 educational premises in schools,
- Upgrade of 49 schools with technical equipment,
- Participation of 1,909 individuals in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities, and higher and vocational education across borders,
- Involvement of 178 marginalised individuals in training programs.



Sustainable water tourism along Mura and Drava River II

The goal of the project was to further improve and enrich the joint water-based tourism product and destination image along the Mura and Drava Rivers, which had been developed during the implementation of the previous "Two Rivers one Goal" project. Building on the results of the former project and based on existing natural and cultural resources of the target area, the project activities ensured a complex competitive and sustainable tourism offer that would further diversify the existing offer and raise the competitiveness of the HU-HR CBC area along the two rivers. Project activities improved the general touristic image of the region and increased the annual number of tourist visits. Creating a unique joint tourism product that can be offered throughout the whole year was crucial for reducing tourism seasonality. Keeping up with current trends, the project focused on creating a recognizable HU-HR tourism offer through different selective forms of tourism (water, cycling tourism etc.), with an authentic experience based on the rich heritage of the border region. All project activities were carried out in the NATURA 2000 protected area.

The project was implemented during a period of 24 months in the HU-HR CBC area along the Mura and Drava Rivers. Planned actions were carried out with a joint effort of five responsible project partners (and a supporting stakeholder), and focused on further development of a joint tourism product, also ensuring its joint management and promotion to increase its visibility as a cross-border water-based tourism destination.

Target groups directly benefiting from the actions were tourists, tourist boards, tourism-oriented organizations, and school children in the target area, while public, local, and regional authorities and tourism-related SMEs indirectly benefited from the project. Project partners developed a joint tourism development strategy focused on Mura and Drava to attract more tourists to the target area. For boat tours, two electric boats were purchased. For branding the cross-border region as an attractive tourism destination, a strong joint promotional campaign for the project was carried out which included various promotional materials and promotional events (conferences, exhibitions, gold-panning demonstrations). The overall project product represented a unique and attractive tourism content in the border region. Project partners refined the project idea and developed it in a way that had a strong cross-border impact. The main goal of the project was the expansion of a joint sustainable water-based tourism product along the Mura and Drava River as one interrelated and complementary tourism offer.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0028

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Goričan (HR)

B1: Municipality of Donji Vidovec (HR)

B2: Municipality of Legrad (HR)

B3: Municipality of Tótszerdahely (HU)

B4: Mura Region – European Grouping of Territorial of Cooperation Ltd. (Mura Region EGTC) (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 764 660,02

Implementation period: September 2020 - August 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainable water tourism along Mura and Drava River II



Hidden landscapes

Hidden landscapes – new wildlife and culture destinations in HUHR cross-border area

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0061

Partnership:

LB: Association for Nature and Environment Protection Green Osijek (HR)

B1: Danube-Drava National Park Directorate (HU)

B2: Croatian Forests Llc. (HR)

B3: Municipality of Bilje (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 454 478.99

Implementation period: January 2021 - May 2023

The project aimed to improve and diversify the HU-HR cross-border tourism offer by developing new joint sustainable ecotourism programs in pristine, protected natural and cultural heritage areas. The project area encompassed Osijek-Baranja County (HR) and Baranya County (HU), with four protected areas included: Kopački Rit Nature Park, Bilje steppe Monument of nature, and Zlatna Greda settlement in Croatia, and Western-Mecsek Hills Landscape Protection area in Hungary. The project envisioned attracting more and more tourists to new tourist sites and programs, with two localities receiving renewable energy supply. Several new and innovative tourist sites and attractions were developed, such as the Land art waterway, a floating visitor centre on the Drava River, developments in Pinter Garden, a sculpture illumination, a Wilderness route, and an open-air herbarium, totalling 31.12 hectares of rehabilitated land.

The project aimed to address the lack of highly interested attractions unique to the cross-border region, intending to create a "wow" effect and establish the HU-HR cross-border region as a "must-see" destination in EU and global tourism guides. New innovative green tourism facilities, infrastructure, and events/festivals were created within the area of Drava and Danube. Three visitor centres were reconstructed and one cultural heritage site was established. A Wilderness route was created in the northern part of Kopački rit. Forest and sculpture illumination was created as a new attractive tool for events and festivals. Jointly organized activities like festivals, joint promotion, and study tours were to raise project visibility and ensure sustainability of project results.

A newly created visitor management plan for the wilderness route aimed to ensure that visits to ecologically sensitive sites. The project also aimed to create systematic long-term cooperation among partners in green tourism implementation and protection of natural and cultural heritage. The target groups included tourist boards, agencies (national and international), and pupils, providers of tourist services, media, cultural organizations, nature management authorities, business sector, and tourists. The project aligned with the Programme objectives by developing new innovative tourism products and enhancing cross-border tourism destinations in an environmentally sound way. Project products are featured on international cycling routes such as Eurovelo Danube 6, 13, and the Pannonian peace-cycling route, as well as Danube cruising programs, aiming to attract new and longer stays of visitors/passengers traveling through the region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A floating visitor centre was created in Osijek beyond the environmental education purpose about the river's natural assets it offers water-related tourism services;
- A visitor house and an education centre was renovated in Pintér Garden, Pécs;
- Reconstruction of Zlatna Greda settlement and hunting house function as a visitor centre was delivered;
- The Bilje steppe was revitalized.



AT@AT.CB

Active Tourism meets Advanced Technology in Cross-Border Area

The project area's heritage potential was underused because the tourism sector lacked IT integration and personalized visitor experiences. A new tourism attraction was needed that combined active tourism, IT, and gamification, letting visitors customize their experiences. The project aimed to establish visitor centres equipped with advanced technologies to facilitate direct communication and interaction, overcoming spatial and temporal barriers. Additionally, it sought to enhance stakeholder knowledge and create a recognizable brand, thereby redirecting visitors from popular attractions to rural areas.

The project's objectives included integrating the heritage of the cross-border area through a joint tourism attraction, developing new tourism concepts with significant ICT integration, and increasing awareness among target groups of the economic, social, and tourism value of heritage. These efforts aimed to protect heritage through tourism development, emphasizing traditional values, modern technologies, active tourism principles, and advanced visitor management trends. The project involved various target groups such as heritage site owners/managers, tourism service providers, and visitors.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0074

Partnership:

LB: Varaždin County (HR)

B1: Municipality of Csurgó (HU)

B2: University of Pannonia (HU)

B3: Varaždin County Tourism Board (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 1 463 107,30

Implementation period: January 2021 - May 2023

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Modernized tourism offerings using augmented reality and gamification, establish interconnected visitor centres, and lay the foundation for future projects;
- Created a unified brand connecting heritage with the market, leading to improved social and economic development;
- Enhanced stakeholder knowledge and created a recognizable brand to redirect visitors from well-known attractions to rural areas.

The new tourism attraction catered to individual interests, and the visitor centres enhanced heritage exploration while eliminating spatial and



The project focused on developing a tourism attraction using augmented reality and gamification, along with establishing interconnected visitor centres. This modernizes the tourism offer in the cross-border area and lay the foundation for future projects.

temporal barriers. Tourism service providers and heritage managers gained knowledge in valorisation using advanced technologies. Ultimately, the project aimed to create a unified brand connecting heritage with the market, leading to improved social and economic development.

reVITALize

Wine folklore as the historical identity of Podravina and Pomurje

The project aimed to revitalize and reconstruct innovative medieval archaeological and ethnographic heritage, focusing on exhibitions that would recover and revitalize authentic historical viticulture heritage. Activities were implemented by Beneficiaries in Koprivnica (HR) and Tótszentmárton (HU), with implications for both the Podravina and Muramente regions.

LB was responsible for refurbishing the Museum in Koprivnica as a cultural heritage building, implementing a Cultural-touristic Plan, and creating Guidelines for joint promotion and new touristic attractions. B1 focused on activities such as wine presentations, festivals, and exhibitions, as well as creating a sacral-wine thematic route. B2 constructed the eco-house in Tótszentmárton and organized additional events like St. Martin grape harvesting and Wine open days.

The target groups of the project included wine-producing experts, family viticulture farms, tourism service providers, cultural experts in wine growing, and various other stakeholders. The project aimed to partially refurbish one cultural heritage building and construct one eco-house of traditional viticulture heritage. Croatian and Hungarian exhibitions with workshops were implemented, along with a sacral-wine thematic route and a Cultural and Touristic Study. Additionally, three Guidelines for joint promotion and new touristic attractions were created to contribute to the branding of cultural heritage.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0096

Partnership:

LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Museum of City of Koprivnica (HR)

B2: Mura és Vidéke Employment Social and Public Cultural Nonprofit Llc. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 908 803,13

Implementation period: October 2020 - September 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The project preserved cultural heritage by developing attractive, sustainable, and accessible touristic products and services;
- Development of Viticulture Centers: Koprivnica reconstructed part of an existing museum, while Tótszentmárton built a new center for viticulture. Both locations were equipped with specialized exhibition equipment as outlined in strategic documents;
- Various joint activities were carried out to promote the project, including events in Hungary and Croatia, such as "Martinje grape harvesting," "Wine open days," and a sacral-wine thematic route.

Special emphasis was placed on promoting all activities and including disabled groups, minorities such as the Roma minority, and women. The project served as a good practice example of wine-growing experience and cultural heritage preservation, ultimately affecting the number of visitors in Podravina Muramente and benefiting the entire CBC region.

The project enriched tourism and cultural scenes, reduced the Museum's energy consumption, and set a precedent for wine-growing and heritage preservation. enhancing winemaking culture, boosting wine product value, and upgrading viticulture expertise, particularly for family farms.



CSA

CycleSeeing Attractour

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0107

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Štrigova (HR)

B1: Štrigova Tourism Board (HR)

B2: Municipality of Nagykanizsa (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 1 388 958,33

Implementation period: September 2020 - August 2022

The CycleSeeing Attractour (CSA) project aimed to enhance the image of cross-border tourism destinations in Međimurje and Nagykanizsa-Zalakaros by developing two distinct tourism attractions: a Bike Info Centre (BIC) with a lookout tower in Štrigova (HR) and an Eco Visitor Centre (EVC) with a bike pump track in Nagykanizsa (HU). The project focused on cycling tourism, improving EuroVelo 13 (EV13) connections within the cross-border area, and developing environmentally appealing active tourism destinations. It built on the CIN 2 (Cycle in a Network) and ATTRACTOUR projects, which laid the foundations for a joint cycling cross-border area and tourism package development.

The project addressed challenges identified in the Handbook TP, such as insufficient market-ready attractions and the lack of joint promotional and sales efforts. The project lasted 20 months, impacting the Nagykanizsa-Zalakaros subzone in Hungary and Međimurje County in Croatia, with micro-regional impacts in the municipalities of Nagykanizsa and Štrigova.

The project involved various target groups such as tourists, particularly cycle tourists and day-trip tourists; elementary school children; tourism professionals; people with disabilities (visually impaired) and local bike association members and local inhabitants.

The project attracted new tourists to the area, extended day trips to multiple-day stays due to the combined cross-border tourism offer, and achieved economic effects such as increased income and new jobs in tourism and related services. Additionally, it contributed to reducing out-migration from the project area and enhanced the environmental appeal of the cross-border area, making it a greener and more active tourism destination.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Diversified tourism offer with new sustainable and environmentally responsible attractions (BIC with a lookout tower and EVC with a bike pump track);
- Improved image of cross-border destinations through joint tourism packages, promotion in the Austrian market, and promotional materials;
- Enhanced quality of cross-border linkages with signposting of new attractions and EV13 links;
- Boosted eco-appeal of cross-border tourism destinations through eco-labelling schemes (ETIS) and a mobile app for measuring environmental footprints;
- Increased awareness of the role of tourism attractions in enhancing the attractiveness of the cross-border area and the importance of nurturing natural and cultural values through cycle seeing tours, workshops, and bike events for target groups.



EAGLE

Enhancing the Adventure Generating Local Environment Pitomača-Pécs

The development of tourist attractions in economically slower areas is regarded as an opportunity to stimulate growth. This was recognized by the partnership in Virovitica-Podravina County, Croatia, and Baranya County, Hungary, which collaborated to increase sustainable tourism in the Bilogora (HR) and Mecsek (HU) mountains through the EAGLE project. The project aimed to create new tourist attractions, build cross-border relationships, and disseminate knowledge from the forest school to a wider audience.

The diverse natural and cultural heritage of the Hungary-Croatia cross-border area, particularly the Bilogora and Mecsek highlands and the Drava river basin, had not been utilized to their full economic potential for tourism in the Municipality of Pitomača (HR) and the Town of Pécs (HU), both located in Zone B of the Interreg area.

The project aimed to boost the touristic attractiveness of the Bilogora and Mecsek areas by developing their natural and cultural assets. Objectives included developing two interconnected visitor centres with a robust Hungarian-Croatian stakeholder network and sustainably promoting these attractions. The ultimate goal was to stimulate economic growth through enhanced tourism in the two municipalities.

A three-member collaboration was established, including Pitomača Municipality, the Pitomača Tourist Association, and Mecsekerdő Zrt. The project area included the Mura-Dráva Regional Park, Križnica (HR) village, and Bilogora in Croatia, known for its biodiversity and cultural treasures. The Pitomača Tourist Association, founded in 1994, played a key role in tourism promotion and event organization. Mecsekerdő Zrt., with extensive experience in green tourism, contributed by developing trails, rest areas, and educational sites.

The partners effectively collaborated and established the Klopotec Tourist Information Center in Sedlarica (HR), which features exhibits on Bilogora's wildlife and cultural history, and offers activities like hiking, cycling, horse riding, fishing, and hunting. The Mecsek Discovery Center (MDC) on the Hungarian side showcased the region's wildlife, geology, and history using modern technology, including VR and interactive displays.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0109

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Pitomača

B1: Mecsekerdő Plc.

B2: Pitomača Tourist Board

EU contribution: EUR 1 575 306,78

Implementation period: November 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The construction of the two visitor centres the TIC Klopotec and the Mecsek Discovery Center with the MecseXplorer exhibition was developed;
- A mobile application for the presentation of bird species, named "Mecsek Discovery Center," was developed and made available in the Play Store and the Apple Store;
- The marketing plan for the Touristic-Information Center "Klopotec" was finalized, and the project was promoted at the 5th International Rural Tourism Congress from in Cavtat, Croatia;
- The study on the sustainable development of the protected area of the Touristic-Information Center "Klopotec" was completed.



Aqua Adventures

Connecting and upgrading of water-based tourism offer on lakes by jointly developing new and innovative cross-border tourism product and enhancing the cross-border tourism destinations

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0111
Partnership:
LB: Town Prelog (HR)
B1: Municipality of Kistolmács (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 1 341 925,23
Implementation period: November 2020 - February 2023

The project aimed to enhance the touristic appeal and competitiveness of the border region between Croatia and Hungary by implementing interventions focused on joint tourism and environmental sustainability. Developments on both sides of the border were designed to complement each other, uniting the neighbouring countries' cooperation area into a cohesive tourist destination. This involved enhancing the protection of natural areas surrounding the two lakes at Prelog (HR) and at Kistolmács (HU). The project presented an opportunity to showcase the region's natural beauty as a unified destination, with joint programs and a strengthened focus on ecotourism.

Recreational and entertainment facilities were established in the lake areas, along with innovative water-based visitor services. Equipment for water activities was procured to support program offerings on both sides. Information boards were installed near major routes to increase visibility of the destinations. Measures were taken to ensure accessibility for disabled individuals. Research was conducted to identify special requirements for eco-programs, leading to the development of a joint Touristic Network database.

