

More than 200 applications submitted to the First Call for Proposals of the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

The First Call for Proposals in the new financial perspective proved to be the most popular yet in the history of cross-border co-operation between Hungary and Croatia, attracting a **record number of joint project proposals** by non-profit organisations from the two Member States.

Building on the experiences and successes of the previous period, the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 envisages the Hungary-Croatia border area as *a region of diverse cooperation, facilitated by appropriate cross-border connections, shared knowledge and active and motivated groups of the society, in the focus of which stands the sustainable and value-added exploitation of the region's rich natural and cultural resources.*

In order to achieve this long-term vision for the region, the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, acting as the Managing Authority (MA) of the Programme and the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia, acting as the National Authority (NA) in the Programme launched the First Open Call for Proposals on 29 February 2016, making **more than 26.5 mEUR available to joint projects of non-profit organisations active in the border region.**

With the **submission deadline set for 31 May 2016**, the potential applicants had more than ninety days to develop their project ideas and elaborate coherent and comprehensive joint project proposals within the three Priority Axis open to them: *Sustainable Use of Natural and Cultural Assets, Enhancement of Institutional Capacity through Cooperation and joint Investment in Education and Training.* The potential applicants were supported in their work by the Programme within a number of partner search and information day workshops, as well as through personal consultation provided to them throughout the submission period – as a new feature in 2016 continuously on four different locations (Budapest, Pécs, Čakovec and Osijek).

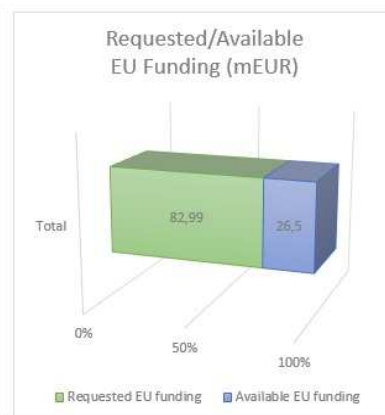
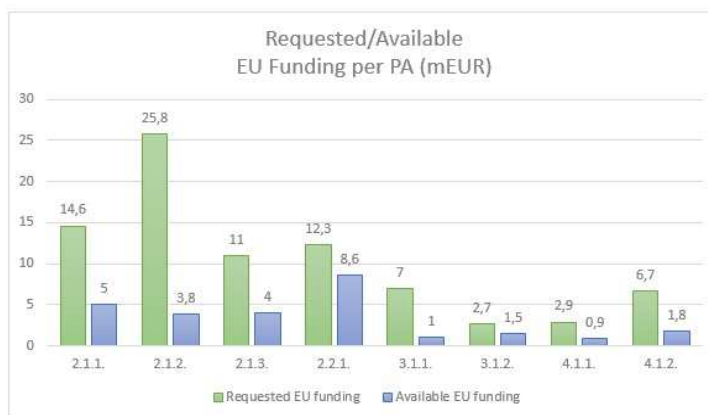
By the end of the submission period **a total of 204 valid applications** were submitted by a long and diverse list of potential beneficiaries, **with Hungarian organisations assuming**

the role of the Lead Beneficiary in case of 108 project proposals and Croatian ones in 96 cases.

Once again, the regions with the **highest numbers of potential Lead Beneficiary** organisations are **Baranya County (61)** on the Hungarian side and its neighbouring, **Osječko-baranjska County (33)** among the Croatian regions involved.

The 204 Hungarian-Croatian project partnerships applied for a total amount of **almost 83 mEUR**, more than three times the available amount. Projects applying for support within the **4.1.2 Priority Axis "Co-operation in preschool, primary and secondary education and adult education"** face the fiercest competition, with a total of **40 project proposals competing for the available funding**, with **2.1.3 "Thematic routes and other tourism products"** and **3.1.1 "Thematic co-operation"** following closely behind.

All the timely applications have entered the assessment phase with the **decision on the awarded funding expected indicatively by the end of 2016.**



A cross-border region where rivers connect, not divide