

FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

INTERREG IIIA/PHARE CBC Programme

Austria – Czech Republic

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2000 – 2006

Reporting period: 01/01/2000 – 31/12/2008

Programme:	Community Initiative Programme for INTERREG IIIA Austria – Czech Republic
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Programming period:	2000 – 2006
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This report covers also the annual implementation report for year 2008 (see chapter 6).



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1. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

This document contains the Final Implementation Report for the INTERREG IIIA Programme Austria – Czech Republic covering the period January 1st 2000 to December 31st 2008. The programme was approved for the first time by the European Commission on September 27th 2001 and amended six times during the implementation period: July 26th 2002; November 18th 2004, December 5th 2005, May 23rd 2007, March 18th 2008 and November 27th 2008. In the course of the above-mentioned amendments of the programme document and due to financial shifts on measure level the Programme Complement (PC) was changed and sent to the European Commission (EC) for information. The final version of the PC was acknowledged by the EC on January 13th 2009. Costs arising on Austrian territory were eligible for ERDF-cofinancing beginning with July 17th 2000, on Czech territory with January 1st 2004 and ended for all beneficiaries on December 31st 2008.

At the date of closure the total budget of the programme according to the last approved financial plan amounts to 68.771.325 Euro (financial plan). The financial support from the European Fund for Regional Development amounts to max. 38.052.319 Euro, whereby 25.959.986 Euro is national public co-funding and 4.759.020 Euro stem from the private sector.

The programme was managed by the Austrian Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt der Republik Österreich) in close cooperation with the National Authority in the Czech Republic with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS). On project level the responsibility for the operative management stayed at the Intermediate Bodies. The programme was steered by a Monitoring and Steering Committee composed of representatives from the Czech Republic and Austria.

The joint development strategy within the programme aimed at the overarching goal of promoting the development of the Austrian-Czech border area into a common, futureoriented economic and living space, improving the competitiveness of the border region within the European context and sustainably enhancing the living conditions of the residents in the area and thus preparing the border region in general for EU enlargement.

Chapter 6 of this document reports on the activities of the programme in 2008.

1.1 Changes in the general conditions in the Period 2000-2008 with relevance for the implementation of the assistance

In general it can be noticed that the objectives, priorities and measures of the programme were always relevant and coherent with the challenges and potentials in the programme area.

The most relevant change was without any doubt the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union on May 1st 2004 (details see chapter 1.1.2.).



1.1.1. The main socio-economic trends

The main socio-economic trends are described in this chapter briefly. More detailed information can be found in the Operational Programme “Objective 3 Cross-Border Co-operation Austria – Czech Republic 2007-2013” which was approved by the EC in December 2007.

Demography

The most important demographic trends in the border region are:

- ▶ aging population
- ▶ increasing population due to migration
- ▶ decreasing fertility rates
- ▶ suburbanization processes
- ▶ future perspectives: negative demographic trends

Table 1

Demographic trend

Regional unit	Population development (change in %)			
	1991-2001 (AT) 1995-2004 (CZ)		2001-2005 (AT) 2003-2004 (CZ)	
	Total	Women	Total	Women
Nuts III region				
Mostviertel-Eisenwurzen	3.1	2.6	0.7	0.6
Niederösterreich-Süd	3.9	3.8	1.5	1.3
Sankt Pölten	3.6	2.8	2.0	1.8
Waldviertel	0.2	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1
Weinviertel	1.5	0.4	-0.3	-0.6
Wiener Umland-Nordteil	11.0	10.5	3.0	3.0
Wiener Umland-Südteil	7.7	7.3	3.3	3.4
Innviertel	3.5	2.9	0.7	0.5
Linz-Wels	1.4	1.7	2.4	2.2
Mühlviertel	5.5	4.7	0.8	0.7
Steyr-Kirchdorf	4.5	4.4	0.7	0.4
Traunviertel	4.5	4.4	1.0	0.6
<i>Wien</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>4.0</i>
<i>Niederösterreich</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.4</i>
<i>Oberösterreich</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.2</i>
AUSTRIA (total)	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.8
South Bohemian region	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.1
South Moravian region	-1.6	-1.8	0.1	0.0
Vysočina	-1.1	-1.3	-0.1	-0.1
CZECH REPUBLIC	-1.0	-1.2	0.1	0.1

Sources: Statistics Austria, Czech Statistical Office



South Bohemia is the fifth least populated region of the Czech Republic and it thus forms 6.1% from the total number of inhabitants in the Czech Republic. From a long-term perspective the South Bohemian region shows a natural negative population growth. However, in last years the population number increases, i.e. the total population growth is positive due to the migration.

In Austria the demographic development proceeds in an inhomogeneous way. While the central regions develop very dynamic the increase in the peripheral regions is weak or they are even losing population. Following a long-term trend the most dynamic regions are those near the urban centres.

Economic structure and development

The economic structure of the Austrian-Czech border is characterised by

- ▶ a higher orientation towards agriculture than on the respective national average.
- ▶ High shares of the secondary sector, traditional sectors and dynamic industrial development caused by foreign direct investment and new orientation
- ▶ The industrial sector throughout the entire region has been undergoing structural changes for the past few years. In the course of active location policy and a comprehensive innovation and technology campaign, not only existing structures have been modernised and strengthened but also new areas of activity have been developed and funded.
- ▶ The tertiary sector is expanding but still remains distinctly underdeveloped on both sides, with the exception of the urban regions

Economic structure and trends in the Austrian-Czech border region are characterised by

- ▶ marked regional disparities in prosperity and
- ▶ a dynamic economic development

The disparities are apparent on the one hand, in the distinct disparities between cities and the countryside on the other hand and in differentials in prosperity between the Austrian and the Czech border regions. The dynamic economic development has emerged

- ▶ from the restructuring of industrial enterprises and foreign investment activities especially in the Czech border regions,
- ▶ the development of a new basis of SMEs and
- ▶ a growing service sector and new employment opportunities



Table 2

Economic level

Regional unit	GDP (PPS) per capita 2003	GDP (PPS) per capita 2003
Nuts III region	Index national = 100	Index EU25 = 100
Mostviertel-Eisenwurzen	69.0	83.4
Niederösterreich-Süd	-	-
Sankt Pölten	101.2	122.4
Waldviertel	72.6	87.7
Weinviertel	54.7	66.1
Wiener Umland-Nordteil	69.7	84.2
Wiener Umland-Südteil	-	-
Innviertel	67.9	82.0
Linz-Wels	127.3	153.9
Mühlviertel	53.1	64.1
Steyr-Kirchdorf	91.7	110.9
Traunviertel	-	-
<i>Wien</i>	<i>141.4</i>	<i>170.9</i>
<i>Niederösterreich</i>	<i>80.1</i>	<i>96.8</i>
<i>Oberösterreich</i>	<i>93.3</i>	<i>112.8</i>
AUSTRIA	100.0	120.9
South Bohemian region	89.7	60.9
South Moravian region	93.6	63.5
Vysočina	86.2	58.5
CZECH REPUBLIC	100.0	67.8
EU25	-	100.0

Source: Eurostat

Labour market

The labour market situation in the border region is determined by

- ▶ structural changes of the regional economies
- ▶ the quantitative and qualitative supply of workforce and jobs
- ▶ substantial disparities in wage and productivity level between Austria and the Czech Republic
- ▶ inner regional and cross-border commuting relations

In the past years the development of the labour market has been characterised by ongoing structural changes both at the economic sector and the corporate levels in the Czech border regions. These changes led to a marked decline of employment in the secondary sector and in agriculture while employment in the tertiary sector has expanded significantly. This structural changes and the advent of foreign investors were also accompanied by a change in business and corporate structures, leading to a significant increase in the number of small and medium-sized enterprises in recent years.

In the Czech border region the difference in the economic structure between South Bohemian and South Moravian regions is projected to the level of unemployment. In the western part of



the Czech border area (South Bohemia) the unemployment rate does not reach the nationwide average even though the situation in the labour market has deteriorated severely in Český Krumlov and Písek districts. In the Eastern part (South Moravia) the unemployment rate is much higher and it exceeds the all-republic average. The third Czech border region Vysočina reveals a level of unemployment lying between the level of South Moravia and South Bohemia.

Most Austrian border regions to the Czech Republic offer unemployment rates which are lower than the nationwide average. The border regions Mühlviertel and Wiener Umland-Nordteil have got very low unemployment rates, whereas the border region Waldviertel reaches the nationwide average. Vienna shows by far the highest unemployment rate exceeding the nationwide average by nearly 100%.

One can conclude that in the past years most of Austrian and Czech border regions reveal unemployment rates lying beneath the national level of unemployment.

1.1.2. Changes in national, regional and sectoral policies

Accession of Czech Republic to the European Union on 1st May 2004

The main change in 2004 was without any doubt the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union on 1st May 2004 and thus the revision of the former Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC programme on the former external EU border into a full Interreg IIIA programme at the current internal EU border.

Already in October 2002 the Federal Chancellery took initiative as Managing Authority to launch the process of Managing Transition for the four external border programmes of Austria (future internal borders) and organised a series of seminars and workshops in Vienna during the years 2002 and 2003 (see also chapter 5.1 of the Annual Implementation Reports 2002 and 2003). Furthermore a bilateral Task Force (TF) was established by the Joint Monitoring Committee at the beginning of 2003 giving its members the mandate to launch the Managing Transition process that was finalised at the beginning of 2004.

Consequently, the approved Joint Programming Document (JPD) for the Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC Programme had to be reviewed in the light of enlargement and the results of the mid-term evaluation. The Community Initiative Programme (CIP) that has been approved by the European Commission in its decision (C) 4523 of 18th November 2004 increasing the available ERDF amount to EUR 38.283.014,00.

The Interreg IIIA Community Initiative Programme is therefore a revision of the Joint Programming Document Interreg IIIA / Phare CBC Austria-Czech Republic and was developed through participatory approach and active involvement of all stakeholders.



Furthermore the parties have agreed relations in a separate document – the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – in order to support an efficient and effective management and implementation of the programme. The representatives of the two member states officially signed this bilateral document on 5th October 2004 in Břeclav.

While the differences between Phare and Interreg have been a handicap to the co-ordinated implementation of the Interreg and Phare CBC programmes in the past, the new phase set a solid foundation to achieve a real cross-border impact. The programme partners agreed that the implementation of genuine cross-border projects is one of the key objectives to be achieved in the Interreg IIIA programme Austria-Czech Republic.

Programme relevant documents, e.g Programme Complement, Rules of Procedures for MC/SC were adapted accordingly. The main documents CIP, PC, application form could be downloaded from the common website www.at-cz.net. The MoU and the Rules of Procedure as well as annual reports could either be downloaded from the internal back-office area (for programme members only) or are available on request at the Managing Authority¹.

Additional priority “Special Support for Border regions”

Before the programme was changed due to the Czech Republic's accession to the EU an additional priority “Special Support for Border regions” was introduced to the programme in 2002. Based on the Community action plan for border regions (communication by the EC on the request of the European Council December 2000) additional funds were allocated to all border regions of the “old” Member States in order to meet the challenges of the forthcoming enlargement.

The financial allocation of the programme was increased by a total amount of 1,656.000 EUR (828.000 EUR ERDF and 828.000 EUR national co-funding). The funds for this additional priority had been allocated entirely for the year 2002.

1.1.3. Changes in the INTERREG IIIA policy frame reference

In March 1998 the European Union formally launched the process that makes enlargement possible.

On 9th October 2002, the European Commission recommended that the negotiations on accession to the European Union have to be concluded by the end of 2002 with 10 countries including the Czech Republic. The negotiations with these 10 best-prepared candidates were concluded on the basis of their progress in implementing the *acquis communautaire* up to now, and on their commitment to continue doing so until their accession.

¹ Until the end of 2008 the documents were available at the JTS. Due to the end of eligibility the JTS was closed on 31.12.2008.



After the conclusion of accession negotiations, and the approval of the European Parliament, the Treaty of Accession with the first 10 candidates was signed by the member states and the applicant countries in Athens on April 16th 2003; it was then ratified by all the countries concerned.

In the Czech Republic the referendum on accession was held on 13th to 14th June 2003 resulting in 77,33% votes for accession with a voter turnout of 55,21%.

This legal framework builds the basis for the Managing Transition process that was launched by the programme partners the Czech Republic and Austria in order to change the former Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC programme on the current external EU border into a full Interreg IIIA programme at the future internal EU border.

1.2 Implication of changes for the mutual consistency of assistance

During the programme period the changes described above had no implications for the mutual consistency of the assistance.



2. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES AND MEASURES

2.1 Achievements in relation to specific objectives and targets

It can be noticed that the Programme has achieved its objectives and targets which is shown in this chapter.

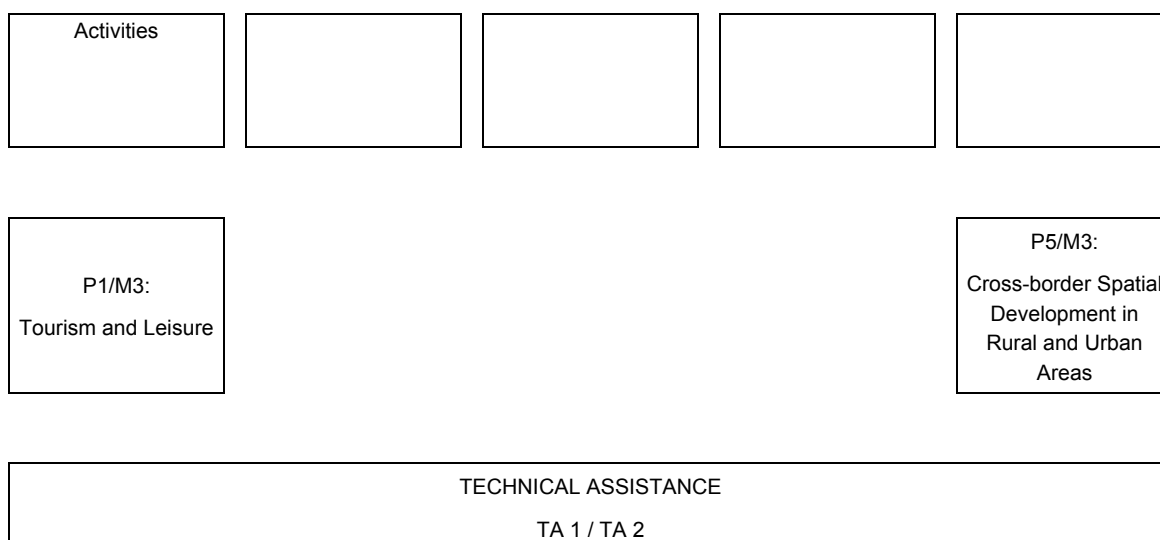
The projects, which were financed by this programme, were proposed by a variety of beneficiaries; amongst others: public administration and public bodies, research groups and other research bodies like universities, associations, trade unions and smaller acitivity groups. Beneficiaries and project partners came from different state level: bodies and institutions of the national level (e.g. universities, ministries) as well as bodies of the regional/state level (Länder/Komitate) participated. Also the municipal level participated actively. The projects addressed different target groups (decision makers, SMEs, teachers and students etc.). Finally it can be noticed that a broad variety of outputs were produced, e.g. development of (management) tools, smaller investments, studies, training seminars etc. The aim to activate a broad set of interested project partners and to involve key players to work jointly in projects on common challenges was achived.

It can be noticed that projects were implemented in all priorities and measures.

The Programme consisted of 7 priority axes comprises a total number of 15 measures (including TA)

Cross-border Economic Co-operation	Accessibility	Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	Human Resources	Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development
P1/M1: Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	P2/M1: Improvement of Cross- border Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	P3/M1 Support of Cross-border Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	P4/M1 Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	P5/M1 Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply
P1/M2: Cross-border Co-operation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Cross-border Business	P2/M2: Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	P3/M2: Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	P4/M2: Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	P5/M2: Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks





In total 340 projects were supported. 69,7 Mio Euro have been verified as ERDF-cofinanced project costs; thereof 36,3 Mio Euro ERDF (= 95,3% of planned ERDF). The public national cofunding amounts to 29,7 Mio Euro (=114,5% of plan); private co-financing amounts to 3,7 Mio. Euro (=77,5% of plan).

Detailed information see Annex 1 Implementation – Number of Projects and expenditure on priority and measure level

According to **Article 10 of INTERREG Guidelines** (20% flexibility clause) the NUTS III regions Linz-Wels and Innviertel (Upper Austria) as well as St. Pölten and Mostviertel (Lower Austria) are considered to belong to the border area. Table 3 shows total funds committed and disbursed by the end of 2009.

Table 3

Art. 10 regions

Art. 10 region	Total expenditure	Exp. in % of CIP
Linz-Wels	652.538,03	0.95
Innviertel	69.442,93	0.10
St. Pölten	4.770,09	0.01
Mostviertel	38.406,83	0.06
Total	765.157,87	1,11

2.2 Quantification of the related indicators on the level of output, results and impacts

Indicators relevant for this Interreg Community Initiative Programme are to be distinguished on



four different levels:

- ▶ Programme (1)- and Priority (2)-level (in the CIP),
- ▶ Measure (3)- and Project (4)-level (both contained in the Programme Complement)

These indicators have been used for both, the joint programme monitoring procedure as well as for the joint project selection process.

The impact indicators were developed starting from the project level. This approach best permits to accommodate the great variety of expected effects. Subsequently, the question arose of how this wide range of individual impacts at the level of measures, priorities and programmes could be aggregated. In a next step content summaries based on the project indicators were formulated at the measures and priorities levels. Therefore the (partly quantified) programme objectives for the thus created “aggregated” indicators were defined at the priorities and the overall programme levels.

Measure-specific objectives were laid down in the programme complement. In addition to the aggregated impact indicators, the output indicators were given at the programme or priorities level, which allowed for improved structuring of the supported projects.

The types of indicators on the different levels can be summarised as follows:

Table 4

Indicators on the different levels

Level	Output	Result	Impact
Programme	x		aggregated
Priorities	x		aggregated
Measures		x	x
Project		x	x

A basic set of output indicators, used in the monitoring procedure, contained the following information (descriptive):

- ▶ total number of direct beneficiaries, broken down by main target groups [e.g. enterprises, citizens, institutions]
- ▶ number of projects
- ▶ financial monitoring (exploitation of means, financial steps of implementation)
- ▶ an aggregate qualitative project-indicator, based on the classification of cross-border-cooperation-intensity on the one hand and of expected cross-border-impacts on the other, thus forming a typology of 4 categories of projects - AA, AB, BA and BB-projects – which has been also used on project level in project selection process.



The set of quality and impact indicators is focused on two dimensions:

- (a) **Intensity of Cross-border Co-operation** in project development and implementation. In developing and implementing Interreg -projects several distinct steps or phases can be distinguished:

- a. Preparation until application
- b. Planning the implementation
- c. Implementation / construction
- d. Financing
- e. Use / operation after completion of the project

Each of these steps can be performed in a cross-border co-operative way or independently. The assessment will focus on the cross-border quality of the steps in project development, which will have to be demonstrated in the project application

- (b) **Expected impacts on cross-border regional development** – functional integration as crucial quality

Projects contributing to functional (regional) integration are characterized by

- a. a project design focused on generating developmental impulses for the Interreg region as a whole, oriented towards a (mid-range) perspective of an economically and socially integrated space across borders;
- b. the combination of resources, partners or target groups from both sides of the border.

In order to be funded through the Interreg III A programme, projects had at least to meet minimum standards in both of the above outlined dimensions. An overview over the quality of the aided projects is reached through a qualitative typology, which combines both dimensions, i.e. (a) the quality of co-operation in project development and implementation and (b) the expected impacts and thus forms an aggregate quality indicator:

Table 5

Quality of cooperation in projects

	Quality of cooperation in project development and implementation	
	Better: A	Minimum: B
Expected cross-border integration impacts:		
Better: A	AA	AB
Minimum: B	AB	BB

In total, four different types of projects can be distinguished: AA, AB, BA, BB. AA would label



top projects, AB and BA would be intermediate ranks, whereas BB marks projects which fulfill the minimum requirements only.

2.2.1. Indicators for objectives on programme level

Referring to the indicators for objectives on programme and priority levels the following progress can be stated:

Table 6

Indicators for objectives on programme level

Indicator on programme level	Planned figure	Total
Percentage of so-called AA-projects	25 to 30% of projects committed	294 projects (86%)
Size of projects	5% large projects (total of public financial contribution above EUR 300,000)	57 projects (8%)*
	30 to 40%-share of (very) small projects (total of public financial contribution below EUR 50,000) thereof 374 projects out of Kleinprojektfonds	467 projects (65%)*

* Basis: 714 projects = 340 "normal" + 374 "micro-funds" projects

Project size

The slightly higher number of large projects (total of public financial contribution above EUR 300,000) can be explained by a number of so-called umbrella projects that comprise different modules. On the contrary the indicator of (very) small projects contains projects supported by the so-called micro-project funds.

Cooperation indicator

As can be seen from table 6 a high percentage of projects funded fulfil the criteria of being marked as an "AA" project (at least two out of five stages of cooperation and at least two impact indicators fulfilled).

In the on-going evaluation the validity of these indicators in selected projects had been addressed in case studies. This revealed that most of these indicators indicated in the application were really accomplished in practice.

When the five co-operation indicators have been analysed in more detail in the up-date of the mid-term evaluation, joint implementation and especially joint financing were the least frequent.



Following the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation the use of this indicator has been made more transparent by using joint standards for classifying and selecting projects introducing common terms for “joint, mirror and other projects”.

- ▶ *Joint projects*: the project is developed jointly and foresees joint implementation of activities by participating project partners in large parts at the same time. The project partners shall nominate a functional lead partner responsible for the coordination of project activities. The project application is pre-assessed jointly and joint recommendation for ERDF funding is given by Intermediate Bodies. If the project is approved by Steering Committee, two separate subsidy contracts are concluded with the final beneficiaries in Austria and the Czech Republic.
- ▶ *Mirror projects*: the projects are developed in co-operation, planning complementary activities to be implemented on both sides of the border but must not necessarily take place at the same time. Different project applications are submitted by project owners to the respective Intermediate Body in Austria and the Czech Republic. Mirror projects can be approved to already existing projects.
- ▶ *Other projects*: projects must show clear cross border impact, though they are financed only from one side with an ERDF subsidy contract.