The ETIS Quality System was adopted to certify network members, and comprehensive communication campaigns were launched to promote the new joint tourism product. In Croatia, interventions included the establishment of Garden Grills with sanitary facilities, a Bird Watch Point, bicycle racks, and the purchase of boats and safety equipment. Information boards were placed near EuroVelo routes. In Hungary, a recreational building was constructed to serve as a service premise for storage and leisure activities. Mobile equipment was purchased, surroundings were equipped with educational tools, and the ETIS Quality System was implemented. Research was conducted on eco-programs and database for the Joint Touristic Network was developed. Additionally, jointly organized programs included workshops for stakeholders and tourism experts, study tours to observe best practices, public events such as Days on Drava Fish&Dish and Hunting Swan Feathers Event, as well as educational initiatives like the Summer Rowing School and School in Nature.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two lake areas equipped with proper recreational and entertainment facilities, including innovative water-based visitor services;
- Disabled-friendly actions implemented to ensure inclusivity;
- Research on eco-program end-user requirements and the development of a joint touristic network database, adoption of the ETIS Quality System to certify network members;
- Comprehensive communication campaigns promoting the new joint touristic product.



VICINaD

Virtual re-connection of industrial nodes along the Drava between Hungary and Croatia

Smaller agglomerations along the Drava River generally lag behind in terms of economic and touristic activity. Given that the banks of the Drava River are among the best-preserved river sites in Central Europe, the region holds significant potential for enhancing tourism. Barcs (HU) and Belišće (HR) leverage their rich industrial heritage and natural environmental advantages to create a competitive edge in tourism, seamlessly blending historical legacy with modern appeal.

The VICINaD project aimed to enhance the touristic value of the region by creating innovative attractions through the restoration of former industrial sites, virtually connecting the two towns, and developing social awareness of the local industrial heritage. The project fostered a link between the two border towns and established renovated tourism attractions that served as informational stations, encouraging tourists to visit sites on both sides of the border. This initiative aimed to boost visitor turnover and cross-border movement.

The new tourism facilities were reinforced by a multidimensional tourist engagement framework that catered to different age groups and interests, including cycling, horse riding, nature, and culture. These facilities were equipped with modern, creative, interactive exhibition elements, offering special services to tourists and showcasing the cultural and natural values of the towns in an engaging manner.

In Hungary, an old salt warehouse was transformed into a local tourist mobilization centre, while in Croatia, an old industrial train carriage was repurposed for a similar role. Both establishments, initially in poor condition, underwent major renovations. Post-refurbishment, interactive educational installations were developed at each site, connecting the towns online and providing educational content. Additionally, the Port Authority Osijek (HR) worked on draft planning documents for developing ports and passenger terminals on the Drava River, further enhancing the reconnection of former industrial nodes between Hungary and Croatia.

The project's goal was to promote regional tourism attractions based on industrial heritage, complementing the existing infrastructure such as bicycle routes, thematic routes, and educational paths of preserved nature, thereby boosting local tourism.

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0120
Partnership:
LB: Town of Barcs (HU)
B1: Town of Belišće (HR)
B2: Port Authority Osijek (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 1 358 164,00
Implementation period: September 2020 - March 2023

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Restoration of a former salt warehouse into a Tourism Mobility Centre in Barcs;
- Restoration of a former railway carriage as an exhibition object in the centre of Belišće;
- Developing interactive exhibition content on the history of industry and transportation on the Drava River;
- Preparing for the development of ports and passenger terminals on the Drava River at Croatian side.



ENERGY TOUR

Traditional energy industry based joint tourism development on the Hungarian and Croatian side of the tri-border area

The project focused on the combined and harmonized development of historical energy industry-related tourist attractions in the area. Situated near two triple boundaries, close to Austria, Croatia, and bordered by Slovenia, the region allowed visitors to explore key attractions in four countries during a long weekend, making it highly appealing from a tourist perspective. The central theme of the project was the energy industry tradition, which played a significant role in the past and held potential for future tourism development.

In both Hungary and Croatia, energy industry activities were integral to daily life. Interactive exhibition facilities were planned to showcase this unique aspect of the region's history to the public. Cold War-era bunkers, part of the Hungarian Maginot line, formed a network in various settlements. Notably, bunkers in Páka (HU) and Lovászi (HU) had historical significance, with the latter protecting a major oil company. Other key sites included the Memorial Miner House in Mursko Središće (HR) and the Memorial Oil Park in Peklenica (HR), highlighting the area's mining and oil exploitation history.



PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.2/0147

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Lovászi (HU)

B1: Municipality of Lenti (HU)

B2: Municipality of Gosztola (HU)

B3: Municipality of Mursko Središće (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 665 977,22

Implementation period: September 2020 - April 2023

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved tourist attractions highlighting industrial and cultural heritage related to oil extraction, aimed at diversifying the region's tourism portfolio;
- 1800 visitors attracted to the developed cultural heritage sites in Hungary and Croatia;
- Enhanced tourism products in the border area, increasing tourist influx and stimulating local businesses and services.

Efforts were made to modernize these attractions, such as equipping the Memorial Miner House with modern exhibition elements and establishing an energy park in Lentiszombathely (HU) to showcase sustainable energy usage. A thematic study trail, the ENERGY TOUR connects the tri-border area, featuring all described tourism attractions. Gosztola Municipality (HU) actively promoted the trail to attract more tourists.

The project aimed to have a significant impact on tourism and cultural heritage preservation in the cross-border area. By linking local communities, service providers, and the population, it sought to offer new tourism products, stimulate tourist influx, and foster the growth of local businesses.

The outputs included the establishment of four cultural tourist sites, signposting of the ENERGY TOUR trail, organization of thematic events for children and students, a study tour for press and media, as well as promotional materials like leaflets, brochures, and videos. The project enhanced tourist attractions diversifying the region's tourism portfolio and attracting 1800 visitors to the cultural heritage sites in Hungary and Croatia. Through these efforts, it sought to contribute to the sustainable development of the cross-border area.

HITRoute

Cross-border Historical Theme Route of Noble families

The main problems encountered by the City of Virovitica (HR) and Szentlőrinc (HU) in developing the tourist offer included a lack of investment in tourist infrastructure and insufficient tourist promotion of the cultural heritage in the cross-border area. This led to the development of the project proposal. The HITRoute project developed cultural tourism in a cross-border region through the revaluation of the existing cultural, architectural, and natural heritage. This involved the reconstruction of the Historic garden and the square in front of the church of St. Rok in Virovitica and Eszterházy Park in Szentlőrinc.

The City of Virovitica was the Lead Beneficiary, with project partners including the City of Szentlőrinc from Hungary and the Tourist Board of Virovitica. The main objective of the project was to develop tourism in the cross-border area by creating a unique and recognizable tourist route, and to convert the region's natural and cultural heritage assets into tourism attractions with income-generating capabilities. By merging the rich historical and cultural heritage of two different countries in the cross-border area, a new unique touristic route was created, recognizable in the HU-HR landscape of the border region. The target group of the project was tourists interested in acquiring valuable knowledge and information on the rich historical and cultural heritage of the cross-border region by visiting the tourist route.

The renewed square and park served as representative starting and endpoints of the route, with each point on the route marked and presenting specific interesting facts. Over a period of 20 months, collaboration resulted in the creation of a unique tourist route in the cross-border area, where all unique sights were marked with descriptions and important facts. Nine project activities were carried out, including the reconstruction of the Historical Garden and Square in Virovitica and Eszterházy Park in Szentlőrinc, creation of the tourist route, publication on Noble families in the HU-HR cross-border area, and training of 10 persons to become licensed tourist guides with additional education on the newly established touristic route. At the end of the project, a historic festival was organized in Virovitica and Szentlőrinc on the theme of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to present the tourist route and common history in the cross-border region.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0051

Partnership:

LB: The City of Virovitica (HR)

B1: Local Government of Szentlőrinc (HU)

B2: Tourist Board of the City of Virovitica (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 374 705,02

Implementation period: October 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A unique and recognizable tourist route was created offering the cultural and architectural historical sights from Virovitica to Szentlőrinc;
- Two Historical Park, the starting and the end point of the tourist route were reconstructed, one in Virovitica, one in Szentlőrinc;
- A trilingual booklet was published about the influence of noble families in the cross-border throughout the common history of Hungary and Croatia;
- Trained and licenced 10 tourist guides about the cultural heritage of the small-region;
- A mobile application of tourist route was created;
- Historical festivals were held in the two cities.



Cross-border wine routes 2

From wine routes to joint HUHR tourism brand – creating the recognizable crossborder wine region image

The project "Cross-border wine routes 2" was a direct continuation of the results achieved within the project "From wine tradition to wine tourism - creating cross-border wine routes" (acronym: Cross-border wine routes) implemented by the Town of Križevci (HR) in 2013 and beginning of 2014. During that time, the Križevci-Kalnik-Orehovec (HR) wine route was established based on the Pécs-Mecsek wine route experience. This project received recognition as one of the five best EU cooperation projects presented at the conference "25 years of Interreg" held in 2015 in Luxembourg. Following the closure of the project, the intense cooperation between the Križevci-Kalnik-Orehovec and Pécs-Mecsek (HU) wine routes continued and expanded to the neighbouring Villány-Siklós (HU) wine route. The Villány Wine Region is renowned for its quality wines and expertise in wine route management and branding. Regular communication between members of these wine routes revealed the need for better promotion and attracting more multi-day visitors due to seasonality and event-related visits, as well as insufficient market positioning.

In planning joint actions, partners aimed to support the creation of a recognizable Hungary-Croatia cross-border region image as a "cross-border wine region" through further development, market positioning, and branding of the existing and networked wine routes Križevci-Kalnik-Orehovec and Villány-Siklós. The main objective was to increase attractiveness and tourism capacities to generate more visitors, prolong their stay, and increase spending. To achieve this objective, project partners planned four sets of interconnected activities: strategic planning and experience gathering, wine route infrastructure and equipment development, quality staff and diversification, and attracting visitors and extending the tourism season.

New wine events combined with traditional ones were created to offer unique wine tourism events packages, such as eco-tours through the wine route, ice-skating and mulled wine tasting evenings, wine competitions, and promotion events. The results of the project included improved tourism capacities, recognisability, and attractiveness of the Križevci, Kalnik, Orehovec, Villány, and Siklós areas, along with improved infrastructure and increased number of events organized within the wine routes, leading to direct benefits for members, visitors, tourists, and local inhabitants, including increased visitor numbers, prolonged stays, and increased spending.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0054

Partnership:

LB: Town of Križevci (HR)

B1: Tenkes Wine Region Development Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 339 805,83

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Križevci sort Klešćec logo, Villány sorts Cabernet Franc and REDy corporate identity were created for better recognition of local wine products;
- The renovation of wine events open-air stage and audience are in Križevci was carried out with wine tourism installation, and equipment purchase to attract more wine-lovers in the region;
- A wine exhibition in Siklós Castle was created;
- 20 brown signs and maps at Villány route were placed to inform the wine tourist;
- A joint wine routes quality-rating system, and a certification method of wine route were created;
- A design of special wine routes bottles was created;
- Several marketing events were organized such as Križevci ice skating and mulled wine event in wintertime to extend the tourism offer beyond the high season, or the Villány winter wine tour and pig sticking and smoked local food product tasting event;
- Two international wine competitions were organized.



RoutesToRoots

Rural routes of common heritage

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0062

Partnership:

LB: Local Government of Orfű (HU)

B1: Alliance of Hungarian Entrepreneurs in Croatia (HR)

B2: Touristic Destination Management Organization in Orfű (HU)

B3: Željezničar Croatian Culture Art Association (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 325 976,93

Implementation period: May 2020 - December 2021

The project aimed to preserve and showcase the historical rural heritage of the area to the public and enhance cross-border tourism connectivity. Beneficiaries pooled their knowledge and experiences to achieve these goals. Their main motivation was to boost the area's tourist potential by revitalizing existing attractions and uncovering new ones, linking them into a thematic route. This initiative also aimed to raise awareness of shared traditional heritage to foster local community cooperation.

The specific objective was to develop a unique thematic rural route through collaborative efforts, ensuring socio-economic benefits for both sides of the border. This involved leveraging natural, cultural, and rural heritage sites for sustainable utilization. The overall goal was to transform the region's rural heritage into an attractive tourist destination with income-generating potential. Activities included joint investments to enhance visitor packages, seminars, and events to promote environmental consciousness. Short-term plans included cross-border research, establishment of an Ethnological Museum, and renovation of infrastructure. Events targeting cultural and rural values were organized, attracting a total of 1 200 participants. Six research studies were conducted, resulting in two books about rural heritage. Additionally, 16 informational boards and a route map were installed along the route. A web platform and mobile application were developed, providing detailed information and interactive features for visitors.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Renovation and Infrastructure Development at three locations: Interactive Blacksmith Workshop after renovation of the interior and courtyard of an old granary (120 m²);
- Mobile Ethnological Museum in 100 m² rearranged into a mobile museum with traditional ethnological exhibits. Sculpture Park Expansion in Batina, specifically in the unique surduk area of narrow, steep streets;
- 44 various events organised targeting cultural and rural values attracting a total of 1 200 participants;
- A web platform with a route map, detailed descriptions of attractions, a Visitor's Diary, and an interactive mobile application created.



The project renovated an old garner into an interactive blacksmith workshop in Orfű (HU), established a mobile Ethnological Museum in Osijek (HR) and expanded the Sculpture Park on the surduk streets of Batian. The developed touristic sights and various events organised by the partnership attracted over 800 visitors annually. The new facilities and attractions offer alternatives for visitors, contributing to the branding of the thematic route and attracting tourists and locals alike. Overall, the project aimed to sustain its results for the long term through various means of promotion and engagement.

Handshake

Handshake of Traditions – Common Heritage Tourism Development of Márok and Novi Bezdán

The project aimed to develop tourism in the territory by connecting border settlements and fostering cooperation among them. Establishing a tourist product that showcased the attractiveness of major cities and highlighted the values, traditions, and historical pasts of multinational small villages was also a goal. A thematic route, dubbed the "Handshake of Traditions," was planned to encourage visitors to stay for several days. The project targeted tourists, local inhabitants, producers of local products, winemakers, farmers, young people, and tourism professionals.

Implemented by the municipalities of Márok in Hungary and Petlovac in Novi Bezdán, Croatia, the project aimed to create a common tourist route showcasing historical traditions and folk lifestyles. It focused on revitalizing traditions, values, and connecting new towns and programs. The project aimed to develop country houses in both towns, each featuring mobile exhibition halls for demonstrating former village life and hosting workshops. The furnishing and equipment of the exhibition halls based on the collection of legacy, digitalization of written, pictorial memories collected in the area.

The exhibition halls were designed to provide real experiences in activities such as baking, cooking, spinning, woodcutting, and forging. Program offerings included exploring, preserving, and revitalizing regional traditions, as well as organizing regular events related to folk traditions, such as in Márok: May Dance, Easter Celebration, Open Chamber and Market Festival; and in Novi Bezdán: Kubic

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0085

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Márok (HU)

B1: Municipality of Petlovac (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 345 948,29

Implementation period: May 2020 - April 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 250 m² of showroom space designed and equipped for the demonstration of former village life, for smaller programs, workshops, in the courtyard of the country houses;
- Larger-scale events, festivals organised in Marok (HU) and in Novi Bezdán (HR) based on the revival of folk traditions related to the thematic route;
- Product packages assigned in an innovative way with the opportunity of accommodation, dining and bike rental points along the new thematic route.

Bean-Gastronomy Program, Green Walnut Day, Crafts Festival. The project also focused on marketing activities, hospitality, and tourism competence development. The development of tourism was expected to have positive effects on the economy, enterprise income, entrepreneurial spirit, and population retention of the settlements, contributing to the villages' survival.



