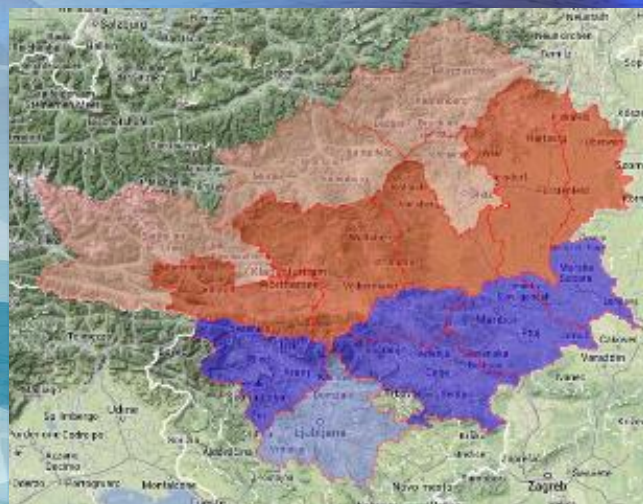




The cover image presents a picture collage showing some results of the co-financed projects and programme information and communication activities. All of those activities contributed to the overall success of the operational programme in the financial period 2007-2013.

Copyright for all pictures in the AIR: Joint Technical Secretariat of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013

The core programme area includes the Austrian regions of Oststeiermark, West- and Südsteiermark, Klagenfurt– Villach, Unterkärnten and Südburgenland, along with the Slovenian regions of Gorenjska, Koroška, Savinjska, Podravska and Pomurska. The areas of Graz, Obersteiermark Ost, Obersteiermark West and Oberkärnten in Austria and Osrednjeslovenska in Slovenia may take part in projects as an adjacent area, i.e. receiving a maximum 20 % of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme. The listed regions are NUTS III regions.



Objective concerned

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

Eligible area concerned

- core programme area in Austria: **Oststeiermark, West- and Südsteiermark, Klagenfurt-Villach, Unterkärnten and Südburgenland**
- core programme area in Slovenia: **Gorenjska, Koroška, Savinjska, Podravska and Pomurska**
- extended programme area in line with article 21 (1) of the ERDF regulation in Austria: **Graz, Obersteiermark Ost, Obersteiermark West and Oberkärnten**
- extended programme area in line with article 21 (1) of the ERDF regulation in Slovenia: **Osrednjeslovenska**

Programme period

2007-2013

Programme number (CCI No)

2007CB163PO054

Programme title

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION SLOVENIA - AUSTRIA

2007-2013

Reporting year

2007-2015

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Date of approval of the Final Implementation Report by the
Monitoring Committee

10 February 2017

Date of approval of the Final Implementation Report by the EC

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List of Acronyms

AA – Audit Authority
AB – Audit Body
AfP – Application for Payment
AIR – Annual Implementation Report
BPG – Bilateral Programming Group
CA – Certifying Authority
EC – European Commission
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund
EU – European Union
FLC – First Level Control
GODC – Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy
JMC – Joint Monitoring Committee
JTS – Joint Technical Secretariat
MA – Managing Authority
MAP – Module for Data Analysis (information system ISARR)
NC – National Controller
NCU – National Control Unit
OP SI-AT – Operational Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013
RB – Regional Body
SPF – Small Project Fund
TA – Technical Assistance

1. Introduction

This Final Implementation Report (FIR) covers the activities and achievements of the Operational Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013 (OP SI-AT 2007-2013) in the period between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2015.

According to Article 67 of the Regulation 1083/2006, the Managing Authority (MA) is requested to submit the Final Implementation Report (FIR) to the European Commission (EC) by 31 March 2017. Since on 27 November 2015 the 1st Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting for the financial period 2014-2020 took place in Rimske Toplice (Slovenia) the members of the respective committee agreed to take over also the role of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 and to decide on the open issues such as the approval of the final implementation report, procedures regarding recovering of irregularities and minor modifications of operations etc.

This Report presents activities related to the implementation of the Programme in the whole implementation period. It includes information related to progress in Programme

implementation, achievements measured by relevant indicators at the level of priority axis, financial implementation, monitoring and evaluation, issues related to technical assistance, measures to provide information and publicity, to be transparent and to facilitate stakeholders as well as to make activities more visible.

Since most of the data related to the project results and project approval were already available for the report 2014, the majority of this final report includes also those graphical presentations and correlated descriptions to gain the overall picture of the programme results.

The present document has therefore been discussed in the frame of the 3rd MC meeting and approved in the frame of the 7th written procedure of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for the financial period 2014-2020.

The FIR of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 was prepared by the MA /Joint technical secretariat (JTS). The MC approved it on 10 February 2017.



The programme manager and the JTS team

2. The general overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 The programme implementation in connection with the wider socio-economic situation

In the year 2015 (updated with the final financial data in 2016) the evaluation of the programme has been carried out by independent external experts. The evaluation is providing information on what the programme has achieved, what the added-value of the indicators and results reached is etc.

The starting point of the respective evaluation were the socio-economic factors, which were quantified during the programming of the financial period 2007-2013; employment, education level, tourism, renewable energy, business subjects, enterprises etc.

Based on the socio-economic analysis the Operational Programme has identified two priorities (Competitiveness, knowledge and economic cooperation and Sustainable and balanced development). The findings of the above-mentioned evaluation present the following alterations in the main socio-economic factors during the 2007-2013 period:

During the programme period, the **population of the programme area** stayed steady, only a restructuring in the population toward Graz and Osrednjeslovenska (which includes Ljubljana) can be seen. These are actually the big cities of the region, and not part of the core programme area, so it is an important role of the cross-border projects to slow the pace of population movement toward the knowledge hubs of the region.

Analysing the **age composition of the inhabitants** of the region, shows that during the programme period the population became older. 11 % more elderly people live in the programme area, than in 2007. This

phenomenon is more characteristic in Austria than in Slovenia. The only exception is the Osrednjeslovenska region of Slovenia, where the population became younger.

Evaluating the **GDP growth in the region**, it can be concluded that in euro, both regions have shown economic development (11 % in Austria and 3 % in Slovenia), however calculating this in purchasing power standard, the growth in Slovenia disappears and a 1 % setback can be seen.

The effect of the 2008-2009 crisis was different in the two countries. The regions of Austria have only suffered minor setbacks in 2009 and were able to continue their economic growth afterwards, the Slovenian region were unable to reach their GDP producing level of 2008 till 2012. This resulted in a huge difference of **the growth trend of GDP per inhabitant** in Austria (10 %) and in Slovenia (1 %). Calculating this in Purchasing Power Standard, the Slovenian regions have suffered a 3 % setback, while Austria developed with 7 %, so the gap between the two counties has risen for 10 %.

When comparing the economic performance of the programme regions in relation to other regions of the European Union (EU) one can see that, the situation of the Austrian regions has risen significantly (with 7-8 %), while the Slovenian regions were only able to preserve their position. This is true even when calculating in euro or in Purchasing Power Standard.

Analysing the **Gross value added at basic prices** in the region, the same conclusions as with the GDP can be made.

If the **composition of this Gross added value** is examined, it can be concluded that there was a clear shift towards services from industry, while the performance and share of the agriculture has stayed the same.

Looking at the **number of enterprises** in the region, there were different trends in the two countries, while in Austria the number of enterprises stayed unchanged; there was a steady increase in the number of enterprises in Slovenia.

By analysing the restructuring of enterprises during the programme period, the **existing composition of the enterprises** has to be examined firstly; the predominant sectors are services, especially wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and professional scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities.

Concerning the **sectors of the newly born enterprises**, compared to the present structure, it can be concluded that Information and communication, Professional scientific and technical activities (administrative and support service activities), Arts, entertainment and recreation service activities, Education, human health and social work and construction sectors are the ones, where entrepreneurship is the most active.

By examining **how many of the enterprises established in the sectors survive over three business years**, it can be seen that Construction, Professional scientific and technical activities (administrative and support service activities), information and communication sectors have better chances, while enterprises in the other evolving sectors (e.g.: education, human health and social work) are more likely to terminate their activity at an early stage.

Apart from entrepreneurship examining the **employment capability of regional**

enterprises, a different picture can be seen; Industry, Transportation and storage and Wholesale and retail trade (repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles) sectors have the biggest chance for increasing the level of regional employments.

The analysis of the **innovation potential** of regional enterprises shows that the Austrian enterprises are four times as likely to be innovative as the Slovenian ones, the least innovative regions are Pomurska and Podravska and the most innovative is Graz.

Similar to the economic performance, the trend of **regional employment** was different in Austria and Slovenia. While the Austrian regions could increase their employment level, the Slovenian regions showed a decline compared to their performance before the 2008-2009 economic crisis.

Looking at the **composition of employment by business sectors**, we can see the same tendency as in the case of added-value, the work opportunities shift from industry towards the service sector. The only difference is that while the economic performance of the agriculture stayed steady, the same economic value was produced with less employment (*there is a 1 % decrease of the employment level in agriculture*), so job opportunities in the rural region further decreased in the programme period. This also supports the migration trend toward the bigger cities.

Analysing the regional **education statistics**, the **percentage of population having tertiary education level** has risen significantly during the programme period. The rise was more significant among females than males.

Analysing the regional **tourism statistics** in the programme period, the **total number of nights spent** in the programme area increased for 10 %, the Slovenian regions were better in this aspect, but the Austrian regions have

significantly more visitors. The type of accommodation was mainly hotels, this slightly decreased during the programme period, and half of the visitors were residents, and the other half non-residents.

By analysing the regional **energy production** in the programme period, it can be concluded, that the renewable energy production share of the total production has risen in both

countries. In Austria, the base value was relatively high, but the biggest increase was in Slovenia. It can also be concluded that the Austrian regions of the cross-border area are almost only producing renewable energy.

The analysis of the regional **internet access** in the programme period, shows, that in both countries it has risen for 30 % and it is just slightly higher in Austria than in Slovenia.

2.2 Contributing to the competitiveness in key economic sectors

According to the programme evaluation¹ the programme has contributed to economic development of the programme area, especially in terms of SME development, as approx. 45 % of total committed funds were allocated for Priority 1 (competitiveness, knowledge and economic cooperation). These investments were well placed based on the following reasons:

The negative trend of migration towards big knowledge hubs, due to the loss of employment in the rural agricultural and local industry sectors, has been helped to counterbalance by the programme, supporting local SMEs in the star sectors, where most of the new enterprises of the region were born (i.e.: Information and communication, professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities, arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities, education; human health and social work activities). These activities were very important as the enterprises established

in these sectors are less likely to improve their employment from their own financial resources in contrast to the enterprises established in the industry, construction and retail sectors.

Tourism has improved significantly (the number of nights spent in the border region has risen by 10 %), the programme clearly contributed to that.

The joint research and knowledge based projects have also contributed to mobilising the common innovation potentials, since the enterprises on the Austrian side of the cross-border region are still 3-4 times more innovative than on the Slovenian side of the programme area (based on the number of international patterns per million inhabitants). So this knowledge and innovative culture can only be shared with the Slovenian enterprises if they keep on intensifying co-operations and work closely together with their Austrian partners.

¹ Ex-post evaluation of the operational programme of cross-border cooperation Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013, November 2015, updated October 2016

2.3 Increasing the quality of life

The programme has contributed to increase of quality of life with the investments especially in urban and regional development and social and cultural development. Source: own compilation upon JTS data and analysis of questionnaires.

These developments were well placed based on the following reasons:

In education; human health and social work activities and arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities sectors, 1,93 % more enterprises have been established (based on the available 2010 data) in the region than it should be concluded from the trends in

number of active enterprises in these sectors. Meanwhile, these enterprises are not competitive enough to sustain their activities for a longer period, since the enterprises surviving three business years are -0,23 % less in these sectors than it should be concluded from the number of active enterprises in these sectors (based on the available 2007-2010 data).

Since their services are essential for the society, it is an added value of the cross-border programme to support these enterprises and help them from and operate during the difficult times of their first years of operation.

2.4 Promoting sustainability in cross-border projects

The programme has contributed to sustainability among others with the investment in the management of natural resources and environment and energy. These developments were well placed based on the following reasons:

In the case of **sustainable energy**, the Austrian part of the area excels, since 95 % of energy produced in this region was renewable (compared to the 73 % for Austria in total).

On the other hand, in Slovenia, the **share of renewable energy in energy production** was just 20 % in the beginning of the programme

period. When projecting the statistical trends for the whole programme period, Slovenia was able to increase the share of renewable energy in energy production by 28 % and the renewable energy production reached a 26 % share.

Cross-border cooperation was contributing to achieve this **balancing effect**. Further investments and transfer of knowledge are still needed in this area, since there is still a huge gap between the performance of these two neighbouring countries. Sharing of best practices can one of the effective tools to overcome this difference.

3 Implementation of the programme

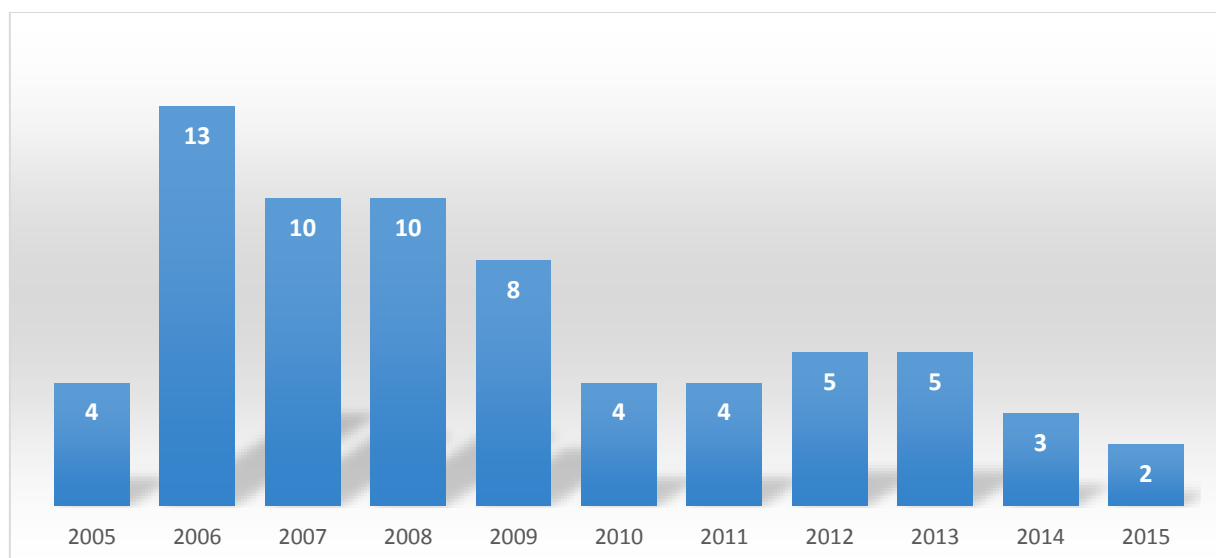
3.1 Overview of the activities related to the operational implementation of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013

3.1.1 Meetings on the programme level

Responsible for the programme implementation process was the Bilateral Programming Group (BPG), which constituted of representatives of both Member States. The group met regularly from 2005 till 2015. The BPG meetings reached the number 68 at the end of the year 2015. During the year 2015 also activities and meetings for the programming of

the financial period 2014-2020 were carried out, therefore, some of the topics also concerning the period 2007-2013 were discussed among the programme partners on those meetings. The focus in 2015 was also to ensure the timely and successful implementation and closure of the programme.

Chart 1: Number of BPG meetings per year



The distribution of the meetings through the years is not a surprise, it is a consistent consequence which indicates the fact that the programme partners needed more meetings or opportunities for discussion in the first half of the programme period, whereby the lower number of meetings after 2010 shows that the cooperation was based on trust that the joint programme structures (e.g. the MA and the JTS) will perform their tasks in accordance to the jointly set procedures. On the programme level, 14 JMC meetings were held, the last one was organised on 26 November 2015 in Rimske Terme (Slovenia).



The 14th JMC meeting was held on 26 November 2015 in Rimske Terme, Slovenia.

3.1.2 Allocation of the Programme funds

According to the Operational Programme for the whole programming period, **67.111.477 EUR** of community funding (ERDF) was available for all three priorities, whereby 4.026.689 EUR of the funds are reserved for the Priority 3 (Technical assistance). Until the end of 2014, the MA of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, has published two Open Calls for Proposals (two

deadlines within each Open Call) and one Public Call for Project Ideas. The latter was published to award the funds that remained within the 1st and the 2nd Open Call and the funds which would not be used after the project closure of all approved operations. In 2014, also two strategic projects were directly approved for implementation.

4 The programme implementation related to the approved operations

4.1 The division of funds and project partners in the approved operations

In order to commit the available ERDF funds the MA signed, by the end of 2014, 89 Subsidy contracts with the Lead partners of the approved projects.

- In the frame of the programme, 67.343.153,43 EUR ERDF funds were contracted for the Priorities 1 and 2. It is important to notice that the programme partners (members of the BPG and the JMC) agreed that there will be no “*real over-commitment*” on the programme level; the presented numbers reflect the contracted values. By deciding on the approval of additional projects, the funds remaining from the contracted projects were taken into

consideration. Therefore, the “over-commitment” was just on the paper and is not evident in the final financial tables, since the usage of funds on the project level was 92,7 %. Even though the funds were contracted in a nearly equal amount on both sides of the border (*see table 1*), there are three regions in the programme area where a greater share of programme funds was assigned to the project partners (*see chart 2*). In Slovenia, this is Podravska statistical region (16 %), while in Austria these are Kärnten (22 %) and Steiermark (26 %).

The highest share of ERDF funds paid out (to the operations) belongs to Steiermark (26 %).