Table 7 outlines all projects that fulfil the above-mentioned criteria for joint or mirror project:

Table 7

Joint (J) and mirror (M) projects

Joint/ Number	Project AT No. CMS	Title	Project CZ No. CMS	Title	Approved in JSC (Date)
4_J_001	4CBAA_0008	Kleinprojektfonds 2004-2006 NOE	4CADA_0019	Administrace DF v Jihomoravském kraji	07/09/2004
4_J_002	4TBAA_0002	Öffentlichkeitsarbeit der Abt. RU2-Geschäftsstelle für EU- Regionalpolitik NOE	4TBEA_0001 4TBEA_0002	Publicita pro INTERREG IIIA JMK, Informacni kampan pro INTERREG III A kraj Vysocina	13/12/2004
4_J_004	4CABA_0008	Institutionelle Förderung 2005/2006	4CADA_0011	Administrace DF CZ-A v Jihočeském kraji	13/12/2004
4_J_005	4ABBA_0004	Drei in BOS	4ABDA_0009	3 in BOS	02-03/05/ 2005
4_J_006	4EAAA_0005	Klimabündnis Schwerpunktregion	4EADA_0005	Klimatický svazek DR-CR 2005-2006	02-03/05/ 2005
4_J_007	4CABA_0011	COOPAC Zusammenarbeit Österreich-Tschechien	4CADA_0012	COOPAC Spoluprace ceskych a rakouskych inspektoru potravin	02- 03/05/2005
4_J_008	4EACA_0004	Förderung Nachhaltiger Holzprodukte	4EADA_0004	Prosazovani dreva z setrne obhospodarovanych lesu	02-03/05/ 2005
4_J_009	4TADA_0002	Gemeinsames Technisches Sekretariat	4TAEA_0001+ 4	JTS 1+2. cast	02-03/05/ 2005
4_J_011	4BABA_0001	Sanierung der touristischen Grenzübergänge mit SB	CZ.04.4.83/ 2.1.00.1/0132 4BADA_0005	Infrastruktura turistickych hranicnich prechodu	04-05/10/ 2005
4_M_001	4ABAA_0004	Grüne Lagune	4ABDA_0005	Zelená laguna	13/12/2004



Table 7 (continued)

Joint (J) and mirror (M) projects

Joint/ Number	Project AT No. CMS	Title	Project CZ No. CMS	Title	Approved in JSC (Date)
4_M_002	4ABAA_0012	SPOLU+	4ABDA_0014	Gemeinsam +	13/12/2004
4_M_004	4ABAA_0009	Österr. Qualitätsgetreidesorten f.d.tschech.Markt	4ABDA_0006	Biogetreide für die tschechische Landwirtschaft	13/12/2004
4_M_005	4ABAA_0014	Grenzüberschreitendes Wirtschaftsnetzwerk II NÖ-CZ	4ABDA_0001	S hranicí v Evropě	13/12/2004
			4ABDA_0013	BEZ HRANIC Hospodářská komora Třebíč	02-03/05/ 2005
4_M_006	4EAAA_0003	Grenzüberschreitendes Energienetzwerk	4EADA_0001	Centrum OZE	13/12/2004
4_M_008	4CABA_0004	ACCC Austrian Czech Cultural Cooperation	4CADA_0008	ACCC Hospodarska podpora kulturnich aktivit JC	02-03/05/ 2005
4_M_009	4CAAA_0005	Interkommunales Internationales Zentrum IIZ	4CADA_0011	Centrum pro preshranicni spolupraci	02-03/05/ 2005
4_M_010		CERNET II	4DBDA_0002	Medien	02-03/05/ 2005
4_M_013	4DBBA_0007	Cross Border Life Science	CZ.04.4.83/ 1.2.00.1/0143	CBTINFRA – Centrum biologických technologií	04-05/10/ 2005
	4DBAA_0013	Zelluläre Biotechnologie	4ABDA_0010	INFRA pro BIO	
			CZ.04.4.83/ 4.2.00.1/0048		
			4DBDA_0003	CELBIOTECH	
			CZ.04.4.83/ 4.2.00.1/0049		
			4DBDA_0004	Inkubator pro rasove biotechnologie	
			CZ.04.4.83/ 4.2.00.1/0142		
			4DBDA_0001		
4_M_014	4CACA_0004	Museums- und Ausstellungs- kooperation	CZ.04.4.83/ 3.1.00.1/0111	Spoluprace Mesta Brtnice a Rakouskeho muzea uzitho umeni (MAK)	04-05/10/ 2005
	4CACA_0005	Ressourcen – MAK- Tschechien	4CADA_0002		08/06/2006
4_M_015	4DABA_0000	Brücken in die Zukunft	CZ.04.4.83/ 4.1.00.1/0115	PŘESHRANIČNÍ SOCIÁLNÍ PARTNERSTVÍ	04-05/10/ 2005
			4DADA_0002		
4_M_016	4DACA_0006	EXPAK	CZ.04.4.83/ 4.1.00.1/0122	Česko-rakouská akademie expertů	04-05/10/ 2005
			4DADA_0001		
4_M_017	4ABAA_0183	Nachhaltiges Management Biogener Ressourcen	CZ.04.4.83/ 5.1.00.1/0151	Energie v Vysocinu	04-05/10/ 2005
			4EADA_0002		
4_M_018	4-NOE-192 4EAAA_0007	Energieeffizienzregion Auland Carnuntum –EnRegiA	CZ.04.4.83/ 5.1.00.1/0033	EkoWATT Energeticky soběstačné obce v přihraniční oblasti	04-05/10/ 2005
			4EADA_0002		
4_M_019	4-NOE-191 4EBAA_0007	Besucherinfrastruktur im Nationalpark Thayatal	CZ.04.4.83/ 5.2.00.1/0219	Turistická infrastruktura Národního parku Podyjí	30/01/2006
			4EBDA_0004		
4_M_020	4-NOE-249 4ECAA_0009	Kommunales Geodaten- und Informationssystem	CZ.04.4.83/ 1.3.00.1/0222	Komunalni Geodeta a turisticky informaci system	30/01/2006
			4ECDA_0004		
4_M_021	4-NOE-263 4ABAA_0022	R&D – Ready for Research and Development	CZ.04.4.83/ 1.2.00.1/0379	R&D – Ready for development (reserve project)	08/06/2006
			4ABDA_0016		



Contribution to horizontal priorities - equal opportunities and sustainability

The mid-term evaluation put special attention to the environmental field: including also the methodological further development of programme-relevant assessment/indicator systems and the harmonisation and concretisation of objectives of relevance for the implementation of environmental/sustainability requirements. As the programme only allowed small scale infrastructure projects no significant impact on environmental indicators (e.g. on the reduction of CO2 equivalents etc.) were expected. The assessment of environmental relevance of projects had been achieved by a descriptive approach.

Each project was assessed according to following categories by IBs with subsequent discussion of the applied category in the JSC:

- ▶ neutral in terms of equal opportunities / environmental sustainability,
- ▶ positive impact on equal opportunities / environmental sustainability,
- ▶ the focus of the project content is on equal opportunities/environmental sustainability

The tables below provide an overview on the share of projects in individual categories on measure level:



Table 8

Impact of projects on environment

	neutral	positive impact	focus of project content
P 1 Cross-border Economic Co-operation	92	5	4
M 1.1 Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	12	0	0
M 1.2 Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	31	2	3
M 1.3 Tourism and Leisure	49	3	1
P 2 Accessibility	19	6	5
M 2.1 Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	11	1	4
M 2.2 Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	8	5	1
P 3 Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	64	6	4
M 3.1 Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	45	4	4
M 3.2 Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	19	2	0
P 4 Human Resources	29	4	3
M 4.1 Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	10	1	1
M 4.2 Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	19	3	2
P 5 Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	14	20	22
M 5.1 Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	2	5	13
M 5.2 Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	5	11	5
M 5.3 Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	7	4	4
P 6 Special Support for Border Regions	5	0	0
M 6.1 Special Support for Border Regions	5	0	0
P 7 Technical Assistance	38	0	0
M 7.1 Technical assistance in general	19	0	0
M 7.2 Technical assistance, further measures	19	0	0
	261	41	38



Table 9

Impact of projects on equal opportunities

	neutral	positive impact	focus of project content
P 1 Cross-border Economic Co-operation	92	5	4
M 1.1 Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	12	0	0
M 1.2 Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	32	3	1
M 1.3 Tourism and Leisure	48	2	3
P 2 Accessibility	28	1	1
M 2.1 Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	14	1	1
M 2.2 Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	14	0	0
P 3 Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	59	10	5
M 3.1 Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	38	10	5
M 3.2 Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	21	0	0
P 4 Human Resources	28	3	5
M 4.1 Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	8	2	2
M 4.2 Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	20	1	3
P 5 Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	49	6	1
M 5.1 Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	19	1	0
M 5.2 Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	18	2	1
M 5.3 Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	12	3	0
P 6 Special Support for Border Regions	5	0	0
M 6.1 Special Support for Border Regions	5	0	0
P 7 Technical Assistance	37	0	1
M 7.1 Technical assistance in general	18	0	1
M 7.2 Technical assistance, further measures	19	0	0
	298	25	17

Overall 41 projects with positive impact and 38 projects with a focus on sustainable environmental development have been financed by the programme. 25 projects have a positive impact and 17 have specific focus in project content on equal opportunities. The other projects are neutral in terms of horizontal priorities.

2.2.2. Indicators on priority level

Table 10 indicates if projects match with indicators for objectives on priority level. Following the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation a revised indicator system was included into the



CIP. This revised system has been used since the end of 2004.

Table 10

Indicators for objectives on priority level

Indicator on priority level	Number of projects or results obtained	In %
<i>P1: Economic co-operation:</i>		
Share of SMEs affected by projects of total of SMEs in the project area:		
5 to 10%-share of SMEs affected by projects of total of SMEs in the project area		
Share of SMEs of participating enterprises: >90%		
Number of projects: 40-50	101	
Share of impact:		
60% leading to market integration and/or integration of products		52%
20% leading to transfer of knowledge and/or technologies		18%
20% partner search and creation of networks		30%
<i>P 2: Accessibility and Infrastructure:</i>		
Number of projects: 5-8	30	
Thereof: 4-6 projects (studies) for strategic support	9	
1-2 investments projects	18	
Share of impact:		
40% links to international transport routes, improved CBC transportation links		72%
60% improving CB-mobility, accessibility and intelligent traffic solutions and integrated use of information technology and communication infrastructure		28%
<i>P 3: Organisational structures and networks:</i>		
Number of projects: 20-30	74	
Thereof: 6-8 supported Euregios/CB-development organisations, (GEO)/regional managements	15	
150 projects in supported within Micro Project Funds	374	
Share of impact:		
50% development of implementation structures for CBC cooperation		48%
30% generating and expanding networks		44%
20% pilot projects and testing of new forms of collaboration		8%
<i>P 4: Human resources:</i>		
Number of projects: 20-30	36	
40 to 60 participating institutions in the fields of labour market and training	221	
Share of impact:		
25% projects preparing the integration of labour markets		27%
75% projects providing qualifications/knowledge with specific relevance to the neighbouring region		73%
<i>P 5: Sustainable development:</i>		
Number of projects: 20-30	55	
Share of impact:		
33% development of the region and the environmental conditions		38%
33% applying environmentally friendly technologies or representing		26%



technical infrastructure projects

33% improving natural resources and environmental conditions
including national and nature parks

36%

The indicator “*share of SMEs affected by projects of total of SMEs in the project area*” could not be provided because of the missing base line indicator in that respect. SMEs were not addressed in the programme as final beneficiaries. The activities on project level undertaken in order to integrate SMEs as target groups in cross-border actions showed a broad variety: ranking from seminars, web sites, to common marketing and tourism development. It would be meaningless to aggregate the figures on priority level. Therefore it was renounced to produce this aggregated indicator.

2.2.3. Indicators on measure level

Referring to the indicators on measure level listed in the Programme Complement the following tables give an overview of the outputs achieved. Please see Annex 2 for best practice examples on project level.

P1/M1: Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas

- 1 project providing physical support for SME (plant and equipment etc.)
- 0 projects providing financial support to introduce environmental technologies or to develop eco-products
- 8 projects providing business advisory services
- 3 projects providing support for information networks, operational expenditure, technology oriented business databases, software, presentations, cooperation meetings, participation in fares etc.
- 0 project providing support for building up or furnishing regional impulse centres
- 0 projects providing new financial engineering (venture and seed capital funds, etc.) for SME;
- 0 new business launched
- 0 projects providing services in the support of the social economy (providing care for pendants, health and safety, cultural activities;
- 0 vocational training and training projects
- 0 trainees
- 0 projects providing support for RTDI infrastructure;
- 0 projects creating networks or services for knowledge transfer

P1/M2: Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities

- 0 project providing physical support for SME (plant and equipment etc.)
- 1 projects providing financial support to introduce environmental technologies or to develop eco-products
- 23 projects providing business advisory services



4 projects providing support for information networks, operational software, technology oriented business databases, software, presentations, cooperation meetings, participation in fares etc.

Number of projects providing support for building up or furnishing regional impulse centres

0 projects providing new financial engineering (venture and seed capital funds, etc.) for SME;

2 new businesses launched

0 projects providing services in the support of the social economy (providing care for pendants, health and safety, cultural activities;

2 projects providing support for RTDI infrastructure;

0 projects creating networks or services for knowledge transfer

0 vocational training and training projects (rural development, forestry, SMEs)

0 trainees

4 projects providing services for promoting the adoption and the development of rural areas

P1/M3: Tourism and Leisure

20 projects providing support for tourism facilities, attractions, tourism business

392,9 km of biking/hiking/horseback riding path constructed

28 projects providing support for crossborder products and services for sporting, cultural and leisure activities

0 vocational training and training projects (tourism)

0 trainees

5 projects providing support for rural tourism

P2/M1: Improvement of crossborder transport and telecom infrastructure

16 projects providing support for the improvement of rail, road, airport, urban transport, ports, multimodal transport intelligent transport systems;

0 projects providing support for the improvement of Information and Communication technology

0 projects providing IT services and applications for citizens (health, administration, education)

0 vocational training and training projects (information society)

0 projects providing IT services and applications for SMEs

P2/M2: Transport organisation, planning and logistics

13 research and planning project providing support for the improvement of rail, road, airport, urban transport, ports, multimodal transport intelligent transport systems;

1 research and planning project providing support for the improvement of Information and Communication technology

0 projects providing IT services and applications for citizens (health, administration, education)

0 vocational training and training projects (information society)

0 projects providing IT services and applications for SMEs



P3/M1: Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks

36 projects providing support for information networks, SME cooperation networks, development concepts, stimulation and promotional services etc.

17 projects providing support for regional development plans, concepts and studies, regional management EuRegios etc.

P3/M2: Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots

374 Micro projects and **21** Micro Project funds incl. People to people actions and small pilots

P4/M1: Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement

9 projects supporting studies, information systems etc. dealing with labour market policy or social integration

0 cooperation projects, networks of SMEs or public administration dealing with labour market policy or social integration

2 vocational training or training projects

58 trainees

0 projects providing IT services and applications for citizens (health, administration, education)

1 centres for disabled people supported

0 kindergartens supported

P4/M2: Development of cooperation and infrastructure in the fields of education, training and science

20 vocational training or training projects (information society)

13,014 trainees

4 projects providing IT services and applications for citizens (health, administration, education)

P5/M1: Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply

1 project dealing with air pollution, noise reduction, improvements of urban and industrial waste disposal or recycling facilities, drinking water (collection, storage, treatment distribution) or the improvement in sewerage and purification

5 projects providing financial support to introduce environmental technologies or to develop eco-products

1 projects providing business advisory services

2 projects dealing with land improvement, agricultural water resources management, preservation of the environment (land, forestry and landscape conservation, animal welfare, recovery after damage by and prevention of natural disasters)

4 research and planning projects supported (dealing with biodiversity, protection measures, securing natural and cultural landscape, water resources management etc.)



1 project dealing with restoring forestry production potential damaged by natural disasters or fire and introducing appropriate prevention instruments

0 km² (ha) reafforested

0 projects dealing with afforestation of non-agricultural land

0 km² (ha) reafforested

1 project dealing with improving/maintaining the ecological stability of protective forests

0 km² (ha) reafforested

5 projects supporting the use of renewable sources of energy, the improvement of energy efficiency, cogeneration and energy control as well as planning and know-how transfer projects

0 reduction of CO₂ equivalents t/a

10,000 KW of new capacity created

0 investment projects in plants and equipment or in environmental friendly technologies, clean and economical energy technologies

0 production of solar energy MJ/a

P5/M2: Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection incl. National and Nature Parks

5 project dealing with land improvement, agricultural water resources, management, preservation of the environment (land, forestry and landscape conservation, animal welfare, recovery after damage by and prevention of natural disasters)

0 projects dealing with restoring forestry production potential damaged by natural disasters or fire and introducing appropriate prevention instruments

0 km²(ha) reafforested

0 projects dealing with afforestation of non-agricultural land

0 km² (ha) reafforested

0 project dealing with improving/maintaining the ecological stability of protective forests

0 km² (ha) reafforested

16 projects dealing with prevention, upgrading and rehabilitation of natural areas, national and nature parks

P5/M3: Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas

7 research and planning projects dealing with upgrading and rehabilitation of industrial sites, rehabilitation of urban areas, biodiversity etc. or preservation of cultural heritage

3 projects dealing with renovation and development of villages or protection and conservation of the rural heritage

4 projects providing support for information networks, SME cooperation networks, development concepts, stimulation and promotional services etc.

1 projects providing support for regional development plans, concepts and studies, regional management, EuRegios etc.



P6: Special Support for Border Regions

This priority has been closed by the end of 2004. For more details see chapter 3.2 of the Annual Implementation Report 2004.

- a) 0 providing physical support for SME (plant and equipment etc.) [number of jobs created]
 0 projects providing financial support to introduce environmental technologies or to develop eco-products
 1 projects providing business advisory services
 1 project providing support for information networks, operational expenditure, technology oriented business databases, software, presentations, cooperation meetings, participation in fares etc.
 0 projects creating networks or services for knowledge transfer
 1 vocational training and training projects (SMEs); number of trainees
- b) 1 providing support for the improvement of rail, road, airport, urban transport, ports, multimodal transport intelligent transport systems;
 0 km of biking/hiking/horseback riding path constructed
- c) 1 vocational education and training projects (number of participants).
 0 supporting intercultural networks and exchange programmes.

2.3 Some remarks on the use of indicators

All indicators were collected in the Central Monitoring System. Information was provided at the application stage and was updated with the closure of the relevant project.

Based on the recommendation of the mid-term evaluation a proposal for improving the INTERREG indicator system was prepared and discussed within the Evaluation Steering Group. The proposal mainly oriented on defining joint standards and modifications of data input. It built the basis for the bilateral discussions on the joint monitoring system (see also chapter 2.2.1. and chapter 4.5. in this report).

Nevertheless some weaknesses remained and were stated in order to initiate a learning process for the new programme period.

- ▶ Quality indicator (share of AA projects): this aggregate indicator incorporated too many impact dimensions and the co-operation phases were not weighted. Joint standards for assessment were not elaborated enough and subsequent checks during implementation were not foreseen. High rating could be obtained rather easily, thus usefulness for project selection is doubtful.
- ▶ Aggregated impact indicators: due to potential multiple impacts of projects, it was not possible to produce absolute figures (number of projects) as foreseen originally in the CIP, but only relative shares by aggregating impact indicators at measure level. This relatively complicated calculation could only be done by the JTS and had therefore not a very high level of transparency.



3. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter gives an overview on the financial aspects of the INTERREG programme. Information is provided about allocations and commitments as decided by the MC and SC, payments made by the PA and payments received from the European Commission.

Chapter 3.1. provides an overview of the programme's financial allocations and commitments as well as the progress made at Priority and Measure level. It informs about the n+2 situation. The chapter also informs about the use of Euro.

Chapter 3.2. gives a detailed overview of all claims of the Paying Authority and Payments made by the EC since the beginning of the Programme until the end of the Programme. It informs on the use of interests and on the use of Technical Assistance.

Chapter 3.3. reports on activities which were implemented in the framework of PHARE CBC.

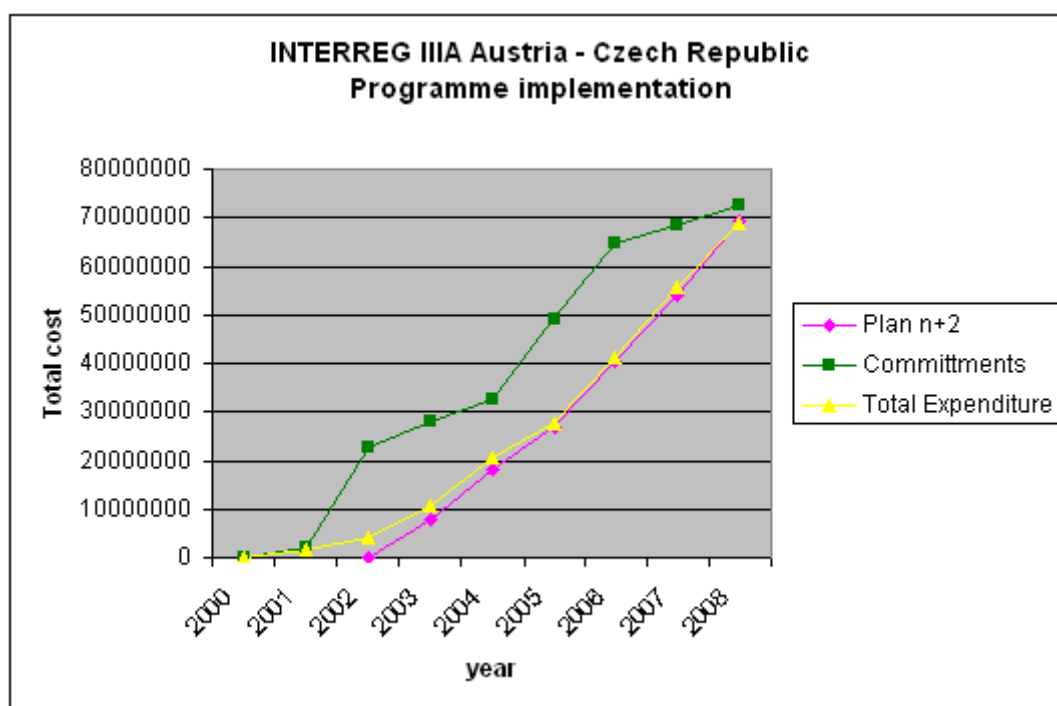
3.1 General information on the financial implementation

The total budget for the Programme is 68,77 Mio. Euro, 38,05 Mio Euro of which is ERDF (according to Commission Decision C(2008)7700 of November 27th 2008).

The graph below provides an overview on the financial plan of expenditure (according to n+2 targets), to commitments and to the actual expenditure.

Figure 1

Financial implementation



The implementation of the programme started with the approval of the Operational Programme in September 2001. In this year the EC submitted the advance payment of 7% of the total ERDF budget at that time.