WINE TOUR ACROSS BORDERS

Wine tour across borders - unique wine tourism destination

The project aimed to strengthen the development of tourism through promoting a unique cross-border wine tourism destination that connected some of the most important wine regions in Hungary and continental Croatia - Siklós-Villány and the Croatian Danube and Slavonia region. The project activities aimed to integrate and upgrade the wine tourism offer on both sides of the border within one geographical region, Baranja/Baranya and its surroundings. This was achieved through establishing a network between wine producers, tourist and hospitality operators, capacity building for destination management, transfer of know-how, and joint promotion of cross-border wine tourism on local, regional, and international markets.

The project directly contributed to the establishment and promotion of a unique cross-border wine tourism destination representing the wealth of wine culture, cultural, multi-ethnic, and natural heritage of one geographical region shared by two countries. The project was implemented over 30 months in Osijek-Baranja County and Baranya County, particularly covering the wine-growing regions of Siklós-Villány (HU), the Croatian Danube, and partly Slavonia. Activities also took place in the cities of Osijek and Pécs, as well as partly outside of the Programme area for wine tourism promotion activities. The main target groups included wine producers, tourist operators, hospitality structure operators, tourist enterprises, catering and restaurant providers, local products producers, travel agents, and NGOs dealing with tourism and wine production and promotion. The Croatian Food and Agriculture Agency, as Project Lead Beneficiary, was in charge of overall project coordination, along with Tenkes Wine Region Development Nonprofit Ltd., responsible for implementing wine tourism management capacities and networking activities.

The Tourism board of OBC was responsible for joint wine tourism destination development and promotion activities. The project aimed to integrate the wine tourism offers present on both sides of the border and promote them as a unique cross-border wine tourism destination. The integration and promotion of offers

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0095

Partnership:

LB: Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (HR)

B1: Tenkes Wine Region Development Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)

B2: Tourist Board of Osijek-Baranja County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 339 973,74

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A database of wine makers and tourist services providers/promoters in cross-border area was created;
- Four joint wine-itineraries were created;
- A wine tourism cross-border cooperation network and two wine tourism destination management teams were set up;
- Two mobile wine tasting vehicles were purchased;
- Several wine and entertainment events in targeted wine regions were organized to promote the wine tourism offer in cross-border area.



on both sides of the border aimed to increase competitiveness and generate new business opportunities in rural areas, ultimately increasing tourist flow in the targeted cross-border area.

Via Saint Martin

Supporting the promotion and development of transnational pilgrimage routes linked to sustainable and cultural tourism



Ludbreg (HR) and Zalaszentmárton (HU) are small towns with similar tourism attractions. Both towns are centres of religious tourism with similar religious contents. Through the project, the close regions of Zalaszentmárton and Ludbreg were developed and converted into destinations for pilgrim tourism. In line with the Programme priority specific objective, the main aim was to develop and apply an innovative tourism product referring to the development of pilgrimage tourism routes, incorporating religious sites in the cross-border area to attract a greater number of visitors. With the establishment of the thematic route "Via Saint Martin", both the local population and visitors had improved access to religious sites in the cross-border area and to natural areas throughout the route. The partners equally participated in project implementation, coordinated all project activities, and assured sustainability of project results and outputs.

The overall objective of the project was to develop and apply an innovative tourism product referring to the development of pilgrimage

tourism routes, incorporating religious monuments in the cross-border area. Specific objectives were development of new services in the form of thematic tourism as a newly established tourist attraction; establishment of pilgrim thematic routes, which would bond Town Ludbreg and Zalaszentmárton into specific itineraries; improving acceptance conditions for tourists and visitors on the thematic route; supporting local economies and sustainable tourism. The target groups of the project were pilgrim tourists, local service providers and local NGOs. Joint actions for building capacities between local stakeholders about sustainable tourism in relation to pilgrim route were also carried out.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0138

Partnership:

LB: Town of Ludbreg (HR)

B1: Municipality of Zalaszentmárton (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 299 310,54

Implementation period: July 2020 - July 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A joint program offer for pilgrim tourism was developed;
- Several cultural events were organized;
- Thematic routes were established;
- A pilgrim camp was organized;
- Several resting places were created;
- An information centre was established in Zalaszentmárton;
- A biblical garden was created.

Drava events II

Events of the both side of the Drava River

Traditions are considered the foundation and framework upon which a culture is built. A culture with no traditions is deemed to be no culture at all. In order for future generations of Sopje (HR) and Drávasztára (HU) to preserve the tradition, customs, and culture of the region, it was believed necessary to cultivate tradition. This project served the exchange of cultural traditions and increased the common history and identification of people in Hungary and Croatia.

With the aim of preserving tradition and enhancing the border area, cultural manifestations were organized on both sides of the Drava River. This project was seen as the continuation of the former "Drava events" IPA project. Following long-term cooperation, cross-border partners had decided to raise the aforementioned events to a higher level, organizing events throughout the year, and upgrading the already existing thematic route (Orahovica-Slatina-Sopje-Drávasztára-Pécs).

The overall objective of the project were the preservation and promotion of cultural and traditional heritage through the organization of events throughout the year, upgrading the already existing tourist route, developing the image of attractive, authentic, and unique cultural destinations on both sides of the Drava River, and generating a more intense appearance of visitors in the region and contributing to the development of tourism attractions with income-generating capabilities. The target groups directly benefiting from this project were NGOs participating in organized events on both sides (such as local associations, cultural art societies, fishing societies, choirs, and cultural art societies). Implementation of the project enhanced cooperation and contacts between people from Croatia and Hungary.

It encouraged creativity and provided a driving force for cultural development relating to the importance of cultural heritage, traditions of the area, and tourism, and brought benefits from new developments and investments. The project supported the improvement of the quality of tourism offers, development of regional sustainable tourism products, promoted cultural exchange, and exchange in the arts reinforced through cooperation, thus making a significant contribution to the development of Sopje and Drávasztára as attractive tourist destinations.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0148

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Sopje (HR)

B1: Local Government of Drávasztára (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 288 432,72

Implementation period: August 2020 - July 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Joint spring cross-border events were organized: "Drava spring", "Bošporijada", Festival "Majban" of Drava River;
- Joint summer cross-border event were organized: "Ivanje", "Fishing days on Drava river", and a cross-border football tournament;
- Joint autumn cross-border events were organized: manifestation "Mioljska potkova", manifestation "Zagorje autumn", and an equestrian cup;
- A joint winter cross-border event was organized: traditional advents customs in Sopje;
- A stage for manifestations was constructed;
- A culture home in Drávasztára for the purpose of holding all manifestations was reconstructed.



VUCEDOL

Vučedol Culture – Touristic valorisation of common prehistoric heritage

The primary objective of the project was to enhance tourism in the territory of the former prehistoric Vučedol culture, spanning both Hungary and Croatia. The project was conceived due to the disparity in the recognition of the Vučedol culture between Croatia, where it was well-known, and Hungary, where its potential remained largely untapped. Despite the emergence of several cultural and touristic events in the border area with some cross-border aspects, there had been still significant potential to create new tourist attractions for both countries. The strategic development of sustainable tourism in the region hinged on capitalizing on the cultural and touristic potential of the shared prehistoric cultural heritage.

The unique and valuable heritage of the Vučedol culture was inspired by successful examples worldwide and guided by proficient experts in archaeology, interpretation, and tourism. The aim was to transform the hidden, little-known historic heritage into valuable touristic assets. By making the Vučedol culture more accessible to a broader audience, including locals and tourists, the project aimed to forge new connections between Hungary and Croatia. Ultimately, the project sought to create a new tourism product that not only provided information on various programs and events in the Hungary-Croatia border region but also generated income opportunities.

The project entailed the development of various elements, including the collaborative creation of common interpretive narratives of the Vučedol culture by archaeologists and artists from Croatia and Hungary. Multilingual websites, digital maps,

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.1.3/0153

Partnership:

LB: Ördögkatlan Festival Association (HU)

B1: PLANTaža Association (HR)

B2: DDTG Danube Development Transnational Group Nonprofit LLC (HU)

B3: Vučedol Culture Museum (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 198 384,73

Implementation period: February 2020 - January 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two interpretations of the prehistoric Vučedol culture emerging in Croatia were crafted, connecting life in the ancient civilization's urban environment to contemporary life;
- The brand of the Vučedol culture created as the unique cultural identity of the cross-border region;
- Presentations and workshops conducted about Vučedol for local communities at small- and large-scale events on both sides of the border to strengthen the sense of shared heritage.

and tourist information has been developed to enhance cross-border tourism capacities. Workshops and educational events were organised to educate young people about prehistoric life and raise awareness about natural and cultural values. Networking among tourism service providers, cultural institutions, and relevant government and public bodies has been facilitated to promote the cultural heritage within the framework of sustainable tourism.



Eco Bridge

Restauration of ecological diversity in the border area of Međimurje and Zala County

The idea of the project was based on the fact that Hungary and Croatia share natural resources along their borders, connected by the Mura and Drava Rivers. The project focused on questions concerning the stability of local ecosystems and landscapes, habitats for native species, specifically birds, and damage by invasive species. Since these habitats are located along the Hungary-Croatia border in the Mura-Drava Valley, it required a joint effort by Letenye (HU) and Čakovec (HR) to assess and protect these areas. The project also researched how to provide better living conditions for these animals in urban environments.

The strategy aimed to help restore ecological diversity in the border area by assessing the current situation through a comprehensive study with support from natural parks and bird experts from both sides. Based on the combined results, an action plan was developed to form special bird protection areas and contribute to conservation efforts in national parks and cities. The project's overall objective was to improve the ecological status of natural habitats in the bordering region of Međimurje and Zala County.

Specific objectives included researching and setting up a monitoring system to increase habitats with conservation status, improving biodiversity, enhancing the quality of natural habitats at pilot locations in Čakovec (HR) and Letenye (HU), raising awareness about nature protection, and promoting responsible management of natural sites. The designated project areas were the Valley of the Mura-Drava Rivers and the surroundings of Čakovec and Letenye.

The project comprised five groups of activities: project administration and management, information and publicity, biodiversity impact research in the Međimurje and Zala border area, pilot projects for parks revitalization in the border area, and raising ecological awareness in the Međimurje and Zala County border area. The results of the project included developing an action plan for conserving bird habitats, improving biodiversity and natural habitats through small-scale investments at pilot locations in Čakovec and Letenye, and fostering a positive attitude and increased awareness of nature protection and biodiversity importance.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/2.2.1/0117

Partnership:

LB: Town of Čakovec (HR)

B1: Međimurje County (HR)

B2: Međimurje Nature - Public Institution for Nature Protection (HR)

B3: Municipality of Letenye (HU)

B4: Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 1 166 673,53

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Strategic documents (a joint survey, a joint analysis, a joint action plan, a joint bird location study, and a book about urban eco-system) were delivered to preserve bird habitats in the border area;
- A monitoring network was set up to observe and measure the selected elements of conservation;
- Pilot actions were implemented such as measuring soil and water quality, installing birdhouses, hotels for insects, cleaning the river coast, larvae placement etc. reaching ten habitats;
- The biodiversity was enhanced by revitalizing three city parks in Čakovec and Letenye;
- Bird recognition educational activities and events were delivered.



Riverside

Development and Protection of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/2.2.1/0122
Partnership:
LB: Public Institution for Management of Protected Parts of Nature and Ecological Network of Virovitica-Podravina County (HR)
B1: Danube-Drava National Park Directorate (HU)
B2: Public Institution for Management of Protected Areas of Nature in Varaždin County (HR)
B3: Zala County Government (HU)
B4: Međimurje Nature - Public Institution for Nature Protection (HR)
B5: Public Institution for Management of Protected Natural Areas in the Koprivnica-Križevci County (HR)
B6: Public Institution Agency for Management of Protected Natural Values in Osijek-Baranja County (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 839 494,27
Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

In June 2012, UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere programme declared the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, covering the area of the Republic of Croatia and Hungary. Management institutions from both countries increased their cooperation by developing joint projects, successfully applying for financing from various programmes such as IPA CBC HU-HR programme, INTERREG Danube Transnational programme, LIFE+, and LIFE programme. These projects focused on habitat restoration, landscape rehabilitation, education, and eco-tourism development, including projects like Three Rivers-One Aim, Water and Life for Drava and Vuka, Lingua, Two Rivers and One Hill, Old Drava, and Drava Life.

Throughout the implementation of these projects, an excellent partnership was formed between Hungarian and Croatian beneficiaries. However, despite the targeted nature of these projects, the need for an overall, harmonized management became apparent. The Riverside project aimed to develop a Joint Nature Conservation Management Policy for the core and buffer zones of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube

(TBR MDD). This Policy aimed to describe the reserve, address main threats and challenges, suggest potential solutions and management practices, share best practices and case studies, and provide recommendations for further development.

The project also launched mutual studies targeting selected Natura 2000 species, with protection measures planned for some Natura 2000 habitats and species. The Policy’s message was intended for stakeholders, decision-makers, and the wider public to understand the value and importance of TBR MDD. Infrastructure improvements were also implemented to enhance management activities with visitors in the area, thereby facilitating better management of Natura 2000 habitats and species. Additionally, a Representative book of TBR MDD was to be published, showcasing the joint efforts of management institutions, with numerous public events organized for local inhabitants and stakeholders. The Policy was deemed important for stakeholders whose activities directly affected TBR MDD, with the results of joint studies utilized by nature conservation managers and authorities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A Joint Nature Conservation Policy has been developed in Hungarian;
- Several surveys were conducted on selected Natura 2000 species and habitat types such as Odonata, Trichoptera, Ephemeroptera, Coleoptera, rare and endangered macrophyte aquatic plants, amphibians, mammals, fish, mushrooms and a large number of bird species;
- A small scale conservation measure, a river bank cleaning of non-endemic vegetation was carried out;
- A wetland restoration action was carried out by dredging 8.000 m³ of silt;
- 10 hectares of grassland was developed by removing shrub;
- Biosphere Days were organized as awareness raising events for environmental and nature protection.



MonMur

Monitoring of surface and underground water in Međimurje and Zala county

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/2.2.1/0128
Partnership:
LB: Délzala Waterwork and Sewerage Plc. (HU)
B1: Međimurje Waters Ltd. (HR)
B2: University of Pannonia (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 385 992,65
Implementation period: August 2020 - September 2022

Europe has a significant opportunity in water research and management, given the idea and necessity of reusing global water resources, not just locally but globally. However, the Middle European region has not been prepared to export knowledge to other countries due to insufficient skills among local companies and experts in cooperating and sharing experiences on these crucial topics. It was crucial for national organizations to have appropriate orientation. Achieving good quality water bodies required cooperation among local governments, researchers, industrial specialists, and all citizens within their territories.

Thus, the project goal was to share knowledge, information, and best practices among these parties. The European Community acknowledges that providing drinking water supply to the growing population and service systems posed enormous economic, scientific, and technological challenges. Hence, the European Commission (EC) created the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) with the aim of achieving a 'good status' for all of Europe's surface waters and groundwater by 2015, which meant low levels of chemical pollution and a healthy ecosystem. With the "watch list," the EC identified 45 priority substances in the European Union Directive 213/39/EU. However, it is noted that additional compounds such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory substances and their metabolites might need inclusion, as they pose risks to human and environmental health with long-term exposure.

At the current stage, Europe is gathering information about the quality of surface and groundwater, particularly focusing on priority substances. Challenges remained the same in every affected country regarding achieving and maintaining good water status, as water knows no borders. Addressing these issues through cross-border cooperation could set a good example for further international collaborations. Despite being geographically divided by the Mura and Drava Rivers, both Croatia

and Hungary struggles with similar water-related problems. Therefore, monitoring the state of international border rivers together is deemed valuable. However, existing databases lacked sufficient information, especially about priority substances, and methods for determining the quality and quantity of these hazardous compounds has not been summarized.