OVERVIEW OF THE CONTRACTED ERDF FUNDS PER REGION

Chart 2: ERDF funds in approved operations per region

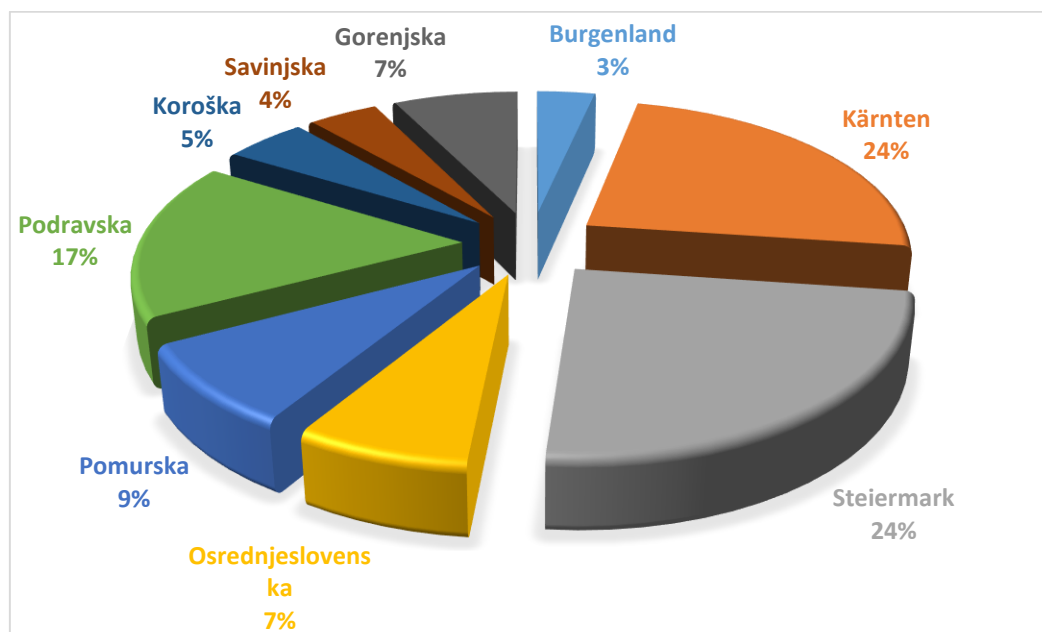


Table 1: Contracted ERDF funds in approved operations per region

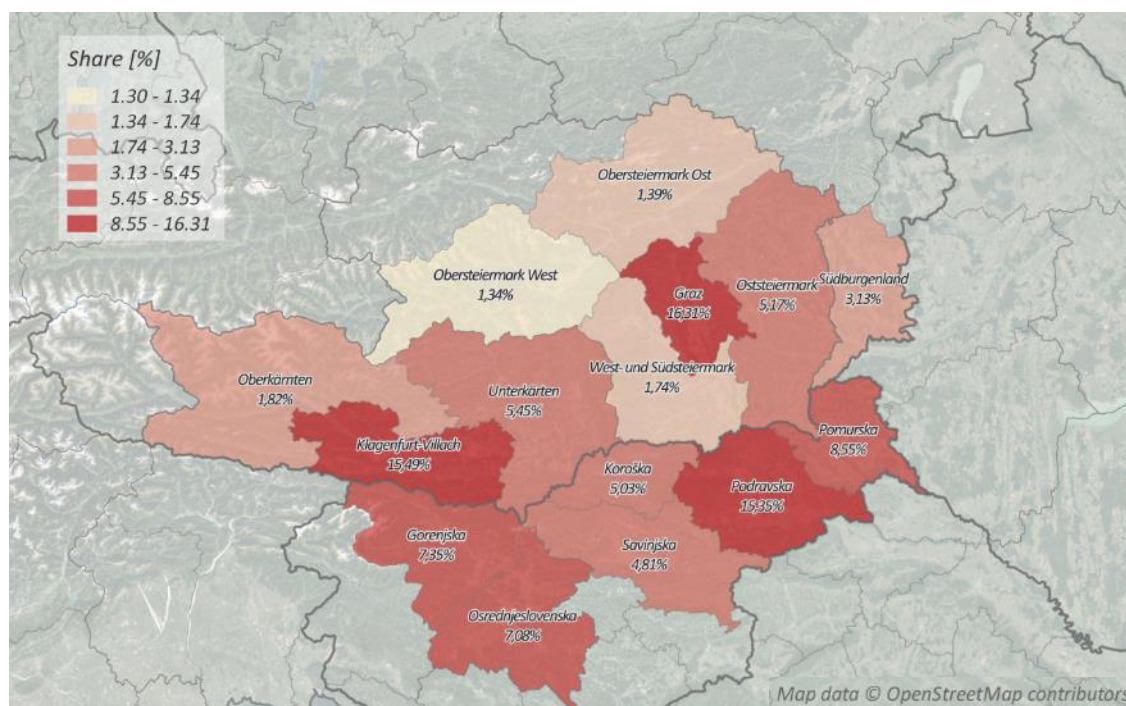
COUNTRY / REGION	Contracted ERDF funds in EUR		
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Total
Austria	16.015.506,09	18.664.785,15	34.680.291,24
Burgenland	1.233.734,07	1.062.612,66	2.296.346,73
Kärnten	8.042.084,61	7.971.919,43	16.014.004,04
Steiermark	6.739.687,41	9.630.253,06	16.369.940,47
Slovenia	14.469.672,43	18.193.189,76	32.662.862,19
Osrednjeslovenska	2.460.624,18	2.449.888,08	4.910.512,26
Pomurska	2.144.277,33	3.526.485,30	5.670.762,63
Podravska	5.431.567,08	5.686.376,66	11.117.943,74
Koroška	1.596.350,43	1.662.673,61	3.259.024,04
Savinjska	1.869.362,19	886.498,06	2.755.860,25
Gorenjska	967.491,22	3.981.268,05	4.948.759,27
TOTAL	30.485.178,52	36.857.974,91	67.343.153,43
TA			4.026.689,00
TOTAL incl. TA			71.369.842,43

Table 2: ERDF funds paid to beneficiaries

COUNTRY / REGION	Paid ERDF in EUR		
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Total
Austria	14.684.372,97	16.055.940,77	30.740.313,74
Burgenland	1.124.799,78	953.770,65	2.078.570,43
Kärnten	6.789.611,53	6.376.618,86	13.166.230,39
Steiermark	6.769.961,66	8.725.551,29	15.495.512,92
Slovenia	12.852.669,95	15.696.048,15	28.548.718,10
Osrednjeslovenska	2.138.013,28	2.025.231,33	4.163.244,61
Pomurska	1.871.021,24	3.174.530,76	5.045.522,00
Podravska	4.770.256,39	4.488.371,61	9.258.628,00
Koroška	1.446.907,11	1.656.299,52	3.103.206,63
Savinjska	1.770.953,81	804.859,54	2.575.813,35
Gorenjska	855.518,12	3.546.755,39	4.402.273,51
TOTAL	27.537.042,92	31.751.988,92	59.289.031,84
TA			3.120.642,74
TOTAL incl. TA			62.409.674,58

Table 3: Overview of planned, contracted and paid out funds per priority

Priority	Nr. of Projects	Total Funds			ERDF funds		
		Financial plan	Contracted	Funds used	ERDF-financial plan	Contracted	ERDF used/paid out
1	46	33.286.978,00	45.582.099,82	39.700.126,55	28.293.931,00	30.485.178,52	27.537.042,92
2	43	40.930.420,00	43.807.654,15	38.113.089,64	34.790.857,00	36.857.974,91	31.751.988,92
3	3	4.737.282,00	4.737.282,00	3.669.985,69	4.026.689,00	4.026.689,00	3.120.642,74
Total	92	78.954.680,00	94.127.035,97	81.483.201,88	67.111.477,00	71.369.842,43	62.409.674,58

Chart 3²: Regional absorption capacity³

OVERVIEW OF THE CONTRACTED ERDF FUNDS PER MEMBER STATE

Chart 4: ERDF funds committed per Member State



The division of committed funds among partners coming from both Member States is balanced, which indicates the fact that also project activities are equilibrated among the cross-border partners.

PROJECT PARTNERS PER MEMBER STATE

Out of 484 project partners involved in the implementation of the activities co-financed by the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, more project partners are coming from Slovenia (272) than from

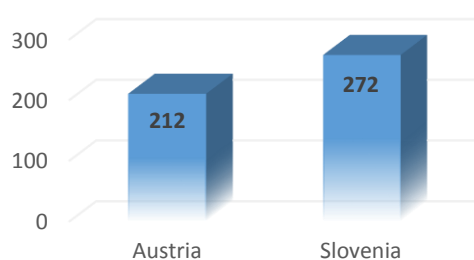
Austria (212). However, taking into account the division of contracted funds, the Austrian project partners, in comparison to the Slovenians contracted 3% more funds. The

² Land and maritime border between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia is a matter of ongoing arbitration proceedings (in accordance with the Arbitration agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia signed on 4 November 2009). Therefore, all the maps within this report are without prejudice to the border between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia.

³ Ex-post evaluation of the operational programme of cross-border cooperation Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013, November 2015, updated October

average number of partners per projects is 5,5, however, important to point out is that the average is influenced by some extreme large partnerships: 40 projects have an above-average number of partners (6 or more), while 10 projects have even ten or more organisations involved.

Chart 5: All partners per Member State



PROJECT PARTNERS PER REGION

When comparing the number of project partners and committed funds per region it can be seen that in Austria, the region Steiermark reaches more committed funds with less project partners than for instance the region Kärnten. Out of 484 project partners, the majority of Slovene partners come from Podravska (85) statistical region. On the Austrian side, the majority of partners come

from Kärnten (104). Only 7,1 % of Austrian project partners are coming from Burgenland. The involvement of both Member States in terms of Lead Partners and Project Partners is relatively balanced. Austrian organisations are more active in lead partnership (50 against 39), while in terms of total number of project partners Slovenia dominates (272 against 212).

Table 4: Partners per region in approved operations

Region	1 st Priority	%	2 nd Priority	%	Total	%
Kärnten (AT)	49	20,50	55	22,45	104	21,5
Steiermark (AT)	46	19,25	45	18,37	91	18,8
Burgenland (AT)	10	4,18	5	2,04	15	3,1
Podravska (SI)	53	22,18	32	13,06	85	17,6
Koroška (SI)	14	5,86	17	6,94	31	6,4
Pomurska (SI)	18	7,53	24	9,8	42	8,7
Gorenjska (SI)	13	5,44	34	13,88	47	9,7
Osrednjeslovenska (SI)	21	8,79	25	10,2	46	9,5
Savinjska (SI)	15	6,28	6	2,45	21	4,3
Outside the eligible area (AT)	0	0	2	0,82	2	0,4
TOTAL	239	100	245	100	484	100

Chart 5: Number of project partners per region in Priority 1

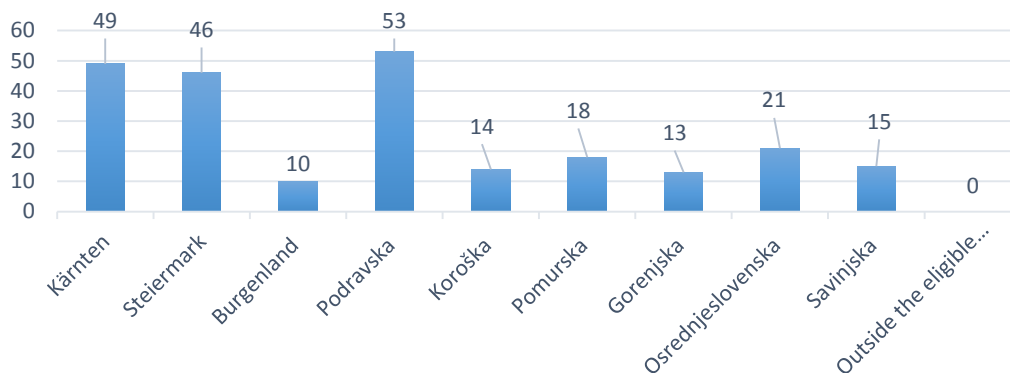
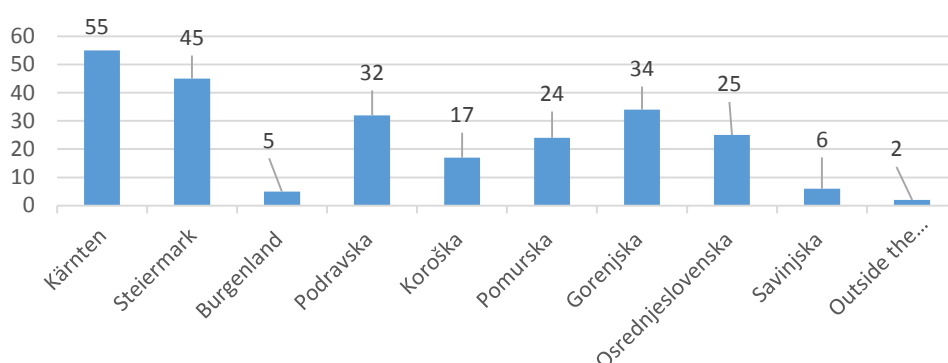


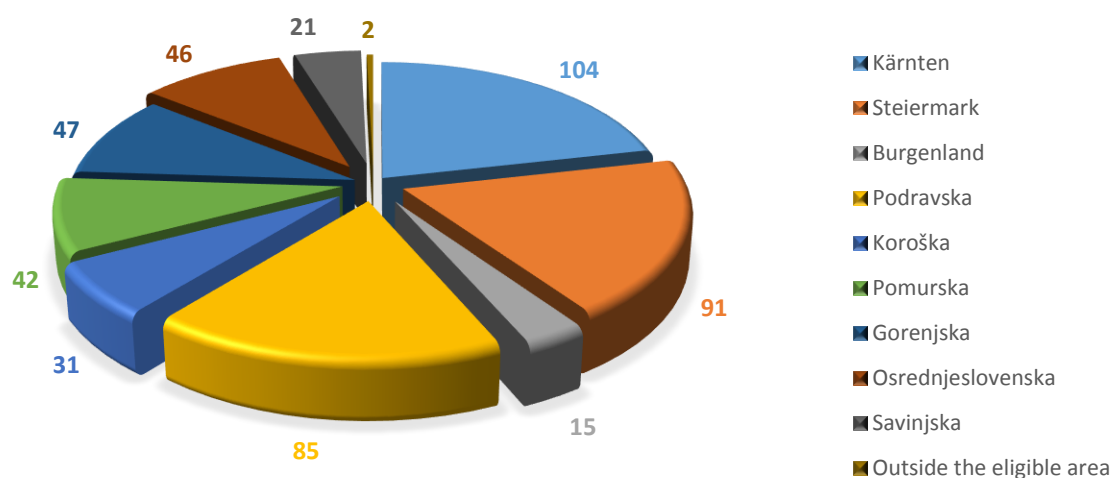
Chart 6: Number of project partners per region in Priority 2



By analysing the project partners' distribution among the cities and towns in the programme area, one can derive the following data: important centres as Graz, Klagenfurt are focal

points of cooperation. In Slovenia, Maribor has the leading position, followed by Ljubljana, Murska Sobota and Kranj.

Chart 7: All project partners in approved operations per region

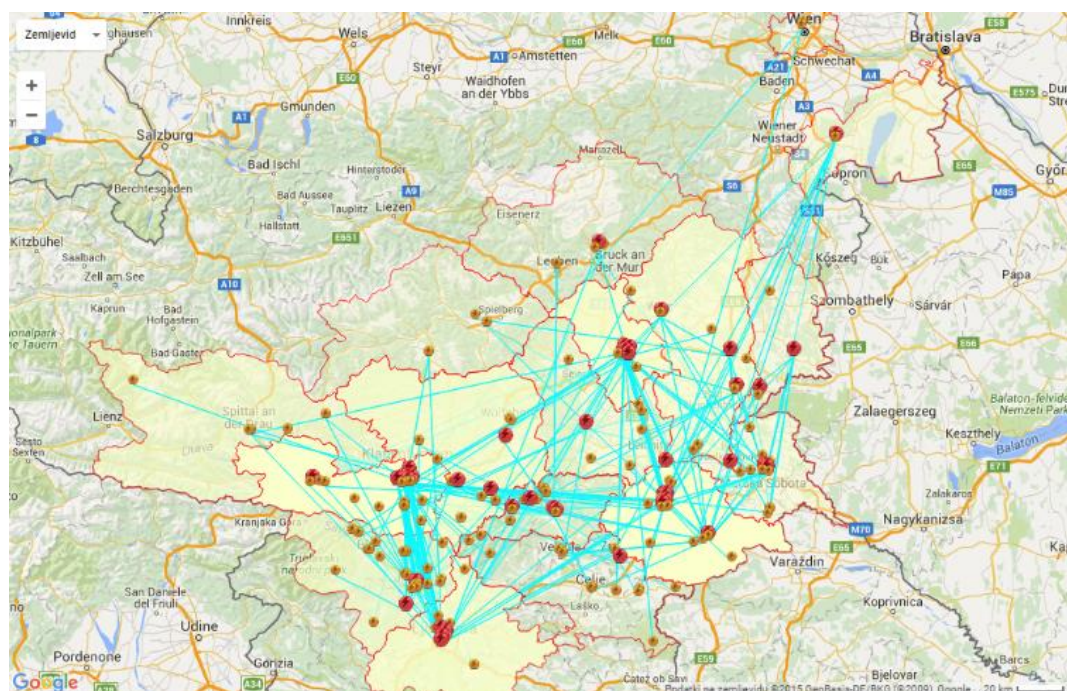


In regional (NUTS 2) terms in Austria, Kärnten were the most active regions (104 PPs, including 27 LPs), while Steiermark – in spite of the higher population density and stronger economic performance – earned a bit less: 91 PPs, including 20 project LPs. Burgenland's role is marginal (15 PPs, 3 LPs), even if considering that one third of this performance is coming from the NUTS 3 unit Nordburgenland that is not part of the programme area. Important is to point out the role of Graz, as an adjacent area: 53 PPs and 13 LPs are coming from there, justifying the relevance of involvement of adjacent regions, especially if there are strong regional economic centres. In case of Kärnten the adjacent Oberkärnten did not have a similar significance, as two third of the partners and LPs are coming from the core area of Klagenfurt-Villach. In Slovenia the geographical distribution of partnership activity is considerably more balanced. In the Eastern Slovenian NUTS 2 region Podravska (Maribor

area) seems to be the driving force, accounting for nearly 30% of the total number of Slovenian partners. The near-border Gorenjska region and the capital region of Osrednjeslovenska – the two regions making up the Eastern Slovenian NUTS 2 region – (justifying again the key role of capital regions) provided 93 PPs.