In 2002 already 30% of total programme budget time had been committed to projects (budget was increased in 2004 due to the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU). The expenditure started slowly but increased steadily to reach at the end of the years 2004 and 2005 the n+2 target. In 2004 the priority “special support for border regions” was closed with a small reduction of 2,103 EUR ERDF. After the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU the commitments increased again and reached already at the end of the year 2006 almost 90% of the budget.

Beside the loss in Priority 6 “Special Support for Border Regions” at the end of 2004 at the end of 2006 and 2007 the n+2 rule could not be implemented successfully (yearly tranches 2004 and 2005). Following the Art 31(2) of the Regulation (EC) no. 1260/1999 the Commission automatically decommitted from the allocation for the year 2004 10,047.0 EUR and from the allocation for the year 2005 218,544.0 EUR ERDF. The main reasons for these losses lie in the fact that due to findings of the financial control body some projects had been cancelled and had to pay back already received payments.

3.1.1. Development of the financial tables

Based on Commission decision C(2001) 2127 of 12th September 2001, the programme started with the approved ERDF contribution amounted to EUR 25,901.000.

Prior to the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union Community contribution (ERDF) was only available for Austria. For the year 2000 no funds have been allocated.

The programme financial tables have been

► **revised by a Commission decision C(2002) 1703 of 26th July 2002**

An additional priority “Special Support for Border regions” was introduced into the programme on the basis of a decision of the European Commission from 26th of July 2002.

As a consequence the financial allocation of the programme was increased by a total amount of 1,656.000 EUR (828,000 EUR ERDF and 828,000 EUR national co-financing). The funds for this additional priority have been allocated entirely for the year 2002.

The approved ERDF contribution amounted to EUR 26,729,000.

► **revised by a Commission decision C(2004) 4523 of 18th November 2004**

The main change in 2004 was the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union on 1st May 2004 and thus the revision of the Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC programme on the former



external EU border into a full Interreg IIIA programme at the current internal EU border.

Consequently, the approved Joint Programming Document (JPD) for the Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC Programme has to be reviewed in the light of enlargement and the results of the mid-term evaluation. The Community Initiative Programme (CIP) was approved by the European Commission in its decision (C) 4523 on 18th November 2004 increasing the available ERDF amount to EUR 38,283,014.00 including now ERDF share for the Czech Republic and indexation.

► **revised by a Commission decision K (2005) 4972 of 5th December 2005**

The additional priority “Special Support for Border regions” which has only been valid for the Austrian side of the border region was closed by 31st December 2004. For this priority the Commission received a payment request which allowed only a total Community contribution of 825.897 EUR ERDF and lead consequently to an automatic decommitment.

The programme partners submitted a revised financial table approved by the Monitoring Committee which has been approved by the Commission on 5 December 2005 by a Commission decision K (2005) 4972 the approved ERDF contribution amounts to EUR 38,280,911.

► **revised by a Commission decision K(2007) 2279 of 23th May 2007**

Based on requests of Czech and Austrian intermediate bodies on Czech Republic and Austrian side the Monitoring Committee approved the following changes in the financial tables on 17 October 2006 and these were submitted to the EC for approval:

- Remaining ERDF funds from priority 1 “Cross-border Economic Co-operation”, priority 2 “Accessability” and priority 5 “Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development” have been concentrated and focused in priority 4 “Human Resources” (+EUR 205.300,-). Due to this projects, which are already predictable and ready for decision could be implemented in the course of the remaining programme period within this priority.
- Private co-financing means were reduced in priority 1 “Cross-border Economic Co-operation” (-EUR 197.713,-) and priority 3 “Cross-border Organisational Structures” (-EUR 21.353,-) and increased in priority 4 “Human Resources” (+ EUR 286.033,-) and 5 “Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development” (+EUR 133.033,-).
- Based on the current status of programme implementation and status of disbursement most of the remaining ERDF funds from priority 7 “Technical Assistance” have been shifted to priority 3 “Cross-border Organisational Structures” (+EUR 196.000). Due to this intensified support for the establishment of cross-border networks could be provided to stakeholders in the immediate border area.

The changes have been approved by the Commission by 23.5.2007; the new financial tables of the Programme Complement were accepted by 20.8.2007



► **revised by a Commission decision K(2008) 1155 of 18th March 2008**

The n+2 rule could not be implemented successfully in the year 2006 (allocation for year 2004). Following Art 31(2) of Regulation (EC) no. 1260/1999 the Commission automatically decommitted EUR 10,047.00 ERDF. The CIP was revised by a Commission decision K(2008) 1155 of 18th March 2008.

The approved ERDF contribution amounted to EUR 38.270.864.

► **revised by a Commission decision K(2008) 7700 of 27th November 2008**

The n+2 rule could not be implemented successfully in the year 2007 (allocation for year 2005). Following Art 31(2) of Regulation (EC) no. 1260/1999 the Commission automatically decommitted EUR 218,544.00 ERDF.

The programme partners submitted a revised financial table approved by JMC in written procedure to the Commission. The approved ERDF contribution amounts to EUR 38.052.319.

► **Shifts within the financial table on PC level – amendment 2008**

The Monitoring Committee decided on the final amendments of the financial table in the Programme Complement in a written procedure that was closed on 10 October 2008 the final amendments of the financial table in the Programme Complement and submitted the new document to the EC for validation. These minor financial shifts were necessary in order to assure the complete use of funds. The coherence with the PC has been stated in a letter of EC by January 13th 2009.

Table 11 shows the programme financial allocations (per Priority and Measure) as applied during the programme period and following abovementioned revisions approved by the MC and accepted by the EC in January 2009.



Table 11
Financial allocation according to the revised Programme Complement

Source Priorities/Measures	Total Costs	Total Public Expenditure	ERDF	National Total	National Public	National Private	Priority share of total	Priority share of ERDF
	a=c+d	b= c+e	c	d= e+f	e	f		
1. Cross-border Economic Co-operation	20.263.204,00	18.219.617,00	11.367.602,00	8.895.602,00	6.852.015,00	2.043.587,00	29,46%	29,87%
1.1. Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	5.063.845,00	4.898.845,00	2.709.831,00	2.354.014,00	2.189.014,00	165.000,00	7,36%	7,12%
1.2. Cross-border Co-operation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	5.710.959,00	4.964.672,00	3.052.766,00	2.658.193,00	1.911.906,00	746.287,00	8,30%	8,02%
1.3. Tourism and Leisure	9.488.400,00	8.356.100,00	5.605.005,00	3.883.395,00	2.751.095,00	1.132.300,00	13,80%	14,73%
2. Accessibility	8.229.637,00	8.229.617,00	4.962.142,00	3.267.495,00	3.267.475,00	20,00	11,97%	13,04%
2.1. Improvement of Cross-border Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	3.990.516,00	3.990.516,00	2.698.758,00	1.291.758,00	1.291.758,00	0,00	5,80%	7,09%
2.2. Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	4.239.121,00	4.239.101,00	2.263.384,00	1.975.737,00	1.975.717,00	20,00	6,16%	5,95%
3. Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	9.904.489,00	8.819.842,00	5.688.911,00	4.215.578,00	3.130.931,00	1.084.647,00	14,40%	14,95%
3.1. Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	6.498.579,00	6.026.579,00	3.662.556,00	2.836.023,00	2.364.023,00	472.000,00	9,45%	9,63%
3.2. Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	3.405.910,00	2.793.263,00	2.026.355,00	1.379.555,00	766.908,00	612.647,00	4,95%	5,33%
4. Human Ressources	10.494.489,00	9.874.756,00	5.653.911,00	4.840.578,00	4.220.845,00	619.733,00	15,26%	14,86%
4.1. Development of Regional Labour Marktes within the Context of EU Enlargement	2.343.152,00	1.962.719,00	1.241.164,00	1.101.988,00	721.555,00	380.433,00	3,41%	3,26%
4.2. Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	8.151.337,00	7.912.037,00	4.412.747,00	3.738.590,00	3.499.290,00	239.300,00	11,85%	11,60%
5. Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	15.298.378,00	14.287.345,00	7.905.856,00	7.392.522,00	6.381.489,00	1.011.033,00	22,25%	20,78%
5.1. Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	5.153.850,00	4.279.817,00	2.685.296,00	2.468.554,00	1.594.521,00	874.033,00	7,49%	7,06%
5.2. Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	8.514.744,00	8.409.744,00	4.372.872,00	4.141.872,00	4.036.872,00	105.000,00	12,38%	11,49%
5.3. Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	1.629.784,00	1.597.784,00	847.688,00	782.096,00	750.096,00	32.000,00	2,37%	2,23%
6. Special Support for Border Regions	1.651.794,00	1.651.794,00	825.897,00	825.897,00	825.897,00	0,00	2,40%	2,17%
6.1. Special Support for Border Regions	1.651.794,00	1.651.794,00	825.897,00	825.897,00	825.897,00	0,00	2,40%	2,17%
Technical Assistance	2.929.334,00	2.929.334,00	1.648.000,00	1.281.334,00	1.281.334,00	0,00	4,26%	4,33%
Technical Assistance I	2.314.667,00	2.314.667,00	1.304.000,00	1.010.667,00	1.010.667,00	0,00	3,37%	3,43%
Technical Assistance II	614.667,00	614.667,00	344.000,00	270.667,00	270.667,00	0,00	0,89%	0,90%
TOTAL	68.771.325,00	64.012.305,00	38.052.319,00	30.719.006,00	25.959.986,00	4.759.020,00	100,00%	100,00%



The following graphs show the share of total planned budget by measure at the time of approval of the CIP in the year 2004 and at the time of the last change in year 2008. It can be stated that the changes in the distribution have not been substantial.

Figure 2

Share of budget by measure – approval of CIP 2004 (total cost)

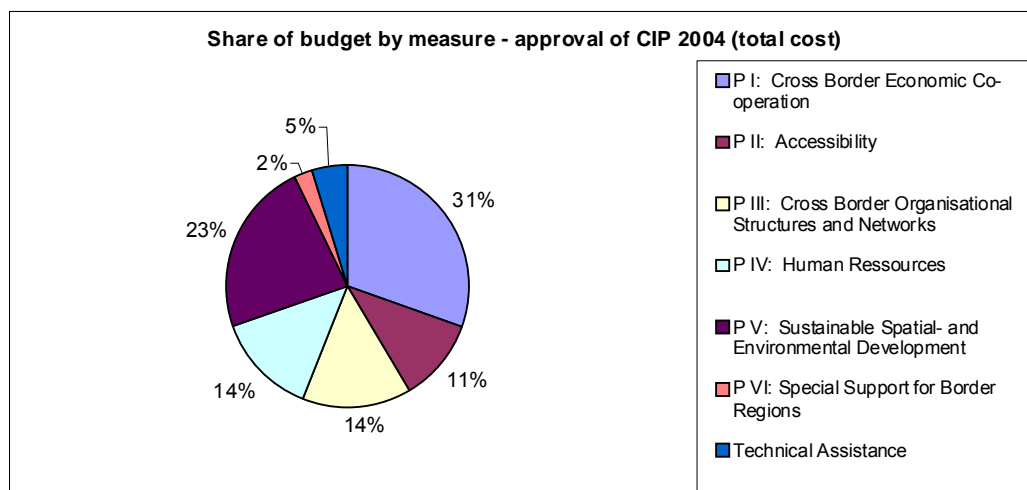
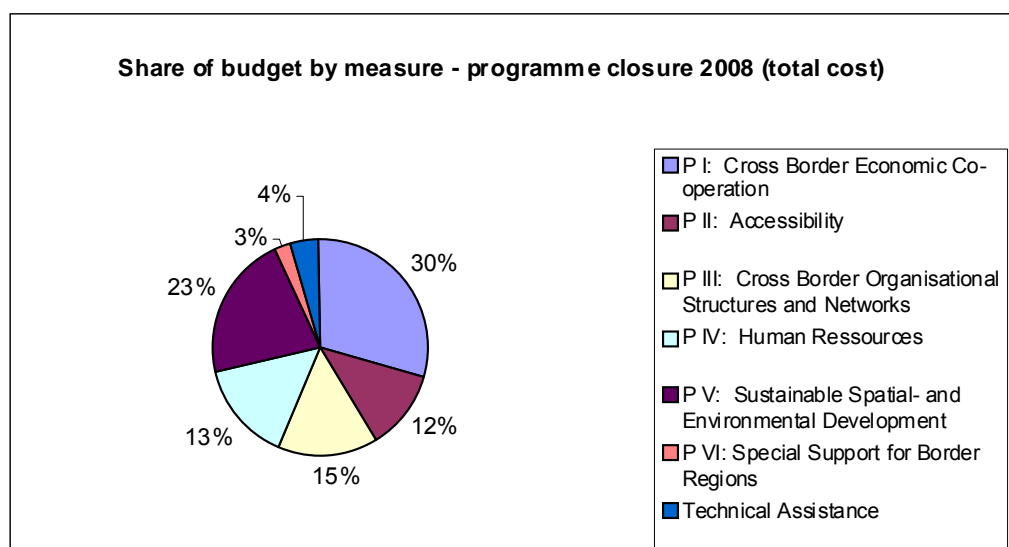


Figure 3

Share of budget by measure – programme closure 2008 (total cost)



3.1.2. Use of the EURO

Payments to Czech project owners have been executed in CZK by the Sub-Paying Authority in Czech Republic. For the purpose of establishing a statement of expenditure by the sub-PA the



amounts of expenditure incurred in CZK have been converted in EUR using the exchange rate as defined in Article 2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 643/2000.

3.2 Payments received and certified expenditure

During the programme implementation period the Paying Authority submitted 22 interim payment requests to the European Commission. The following table provides an overview on the respective dates and amounts.

Table 12:
Reimbursement by the European Commission

Payment requests to the EC	Date of submission to the EC	Amount of requested ERDF	Date of receipt	Amount of payment
7% in advance payment			16.11.2001	1.813.070,00
7% in advance payment		for measure 6.1. amount Euro 57.960,-- date of transmission:2002-11-26 measure 6.1. was finished in 2004, therefore the advance payment is handled as a reimburs		
1.	12.11.2002	980.010,30	15.11.2003	980.009,29
2.	27.02.2003	939.440,94	10.06.2003	939.440,94
3.	18.07.2003	940.221,33	25.09.2003	940.221,33
4.	12.11.2003	823.041,94	05.01.2004	823.041,94
5.	11.02.2004	1.866.585,88	25.06.2004	1.210.154,67
6.	09.08.2004	1.503.868,21	28.09.2004	954.004,24
7.	22.10.2004	1.516.405,07	20.12.2004	1.043.488,75
8.	22.12.2004	980.038,68	09.03.2005	465.982,72
9.	13.01.2005	1.097.054,24	18.03.2005	583.535,95
10.	04.04.2005	1.391.892,29	26.05.2005	964.416,90
11.	17.06.2005	1.098.208,47	15.07.2005	662.011,55
12.	04.08.2005	1.227.941,84	10.10.2005	1.083.948,93
13.	18.11.2005	1.051.049,24	16.12.2005	914.047,85
14.	28.12.2005	337.231,95	19.01.2006	206.010,63
15.	27.12.2006	7.742.187,63	19.02.2007	7.689.465,07
16.	02.08.2007	1.613.642,54	11.09.2007	1.484.816,24
17.	22.10.2007	939.461,90	14.12.2007	899.027,31
18.	27.12.2007	5.422.020,98	11.04.2008	5.400.150,34
19.	19.06.2007	2.175.595,30	23.07.2008	2.091.786,77
20.	22.09.2008	2.439.221,84	13.11.2008	2.326.910,46
21.	19.02.2009	2.349.106,81	08.04.2009	2.273.843,72
22.	09.06.2009	678.884,53	14.07.2009	400.317,45
final payment claim		1.902.615,95		
total				36.149.703,05
advanced payment for measure 6.1. deducted, effectively received EUR 906.456,90				
since 2 applications for payment were made in a row - without any reimbursement in between - the requested amount for the 6th application for pament originally was EUR 1.563.036,96				



In Annex 3 the total expenditure is broken down by field of intervention at measure level

3.2.1. Information on the use of interests

No interests on the account have been earned (account balance 31.1.2010).

3.2.2. Report on the use of the Technical Assistance (TA)

During the reporting period TA-1 was used for supporting both the Managing and the National Authority by the Technical Secretariat and for supporting both MA/NA and PA by the ERP-Fonds acting as operative PA and Central Monitoring Body. The IBs used TA-1 budget to finance monitoring and project implementation as well as cross-border activities (e.g. organisations of meetings).

Under TA-2 publicity and information activities have been supported (for details on public relation work see chapter 4.4). Furthermore external support for the drafting of the Operational Programme as well as for the ex-ante evaluation and the Strategic Environmental assessment for the next SF-period 2007-2013 has been paid under TA-2.

Contracts concluded by the Managing Authority – core management

In the framework of TA the MA has concluded the following contracts:

- ▶ One to the ERP-Fonds concerning the set-up and implementation of the ERDF Monitoring and the fulfilling of tasks of a single ERDF Paying Authority (release of payments, financial management, forecast, n+2 reporting). This contract was extended to amend the Central Monitoring System (CMS) to the needs of a fully cross-border programme (set up English surface and reports, include Czech data, implementation of functions for the exchange of currencies and the automatic data transfer).
- ▶ One to the ÖIR – Managementdienste GmbH (since 2008 metis GmbH) covering the tasks of a Joint Technical Secretariat for all four programmes at the new internal borders of the EU. The contract was also slightly extended in order to offer the Czech colleague of the TS a fully equipped working place at the premises in Vienna. The Centre for Regional Development acting on behalf of the National Authority directly contracted the Czech TS member.
- ▶ One to the ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH to carry out the mid-term (including up-date) and on-going evaluation.
- ▶ One to Regional Consulting GmbH to draft the Operational programme for the next SF-period 2007-2013
- ▶ One to ÖGUT to draft the Strategic Environmental Impact report for the next SF-period 2007-2013.



In 2005 the National Authority of the Czech Republic concluded contracts for TA 1 and TA 2. Out of these framework contracts the National Authority of the Czech Republic contracted external experts for support in the programming process as well as to carry out the Ex-ante evaluation for the next programming period 2007-2013. Additional resources were allocated by the NA for the establishment of an XML-data interface between CMS and IS-MONIT.

Additionally the Intermediate Bodies implemented tasks on regional level under TA 1 and TA 2.

The full list of projects financed under TA is provided in Annex 4.

3.2.3. Unfinished or non-operational projects at the time of closure

At the time of programme closure all projects are finished and are operational.

3.2.4. Project suspended due to legal or administrative proceedings

There is no project suspended due to legal or administrative proceedings.

3.2.5. Measures funded by EAGGF

No measures have been funded by EAGGF Guarantee Section

3.2.6. Measures funded by FIFG

No measures have been funded by FIFG

3.3 Report on Activities in the framework of the PHARE CBC Programme Austria - Czech Republic

Allocation of Phare funds (2006)

Programme	Financing memorandum	Allocation (EUR)	Phare Funds Contracted in 2006 (EUR)	Disbursed (EUR)	Co-financing in 2006 (Kč)
CZ 0111	CBC 2001 CZ – Austria	4,000.00	0*	0	0*
CZ 2002/000-583	CBC 2002 CZ – Austria	4,000.00	0**	1,428,225.16	(EUR 724,901.56) 21,965.91
CZ 2003/005-079	CBC 2003 CZ – Austria	4,000.00	0***	2,094,030.80	(EUR 733,530.11) 23,278.57
Total programmes Phare		12,000.00	0 –dtto –	3,522,255.96	(EUR 1,458,431.67) 45,244.48

* end of Contracting Date: 30.9.2003

** end of Contracting Date: 31.5.2003

*** end of Contracting Date: 30.11.2005



Phare CBC Programmes AT- CZ, 2006 implementation status**Financing Memoranda/Commission Decisions Covered**

Number of FM	title	Contracting Deadline	Disbursement Deadline
CZ 2001/01.11	2001 CBC Programme between the Czech Republic and Austria	30/09/2003	30/09/2003
CZ 2008/000-583 for 02.11.01 and 02.11.02	2002 CBC CZ – AT	31/10/2004 Add 1 – 31/05/2005	31/10/2005 Add 1 – 28/02/2006
For 02.11.03	– dtto –	Add 1 – 31/05/2005	Add 1 – 31/05/2006

Projects covered

Number	Title	PF Revisions	Current state of activities: finished/under implementation
CZ 0211.03	Joint Small Projects Fund		Finished
CZ 0379.01	Grant Scheme for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection	REV 1 – 07/02/2005	Finished
CZ 0379.02	Grant Scheme for Development of Cross-border Networks and Human Resources	REV 1 – 07/02/2005	Finished
CZ 0379.03	Joint Small Projects Fund		Finished

The CBC Programme included priorities for several chapters of the NPAA (transport, environment, economic and social cohesion) and had relevance to the Internal Market chapter by helping the integration of the extensive border regions of the Czech Republic into the internal market.

The Phare CBC programme objectives, as defined in EC Regulation 2760/98, were to promote cooperation of border regions in countries in central and eastern Europe with adjacent regions in a neighbouring country and thus to help the border regions to overcome the specific development problems which could arise, from their position within the national economies, in the interest of the local population and in a manner compatible with the protection of the environment; and to promote the creation and the development of cooperation networks on either side of the border, and the establishment of links between these networks and wider Community networks.

Phare CBC helped to improve the adverse living conditions of the inhabitants of the border area due to their peripheral nature, a disadvantaged economic structure causing the increased unemployment rate, low-quality technical and transport infrastructure, and worse accessibility of health-care, social, educational and cultural facilities.

Since 2000 the focus on preparation for the implementation of the Community Initiative Interreg IIIA has been strengthened (on the basis of the new Interreg directive of April 2000 and EC Regulation 2760/98, which enabled gradual application of Interreg procedures in the Czech Republic). The key step in preparation for Interreg was the elaboration and adoption of Joint



Programming Document for Phare CBC and Interreg IIIA for the period of 2000-2006. JPD was based on joint strategies and goals of development, aiming to create common integrated socio-economic space.

Implementation status of the programmes

CBC Programme 2001 had been successfully finished and financially closed by 30 November 2005.

Projects within **CBC 2002 Programmes** had been already finished and closed by the end of 2006.

CBC Programme CZ 0379 contained grant schemes (Grant Scheme for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection, Grant Scheme for Development of Cross-border Networks and Human Resources) and JSPF. JSPF and both grant schemes were implemented successfully. Projects related to them have been finished by end of 2006.



4. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Steps taken by to ensure the quality and effectiveness of implementation

In this chapter the steps taken by the Programme Managing bodies to ensure effectiveness in delivery and to raise the impact of the programme activities on the programmes clientel are described.

It reports the major problems encountered, the main activities conducted by the MA, the Programme Secretariat, the IBs and the MC.