Connecting specialists and forming professional groups for information exchange is deemed necessary, as numerous research groups, institutes, and companies in the border region of both countries were involved in water management and treatment separately, leading to inefficient dissemination of information. Expanding this network across the entire European region in the near future could contribute to achieving good water status in water bodies.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The main pollution sites along the Mura River have been identified that crosses the Croatian-Hungarian border at 30 km along the Mura river and its environments;
- Analytical equipment for insuring the long-term implementation of the newly determined methods has been purchased;
- A vehicle with coolable inner room for carrying high quantity of water samples in appropriate temperature was purchased;
- Project results have been disseminated way beyond the eligible are of the programme (shared with Austrian or Slovenian water management colleagues).



ForMURA

Upgrade and development of flood alarm and forecast model of Mura

The project aimed to address flood risks in the flood plain and foreshore of the river Mura, a 48 km long section of Hungarian and Croatian common interest. In 2011, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, and Hungary developed an international flood alarm and forecasting system for the entire catchment area of the Mura, with all countries participating in its operation and maintenance. Over 7.5 years, they continuously supplied real-time data and monitored and evaluated the system.

The project sought to renew and further develop this system specifically for the HR-HU section of the Mura by upgrading the existing 1D forecast model with the latest data and state-of-the-art technology. This included preparing different flood forecasts based on various meteorological forecasts, considering temporary changes in flood plain roughness, and providing water level data at four new points of the flood plain. The development was conducted within a state-of-the-art 1D modelling system and integrated into a new and modern forecast framework to simplify data processing, operation, and access. Close cooperation with Austria and Slovenia ensured harmonization with ongoing parallel developments and integration of model parts.

The overall objective was to establish efficient and real-time flood cooperation between Hungarian and Croatian flood protection bodies, facilitating flood risk assessment through joint cross-border cooperation. The project targeted flood protection organizations, hydrographic services, and residents in affected areas, aiming for more accurate flood forecasts and improved flood management cooperation. The results included a more accurate forecast of flood information, a bilingual website providing access to results, events and

workshops to disseminate project information, and joint forecast simulation practices. The project utilized data from recent



PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0001
Partnership:
LB: West -Transdanubian Water Management Directorate (HU)
B1: Croatian waters, Legal entity for Water Management (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 253 207,35
Implementation period: January 2021 - August 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- An operative and coordinated HU-HR flood management cooperation of a higher professional level was established;
- A more accurate flood forecast was achieved by developing the current model and applying the newly deployed water-level telemeters;
- The international 1D Mura model (operational since 2011) for the section of common interest of the Mura and the areas was updated;
- Four new radar online water-level registering devices were deployed;
- A joint virtual flood protection practice based on flood forecasts simulated with the renewed model was carried out.

geodetic surveys, the Mura High-Water Riverbed Management Plan, and previously completed 2D flood results.

CO-EMEP

Improvement of cooperation for better energy management and reduction of energy poverty in HU-HR cross-border area

Energy poverty was a widespread problem across Europe, with an estimated 50 to 125 million people unable to afford proper indoor heating and/or cooling comfort. However, only four European countries (France, Ireland, Slovakia, and the UK) had an official definition for it. Despite the identification of the problem, Croatia and Hungary lacked a clear definition of energy poverty. Moreover, local and regional governments in the HU-HR cross-border area had a legal obligation to develop energy efficiency or sustainable energy plans but often neglected the issue of energy poverty. This project strove to define energy poverty in the region as a condition where individuals or households could not adequately heat or provide other required energy services at an affordable cost. The European Energy Network emphasized the relevance of energy poverty at various governance and policy levels due to its social, economic, political, environmental, and health implications.

The project proposal aimed to extend cooperation among stakeholders and enhance the capacity and skills of local and regional public institutions in the HU-HR cross-border area. Targeting Međimurje County in Croatia and Zala County in Hungary, the project aimed to disseminate results beyond these regions. Target groups included decision-makers, social institutions, development and energy agencies, energy management experts, and affected household owners. Aligned with the Interreg V-A HU-HR Cooperation Programme, the project aimed to enhance institutional capacity and public administration efficiency.

The main was developing a definition of energy poverty in the cross-border area, followed by an analysis of existing regulations and strategic documents. Guidelines for regional and local planners on mitigating energy poverty, enhancing energy efficiency in affected households, and analysing funding possibilities and technical solutions would also be produced. An online energy management tool was created to assist users in mitigating energy poverty, and five households were selected for energy audits and efficiency plans. Targeted workshops and info days were organized to disseminate project outputs and results, aiming to connect relevant public institutions and address the neglected issue of energy poverty through improved planning and management.

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0019
Partnership:
LB: Međimurje Energy Agency Ltd. (HR)
B1: Zala County Government (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 147 432,61
Implementation period: July 2020 - February 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A definition of the energy poverty in the HU-HR cross-border area was delivered;
- An analysis of existing local, regional and national legal regulations as well as strategic documents on both side of the cross-border area was carried out;
- A guidelines for regional and local planners on including energy poverty mitigation in future plans and strategic documents was created;
- An online energy management tool was created for wide range of potential users;
- Energy audits and measurements of general building characteristics for five identified households on each side of the border were carried out area followed by detailed plans for enhancing energy efficiency.



Bright Social Minds

Exchanging experiences and knowledge about social work in segregates of Hungary and Croatia

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0023

Partnership:

LB: Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (HU)

B1: Croatian Red Cross Municipal Organization of Red Cross Darda (HR)

B2: Municipality of Darda (HR)

B3: Association for Rural Tourism Djola (HR)

B4: Indus-Valley Association (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 252 068,43

Implementation period: July 2020 - August 2022

The project's purpose was to improve the life situation of segregated population in the cross-border area and promote its social integration. One of the aims was to develop professional competences of the participating organizations and employees. Research, analysis, database building, exchange of experience and good examples, workshops, conferences, and the development and teaching of a common methodology for staff were carried out. The stakeholder environment was involved as a quality control.

The project connected authentic civilian actors in the social field on the two sides of the border. Municipality of Darda (HR) participated in the project due to having two segregations where urgent interventions were needed among the most Roma populations. On the Hungarian side, the area of István shaft, a former bot long time ago abandoned coalmine in the vicinity of the town of Pécs was similarly affected.

Direct target groups included the staff and their organizations involved in social work with the segregates. Indirect target groups included human public service providers, related civilian organizations, public utility providers, businesses, and other employers, and last but not least the people living in these segregates.

The outputs included the

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A common methodology for planning and implementing social integration processes was elaborated;
- A joint scientific article was published;
- A database and a problem map of segregated areas were created;
- A joint cross-border economic development and employment concept was developed.

participation of seven organizations; six coordinated processes (Survey, research; Exchange of experiences; Common methodology; Common economic development and employment concept; Common scientific article; Joint workshops); direct participation of 100 persons. Further results included a database, a problem map of segregated areas, mutual expansion of knowledge of partners, common methodology and scientific article, and a co-developed cross-border economic development and employment concept. A common methodology was a basic condition for quality assurance, strategic cooperation, and redistribution, which was also a further objective.

The partnership aimed to create the same professional platform through the mutual transfer of experience and knowledge. A comparable database, common methodology, a concept of economic development and employment, joint scientific work were developed. The joint results are also applicable and adoptable to third parties, and the methodology is applicable even on international level.



2RegionsZOOsustain

Fostering use of renewable energy sources and waste to energy concept through targeted actions and raising of environmental awareness

The circular economy is recognized as an irreversible global trend, but it still requires significant efforts to firmly establish itself at the local and regional levels in both Osijek-Baranja and Baranya Counties. Circularity is acknowledged for its potential to generate new business opportunities, foster innovative business models, and contribute significantly to nature protection through practices such as reuse, recycling, and the utilization of renewable energy sources (RES).

A crucial aspect of this transition is the active engagement of various stakeholders, including public authorities, economic and social entities, and civil society, to promote partnerships across sectors and value chains. Moreover, structured environmental education and the introduction of the circular economy concept to the general population is deemed essential to encourage innovation and the adoption of sustainable practices. Previous initiatives, like the 2Regions2Sustain project undertaken by Unikom, began to introduce the concept of circular economy to the citizens of Osijek and the County. Similarly, Pécs' ZOO, through Hungarian national OPs, implemented RES for heating and established the Mecsek Natural Science Adventure Center, actively participating in raising environmental awareness.

To further advance the circular economy concept, partners decided to expand the use of RES by purchasing an electronic vehicle at Pécs ZOO and converting the wood component of the bulk waste collected by Unikom (1 620 t annually) into potential heating material through the installation of a wood processing line. Recognizing the potential for greater impact, partners sought to introduce comprehensive environmental education and conduct a full-scale analysis of RES usage at Osijek's ZOO. BMÖ, with experience in developing cross-border educational programs, and EU Centar, with expertise in promoting RES usage in cross-border areas, joined the project proposal.

BMÖ coordinated the development of educational programs for preschool and school children in collaboration with Unikom, while EU Centar conducted RES studies at Osijek's ZOO and organize networking events on RES and circular economy topics. Additionally, partners organized children's events at both ZOOs and facilitate cross-border field trips for school children to introduce them to circular economy concepts and nature

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0024

Partnership:

LB: Unikom Ltd. (HR)

B1: Zoo & Aqua - Terrarium Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)

B2: Local Government of Baranya County (HU)

B3: NGO EU Centar (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 254 993,47

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A study elaborating potentials for use of RES in Osijek's ZOO, analysing the need of Osijek's ZOO for energy efficiency, primarily for heating was delivered;
- A wood processing machine for transforming bulk waste in to the energy material was purchased and installed in Osijek;
- An electric vehicle was purchased at Pécs' ZOO;
- Two comprehensive joint educational materials were developed, one for pre-school and one for primary school;
- The educational materials were introduced to all schools and kindergartens in the City of Osijek and Baranya County;
- A study was delivered used by Unikom to introduce a completely new sustainable energy concept in its ZOO management.

protection in easily understandable ways, while also promoting cross-border interaction. This collaborative effort also aimed to enhance institutional capacity for RES usage and environmental education, involving various social and institutional actors and providing a platform for exchanging experiences.



CABCOS3

Analysis of the long term efficiency of vaccinations against infectious diseases in the border regions of Croatia and Hungary

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0032

Partnership:

LB: University of Pécs (HU)

B1: Teaching Institute of Public Health for the Osijek-Baranja County (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 218 295,09

Implementation period: September 2020 - April 2022

The project had a long-term history in cross-border cooperation between applicants (previous projects: CABCOS, CABCOS2, Heathimpulse, Healthmanagement). The major aim in the joint project between the University of Pécs, Department of Immunology and Biotechnology, and the Department of Public Health Service Baranja County, Osijek, was to earn a clear and evidence-based status report of immunity protection of cross-border populations in both countries against vaccine-prevented communicable diseases (VPCDs).

A simple, fast, high-throughput, and cost-effective laboratory method for analysing the individual immunity status against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) has been developed and published (in high-ranking international scientific Journal) by the Hungarian partner. The classical VPCDs had been eradicated in both countries according to well-organized public health efforts, but unfortunately, once eradicated highly infectious diseases, including measles, has reappeared worldwide, including Europe recently. According to WHO/UN reports, measles cases multiplied by 300% globally in 2019. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases with a high risk for non-immunized or immune-compromised populations. In both Hungary and Croatia, no domestic cases have been reported during the last decades, but the number of imported measles cases increased continuously during the last years. To save this protected status of the Hungarian and Croatian populations, a strong and innovative cooperation was essential because the risk emerged with the uncontrolled increase of imported cases and with the anti-vaccine movements, which were able to destroy the so-called "flock immunity" (protection of unvaccinated or non-responder individuals by the vaccinated majority of the population).

There was no comprehensive data about the actual immunity status against measles and other infectious diseases in the population in either country; however, the migration boom was challenging because both countries were among the most heavily affected EU regions by current migration trends. The challenge was most stressful in the common border region of Croatia and Hungary because of the intensified traffic through the border. The problems of imported VPCDs were already validated according to recently published articles, and in some EU countries, fatalities had occurred. To prevent residents, it was of principal importance in both border regions to identify groups-at-risk and to define the protocol for re-vaccination. To implement this task, their laboratory method for assessing the protection status against MMR – after standardization and ISO accreditation – was applicable. The project was ideal to expand the geographic coverage of the survey over the borders and to develop a statistical algorithm to gain accurate knowledge of the immunologically protected status of population groups of different ages in the border region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The major outcome was a cost effective laboratory method on the individual immunity against VPCDs;
- The methodology is applicable for other cases, irrespective of the diseases or geographical locations.



SEPlam-CC

Raising capacity of cross-border public institutions in sustainable energy planning and management and climate change mitigation

The European Union leads the global fight against climate change, making it one of its top priorities. Local authorities have a key role in addressing the climate change challenge, as over half of greenhouse gas emissions are created in and by cities. They also play a crucial role in achieving the EU's energy and climate objectives and are leading actors in implementing local sustainable energy policies. After the adoption of the European Union's Climate and Energy Package in 2008, the European Commission launched the Covenant of Mayors to endorse and support the efforts of local authorities in implementing sustainable energy policies addressing climate mitigation by reducing fossil fuels consumption.

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (CoM) is an ambitious initiative for local climate and energy actions. Signatories committed to preparing and implementing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) addressing both climate mitigation and adaptation before 2030. The SECAP was the key document showing how Covenant signatories would reach their vision and targets. Joining the initiative brought several co-benefits, including creating a sustainable environment, improving the quality of life, and benefiting from European support, recognition, and best practices.

However, the development of strategic documents on the local and regional levels was not effectively performed. By then, 62 local authorities in Croatia and 29 in Hungary had developed Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs), but only two in Hungary and five in Croatia had developed SECAPs. Local authorities in cross-border areas lacked the capacity and willingness for sustainable development and climate change mitigation planning, leading to ineffective implementation of measures. Lack of citizen awareness regarding energy transition and climate change also negatively impacted decision-makers. Therefore, the general objective of the SEPlam-CC project was to raise the capacity of cross-border public institutions in sustainable energy planning and management and climate change mitigation and to exchange experiences, knowledge, and best practice examples between partner countries. Specific objectives included conducting a state-of-the-art analysis, developing a joint methodology on strategic planning and SECAP development, and raising capacity through cross-border workshops.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0048

Partnership:

LB: Međimurje Energy Agency Ltd. (HR)

B1: Zala County Foundation for Enterprise Promotion (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 149 664,04

Implementation period: July 2020 - February 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A database of refurbished public buildings in the regions of the HU-HR cross-border area financed by previously identified financial models has been created;
- An analysis of gathered strategic documents linked to energy and climate together with energy and climate planning and management modes was carried out;
- SECAP for two identified local authorities (one in Međimurje and one in Zala County) were developed;
- An analysis of best practice examples in energy refurbishment and RES usage, climate change mitigation with the overview of similarities and differences between two states was carried out.



Green AURA

Setting up cooperation of GREEN Communities with AUGmented Reality Assisted living labs

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0078

Partnership:

LB: University of Pécs (HU)

B1: Regional Energy Agency North (HR)

B2: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B3: Pécs Urban Development Company (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 229 614,28

Implementation period: January 2021 - December 2022

By 2050, the United Nations estimated that 66% of the world's population would live in cities, which will create unprecedented pressure on local governments (LGs) to optimize living standards. The Global Warming Study of IPCC (2018) and statistics from the International Energy Agency (2019) had shown that the current pace of reducing CO2 emissions to achieve 2030 goals and ensure a safe and healthy living environment is insufficient. Green AURA aimed to enhance administrative cooperation between cities, citizens, and institutions to accelerate progress through the adoption of the living labs (LL) concept.