In NUTS 3 terms (see chart 5 and 6 more active regions are marked with darker colours) in Austria Klagenfurt-Villach was the most active region (78 PPs, including 21 LPs), while Graz – in spite of the higher population density and stronger economic performance – earned slightly less: 53 PPs, including 13 project LPs. In Slovenia geographical distribution of partnerships is considerably more balanced. Podravska region (Maribor area) seems to be the driving force, accounting for nearly 30% of the total number of Slovenian partners (80 PPs and 13 LPs). The capital region of Osrednjeslovenska provided 47 PPs and 7 LPs.

Chart 6: Geographical distribution of the project partner cooperation⁴



⁴ Ex-post evaluation of the operational programme of cross-border cooperation Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013, November 2015, updated October 2016

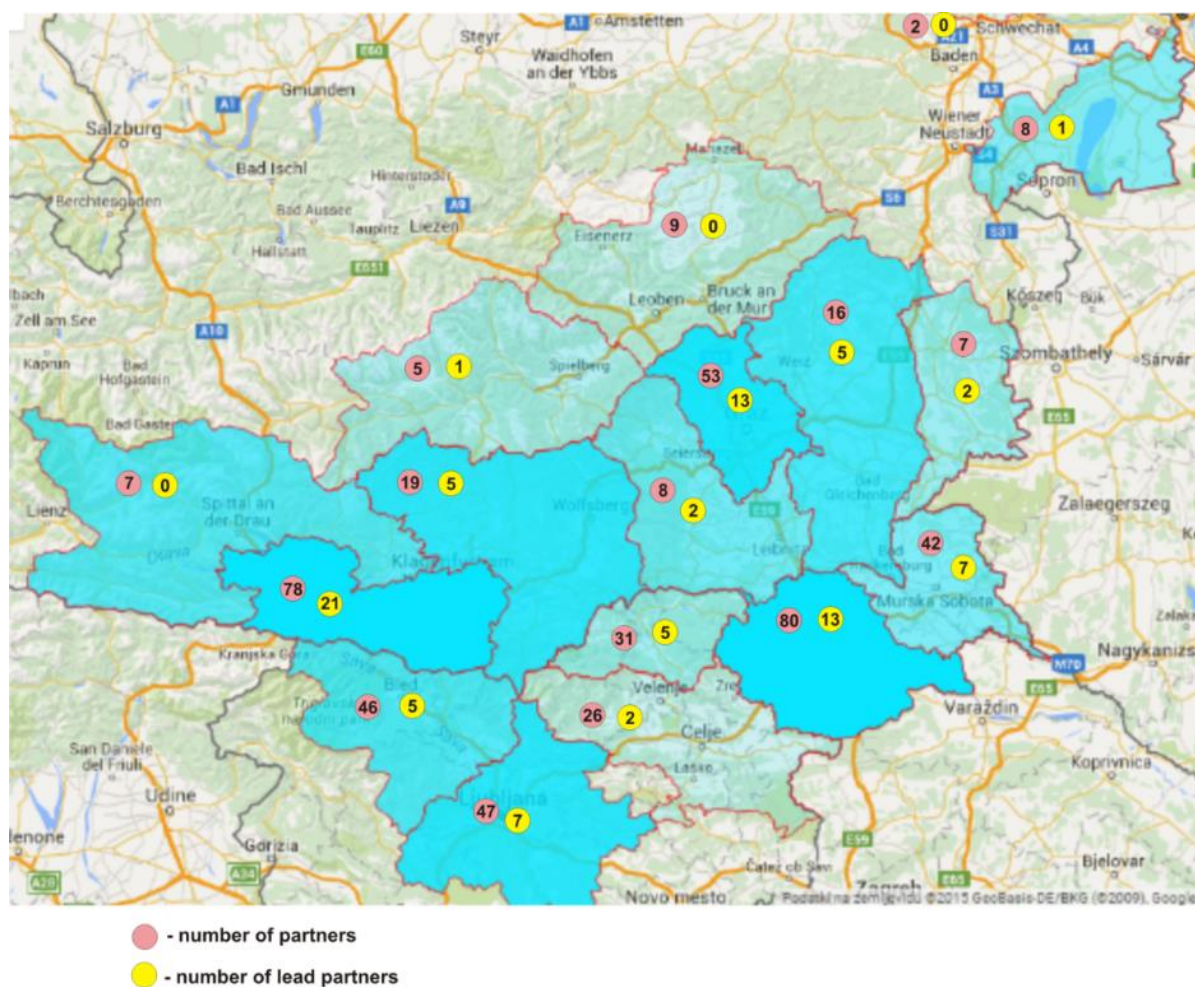
Chart 7: Geographical distribution of lead and project partners⁵

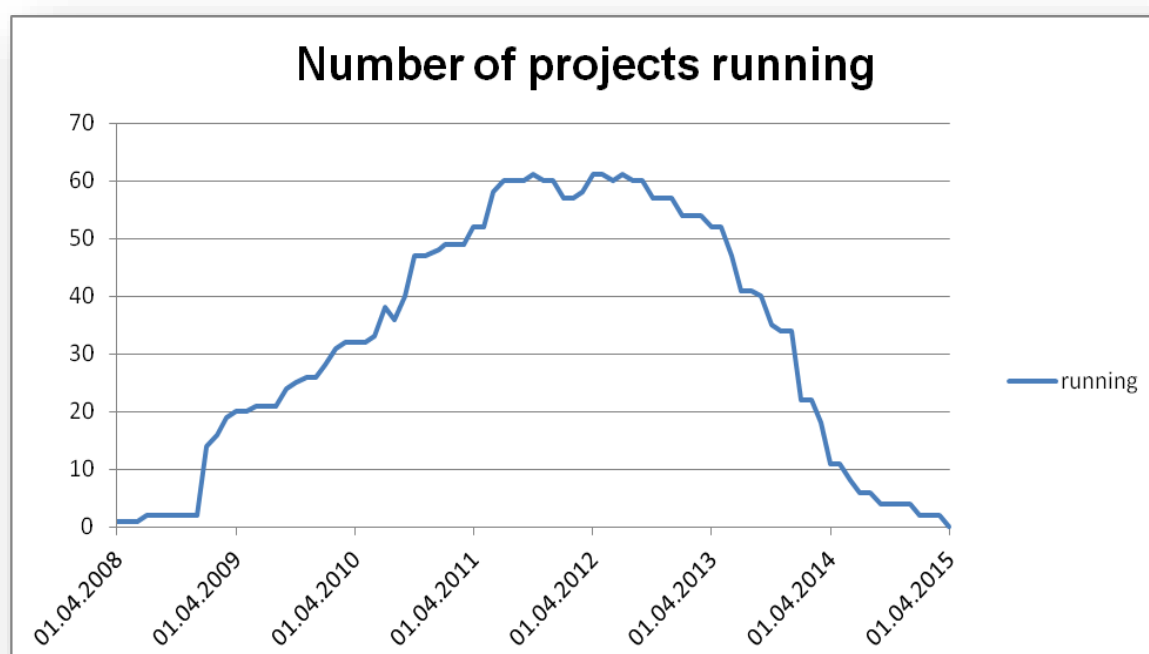
Table 5: Applications received within the 1st and 2nd Open Call for Proposals, the Public Call for Project Ideas and the procedure for the approval of the Strategic projects

No. of the deadline	Priority axes	No. of received applications	Actual no. of operations in implementation
1 st deadline 1 st Call	1	21	8
	2	36	12
2 nd deadline 1 st Call	1	13	7
1 st deadline 2 nd Call	1	17	10
	2	34	11 ⁶
2 nd deadline 2 nd Call	1	19	10
	2	25	11
Public Call for Project Ideas	1	11	9
Public Call for Project Ideas	2	14	9
Strategic project	1	1	1
Strategic project	2	1	1
Total		192	89

All projects approved by the JMC are part of table 5, with exception of the project ECOA, which is not part of the calculations since the project was terminated on 30 June 2011. Among all received applications, 36,5 % were

submitted within the 1st Open Call and 49,5 % within the 2nd Open Call for Proposals. 13 % were submitted within the Public Call for Project Ideas and 1,04 % as strategic projects.

Chart 8: Number of parallel running projects during the programme duration

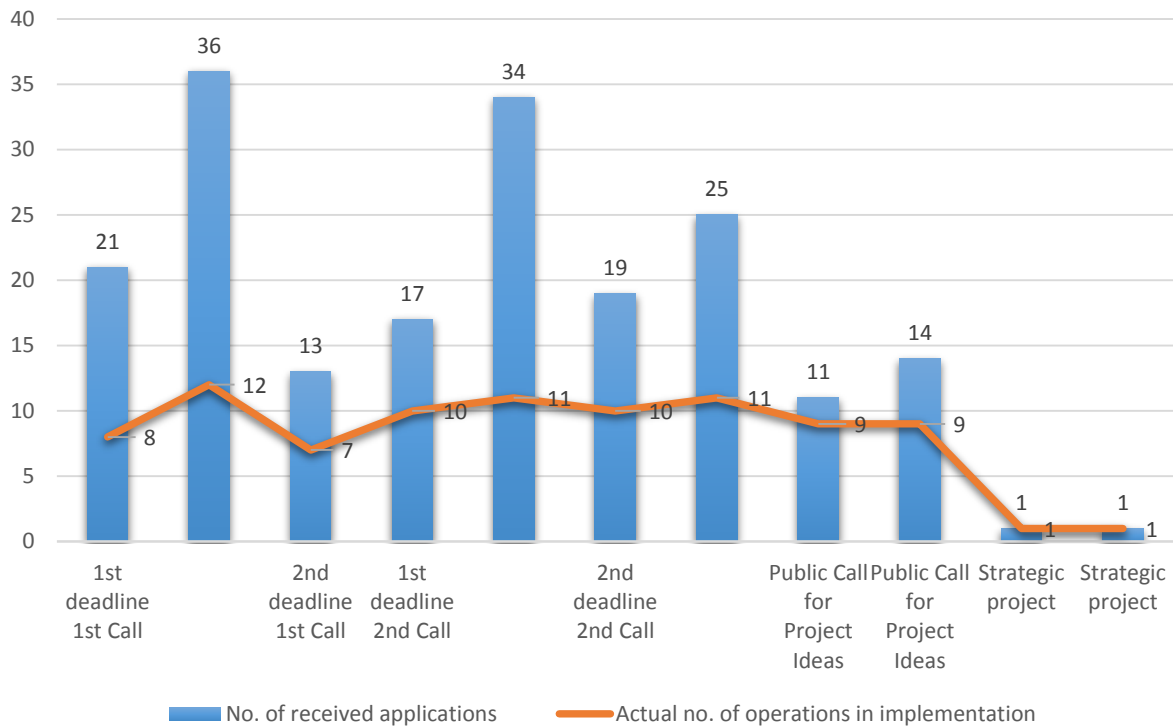


⁶ The number does not include the operation ECOA.

The chart 5 shows a balanced and timely performance of project and programme implementation, having a peak of 61

simultaneously running project in October 2011.

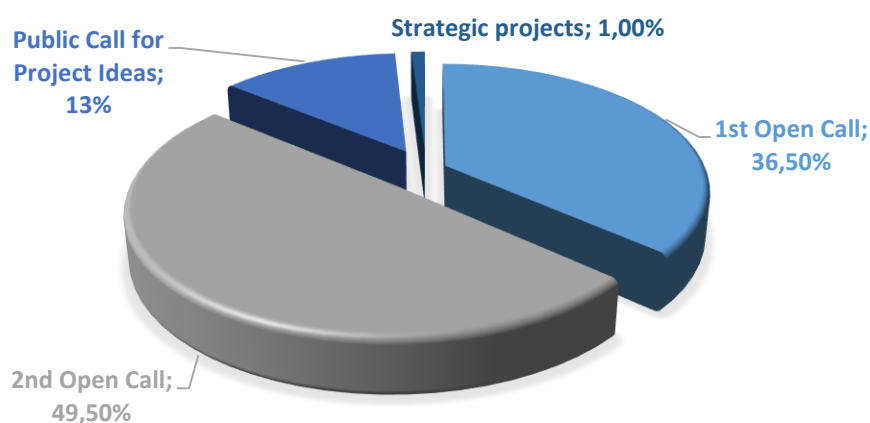
Chart 8: Received applications in comparison to the approved operations



The majority of operations started with the implementation of project activities in 2009 (22 operations) and 2010 (22 operations). Two operations started already in 2008, 16 operations in 2011, 7 operations in 2012, 8 operations started with their activities in 2013 and 12 in 2014. Most reporting periods of the operations were set for the duration of 6 months.

Most of the operations started in the mid of the programme implementation in the years 2009 and 2010. At the beginning of the programme in the year 2008, only 2,3 % of the approved operations started implementing the project activities; these two operations started with the activities even before the first deadline of the first Open Call was published.

Chart 9: Percentage of received applications



The percentage decreased from 24,7 % in 2010 to 18 % in the year 2011, where only 16 of the operations started with the disbursement of the programme funds. The presented situation is, according to the announcement of both Open Calls between July 2008 and December 2010, expected and justified. Despite the fact that the programme officially started in January 2007, the first possibility to award some co-financing funds for the applicants was not earlier than in the mid of 2008, when officially the first deadline of the first Open Call was published. Experience shows that the preparation and the development of good projects requires some time, as well as raising strong and long-term partnerships, therefore, it is to be mentioned that most of the projects, which can be considered as good projects,

started to work on the project idea and project partnership long before the Open Calls were published. The OP SI-AT 2007-2013 offered the project applicants the possibility to submit the project outline before the submission of the final application and in this regard to receive some constructive recommendations concerning the content and other relevant aspects of the project. This way of getting feedback from the programme structures was used by 40 partnerships till the end of 2009, which is understandable since the frequency of the Open Calls was concentrated to this period. After that, the project applicants did not submit any project outlines anymore; but submitted their final project applications within the deadlines foreseen in the Call.

4.2 Achievement and analysis of the progress based on the indicators

Indicators for measuring and monitoring the improvement on the programme level measure the progress of the Programme. The information on pre-defined indicators on programme level and values in approved operations for each identified indicator are presented in table 6.

Overall, and as underlined in the findings of the external evaluation, the indicators defined by the programme focussed on outputs and were rather weak in terms of measuring results and impacts of the programme. Concerning the over- or underachievement of certain indicators, the following explanations can be given:

Indicators on cooperation were focusing more on the volume of the cooperation rather than on its quality, therefore, most of them even exceeded the planned target values (indicators with codes 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 62).

As already explained in previous AIRs, **at the beginning of the programme the implementation of the Small Project Fund (SPF) was foreseen, therefore, also the number for these indicators was set very high.** During the programming and different discussions concerning the possibility on how to carry out the SPF without additional administrative burden for the involved project partners (*in this "people to people" projects*) the programme partners have come to the decision that the SPF will not going to be implemented. This resulted in less approved projects than previously thought, with higher co-financing amounts. Some target values in the OP were, due to the number of projects approved and the project total costs, which are mostly relatively high, not possible to reach.

Despite the fact that the number of approved projects is not as high as it was planned, the majority of the programme indicators have been achieved. There are some deviations between the target values set in the OP and the achieved values in the approved operations for two of the indicators reflecting the degree of cooperation and one **indicator reflecting the cross-border cooperation**. From the indicators reflecting the degree of cooperation, the critical value that has to be noted is the number of projects respecting three of the criteria (joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing) reaching 59,2 % of the target value. Although, it is important to highlight the fact that, according to the approved operations (89), the percentage of the projects respecting three of the criteria is 87 % of all operations in implementation; this

criterion has, among all four, the highest percentage value. The second indicator, which is according to the target value set in the OP, not achieved is the number of projects respecting two of the criteria. Whereby, depending on the interpretation, this indicator could theoretically be seen as achieved, considering that respecting three of the cross-border criteria also means that two of them are already automatically calculated in this number. In this case, the target value of 40 would be exceeded.

Concerning the Indicator number 44 it is important to stress, that the numbers presented in AIRs 2009 till 2014 represent the value stated in the Application forms of the approved operations, however, the final data shown from the evaluation, considering the very severe definition of joint staffing and performed after all 89 operations finished the implementation, decreased the value of this indicator to 6.

From the content perspective some programme indicators were overlapping each other (e.g. indicators with codes 42, 43, and 44), making a specific indicator-oriented analysis even more difficult, and encouraging misunderstanding by the beneficiaries in the application as well as in the reporting phase. This fact underlines the discrepancies between the planned values in the OP for indicators with codes 42 and 43. For those two indicators the plan was set too high on the basis of the forecast that the Small Project Fund will be implemented.

According to the target value set for the number of projects involving SMEs which with being 67,1 % of the target value has also not been reached, it has to be noted again that the number of approved operations is not as high

as it was planned at the time when the programme was prepared. From the presented data on reflecting the cross-border cooperation, it is evident that most of the targets are being achieved as planned or have even been exceeded.

The indicator of developing joint use of infrastructure has been exceeded by more than seven times. There were 36 projects claiming that they have developed a joint use of infrastructure e.g. project Euroregion–healthy region a mobile consultancy has been set up assisting a healthier lifestyle and possibilities to improve health. Together with more than 6.500 m² designed area for better urban living, actually merging and positively effecting both sides of the border.