In general the management and steering of the Programme was a shared responsibility of:

- ▶ the Managing Authority (MA) and National Authority on the Czech side (NA)
- ▶ the Paying Authority (PA) and Sub-PA,
- ▶ the Monitoring Committee (MC) and Steering Committee (SC)
- ▶ the Intermediate Bodies (IBs) and the
- ▶ Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

These bodies have worked together to steer and manage the programme and were therefore responsible for the quality and effectiveness of implementation.

4.1.1. Report on the activities of the Managing Authority and National Authority

The Managing Authority (MA) within the meaning of Art. 9 lit. n and Art. 34 of Council Regulation No. 1260/1999 was given to the Austrian Federal Chancellery, Division IV/4 (Bundeskanzleramt der Republik Österreich, Abteilung IV/4). In order to fulfil the responsibilities of the Member State in the Czech Republic according to Art. 38 of Council regulation No. 1260/1999 and Art. 2 of Commission Regulation No. 438/2001 the MA was assisted by the National Authority in the Czech Republic, the Ministry for Regional Development – MRD.

The location of the MA in Austria has proved to be efficient as the whole programme benefited of the experience and skills developed in the Austrian public administration sector. The Federal Chancellery was in the period 2000-2006 Managing Authority for three other cross-border-programmes. Synergy effects could be used but also the effect of mutual learning was a benefit. Overall a tendency to operate according to a non-hierarchical approach (state government and regions) emerged which fitted appropriately with the programmes' management structure.

With regard to the steps taken to ensure the quality and effectiveness of implementation the MA was in charge of setting up, running and adaption of the monitoring system (together with the PA). The MA took initiative to amend Programme Documents (CIP, CP), it submitted the annual implementation reports to the EC. Furthermore the MA organised the evaluation (mid-term, update and ongoing evaluation) and sent the reports in time to the EC. It had been in charge for



the communication regarding Art 5 and the day to day coordination between all programme bodies (including Financial Control Group).

Regular meetings were usually held every two weeks between the Managing Authority and JTS to discuss ongoing issues.

In addition to this the MA initiated workshops, some of them in cooperation with INTERACT, for the programme's stakeholders such as workshops on strategic project development, cross-border project development or financial control.

4.1.2. Paying Authority (PA)

The Federal Chancellery, Dept. IV/4, has been designated, pursuant to Art. 9, item o) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/99, to handle the financial aspects of the Programme INTERREG IIIA Austria-Czech Republic and to perform the tasks defined in Art. 32 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/99 and is entitled to outsource these tasks to an external institution.

The PA performed all tasks defined in Art. 32 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/99, in particular making payments to final beneficiaries, submitting applications for payment and recording incoming and outgoing amounts. In this respect, the PA cooperated closely with the IBs. A separate account for the Programme was established with the PA. All Structural Funds resources were received at this account. Interest income, if any, were exclusively allocated to this account and, thus, to the Programme as required by the last sentence of Art. 32 (2). Appropriate organisational measures were to ensure efficient financial management so that the arising needs for financing could be covered by the advance payments of Structural Funds resources and a forfeiture of Structural Funds financing was prevented.

The PA submitted the forecasts of applications for payment for the current year and the forecast for the following year according to Art. 32/7 Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 to the Commission.

Recommendations of the Financial Control according to Art. 10 of Commission Regulation No. 438/2001 were discussed with relevant programme partners and were implemented with the respective body – e.g. during a revision of a project ERDF payments were suspended.

4.1.3. Report on the activities of the Joint Monitoring Committee

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the INTERREG IIIA Austria – Czech Republic Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the INTERREG IIIA Programme Austria – Czech Republic 2000-2006 a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) was established for the implementation of the Community Initiative Programme INTERREG IIIA Austria – Czech Republic 2000-2006. In line with point 39 of the INTERREG guidelines, the JMC for the CIP as



described in point 28 has formed a single committee, which has performed the tasks as described in Article 35 (3) Council Regulation 1260/99.

The main steps taken by the MC to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the programme :

- ▶ proposal and decision on revisions of the JPD/CIP and the Programme Complement (PC), including changes of financial tables of the CIP and PC.
- ▶ examination and approval of project selection / approval procedures as well as selection and priority criteria and project categories
- ▶ revision of project results as an integrated part of the programming process.
- ▶ discussion of the main findings and recommendations of the mid-term and on-going evaluation;

Table 13

Meetings of the JMC and the JSC by date and locality from 2001 until 2008

Programme year	JMC	Total JMC	JSC	Total JSC	Total JMC & JSC
2001	26th of September in Linz / Austria	1	27th of September in Linz/Austria, 6th of December in Mistelbach / Austria	2	3
2002	10th of April in Třebíč / Czech Republic, 25th of November in Drosendorf / Austria	2	11th of April in Třebíč/Czech Republic, 11th of July in Freistadt / Austria, 4th of October in Brno / Czech Republic, 26th of November in Drosendorf / Austria	4	6
2003	30th of September in Vienna	1	17th June in Vienna / Austria , 2nd September in Brno/Czech Republic, 9th December in Linz/Austria	3	4
2004	4th February in St. Pölten / Austria and 14th June in Břeclav / Czech Republic	2	15th June in Břeclav/Czech Republic, 7th September Brno/Czech Republic and 13th December in Vienna	3	5
2005	16th June in Linz / Austria	1	2nd – 3rd May in Cesky Krumlov/Czech Republic and 4th – 5th October in Retz/Austria	2	3
2006	17th October in Vienna	1	30th January – Linz / Austria, 8th June – Mikulov / Czech Republic, 21st November – Linz / Austria	3	4
2007	-	-	-	-	-
2008	-	-	-	-	-
Total		8		17	25

Furthermore some of the decisions have been taken in written procedures.



4.1.4. Report on the activities of the Joint Steering Committee

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the INTERREG IIIA AUSTRIA – Czech Republic Steering Committee for the Implementation of the INTERREG IIIA Programme Austria – Czech Republic 2000-2006 a single INTERREG IIIA Austria – Czech Republic Joint Steering Committee (JSC) was set up as a body responsible for the joint selection of all INTERREG IIIA projects and co-ordinated monitoring of the projects' implementation within the scope of the Programme. With the following tasks the JSC ensured the quality and effectiveness of the programme (tasks in compliance with points 29 and 38 of the INTERREG guidelines and with Chapter 9 of the CIP):

- ▶ discussion and approval of projects applying the project selection criteria and the scoring system as defined in the Programme Complement and as approved by the JMC;
- ▶ regular reports on projects approved with conditions and on necessary amendments;
- ▶ strategic project development: a workshop was organised to discuss helpers and hinderers in (strategic) project development;
- ▶ on-going evaluation: discussion of results and recommendations.

According to Chapter 10 of the CIP and pursuant to Annex II Art. 8 of the INTERREG-Guidelines a JRC (Joint Regional Steering Committee) for Phare CBC for small-scale projects in the framework of the disposition funds (DF) was established as a sub-committee of the JSC. JRC was responsible for the confirmation of cross border impact, as well as compliance with content of JPD for people-to-people projects and SIPs (Small Infrastructure Projects) applying for funding from Phare higher than 15.000,- EUR. Projects below 15.000,- EUR were recommended by two Regional Steering Committees (Upperaustria/Southbohemia, Loweraustria, Vienna/Southmoravia). The sub-committee of the JSC regularly reported on its activities to the JSC.

4.1.5. Intermediate Bodies (IBs)

In the meaning of Art. 2 of Commission Regulation 438/2001 the Intermediate Bodies were responsible for the operative management of the programme at the project level. In this respect the IBs contributed to the quality and effectiveness of the programme in particular with the following tasks:

- ▶ advising potential applicants for funding with regard to the programme objectives and the terms and conditions attached to INTERREG assistance;
- ▶ IBs registered all project applications into the Central Monitoring System (CMS)
- ▶ pre-assessment of project applications according to the criteria defined in PC
- ▶ concluding subsidy contracts relating to ERDF funds on the basis of the decisions by the JSC;



- ▶ auditing the project financial statements and reports that must have been submitted by the final beneficiaries of the assistance as well as confirming the correctness of the financial statements in terms of content and compliance with accounting regulations
- ▶ Reporting to the Central Monitoring System
- ▶ public relations work on a regional level.

More information on the responsibilities of the IBs due to Art. 4 controls (FLC) is described in chapter 4.2.

4.1.6. Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

The JTS was contracted and supervised by the Managing Authority. From 2004 the Czech part of the the JTS was contracted and supervised by the National Authority of the Czech Republic. The purpose of the Secretariat was to act as a facilitator, organiser and 'mentor' for the programme.

The JTS and its responsibility for day-to-day management of the programme was outsourced by the MA to ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH, since 2008 metis GmbH. Since 2004 the JTS Team in Vienna was completed by a JTS member in Brno to support the Czech programme bodies and beneficiaries locally.

In accordance with the tasks described in the CIP and the Internal Manual for the Technical Secretariat INTERREG IIIA the JTS covered the following tasks:

- ▶ secretariat to the Joint Monitoring and Joint Steering Committees: preparation of the meetings in close co-operation with the programme management bodies (MA/NA, PA/Sub-PA) and IBs, preparation of decision making process in JSC, generation of project sheets as a basis for the decisions in the JSC, compilation of data on request (e.g. check of indicators); drafting the Annual Implementation Reports; management of translation services (many documents were provided in both languages);
- ▶ organisation of bilateral task-forces, workshops and other events: e.g. information meeting for the priority "human resources" in 2002, numerous meetings of bilateral Task Forces within Managing Transition process, cross-programme seminars on specific questions (more information see below), workshops and task forces in preparation of the new programme 2007-2013
- ▶ support of the MA/NA in drafting the revised programme documents (CIP, Programme Complement, and Art. V communication) and support in implementing the communication activities: folders, brochures, etc. (for more details see chapter 4.4.)
- ▶ operating and up-dating of the web-site: www.at-cz.net
- ▶ supporting efficient project management: drafting common standards and principles of cooperation (e.g. standardised formats like application form),
- ▶ supporting external experts, e.g. mid-term /on-going and ex-post Evaluators;



- ▶ organisational support to the Financial Control Group
- ▶ internal project management: quality control, communication and coordination: e.g. co-ordination and co-operation with partners in the Ministry of Regional Development and the Centre for Regional Development as well with the Regional Representatives of Vysočina, Southern Bohemia and Moravia who were in charge of programming for Phare CBC 2002 and 2003 and implemented the JSPF 2001);

A main part of the TS-workload was covered by preparing and accompanying the Managing Transition process: in 2003 five Task Force meetings and one workshop were held with the Czech programme partners, two cross-programme seminars were organised.

In order to find a common understanding of tasks and division of labour of the enlarged JTS and to discuss the inclusion of new team members into the JTS the MA invited programme stakeholders (NA and TS) to a working meeting that was held in Vienna on 24th March 2004.

The cooperation between the Austrian and the Czech JTS team members were gradually improved over the years. From accession onwards the cooperation was tightened and the Czech member was fully integrated into the JTS-team. In the course of the Programme many meetings of the JTS XL were held in Vienna, among others the following items were on the agenda: common standards, principles of communication and cooperation, programme PR activities, organisation of work flows and project life cycle, possible role of JTS in future period 2007-2013 (lessons learned); project documentation on programme web-site.

With the support of the INTERACT programme (IP Managing Transition) several cross-programme seminars were organised, eg seminar on Lead-Partner in 2005, seminar on indicators in 2006, programme on closure exercise in 2007 and finally the event “CBC so-far” in 2008 (some more information see chapter 4.4.).

Due to the fact that the eligibility of the programme ended on 31.12.2008 the JTS had been closed by the end of 2008.

4.2 Programme Information and Control System

4.2.1. Description of the Accounting and Information System

On behalf of the MA a Central Monitoring System for the collection of data according to Art. 34, para 1, lit. a of Council Regulation No. 1260/99 was established at the – ERP Fund acting as operative PA. Ungargasse 37, A-1030 Wien. These functions were outsourced by the Federal Chancellery acting as PA in the framework of a contract for services and were performed by ERP-Fonds (gathering of data) and the TS (processing and evaluation of data).

The technical framework as well as the structure and content of reporting to the Central Monitoring System (CMS) was agreed by the programme partners on the basis of given EU



standards. The MA and the IBs reported all data necessary to the CMS and confirmed the correctness of data. The data sent to the CMS was considered as official data. All data within the CMS were available via read access to the MA/NA, PA, JTS, IBs as well as to FCG members. Reports (e.g. on the commitment and payment situation) were sent to the MC and SC members.

Regular reports for the n+2 status were programmed by the ERP-F and could thus be used by programme partners for continuous monitoring.

4.2.2. Controls according to Art. 4 of Com. Reg. No. 438/2001

In compliance with Art. 4 of Commission Regulation No. 438/2001 the IBs are responsible for all projects co-financed by ERDF funds under the INTERREG III A Programme Austria-Czech Republic. They secure compliance with the terms and conditions for assistance under the programme as well as the correctness of financial statements settled with regard to expenses eligible for assistance and assistance funds to be granted is continuously ensured both in factual and accounting terms and, if necessary, audited on site.

With regard to the FLC the IBs were responsible for (other tasks of IB see chapter 4.1.5.):

- ▶ advising potential applicants for funding with regard to the programme objectives and the terms and conditions attached to INTERREG assistance;
- ▶ concluding subsidy contracts relating to ERDF funds on the basis of the decisions by the JSC
- ▶ auditing the project financial statements and reports that must be submitted by the final beneficiaries of the assistance (with regard to their meeting the terms and conditions laid down in the subsidy contract and the evidence provided with regard to costs eligible for assistance and any other financing the project may have received) as well as confirming the correctness of the financial statements in terms of content and compliance with accounting regulations
- ▶ prompting the disbursement of ERDF funds by the PA to the final beneficiaries as well as
- ▶ demanding the repayment of ERDF funds if applicable.
- ▶ Reporting to the Central Monitoring System

In this context care has been taken to ensure the proper separation (and if applicable, also the organisational and functional separation) of the personnel conducting financial control from the project consulting activities and, in particular, from the project development in order to avoid conflicts of interests and to reduce the risk of irregularities.

After examining a project's implementation and the financial statements, the Austrian IB handed over to the PA the result of the control and a Certification of Expenditure (relating to all items mentioned in Article 9 Para. 2 lit. b of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001 (as



amended)) and a Payment Claim. On this basis the PA paid the ERDF funds to the account of the (Austrian) project owner. The project information provided in the (interim or final) financial statements as well as the payment executed by the PA was reported to the CMS.

On the Czech side the 1st level control of the final beneficiaries' applications for payments was executed by the IB Centre for Regional Development (CRD). The approved application for payment was forwarded to the MRD that carried out further checks and made payments to final beneficiaries. In accordance with changes of the methodology of financial flows and control, valid from January 1st 2006, the MRD made payments to final beneficiaries in advance from the national resources – the State budget. The MRD subsequently generated an aggregate payment application that was forwarded to the sub-PA. Based on that application the sub-PA made repayments to the MRD's State budget.

The payments were reported in the Czech monitoring system and transferred via data transfer into the CMS.

On the basis of the reported data and a sub-Application for Payment and sub-Statement of Expenditure - which was sent in parallel to the data transfer - the PA reimbursed the ERDF to the Sub-PA.

4.2.3. Controls according to Art. 10 and winding up

A Financial Control Group (FCG) has been set up for the implementation of the Financial Control according to chapter IV and Winding Up of the Community Initiative Programme "INTERREG IIIA Austria – Czech Republic" according to chapter V of Regulation (EC) 438/2001. The rules of procedure have been adopted by a decision of the delegations of both participating states on 19th May 2005. The FCG met at least once every year in order to discuss important findings and the drafts of the common annual reports before sending to the Commission.

The FCG consists of a limited number of representatives from national authorities of the two Member States of the INTERREG IIIA Austria – Czech Republic programme. These national authorities are responsible according to their national regulatory requirements for

- a. Financial Control according to Chapter IV of reg. 438/2001 and those for
- b. issuing final declarations according to Chapter V of reg. 438/2001.

The audits required pursuant to Chapter IV of Regulation (EC) 438/2001 have been conducted on the Austrian and the Czech side according to the annual audit plan of the respective years. Reports on the single audits were made and executive summaries have been sent to the European Commission.



In Austria some weaknesses were detected and reported. The necessary follow-ups and improvements within the Monitoring/Management and Control System which had been ascertained in previous years were carried out by the responsible Intermediate Bodies in close cooperation with the Managing Authority and Paying Authority.

On the Czech side, the auditing process showed that the management and control systems were set according to the requirements of respective EC Regulations and in compliance with recommendations of the European Commission.

Details to the weaknesses and the problems detected are described in chapter 4.3.

4.3 Summary of significant problems

Weakness within the FLC system at IB Vienna

During the audits required pursuant to Chapter IV of Regulation (EC) 438/2001 which were conducted on the Austrian side according to the annual audit plan of 2006 some weaknesses were detected.

Since the implementation of follow-up measures was lagging behind at this IB (in 2004 the Art. 10 body reported that the Article 4 control activities were documented insufficiently), the Managing Authority and Paying Authority temporarily blocked all ERDF payments within the responsibility of this body in 2006. The concerned IB Vienna committed itself to send all Article 4 reports to the MA/PA. Only on the basis of the approbation of the MA/PA that an adequate audit trail and documentation of the Article 4 controls was reported, the unblocking was done – on project level. With this temporarily stoppage of payments the financial implementation of the programme was lagging behind. By the end of 2006 the majority of projects were unblocked. The checks performed by the Managing Authority and Paying Authority were finalised by December 2007 and ensuing all projects were unblocked. During this validation process irregularities were detected and some projects were cancelled. The ERDF money was reimbursed to the programme immediately.

In 2008 the Art. 10 body repeated its audit and had no further comments to the control system of the respective IB Vienna.

Set up of FLC systems took more time and efforts than expected

It should be noticed that the set up of FLC systems took more time and efforts than expected.

It took considerable time and efforts until the FLC systems in Austria and Czech Republic were installed properly: it was difficult to foresee systems that met both the national requirements of the single MS and the respective EU-regulations without clear provisions or guidance provided by the EC.



Especially at the end of each year the FLC bodies as well as the Sub-PA and PA were confronted with some lack of capacities: due to the fact that a number of projects submitted the progress and financial reports later in a year than expected (due to fulfilment of conditions or unforeseen events the implementation was lagging sometimes behind the plan), the FLC bodies had to check many reports especially at the end of the years.

Based on the analysis several actions were taken in order to avoid any de-commitment, especially:

- ▶ the programme bodies IBs, MA and JTS intensified assistance and guidance for approved projects (monitoring of project implementation, seminars on technical aspects of project implementation);
- ▶ possibility of extraordinary reporting of expenditure was offered to the projects, i.e. to report costs additionally to the agreed reporting deadlines;
- ▶ awareness-raising was done in the sense of making the project participants aware of the importance to report costs according to the approved budget plans and projects were closely monitored on that aspect by IBs;
- ▶ intensified efforts were made to establish a well-functioning FLC system.

Although considerable efforts were made by the programme bodies to avoid the de-commitment of funds the “n+2” rule led to a loss of ERDF-funds in 2004, 2006 and 2007 (more information see chapter 3.1.).

4.4 Information and publicity activities undertaken (TA 2)

A variety of information and publicity activities have been undertaken during the reporting period. Print media, websites and information events have successfully provided information to target groups as well as the interested public.

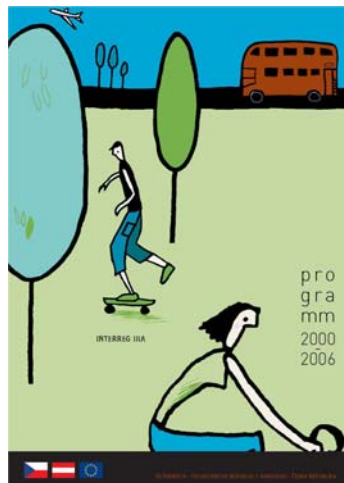
Based on the communication plan in the Programme Complement the following activities were carried out:

4.4.1. Activities of the MA/NA/TS



Common brochure: the programme partners agreed already in October 2003 to produce a bilingual brochure at the occasion of the Czech Republic's accession to the EC highlighting the successful cooperation under Interreg and Phare CBC so far. The brochure was published in May 2004 and 12.000 pieces were printed and distributed among programme partners and the wider public (only

500 pieces are still available at the JTS). The brochure can be downloaded from the programme website www.at-cz.net.



Folder (2001, 2002) and folder for pupils (2007): JTS elaborated the concept and layout of a folder informing of the start of all four external border programmes (AT-CZ, AT-HU, AT-SK and AT-SI). 10.000 pieces of this folder were printed in November 2001 and were distributed to all responsible institutions at state and federal state level. A second edition of the programme folder was produced in 2002

(3,500 pieces). 14.700 pieces of a bilingual INTERREG folder targeted to pupils aged 14 to 19 years old and teachers were printed in April 2007. The folders were distributed to all communities, schools, beneficiaries and other partners in the programme area before the summer break 2007. An electronic version can be downloaded from the programme webpage www.at-cz.net.

Project documentation and documentation of project results: In 2003 based on the information on committed projects in the CMS the JTS started to set up a project documentation comprising all relevant information which was used for different purposes (project description on the programme website, requests from institutions or organisations surveying INTERREG Programmes, information for politicians, etc.). This documentation was regularly up-dated. At the end of 2006 more than 90 projects were described. All projects of the already closed priority “Special support for Border Regions” were up-dated and can be downloaded from the programme website. Based on the already established project documentation the JTS started in autumn 2007 to complete it by adding results and outputs of nearly finalised projects. Project owners were asked to provide additional information (such as reports, studies, photos, websites etc.). The results were published on the programme website under projects/“Success Stories” (overview of projects by priorities and measures) and were regularly up-dated in 2008. For each project additionally a documentary archive (*.zip) were created so that project results can be downloaded.





Programme website www.at-cz.net: the website was on-line since February 2002 (closed in November 2009) in German, Czech and English. Continuous up-date of the website was done by the JTS where monthly web reports were available. Apart from the continuous up-date the JTS adapted the common website due to the accession of the Czech Republic in two ways: the graphic user interface and the Backoffice were adapted and made more user-friendly

and the content was revised according to the revision of the programme documents. These modifications in Czech, English and German language were carried out in close cooperation with the Czech partners. Information on the SEA consultation process for the Objective 3 programme “Cross-border Territorial Co-operation Austria – Czech Republic” was published on the INTERREG IIIA flash of the website. A common introductory page to both the INTERREG IIIA programme 2000-2006 as well as to the Objective 3 Territorial Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 was installed.