A LL serves as a methodology or environment focusing on user-centred, open innovation ecosystems within a territorial context. It integrates innovation processes within a citizen-public-private partnership by involving quadruple helix stakeholders (public administration, companies, researchers, users). A LL encompasses four activities: co-creation by users and producers, exploration of emerging usages and behaviours, experimentation of live scenarios within communities, and evaluation of concepts and products based on socio-ergonomic and economic criteria. The project established an LL in Pécs (HU) at the University premises and improved the new living lab in Koprivnica. (HR) Partners developed different aspects of the labs to share capacities. Pécs concentrated on engaging citizens by raising awareness about decarbonisation and explaining technologies provided by the city. Citizens were encouraged to recognize their CO2 footprints and understand how using public transport, e-bikes, and e-chargers could contribute to climate protection.

They expressed their needs via the Green AURA website and LL events, where installation stands with augmented reality (AR) content showcased city and university investments. AR content,

developed by IT companies, was tailored to meet the requirements of municipalities, educational institutions, civil organizations, and clusters. User feedback helped prioritize green investments and align with the goals of becoming a Green University and Green Capital. Koprivnica's LL focused on better connecting the city with suppliers and researchers by providing basic infrastructure for testing and deploying products and services. Initially, the LL provided public lighting poles for installing various LED lighting products, allowing stakeholders to examine characteristics and provide feedback. The LL would be enhanced by adding installation stands with AR content across the city to visualize information about energy efficiency and climate protection solutions. Infographics and animations in the AR content explained the operation of technologies and their CO2 reduction effects in a user-friendly manner. Citizens in both countries accessed the content via mobile apps, facilitating comparisons and informing joint strategy recommendations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- One cutting-edge technology was introduced and two AR contents were developed for Pécs' and Koprivnica's LLs;
- A mobile installation stand was developed at Pécs to demonstrate and better understand CO2 footprint;
- More than 500 citizens experienced living lab environment with AR tools;
- 26 awareness raising events were organized on sustainable development and decarbonisation;
- Three joint international studies were elaborated on AR technology, and possible cross-border LL.



ADOBE

Accessible tourism destinations and services in border areas

Both Baranya and Osijek-Baranja Counties has set the development of tourism as cornerstones of economic development. The existing institutional co-operation of the two twin counties offers a good starting point to embark upon a joint development in improving accessibility in tourism. In ADOBE project two interconnected challenges were addressed: existing multifaceted barriers to accessibility in regional tourism services and attractions, which reduced the usability of services and facilities, and the need for diversifying and expanding the customer base of tourism services in the region by addressing new target groups. As for barriers to accessibility, both Croatia and Hungary had provided for improving basic accessibility to public spaces, which chiefly focused on providing physical access for persons with movement disabilities.

However, further efforts needed to be made to ensure accessibility from the perspective of different disability groups and from the perspective of groups with reduced capacities, who were not classified as disabled. Info-communication barriers also had to be addressed, which was an explicit service gap at the time. Lastly, accessibility is ensured if service providers are trained both at management and at operational staff level in creating and operating tourist services with a view to ensuring accessibility. The project targeted three target groups of different dimensions: tourists with reduced accessibility, tourism service providers (including as public transport services, public services), and institutional actors, namely the public actors responsible for the development of the region. The overall, long-term objective of the project was to offer a secure, full experience for the reduced capacity target group in the region and to contribute to the development of the region as an accessible tourism destination. The direct objective of the project was to create the institutional and human resource framework and capacities for converting the region into an accessible destination.

The specific objectives were developing the knowledge base and disseminating knowledge on accessibility tourism; establishing a local certification framework of accessibility tourism and a new trust mark; providing credible information for tourists with reduced capacities about the accessibility of tourism and related services; establishing an institutional cooperation in the form of an Accessible Baranya-Baranja Centre of Excellence.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.1/0102

Partnership:

LB: Osijek-Baranja County (HR)

B1: Local Government of Baranya County (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 165 750,00

Implementation period: May 2020 - August 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A methodological framework and a practical guide on creating and operating accessible tourism services was delivered;
- Over 100 persons were trained in the subject matter of creating and operating accessible tourism services;
- An accessible tourism service and site certification methodology was created;
- A trust mark was established certifying accessible tourism service providers;
- A database was established providing credible information for tourists with reduced capacities about the accessibility characteristics of tourism and related services;
- Accessible Baranja/Baranya mobile application was created.



CulturCo

Preservation of Intangible Cultural Traditions by Connecting People in the Cross-Border Area

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0017

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Donji Vidovec (HR)

B1: Croatian National Self-Government - Murakeresztúr (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 125 504,72

Implementation period: June 2020 - October 2021

The best way to preserve our cultural heritage is to share it with others. Cultural heritage and the natural history of a nation has a very high unique value. An identity that can be introduced to the world. There is a high risk that certain elements of intangible cultural heritage could disappear. Safeguarding these traditions is about transferring of knowledge, skills, and meaning to the young generations. Thus, the project involved transmitting and communicating intangible cultural heritage from generation to generation, the production of its concrete manifestations, such as

Indirect target groups were the local populations of neighbouring municipalities and cities. The project started with an opening conference in Donji Vidovec (HR). Three cultural events were organized: a gold washing event in Donji Vidovec, an international children's carnival in Murakeresztúr (HU), and "Kajkavska ruža" in Murakeresztúr.

Furthermore, two cultural and music education programs were organized: education of "Tamburica" in Murakeresztúr and a music and dance workshops in Donji Vidovec. Two events were organized related to nature: the importance of preserving plant "Kockavica" in Donji Vidovec and protected wild animals along the Mura and Drava event in Murakeresztúr. Two language courses were organized in the school period, one Hungarian language course in Donji Vidovec and one Croatian language course in Murakeresztúr. Four sport events, a football tournament and table tennis in Donji Vidovec and a football tournament and "Zrinski

and Mura" International race in Murakeresztúr were organized. The cooperation strengthened cross-border relations between partners, civil sphere, and local people. It was a good example for the region's civil and public institutions on how to build their capacity, network, and how to increase their visibility. The cross-border character of the proposed project appeared as a continuous link between two municipalities, the organization of cross-border events, and meetings connecting people and

facilitating to familiarize them with the other country's culture.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Several cultural events were organized in partner municipalities;
- Cultural and music educations were delivered;
- Language courses and sport events were organized;
- Workshops relate to connecting people in cross border area were organized successfully.



a dance performance, a folk song, a music instrument, or a craft. The project aimed to involve and attract people at the local and regional level through various activities and ensured the continuity and sustainability of the cooperation through a wide range of events. The main target group of the project was in general the local population living on both sides of the border. All age groups (children, teenagers, adults, seniors) were targeted to participate in the cultural, leisure events, and events related to nature protection aiming to attract as broad an audience as possible.

STTARS

The specific role of table tennis in HU-CRO cross border regional sport

The project's primary goal was to connect border regions and establish partnerships between them. The Regional Cup was organized four times per year at two different locations, featuring individual, group, and mixed pair matches. Prior to the event, all teams held separate preparation training sessions. The experience gained during these competitions significantly contributed to achieving results at both national and international levels.

The project effectively addressed the needs and expectations of different target groups, aiding in the development of a stronger sports community and fostering partnerships between Hungarian and Croatian professionals for future collaborations. The organized cup events provided opportunities for partners to introduce, learn, and understand the sports cultures of both nations, leading to the establishment of long-term partnerships. Participants in the Regional Cup and training events also had the chance to form strong friendships.

Teams exchanged their previous experiences, opinions, suggestions, and ideas. The partnership highlighted their commitment to future development by focusing on their rising generation of players. This emphasis on youth development indicated Pécs' expectation to follow suit in training and mentoring juvenile players, forming a new generation team of young athletes. The talents of the Pécs University Athletic Club (HU) and Vodovod Osijek (HR) participated in joint competitions, training sessions,

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0035

Partnership:

LB: Athletic Club University of Pécs (HU)

B1: Table Tennis Club Vodovod-Osijek (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 51 039,90

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2021

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Events organized within the scope of the project on Hungarian side: opening event, the 1st Regional Cup, and a press conference, attended by over 70 participants. The 2nd Regional Cup was held also with 70 participants in both amateur and professional categories;
- Vodovod Osijek organized the Regional Cup with 70 participants, a closing event and three training days in Osijek on Croatian side of the border.

and training camps to better prepare competitors from countries with different playing styles for the international level. This initiative was part of a cross-border agreement between the two clubs aimed at developing international regional table tennis. Additionally, the cooperation allowed athletes to play and train against players of equal or higher skill levels, providing significant competitive advantages.



CHOIR

Hungarian - Croatian choir workshop

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0040
Partnership:
LB: University of Pécs (HU)
B1: Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek (HR)
EU contribution: EUR 118 399,90
Implementation period: September 2020 - April 2022

The universal language of music bridges language barriers and brings people together. The project aimed to facilitate a joint art program between the Pécs University Choir (HU) and the Josip Strossmayer University Academy of Arts in Osijek (HR). The choirs collaborated to understand each other's choir cultures and created a joint concert performed twice in both countries. They learned works through workshops, including pieces by Zoltán Kodály, Croatian choral composers based on typical folk music, and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana.

The target group comprised university students from both institutions, who gained valuable experience for their studies by becoming acquainted with each other's musical culture. Members from both choirs represented Hungary and Croatia,

with most students studying music pedagogy and a minority participating in instrumental or choral performance training. The project emphasized gaining practice and experience in community music performance, allowing students to directly experience a different culture and the identity of a neighbouring nation, thus strengthening their own. The audience size for the four concerts was 7 000 people, who gained unique intercultural experiences. Indirectly, they also participated in the cross-border network developed within the project.

Nine events were organized during the project: a kick-off meeting, partner meetings, a Hungarian choir workshop, two concerts in Pécs and Villány (HU), a closing conference (Partner Meeting 3), a Croatian choir workshop, and two concerts in Osijek and Slavonski Brod (HR). The concerts promoted Hungarian-Croatian choir pieces, leveraging the professional backgrounds of the two coordinators and the talent of the choir members.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Choir workshops, concerts held were organized;
- Showcasing the talent of the choir members was targeted.



CHP

Culture, heritage and profession – Establishing the professional replenishment of heritage preservation through cultural events

The proposed project on Cultural Heritage and Profession aimed to enhance and examine the network of civil organizations dedicated to preserving Croatian folk music and dance. It brought together individuals from both sides of the Croatia-Hungary border, including members of Croatian civil organizations with long histories and enthusiasts of traditional music and dance from both nations.

In Phase 1, the target groups included visitors of four traditional Croatian folk music and dance events, ranging from entertainment seekers and Croatian music and dance enthusiasts to individuals who felt that participating in such events strengthened their Croatian identity. In Phase 2, the target groups were readers of research studies conducted by two university students under their teacher's supervision, professionals in event organization, members of Croatian-related civil organizations, university students, university teachers, attendees of professional and academic conferences where the research findings were presented, and anyone interested in the activities of the College of Advanced Studies on Social Inclusion.

The leading partner, College of Advanced Studies on Social Inclusion, was responsible for designing and monitoring the professional background inquiries of the four traditional Croatian folk music and dance events. They also prepared, evaluated, and published research studies. Project partners, including VIZIN Culture and Tradition Association, MOHÁCSI SOKACOK OLVASÓKÖRE Association, HKUD VALPOVO 1905 Dance Ensemble, and HKUD OSIJEK 1862 Dance Ensemble, organized four different

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Four different events organized during the project by the project partners, including the VIZIN Culture and Tradition Association, MOHÁCSI SOKACOK OLVASÓKÖRE Association, HKUD VALPOVO 1905 Dance Ensemble, and HKUD OSIJEK 1862 Dance Ensemble;
- Research studies based on evaluated findings by the leading partner were developed with the assistance of the four traditional Croatian folk music and dance associations ensuring their professional background.

PROJECT DETAILS
ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0043
Partnership:
LB: University of Pécs (HU)
B1: Osijek 1862 Croatian Cultural-Artistic Company (HR)
B2: Croatian Cultural Art Society "Valpovo 1905" (HR)
B3: VIZIN Cultural and Traditional Preservation Association (HU)
B4: Readership Of Mohács Sokac (HU)
EU contribution: EUR 153 088,40
Implementation period: June 2020 - January 2022



events, inviting the other three partners as guest performers and providing full access to their event documentation to the leading partner. The expected outputs included cross-cultural events and participants. The project aimed to produce professionals dedicated to preserving cultural heritage. All project partners were located within 50 kilometres of the Croatia-Hungary border, facilitating frequent personal contact during the project's preparation and implementation phases. The main beneficiaries were local Croatians who gained access to cultural events focused on Croatian folk music and dance heritage across borders, fostering closer ties between Croatian communities in both countries and promoting further cooperation.

MR-EGTC Heritage

Gastronomical Heritage in the Mura Region EGTC

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0049

Partnership:

LB: Mura Region – European Grouping of Territorial of Cooperation Ltd. (Mura Region EGTC) (HU)

B1: Cultural and Artistic Society Donji Vidovec (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 166 090,00

Implementation period: August 2020 - November 2022

After 20 years of cross-border cooperation, the Muraside local authorities established the Mura Region EGTC in 2015. One of its main ideas was the dynamization and development of relations among the people living on the two sides of the border. This project had the same idea, aiming to facilitate interactions between those who lived in the cross-border region and to strengthen the joint identity of the region.

The EGTC area is typically an agricultural region; however, the farmers and entrepreneurs along the border have no significant relationships, largely due to language and knowledge as well as geographical gaps. The program implemented gave a chance

for individuals to get to know each other, to develop their identity, and it opened opportunities for defining common values, advancing bilingualism, promoting common product developments, popularizing and enriching the quality of country life.

The events organized were capable of developing cross-border cooperation within the fields of economy, tourism, society, and bilingualism. The program implemented gave a new impulse to the Mura Region. All EGTC founder localities were involved in the project, with the project partner being the Cultural and artistic society "Donji Vidovec".

The target groups included the inhabitants of the villages and settlements of the cross-border region, tradition-minded visitors and tourists, gastronomy festival lovers, and residents and cultural groups of twin cities of the organizer villages.

The cross-border benefit of the project included enhancing relations and cooperation between the inhabitants and organizations on both sides of the border. There was a multiplying effect on the spread of bilingualism, the development of cultural, economic, civil organizational, and local government linkages.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 14 large-scale cultural gastronomic public events, co-organized with 14 local governments of the Mura region, where 400 active contributors and performers as well as over 20 000 people participated from both countries;
- The project created a base for common gastronomy and tourism product development in the cross-border region, strengthening and popularizing the Mura Region brand and offered an integrated approach in people-to-people cooperation.

SHARE MUSIC

Sharing music and connecting people in the cross-border area

The project aimed to involve creative activities and familiarize different age groups with opportunities to get in touch with each other, get to know each other, and maintain these relations through music because music is a world within itself, it is a language we all understood, with an equal opportunity, for all to sing. The need for music and music experience is deeply ingrained in human nature.

Music in history, in the present time, and in the future is an inseparable part of human everyday life and an inevitable social phenomenon. The project aimed to raise the music culture of young people, encourage active engagement in music, and allow the affirmation of music creativity of young people, by creating joint cooperation between the two cities with a special focus on new talent and on creating music programmes for all age groups.

The main target group was young people from 10 to 25 years old on both sides of the border. Main project activities were developed specifically for them in order to fully meet their needs and capacities. Secondary target groups indirectly benefiting from the project were: the local population, local and regional music associations, inhabitants of neighbouring cities and municipalities, children in elementary and secondary schools, and students. The project started with an opening festival for the general public with music and cultural programs in Koprivnica (HR).

