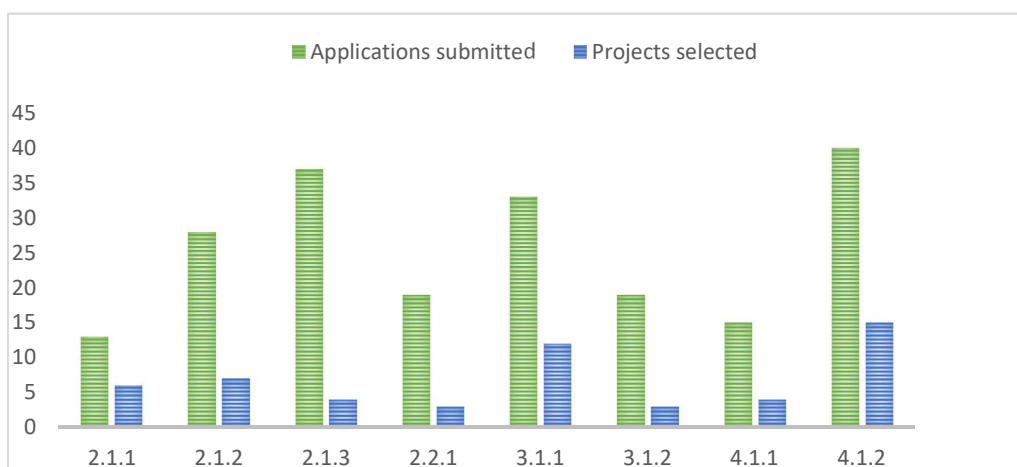


23.4 million EUR awarded to projects within the First Call for Proposals of the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme 2014-2020

More than 50 joint Hungarian-Croatian development projects were awarded **23.4 M EUR** for investments into **tourism** development, inter-institutional **cooperation** and improvement of **educational** facilities within the first Call for Proposals in the new financial perspective.

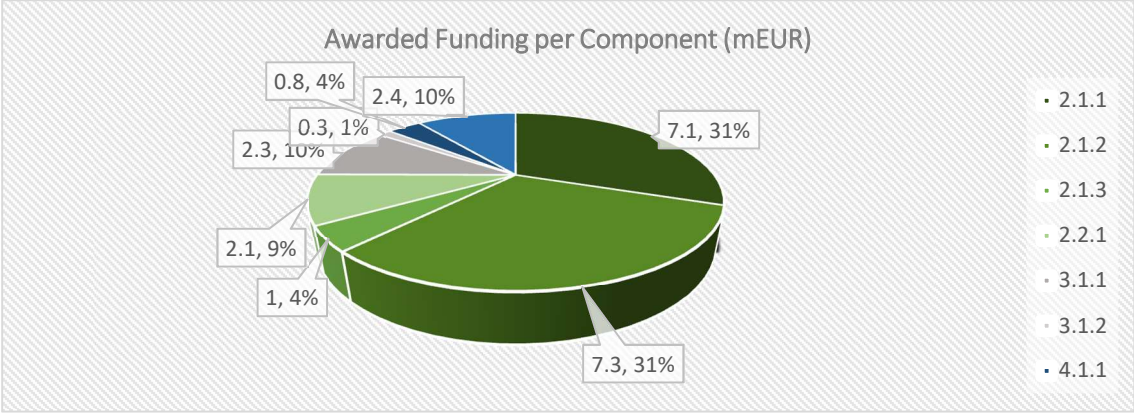
The Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, acting as the Managing Authority of the Programme and the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia, acting as the National Authority in the **Programme** launched the **First Open Call for Proposals on 29 February 2016**. The First Call for Proposals proved to be **the most popular yet in the history of EU-funded cross-border co-operation between Hungary and Croatia**, attracting a record number of joint project proposals from the two Member States, with **a total of 207 valid applications** submitted.

All the timely applications, submitted until 31 May 2016, 17.00 CET, entered the assessment phase, which included **formal, eligibility and quality check** of the project proposals, and was followed by the decision on the awarded funding. The **Monitoring Committee**, as the decision-making body which supervises and monitors the Programme implementation, on its 5th meeting held on the 2nd and the 3rd of March 2017 in Mohács/Mohač (Hungary) selected the **54 projects, with 23.4 mEUR of EU contribution (ERDF)**, to be supported within the First Call for Proposals.



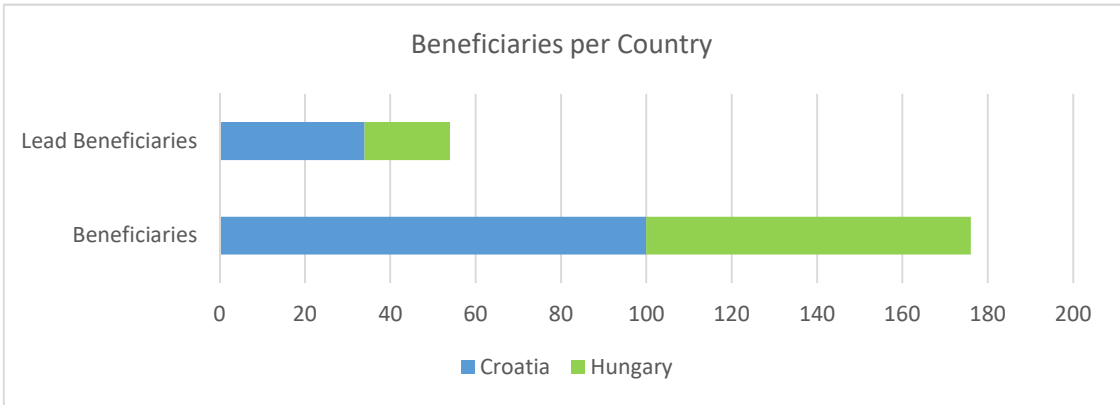
A cross-border region where rivers connect, not divide