The indicator of developing collaboration in the field of public services has been exceeded by more than four times. There were 40 projects claiming in their final reports that they have made a contribution in this field, such as the project City Impulses, where 32 Austrian and Slovenian cities have used the project activities and results for cross-border knowledge building. In the project VINO Cool tourist signs have been placed on the vine roads.

The indicator of reducing isolation through improved access to transport, ICT networks and services has also been exceeded compared to the original target value. 29 projects belong to this e.g. project MINDOC digitalized more than 200,000 pages from newspapers and other publications, presenting an added value for the access to the information. The project PROMT ICT developed an online tool for assessment of processes in SMEs and their matchmaking.

The indicator of encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the

environment has also been overachieved. 37 projects have achieved this indicator, such as project ALPA managing and revitalizing alpine pastures or Karafish project exploring trout, its genetic diversity and natural spatial peculiarity.

The indicator of people participating in joint education or training activities has been heavily exceeded. Within all 89 projects, 21.998 individuals participated in various forms of education, e.g. vocational education and trainings, certified programmes, workshops, conferences etc. This huge difference between target and realized value also indicates improper indicator setting in the programming phase.

The “female involvement” indicator has slightly been underperformed as the share of women in the frame of the participating people was 43%, instead of 50% set as a target value, however this can be regarded as a rather-insignificant deviation.

The indicator of SME involvement shows substantial deviation. The target value was 70, but only 47 has been realised. Similarly to indicator 43, this is a consequence of the fact that the SPF was not implemented.

Most of the projects, 78 out of 89, produced bilingual products, which is way above the indicator target value. Indicators concerning areas of cross-border cooperation show a fairly good ratio of realisation, most of the target values have been reached; several times they were even exceeded. The indicator for projects involving SMEs was the only cooperation area which was underperformed – this clearly shows the missing of the small project fund initiative originally planned in the programme.

The table 6 is created according to the Annex XVIII of the Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006.

Table 6: Indicators on programme level

Level / Name	Code	Indicator	Baseline	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total value in approved operations	Target value in the OP
Programme level / Operational Programme Slovenia-Austria		INDICATORS REFLECTING THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION												
	42	Number of projects respecting two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	9	9	40
	43	Number of projects respecting three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	0	0	0	24	45	62	61	67	77	77	77 ⁷	130
	44	Number of projects respecting four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing	0	0	0	3	4	7	7	7	7	6	6	4
		INDICATORS REFLECTING THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION												
	46	Number of projects developing joint use of infrastructure	0	0	0	16	23	30	30	32	36	36	36	5
	47	Number of projects developing collaboration in the field of public services	0	0	0	12	20	29	29	33	33	40	40	10
	48	Number of projects reducing isolation through improved access to transport, ICT networks and services	0	0	0	8	15	23	23	25	29	29	29	8
	49	Number of projects encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment	0	0	0	10	19	29	29	32	37	37	37	15
	50	Number of people participating in joint education or training activities	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.318	21.998	21.998	300
		- Female	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.133	9453	9453	at least 50%
	61	Projects involving SMEs	0	0	0	14	23	35	35	39	44	47	47	70
	62	Number of projects with bilingual products	0	0	0	25	42	62	62	67	78	78	78	50

⁷ The operation ECOA is not included.

4.3 Tangible results of projects

Within the scope of the ex-post evaluation, also project results have been assessed. A special attention has been given to identify tangible results. The notion “tangible” is defined as capable of touch or feel, having real substance and physical existence⁸.

Thus, the following categorization of results were not considered as tangible:

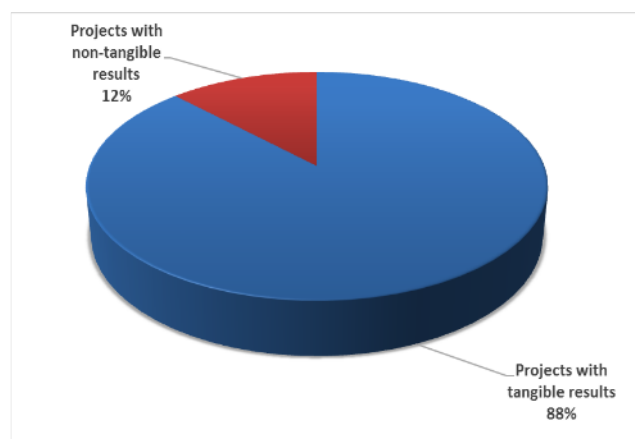
- Studies (expert studies, analyses, concepts, methodologies, feasibility studies, strategies, recommendations, etc.)
- Workshops
- Meetings, including project partners meetings
- Project webpage/project LinkedIn profile/project Facebook page etc.

The following results were considered to be tangible:

- Results/outputs in physical form (e.g. new road, reconstructed urban area)
- Competence building (designed and implemented new study courses, trainings, etc.)
- Platform, not only with informational purpose, but allowing networking opportunities or capacity building
- Transfer of policies, best practices, technologies, know-how
- New market products and/or services

- Other e.g. documentary movies, TV presentations, creating new companies, informational or technology transfer offices, etc.

Chart 9: Tangibility of project results



As shown, 12 % of projects (11 projects) did not produce any tangible results according to the used definition. The results of these projects were studies, methodologies and workshops.

The majority - 88 % - of projects had tangible results (78 projects).

By analysing the project specific indicators, the overview of the quantifiable outputs and results was prepared. Some examples can be seen in table 6. Besides typical cross-border project outputs and results, some special added-value has been created through different training programmes, pilot investments, established research and competence centres, info points, purchased vehicles, equipped laboratories, certification systems, business-research collaborations and a joint venture established etc.

⁸ Oxford Dictionaries Online: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>

Table 7: Some examples of the project outputs and results per activity field

Priority / Activity field	Some typical project level output indicators and results
1.1 SME development	Outputs: publications, events, consultancy services, webpage, good practices, case studies, analyses, plans, educational materials, movies, pilot investments. Results: training programmes, people trained, SME and researchers' networks, collaboration, knowledge exchanges, policy recommendations, joint ventures established, supporting schemes, research centres established, establishment of info points.
1.2 Tourism	Outputs: meetings, photos, publications, websites, events, festivals, contests, studies, market analyses, signposts, participation at fairs and promotion events, media appearances, study tours, movies, mobile tourist guides, train wagon purchased, Results: newly developed tourism products, tourist routes, recommendations for development, SMEs trained, info points set up.
1.3 Knowledge based economy	Outputs: studies, analyses, investment preparatory documents, plans, websites, meetings, media appearances, events, experiments, site visits, Results: trainers trained, company contacts established, competences developed, students trained, innovation platforms, laboratories equipped, business collaborations, value chains, product developed.
1.4 Thematic fields of strengths	Outputs: documents, plans, marketing plans, media appearances, websites, train wagon purchased. Results: certification system developed curricula for trainers, companies networked, models, products developed.
2.1 Management of natural resources	Outputs: studies, projects, models, events, maps, media appearances, methodology, databases, competitions, vehicle purchased, good practices collected, feasibility studies. Results: regional interpretation centres, courses and trainings, laboratories set up, monitoring stations set up, competence centre set up.
2.2 Environment and energy	Outputs: studies, strategies, study visits, maps, publications, workshops, databases, models, equipment purchased, intervention plans, gene bank system developed. Results: public buildings analysed from energy efficiency point of view, educational programmes developed and implemented.
2.3 Urban and regional development	Outputs: events, analyses, concepts, studies, good practices, pilot projects, virtual presentation tool, exhibitions, publications, databases. Results: info platform, activity centres, programmes.
2.4 Social and cultural development	Outputs: films, theatre plays, websites, newspapers, events, consultancy services, publications, analyses, exhibitions, pilot investments. Results: cross-border media exchanges, consultancy networks, archives.

Several projects had substantial tangible results, having significant sustainable positive impact and added value for the citizens of the local/regional area. These projects were the following:

- Grenzenlos/brezmejnost: production of a documentary movie "Borderliner"
- Euro Region – Healthy Region: establishment of mobile info points/consultancies about more active and healthier life, published 2 books for children "Cycling from a childhood on" and "Miha and the shoes from the vegetable garden"
- Innovation 2020: creating 11 new companies
- VINO Cool, Turkult, Family Centres, AIN-DJN: development of new touristic products
- Alpe Adria Holz/les: design and production of 12 new wooden products, selling under a common umbrella brand
- Regio Vitalis: 19 new developed models and 38 pilots implemented for health tourism
- Geopark: investments, 2 informational offices, geological educational paths

- Skupaj: new build and renovated public spaces in Gornja Radgona and Bad Radkersburg
- Mindoc: digitalization of more than 200.000 pages of articles and publications
- Tedusar: construction of 2 modern robots
- Brod na Muri/Murfähre: renovated boat on Mura river
- Alpa: overgrowth has been removed of 80 hectares of alpine pastures
- CUL-Energy 4 Kids: implementation of 10 energy-optimized children's playground equipment in 4 regions

4.4 Sustainability of project outputs/results and partnerships

Based on the self-assessment questionnaires (used within the respective evaluation of the programme, filled in after the projects' closure by the beneficiaries) all project lead partners intend to maintain results of the project in some way after its closure (see chart 10).

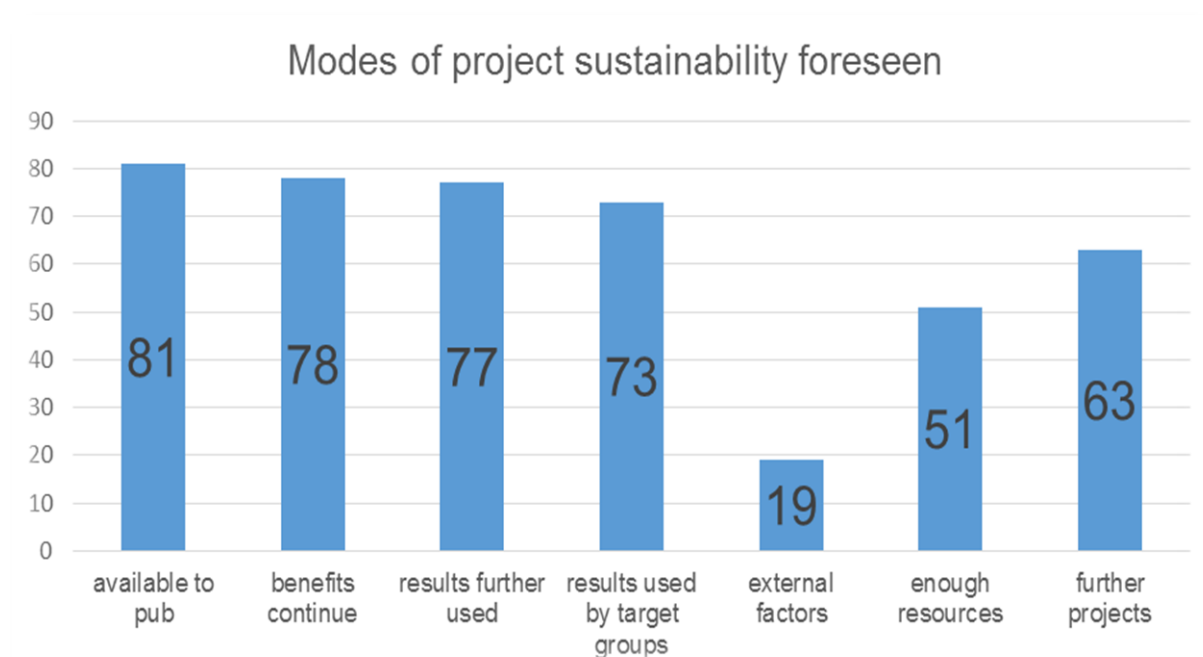
They intend to do it predominantly by means that don't require additional financial resources (making available for the public, dominantly through project webpages and platforms – 92%; benefits will be sustained – 89%; outputs and results will be further used – 87,5%, also among members of the target groups – 83% and will be used for further projects – 72%). On the other hand only 58% of the beneficiaries said they have enough resources for maintaining the results. 19% of project beneficiaries said there are external factors influencing sustainability of their projects (Figure 23), however they did not detail these circumstances, only financial issues were mentioned.

Projects with tangible results – e.g. SKUPAJ with a renovated urban area in Bad Radkersburg and Gornja Radgona – will obviously be maintained by the partners. Among mentioned sustained benefits, newly

developed touristic offers, new tourist products, packages (e.g. project AIN-DJN), wooden products (produced further e.g. in the project Alpe Adria Holz), educational material (e.g. project Euro region-Healthy region), information office/centre (e.g. projects: Business region LK, DUO Kunsthandwerk), and Youth Incubators (e.g. project: EXP-ERT 2020) are to be mentioned. Further use of project results/outcomes may will obviously happen by the target groups, these projects will form a basis for preparing further projects.

Regarding the sustainability of partnership, 87% of the project lead partners stated that partnership is going to be sustained, but only partners of 6 projects formalized their further collaborations in a form of signed document for further collaboration (MOVE project), or a letter of collaboration (TRILOC project), agreed to have meetings every six months (CESLA project), or set up a network (BRIDGE project); signed an agreement ("Future ideas Karawanks" project), or initiated a formal discussion of continuing with partnership (UL4C project). Partners in project Brod na Muri agreed to proceed with operating the partnership on informal level.

Chart 10: Foreseen ways of sustaining project results by beneficiaries



4.5 Financial information

During the programme period 26 Interim Payment Applications and Final Payment Application were sent to the EC by the CA. Table 8 shows the data on the financial

indicators of the Programme in accordance with the changed Art. 67(2) of the Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

Table 8: Financial indicators of the Programme in cumulative terms in EUR

	Total funding of the operational programme (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or Total cost)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by Beneficiaries	Corresponding public contribution	Implementation rate in % (if public)	Implementation rate in % (if total)
	a	b	c	d	e = d/a	f = c/a
Priority axis 1: Competitiveness, knowledge and economic cooperation	33.286.978,00	Public	39.700.126,55	33.324.155,63	100,11	119,3
Priority axis 2: Sustainable and balanced development	40.930.420,00	Public	38.113.089,64	37.647.682,71	91,98	93,12
Priority axis 3: Technical assistance	4.737.282,00	Public	3.669.985,69	3.669.985,69	77,47	77,47
Grand total	78.954.680,00		81.483.201,88	74.641.824,03	94,54	103,0

Information on the categorisation of funds for all 89 approved projects can be found in the attached Annex 2. It contains Priority theme descriptions with allocated amounts and data on amounts allocated to selected operations.

Programme has received a higher amount of ERDF funds than the total actually paid out to beneficiaries in sum of 2.123.046,10 EUR. During programme implementation different co-financing rates have been used than those

foreseen in the adopted programme's financial tables at priority axis level. As a result of this fact programme has received 1.812.692,53 EUR extra. Remaining amount of 310.353,57 EUR results from advance payment. We propose to use the remaining funds resulting from different co-financing rates for co-financing of additional projects for the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria 2014-2020.

Table 9: Final balance of the Programme

	Amount (in euro)
Received funds from the EC	63.755.903,15
Paid to the beneficiaries by CA	-62.409.674,58
Global correction in 2014	754.717,53
Global correction in 2015	22.100,00
Final balance on the Programme Account	2.123.046,10

Most of the interests generated by the pre-financing were used as a resource of the Member States in the form of national public contribution. The Certifying Authority has prepared the first calculation of the interest amounts according to the input of the programme partners on a cut-off date 30.11.2015. The interests amounted to EUR

180.086,77. 100,00 EUR was retained at Certifying Authority for covering the future transaction costs of the programme. Interests in sum of EUR 179.986,78 were transferred to the MS and used for purpose of the programme by 31 December 2015. Payments of the accrued interests were made (see the Table 10).

Table 10: Interests generated by the pre-financing and payments to the partners

Partner	Date of payment	Amount of interests (EUR)
SI – GODC	28.12.2015	84.530,79
RB – KWF	28.12.2015	25.313,34
RB – AMT DER KÄRNTNER LANDESREGIERUNG	30.12.2015	16.875,56
RB – AMT DER STREIERMARKISCHEN LANDESREGIERUNG	28.12.2015	45.225,28
RB - REGIONALMANAGEMENT BURGENLAND	28.12.2015	8.041,81
Total		179.986,78

From 1.12.2015 until 20.2.2017 51,58 EUR of the remaining interests were used for transaction costs of the programme. It would not be economical to divide the remaining interests between five partners and make

payments, so the final amount of remaining interests which sums to 48,42 EUR will be used for transaction costs of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria 2014-2020.