Two Music box events with ten workshops in Koprivnica and Hévíz (HU) were organized. A singing competition "First Voice" was organized successfully in Koprivnica, two photography workshops were organized in Koprivnica and in Hévíz. A methodology document for music development in the cross-border area and impact on people to people cooperation was created. The project was closed with a closing festival for the general public with music and cultural programs in Hévíz. The project strengthened the existing cooperation between cities, but new acquaintances were also created, and the possibility

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0053

Partnership:

LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Municipality of Hévíz (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 127 110,41

Implementation period: July 2020 - February 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Several music and cultural programmes were organised in Koprivnica and in Hévíz;
- A singing competition "First Voice" was organized;
- Photography workshops were delivered;
- One workshop related on development of music in the cross-border area and impact on people to people co-operation was organized;
- A study for music development in the cross-border area and impact on people to people co-operation was delivered.



for the expansion of cooperation in other areas, not only in music. Involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of activities opened doors to greater opportunities, developing and expanding cooperation. The project played a direct positive influence on society as an example of how music and culture could integrate the differences and how music can connect people of different faiths, backgrounds, nations, and worldviews.

CBC-ORIENT II.

Cross-border cooperation in Orienteering II.

The CBC-Orient II project was a continuation of the CBC-Orient I project. After the Hungarian partner gained insight into the Croatian orienteers' challenges, they set specific goals to further the cooperation. Joint competitions, workshops, and training camps were key arenas for experience exchange. The orienteering tradition in Pécs (HU), with its extensive knowledge base, was shared with Croatian partners. Equipment purchases and fine-tuned event programs were designed for long-term project sustainability, particularly through essential orienteering maps.

In the previous project, partners prepared methodological materials for beginner orienteering coaches in Hungarian and Croatian, which were actively used. The main objective of the cooperation was to exchange experiences related to school-orienteering programs and practices, helping Croatian trainers and teachers adopt best practice methods and providing them with training materials. The main objective of the project was to transfer Hungarian experience to the Croatian side and promote orienteering on both sides of the border through training camps, running competitions, and joint brainstorming sessions.

The general objectives of the project were to engage young people in healthy lifestyles through sport, develop cultural awareness and tolerance, and help them discover their identities within a European context.

The specific objectives included developing communication materials to attract young people to orienteering, ensuring basic infrastructure for organizing events, helping organize high-quality orienteering events with environmental protection

principles, and fostering a sustainable partnership between Croatian and Hungarian orienteering organizations.

The partners were inspired to create more engaging tools to introduce orienteering. They produced a special card game with directional map symbols and a unique mock-up game

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0060

Partnership:

LB: Foundation for the "Orienteering - Pécs" (HU)

B1: Orienteering Club Varaždin (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 52 588,65

Implementation period: July 2020 - June 2021

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Promoting foot orienteering in the border area through joint competitions, workshops, and training camps served as crucial platforms for exchanging experiences;
- The project prioritized sustainability through equipment purchases and refined event programs, particularly focusing on essential orienteering maps;
- Inspired to enhance orienteering introduction, partners created a directional map symbol card game and a terrain reading and course planning mock-up game;
- Developing a CBC-Orient board game, adaptable for outdoor use during the pandemic.



for teaching terrain reading and course planning. They also developed the CBC-Orient board game, accessible outdoors due to the coronavirus, with a portable roll-up format for the Croatian version. Workshops on these games generated new ideas, potentially leading to a third CBC-Orient project.

BeDrugFree

Talk freely - Connect courageously - Prevent effectively

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0089

Partnership:

LB: Tehetség-Vár Association of Social Sciences (HU)

B1: Educational and Cultural Center of Hungarians in Croatia (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 113 511,12

Implementation period: September 2020 - February 2022

The use of drugs has been prevalent since the dawn of mankind, and as the market has expanded, drugs have become more affordable. Border regions have always been particularly vulnerable to increased drug use. Given this risk, current drug prevention activities in both countries have been at a very low level. Drug misuse is a problem that transcends individual countries, regions, or areas, necessitating cross-border cooperation to develop a global approach.

The development of cross-border relations and the recognition of common challenges provided an opportunity for long-term cooperation, leading to joint initiatives and regional development. Border areas poses a significant risk for drug use, highlighting the need for closer cooperation between institutions, authorities, and civil organizations in both countries. This project aimed to revitalize the already existing relationship and foster ongoing contact between actors on both sides of the border. Information exchange was essential for effective drug prevention efforts. The project aimed to establish an integrated, complex cross-border drug prevention system by leveraging experience and expertise. Its main activity was to help young people and professionals from one side of the border understand the work being done on the other side and incorporate these innovations into their own efforts. The project sought to develop and implement a targeted, long-term drug prevention strategy addressing the most vulnerable group—young people. Additionally, it aimed to provide adequate information to both direct and indirect target groups about the causes of drug addiction, its progression, available assistance, innovative and effective prevention approaches, and the appearance, usage, and dangers of certain drugs.

The project's goal was to improve drug use prevention in the region, building a complex prevention program based on existing good practices. The program was designed to promote the development of young people in a multilevel and indirect manner.

The project's approach and cross-border cooperation were based on a common drug policy, targeting young teenagers, teachers, and helpers who work with pupils.

The project structure included an opening conference and press conference, training a professional team, a self-knowledge camp and contemporary training, workshops by young educators in their schools, an interactive exhibition titled "Metamorphosis-Drug," a questionnaire survey assessing young people attending the exhibition, a competition (short film, poster, photo series) on drug prevention for young people, an event showcasing the competition's results, and a closing conference. The project's activities were conducted in Pécs (HU) and Osijek (HR).

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Enhancing drug use prevention in the region by constructing a comprehensive prevention program rooted in established good practices;
- The program was crafted to foster the holistic development of young individuals through a multilevel and indirect approach;
- Project activities comprised professional team training, a self-awareness camp, contemporary training sessions, workshops led by young educators in schools, an interactive exhibition titled "Metamorphosis-Drug," a questionnaire survey assessing exhibition attendees, a competition (short film, poster, photo series) on drug prevention for young people, an event showcasing competition results implemented in Pécs and Osijek.



BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

Minorities as bridges between communities

The project aimed to strengthen communication links and increase information flow in the cross-border area by establishing informal cooperation networks between public and civil society actors from both sides of the border, supported by Croatian and Hungarian minority groups. The language barrier was identified as a key obstacle to cooperation in the cross-border area. Therefore, the project aimed at activating the role of media and minority associations as communication catalysts to promote the multicultural heritage of the region.

This objective was pursued through actions promoting the active role of minorities, the creation of media, culture, tourism, and civil society databases accessible to the public, and the involvement of media in co-organizing events in the targeted cross-border area. The project was implemented in Osijek-Baranja (HR) and Baranya County (HU), focusing on locations with significant Croatian and Hungarian minority populations. Main activities took place in Osijek (HR), Pécs (HU), Bilje (HR), Batina (HR), Lug (HR), Kopačevo (HR), and Erdut (HR). The main target groups included members of minority associations, journalists, civil society actors, and stakeholders in the culture and tourism sectors.

TZ OBZ oversaw the overall project coordination and networking framework, while the Croatian self-government in Pécs and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia managed cross-border information exchange and cooperation platform activities. All project partners were responsible for organizing and promoting social and cultural events aimed at connecting stakeholders from both sides of the border.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0092

Partnership:

LB: Tourist Board of Osijek-Baranja County (HR)

B1: Croatian Self-government Pécs (HU)

B2: Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HR)

B3: Zsolnay Heritage Management Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 169 321,89

Implementation period: September 2020 - June 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A publicly available database of cross-border media, culture, tourism, and civil society actors created;
- Language barriers reduced through the establishment of information and cooperation points within minority associations and round tables organised for them;
- Increased visibility of the role of minorities in multicultural societies in the cross-border region.

Furthermore, the project aimed to increase cooperation opportunities by establishing links and networks between different actors in the cross-border area, as well as enhancing the visibility of minorities in multicultural societies. Informal cooperation networks were established between actors in culture, media, tourism, and civil society, and joint events promoting the cultural heritage of the cross-border region were organized and promoted.



Part

Promotion of Contemporary Art Across the Border

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0131

Partnership:

LB: Jelenkor Foundation (HU)

B1: Oksimoron (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 120 195,61

Implementation period: July 2020 - February 2022

The main goal of the project was to promote the cultural values of the border region and raise awareness of the contemporary literary, art, and music scenes in Croatia and Hungary. The primary locations for these activities were Pécs and Osijek, with additional programs implemented in other towns within the program area, such as Zalaegerszeg (HU) and Beli Manastir (HR).

Despite the vibrant and fruitful contemporary art scenes in both Croatia and Hungary, there has been limited cooperation between cultural actors in the two countries. The project's activities aimed to address this by bringing together artists from the border region. Programs included public events such as readings, exhibitions, concerts, and gigs, as well as professional activities like workshops, forums, and discussions. The project ensured participation from both countries in all activities. The project targeted city inhabitants for public activities and young, budding artists, authors, musicians, and other professionals from Hungary and Croatia for professional activities.

The Jelenkor Foundation was responsible for planning and implementing all activities in Hungary related to literature, music, and fine arts. They ensured the project's smooth running, handled management and administrative tasks, and prepared a bilingual literary publication and guide for exhibitions. They also compiled a collection of singles from the music events. Oksimoron was responsible for similar activities in Croatia and assisted with the bilingual literary publication.

As a result of the project, cultural cooperation in the border region increased, raising awareness of each other's contemporary art and literary scenes in Croatia and Hungary.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A methodology for knowledge transfer through staff exchange, supported by two key documents: a Joint Work Protocol prepared by Oksimoron and a Cooperation Work Plan prepared by Jelenkor was developed;
- Jelenkor prepared a Hungarian-Croatian exhibition guide for exhibitions held in Hungary, featuring introductions and works by Hungarian and Croatian artists;
- Oksimoron published a photo album titled "Culture of the City" in 2000 copies;
- In terms of cultural events, the project hosted a total of 43 events. On Hungarian side besides the opening event and press conference 24 cultural events were organized, including music concerts, exhibition openings, literature events, and workshops, literature events and a drama workshops;
- On Croatian side five events, such as exhibition openings and cultural workshops; one exhibition in Varaždin, three "Tales of Panonian Castles" events in Valpovo, Virovitica and Suhopolje, and a closing event in Osijek were organised and also three Festivals of Wine, Poetry, and Arts in Orahovica in Ilok and Erdut and a Tambourine concert in Požega were conducted.



Cross-Cultural Tool-Kit

Jointly development of new, innovative, joined structures and shared processes to ensure the continuity of co-operation in the filed of Culture and Tourism in the cross-regions

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/3.1.2/0159

Partnership:

LB: Municipality of Lenti (HU)

B1: Municipality of Mursko Središće (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 169 354,00

Implementation period: October 2020 - August 2022

The project aimed to unite cross-sectoral community members to establish and build the groundwork for a new and innovative approach to utilizing culture as a connecting theme. By creating new and strengthening existing joint tourism strategies and tourism promotional and communication plans, the developed toolkit supported harmonized communication processes to ensure the continuity of cooperation. The cooperation and communication between citizens and cross-sectoral public and non-profit stakeholders were enhanced, leading to strong, long-lasting relationships, and well-established partnerships.

Planned activities in Hungary included a joint workshop for cultural strategy building to design the framework and jointly develop methodologies and strategies for integrated communication plans. Another joint workshop focused on toolkit development, inviting experts from the cultural sector to participate. In Croatia, a Cultural Database was developed as an online source linked to

the website, containing a collection of cultural programs in the border area. A Cultural Communication Strategy was elaborated to define a specific action plan including dissemination activities, press and visibility actions, and promotion of program results to target groups and the general public.

Promotional activities included launching a project website in English, Croatian, and Hungarian languages, developing and distributing trilingual flyers to inform stakeholders and the target audience about the project and its results. News articles were published during the project to promote and generate more audience and attention. Social media campaigns were launched to promote the Cultural Toolkit program, along with the creation of two promotional videos showcasing the culture of the two regions. Additionally, 10 radio spots were broadcasted to promote the Cultural Toolkit program.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A joint cultural database and a common cultural communication strategy developed;
- Community thematic events organized, comprising 11 large-scale thematic events where cultural representatives, NGOs, associations, sports, crafts, and artists could exhibit their products and services;
- More than 6 000 people participating at project events.



EDUAGRI

Multilevel education system for agile agri-food chains

In the nearly two decades of the 21st century it has been proven that agility is a relevant factor even for food chains. Additionally, the importance of adaptability to turbulent changes in the market and the natural environment has also multiplied. These changes required food chain operators to increase the agility of their own and the entire supply chain. The Croatian and Hungarian agri-food industries face very similar challenges.

Due to this specific and similar situation of the countries, jointly developed agri-food chain management study programs seemed to be more capable of improving the competitiveness of agri-food chain operators than individually developed programs. Both institutions LB (Kaposvár Campus) and B1 had already experienced education in agricultural management and business subjects. The main objective of the project was to jointly develop and deliver a multi-level educational and training package in the specific field of agile agri-food chain management. Both institutions produced a ready-to-launch curriculum, professional contents, and other tools for trainings. The project created professional and infrastructural fundamentals for a multi-level education system in collaboration with LB and B1. The first direct target group of the project consisted of the current and potential students of the agricultural courses at LB and B1.

The secondary direct target group consisted of the current decision-makers, leaders, and professionals of Croatian and Hungarian agri-food SMEs. The tertiary target group was the marginalized students of any Hungarian and Croatian agricultural study programs. Indirect target groups were workers and subordinate employees of agri-food SMEs, Croatian and Hungarian food consumers, and lecturers and researchers of LB and B1. By using the knowledge, skills, and attitudes acquired during the programs, the students and especially marginalized students would be more effective as decision-makers, leaders, and professionals of agri-food organizations in the future. By participating in life-long learning (LLL) short courses and postgraduate professional specialization courses, the members of the second direct target group were given even more practical knowledge and up-to-date information which could be used in their daily decision-making.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.1/0008

Partnership:

LB: Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Science - Kaposvár Campus (HU)

B1: Križevci College of Agriculture (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 197 524,02

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A curricula and course descriptions for a full bachelor study program were created;
- A full master study program was delivered;
- A bachelor minor specialization was created;
- A full postgraduate professional specialization study program was delivered;
- A LLL short course jointly run by LB and B1 for agri-food chain players was developed;
- An interactive training room was equipped by new computer workstations and education technical tools for students;
- An agri-food information searching application was developed;
- A trilingual (Croatian-Hungarian-English) handbook on modern agri-food chain management was written.



IC4HEDS

Intensive Courses for Higher Education Students

The weak cooperation between the private sector and higher education institutions, an imbalance between the labour market and the educational system, an uneven quality of education, and insufficient motivation for lifelong learning have been identified by the partnership as the most important challenges in the cross-border area. The overall objective of the IC4HEDS project was to address these challenges by improving the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres for increasing the specific knowledge base in the region.

Thus, the project main aim was to build stronger connections between the academic community, business support institutions, and the private sector. Over the course of 20 months, a consortium composed of two higher education institutions (HEI) and two business support institutions (BSI), covering three counties in the cross-border area (Međimurska, Varaždinska, and Zala Counties) tackled these challenges by developing and implementing two joint intensive learning programs for students of both HEIs. Additionally, they organized workshops aimed at strengthening students' positions in the labour market.