Out of **three Priority Axes** open to applicants within the First Call for Proposals: *PA2 'Sustainable Use of Natural and Cultural Assets'*, *PA3 'Cooperation'* and *PA4 'Education'*; the potential beneficiaries showed the biggest interest for tourism projects eligible within Priority 2 (Bicycle paths, Tourism attractions), which resulted in the **majority** of the 23.4 mEUR of EU contribution being allocated to **projects investing in bicycle paths and tourism attraction development** (14.4 mEUR).

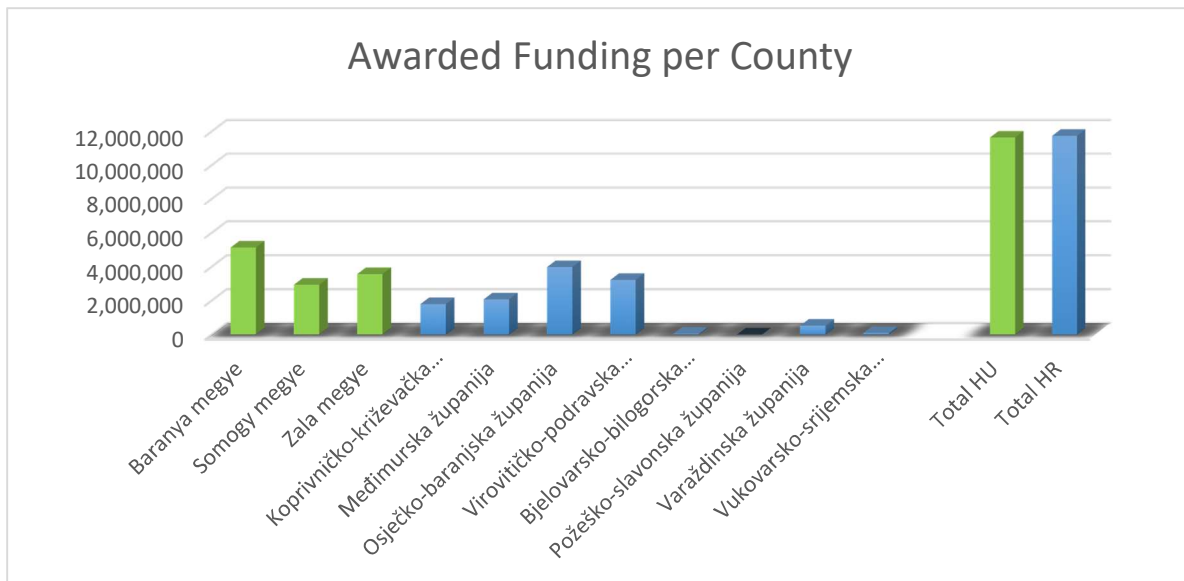


The largest number of projects in the First Call for Proposals of the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme (15) was selected within **Component 2 of Priority Axis 4** 'Co-operation in preschool, primary and secondary education and adult education', targeted also by the majority of the proposals submitted in May last year; followed by the 12 projects within Component 3.1.1 'Thematic co-operation'.

The selected projects, involving as many as **176 beneficiary organisations**, show a clear **balance in the total financing allocated** on each side of the border, with just over 11.5 million EUR to be invested on each side. The projects are to be implemented by **diverse partnerships**, including experienced beneficiaries, but a significant number of new ones as well, with 34 led by Croatian Lead Beneficiaries and Hungarian organisations assuming this role in case of 20 projects. Most of the Lead Beneficiaries are from Virovitičko-podravska County (11), with Baranya (10), Osječko-baranjska (9) and Koprivničko-križevačka (8) following closely behind.



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Besides the 54 projects selected within the open Call, **two more are currently running** in the Programme: *De-mine HU-HR II*, as the first Hungarian-Croatian **strategic project**, and the *Beneficiary Light* SME support scheme, led by the partnership of Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO) as the Lead Beneficiary, and managed together with four Croatian border counties' (Međimurska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Virovitičko-podravska and Osječko-baranjska) regional development agencies, as well as the Hungarian entrepreneur's centres from border counties (Zala, Somogy and Baranya) as project beneficiaries.

The **contracting** of the projects selected for funding within the First Call for Proposals is foreseen to be unfolding in the following months, with the **official letters on the award of funding** soon to be sent to the Lead Beneficiaries of the selected projects.

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