Table 11: Target values regarding n+2/n+3 rules for OP SI-AT 2007-2013 excluding advance payment

	Year	ERDF funds available (N) according to the approved OP	ERDF funds available (N) after the new regulation in force	Target amount of claimed ERDF for each year	Planned use of ERDF according to the signed contracts for each year (1 st & 2 nd Open Call – 69 projects)- without TA	Total ERDF that must be spent by 31 December each year (target amount)- excluding advance payment	Total planned use of ERDF according to the signed contracts (77 projects)- without TA
OP SI-AT 2007-2013	2007	9.515.924	0,00				
	2008	9.112.854	10.698.841				
	2009	9.219.581	10.805.569				
	2010	9.457.826	11.043.813	0	4.798.494,81	0	4.798.494,81
	2011	9.701.916	11.287.903	10.698.841	12.705.889,37	10.698.841	17.504.384,18
	2012	9.933.304	11.519.292	10.805.569	20.904.699,11	21.504.410	38.409.083,29
	2013	10.170.072	11.756.059	22.331.716	15.692.515,61	43.836.126	54.101.598,90
	2014			11.519.292	6.799.223,45	55.355.418	60.900.822,35
	2015			11.756.059	1.686.819,38	67.111.477	62.587.641,73
	Total	67.111.477					**

**2007/6= 1.585.987,33 (2008 - 1.585.987,35) ** Total ERDF available for projects – 63.084.788

Table 12: Target values regarding n+2/n+3 rules for OP SI-AT 2007-2013 excluding advance payment

	Year	ERDF funds available (N) according to the approved OP	ERDF funds available (N) after the new regulation in force	Target amount of claimed ERDF for each year	Planned use of ERDF according to the signed contracts for each year (1 st & 2 nd Open Call – 69 projects)- without TA	Total ERDF that must be spent by 31 December each year (target amount)- including advance payment	Total planned use of ERDF according to the signed contracts (77 projects)- without TA
OP SI-AT 2007-2013	2007	9.515.924	0,00				
	2008	9.112.854	10.698.841				
	2009	9.219.581	10.805.569				
	2010	9.457.826	11.043.813	0	4.798.494,81	0	4.798.494,81
	2011	9.701.916	11.287.903	4.658.809	12.705.889,37	4.658.809	17.504.384,18
	2012	9.933.304	11.519.292	10.805.568	20.904.699,11	15.464.377	38.409.083,29
	2013	10.170.072	11.756.059	22.331.717	15.692.515,61	37.796.094	54.101.598,90
	2014			11.519.291	6.799.223,45	49.315.385	60.900.822,35
	2015			17.796.092	1.686.819,38	67.111.477	62.587.641,73
	Total	67.111.477					***

* 2007/6= 1.585.987,33 (2008 - 1.585.987,35) **Advance payment = 6.040.032,93 *** Total available ERDF for projects- 63.084.788

Table 13: Overview of funds contracted/used by the projects

Acronym	Contracted ERDF	Used ERDF (realisation)	Public funds	Total costs	Priority
AATT	963.279,00	697.990,36	821.165,69	826.842,83	1
Adventure Petzen/Peca	434.465,29	426.030,99	501.213,54	794.349,68	1
AIN-DJN	523.455,21	322.260,08	379.129,62	577.853,24	1
Alpe Adria Coworking	60.134,93	56.385,00	66.505,00	70.187,96	1
Alpe Adria Holz/Les	454.665,00	433.659,72	510.188,01	609.917,78	1
BRIDGE	714.964,45	611.477,56	774.041,56	791.768,04	1
Business region LK	499.630,00	443.933,89	522.275,25	577.799,45	1
CAVETOURS	281.945,00	241.519,96	284.141,17	325.305,29	1
CESLA	719.323,47	699.150,36	822.530,09	847.214,13	1
CESTA VINA IN DOBROT	78.200,00	76.524,90	90.029,30	90.029,30	1
Clean Production	181.816,40	136.053,70	160.063,44	178.711,54	1
Connect SME	212.722,27	187.781,61	220.919,86	243.294,48	1
CROSSINNO	856.494,00	814.869,79	958.670,64	1.129.468,96	1
EFFICIENT EFFECTIVE SMART	858.682,10	735.794,15	865.640,40	979.093,55	1
EXP-ERT 2020	363.856,44	269.777,67	317.385,59	361.628,86	1
Factory Labs	460.986,87	422.268,47	496.786,45	510.274,96	1
FAMILY CENTRES	335.750,00	328.855,71	386.889,11	391.772,13	1
FUTURE IDEAS KARAWANKS	382.127,25	349.684,09	411.531,70	482.029,57	1
good NEWSS	1.002.904,31	824.105,22	1.280.388,00	1.297.283,25	1
HIKING&BIKING	2.441.251,22	2.322.010,25	2.732.700,79	2.772.085,60	1
INNO CBC	448.634,25	423.636,86	498.396,33	525.385,72	1
INNOVATION 2020	1.733.597,38	1.636.052,62	1.924.768,35	1.979.228,84	1
KBB	876.673,84	757.871,31	908.123,62	911.381,55	1
Koop Flexible Automation	1.339.054,54	1.287.107,31	1.611.037,38	1.618.086,02	1
Kooperationslehrgang	233.570,49	206.911,88	268.656,82	271.764,40	1
METAL KNOWLAGE NETWORK	557.785,88	503.619,09	592.535,67	654.865,27	1
Pilgrimage Europe SI-AT	1.273.862,97	1.231.558,22	1.462.979,65	1.476.922,96	1
PolyRegion - Pro.Act	407.850,53	353.906,33	416.360,47	430.777,13	1
POLYREGION	838.083,00	764.283,50	899.198,22	924.284,59	1
PROMT-ICT	384.625,52	327.091,68	384.815,77	468.631,82	1
QILK	1.472.398,15	1.414.449,34	1.664.058,11	5.484.340,87	1
REACT	705.271,69	613.973,51	847.322,03	1.373.999,15	1
RECOVERY	437.733,80	423.266,34	497.960,57	509.837,36	1
REGIO VITALIS	1.080.879,65	1.017.311,90	1.433.772,72	1.455.092,64	1
REGIOLAB	1.658.116,09	1.571.915,69	1.849.313,17	1.872.210,22	1
ReUse	422.884,10	343.100,27	403.651,57	577.393,82	1
SCIS	330.137,04	325.138,99	382.516,52	392.368,09	1
SI-K Exportcoop SEE	712.824,49	638.682,19	753.514,86	814.465,70	1
Smart Log Chain	361.675,00	253.208,36	297.892,25	297.892,25	1
TourKult	691.172,25	581.303,65	927.712,61	927.712,61	1
TrainProCoop	116.711,27	113.987,54	168.871,89	171.187,43	1
TRILOC	945.198,93	828.375,25	974.559,29	987.037,02	1
UL4C	499.295,00	490.306,36	577.409,62	806.863,20	1
VAINNO	266.499,14	261.479,19	307.622,72	323.813,59	1
VINO COOL	863.990,31	768.372,06	903.967,41	913.724,40	1

Acronym	Contracted ERDF	Used ERDF	Public funds	Total eligible costs	Priority
ALPA	742.591,05	684.139,56	804.870,24	804.870,24	2
AMC Promo BID	843.576,09	739.794,74	870.347,22	944.854,00	2
ASSO	268.584,76	190.076,90	224.356,14	239.354,85	2
BorderArch Steiermark	254.405,00	244.636,59	287.807,79	287.807,79	2
Brod na Muri	170.000,00	155.517,74	182.962,07	182.962,07	2
Chance4Change	757.860,00	668.154,76	786.064,71	793.574,39	2
City Cooperation	1.515.950,34	1.369.986,52	1.625.406,07	1.627.187,72	2
City Impulses	935.000,00	866.088,17	1.018.927,44	1.018.927,44	2
CITY NETWORK GRAZ-MARIBOR	1.823.168,12	977.339,71	1.149.811,58	1.149.811,58	2
Crossborder ACTIVE 2020	113.989,25	103.189,18	121.399,04	121.988,93	2
CUL-Energy 4 Kids	344.250,00	289.225,64	340.265,49	340.265,49	2
CULTH: EX CAR-GOR	1.120.063,94	944.510,05	1.111.188,44	1.123.352,24	2
ČAJ/TEE	49.725,00	38.244,51	44.993,56	46.068,32	2
DRA-MUR-CI	2.936.558,50	2.586.872,74	3.043.379,92	3.077.720,06	2
DUO Kunsthandwerk	519.882,73	489.646,16	599.855,07	610.674,95	2
EQUITY	335.789,95	262.016,51	308.259,08	315.962,99	2
Euroregion Healthy Region	700.715,84	665.416,94	782.843,61	787.590,73	2
EXPAK AT.SI	1.343.943,51	1.049.697,69	1.812.032,46	1.827.372,33	2
FLU-LED	265.455,00	250.045,32	294.171,08	294.171,08	2
GEO PARK	2.104.135,55	2.009.069,14	2.363.628,68	2.391.224,46	2
GOAL	697.850,00	608.036,64	715.337,38	715.337,38	2
Grenzenlos-Brezmejnost	566.849,32	337.586,54	397.160,73	397.160,73	2
HEALTH	1.208.062,50	883.624,57	1.039.558,51	1.039.558,51	2
Health-Care NE	196.687,09	190.283,98	223.864,85	225.375,29	2
IMPACT	316.667,50	260.973,13	307.027,27	313.138,37	2
InterArch-Steiermark	688.782,50	661.793,36	778.580,73	780.376,02	2
KARAFISH	254.256,39	162.502,63	191.180,37	191.180,37	2
karawanks@future.eu	1.154.803,41	987.215,14	1.161.429,95	1.176.951,14	2
Kutscheniza	181.050,00	148.964,15	175.251,95	175.251,95	2
Matiken Digital	654.500,00	615.051,10	723.589,59	731.395,77	2
MINDOC	478.765,29	419.497,40	582.285,97	582.286,02	2
MOVE	2.506.184,82	2.129.311,24	2.505.072,44	2.552.869,72	2
MURMAN	1.089.229,83	1.025.724,96	1.206.738,40	1.217.917,59	2
Nature experience	2.312.973,74	1.871.608,32	2.204.520,02	2.226.915,49	2
NH-WF	459.425,00	445.839,03	524.516,62	524.516,62	2
PEMURES	556.200,93	521.853,81	613.947,67	623.093,65	2
Pminter	2.093.271,20	1.791.007,03	2.107.067,31	2.107.067,31	2
REG-KULT	294.437,10	267.569,02	314.787,15	326.161,39	2
SKUPAJ	1.752.445,00	1.711.364,91	2.013.370,61	2.013.370,61	2
SOBIO	599.293,47	557.066,26	888.054,08	900.715,77	2
SOSED/NACHBAR	685.805,83	654.722,35	770.261,70	833.066,43	2
SPOMENIKI/DENKMÄLER	279.354,86	267.057,73	344.683,27	386.624,05	2
Team Olympiad	247.322,36	222.757,09	262.067,23	274.532,96	2
TEDUSAR	438.112,14	426.908,95	502.245,91	502.245,91	2
TA1	2.105.055,60	1.618.135,46	1.903.688,85	1.903.688,85	3
TA2	313.486,80	176.785,29	207.982,79	207.982,79	3
TA3	1.608.146,60	1.325.721,99	1.559.673,14	1.559.673,14	3

Chart 11: Overview of projects cofinanced within the 1st priority and received (contracted/used) ERDF funds

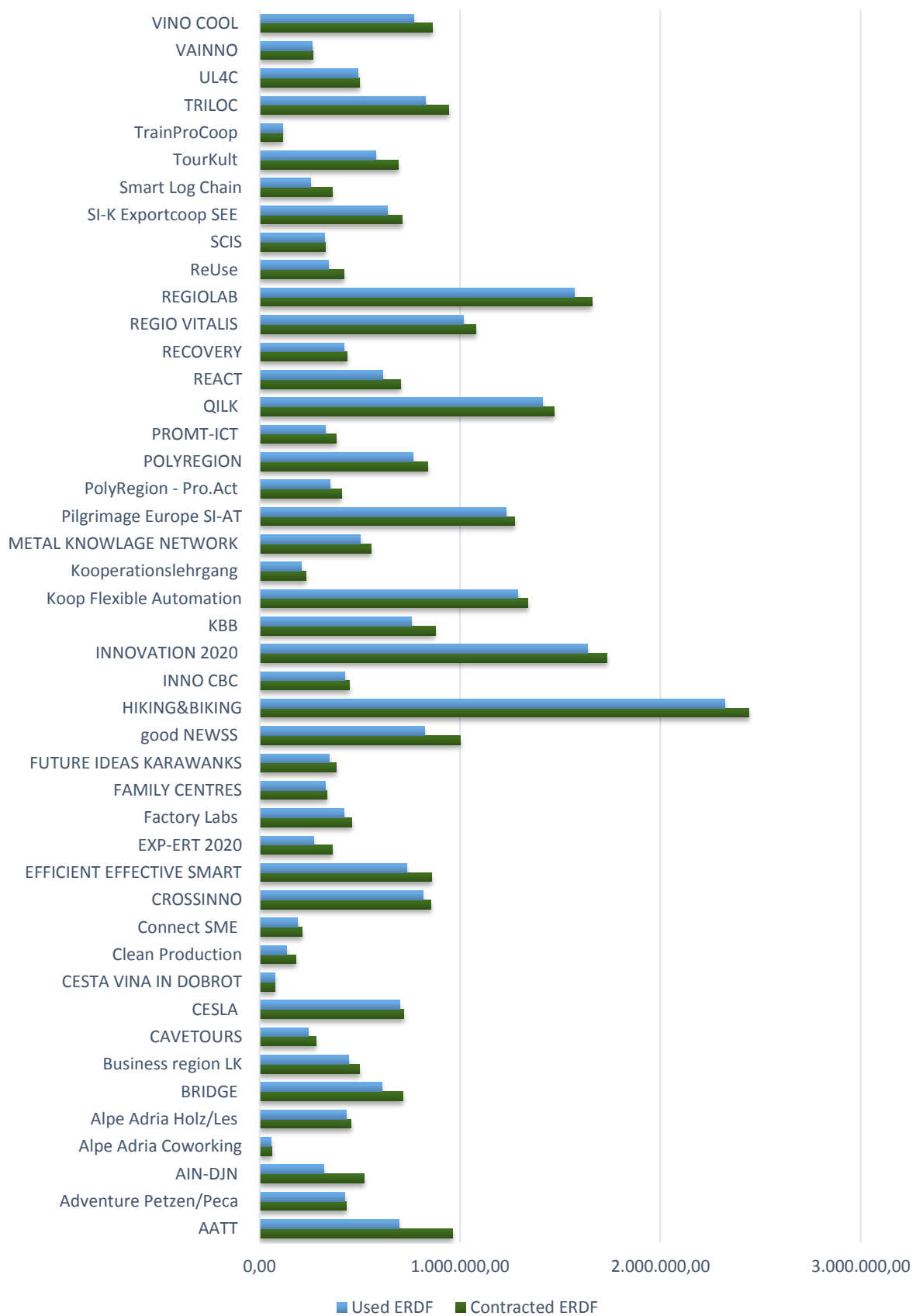
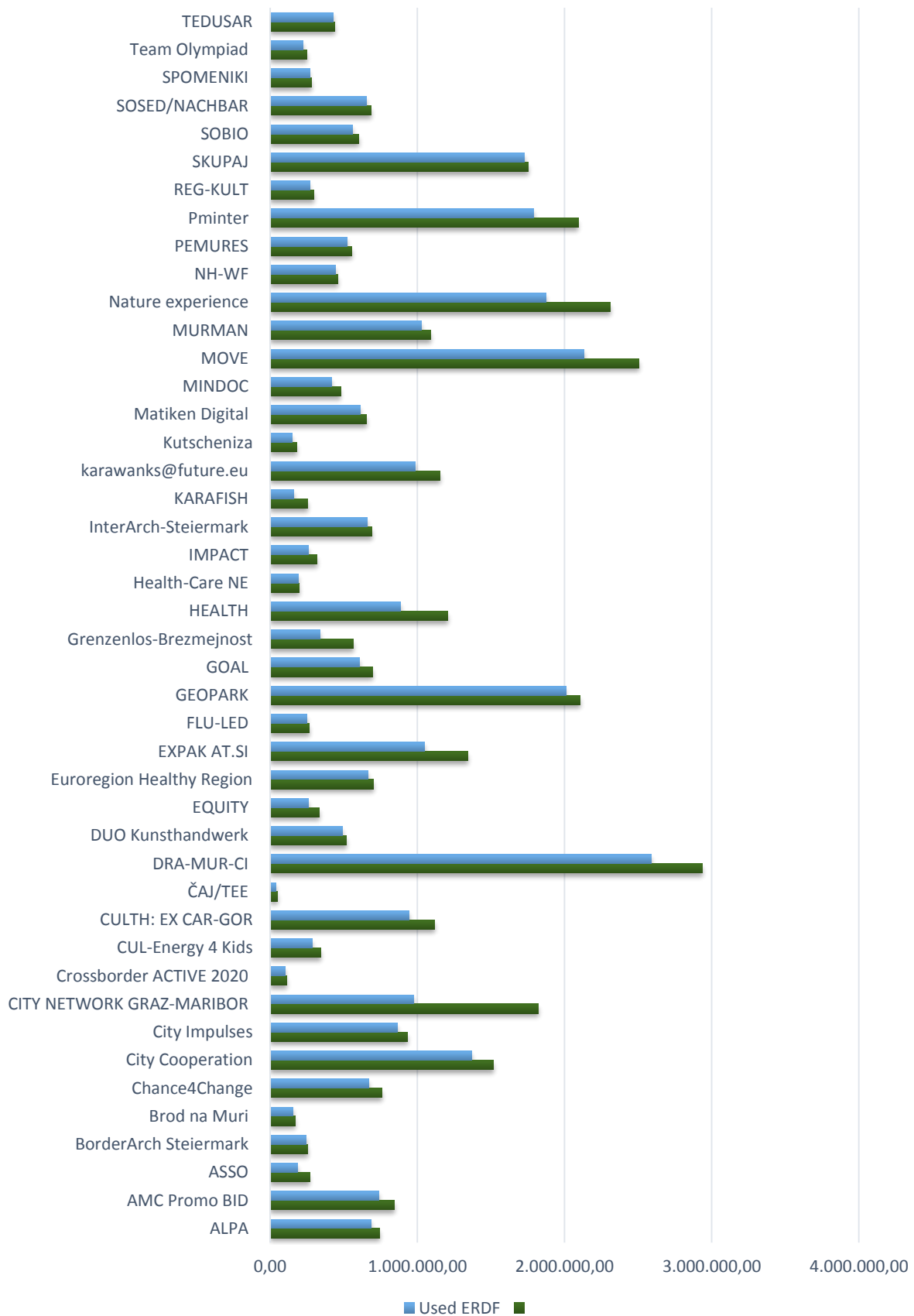


Chart 12: Overview of projects cofinanced within the 2nd priority and received (contracted/used) ERDF funds



4.6 Open issues

There were no open issues at the date of submission of this final implementation report.