The Backoffice area under www.at-cz.net/Service/intern: from December 2002 until November 2009 the MA/JTS offered all Committee members an information repository which can be accessed through the programme website. Basically, it consists of a personal calendar and a file manager which contains all necessary internal programme information such as invitations to meetings and documents in a download section. A detailed user manual was elaborated and disseminated to all potential users. The Backoffice area has been widely used by programme partners and has also been regularly up-dated.

Information events: in the framework of INTERACT, the JTS organized seven seminars with overall 593 participants – some of these seminars were organised in close cooperation with INTERACT. In detail the JTS held a seminar on indicators and selection criteria with 80 participants, a seminar on labour market and qualification with 140 participants, a seminar on the Lead Partner Principle with 57 participants, a seminar on programme management in the framework of Managing Transition INTERREG IIIA with 84 participants, a seminar on financial control and project cycle management in the framework of Managing Transition INTERREG IIIA with 93 participants, a seminar on closing the Interreg IIIA programmes 2000-2006 with 70 participants and the seminar “CBC so far” on the use of project experience from INTERREG IIIA Programmes with 69 participants.

In the **framework of INTERACT**, the JTS attended six seminars on INTERREG IIIA programme management, Communication plan and tools for cross-border programmes, the situation between the EU enlargement and the new programme periods, territorial cooperation project management, as well as territorial cooperation programmes 2007-2013. The JTS also participated in an INTERACT conference on European territorial cooperation programmes 2007-2013 in Budapest. Furthermore in the framework of INTERACT the JTS participated in a study



on monitoring systems in EU25. The JTS organized an information day for the representatives of social partners and NGOs in the JMCs. Moreover, the JTS organized in total six presentations and discussions with delegations from other countries, e.g. Latvia and Finland. Within the framework of INTERACT, a staff exchange to five INTERREG IIIA programmes for learning about the application of the Lead Partner Principle was also organised.

Activities of JTS (branch Brno): The JTS (branch Brno) published an article in the Czech Industry journal, organized a travelling exhibition in the cross border region, and co-organized the INTERREG IIIA conference in Jihlava. It provided up-dated information on the programme website.

Activities organised by the Ministry for Regional Development (NA): the NA organized 15 seminars and provided regularly up-dated information on websites: www.mmr.cz and www.strukturalni-fondy.cz. It produced a cross-border programme information brochure, a booklet, and a leaflet. The Ministry for Regional Development advertised in central and regional newspapers, published in MRD periodical "EU funds", and published articles in textbooks. It has also produced promotion articles (as calenders, flash discs, notepads, ballpens, T-shirts, bags, etc.).

4.4.2. Activities of the Intermediate Bodies

The **IB Lower Austria** provided information on INTERREG IIIA via internet: www.noel.gv.at/service/ru/ru2/strukturinterreg. The website has had a new address (www.noel.gv.at) - since 2007. A guide for submission of projects was elaborated and published (printed version and the information was available on the web-site). A variety of description of projects, reports on seminars related to Interreg and articles were published in journals, for example in the journal "Raum&Ordnung". Two newsletters were published each year from 2002 until 2007. Information events were also organized including five events in the framework of a "road show" to present the programme "Objective European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013" in the five main regions of Lower Austria and an event in the framework of the Euregio-forum in Poysdorf. A DVD on the successful implementation of the programme was produced and distributed among the interested public. Furthermore, a Video "Regionen im Aufwind" (Regions starting up: glimpses of the European Regional Policy in Lower Austria) was produced including special editions for the different regions of Lower Austria. The IB also published two brochures including DVDs.

The **IB Vienna** held two information days and two information seminars for potential applicants, as well as a workshop for project owner of already approved projects. A second call for projects under the Viennese Kleinprojektfond (Small Project Fund) was published. Information was provided on the website: www.magwien.gv.at/meu since 2002. Since 2007, the IB has used a new website: www.wien.gv.at/wirtschaft/eu-strategie/. The signing ceremony of the key umbrella project BAER - Building a European Region was attended by politicians from seven cities and



seven regions; the subsequent kick-off conference took place in Kittsee and was accompanied by press releases.

Activities of the IB Upper Austria comprised: on behalf of the Land Upper Austria the Euregio Bayrischer Wald – Böhmerwald – Sumava continued to publish its web based newsletter service – the EUREGIO Messenger at <http://www.euregio.at>. The Messenger informed periodically about activities of the EUREGIO Regionalmanagement Mühlviertel and provided detailed information about the implementation of the Interreg IIIA programme Austria – Czech Republic. The IB published a brochure called “aufgeräumt – eu-regionalpolitik in oberösterreich” that can be ordered online through http://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/cps/rde/xchg/ooe/hs.xsl/31111_DEU_HTML.htm.

The main activities of the **Czech partners:** up-dated information was published on websites of the **IB South Moravia, South Bohemia, and Vysocina:** <http://www.rrajm.cz>; <http://www.rera.cz>; <http://www.rda-vysocina.cz>. Also, the websites of regional administrations were regularly up-dated with information: <http://www.kr-jihomoravsky.cz>; <http://www.kr-vysocina.cz>; <http://www.kraj-jihocesky.cz>. The **IBs** held 17 workshops, five seminars, four conferences, and organized the event “Partnership Change”. Two leaflets, information brochures, press releases, a radio report and a TV documentation were published. The IBs produced promotion materials as notepads and ballpens, as well as souvenir items for the event “Partnership Change” such as T-shirts, data sticks, cups, T-shirts and paper bags with printed logos (EU logo, webpage).

The IBs were also active in the INTERACT project IQ-train where they could exchange knowledge and experiences with neighbouring regions and present their own good practice.

4.5 Evaluation on the programme

According to the regulations the INTERREG IIIA Programme Austria-Czech Republic has been subdued to three evaluation exercises, all implemented by experts independent from the programme partners:

- ▶ Ex-ante Evaluation (EaE);
- ▶ mid-term Evaluation (MTE);
- ▶ up-date of the mid-term Evaluation (update)

In addition to these evaluations the evaluators of MTE were asked and contracted to support the programme bodies with some more detailed analysis within the so called “on-going” evaluation.



4.5.1. The main evaluations on the programme

Ex-ante evaluation

The ex-ante evaluation was conducted in close cooperation with the programming process and comprises of internal activities by the working groups that created the programme as well as external activities carried out by consultants not involved in the programming process. It was carried out by ÖAR-Regionalberatung.

As a result of this close interlinking of programming and ex-ante evaluation, comments and recommendations by the evaluators were discussed in the Bilateral Workshops or with the experts involved, and its outcome was incorporated in the programming work in an on-going manner. Thus every new version of the Joint Programming Document (JPD) already contained the results of the foregone evaluation loop. Altogether the ex-ante evaluation has provided a valuable learning cycle for all partners involved, and led to notable improvements of the overall quality and coherence of the JPD.

Mid-term evaluation

Due to the involvement of Austria in four Interreg IIIA programmes on the external borders of the EU one single firm - ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH - was contracted by the MA in 2003 to prepare the mid-term and on-going evaluation for the Interreg IIIA programmes Austria with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia. Especially the on-going evaluation made use of synergy effects by covering cross-programme aspects.

A cross-programme Steering Group Evaluation was set up consisting of the main programme partners of all five countries concerned (MA, PA, JTS, intermediate bodies, programme partners from the Czech and Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Austria).

The Group met twice in 2003:

- ▶ a kick-off meeting was held on 30th June to present the mid-term evaluation team and the proposed methodology and to agree on a work plan for the mid-term evaluation.
- ▶ A second meeting was held on 25th November to discuss the main findings² and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation.

The mid-term evaluation report Interreg IIIA Austria – Czech Republic was sent to the Commission on 22nd December 2003. The Commission confirmed completeness of the report in its letter dated 17.2.2005.

² See Annex 7 for a summary of the mid-term evaluation



Main results of MTE³

<i>Recommendation of evaluators</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
More transparency within project selection	The project selection process was discussed and harmonised in the following way: In the pre-evaluation phase the compliance with formal criteria was checked. The Intermediate Bodies (IBs) examined the applications according to administrative criteria and eligibility criteria. The IBs evaluate the project also according to (a) core selection criteria, which is based on a standardised survey of the cross-border quality in the projects' development, and implementation and (b) a survey and typology of the projects expected impacts on functionally integrated regional development. After completing the examination a summary assessment of these criteria was drawn up and reported by the respective IB to the Central Monitoring System (CMS). All projects with complete application form were reported in the CMS with status level 1 (first entry in CMS – obligatory) with defined minimum requirements.
Shorten procedures for approval and contracting and project implementation	The programme bodies intensified a regular contact with beneficiaries. Furthermore seminars and workshop were held to inform beneficiaries about necessary steps and requirements during implementation (e.g. reporting; FLC standards). Further to workshops individual consultation was offered by the IBs.
Ensure transparency and wide publicity	Information on selected projects and on projects results were communicated via different media (detailed information see chapter 4.4.)
Improvements within the indicator system	The use of the cooperation indicator was discussed and made more transparent by using joint standards for classifying and selecting projects; common terms for "joint", "mirror" and "other projects" were defined and included in the Programme Complement – Chapter 3 (definition of the common terms see chapter 2.2. in this report)
Integrate social partners in the operation of the programme	Actually social partners were members of the JMC (representatives of the Chambers of Commerce from CZ and AT).

³ Detailed information on the recommendation and the implementation is given in the up-date MTE report (there chapter 3)



committees	The JTS offered these representatives (regular) information but in the end it had to be noticed that the representatives could not participate regularly in all the meetings.
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Up-date of the Mid-term evaluation

According to Working Paper 9 of the European Commission the up-date of MTE addressed the following issues:

- ▶ review of implementation of recommendations of MTE
- ▶ analysis of outputs and results
- ▶ analysis of impacts and likely achievement of objectives
- ▶ conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact

It should be noticed that at the time the up-date MTE report was drafted most programme funds were already allocated to approved projects. Regarding project development and selection there was therefore little room for manoeuvre left.

When the five co-operation indicators were analysed in more detail it was identified that joint financing was still the least frequent indicator (24%), even though it increased substantially since the mid-term evaluation (8.5%). The percentage of projects with joint implementation increased (from 77% to 80%), however the percentages of the other three indicators (joint application, joint planning, joint use) ranged from about 69% to about 82%.

It turned out that still a high percentage of projects fulfilled the criteria of being marked as “AA” project (at least two out of five stages of cooperation and at least two impact indicators fulfilled) – see table 9 – chapter 2.3. in this report.

With regard to the recommendation to analyse weaknesses of information flows and to agree on early cross-border exchanges of project information it can be reported that the IBs fostered bilateral informal exchanges. In these meetings they exchanged their views on the quality of project applications and they informed about project implementation.

With regard to the recommendation to use irritations in programme implementation as a joint learning opportunity the partners discussed differences and identified advantages and disadvantages (to remain/to be changed) for the next period.

The contact with project holders was intensified and they were assisted in case of interrupted partnerships and in identifying suitable replacements.

The up-date of the mid-term evaluation report Interreg IIIA Austria – Czech Republic was finalised in due time and sent to the Commission on 22nd December 2005. The EC confirmed its



completeness in its letter of February 17th 2006⁴.

On-going evaluation

In the framework of the on-going evaluation a research on the intensity and quality of cross-border cooperation on project level were conducted in the first half of 2004. Interviews with Austrian and Czech project partners were performed. The findings and conclusions were presented and discussed in bilateral meetings.

In the on-going evaluation the validity of the cooperation indicators in selected projects was addressed in case studies. This revealed that most of these indicators indicated in the application are really accomplished in practice.

The evaluators concluded the on-going evaluation by organising so called “learning platforms”: One took place in Vienna and addressed the Austrian programme stakeholders; a second addressed the Czech programme stakeholders. Finally on January 31st 2006 in Linz all partners discussed the results and drew a common picture. The workshops aimed at

- ▶ a structured reflection of programme authorities at the end of the evaluation process, at the interface of current and new programmes.
- ▶ a clarification of concerns/interests of programme partners and discussion of recommendations contained in the Up-dates of Mid-Term Evaluations.
- ▶ an identification of main experience, which should be taken into account in the preparation of the new programmes and discussion of new requirements which are contained in the Commission proposals for the new Programme Territorial Co-operation (cross-border strand).

⁴ The conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact as well as the recommendations of the up-date MTE report see Annex 8.



5. STATEMENT BY THE MANAGING AUTHORITY: MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE COHERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY POLICIES AND OVERALL COORDINATION

It can be stated that the Managing Authority took the necessary measures pursuant to Art. 37(2)e) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 to ensure coherence with the community policies pursuant to Art. 12 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1260/1999 and to ensure coordination with the overall Structural funds policy of the Commission pursuant to Art. 19(2) para 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1260/1999.

In the course of pre-assessing project applications the responsible authorities verified whether the project had applied for additional subsidies or whether such grants had already been given. Thereby it was secured that projects did not get double-financing and thus did not receive support from other funds (such as the EAGGF).

The MA took where applicable and within the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding appropriate measures within the framework of the assistance to ensure conformity with community policies (e.g. minimum requirements for subsidy contracts, rules for procedures for MC and SC).

According to the programme and the programme complement a project should not be funded if the EU policies, including the rules on competition, on the award of public contracts, on environmental protection and improvement and on the elimination of inequalities and the promotion of equality between men and women, were not respected.

Concerns of environmental protection, the promotion of equality between men and women, compatibility with the common rural policy, in particular with Art. 37, par. 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 and the contribution to the realisation of the European Employment Strategy were obeyed insofar as institutions/bodies/persons representing these concerns were represented in the programme committees. Project proposals were discussed by these committees during selection.

In the project application among others, the contribution of the project to sustainable development and to equal opportunities had to be indicated.

During the project evaluation process the above-mentioned aspects were carefully checked to ensure that projects not coherent or in contrast with the relevant regulations on the EU and national level were not selected.

In the ERDF contracts beneficiaries obliged themselves to comply with the European Union's and national legislation, especially structural funds regulation, competition and public procurement law.

At the occasion of seminars bilateral contacts IBs, JTS and MA informed the project participants about legal provisions and programme rules that shall be observed by them.



During the project implementation phases the compliance of a project with relevant national and EU-regulations was checked by the first level control bodies (control according to Art. 4). In the course of the second level control (controls according to Art. 10) this aspect and the work performed by the first level control bodies were checked as well.

The Managing Authority monitored the developments in EU competition and procurement law and also used the Interact-platform for an exchange of experiences and best practises with regard to these issues with other programmes and the EC. In this way, it was ensured that appropriate information was provided to the responsible programme bodies and actors in the member states as well as the project participant.

The areas defined by the nature protection instrument Natura 2000 were respected by the programme administration and therefore, no negative effects are expected of the programme measures.

5.1 Coordination within Austria and Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, the National Authority took appropriate steps in order to ensure the coordination of all the community structural supports which were distributed to Czech beneficiaries. With regard to coherence with other Programmes, the National Authority participates in the Monitoring Committees of other Community Initiatives in the Czech Republic such as Equal and assures coordination with the Agriculture and Rural Development OP that contains a Leader+ type measure. The National Authority had also direct access for the Czech Joint Monitoring and Information System of all the relevant OP's of the CSF. Thus the overall information about the possible project list of the different instruments was concentrated in "one hand".

As an Austrian internal discussion forum the Austrian Conference on Regional Planning (ÖROK) had installed a specific working group for authorities participating in the management of the EU programmes. The working group met regularly to discuss topics and requests of interest from a cross-programme perspective for the stakeholders of the EU-programmes in the Austrian administration. It developed its role as an important information network, coordination framework and decision-making body. In the working group all Managing Authorities of programmes for Objective regions and Community Initiative Programmes plus the co-funding ministries at national level were represented.



6. REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES 2008

The following chapter describes the activities carried out in the year 2008.

The activities primarily focused on the following areas of work which are:

- ▶ on project level
 - sound finalization of projects including the reporting into the monitoring system
- ▶ on programme level:
 - financial implementation (including payments to final beneficiaries, preparation of closure exercise)
 - information and publicity activities
 - support of new programme ETC Austria –Czech Republic 2007-2013 – knowledge transfer

6.1 Changes in the general conditions with importance for the implementation of the assistance

No significant changes in the general conditions with importance for the implementation of the assistance can be reported. Thus the objectives, priorities and measures of the programme are still relevant and coherent with the challenges and potentials in the programme area.

Detailed information on the general trends of the last years is provided in the socio-economic analysis of the operational programme ETC Austria-Czech Republic 2007-2013 (which was approved by the European Commission in December 2007). A summary of the trends is provided in chapter 1.2 of this document.

6.2 Progress at Priority and measure level

General implementation went smoothly and according to plan in 2008.

In the year 2008 6 new projects were approved by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) furthermore for 3 already approved projects an increase of the ERDF co-financing was approved.

Already at the end of 2007 it became clear that in some measures not all projects would use the originally planned (and therefore committed) budgets whereas in other measures more money could be spent. In order to make full use of the remaining funds another shift of financial allocation on Programme Complement level was initiated and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) in October 2008. The revised financial tables and the revised Programme Complement (PC) were sent to the Commission on 27.10.2008. The EC confirmed the revised PC in a letter dated 13.01.2009.



Detailed information on achieved Indicators on programme, priority level and measure level as well as information on the use of Technical Assistance is provided in chapter 3 of this document.

6.3 Financial Engineering

Annex 5 provides a detailed overview of the financial implementation on priority and measure level for the year 2008. Cumulated figures for the programme period 2000-2008 are provided in Annex 3. It can be noticed that in nearly every measure and hence in every priority (exception measure 2.1.) expenditure was effected in 2008.

6.3.1 Forecasts and payments received in 2008 and 2009

Table 14 a)-c) compares the annual forecast of application for payment for 2008, 2009 and for 2008 and 2009 with payments received from the EU in 2008, 2009 and for these years as well as the cumulated payments 2001-2008/2009. The forecast was submitted on April 30th 2008. Due to delayed payments in 2008 an updated forecast was sent on October 15th 2008 with regard to payments for 2009.

Table 14a

Forecast for and Payments received in 2008 (in Euro)

Forecast (ERDF) 2008	Payments received in 2008	Date	Advance Payments received 2001	Payments received 2001-2008	Total ERDF allocation
12.440.000	5.400.150,34	11.04.2008	1.813.070,00	33.475.541,88	38.052.319,00
	2.091.786,77	23.07.2008			
	2.326.910,46	13.11.2008			
	<i>total</i>				
	9.818.847,57				

Table 14 b

Forecast for and Payments received in 2009 (in Euro)

Forecast (ERDF) 2009	Payments received in 2008/2009	Date	Advance Payments received 2001	Payments received 2001-2009	Total ERDF allocation
2.500.000	2.273.843,72	08.04.2009	1.813.070,00	36.149.703,05	38.052.319,00
	400.317,45	17.07.2009			
	<i>total</i>				
	2.674.161,17				



Table 14c**Forecast for and Payments received in 2008+2009 (in Euro)**

Forecast (ERDF) 2008+2009	Payments received in 2008 + 2009	Date	Advance Payments received 2001	Payments received 2001-2009	Total ERDF allocation
14.940.000	5.400.150,34	11.04.2008	1.813.070,00	36.149.703,05	38.052.319,00
	2.091.786,77	23.07.2008			
	2.326.910,46	13.11.2008			
	2.273.843,72	08.04.2009			
	400.317,45	17.07.2009			
	<i>total</i>				
	12.493.008,74				

6.4 Steps taken by the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee to ensure the quality and effectiveness of implementation.

For detailed information on steps taken by the MA (in close cooperation with the NA) and the MC to ensure the quality and effectiveness of implementation of the programme please see chapter 4 of this report.

As already mentioned in chapter 6.2. the MA initiated and the MC approved a financial shift within the financial table on Programme Complement (PC) level in order to maximise the full use of the remaining funds. The revised financial tables and the revised Programme Complement were sent to the Commission on October 27th 2008. The EC confirmed the revised PC in a letter dated 13.01.2009.

6.4.1. Report on the activities of the JMC and JSC

No JMC or JSC meeting took place in 2008. Written procedures concerning amendments and/or changes of financial tables were launched on:

- ▶ February 15th 2008
- ▶ July 11th 2008
- ▶ October 28th 2008

The written procedures were launched for an approval of seven new projects, for an approval of the increase of the ERDF co-financing for twelve already approved projects and another already approved TA project, for the approval of the Annual Implementation Report 2007 and for an approval of the changes in the financial table of the PC.



Knowledge transfer between “old” and “new” programme:

The Federal Chancellery in its function as the Managing Authority for four INTERREG IIIA programmes took initiative to organise a cross-programme seminar on the exchange of experience made in CBC projects in the programme period 2000-06 and to discuss how future programme partners can best build on this knowledge base.

The seminar “CBC SO FAR” took place on October 16th 2008 in Eisenstadt. All programme partners of the INTERREG IIIA and Objective 3 programmes of Austria with its neighbouring countries the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Slovenia were invited.

Hans Niessl, Governor of Burgenland, and Commissioner Danuta Hübner provided statements.

Table 15

Programme of the seminar „CBC SO FAR – lessons learned from the programme period“

Morning	Introduction	<i>Alexandra Deimel</i>	<i>Federal Chancellery</i>	Setting the frame for the seminar
	Speeches	<i>Moray Gilland</i>	<i>European Commission - Unit E1</i>	What does the Commission expect from good programmes?
		<i>Katrin Stockhammer</i>	<i>INTERACT Point Vienna</i>	Activities of INTERACT for the initiation of good projects
		<i>Csaba Horváth</i>	<i>VATI/former Hungarian JTS</i>	Project Rap – The experience in Hungary
		<i>Irene Brickner</i>	<i>Der Standard (Press/Austrian Newspaper)</i>	What does the press need to sell good projects?
Afternoon	CBC world café - discussion of good projects in five thematic fields: - Environment - Accessibility - Labour market & qualification - Governance & structures - Tourism & marketing	<i>What was and will be the main focus of CBC projects?</i>	<i>Which were the most spectacular and which the most sustainable results of CBC projects in the thematic field of your table?</i>	<i>What is important for good CBC projects?</i>
		Environment	Tourism & marketing	Tourism & marketing
		Accessibility	Governance & structures	Governance & structures
		Labour market & qualification	Environment	Accessibility
			Labour market & qualification	
	Political Statements	<i>Hans Niessl</i>	<i>Governor of Burgenland</i>	
		<i>Danuta Hübner</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>	



As a result “food for thought” was provided to all programme partners of the old and the new programmes (see also Annex 6).

6.5 Actions taken by the Financial Control

The audits required pursuant to Chapter IV of Regulation (EC) 438/2001 were conducted on the Austrian side according to the annual audit plan of 2008. Reports on single audits were made and executive summaries have been sent to the European Commission.