The intensive learning programs focused on the areas of digital transformation and digital factories, relevant not only to the HEIs' regular curricula but also to the current and future job market. The courses were structured using modern teaching methods such as inquiry-based learning, and project-based learning. After the preparation phase, each student attended face-to-face sessions at the HEIs' premises and workshops organized by BSIs in the incubators. The programs were certified by each HEI, ensuring students earned ECTS points

and ensuring the project results' sustainability. Furthermore, the developed programs were exchanged between the two

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.1/0052

Partnership:

LB: Technology Innovation Centre Međimurje Ltd. (HR)

B1: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Organisation and Informatics (HR)

B2: University of Pannonia (HU)

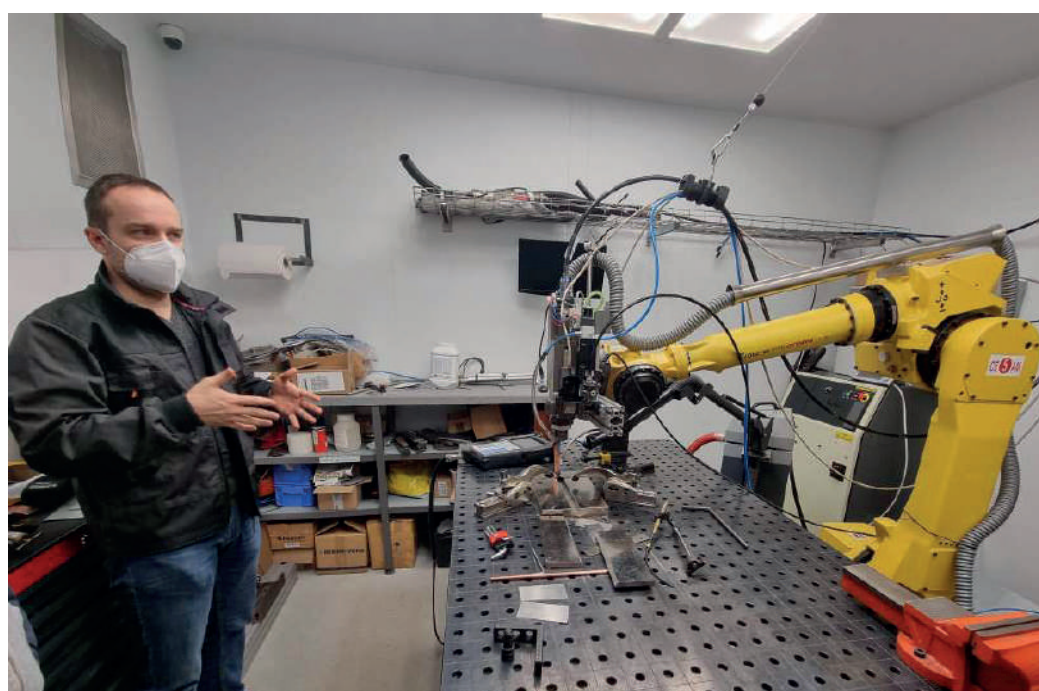
B3: Nagykanizsa Asset Management Plc. (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 180 029,94

Implementation period: August 2020 - March 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two intensive learning courses were developed and implemented;
- Two two-day study trips with students were organised to the neighbouring country (one to each bordering region);
- Ten workshops with relevant topics for students were organised (five in each country);
- One best practice study trip of faculty and incubators staff to outside of the programme area was organized;
- Four educational premises were equipped (small scale), one for each beneficiary.



HEIs and translated into their respective languages, enabling students to attend courses regardless of borders.

GASTROTOP

Comprehensive educational support of food-service providers facilitating demand on emerging special dietary restrictions consumer market

The project addressed issues identified during the implementation of the ECOTOP1 and ECOTOP2 projects, which aimed to improve the region's tourism offerings to attract tourists interested in ecotourism and provide educational programs in marketing for service providers. Previous research indicated that while an ecotourism offer existed in the region, it was underdeveloped, and service provider education was a crucial driver of development. The purpose of this project was to develop comprehensive educational support for food-tourism providers to meet the demands of the emerging market for special dietary restrictions. This support involved educating and training providers to adjust food tourism offers in cross-border counties to align with current consumer demands and trends, positively impacting self-employment among young people and overall employment in the tourism sector.

The project's overall objective was to enhance the availability of training in the special dietary restrictions consumer market through various initiatives. These initiatives included developing and implementing training programs, organizing a creative student camp and workshop, hosting a panel discussion for students, entrepreneurs, and academia, conducting a student workshop for innovation in food production, and holding an idea competition for tourism product packages targeted at special dietary demands. Additionally, the project offered workshops on different dietary approaches and trends, training on preparing "free" dishes, and generated a comprehensive training program for students and food tourism service providers.



PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.1/0058

Partnership:

LB: Križevci College of Agriculture (HR)

B1: Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Science (HU)

B2: Somogy Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HU)

B3: Virovitica University of Applied Sciences (HR)

B4: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Zala County (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 247 556,72

Implementation period: June 2021 - September 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Various methods and forums for knowledge transfer, including a panel discussion involving students and experts, a creative camp, a study tour and workshops for students, trainings and workshops for adults were established;
- Educational materials were developed, such as a study on the inclusion of marginalized groups in gastro tourism offer, a database; a study and handbook, and training material for adults;
- Newly established joint lifelong learning training modules included 30-lesson long trainings on how to prepare "free" dishes, a 30-hour training on "free" dish preparation, and "Free from" meal preparation training were also developed;
- Joint non-formal educational events in the project consisted of a panel discussion, workshop for innovation in food production, and idea competition, and a creative camp for students;
- Joint capacity building events for teachers totalled three, including study tours for students, related service providers, and partner organizations.

The project also studied the inclusion of Roma and mentally or physically ill populations, refugees, and other minorities in the food tourism system, and produced a handbook for the educational support of food-service providers. Other components included exchange programs, a business idea competition, and a student creative camp. The partnership structure involved institutions from higher education and business support (chambers) to ensure the quality development of activities.

EQUI EDU

Equine Studies Education and Competence centre for development of equestrian tourism in the cross border region

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.1/0123

Partnership:

LB: Križevci College of Agriculture (HR)

B1: Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Science - Kaposvár Campus (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 252 440,65

Implementation period: September 2020 - December 2022

Croatia and Hungary both have a long tradition of horse-breeding and equestrian sports, dating back to the time of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. This tradition has persisted until recent times. Interest in working with horses was growing across EU countries, particularly in Germany and Austria, where there were well-established education and training institutions offering courses in equine studies. However, the lack of such facilities in the Croatian and Hungarian cross-border region hindered the acquisition of necessary skills and knowledge in this field.

To address this issue the EQUI EDU project was initiated to establish an equine competence centre in Križevci (HR) and develop joint bachelor courses and pilot training programs with the University of Kaposvár (HU). The goal was to provide better education opportunities for those interested in equine management and equestrian sports, thereby enhancing the quality of equestrian tourism in the cross-border area. The project aimed to create five new bachelor courses and four pilot programs, equip facilities for contemporary equine studies, and design plans for the construction of a horse breeding and equestrian competence centre. The project sought to prevent young people with knowledge of horses from seeking employment in other EU countries without official qualifications, which often resulted in lower pay.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- New bachelor courses (horse health, care and behaviour, management of sport horses, and regime regarding training, nutrition and keeping) were developed jointly;
- Materials for courses (equine tourism, sport- and racehorse breeding, equine marketing) were delivered jointly;
- Two pilot programs (therapeutic riding and equine tourism course) were developed jointly;
- A technical document for a new equestrian facility at Križevci has been elaborated;
- At Kaposvár University a special classroom for equine sciences was equipped.

Additionally, it aimed to provide much-needed training for rural tourism service providers, as horses and horseback riding are integral to rural tourism offerings. By developing educational programs and upgrading existing equestrian academies, the project aimed to enhance employment and self-employment opportunities in the equine industry. Implemented in Koprivnica-Križevci and Somogy county over a 28-month period, the project positively impacted employment and self-employment in the equine industry, contributed to the development of rural tourism, and enhanced the capacity of higher education institutions to meet the needs of the EU labour market. Furthermore, it supported the development of equestrian tourism, in line with the priorities outlined in both Croatian and Hungarian Tourism Development Plans.

ROBOTICO

ROBOTics in Interregional COoperation

Project ROBOTICO involved three project partners: Vocational School Đurđevac (HR), Educational District Centre of Kaposvár (Primary School Csurgó, HU), and Primary School Ferdinandovac (HR). The project implementation was located in the Koprivnica Križevci and Somogy Counties, and its duration was 20 months. The direct target groups included teachers and students from LB, B1, and B2 schools who participated in educations and joint workshops. Indirect target groups encompassed families of students, the general public, and interested parties who learned about the project.

The main goal of the project was to popularize STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields related to robotics including mechatronics, astronomy, programming, and 3D modelling through jointly developed extracurricular programs, robotics camps, and knowledge transfer among professors and students. LB shared its experience in EU project implementation, in robotics, and in programming with its project partners. LB organized a joint one-week training for teachers in Đurđevac to educate them in robotics, astronomy, programming, and 3D modelling.

The new knowledge was also transferred to B1 and B2 primary school students through eight joint one-week robotic camps held at B1 and B2. New sets of informatics and robotics equipment

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Joint trainings for teachers in the fields of mechatronics, robotics, astronomy, programming and 3D modelling were delivered;
- Joint robotic camps were organized to educate primary school students;
- School rooms were equipped with modern IT and robotics equipment;
- An extracurricular programme for teachers and students and the robotics learning handbook for students were also developed jointly.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0006

Partnership:

LB: Vocational School Đurđevac (HR)

B1: Educational District Centre of Kaposvár (HU)

B2: Primary School Ferdinandovac (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 201 383,72

Implementation period: January 2021 - August 2022

were purchased for these activities. The project aimed to introduce robotics extracurricular classes into partner elementary schools and develop teaching modules for continued workshops after project implementation. Partners had various roles, including organizing events, publishing articles, modernizing classrooms, developing programs, creating handbooks, and participating in training and workshops. The outputs included increased knowledge, equipped classrooms, a robot with a telescope and camera, joint extracurricular programs, and a robotics learning handbook. The project had a cross-border character, featuring joint activities and the development of multilingual materials.



2M2C

Music moves us – Culture connects us

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0011

Partnership:

LB: Center for Upbringing, Education and Rehabilitation Virovitica (HR)

B1: Szigetvár School District Center (HU)

B2: Development Agency VTA (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 152 276,70

Implementation period: June 2020 - February 2022

Through the joint organization of music and creative workshops using natural and non-edited materials, the project aimed to enrich students' knowledge, speech, and physical development, achieving greater integration of students with disabilities in the border area. The project included activities related to the organization of traditional music and creative workshops for students and teachers from the two cross-border schools, aiming to overcome linguistic barriers and cultural diversity.

Regarding the education of students with disabilities, the two cross-border cities, Virovitica (HR) and Szentlőrinc (HU), share a common interest. Two schools of these cities were connected to raise awareness among children in the border region and highlight the importance of music and creativity for students with disabilities. By implementing joint activities, linguistic barriers were overcome, new cooperation was



created, the integration of students with disabilities was increased, and new friendships were established between the two schools and their participants. The schools in Virovitica and Szentlőrinc were prepared to learn from each other and develop cross-border cooperation through the project, improving students' education and the overall work of the schools.

The direct target group of the project included 50 students with disabilities aged 7-21 years and 33 teachers. The indirect target groups comprised other children from the two schools, the local population of the program area, parents of children involved in the project, and the media.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Three rooms equipped in two schools, one in Virovitica and one in Szentlőrinc, 184 participants directly involved in the activities;
- 300 picture books and 300 booklets printed for teachers;
- Awareness increased among children of the common musical and cultural values in the cross-border area and the development of a stronger sense of belonging to a community without borders;
- Marginalized groups of children included in music and creative education workshops.

HU-CRO EXPLORE AND LEARN

EXPLORE AND LEARN gastronomic tradition, sharing knowledge

Encouraged by the increasing interest of the local community and society in general in promoting culinary and gastronomy, as well as by vocational schools that prepare students for future gastronomic pursuits, this project contributed to improving new content and fostering a positive attitude through an enhanced curriculum of subjects related to hospitality, confectioneries, and cookery, along with implementing new methods of practical teaching.

Through the implementation of this project, catering schools from Virovitica (HR) and Kaposvár (HU) established stronger connections for future collaboration in educational and other fields.

Additionally to the Curriculum improved for subjects serving in hospitality, confectioneries, and cookery, vocational school restaurants were equipped to provide students with practical teaching using new methods. The target groups directly involved in the project implementation included 30 students and 9 teachers from each of the partner schools. Indirectly, schools from Virovitica-Podravina County (HR) and Somogy County (HU), as well as inhabitants of both counties, benefited from the project.

Furthermore, the capacity of students in catering subjects was strengthened through six workshops and one presentation. Restaurants in both schools were equipped for conducting practical lessons. The cross-border impact was evident through joint organization of events leading to the improved role of the two educational institutions and the creation of joint teaching contents. Teachers and students acquired new knowledge through the project, making them more competitive in the labour market in the hospitality industry and enabling them to apply their knowledge in their future jobs.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Two vocational school restaurants equipped to provide students with practical teaching environment;
- New teaching contents developed using an innovative approach in educational programs, six school curriculums improved related to hospitality, confectioneries, and cookery;
- Traditional Croatian and Hungarian dishes presented in an innovative way, and a brochure containing recipes of these dishes produced.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0015

Partnership:

LB: Vocational School Virovitica (HR)

B1: Kaposvár Center of Vocational Training István Széchenyi Secondary Technical and Vocational School (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 180 821,66

Implementation period: February 2021 - January 2023



TaMPeD

Joint elaboration and implementation of a primary school talent management and personality development program

Talent requires recognition, development and management. It is not an overstatement that the most valuable "natural treasure" is human talent. According to recent research, a successful talent management program has to be comprehensive, with a crucial component being the development of gifted children's personalities. The partner schools on both sides of the border lacked a unified talent development methodology; the existing methods of handling talented children needed enhancement in both content and resources. During the project preparation meetings, it became evident that all three partners had experience in various fields of talent management and development and could complement each other's knowledge.

The project aimed to jointly elaborate a talent management and personality development program while promoting flexible learning pathways, including career guidance. The outputs and results achieved included identifying gifted students using talent-measuring tools, with 230 students tested (120 from Hungary and 110 from Croatia). Four thematic-specific study groups were established, and teacher capacity for recognizing talented students was strengthened. Material conditions for extracurricular activities were created. Guidelines for future generations' extracurricular activity programs were developed, and a trilingual impact assessment of the program was conducted.

The project had two primary target groups: elementary school students and elementary school teachers, with secondary target groups of higher classes, the school community, and future students. As a result of the project, students' creative ideas were recognized and exploited, more focus was placed on their strengths and outstanding performance, leading to improved academic achievement, social skills development, strengthened

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0031

Partnership:

LB: Primary School Josipa Kozarca (HR)

B1: University of Pécs (HU)

B2: Primary School Voćin (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 198 336,10

Implementation period: September 2020 - August 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- E-manual on personality development methodology elaborated in bilingual format, and personality development sessions complemented by two joint camps;
- Extra-curricular activities conducted, along with personality development trainings for altogether 30 talented students;
- Classroom for performing extra-curricular creative activities for gifted students renovated and upgraded.



communities, increased motivation, positive attitudes, and greater teaching effectiveness. The joint programs promoted cooperation and acceptance of each other's cultures.

EDU Roma

Education Development for Understanding Roma

The project aimed to help Roma populations on both sides of the border address coexistence issues with the majority population and facilitate Roma children's entry into the educational system. It aimed to positively impact the creativity of Roma children, provide accurate information to the general population, and contribute to education, socialization, and integration of Roma people.

The project also aimed to inform the wider public about Roma issues and their way of life, potentially leading to improved social inclusion and better quality of life for Roma individuals. Furthermore, the project aimed to deliver motivated children and young adults through involvement in joint educational activities and increase the education and training offerings in adult education. A new curriculum was designed to teach Roma children the basics of filming, with the goal of creating a video about their lives and conditions. The project facilitated the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups and increased their involvement in education and training activities including organizing Roma movie day. A newly developed curriculum for filming and a manual for teachers, consisting of four modules covering various aspects of filmmaking were elaborated.