4.7 The interruption of payment

During the implementation, the programme faced two interruptions of interim payments. The first one on the basis of the 5th Annual Control Report which was sent by the AA to the EC on 28 December 2012 and the second one on the basis of the 7th Annual Control Report which was sent to the EC on 31 December 2014. Both reports contained information about discovered errors in the frame of the audit performed, which were above the permitted threshold of 2 %.

The precondition for the release of the first interruption of interim payments was the decertification of funds in the amount of 754.717,53 EUR to the EC (*as reported already in the AIR 2013*) and the preparation of an action plan for corrective measures for the National Control Units (NCU), which has been implemented and checked by the AA/Audit Body (AB) in 2014. The final control reports for both National Control Units in Carinthia were received in the last quarter of 2014. According

to the findings of the AB, both NCUs in Carinthia are categorised as operational capable, with the remark that minor improvements are still needed. On this basis, all of the retained ERDF funds were released to the programme in December 2014.

The MA, as well as the Regional Bodies (RBs)/NCUs, have taken the finding of the AA/AB very seriously. The systemic deficiencies exposed for the NCUs in Carinthia have been solved by fully implemented action plan, the payment of a flat-rate correction and the re-examination of all needed projects as well as the reorganization of the system. The past experiences and the findings of the auditors were also considered when preparing the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria 2014-2020 and will be included in further discussions on the Management and Control System, division of tasks, validation of the expenditure etc.

4.8 Information on significant problems relating to compliance with Community law

No information on significant problems relating to compliance with Community Law was reported during the whole period. The Managing Authority paid special attention to ensuring that reference to the applicable Community Law was made when performing its responsibilities.

Since both Member States are part of the EU they are highly confronted with the EU Community Law. The MA ensured that the European public procurement directives were

complied with when awarding ERDF funds in the frame of contracts for projects. For the programme period 2007-2013, no information on significant problems relating to compliance with Community Law is to be reported. Within this sub chapter, details of any problems encountered whilst implementing the Operational Programme would be provided. The compliance with the European law is a necessity to bring some structure and stability in the common procedures.

4.9 Complementarity with other instruments

As the GODC is the MA in different operational programmes for the Objective 3 (OP SI-AT 2007-2013, OP SI-HU 2007-2013 and OP SI-HR 2007-2013) and for Objective 1, it is responsible for ensuring that assistance from different programmes and funds is consistent with the activities, policies and priorities of the State and complementary to other financial instruments of the Community. In order to ensure the co-ordination across Operational Programmes, the Head of the MA participates at the JMC meetings of all three cross-border programmes in which the GODC is the MA.

Although all the implemented activities and procedures within the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 are performed in a way to avoid double financing, it is always possible that some co-financing instruments overlap with others. The selection and assessment process of the programme, as

well as the checking of the approved projects was organised in a way that double financing is supposed to be avoided. Also the process for selecting the projects includes a part where the RBs organise the assessment of the projects and project partners (*e.g. checking the applicants concerning their involvement in other programmes*). They cooperated with the MA/JTS on a daily basis and were included in the monitoring of the project implementation from the start until the end of the approved project. The first and the second level control as programme bodies also ensured the control of the operations concerning, among other things, also the possibility of double financing of the project activities. Frequent desk checks, sample site visits and on the spot checks were carried out by the programme bodies to support the control of the possible overlapping with other instruments.

4.10 Monitoring and evaluation

4.10.1 Monitoring of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013

All approved operations were monitored through the Central Information System ISARR (*mentioned and described in previous Annual Reports*), which is designed as an internet based programme. The ISARR system is an information support system for planning and reporting on the programme implementation, ranging from the level of operational programmes, priority axes, to the level of

projects and units. The ISARR coordinators within the JTS provided access and daily information support for all users. All approved operations were put into the ISARR system by the JTS using the planning segment of the **Reference System Module**. When reporting, the Beneficiaries in both countries used the **Data Entry Module**.

4.10.2 Evaluation of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013

According to the Communication Plan of the Programme (version 2), it was foreseen to evaluate the achievements of the programme goals concerning the visibility and awareness/knowledge of the OP SI-AT among the public in the year 2012/2013. This was

done through a survey (*internal evaluation*) in the second half of 2013. The MA and the JTS of the programme prepared, in cooperation with the programme partners, an internet **survey on cross-border cooperation between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of**

Austria. The web-survey was launched on 22 August 2013 and stayed active until 15 October 2013. During the implementation of the programme no external evaluation (on going evaluation) was carried out. The decision on that was mostly connected to the financial restrictions in Slovenia in the past few years. However, on 23 October 2014, the JMC approved an external evaluation of the results of the programme implementation. The final evaluation was completed in November 2015.

Main **findings of this final evaluation** are:

Overall, even if the programme could not completely fulfil all of its multiple objectives (in terms of indicators and the number of selected projects), evidence suggests that the **selected projects could significantly contribute to the development of the border region. This resulted in balanced cooperation** of the institutions from both sides, without major faults, with quite balanced spending performance of the partner bodies, producing tangible and sustainable results.

The main weakness of the programme lies in the very broad thematic focus: Programme priorities were defined in order to leave thematic coverage as wide as possible and to make cross-border cooperation present in all areas of regional development. This approach, on the other hand, resulted in broadly defined priorities.

The priority system has been accompanied with **an indicator system focusing on output indicators and nearly exclusively on numbers of projects financed** under the single thematic areas. Although one project could contribute to several thematic indicators, focus of projects is essentially limited to few thematic issues, thus only a limited number of indicators could be improved by one project.

89 projects were selected for funding which is much lower than it was expected in the

programming phase. The planned small project fund (with the aim to boost the number of contracted projects) was not launched. Thus, the indicator-based evaluation of the programme shows mixed results. **Indicators on areas of cross-border cooperation have generally been met, but priority level indicators have been partially underperformed**, especially in thematic areas with a lower number of larger projects (e.g. **tourism, natural resources, urban development, public transport**).

In geographical terms, **large urban centres dominated**, especially in Austria (Graz, Klagenfurt-Villach). In case of Slovenia the area of Maribor (Podravska) has been the most active.

Most typical project outputs and results are studies, workshops, meetings, good practices. However, project results show a promising picture in terms of tangibility and sustainability, including added values evaluated by the project beneficiaries.

Most cost effective projects were ICT and SME development projects and projects with **limited number of partners**. Contrary all types of investment related projects had much bigger average project costs.

Concerning the overall governance and management system of the programme, the programme bodies, the monitoring system ISARR and programme procedures have been set up according to the regulations 1080/2006, 1083/2006 and national level regulations, in a timely manner. To ensure a smooth programme implementation, the MA and the JTS provided detailed guidelines for potential applicants and beneficiaries on how to apply these during project implementation. Regular informative events, the programme website, mailing lists, consultation possibilities and other forms of support by the JTS and the regional bodies were provided for potential

applicants and project holders. Collaboration of beneficiaries with the MA/JTS as well as with regional bodies have been both rated as good during the survey, only a low share of beneficiaries experienced problems with these bodies (see the summary charts below rating quality of collaboration from 1 to 4).

A joint application procedure has been applied and managed by the JTS, using open calls for applications. The Lead Partner principle has been applied throughout the programme. The selection criteria combined the three dimensions of relevance, quality of cross-border co-operation and quality of content. Considering also the financial performance of the programme that means, the applied criteria allowed a selection of good quality projects for the funding available. Very few applicants experienced problems during the application phase or contract management. On the other hand, the survey showed that a large number of project partners experienced problems during reporting. In a high number of projects, beneficiaries experienced problems with the FLC (control processes, the high administrative workload required to complete reports, changes in FLC staff, differences at various FLCs causing misunderstandings). Reporting problems was especially rated as a

substantial burden related to the period when the programme faced an interruption of payments by the EC in 2013 creating severe pre-financing problems at the level of the projects and their beneficiaries.

The communication strategy and its implementation responded to the information needs of the target audiences as shown by the high number of website hits, by a high attendance at programme events and positive feedbacks gathered by the surveys. All targets of the communication plan except for publications have been reached and exceeded by far. Programme communication proved to be effective in improving awareness and knowledge about cross border co-operation and the OP SI-AT itself. As shown by the targeted survey in 2013 done by the JTS, the programme has reached a high number of people that were not involved in cross-border cooperation programmes and projects before. Expenditures for information and publicity activities have reached only 64,1% of the total budget planned for this purpose by the end of 2014, however, programme communication activities can be evaluated as highly effective.

Some conclusions/data of the evaluation are included also in other chapters of this report.

4.11 Activities of the Audit Authority /Audit body

The AA (Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia; BSO) prepared in cooperation with the Audit Body Federal Chancellery in Austria (hereinafter AB) 8 Annual Control Reports for the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013 for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2016. In compliance with the Audit Strategy for the CBC Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013 in this period the following system audits have been performed by AA and AB: system audits of MA and CA in Slovenia, two system audits of the NCU in

Slovenia and two system audits of the NCUs in Carinthia (Austria).

No systemic problems were identified during the system audits of the MA, CA and NCU in Slovenia. During the 1st system audit in Austria the AB detected serious deficiencies with systemic nature in the implementation of the first level control by the two NCUs in Carinthia. On the basis of the results of the system audits of the two NCUs in Carinthia all of the projects with costs declared up to the end of the year 2012 of the NCU "KWF" were subject to a flat-

rate correction of 10% and projects with costs declared up to the end of the year 2012 of the NCU „Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung“ were subject to a flat-rate correction of 25%. In the time of the finalization of this report all the recommendations related to the system audit have been fully implemented.

In the same period audits of 43 operations (some of them were audited twice; (total audits of operations corresponds to 49), in the total amount of 10.867.033, 92 EUR of certified public expenditure were performed by the AA and AB.

The following operations have been audited:

- ✓ in the year 2010: TA1, TA2;
- ✓ in the year 2011: HIKING& BIKING, Good NEWSS, DRA-MUR-CI;
- ✓ in the year 2012: CITY NETWORK Graz Maribor, Grenzenlos Brezmejnost, PMinter, Good NEWSS; TA1;
- ✓ in the year 2013: Recovery, TrainProCoop, AATT, Alpe Adria Holz Les, BRIDGE, CESLA, Čaj Tee, GEOPARK,SOBIO;
- ✓ in the year 2014: Adventure Petzen Peca, Efficient Effective Smart, SI-K

Exportcoop SEE, Koop Flexible Automation, BRIDGE, UL4C, Amc promo BID, Spomeniki Denkmäler, karawanks@future.eu, Matriken Digital, MINDOC;

- ✓ in the year 2015: RECOVERY, REGIO VITALIS, VAINNO, POLYREGION, CONNECT SME, Chance4Change, GEOPARK, EXPAK AT.SI, DUO Kunsthandwerk,GOAL;
- ✓ in the year 2016: CAVETOURLS, Crossborder ACTIVE 2020, EQUITY, Health-Care NE, Kutscheniza, NH-WF, TA 3 OP SI-AT 2007-2013, SKUPAJ/GEMEINSAM, EXPAK AT.SI.

The total audited amount corresponds to the 14,6 % of the total certified (public) expenditure. During the audits of operations the 47 of irregularities with financial consequences have been detected in the total amount of 229.365,76 €.

During the period 2007-2016 the AA in cooperation with the AB organised at minimum one meeting of the GoA for Programme per year, in some year, where the circumstances have requested, the additional meetings have been organised.

5 Implementation by priorities

5.1 Overview of priorities



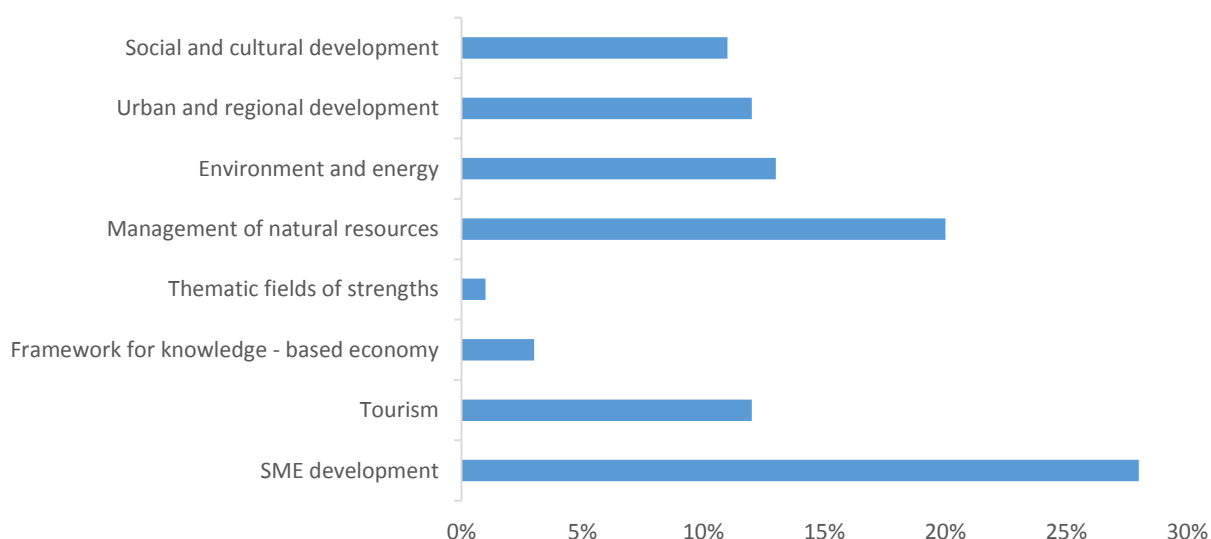
The overall aims of the programme were to contribute efficiently to extensively fostering the international competitiveness and visibility as well as the quality of the cooperation by joint development, sustainable and innovative use of the common potential and opportunities in the regions. The implementation of the basic programme strategy was carried out within two strategic priorities (Priority 1 and 2),

intended for the implementation of projects, and a third priority, to ensure an effective programme management (Technical assistance). Both content priorities included actions to promote the development of human resources, networking and innovation as horizontal themes, which form an essential part of the development of all the above presented areas of support.

Table 14: Priorities and activity fields

Priority 1: COMPETITIVENESS, KNOWLEDGE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION	Priority 2: SUSTAINABLE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT
SME development	Management of natural resources
Tourism	Environment and energy
Framework for knowledge-based economy	Urban and regional development
Thematic fields of strengths	Social and cultural development
Priority 3: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	

Chart 10: Activity fields covered in cofinanced projects in percentage



5.2 Achievement of targets and progress on priority level

As already mentioned in previous chapters 89 operations were co-financed by the programme. All of them have completed the

implementation of their activities by the end of March 2015. Due to the fact that the SPF has not been implemented as planned during

programming process, also some set values for the indicators were impossible to be reached. In Priority 1, the projects addressing SME development, investment in the tourism sector and development of thematic fields of strengths are well represented. The target value set for the first indicator “Number of projects regarding improved competitiveness and internalisation of industrial sector and SMEs” has not been reached (75 % of the target value has been reached). In Priority 2, the projects addressing environmental issues, risk prevention, cultural cooperation and projects in the area of health are well represented.

However, the set value for the indicator “Number of projects regarding strengthening cooperation on regional and national level, in particular in aspects of sustainability” is high; therefore, only 88 % of the target value has been reached by the end of the programme. The only possibility to reach all set values would be by having more projects approved, since most of the indicators are related to the number of projects. However, as already explained the SPF has not been implemented, therefore also the number of approved operations is not as high as planned.

Table 15: Indicators on priority level

Level / Name	Code	Indicator	Baseline	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total value in approved operations	Target value in the OP
Priority 1, Competitiv., knowledge and economic cooperation	63	Number of projects regarding improved competitiveness and internalisation of industrial sector and SMEs	0	0	0	12	20	28	28	30	35	45	45	60
	64	Number of projects under SME development	0	0	0	12	18	26	26	29	34	34	34	22
	65	Number of investment projects in the tourism sector (e.g. information systems)	0	0	0	3	6	7	7	8	9	10	10	10
	66	Number of soft-aid measures in tourism development	0	0	0	4	8	10	10	11	11	11	11	21
	67	Number of RTD - projects	0	0	0	4	7	14	14	15	15	18	18	20
	68	Number of projects regarding development of thematic fields of strengths	0	0	0	6	12	18	18	18	21	21	21	13
Priority 2, Sustainable and balanced development	69	Number of projects regarding strengthening cooperation on regional and national level, in particular in aspects of sustainability	0	0	0	7	16	25	25	28	33	44	44	50
	70	Number of projects regarding management of nature resources	0	0	0	3	6	10	10	13	14	14	14	17
	71	Number of environmental projects	0	0	0	4	7	10	10	12	12	13	13	10
	72	Number of energy projects	0	0	0	1	3	4	4	5	6	7	7	12
	73	Number of risk prevention projects	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
	74	Number of projects in urban and regional development	0	0	0	3	6	11	11	12	17	17	17	20

	75	Number of public transport projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	76	Number of cultural cooperation projects	0	0	0	5	9	13	13	14	18	20	13
	77	Number of cooperation projects in the area of health	0	0	0	1	4	4	4	6	9	9	3
Technical Assistance	78	Number of projects (pilot actions, concepts, studies, evaluations)	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4

6 Technical assistance – activities of the programme bodies

The Technical assistance (TA) funds available for the programme were divided to 3 TA projects, whereby the TA1 was assigned for the activities of Joint Technical Secretariat and

Managing Authority, TA2 for the activities of Certifying Authority and TA3 for the activities of regional bodies and FLCs.

6.1 The Joint Technical Secretariat / the Managing Authority (TA1)

The JTS / MA assisted applicants with the implementation of the 89 operations, entering data into the ISARR system, reporting etc., worked (in cooperation) with other Programme partners on the programme implementation, prepared all the statistical data concerning the approved projects (finances and content). All necessary documents and activities for the JMC meetings were prepared, including the overview of finances, achievements and activities on programme level.