After meeting the Czech counterparts (the Financial Control Group meeting took place on June 2nd 2009 in Vienna) the summarising annual report 2008 pursuant to Art. 13 of Regulation (EC) 438/2001 was submitted by June 2009 to the European Commission under no. BKA-403.621/0007-IV/3/2009.

6.6 Summary of problems encountered in managing the assistance.

No problems occurred during the reporting period.

For more details on problems which occurred during the whole implementation period see chapter 4.3 of this report.

6.7 Use of Technical Assistance

Within priority 7 “Technical Assistance” no new project was approved in 2008. Within the projects of the MA/NA and the IBs activities were implemented and most of the activities were finalised in December 2008 as the eligibility ended at 31.12.2008 (e.g. JTS was closed in December 2008). Some management tasks (e.g. Central Monitoring System, costs of operative PA) will be financed by national means until the final payment of ERDF is received from the European Commission.

Detailed information on the use of the TA within the programme is provided in chapter 3.2 of this report.

6.8 Information and publicity activities undertaken

6.8.1. Project Documentation on Website

Concerning the description of key projects the JTS started in 2007 with a “project documentation” collecting and compiling results and outputs of (nearly) finalised projects. For each single project additional information (such as reports, studies, photos, websites etc.) has been collected in an documentary archive. For that purpose the JTS has asked the project owners for relevant information. This information is available on the programme's website www.at-cz.net under the heading “projects/results”. Below you find a screenshot of one of the



projects. For more information have a look at the programmes website www.at-cz.net⁵.



6.9 Measures taken to ensure coherence between community policies and overall coordination

See chapter 5.

⁵ Due to the end of eligibility of costs and due to the fact that the web site was visited once in a blue moon since summer 2009 the web-site was closed in November 2009.



ANNEXES

- Annex 1** **Implementation Number of projects and expenditure per priority and measure level**
- Annex 2** **Best practice examples on project level.**
- Annex 3** **Total expenditure broken down by field of intervention at measure level**
- Annex 4** **List of project implemented in priority Technical Assistance**
- Annex 5** **Financial implementation in 2008: Total expenditure broken down by field of intervention at measure level in 2008**
- Annex 6** **Results of the Seminar 2008 CBC SO FAR -“food for thought”**
- Annex 7** **Summary of results of mid-term-evaluation**
- Annex 8:** **Recommendation of up-date mid-term-evaluation**



Annex 1

Implementation: total number of Projects - expenditure on Priority and Measure


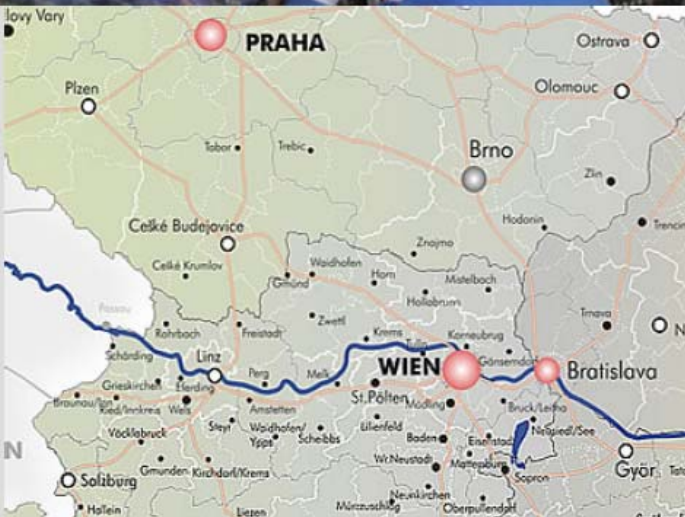
Source Priorities/Measures	Number of projects	Total Costs	Total / plan	Total Public Expenditure	total public / plan	ERDF	ERDF / plan	National total	National total / plan	National public	national public / plan	Private	private / plan	Priority share of total	Priority share of ERDF
	a	b = d + e		c = d + f		d		e = f + g		f		g			
1. Cross-border Economic Co-operation	101	20.802.685,77	102,66%	19.346.874,35	106,19%	10.677.690,89	93,93%	10.124.994,88	113,82%	8.669.183,46	126,52%	1.455.811,42	71,24%	29,86%	29,45%
1.1. Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	12	5.392.678,96	106,49%	5.291.343,18	108,01%	2.018.988,17	74,51%	3.373.690,79	143,32%	3.272.355,01	149,49%	101.335,78	61,42%	7,74%	5,57%
1.2. Cross-border Co-operation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	36	5.552.543,96	97,23%	5.152.402,85	103,78%	2.994.045,78	98,08%	2.558.498,18	96,25%	2.158.357,07	112,89%	400.141,11	53,62%	7,97%	8,26%
1.3. Tourism and Leisure	53	9.857.462,85	103,69%	8.903.128,32	106,55%	5.664.656,94	101,06%	4.192.805,91	107,97%	3.238.471,38	117,72%	954.334,53	84,28%	14,15%	15,62%
2. Accessibility	30	8.301.971,29	100,88%	8.301.971,29	100,88%	4.858.620,95	97,91%	3.443.350,34	105,38%	3.443.350,34	105,38%	0,00	0,00%	11,92%	13,40%
2.1. Improvement of Cross-border Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	16	4.315.030,00	108,13%	4.315.030,00	108,13%	2.730.837,93	101,19%	1.584.192,07	122,64%	1.584.192,07	122,64%	0,00		6,19%	7,53%
2.2. Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	14	3.986.941,29	94,05%	3.986.941,29	94,05%	2.127.783,02	94,01%	1.859.158,27	94,10%	1.859.158,27	94,10%	0,00	0,00%	5,72%	5,87%
3. Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	74	10.425.624,34	105,26%	9.529.996,46	108,05%	5.479.244,10	96,31%	4.946.380,24	117,34%	4.050.752,36	129,38%	895.627,88	82,57%	14,97%	15,11%
3.1. Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	53	6.736.806,54	103,67%	6.493.349,85	107,75%	3.466.464,87	94,65%	3.270.341,67	115,31%	3.026.884,98	128,04%	243.456,69	51,58%	9,67%	9,56%
3.2. Pilot projects including support to local authorities and urban pilots	21	3.688.817,80	108,31%	3.036.646,61	108,71%	2.012.779,23	99,33%	1.676.038,57	121,49%	1.023.867,38	133,51%	652.171,19	106,45%	5,30%	5,55%
4. Human Resources	36	9.326.890,28	88,87%	9.004.887,19	91,19%	4.961.384,97	87,75%	4.365.505,31	90,19%	4.043.502,22	95,80%	322.003,09	51,96%	13,39%	13,68%
4.1. Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	12	2.118.090,02	90,39%	2.001.202,50	101,96%	1.119.052,67	90,16%	999.037,35	90,66%	882.149,83	122,26%	116.887,52	30,72%	3,04%	3,09%
4.2. Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	24	7.208.800,26	88,44%	7.003.684,69	88,52%	3.842.332,30	87,07%	3.366.467,96	90,05%	3.161.352,39	90,34%	205.115,57	85,71%	10,35%	10,60%
5. Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	56	15.864.767,99	103,70%	14.849.991,86	103,94%	7.990.450,81	101,07%	7.874.317,18	106,52%	6.859.541,05	107,49%	1.014.776,13	100,37%	22,77%	22,04%
5.1. Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	20	5.145.139,94	99,83%	4.469.439,49	104,43%	2.602.170,01	96,90%	2.542.969,93	103,01%	1.867.269,48	117,11%	675.700,45	77,31%	7,39%	7,18%
5.2. Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	21	9.211.614,38	108,18%	8.980.560,29	106,79%	4.623.743,32	105,74%	4.587.871,06	110,77%	4.356.816,97	107,93%	231.054,09	220,05%	13,22%	12,75%
5.3. Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	15	1.508.013,67	92,53%	1.399.992,08	87,62%	764.537,48	90,19%	743.476,19	95,06%	635.454,60	84,72%	108.021,59	337,57%	2,16%	2,11%
6. Special Support for Border Regions	5	2.208.537,07	133,71%	2.208.537,07	133,71%	768.495,46	93,05%	1.440.041,61	174,36%	1.440.041,61	174,36%	0,00		3,17%	2,12%
6.1. Special Support for Border Regions	5	2.208.537,07	133,71%	2.208.537,07	133,71%	768.495,46	93,05%	1.440.041,61	174,36%	1.440.041,61	174,36%	0,00		3,17%	2,12%
Technical Assistance	38	2.731.035,80	93,23%	2.731.035,80	93,23%	1.522.205,80	92,37%	1.208.830,00	94,34%	1.208.830,00	94,34%	0,00		3,92%	4,20%
Technical Assistance I	19	2.180.397,90	94,20%	2.180.397,90	94,20%	1.209.267,94	92,74%	971.129,96	96,09%	971.129,96	96,09%	0,00		3,13%	3,34%
Technical Assistance II	19	550.637,90	89,58%	550.637,90	89,58%	312.937,86	90,97%	237.700,04	87,82%	237.700,04	87,82%	0,00		0,79%	0,86%
TOTAL	340	69.661.512,54	101,29%	65.973.294,02	103,06%	36.258.092,98	95,28%	33.403.419,56	108,74%	29.715.201,04	114,47%	3.688.218,52	77,50%	100,00%	100,00%



Annex 2 Best practice examples on project level

Measure 1.1.

Standortkooperation der Wirtschaftsparks Weinviertel-Südmähren (STAKO) / Kooperace hospodářských parků Weinviertel – Jižní Morava

	
<p>Projektträger / Příjemce podpory: Weinviertel Management Hauptstr. 31 A-2225 Zistersdorf Therese Reinel</p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi: Městský úřad Břeclav (Stadtgemeinde) Dymo Piškula</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu: ecoplus. Niederösterreichs Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH</p> <p>Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu: www.euregio-weinviertel.org www.zukunft5.at</p>	<p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 210.000 € EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF: 105.000 € nationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování: ecoplus, Eigenmittel des Projektträgers</p>

Ergebnisse / Výsledky:

Um eine gemeinsame Strategie zur Standortentwicklung im nordöstlichen Weinviertel zu erstellen, haben sich die Gemeinden Drasenhofen, Großkrut, Poysdorf, Wilfersdorf, Hernbaumgarten, Mistelbach und Zistersdorf zur ARGE STAKO zusammengeschlossen. Folgende Schwerpunkte stehen im Mittelpunkt dieser Strategie:

- Überprüfung der Umsetzung eines interkommunalen Wirtschaftsparks
- gemeinsame Kooperations- und Vermarktungsstrategie
- Unterstützung der Ansiedlung von Unternehmen
- Erstellung eines Standortprofils auf Basis der regionalen Leitbetriebe
- Entwicklung von Netzwerken im Wirtschafts- und Dienstleistungsbereich, sowohl in der Region als auch grenzüberschreitend

ieses Projekt zur Entwicklung des Wirtschaftsraumes ist eng mit dem Ausbau der A5 Weinviertel Autobahn verbunden. Das gemeinsame Standortkooperations-Projekt koordiniert die Planung und Vermarktung der beiden Wirtschaftsparks und unterstützt damit die langfristige regionale Standortentwicklung des Weinviertels und Südmährens. In den nächsten Jahren sollen die wirtschaftlichen Entwicklungen im südmährischen Raum (Mikulov oder Poherelice) sowie in der Wirtschaftszone im Raum Malacky (Euro Valley) beobachtet werden, um die eigene Positionierung darauf abzustimmen.



Measure 1.2.

Technologietransfer - Zukunftsenergie-Cluster für Biomasse und Biogas im Raum Niederösterreich - Tschechien – Slowakei / Transfer technologii – energie budoucnosti - cluster pro biomasu a bioplyn v prostoru Dolní Rakousko - Česko - Slovensko



Projektträger / Příjemce podpory:
Österreichische Energieagentur
Mariahilferstraße 136, 1150 Wien
[Michael Sattler](#), [Andrea Jamek](#)

Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi:
Wirtschaftskammer Region Brno
[Daqmar Matejkova](#)

Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu:
Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich, Tschechische Agentur für Handelsförderung in Wien, KWI Consultants & Engineers AG, Ing. Friedrich Bauer GmbH, Bioenergy Group a.s.

Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu:
<http://www.energyagency.at/http://www.zukunft5.at/>

Realisierungszeitraum / Doba realizace projektu:
09/2005 – 12/2007

Abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 74.783 €
EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF: 37.392 €
nationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování: Bund, Land Niederösterreich, WK NÖ

Ergebnisse / Výsledky:

Niederösterreich, Südböhmen und Südmähren sowie die Westslowakei sind Regionen mit bedeutenden Waldflächen, in denen die Bioenergienutzung eine lange Tradition hat. Initiativen, um Biomasse und Biogas intensiver zu nutzen gibt es in Österreich und Tschechien zahlreich. Viele arbeiten jedoch isoliert voneinander. Deshalb wurde dieses Projekt ins Leben gerufen – mit dem Ziel, Planer, Anlagenhersteller, Betreiber, Dienstleistungsunternehmen und Interessensvertretungen aus Österreich, Tschechien und der Slowakei zu vernetzen und sie beim Austausch von Know-how zu unterstützen.

Ergebnisse dieses Projektes sind die Identifikation von potentiellen Ansprechpartnern für das Netzwerk (Cluster), eine Marktanalyse sowie die Überprüfung einer bestehenden Machbarkeitsstudie für die Fernwärmanlage in Devínska Nová Ves durch die Firma KWI.

In einer Marktanalyse wurde untersucht, ob es in der Region potenzielle Projekte zur Umsetzung gibt. Dabei wurden drei konkrete Projekte identifiziert: die Installation von Biomasseheizungen in öffentlichen Gebäuden des Gemeindeverbandes Hont (Slowakei), die Umrüstung der Fernwärmanlage im Stadtteil Devínska Nová Ves in Bratislava auf Biomasseverbrennung (Stroh) sowie kleinere Biomassenah- und Biomassefernwärmeprojekte in der Region Bratislava. Am 19. September 2007 fand die Abschlussveranstaltung zu diesem Projekt in der Industrie- und Handelskammer Brunn statt.

Measure 1.3.

Obnova areálu parního mlýna v Telči / Renovierung des Areals der Dampfmühle in Telč

	
<p>Příjemce podpory / Projekttržer: MILLenium, Regio Coeli, o.p.s. Bayerova 40, CZ-602 00 Brno Josef Svoboda</p> <p>Partner projektu v sousední zemi / Projektpartner im Nachbarland: Waldviertl Eisenbahnmuseum Sigmundsherberg Robert Öhlknecht</p> <p>Další partneři projektu / Weitere Projektpartner: Město Telč a Společnost Telčské místní dráhy</p> <p>Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu / Link zur Projektwebsite: www.sweb.cz</p>	
<p>Doba realizace projektu / Realisierungszeitraum: 6/2006 – 4/2007</p>	<p>Celkové účtované náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 224.064 € Podíl ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 168.048 € Národní zdroj spolufinancování / nationale Kofinanzierung: státní rozpočet, vlastní zdroje příjemce</p>

Výsledky / Ergebnisse:

Předmětem projektu byla rekonstrukce a nové využití památkově chráněného objektu v areálu parního mlýna v Telči. Bylo vytvořeno návštěvnícké centrum pro tuzemské a zahraniční návštěvníky, včetně doprovodných služeb. Z pohledu budoucího provozu objektu bylo důležité obnovení železniční tratě Kostelec – Telč – Slavonice/Fratres - Waidhofen an der Thaya a zároveň existence nové železniční zastávky v těsné blízkosti areálu parního mlýna. Město Telč je přirozeným středem české části této železnice. Areál má ideální polohu jak pro vytvoření zázemí uvedené železniční tratě, tak i pro rozvoj cestovního ruchu (vzhledem k výjimečnému kulturnímu potenciálu města).

Projekt „Obnova areálu parního mlýna v Telči“ lze v návaznosti na uvedenou železniční trať vnímat jako pilotní a modelový projekt v oblasti rozšíření služeb a v oblasti prohloubení přeshraniční spolupráce. Spolupráce se zahraničním partnerem probíhala jednak formou pravidelných vzájemných návštěv a konzultací a dále také formou pomoci při zajišťování oprav historických paměť strojů lokomotiv - např. České Velenice atd. Spolupráce s tuzemskými partnery spočívala v zajišťování propagačních jízd historických paměť vlaků z Telče na hranice s Rakouskem.



Measure 2.1.

Zlepšení přeshraniční infrastruktury v Jihomoravském kraji / Verbesserung der grenzübergreifenden Infrastruktur in Südböhmen



Příjemce podpory / Projektträger:
Správa a údržba silnic Jihomoravského kraje
příspěvková organizace kraje
Žerotínovo nám 3/5, CZ-601 82 Brno
[Jan Zouhar](#)

**Partner projektu v sousední zemi /
Projektpartner im Nachbarland:**
AMT der NÖ Landesregierung
Abteilung Landesstraßenbau
[Helmut Kirchner](#)

**Další partneři projektu / Weitere
Projektpartner:**
Obec Nový Přerov, Stálky, Šafov, Horní
Břečkov, Jaroslavice

**Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu / Link
zur Projektwebsite:**
www.susimk.cz



**Doba realizace projektu /
Realisierungszeitraum:**
9/2005 – 12/2006

Celkové účtované náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 591.246 €
Podíl ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 319.494 €
Národní zdroj spolufinancování / nationale Kofinanzierung: Státní rozpočet,
vlastní zdroje příjemce

Výsledky / Ergebnisse:

Hlavním cílem projektu bylo posílení přeshraniční spolupráce a kvality života mezi příhraničními regiony Jihomoravského kraje a Waldviertel a Weinviertel v česko-rakouském pohraničí prostřednictvím zlepšení přístupové infrastruktury k nově zřízeným místům na turistických stezkách mimo hraniční přechody.

Konkrétním cílem projektu byla rekonstrukce přístupových komunikací k pěti určeným místům na turistických stezkách na česko-rakouské hranici v Jihomoravském kraji. Jednalo se o následující lokality:

- Stálky - Heirichsreith
- Šafov - Langau
- Čížov - Hardegg
- Jaroslavice - Seefeld
- Nový Přerov - Alt Prerau

Součástí projektu byla rovněž rekonstrukce úseku silnice II/409 mezi obcemi Stálky a Šafov.

Projekt napomohl k naplnění Smlouvy mezi Českou republikou a Rakouskou republikou o překračování státních hranic na turistických stezkách a o překračování státních hranic ve zvláštních případech.



Measure 2.2.

CENTRAL - Central European Nodes for Transport and Logistics (AT-CZ)

	
<p>Projektträger / Příjemce podpory: Magistratsabteilung 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung, Rathausstraße 14-16, 1082 Wien <u>Andreas Rauter</u></p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi: Magistrat der Stadt Brunn, <u>Dana Wendscheova</u>: Tel.: +420 54217 5153</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu: Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie, ÖBB – Österreichische Bundesbahnen (Personenverkehr, Immobilien, Netz), Wiener Hafen GmbH, Regionalentwicklungsagentur Südmähren</p> <p>Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu: www.project-central.at</p>	
<p>Realisierungszeitraum / Doba realizace projektu: 07/2003 - 06/2008</p>	<p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 1.129.789,90 € EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF: 564.894,95 € nationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování: Land Wien</p>

Ergebnisse / Výsledky:

Die Zunahme der wirtschaftlichen Aktivitäten über Grenzen hinweg führt auch zu einer Zunahme des Verkehrsaufkommens. Um die negativen Auswirkungen des Verkehrswachstums gering zu halten, bedarf es einer Förderung der umweltverträglichen Verkehrsträger Schiene und Wasserstraße. Analysen haben deutlich gezeigt, dass es Engpässe im Bereich der Verkehrsinfrastruktur gibt. Gemeinsame Anstrengungen sind erforderlich, um die Qualität des Verkehrs in der Region zu verbessern. Dazu zählt der Neu- und Ausbau von Strecken ebenso wie die Verbesserung des Angebots und die Vernetzung der am Planungsprozess beteiligten Akteure.

Im Rahmen des trilateralen Schirmprojekts CENTRAL wurden gemeinsam mit den Nachbarn in Tschechien, der Slowakei und Ungarn diese Fragestellungen diskutiert. Darauf aufbauend wurden konkrete Planungen durchgeführt. Neben Planungen für den Ausbau der Bahnverbindungen zwischen den Städten Wien und Bratislava wurden auch Planungen für den Hauptbahnhof Wien im Rahmen des Projekts erstellt und Parallelen mit der Stadt Brno erörtert. Im Bereich des Güterverkehrs hat sich das Projekt mit dem Ausbau des Terminals im Hafen Freudenau beschäftigt, um so die Bedeutung der Wasserstraße Donau im grenzüberschreitenden Güterverkehr zu stärken.

Die grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit konzentrierte sich auf den Informationsaustausch und den Know-How Transfer. Zur Unterstützung dieser Tätigkeit wurden Veranstaltungen in Wien, Bratislava, Brno und Győr abgehalten. Die Präsentationen sind teilweise auf der Homepage www.project-central.at veröffentlicht.

- CENTRALer Impulsworkshop Wien – 22./23. November 2004
- Workshop CENTRAL Bratislava – 16. Juni 2005
- Arbeitssitzung CENTRAL Brno – 23. August 2005
- Internationaler Workshop Wien – 20. Februar 2006
- Workshop Kombiverkehrsentwicklung Győr – 29. Mai 2006
- CENTRAL Abschlussveranstaltung, Wien – 4. April 2008

Darüberhinaus nahmen Vertreter aus Tschechien, Slowakei und Ungarn bzw. der dort tätigen Organisationen (z.B. nationale Eisenbahnen) an Arbeitsitzungen teil, um Planungen mit den österreichischen Planungen abzustimmen. Insgesamt wurden im Projekt CENTRAL in allen drei Programmen 7.016.000 € abgerechnet, davon waren 3.508.000 € EFRE.

Measure 3.1.