The curriculum includes 90 hours of theoretical and 30 hours of practical teaching, adapted for elementary and secondary school students. Four modules were developed: writing scenarios and

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0034

Partnership:

LB: Open University Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Láthatár Public Benefit Association (HU)

B2: Gypsy Social and Cultural Methodological Base (HU)

B3: Vocational School Koprivnica (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 211 089,31

Implementation period: January 2021 - July 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A curriculum was developed to teach the Roma educators;
- A recording studio was elaborated at the backyard of the Open University;
- A World Roma Movie Day was organized.

synopsis; filming and editing; production and postproduction; practical work. Project partners purchased the equipment required for training and making of video material (IT and media equipment, recording cameras, software for digital editing and equipment for audio material). The rearrangement of the backyard of LB into a studio for recording and screening video material, and for celebrating World Roma Movie Day was also delivered. After project closure, the new curriculum is planned to be implemented in other schools with Roma children as an extracurricular activity option.



CMS together II

Let's grow together with the culture, music and sports II

For more than three decades two schools from Orahovica (HR) and one from Harkány (HU) has an ongoing cross-border cooperation. During this time, they encountered various challenges, including the lack of quality content and improved programs for physical, musical, and cultural development, inadequate equipment, and insufficient exchange of practices and culture across borders. Thus, the CMS together and later the CMS together II a projects were initiated to address these issues and strengthen the existing cooperation.

The CMS together II project focused on organizing joint cross-border culture, sports, and music meetings. Its goal was to foster a positive attitude towards cross-border cooperation from an early age and engage children and young adults in joint educational activities. Specifically, the project aimed to improve the role of educational institutions as intellectual centres and enhance cooperation in preschool, primary, secondary, and adult education. It involved investing in the education of two Croatian and one Hungarian school through the development of new extracurricular activities, such as joint cultural, music, and sports meetings. The project's lead beneficiary was the Elementary School Ivane Brlić-Mažuranić in Orahovica, collaborating with Kitaibel Pál Primary and Music School in Harkány and Music School Milka Kelemen in Orahovica and Slatina (HR).

The project spanned 20 months, targeting 25 pupils and 5 teachers from each school. The teachers had the opportunity to develop new content about each other's countries and regions, while pupils and teachers implemented new extracurricular activities together. Expected outputs included creating an e-manual for teachers, organizing joint cross-border music, culture, and sports meetings, as well as holding a symposium for teachers. The project aimed to develop a positive attitude towards cross-border cooperation and improve educational facilities, ultimately promoting cooperation and acceptance of each other's cultures.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0038

Partnership:

LB: Elementary School Ivane Brlić-Mažuranić Orahovica (HR)

B1: Mohács Regional Education Center (HU)

B2: Music School Milka Kelemen (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 179 891,47

Implementation period: May 2021 - December 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- An e-manual for teachers was developed;
- Joint cross-border music meetings were held;
- A mini concert of pupils was delivered;
- A trip to Visitor Center "Drava Story" at Danube-Drava National Park premises was organized about Flora and Fauna of Danube-Drava natural assets;
- Cross-border sport meetings and dance competitions were held;
- The rubber floor in basketball court in school in Harkány was renovated.



ECOoperation

Cross-border cooperation of secondary schools in developing common tools in practical training of natural sciences (water, soil, micro-climate)

The project aimed to promote the "School in nature" concept among students, develop innovative field learning methods, and enhance field work in high school education. It sought to contribute to biodiversity preservation along the Drava River, promote an ecological approach to field work, and facilitate knowledge transfer. The project focused on three main natural science subjects: water, soil, and climate. Research and development of teaching methods were conducted for each subject, addressing the lack of practical training in secondary school curricula on both sides of the border.

To engage students, the project organized activities such as kayaking (related to water), cycling (soil), and camping (climate) involving 3x20 students from each secondary school, but the other activities (e.g. exhibitions) as well as the results and outputs of the project reached all students of the partnering schools. 20 teachers actively participated in implementation, with other teachers benefiting indirectly. The project built on the successful partnership established in the "Croatia-Hungary Educational Cooperation" project, ensuring smooth implementation.

Each partner implemented activities in their designated field and coordinated joint events. Outputs included joint extracurricular content on natural sciences, research documents, scenarios, and tutorial videos for practical training implementation. The project also involved educational activities like kayaking, cycling, and camping, and established technical support for long-term research and outdoor activities through equipment procurement and training.

The project aimed to foster cooperation among partner schools, identifying shared fields for future collaboration. It emphasized the role of secondary schools in exploring and sharing common values in the cross-border region by involving students in expanding shared knowledge.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0055

Partnership:

LB: Csokonai Vitéz Mihály Calvinist Grammar School, Primary School and Dormitory (HU)

B1: Grammar School Fran Galović Koprivnica (HR)

B2: Prelog Secondary School (HR)

EU contribution: EUR 205 590,27

Implementation period: July 2020 - December 2021

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Joint extracurricular contents on natural sciences (in fields of water, micro-climate, soil) developed and tested: research documents, scenarios and tutorial videos;
- New knowledge gained for teachers and students through "learning by doing", and actively involved in the research and field work sections;
- Cross-border friendships and partnerships built among the schools.



RobotsConnecting

Robots Connecting High Schools in Cross-border Area

The overall objective of the project was to strengthen and increase knowledge about robotics in secondary schools in the HU-HR cross-border area, enabling young people to compete and meet the needs of today's demanding labour market in the field of modern technologies. The theme of robotics was selected because it stimulates concentration, creativity, innovation, and teamwork. Additionally, robotics develops an entrepreneurial spirit and competencies in the technological field, supporting the application of new technologies in everyday life. It is an interdisciplinary field connecting technical culture, mathematics, information technology, and physics.

Specific objectives included: improving the role of secondary schools as intellectual centres for increasing knowledge in the field of robotics in the cross-border area; upgrading the educational process in secondary schools with a common curriculum for students to meet current and future needs in the field of robotics; educating teachers and students in the field of robotics within partner schools in the HU-HR cross-border area; raising the level of knowledge about robotics in secondary schools by applying modern educational technologies. Project activities were aimed at secondary school students and teachers across border partners. The Lead Beneficiary was responsible for achieving project activities and monitoring the fulfilment of partners' project activities.

The outputs included involvement of two cross-border secondary schools in project activities; development of one jointly curriculum (HU+HR, min 35-40 pages) addressing current and future educational needs in robotics; creation of one jointly manual (HU+HR, 25-30 pages) for the development and encouragement of creativity and motivation; conducting two teacher education sessions in the field of robotics (36 school hours each beneficiary independently plus eight school hours of joint education through webinars); organizing four student exchange programs (two three-day exchange programs on each side of the cross-border partner) focusing on theory and practice; hosting two cross-border leisure camps (two-day events on each

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0068

Partnership:

LB: Ludbreg Secondary School (HR)

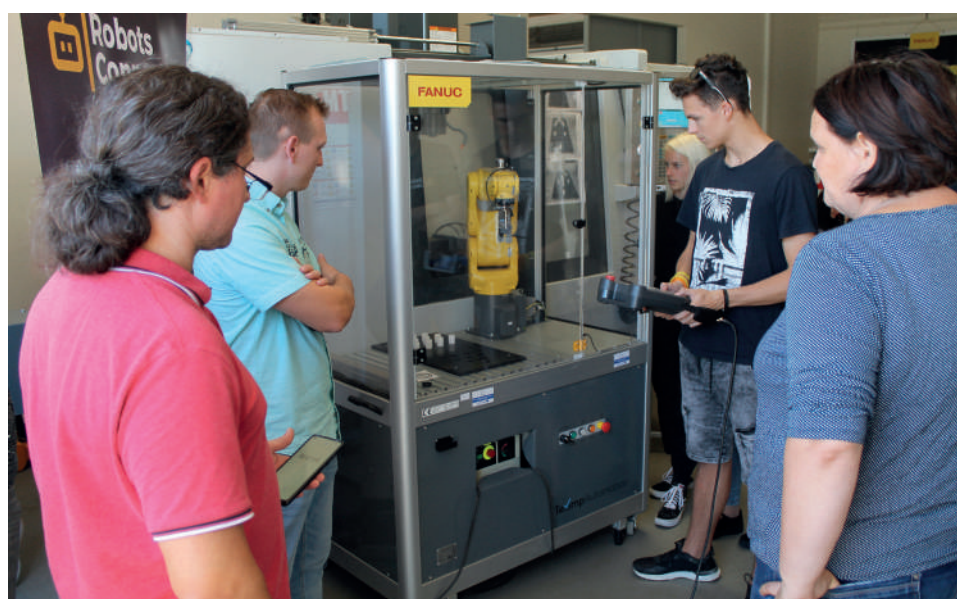
B1: Municipality of Hévíz (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 167 006,45

Implementation period: June 2020 - September 2021

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Development of one jointly developed curriculum and one manual in robotics;
- Organization of cross-border camps and competitions in robotics;
- Equipping two secondary schools with robotics sets and IT equipment;
- Organization of an educational event for marginalized groups.



side of the cross-border partner) focusing on practical work in robotics; arranging two cross-border competitions for students (one on each side of the border); conducting workshops for teachers, students, and parents (three for each group) to foster creativity and motivation; equipping two secondary schools with robotics sets (each school - five robotics sets) and IT equipment (each school - 5 laptops, projector, projection screen, presenters for projector, and speakers); hosting one educational event for marginalized groups.

GiftedHUHR

Encouraging and developing gifted kids for more advanced cross border area

The project aimed to develop systematic care and maximize the potential of gifted students in primary schools across the border, aligning with their preferences, abilities, and interests. Implementation activities spanned Koprivnica-Križevci (HR) and Zala (HU) Counties. The project targeted primary school teachers, expert associates, and gifted students from partner organizations. Specific objectives included enhancing the role of primary schools as intellectual hubs for advancing knowledge in working with gifted students across borders, upgrading educational processes with personalized programs for such students, educating teachers and expert associates, fostering potential in gifted students through workshops, and improving the quality of their education using modern educational technologies.

Meeting these objectives was crucial to fostering an environment supportive of the creativity and development of gifted students, directly impacting the social advancement of the cross-border area. Activities encompassed three cross-border primary schools, development of 12 individual programs for gifted students, seven workshops for teachers and expert associates, ten workshops and a manual to nurture gifted students' potential, two cross-border camps and Olympics for gifted students, and equipping three primary schools with modern educational tools.

Additionally, joint cross-border educational initiatives involving teachers, expert associates, and gifted students were conducted, along with a special educational event for marginalized groups. Project dissemination occurred through websites, radio, internet, and newspaper articles. Overall, the project aimed to foster a knowledge society, enhance competencies among elementary school staff in the cross-border region, and establish a robust system for working with gifted students, facilitating their full potential and talent development.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0072

Partnership:

LB: Elementary school Ljudevita Modeca Križevci (HR)

B1: Đurđevac Primary school (HR)

B2: Zalaegerszeg Public Educational District Centre (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 151 919,39

Implementation period: June 2020 - October 2021

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Teachers strengthened their professional competencies to better recognize the gifted students, gained additional knowledge in the design and implementation of individual programs, and developed some of the skills to differentiate teaching assignments and adapt them to this category of students;
- 56 talented students identified and involved in special educational activities;
- Four primary schools equipped with modern equipment (smart board, notebooks and didactic educational set).



TEACH

Transcultural Education Alliance in Croatia and Hungary

Almost every day, local, national and international news facing us with a world where intolerance, prejudices, ignorance and fear of differences are sometimes the common denominators. Children and teenagers have natural curiosity to explore who they are, world around them and come in contact with various differences - social, racial, ethnical, language, religious, cultural etc. Croatian and Hungarian society is polarized, not all diversities are welcomed and integration is often mistaken with assimilation. In this social environment some pupils may feel isolated or threaten against students who come from different backgrounds, cultures or religions. School teachers face these issues more frequently and need to be prepared to respond and take actions to address these challenging situations. Educational institutions in multicultural societies have a key role in developing cross-cultural and global competences of students. Unfortunately, cross-cultural competence is not a constitutive part of teacher education in Croatia and Hungary. Teachers lack knowledge and practical skills how to teach cross cultural content to pupils in order to promote diversity, acceptance, understanding, mutual growth and open mentality. Project TEACH aimed to tackle these issues through four strategic goals:

- Educating and empowering teachers by providing training and resources for teachers to enhance their cross-cultural teaching skills.
- Developing interdisciplinary curriculum by creating and implementing a cross-cultural learning curriculum for primary and secondary schools to promote understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- Creating digital tools and materials to support cross-cultural teaching and learning.
- Facilitating cross-border networking by promoting collaboration and exchange among key stakeholders in education across borders.

The project targeted specific objectives, including enhancing cross-cultural competences and teaching skills for 20 teachers, implementing the curriculum for 8 schools, and raising awareness among 200 pupils in Osijek-Baranya County in Croatia and Baranya County in Hungary. It also involved developing materials such as handbooks, web pages, apps, quizzes, and exhibitions to support cross-cultural education. Additionally, the project conducted research on intercultural content in textbooks and promoted social inclusion of minority groups, such as Roma.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0077

Partnership:

LB: Nansen Dialogue Centre (HR)

B1: With the Power of Humanity Foundation (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 159 997,83

Implementation period: July 2020 - June 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 200 pupils from 8 primary and secondary schools participated in cross-cultural learning program;
- Eight schools equipped with technical equipment for cross-cultural curriculum implementation;
- 40 minority participants involved in training programs (teachers, pupils, youth);
- One research data published on intercultural content in school textbooks and sensitivity towards minority and marginalized groups and their culture.



Knowledge Well

Cross border development of centers of excellence in primary schools

The project aimed to establish centres of excellence for primary school students in the cross-border area, focusing on three fields: natural, social, and technical areas. These centres were designed and adequately equipped to enable students to achieve above-average results through the development of individual abilities, personal motivation, and external stimulation. Primary schools in the cross-border area benefited from the project, with research studies indicating a need for systematic development of work with excellence students.

Specific objectives included:

1. Educating teachers within partner schools in the cross-border area.
2. Encouraging and developing potential in excellence students through individual and cross-border workshops.
3. Improving the quality of work with gifted students through modern educational technologies.
4. Facilitating cross-border cooperation to exchange knowledge and experience for establishing quality excellence centres.

Achieving these goals was crucial for creating an environment supportive of excellent students' work, which has an impact on the social development of the cross-border area.

Expected outputs included involvement of five cross-border primary schools in project activities, development of a bilingual manual on education needs for excellence students, roundtables and workshops for teachers and students, cross-border camps, workshops for encouragement, competitions for excellence students, workshops for children with disabilities, and events for project dissemination. Additionally, five primary schools were equipped with educational materials, smart boards, and notebooks.

The project contributed to creating a knowledge society and strengthening the competences of primary school staff in



the cross-border area. It established systematic work with excellent students, benefiting both them and average students by providing better quality education and support. Harnessing their potential is expected to drive technological progress and economic growth in the cross-border area, offering greater opportunities for future recruitment of a high-quality workforce.

PROJECT DETAILS

ID: HUHR/1901/4.1.2/0116

Partnership:

LB: City of Koprivnica (HR)

B1: Municipality of Hévíz (HU)

B2: Mihály Sztárai Primary School, Kindergarten and Basic Art School (HU)

EU contribution: EUR 202 204,10

Implementation period: June 2020 - January 2022

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 24 teachers and 100 students participated in educational activities;
- Five primary schools equipped with educational materials, smart boards and notebooks;
- Several roundtables and workshops for teachers, students and parents, cross-border camps and competitions for excellence students, as well as workshops for children with disabilities organized.



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