By the end of 2015 (cumulative from 2007 on) the MA/JTS has:

- ✓ organised 68 meetings of the BPG,
- ✓ organised 25 meetings of the BWG,
- ✓ organised 14 meetings of the JMC,
- ✓ carried out 30 sample-site-visits of operations in implementation,
- ✓ issued 9 electronic newsletters OP-S-A,
- ✓ organised 15 workshops for applicants/beneficiaries,
- ✓ organised 14 information and publicity events,
- ✓ published 145 e-news (in three languages) on the programme website,
- ✓ purchased several promotional materials, which were used for promoting the programme at the workshop, events, meetings, EC day etc.
- ✓ carried out the evaluation of the OP SI-AT,
- ✓ published the final publication containing all projects and brochures on the programme,
- ✓ performed day-to-day work in the frame of the JTS.

6.2 The Certifying Authority (TA 2)

The Certifying Authority sent 26 Applications for Payment to the European Commission until the end of programme. Representatives of Certifying Authority took part at the Bilateral Programming Group Meetings, Joint Monitoring Committee meetings and Task Force Meetings. The employees attended the

seminars, ISARR workshops, Interact trainings and other courses. CA staff was actively involved in the overcoming of the programme interruptions and carried out all necessary steps for the corrections (decertification) in close cooperation with the MA, JTS, First Level Controllers (FLC), Regional Bodies (RB) and AA.

6.3 The regional bodies in Slovenia and Austria (TA 3)

The RBs continuously assisted potential applicants with the support and information before the submission of project. They were also constantly providing support concerning the programme implementation and implementation of approved projects to all Slovenian and Austrian partners. Therefore, workshops for potential beneficiaries before the submission of applications were organised.

The RBs also attended the workshops organized by the JTS and provided information regarding the national legislation concerning the implementation of the projects. For applications received within all open calls, project ideas and strategic projects the RBs gave the opinion regarding the capacity of the project partners, State Aid, impact of the project on the 20% regions, compliance with the national/regional strategies etc. The RBs also participated on some face-to-face meetings. The RBs provided support to the project partners concerning the

implementation of approved projects, assisted applicants with the support and information when preparing the reports, supported projects partners in case changes occurred during the implementation of the projects and monitored the State Aid for the project partners, irregularities, etc. Moreover, the RBs worked close with other programme partners, participated at second level controls, at the meetings of the BPG, JMC and at the celebrated EC-Days.

The RBs in Slovenia, as contract managers for the Slovene project partners, also attended on-the-spot checks with the Slovene national controllers and the sample site visits with the JTS. The RBs were also responsible for ensuring annual National/regional Budget resources for respective project partners, for providing final opinion on State Aid, and on 20% adjusted region. They were also members of the Task force for the programming of the new financial period 2014-2020.

6.4 The national controllers in Slovenia and Austria (TA 3)

Within the programme the Slovenian and Austrian national controllers performed the administrative checks of the partners' applications for reimbursement – validation of expenditures. The on-the-spot checks of the project partners were performed, information to the project partners about reporting and

eligibility of costs were provided, they also attended the meetings of the BPG when needed etc. National controllers also cooperated with the AA during the performed audits.

The Slovenian national controllers have checked 1620 reports and with it reviewed 36.771.879,81 EUR for eligibility in between 2007-2013. In the year 2015 the national controllers have checked 143 reports and with it reviewed 35.479,29 EUR for eligibility. In 2015, there have been 19 on-the-spot checks carried out by the Slovenian FLC.

During the whole programme period the FLC AKL checked 308 reports and performed 59 on-the-spot-checks (due to the flat-rate correction in the year 2013, also 46 re-checks of reports were made). In 2015 49 reports were checked and 19 on-the-spot-checks were performed before the last validations were carried out. The FLC KWF checked 233 reports within the programme period 2007-2013 and performed 42 on-the-spot-checks. In 2015, 24 reports were checked/reviewed and 14 on-the-spot-checks made before the last validations were carried out. Two second-level-controls were performed by the Bundeskanzleramt (Connect SME and Polyregion).

The Styrian national controllers reviewed 508 partner reports within 48 projects and carried out 92 on-the-spot checks - one for each project partner - with total costs in the amount of € 17,146,582.79 being found as eligible for funding. Furthermore, there were 40 audits performed by the Federal Chancellery acting as Second Level Control. Additionally, the Styrian FLC held two workshops for project partners on the aforementioned topics.

During the whole programme period the FLC RMB checked 73 reports and performed 16 on-the-spot-checks. In 2015 10 reports were checked and 3 on-the-spot-checks were performed before the last validations were carried out.

Finally, it needs to be pointed out that the project partners submitted their reports often too late, which made it very difficult for the national controllers to comply with the given schedule.

7 Information and publicity measures

7.1 Information and publicity measures of the Programme

In line with the Communication plan on information and publicity, approved by the EC on 23 June 2008 and in line with the strategy of communication and information measures, several activities were carried out in the period 2007-2015:

- ✓ the joint programme website www.si-at.eu was established in the beginning of the programme period 2007-2013 and updated continuously with news, guidelines, announcements and reports of events etc., to provide the information about the programme and project implementation to the public; in

December 2015, a new programme website for the period 2014-2020 was launched using the same web-address, which includes the programme website for the period 2007-2013 and, therefore, it ensures its durability,

- ✓ the programme intranet for programme partners was established and updated continuously; with the launch of the new programme website, also a new intranet page was launched, including all the data from the period 2007-2013,
- ✓ the mailing lists were updated continuously,

- ✓ the major annual event of the programme, the so called “EU project – my project” Open days, which took place on 18 and 19 September 2015 in Slovenia was joined with the foreseen activities in the frame of the European Cooperation Day 2015,
- ✓ press releases were published on the programme’s website,
- ✓ applicants and beneficiaries were continuously provided with information (head of JTS and activity manager responsible as phone and e-mail contact points for applicants and beneficiaries),
- ✓ throughout the years, the JTS was continuously informing and assisting the beneficiaries via e-mail, phone and in person (at the JTS office in Maribor),
- ✓ the final publication of the programme (500 prints) and the brochure on the programme (2500 prints) were published with information concerning the project and programme implementation,
- ✓ preparation of memos and public/press releases etc.

Table 16: Workshops/seminars/informative events organized by the MA/JTS in 2015

EVENT	DATE	NR. OF PARTICIPANTS
Annual event of the OP SI-AT in the frame of the European Cooperation Day 2015 - “EU project – my project”	19 September 2015	50

The programme website is used for reaching the majority of the public through its news tools. In December 2015, the final publication of the programme and the brochure on the programme were published. All news that were uploaded on the website, were automatically sent to all of the individuals (programme and

project partners, potential beneficiaries, interested public) who signed up for the programme’s mailing list. In addition to the information and PR activities performed by the JTS, RBs in Austria and Slovenia carried out information and PR activities as well.

Indicators for the evaluation of the Communication plan implementation, which shall be used to evaluate the efficiency of the implementation of the Communication plan, are presented in table 18, which shows that all targets have been reached and/or exceeded by far. Visits to the website reached over 100.000; the number of different visitors exceeded the target by 5 times, since programme bodies have been very active to organize publicity, information and support events. In accordance with the Communication Plan of the programme, a survey was carried out in the year 2013 to evaluate the achievements of the goals of the Communication Plan. The main

part of the survey addressed questions on information and publicity (questions on events, the programme homepage, the programme logo, etc.).

The survey results showed that the main medium of hearing about the OP SI-AT was the internet (33%), followed by the Lead and Project Partners (18%) as well as the programme and project events (16%). Although 36% of respondents have never participated in EU funded programmes or projects before, the survey showed a good knowledge of the programme and projects financed thanks to the information and

publicity activities of the programme and the projects.

Responding to the needs of the programme implementation (e.g. two open calls for proposals with four deadlines for submission, one public call for project ideas, strategic

projects), the MA/JTS organised more events for applicants and beneficiaries as it was planned in the OP, consequently, the effect of those events also resulted in the exceeding of the indicators related to the visits to the website, sent electronic messages etc.

Table 17: Indicators for evaluation of implementing the Communication plan

Indicator	Indicator Type	Unit of Measurement	Initial Value	Value 2007	Value 2008	Value 2009	Value 2010	Value 2011	Value 2012	Value 2013	Value 2014	Value 2015	Target value at the end of the programme period
Number of visitors to the website	Indicator of result	Visits	0	0	8.721	20.333	28.355	69.338	74.144	104.813	NA	NA	80.000
Number of different visitors	Indicator of result	Visitors	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	43.171	NA	NA	8.000
Number of events/workshops	Indicator of result	Events	0	0	3	7	14	18	19	21	26	27	8
Number of publications – printed	Indicator of output	Issues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000	3.000
Number of mailing list members	Indicator of result	Addressee	0	0	122	247	334	387	428	462	497	518	450
Number of submitted electronic messages with informative contents	Indicator of result	Messages	0	0	9	28	44	63	75	94	119	140	80
Studies and opinion polls (analyses of questionnaires etc.)	Indicator of result	Issues	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4

Most of the information and publicity measures have either been announced or implemented through the internet (*website visits, e-mail messages, newsletters etc.*). A lot of information and publicity activities have also been carried out by the Lead and Project partners of operations and are, therefore, not included in this report. However, those are evident from the Lead partner reports that have been received and the data published on the numerous project websites. The MA/JTS supported some of these activities with participation at the events (*final conferences, presentations etc.*).

The main target groups of the communication actions were the potential beneficiaries of the programme and the interested public in the programme area. The primary media channels used to communicate were the website of the programme (www.si-at.eu) and the website of the MA institution (www.svrk.gov.si). Until the end of year 2015, the majority of PR activities was focused on information regarding the programme. To make the broader public

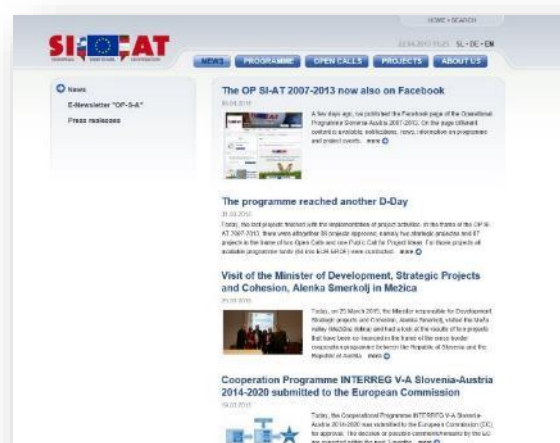
aware about the Programme and operations in implementation, we mostly used our electronic newsletter called “OP-S-A”. We use this media to inform the public and the applicants about the current state on the programme, news concerning the programme activities, achievements and goals in the eligible area achieved by the co-financed operations etc.

In the year 2015, the MA/JTS organised a major **annual event**, the so called “**EU project – my project**”. This event was carried out on 18 and 19 September 2015. The participants were able to discover, where European Cohesion Policy left its mark. The event was organized by the Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy in cooperation with the project partners. For the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, the project GEOPARK was presented on 19 September 2015 in Mežica, Slovenia. With the event, also the European Cooperation Day 2015 was celebrated with the aim to present the achievements of European territorial cooperation. About 50 participants attended the event.

7.2 Quantitative indicators obtained through outputs within the information and publicity measures

The achieving of specific objectives within the information and publicity measures can be evaluated through the following direct outputs:

- the number of visitors to the website,
- the number of events performed,
- the number of publications – printed,
- the number of mailing list members,
- the number of participants at events.



All activities involving information and publicity in this period have primarily focused on the presentation of the Programme, later the focus shifted to the presentation of the calls, reporting and the promotion of the programme (results) and its projects at informative events.

The **website of the programme www.si-at.eu** was launched in October 2008 and has ever since been constantly updated with the latest programme information, information on the



implementation of operations, announcements of events and other relevant news. For convenience of those who are facing a language barrier, the Programme information and documents are provided in Slovenian, German and English language. The website includes all of the available information and documentation. Special attention has been paid to the calls (Open calls for proposals and the Public Call for Project Ideas) and their application packages together with the project specifications, names of the representatives who can provide more detailed information on the implementation of assistance, measures on governing the eligibility and news concerning the implementation of the programme and project activities. In the past two years, project partners even submitted information on events and/or project results to the JTS with

the aim to have it published on the programme website.

The website contributes to a better visibility of the Programme, which is shown in the number of its visitors and mailing list members (see *table 18*). It can be evaluated that a high increase of visitors to the website and mailing list members shows the growing visibility of the Programme and higher interest of the wider public in the Programme and its activities. The number of visitors was the highest during the time when there was an open possibility for applicants to submit their project proposals and/or project ideas. Starting with the kick-off event of the Programme in August 2008 with 139 participants, the information and publicity measures continued in the year 2008 with a bilateral workshop organised by the JTS with 43 participants and several workshops and presentations by the regional bodies in Slovenia and Austria. In 2009, the number of informative events organised by the JTS/MA increased to 7 (workshops for applicants, workshops on reporting, signing of the subsidy contracts, etc). The RBs in both countries in 2009, continued with their informative events all over the eligible area of the Programme (workshops, presentations, informative events, newsletters, publications etc.). In November 2010, an annual informative event of the Programme was organised to inform the broader public in the eligible area and beyond about the implementation of the Programme and the Programme objectives itself. In 2011, 13 informative events were organised (workshops for Beneficiaries, signing ceremony of the Subsidy contracts). In the following year, the MA/JTS organized one bigger informative event (EC Day 2012). In 2013, the MA/JTS organized two workshops for beneficiaries of approved projects in the frame of the Public Call for Project Ideas and two events, one of them was also the annual event of the

programme, in the frame of the EC Day 2013. In the year 2014, another workshop for beneficiaries of approved projects in the frame of the Public Call for Project Ideas was organized. The programme also continued the EC Day initiative through 2015 with organizing two one day events in 2014 (on the spot visits of projects) and by participating in a local

project event as well as by organizing open days in the frame of the event “EU project – my project” in 2015, where the project GEOPARK was presented to the public. From 2008 until the end of 2015, altogether 86 informative events were organised by the programme structures.

Table 18: Number of informative events and participants organized by JTS/MA and RBs in Slovenia and Austria

YEAR	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
NUMBER OF INFORMATIVE EVENTS	0	19	37	55	68	71	80	85	86
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (APPROX.)	0	1.005	1.575	2.520	2.991	6.024	6.522	6.677	6.727

In the frame of the informative events, the programme distributed promotional materials to the general public, the programme partners and the beneficiaries in order to make the programme more visible. With the time passing, the programme logo has achieved a

great degree of visibility, and more importantly, recognisability.

In 2015, the Technical Assistance funds were also used to purchase promotional materials



(pens, pencils, notebooks, post-its, USB-sticks, bags, etc.), which were distributed as a promotional tool among the beneficiaries, programme partners and the participants of the workshop, of the annual event/the events in the frame of the EC Day 2015.

The direct output “number of publications – printed” was, as in previous Annual Implementation Reports mentioned, realized in the end of the programme period. Printed publications presenting the programme and the implemented projects were planned to be

published later on to ensure as much information about the programme and the successfully implemented projects as possible in a durable form.

7.3 Financial information about information and publicity measures of the programme

Until the end of the year 2015, the OP SI-AT has used almost 90 per cent of the available funds for information and publicity activities. The information and publicity activities have mostly been carried out for the (potential) applicants (kick-off event, seminars, workshops, annual informative events, promotional materials etc.) but with moving into the mature implementation phase of the Programme, the expenditures for information and publicity have in addition been focused on the

dissemination of results of the operations and making the general public aware of the outcomes of the operations and the programme (on the spot visits of projects in the frame of the EC Day). In the final phase, the programme was collecting information on the results that have been reached and, after receiving the outcomes of the evaluation of the programme, prepared and published a final publication, which was also foreseen in the Communication Plan of the programme.

Table 19: Expenditure for information and publicity activities

	total indicative planned budget* (in EUR)	expenditure in the years 2008-2014 (in EUR)	% of total indicative planned budget	expenditure year 2015 (in EUR)	% of total indicative planned budget	expenditure up to 31. 12. 2015 (in EUR)	% of total indicative planned budget
total amount of expenditure for information and publicity activities	240.000	153.849,86	64,10 %	59.630,93	24,85 %	213.480,79	88,95 %
ERDF amount of expenditure for information and publicity activities	204.000	130.772,39		50.686,29		181.458,68	

* According to the Communication Plan on Information and Publicity for the OP SI-AT 2007-2013

8 Summary of the achievements of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013

8.1 What has the programme achieved?

The overall aims of the programme are to contribute efficiently to extensively fostering the international competitiveness and visibility as well as the quality of the cooperation by joint development, sustainable and innovative use of the common potential and opportunities in the regions. Within the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, 89 projects carried out their activities. These

projects cover a rather wide range of activities and topics. Based on the findings of the external evaluation of the programme implementation and results, comparing the socio-economic analysis of the region with the overall aims of the programme, its contribution can be estimated as follows:

8.1.1 Contributing to the competitiveness in economic key sectors

Table 20: The programme contribution to the competitiveness in economic key sectors

Name of key sectors	Investment of the programme in key sectors in percentage of total programme investments (%)
1.1. SME Development	28 %
1.2. Tourism	12 %
1.3. Knowledge base economy	3 %
1.4. Thematic fields of strength	1 %

The programme has contributed to economic development of the programme area, especially in terms of SME development, as 45 % of total committed funds were allocated for the Priority 1 and the majority of Priority 1 funds was allocated for SME development. These investments were well placed since:

- ✓ the negative trend of migration toward big knowledge hubs due to the loss of employment in the rural agricultural and local industry sectors has been counterbalanced by the programme, supporting local SMEs in the sectors, where most of the new enterprises of the region were born (*i.e.: Information and communication, Professional scientific and technical activities, Arts, entertainment and recreation and other service activities, Education,*

human health and social work activities). These activities were very important as far as the enterprises established in these sectors are less likely to improve their employment from their own financial resources in contrast to the enterprises established in the industry, construction and retail sectors.