Sprachkompetenzzentrum für die NÖ Grenzregionen / Jazykové kompetenční centrum pro dolnorakouské pohraničí





Projektträger / Příjemce podpory:
 NÖ Landesakademie
 Neue Herrengasse 17A
 3109 St. Pölten
[Mag. Alberich Klingner](#)
[Dr. Roswitha Straihammer](#)

Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi:
 Okresní hospodářská komora Brno – venkov
[Mgr. Ludmila Noličová](#)

Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu:
 Weinviertel Management

Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu:
www.sprachkompetenz.at <http://www.zukunft5.at>

Realisierungszeitraum / Doba realizace projektu:
 03/2006 – 09/2007

abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 300.000 €
EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF: 150.000 €
nationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování: Land NÖ

Ergebnisse / Výsledky:

Das Sprachkompetenzzentrum (SKZ) hat sich als Infodrehscheibe und Service-Stelle für Sprachdienstleistungen in den Grenzregionen etabliert. Es wurde eine eigene Dolmetschdatenbank eingerichtet und Sprachkurse für die Wirtschaft werden angeboten. Im schulischen Bereich ist das SKZ ebenfalls stark integriert. Neben dem Angebot von eigenen Sprachkursen für SchülerInnen, ist die Bereitstellung von geeignetem Lehr- und Lernmaterialien ein Hauptaufgabengebiet. Zur Förderung des spielerischen Erlernens der tschechischen und slowakischen Sprache im Kindergarten wurden eigene Lehrmaterialien entwickelt. Im Sommer werden für BHS SchülerInnen Praktikumsplätze in Tschechien und der Slowakei organisiert.

Für Freiwilligenorganisationen und Blaulichtorganisationen bietet das SKZ maßgeschneiderte Kurse und Lehrmaterialien an. Die NÖ Feuerwehr hat dieses Angebot bereits angenommen und es werden sehr erfolgreich fachspezifische Tschechisch-Sprachkurse durchgeführt.

Durch verschiedene Veranstaltungen des SKZ wie z.B. Workshops oder Podiumsdiskussionen über Themen wie z.B. grenzüberschreitenden Dialog oder Schulpartnerschaften wird nicht nur versucht Netzwerke zu knüpfen, sondern auch die Bedeutung der Nachbarsprache in das öffentliche Bewusstsein zu rücken. Der Projektpartner im Nachbarland hilft dabei, die notwendigen Kontakte herzustellen.

Im letzten Quartal 2007 wurden weitere nationale Mittel für die Durchführung verschiedener Sprachkurse für Schulen und KMUs zur Verfügung gestellt.

Measure 4.1.

MEANDER 1 - Gesundheitsförderungsprojekt für Angehörige von Kindern und Jugendlichen mit Beeinträchtigungen / Meandr 1 – Projekt podpory zdraví pro rodinné příslušníky dětí a mládeže s postižením




Projekträger / Příjemce podpory:
Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen
St. Isidor 20, A-4060 Leonding
[Elisabeth Kuhn](#)

Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi:
Kinderzentrum Arpida, Budweis
[Jiri Jankovsky](#)

Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu:
Stadtpfarramt Freistadt

Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu:
www.caritas-linz.at

Realisierungszeitraum / Doba realizace projektu:
5/2004 – 12/2006

abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 159.144,35 €
EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF 59.662,30 €
nationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování:
 OÖ Krankenanstaltenfonds, Eigenmittel des Projekträgers



Ergebnisse / Výsledky:

Im Jänner 2003 startete die Caritas für Menschen mit Behinderungen in St. Isidor, Leonding, das Gesundheitsförderungsprojekt Meander mit psychologischen Angeboten für Angehörige von Kindern und Jugendlichen mit Behinderungen. Ziel dieser Angebote ist vor allem die Erhaltung und Förderung der seelischen Gesundheit von Familien mit Kindern mit besonderen Bedürfnissen, deren Unterstützung und Beratung in schwierigen Lebenssituationen sowie präventive psychologische Begleitung der Familien zur Verhinderung von Krisensituationen wie Burnout bzw. psychische Erschöpfung der Eltern. Aus einer im Jahr 2004 begonnenen Kooperation mit der Behinderteneinrichtung Arpida in Budweis entstand schließlich das grenzüberschreitende, partnerschaftliche Projekt Meander 1. Schwerpunkte dieses Projektes waren u.a. der Aufbau einer Außenstelle in Freistadt, um auch den Grenzbereich zur Tschechischen Republik sowie den Großraum Mühlviertel zu versorgen, die grenzüberschreitende Kooperation, ExpertInnenaustausch und Ferienaufenthalte von österreichischen Familien mit Kindern mit Beeinträchtigungen im Kinderzentrum Arpida und von tschechischen Familien in St. Isidor.



Measure 4.2.

Kvalifikace a pracovní uplatnění mladých lidí s postižením v České republice a Rakousku – Chráněná dílna U svaté Kateřiny / Ausbildung und Arbeitschance für behinderte Jugendliche in der Tschechischen Republik und in Österreich – Geschützte Werkstatt Heilige Katharina

	
<p>Příjemce podpory / Projektträger: Domov sv. Anežky, o.p.s.</p> <p>Partner projektu v sousední zemi / Projektpartner im Nachbarland: Zuversicht - Verein zur Unterstützung von Menschen mit besonderen Bedürfnissen</p> <p>Další partneři projektu / Weitere Projektpartner: Dětské centrum Arpida, Týn nad Vltavou, Zdravotně sociální fakulta Jihočeské univerzity</p> <p>Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu / Link zur Projektwebsite: www.anezka-tyn.cz</p>	<p>Celkové účtované náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 118 093 €</p> <p>Podíl ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 88 570 €</p> <p>Národní zdroj spolufinancování / nationale Kofinanzierung: státní rozpočet, vlastní zdroje příjemce</p>
<p>Doba realizace projektu / Realisierungszeitraum: 10/2005 - 09/2007</p>	

Výsledky / Ergebnisse:

Projekt byl zaměřen na řešení pracovní rehabilitace a pracovní uplatnění osob s mentálním postižením, získávání kvalifikace pro toto uplatnění, přípravu pro pracovní uplatnění a jejich přímé zaměstnání prostřednictvím chráněné dílny.

Aktivitty projektu spočívaly v realizaci pobytových stáží, seminářů, vytvoření komplexní metodiky pro vznik chráněné dílny v ČR a Rakousku, výuka českého a německého jazyka, vybudování nové chráněné dílny, atd.



Measure 5.1.

Windenergie im Sternwald / Větrná energie ve Sternwaldu

Projektträger / Příjemce podpory:
 Marktgemeinde Vorderweißenbach
 Hauptstraße 7, A-4191 Vorderweißenbach
[Bruno Fröhlich](mailto:bruno.froehlich@sternwind.at)

Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi:
 Městský úřad Břeclav (Stadtgemeinde)
 Dymo Piškula

Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu:
 Sternwind Errichtungs- und Betriebs-GmbH,
 Verein Energiewerkstatt, Verein Calla

Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu:
www.sternwind.at

Realisierungszeitraum / Doba realizace projektu:
 07/2002 – 12/2003

abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 183.760 €
EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF: 91.880 €
ationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování: Land OÖ

Ergebnisse / Výsledky:




Die konkrete Problemstellung für den Projektantrag war die Errichtung eines Windparks im Gebiet des Sternwaldes in unmittelbarer Nähe zur tschechisch-österreichischen Grenze. Der Standort bot die Möglichkeit zur Errichtung von 7 Windkraftanlagen auf österreichischer Seite und 2 Windkraftanlagen in Tschechien. Aufgrund des komplexen und bewaldeten Geländes musste mit schwierigen technischen Voraussetzungen gerechnet werden.

Da sich der geplante Windpark im Grenzgebiet zwischen Oberösterreich und Südböhmen befindet, bot sich bei der Realisierung eine grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit der betroffenen Gemeinden an. Es wurden Treffen zwischen den Gemeindevertretungen von Loucovice und Vorderweißenbach organisiert und Informationsveranstaltungen für die Einwohner beider Gemeinden durchgeführt. Der Bevölkerung wurde über die Gründung der Sternwind Errichtungs- und Betriebs-GmbH die Möglichkeit zur Beteiligung am Betrieb des Windparks geboten.

Als Grundlage für die Berechnung der Energieerträge wurde eine Windmessung in 65 m Höhe mit beheizbaren Anemometern und eine SODAR-Messung durchgeführt. Die Energieerträge wurden über eine Windfeldsimulation berechnet und auf der etwa 3 km entfernten Sternsteinwarte wurde eine Vereisungsmessung durchgeführt. Ein weiterer Projektschritt war die Durchführung der Entwurfs- und Bewilligungsplanung für den Windpark. Unter www.sternwind.at wurde während der Planungs- und Bauphase eine Internet-Präsenz des Projektes eingerichtet.



Measure 5.3.
**Kooperativní rozvoj lokalit v příhraničí – Jihočeský kraj /Dolní Rakousko /
 Kooperative Standortentwicklung im Grenz(t)raum – Region Südböhmen /
 Unterösterreich**

	
<p>Příjemce podpory / Projektträger: Jihočeská hospodářská komora Husova 9, CZ-370 01 České Budějovice Jaroslav Hodina</p> <p>Partner projektu v sousední zemi / Projektpartner im Nachbarland: Verein Interkomm Ricky Heimpel</p> <p>Další partneři projektu / Weitere Projektpartner: Verein Koob - Kooperation und Bildung, Třeboňská rozvojová o.p.s., NÖ Grenzlandförderungsgesellschaft m.b.H., ECOPlus GmbH, Regionalmanagement NÖ, Centropa Group s.r.o.</p> <p>Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu / Link zur Projektwebsite: www.jhk.cz</p>	
<p>Doba realizace projektu / Realisierungszeitraum: 10/2005 – 06/2007</p>	<p>Celkové účtované náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 45.489 € Podíl ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 34.116 € Národní zdroj spolufinancování / nationale Kofinanzierung: státní rozpočet, vlastní zdroje příjemce</p>

Cílem projektu bylo analyzovat a definovat lokality na hlavních rozvojových osách (Vídeň - České Budějovice, St. Pölten - Jihlava), připravit marketingovou strategii a definovat prostředky pro zapojení veřejnosti. Pilotními aktivitami byla propagace ploch v lokalitách prostřednictvím vhodných tabulí a označení.


Výstupem projektu jsou katalogové listy informující o rozvojových zónách a investičních příležitostech ve vybraných lokalitách, např. České Velenice, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Frymburk, Kaplice, Nová Bystřice, Nové Hradky, Planá u Českých Budějovic, Přední Výtka, Třeboň.

V rámci projektu probíhala s rakouskými partnery jednání o postupu při realizaci projektu, o jeho výstupech, rozsahu prezentačních materiálů, workshopy jak na české, tak i rakouské straně.

společný projekt: Grenz(t)raum – Kooperative Standortentwicklung im NÖ – Tschechischen Grenzraum / Kooperativní rozvoj lokalit v příhraničí – Jihočeský kraj /Dolní Rakousko

Measure 5.3.

Kommunales Geodaten- und Informationssystem – Exemplarische Umsetzung eines umfassenden Kommunalen Informationssystems / Komunální geodeta a informační systém - Exemplární přeměna komplexního informačního komunálního systému




Projektträger / Příjemce podpory:
Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abt.
Vermessung und Geoinformation
Landhausplatz 1, A-3109 St. Pölten
[Michael Pregeßbauer](#)

Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Partner projektu v sousední zemi:
Stadt Nova Bystrice, [Jiri Zimola](#)

Weitere Projektpartner / Další partneři projektu:
Stadtgemeinde Heidenreichstein, Fa. grafotech
Beratungs- u. Planungsgesellschaft m.b.H., Fa.
Geometra Opava, spol.sr.o.

Link zur Projektwebsite / Odkaz na internetové stránky projektu:
www.grafotech.at

Realisierungszeitraum / Doba realizace projektu:
4/2006 - 12/2007



abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové účtované náklady: 244.671,00 €
EFRE-Anteil / Podíl ERDF: 122.244 €
nationale Kofinanzierung / Národní zdroj spolufinancování: Land NÖ,
Gemeinden in NÖ

Ein wesentlicher Schwerpunkt des Projektes war die Erfassung von Geodaten als Grundlage für ein umfassendes Kommunales Informationssystem (KIS). Die Erfassung des Projektgebiets mittels „airborne Laserscanning“ lieferte eine exzellente Grundlage für die Behandlung vieler regionaler Fragestellungen im Bereich der Landschaftsplanung und -nutzung sowie der touristischen Standortentwicklung. Das Ergebnis der Laserscanning ist ein hoch aufgelöstes, digitales Geländemodell. Ergänzend zu der Geländeinformation wurden für das Gemeindegebiet von Heidenreichstein hochauflösende Farbbathymetriefotos erstellt. Das in der Tschechischen Republik von der Stadt Nova Bystrice initiierte Spiegelprojekt lieferte vergleichbare Geodaten.

Aus dem Gesamtgeodatenbestand des grenzüberschreitenden Projektgebiets wurde ein dreidimensionales Stadt- und Landschaftsmodell mit integrierten Points of Interest (Kulturstätten, Gastronomie, Hotellerie etc.) als Tourismusinformationssystem entwickelt. Dieses ist via Infoterminal in Heidenreichstein und Nova Bystrice zu besuchen. Die ambitionierten Ziele konnten nur aufgrund der ausgezeichneten nationalen sowie grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit aller Projektpartner erreicht werden.



Annex 3

Total expenditure broken down by fields of intervention at measure level

(according to closure guidelines Annex 1, 5c)

data set 1.1.2000 - 31.12.2008 cumulative

in EURO

	1	2	3=2/1	4	5	6
Priority / Measure	Total allocation 1)	total eligible actually paid and certified expenditure 2)	% of eligible cost3)	other	field of intervention	field of intervention (in %) 4)
I. Programme: Priorities (P) / Measures (M)						
P1: Cross-border Economic Co-operation	20.263.204	20.802.686	102,66			
M 1.1: Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	5.063.845	5.392.679	106,49			
					161	1,07
					162	0,00
					163	2,23
					164	4,45
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	0,00
					182	0,00
					183	0,00
M 1.2: Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	5.710.959	5.552.544	97,23			
					113	0,00
					128	0,00
					1305	0,07
					1307	0,72
					161	0,00
					162	0,11
					163	5,61
					164	1,37
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	0,00
					182	0,10
					184	0,00
M 1.3: Tourism and Leisure	9.488.400	9.857.463	103,89			
					1310	0,35
					171	6,26
					172	1,87
					173	5,67
					174	0,00
P 2: Accessibility	8.229.637	8.301.971	100,88			
M 2.1: Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	3.990.516	4.315.030	108,13			
					311	0,00
					312	4,51
					3121	0,00
					3122	0,96
					3123	0,73
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	0,00
					322	0,00
					323	0,00
					324	0,00



M 2.2: Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	4.239.121	3.986.941	94,05			
					311	1,22
					312	0,77
					3121	0,00
					3122	1,80
					3123	0,00
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,29
					317	0,00
					318	1,62
					319	0,00
					322	0,02
					323	0,00
					324	0,00
P 3: Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	9.904.489	10.425.624	105,26			
M 3.1: Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	6.498.579	6.736.807	103,67			
					164	9,67
M 3.2: Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	3.405.910	3.688.818	108,31			
					164	5,30
P 4: Human Resources	10.494.489	9.326.890	88,87			
M 4.1: Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	2.343.152	2.118.090	90,39			
					21	2,37
					22	0,00
					24	0,44
					36	0,23
M 4.2: Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	8.151.337	7.208.800	88,44			
					181	3,96
					23	3,43
					24	0,00
					32	0,00
					323	0,78
					324	2,18
P 5: Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	15.298.378	15.864.768	103,70			
M 5.1: Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	5.153.850	5.145.140	99,83			
					125	0,03
					126	0,00
					127	0,18
					1301	0,00
					1308	1,67
					1312	0,17
					1313	0,00
					151	0,00
					152	0,00
					162	1,78
					163	0,05
					332	0,97
					333	0,97
					341	0,00
					342	0,00
					343	0,47
					344	0,00
					345	0,00
					353	1,10
M 5.2: Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	8.514.744	9.211.614	108,18			
					125	0,00
					126	0,00
					127	0,00
					1301	0,00
					1308	0,00
					1312	0,67
					1313	0,00
					353	12,55



M 5.3: Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	1.629.784	1.508.014	92,53			
					1306	0,31
					164	1,13
					351	0,00
					352	0,28
					353	0,16
					354	0,28
P 6: Special Support for Border Regions	1.651.794	2.208.537	133,71			
M 6.1: Special Support for Border Regions	1.651.794	2.208.537	133,71			
					162	0,00
					163	0,10
					164	1,63
					165	0,00
					167	0,14
					171	0,00
					173	0,00
					22	0,32
					23	0,00
					311	0,00
					3121	0,00
					3122	0,99
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	0,00
P 7: Technical Assistance	2.929.334	2.731.036	93,23			
M 7.1: Technical Assistance I	2.314.667	2.180.398	94,20			
					411	3,13
M 7.2: Technical Assistance II	614.667	550.638	89,58			
					412	0,22
					413	0,19
					414	0,01
					415	0,38
Total INTERREG III A	68.771.325	69.661.513	101,29			100,00

1) plan (total per measure) according to PC

2) eligible certified EFRE/ESF/EAGFL co-financed projectcost (= actually paid expenditure)

3) relation of actually paid expenditure and plan figures according to PC

4) data refer to the total actually paid, eligible and certified expenditure



Annex 4 List of projects implemented within Priority Technical Assistance

CMS Report: Implementation Progress - Individual Projects (for a Certain Measure)

M 7.1: Technical assistance in general

figures in EURO

<i>project code:</i>	<i>project owner: project title:</i>	<i>status</i>	<i>approved ERDF- cofinanced project costs:</i>	<i>approved project financings: public funds totals</i>	<i>ERDF</i>	<i>national</i>	<i>verified ERDF- cofinanced project costs:</i>	<i>expenditure: public funds totals</i>	<i>ERDF</i>	<i>national</i>
4TAAA_0001	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1	4	27.491,00	27.491,00	13.745,50	13.745,50	27.491,00	27.491,00	13.745,50	13.745,50
4TAAA_0002	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1	4	51.639,12	51.639,12	25.819,56	25.819,56	51.639,12	51.639,12	25.819,56	25.819,56
4TAAA_0003	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1	4	2.524,19	2.524,19	1.262,09	1.262,10	2.524,19	2.524,19	1.262,09	1.262,10
4TAAA_0004	Weinviertel Management Gender Factor - Lehrgang f. INTERREG-AkteurInnen	4	75.000,00	75.000,00	37.500,00	37.500,00	75.000,00	75.000,00	37.500,00	37.500,00
4TAAA_0005	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1	4	31.033,73	31.033,73	15.516,86	15.516,87	31.033,73	31.033,73	15.516,86	15.516,87
4TAAA_0006	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1 NÖ - CZ 2006 - 2008	4	298.509,96	298.509,96	148.394,87	150.115,09	298.509,96	298.509,96	148.394,87	150.115,09
4TABA_0002	Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Koordinationsstelle für Aktivitäten für Ausschuss-Sitzungen von BA, LA etc	4	2.187,18	2.187,18	1.093,59	1.093,59	2.187,18	2.187,18	1.093,59	1.093,59
4TACA_0001	Stadt Wien - MA 27 EU-Strategie und Aktivitäten für Ausschuss-Sitzungen	4	5.356,86	5.356,86	2.678,43	2.678,43	5.356,86	5.356,86	2.678,43	2.678,43
4TACA_0002	Stadt Wien - MA 27- EU-Strategie und Unterstützende Tätigkeit 1st level control (CZ)	4	48.740,26	48.740,26	24.370,12	24.370,14	48.740,26	48.740,26	24.370,12	24.370,14
4TACA_0003	Stadt Wien - MA 27 - EU Strategie und Externe unterstützende Tätigkeit FLC AT-CZ	4	25.605,00	25.605,00	12.802,50	12.802,50	25.605,00	25.605,00	12.802,50	12.802,50
4TADA_0001	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 EFRE-Zahlstelle und Monitoring	4	181.092,39	181.092,39	90.546,19	90.546,20	181.092,39	181.092,39	90.546,19	90.546,20



4TADA_0002	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Gemeinsames Technisches Sekretariat	4	951.501,13	951.501,13	475.750,54	475.750,59	951.501,13	951.501,13	475.750,54	475.750,59
4TAEA_0001	Centrum pro regionální rozvoj ČR JTS / 2004	4	143.102,22	143.102,22	107.326,67	35.775,55	7.575,32	7.575,32	5.681,49	1.893,83
4TAEA_0002	Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj Řízení a hodnocení podpory ČR-Rakousko	4	100.617,80	100.617,80	75.463,35	25.154,45	42.198,78	42.198,78	31.649,08	10.549,70
4TAEA_0003	Centrum pro regionální rozvoj ČR Kontrolní činnosti CRR ČR, I3A ČR - Rakousko	4	216.847,23	216.847,23	162.635,40	54.211,83	195.921,62	195.921,62	146.941,19	48.980,43
4TAEA_0004	Centrum pro regionální rozvoj ČR JTS 2. část	4	274.037,66	274.037,66	205.528,52	68.509,14	116.990,30	116.990,30	87.742,72	29.247,58
4TAEA_0005	Jihomoravský kraj Administrace INTERREG 3A a příprava programu Cíl	4	62.805,84	62.805,84	47.104,38	15.701,46	45.173,78	45.173,78	33.880,30	11.293,48
4TAEA_0006	Jihočeský kraj Technická pomoc v Jihočeském kraji	4	48.926,85	48.926,85	36.695,13	12.231,72	47.630,69	47.630,69	35.723,00	11.907,69
4TAEA_0007	Vysočina INTERREG IIIA CZ-AT v kraji Vysočina	4	35.281,09	35.281,09	26.460,81	8.820,28	24.226,59	24.226,59	18.169,91	6.056,68
totals M 7.1: Technical assistance in general			2.582.299,51	2.582.299,51	1.510.694,51	1.071.605,00	2.180.397,90	2.180.397,90	1.209.267,94	971.129,96



CMS Report: Implementation Progress - Individual Projects (for a Certain Measure)