- ✓ the regional tourism has improved significantly (*the number of nights spent in the region has risen for 10 %*)
- ✓ the joint research and knowledge based projects have also contributed to mobilizing the common innovation potentials, since the enterprises on the Austrian side of the cross border region are still 3-4 times more innovative than on the Slovenian side of the programme area (*based on the number*

of international patterns per million inhabitants). This knowledge and innovative culture can only be shared

with the Slovenian enterprises if they work closely together with their Austrian partners.

8.1.2 Increasing the quality of life in the programme area

Table 21: The programme contribution to the quality of life

Name of key sectors	Investment of the programme in key sectors in percentage of total programme investments (%)
2.3. Urban and regional development	18 %
2.4. Social and cultural development	11 %

- ✓ In Education (*human health and social work activities*) and Arts, entertainment and recreation (*other service activities*) sectors, 1,93 % more enterprises have been established in the region than it should be concluded from the number of active enterprises in this sectors, but these enterprises are not competitive enough to sustain their activities for a longer period, since the enterprises surviving three

business years are -0,23 % less in these sectors than it should be concluded from the number of active enterprises in these sectors (*based on the available 2007-2010 data*).

- ✓ Since these services are essential for the society, it is essential for the cross-border programme to support these enterprises and help them over the financial difficulties of the first business years.

8.1.3 Promoting sustainability in cross-border projects

Table 22: The programme contribution to the promotion of sustainable cross-border projects

Name of key sectors	Investment of the programme in key sectors in percentage of total programme investments (%)
1.5. Management of natural resources	24 %
1.6. Environment and energy	24 %

- ✓ In the case of sustainable energy, the Austrian part is an excellent example, since 95 % of energy produced in this region was renewable (compared to the 73 % for Austria in total). On the other hand in Slovenia the share of renewable energy in energy production was just 20 % in the beginning of the programme period. If we project the statistical trends for the whole programme period, Slovenia was able to increase the share of renewable energy in energy

production by 28 % and the renewable energy production reached a 26 % share.

- ✓ Cross-border cooperation was essential for reaching this balancing effect, and further investments are also needed in this area, since there is still a huge gap between the performance of the neighbouring countries. Sharing best practices can be the best way to overcome this difference.

8.1.4 Strengthening and improving the quality of cross-border cooperation

As presented in table 6, all projects of the operational programme have involved two or more aspects of joint cross-border cooperation, thus by improving the quality of

cross-border cooperation the programme has contributed to bridging this gap and decreasing the difference in the economic trends of the bordering regions.

8.2 Who has benefitted?

The question on who has benefited the most from the programme results and outputs is not so easy to be answered. There are several social and economic structures which have used the implemented activities as an advantage for better working and living conditions.

In general, all involved individuals, institutions or regions have benefitted by gaining the benefits of the knowledge-based economy for which the frameworks have been prepared, better living-environment sustained through

projects covering the fields of environment, energy efficiency, management of natural resources, regional and local development. The inhabitants and the visitors of the programme regions are those who have benefitted the most from the project results as e.g. established touristic destinations for disabled people with adapted accommodation, protection of bees and raising public awareness about their importance, protection of the monuments, established cross-border hiking and cycling trails and many, many more.

ANNEX 1:**PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES IN 2015**

ACTIVITY	DATE/ PLACE	TOPICS
19th Task Force meeting	15 January 2015	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Discussion about the comments received within the public consultation process CP INTERREG V-A SI-AT 2014-2020, Finalization of categories of intervention tables, Finalization of the document, Any other business
23rd Written procedure	16 January 2015	Decision on the approval/rejection of the proposed changes of the operations Technical assistance 3 and Technical Assistance 1
67th BPG Meeting	3 February 2015, Maribor	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Overview of the audits performed in 2014, Overview of the conclusions/ recommendations of the 7th Annual Control Report, Information about audits (performed in 2014 and planned in 2015) - input from GoA, Overview of the conclusions/ recommendations of the 7th Annual Control Report (from the view of the GoA), Further steps regarding audits performed in 2014/7th Annual Control Report, Any other business
Evaluation of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013	February to November 2015	Publishing of the Public procurement for carrying out the evaluation of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 (preparation of the procurement documentation, publishing of the public procurement, signing of the contract, carrying out of the evaluation, receiving the final evaluation report)
SEA Public Consultation Procedure	18 February 2015	On 27 January 2015, the SEA was published. The document was open for comments until 18 February 2015.
Sample site visit	25 February 2015, Celovec/Klagenfurt	The MA/JTS carried out a sample site visit for the operation Efficient Effective Smart.
Sample site visit	26 February 2015, Slovenj Gradec	The MA/JTS carried out a sample site visit for the operation Polyregion.
Sample site visit	5 March 2015, Ljubljana	The MA/JTS carried out a sample site visit for the operation SI-K Exportcoop SEE.
Sample site visit	12 March 2015, Ljubljana	The MA/JTS carried out a sample site visit for the operation Team Olympiad.
Submission of the Cooperation Programme to the EC	19 March 2015	The Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for the period 2014-2020 was submitted to the EC for comments/approval.
Visit of the minister to Mežica	25 March 2015, Mežica	The Minister responsible for Development, Strategic projects and Cohesion, Alenka Smerkolj, visited the Meža valley (Mežiška dolina) and had a look at the results of two projects (Geopark and Adventure Petzen/Peca) that have been co-financed in the frame of the cross-border cooperation programme between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Austria.

Implementation of all projects finished	31 March 2015	The last projects finished with the implementation of project activities. In the frame of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, there were altogether 89 projects approved; two strategic projects and 87 projects in the frame of two Open Calls and one Public Call for Project Ideas.
Publishing of the Facebook page of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013	3 April 2015	The Facebook page of the Operational Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013 was published, where different content is available; notifications, news, information on programme and project events.
20th Task Force meeting	9 April 2015, Radenci	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Action plan and time plan for the implementation of INTERREG V-A SI-AT 2014-2020 (preparation of the Open Call, Kick Off event, Guidelines, designation process etc.), Open issues regarding the establishment of the Monitoring Committee for Interreg V-A SI-AT 2014-2020, Any other business
68th BPG Meeting	9 April 2015, Radenci	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Update on the current state of programme implementation of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 and main activities in the year 2015, Closure of the programme 2007-2013 (presentation of the process, time-plan, needed documents, etc.), Programme period 2014-2020 (input from the national controllers concerning the simplified cost options and other eligibility related questions), Any other business
21st Task Force meeting	20-21 May 2015, Heiligenbrunn	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Discussion on selection process, Discussion on selection criteria, Discussion on eligibility of expenditure, Any other business
24th Written procedure	3 June 2015	Decision on the approval of the Annual Implementation Report for the year 2014
22nd Task Force meeting	17 June 2015, Ruše	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Discussion on the received observations of the EC to the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria 2014-2020, Any other business
Clarification meeting for the observations of the EC to the CP	7 July 2015, Ljubljana	Welcome, Discussion on the received observations of the EC to the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria, Any other business
25th Written procedure	10 July 2015	Decision on the proposed changes of the operation Technical Assistance 3
23rd Task Force meeting	20-21 July 2015, Graz	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Final discussion of the revised Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria based on the received observations of the EC to the CP, Presentation and discussion of the Rules of Procedure, Presentation and discussion of the Application Form, Any other business (eligibility rules, CGI, etc.)
Resubmission of the Cooperation Programme to the EC	30 July 2015	The revised Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for the period 2014-2020 was resubmitted to the EC for approval.
Promotional materials	August-October 2015	The public procurement procedure for purchasing promotional materials was successfully carried out in the frame of the programme

24th Task Force meeting	2 September 2015, Maribor	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Discussion on the Application form, Discussion on the Annexes to the Application Form, Discussion on the Eligibility rules (open topics), Discussion on the Rules of Procedure for the Monitoring Committee and on the MC members nominations, Discussion on the Implementation Manual for Beneficiaries, Any other business (CGI, etc.)
Publishing of the slogan contest of the programme	8 September 2015	The Slogan contest's goal was to encourage individuals inside and outside the eligible programme area to think about European Territorial Cooperation and especially the cross-border cooperation between Slovenia and Austria in the period 2014-2020 and create slogans on thoughts, associations, ideas, etc. connected to cooperation between those two countries. The competition was open to everyone from the eligible programme area and outside from it, professional or amateur. It was announced that the winning slogan will be used in the frame of the new website design and for the promotion of the Cooperation Programme throughout the whole programme period 2014-2020.
26th Written procedure	10 September 2015	Decision on the proposed changes of the operation Technical Assistance 3 and budget correction of the operation CAVETOIRS and the operation ASSO
Cooperation Programme approved by the EC	16 September 2015	The EC formally approved the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for the programme period 2014-2020. The approval concluded a process of programme preparation that has spanned over 2 years.
EU project – my project	19 September 2015, Mežica	In the frame of the Open Days on 18 and 19 September 2016, the public was able to discover, where European Cohesion Policy left its mark. The event was organized by the Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy in cooperation with the project partners. For the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, the project GEOPARK was presented on 19 September 2015 at the location in Mežica, Slovenia.
25th (last) Task Force meeting	22 September 2015, Seggau	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Discussion on the Open Call, Discussion on the Application form (offline template), Discussion on the Annexes to the Application Form, Discussion on the Complaint procedure, Discussion on the Communication Strategy, Any other business (Implementation Manual for Beneficiaries, programme events, etc.)
Slogan contest concluded	30 September 2015	The slogan contest, which was published on 8 September 2015, closed. The winning slogan is <i>"For a better future"</i> .
1st BWG meeting	15 October 2015, Maribor	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Discussion on the Complaint procedure, Discussion on the template of the Subsidy contract, Discussion on the open topics concerning the Open Call, Discussion on the open topics concerning the Implementation Manual for Beneficiaries, Any other business
27th Written procedure	23 October 2015	Decision on the proposed correction of the operation MINDOC
14th (last) JMC meeting	26 November 2015, Rimske Toplice	Welcome - Approval of the Agenda, Update on the current state of programme implementation / programme closure, Presentation of the strategic project INNO CBC, Presentation of the strategic project Crossborder ACTIVE 2020, Presentation of the evaluation of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013, Any other business
1st MC meeting	27 November 2015, Rimske Toplice	Welcome – Approval of the Agenda, Presentation of the Cooperation Programme, Discussion and approval of the Rules of Procedure, Discussion and approval of the Technical Assistance projects, Discussion and approval of the Open Call for Proposals and Selection Criteria, Discussion and approval of the Rules on the Eligibility of expenditure, Discussion and approval of the Communication Strategy, Any other business

Kick-off event of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SI-AT	2 December 2015, Laško	On 2 December 2015, the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion, the Managing Authority in the period 2014-2020, organized the kick-off event in Laško in Slovenia, which was dedicated to the presentation of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria. The Minister for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion, Alenka Smerkolj, gave a speech in which she expressed the belief that the cooperation in the programme will help eliminate the border barriers and strengthen the cross-border cooperation. In the programme period 2014-2020, the successful European territorial cooperation between Slovenia and its neighbouring countries will continue, in which various applicants may realize their ideas and are able to implement sustainable solutions through the cooperation with their cross-border partners.
Publishing the new programme website and the Open Call	18 December 2015	On 18 December 2015, the new website of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria for the period 2014-2020 was launched, which is accessible under the same address as until now (www.si-at.eu). Due to the transfer of the website into a new environment, in which also the current website of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 is accessible, the E-Newsletter subscription in the frame of the OP SI-AT 2007-2013 was discontinued. In order to receive further E-Newsletters in the frame of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria, a new registration for the e-Newsletter on the new website is necessary.

ANNEX 2: CATEGORISATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 1st AND THE 2nd OPEN CALL, THE PUBLIC CALL FOR PROJECT IDEAS AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Dim. Cod.	Dimension title	Estimation of total ERDF in OP		Allocated Community amounts – committed funds		Allocated projects
		EUR	%	EUR	%	
01	R&TD activities in research centres	1.500.000	2,24	499.295,00	0,69	UI4C
02	R&TD infrastructure and centres of competence in a specific technology	1.850.000	2,76	438.112,14	0,61	TEDUSAR
03	Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks ...	2.643.181	3,94	5.206.581,63	7,29	KBB, TRILOC, CESLA, CROSS INNO, PROMT ICT, AATT, Factory Labs
04	Assistance to R&TD, particularly in SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres)	570.000	0,85	886.368,05	1,24	RECOVERY, INNO CBC
05	Advanced support services for firms and groups of firms	2.853.000	4,25	7.635.661,09	10,69	TrainProCoop, INNOVATION 2020, good NEWSS, Business region LK, BRIDGE, VAINNO, SCIS, SI-K Exportcoop SEE, METAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK, POLYREGION, Connect SME, Clean Production, PolyRegion – Pro.Act, Alpe Adria Coworking
06	Assistance to SMEs for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes (...)	710.000	1,06	805.011,35	1,13	Future ideas karawanks, ReUse
07	Investment in firms directly linked to research and innovation (...)	770.000	1,15	0	0	
08	Other investment in firms	7.045.375	10,50	1.472.398,15	2,06	QILK
09	Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs	870.000	1,30	816.340,00	1,14	Alpe Adria Holz/Les, Smart Log Chain
13	Services and applications for citizens (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.)	804.244	1,20	0	0	
24	Cycle tracks	477.984	0,71	512.665,29	0,72	CESTA VINA IN DOBROT, Adventure Petzen/Peca
28	Intelligent transport systems	901.416	1,34	0	0	
43	Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	3.588.142	5,35	3.921.067,85	5,5	MOVE, Efficient Effective Smart, PEMURES
45	Management and distribution of water (drink water)	1.458.761	2,17	1.089.229,83	1,53	MURMAN
48	Integrated prevention and pollution control	1.422.761	2,12	2.093.271,20	2,94	PMINTER
51	Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)	1.311.981	1,95	2.740.970,55	3,84	karawanks@future.eu , AMC PROMO BID, ALPA

54	Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks	1.588.142	2,37	5.799.613,50	8,13	HEALTH, DRAMURCI, GOAL, NH-WF, Kutscheniza, IMPACT!
55	Promotion of natural assets	1.481.981	2,21	2.562.374,80	3,59	GEOPARK, CUL-Energy4Kids, Crossborder ACTIVE 2020
56	Protection and development of natural heritage	3.689.982	5,50	2.763.917,22	3,87	Nature experience, Karafish, Health Care NE
57	Other assistance to improve tourist services	5.809.375	8,66	7.676.406,05	10,75	Hiking&Biking, VINO COOL, REACT, Pilgrimage Europe SI-AT, REGIO VITALIS, Family Centers, Brod na Muri, AIN-DJN, Cavetours
58	Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage	1.469.659	2,19	4.605.371,42	6,45	Spomeniki/Denkmäler, CULH:EX CAR-GOR, ČAJ/TEE, DUO Kunsthandwerk, MINDOC, Matriken Digital, FLU-LED, Inter-Arch Steiermark, REG-KULT, BorderArch - Steiermark
59	Development of cultural infrastructure	1.145.727	1,71	691.172,25	0,968	TourKult
60	Other assistance to improve cultural services	1.145.659	1,71	1.252.655,15	1,75	Grenzenlos/Brezmejnost, SOSED/NACHBAR
61	Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration	3.993.566	5,95	6.026.563,46	8,44	City Cooperation, SKUPAJ, City Impulses, CITY NETWORK GRAZ-MARIBOR
64	Development of special services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors ..	1.154.244	1,72	2.279.026,93	3,19	SOBIO, EXPAK AT.SI, Equity
72	Design, introduction and implementing of reforms in education and training systems ...	450.000	0,67	3.547.107,99	4,97	Kooperationslehrgang, Koop Flexible Automation, Chance4Change, Euroregion Healthy Region, Team Olympiad, ASSO
74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies ...	782.000	1,17	363.856,44	0,51	EXP-ERT 2020
80	Promoting the partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders	3.488.992	5,20	1.658.116,09	2,32	REGIOLAB
81	Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation ...	8.108.616	12,08	0	0	
85	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	3.038.318	4,53	3.038.318,00	4,257	Technical Assistance
86	Evaluation and studies; information and communication	988.371	1,47	988.371,00	1,38	Technical Assistance

2007 - 2013



Organ upravljanja / Skupni tehnični sekretariat
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Služba Vlade Republike Slovenije za razvoj in evropsko kohezijsko politiko

Revizijski organ / Prüfbehörde - Ministrstvo za finance RS, Urad za nadzor proračuna

Revizijsko telo / Prüfstelle - Bundeskanzleramt Österreich, Sektion IV/3

Organ za potrjevanje / Bescheinigungsbehörde - Slovenski regionalno razvojni sklad

Programski partnerji / Programmpartner

Služba Vlade Republike Slovenije za razvoj in evropsko kohezijsko politiko, Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung, Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds, Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Regionalmanagement Burgenland.

28,3 mio EUR

Prednostna naloga 1 / Priorität 1

Konkurenčnost, znanje in gospodarsko sodelovanje/

Wettbewerbsfähigkeit, Wissen und wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit

Področja aktivnosti / Aktivitätsfelder

Razvoj malih in srednje velikih podjetij /
KMU-Entwicklung

Razvoj turizma / Tourismusentwicklung

Okolje za na znanju temelječe gospodarstvo /
Rahmenwerk für eine wissensbasierte
Wirtschaft

Razvoj tematskih prednostnih področij /
Entwicklung gemeinsamer thematischer
Stärkenfelder

34,8 mio EUR

Prednostna naloga 2 / Priorität 2

Trajnost in skladen razvoj /
*Nachhaltige und ausgeglichene
Entwicklung*

Področja aktivnosti / Aktivitätsfelder

Upravljanje naravnih virov / Verwaltung
von natürlichen Ressourcen

Okolje in energija / Umwelt und Energie

Razvoj naselij in regionalni razvoj /
Städtische
und regionale Entwicklung

Socialni in kulturni razvoj / Soziale und
kulturelle Entwicklung

89

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kofinancirten Projekte

484

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Projektpartner



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