M 7.2: Technical assistance, further measures

figures in EURO

project code:	project owner: project title:	approved ERDF- cofinanced project		approved project financings: public funds			verified ERDF- cofinanced project		expenditure: public funds	
		status	costs:	totals	ERDF	national	costs:	totals	ERDF	national
4TBAA_0001	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Öffentlichkeitsarbeit	4	38.330,25	38.330,25	19.165,12	19.165,13	38.330,25	38.330,25	19.165,12	19.165,13
4TBAA_0002	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Öffentlichkeitsarbeit - CZ	4	12.081,55	12.081,55	6.040,77	6.040,78	12.081,55	12.081,55	6.040,77	6.040,78
4TBAA_0003	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Öffentlichkeitsarbeit Österreich-Tschechien 2005	4	13.130,46	13.130,46	6.565,23	6.565,23	13.130,46	13.130,46	6.565,23	6.565,23
4TBAA_0004	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 2 NÖ - CZ 2006 - 2008	4	74.410,89	74.410,89	37.205,44	37.205,45	74.410,89	74.410,89	37.205,44	37.205,45
4TBBA_0002	Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Koordinationsstelle für Kosten für Schulungen der RK OÖ	4	4.239,46	4.239,46	2.119,73	2.119,73	4.239,46	4.239,46	2.119,73	2.119,73
4TBBA_0003	Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Koordinationsstelle für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit OÖ 2002 - 2003	4	7.996,52	7.996,52	3.998,26	3.998,26	7.996,52	7.996,52	3.998,26	3.998,26
4TBDA_0001	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Öffentlichkeitsarbeit der Verwaltungsbehörde	4	90.860,61	90.860,61	45.430,30	45.430,31	90.860,61	90.860,61	45.430,30	45.430,31
4TBDA_0002	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Evaluierung des Programmes	4	70.392,13	70.392,13	35.196,06	35.196,07	70.392,13	70.392,13	35.196,06	35.196,07
4TBDA_0003	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 SUP Ziel 3 AT-CZ	4	29.800,00	29.800,00	14.900,00	14.900,00	29.800,00	29.800,00	14.900,00	14.900,00
4TBDA_0004	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Vorbereitung OP Ziel 3 AT-CZ	4	35.520,00	35.520,00	17.760,00	17.760,00	35.520,00	35.520,00	17.760,00	17.760,00
4TBDA_0005	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Vorbereitung Musterformulare Ziel ETZ AT-CZ	4	23.400,00	23.400,00	11.700,00	11.700,00	23.400,00	23.400,00	11.700,00	11.700,00



4TBEA_0001	Jihomoravský kraj Publicita pro INTERREG III A ČR-Rakousko JMK	4	6.939,45	6.939,45	5.204,59	1.734,86	3.645,29	3.645,29	2.733,94	911,35
4TBEA_0002	Vysočina, kraj Informační kampaň pro INTERREG IIIA ČR - Rakousko	4	6.875,45	6.875,45	5.156,59	1.718,86	6.874,66	6.874,66	5.155,98	1.718,68
4TBEA_0003	Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj INTERREG IIIA – informační a propagační opatření	4	9.302,81	9.302,81	6.977,10	2.325,71	8.851,05	8.851,05	6.638,28	2.212,77
4TBEA_0004	Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR INTERREG IIIA – školení IS MONIT	4	5.664,38	5.664,38	4.248,29	1.416,09	1.768,05	1.768,05	1.326,04	442,01
4TBEA_0005	Centrum pro regionální rozvoj ČR KAP JTS ČR-Rakousko	4	26.983,02	26.983,02	20.237,25	6.745,77	6.659,99	6.659,99	4.994,98	1.665,01
4TBEA_0006	Centrum pro regionální rozvoj ČR TA – MONIT, ČR-Rakousko	4	81.720,56	81.720,56	61.290,41	20.430,15	81.720,56	81.720,56	61.290,41	20.430,15
4TBEA_0007	Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj Ex-ante hodnocení	4	26.753,01	26.753,01	20.064,76	6.688,25	26.741,57	26.741,57	20.056,18	6.685,39
4TBEA_0008	Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj Zpracování dokumentace programu	4	15.141,67	15.141,67	11.356,25	3.785,42	14.214,86	14.214,86	10.661,14	3.553,72
totals M 7.2: Technical assistance, further measures			579.542,22	579.542,22	334.616,15	244.926,07	550.637,90	550.637,90	312.937,86	237.700,04



Annex 5

Total expenditure broken down by fields of intervention at measure level
data set 1.1.2008 - 31.12.2008

in EURO

	1	2	3=2/1	4	5	6
Priority / Measure	Total allocation 1)	total eligible actually paid and certified expenditure 2)	% of eligible cost3)	other	field of intervention	field of intervention (in % 4)
I. Programme: Priorities (P) / Measures (M)						
P1: Cross-border Economic Co-operation	20.263.204	6.085.528	30,03			
M 1.1: Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	5.063.845	1.873.834	37,00			
					161	616,89
					162	0,00
					163	0,00
					164	46,54
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	0,00
					182	0,00
					183	0,00
M 1.2: Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	5.710.959	1.408.717	24,67			
					113	0,00
					128	0,00
					1305	0,00
					1307	0,00
					161	0,00
					162	12,28
					163	201,65
					164	8,06
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	0,00
					182	0,00
					184	0,00
M 1.3: Tourism and Leisure	9.488.400	2.802.978	29,54			
					1310	0,00
					171	23,78
					172	66,43
					173	70,55
					174	0,00
P 2: Accessibility	8.229.637	538.078	6,54			
M 2.1: Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	3.990.516	237.868	5,96			
					311	0,00
					312	0,00
					3121	0,00
					3122	0,00
					3123	0,00
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	0,00
					322	0,00
					323	0,00
					324	0,00



M 2.2: Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	4.239.121	300.210	7,08			
					311	10,00
					312	0,00
					3121	0,00
					3122	0,00
					3123	0,00
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	0,00
					322	0,00
					323	0,00
					324	0,00
P 3: Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	9.904.489	2.610.534	26,36			
M 3.1: Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	6.498.579	1.611.982	24,81			
					164	24,81
M 3.2: Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	3.405.910	998.551	29,32			
					164	29,32
P 4: Human Resources	10.494.489	1.893.929	18,05			
M 4.1: Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	2.343.152	605.362	25,84			
					21	61,81
					22	0,00
					24	13,01
					36	0,00
M 4.2: Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	8.151.337	1.288.567	15,81			
					181	41,87
					23	30,45
					24	0,00
					32	0,00
					323	27,26
					324	0,00
P 5: Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	15.298.378	4.370.798	28,57			
M 5.1: Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	5.153.850	648.419	12,58			
					125	0,00
					126	0,00
					127	0,00
					1301	0,00
					1308	0,00
					1312	0,00
					1313	0,00
					151	0,00
					152	0,00
					162	141,60
					163	11,32
					332	18,43
					333	19,54
					341	0,00
					342	0,00
					343	0,00
					344	0,00
					345	0,00
					353	0,00
M 5.2: Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	8.514.744	3.457.635	40,61			
					125	0,00
					126	0,00
					127	0,00
					1301	0,00
					1308	0,00
					1312	0,00
					1313	0,00
					353	61,60



M 5.3: Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	1.629.784	264.744	16,24			
					1306	0,00
					164	140,93
					351	0,00
					352	0,00
					353	0,00
					354	0,00
P 6: Special Support for Border Regions	1.651.794	0	0,00			
M 6.1: Special Support for Border Regions	1.651.794	0	0,00			
					162	0,00
					163	0,00
					164	0,00
					165	0,00
					167	0,00
					171	0,00
					173	0,00
					22	0,00
					23	0,00
					311	0,00
					3121	0,00
					3122	0,00
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	0,00
P 7: Technical Assistance	2.929.334	820.532	28,01			
M 7.1: Technical Assistance I	2.314.667	727.414	31,43			
					411	31,43
M 7.2: Technical Assistance II	614.667	93.118	15,15			
					412	20,65
					413	1,55
					414	0,00
					415	17,60
Total INTERREG III A	68.771.325	16.319.398	23,73			

1) plan (total per measure) according to PC

2) eligible certified EFRE/ESF/EAGFL co-financed projectcost (= actually paid expenditure)

3) relation of actually paid expenditure and plan figures according to PC

4) data refer to the indicative figures of the respective field of intervention per measure according to PC



Annex 6 Results of the Seminar 2008 CBC SO FAR –“food for thought”

CBC SO FAR

Food for Thoughts

Food for Thoughts | CBC SO FAR - 16 October 2008

The main purpose of this seminar was to exchange experience made in CBC projects in the programme period 2000-06 and to discuss how future programme partners can best build on this knowledge base. The following guidelines and inputs as results of the seminar should help implementing good programmes and projects.

1. POLITICAL STATEMENTS

In their inputs the political level highlighted the following items:

Hans Niessl, Governor of Burgenland

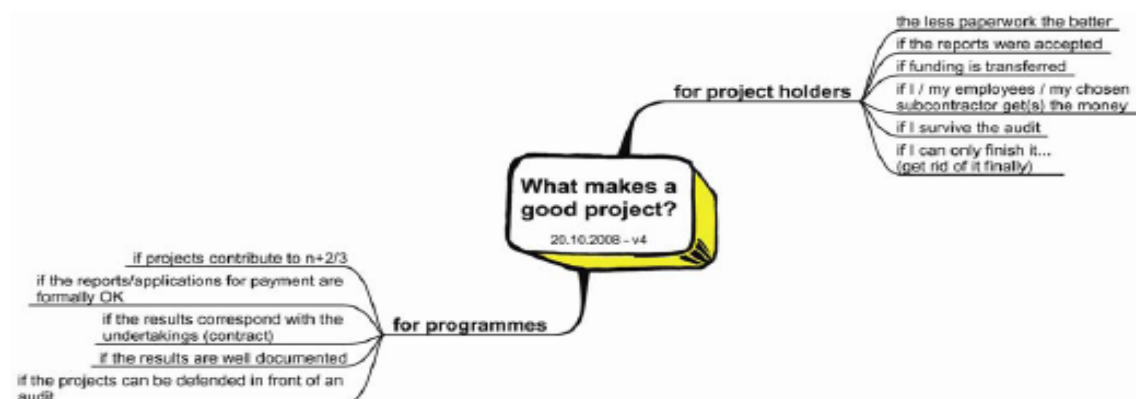
- Cross-border cooperation has long tradition in Burgenland. Cooperation takes place with Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia. It is the basis for regional development in Burgenland
- Topics of particular importance are renewable energies (keyword: climate change), transport, nature parks and institutional co-operations for instance between trade unions, fire brigades, schools and kindergardens.
- The lead partner principle will enhance the quality of cross-border cooperation. However, it will also be a challenge in future.

Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Regional Policy

- The implementation of the principle of free movement of goods, knowledge and people can be a challenge. Cross-border cooperation is faced with gaps and bottlenecks which have to be overcome.
- To overcome these difficulties project partners need good transport link across borders, a high commitment to CBC and enthusiasm for their projects.
- The role of CBC in EU integration is getting more important. There is a need to find new partners in strong partnerships and to facilitate cooperation under different administrative conditions, for instance in European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation.

2. WHAT MAKES A GOOD PROJECT?

A variety of approaches to define a good project is possible depending on the concerned player:



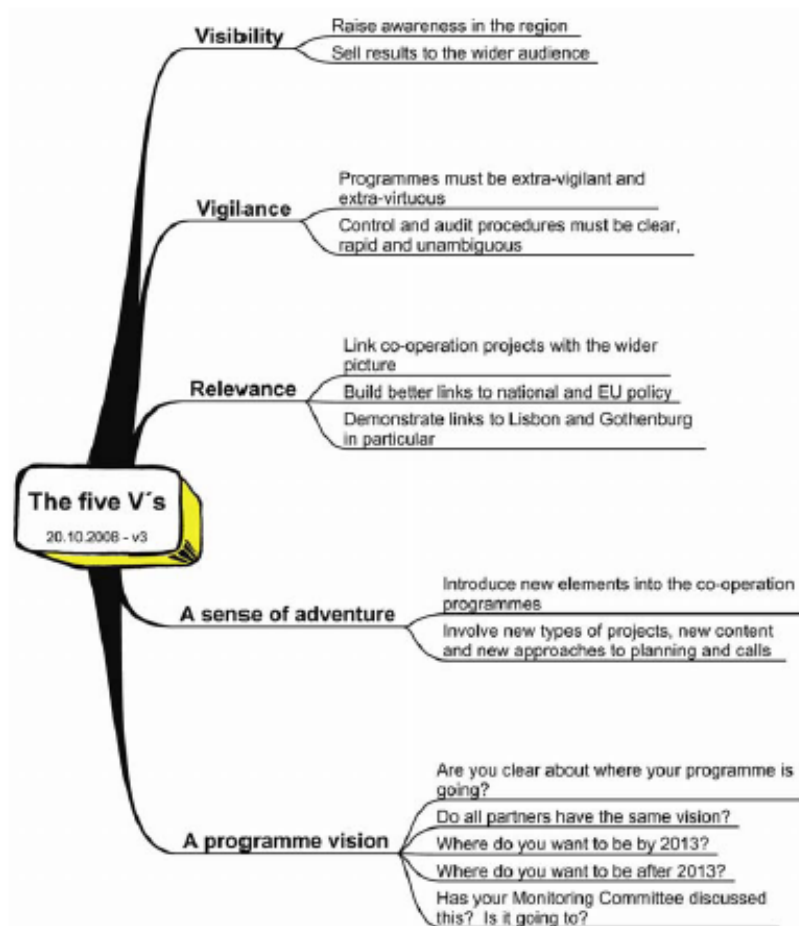
→ Keep in mind that the point of view is different for project holders and programmes!

Good projects are usually determined by some or most of the following characteristics:

- Long history of co-operation
- Physical cross border contact (e.g. national and nature parks, joint sewage treatment, etc.)
- Joint/parallel implementation
- Professional support by experienced consultants
- High level of enthusiasm
- Reflection of the needs of all partners involved
- Strong wish for implementing CBC projects at all levels (people, administrative and political level)

3. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPLEMENT GOOD PROJECTS?

- Draft and implement real CBC projects based on the Lead Partner Principle with high sustainability and an innovative character
- Know and respect what others expect of the programme/projects (project holders/programme bodies/two sides of the border/European Commission)
- Clarify misunderstandings, eliminate bad practices and learn from the more experienced ones
- Make joint efforts for efficient implementation e.g. get national authorities involved to CBC-projects and bring together the real stakeholders
- Obey rules, but find a good balance between formalities and flexibility
- Think strategically and focus on the content, not only on financial matters
- Demonstrating effectiveness on a European level is to the direct benefit of all cooperation programmes and actors. This process involves the establishment and maintenance of a common Knowledge Base, which is presently one of the most important steps towards the initiation and running of good future projects. So keep the database established by INTERACT up to date (<http://www.interact-eu.net>)!
- Projects should improve their presentation skills and provide results. A given format with clear requirements by the programme could help projects to provide information.
- Enthusiasm is important for good programme and project work, but sometimes political enthusiasm and support are lacking.
- Be realistic and do not set too many objectives
- Have visions for the institutional level (not focusing on single persons)
- A balanced partnership is needed with strong willingness, clearly defined objectives and targets and good financing.
- Consult collected information and experiences provided by INTERACT (<http://www.interact-eu.net>) e.g. concerning the application package, programme management etc.
- For the decision making:
 - More consultation beforehand for mutual understanding
 - Forget „my project” - „your project” approach
 - Projects with high strategic relevance
 - Transparent project selection, high level documentation
- Keep in mind the five V's!



4. HOW TO SELL GOOD PROJECTS?

It is crucial to make the results of CBC projects visible. The press is therefore an important player for spreading the results. Building up cross-border media structures could help to sell more success stories.

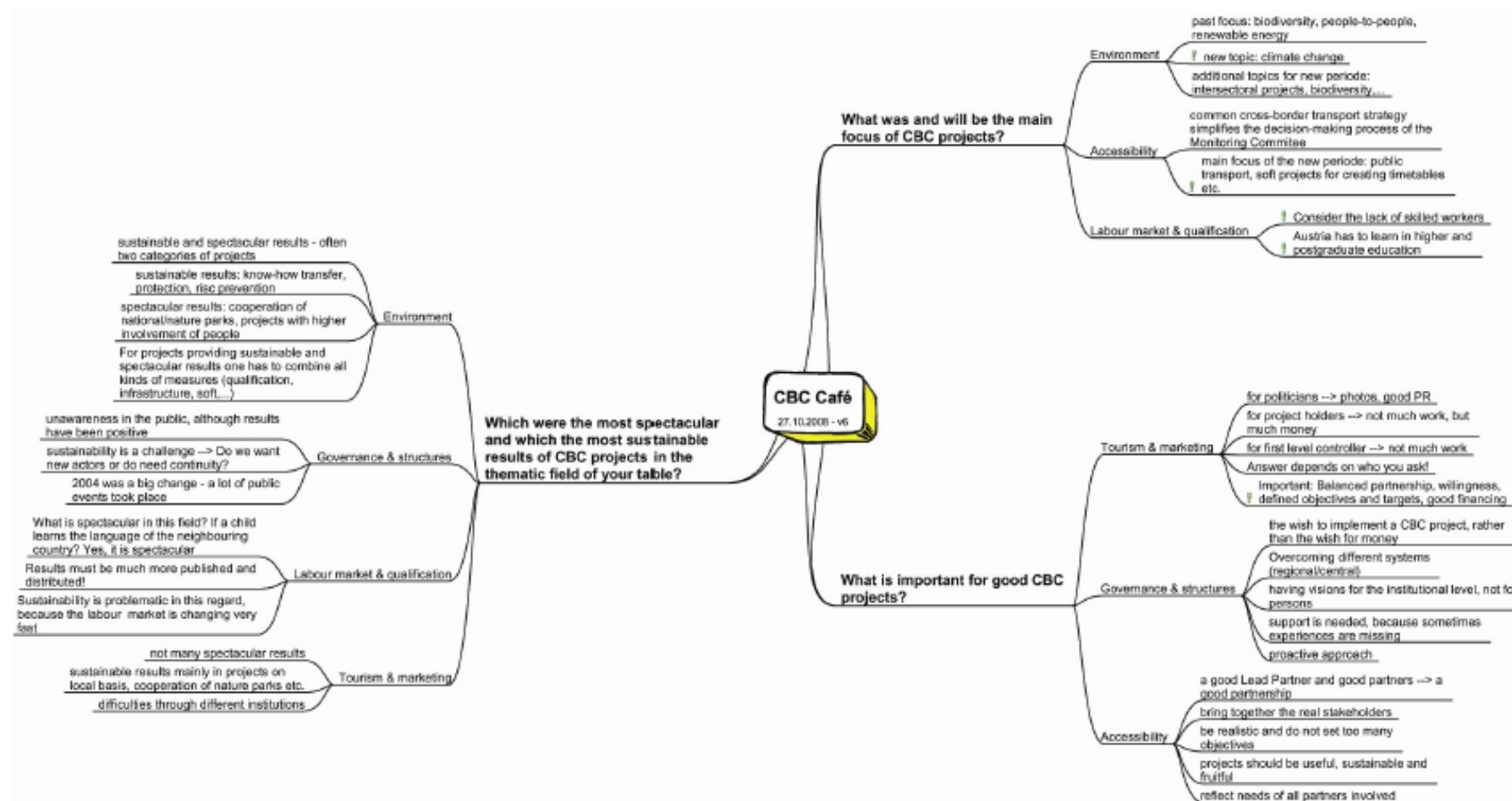
What should you do?

- Systematic communication with specialised journalists
- Mention loud and again that a project was funded by the EU because financial information is not very interesting for journalists
- Many story-proposals lead to a few stories → try again and be insistent
- Long-term cooperation with journalists from local newspapers, radio and broadcasting stations
- Cross-border matters are often matters of local interest - contact local media
- Providing information within a realistic timescale and be aware that your partners should be available, too, for giving information within the next days
- Make sure that the journalist and his informant have a common language - English
- Give direct information to the journalist, without delegations especially to people with a higher rank

What makes a good story?

- The man-bites-dog-formula:
When a dog bites a man, it is not news - but if a man bites a dog, that is news. The unusual, uncommon information makes the difference.
- Answer the six important journalistic questions: Who? What? Where? How? Why? What is the source of the information?

5. MAIN RESULTS FROM THE CBC CAFÉ



Annex 7 Summary of results of mid-term-evaluation



Mid Term Evaluation
Community Initiative Programme
INTERREG III A
„Austria – Czech Republic“

Final Report

M. Kojan
(ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH)

M. Kaufmann
K. Navratilova

Vienna, 19.12.2003

***Impulse für
dynamische Entwicklung***



1. Summary and recommendations

The evaluators have drawn the following main conclusions in relation to the issues contained in Working Paper 8a of the EC (Mid-term evaluation of INTERREG III). Where appropriate, recommendations have been put forth by the evaluators in relation to these conclusions or specific weaknesses identified in the mid-term evaluation. This summary is also available in a German version.

1.1. Appropriateness of Programme Strategy

- Recent developments in the programme context only revealed minor differences in relation to the initial situation upon which the programme is based. (see chapter 4)

The most important change in the programme's context will be the substantial enlargement of the eligible area in the Czech part of the Programme region for the remaining Programme period.

The Czech administrative reform brought shifts in the regional administrative structures and a reallocation of administrative tasks and responsibilities towards the regional level. Thus some new counterparts for Austrian administration remain still unknown.

The up-date of context indicators shows that only marginal changes have taken place in the socio-economic situation (population, economic and labor structure). The situation on the labor market improved on Austrian side, whereas it deteriorated in the Czech Republic. Múhlviertel faced the most dynamic development both in population as well as in labor market development. Even though the regional GDP is lacking behind this is mainly due to a high share of commuters to the urban centers outside the region.

- Some modifications of the original SWOT analysis have been made, notably improvements of previous weaknesses (tourism, border crossing capacity). The cross-border networks both on administrative and project level improved with certain signs of competition already being noticed in Lower Austria. Anyhow further deepening and interlinking of such networking structures is still necessary.

In general the regional analysis and the SWOT remain valid since 1999/2000 and there is no need to introduce changes in the new CIP.

- The experience gained so far in implementation (see chapters 7 and 8) did not show shortcomings which would require a change at the level of objectives. And the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluation were either already incorporated in the final versions of the programme documents or they have been taken into account during implementation.

- As there are no substantial changes of the SWOT analysis the ex-ante evaluation is still valid that states that "the priorities and measures selected respond to the problems and needs identified in the situation analysis".

Thus the decision of the programme authorities to maintain the programme's objectives and structure (priorities, measures) is considered to be still valid and the Draft CIP is in line with the findings of the mid-term evaluation.



- Joint implementation structures have lead to a significant increase in the cross-border quality of projects (see chapter 7). Nevertheless the differences in procedures between INTERREG and PHARE CBC have hindered cross-border implementation.

There have been mayor efforts to improve cross-border co-operation on programme and project level, but so far only few joint or mirror projects and projects covering the entire border area have been implemented. As a result of these factors there is now a "patch-work" of approved projects and although many of them have been prepared jointly, their coherence is sometimes doubtful.

- The various Small Projects Funds have been very successful in involving many people and institutions in cross-border activities and though contributing to the main objective of the Programme "strengthening of cross-border relations between people".
- On Austrian side there is up to now an imbalanced utilisation of funds in the different priorities and measures. High utilisation (M1.3, M1.2, M4.2, M3.1, M4.1) may hinder joint development of new projects and common implementation in the upcoming transition period 2004-2006. On the other hand there is low utilisation in other measures (P2, M5.3).

Recommendations:

Improve coherence in implementation in the remaining programming period within the new INTERREG implementing framework, namely by

- analysing the links (and eventually overlap) between existing projects
- assessing the potential for corresponding activities to already approved projects
- developing more broader and regionally integrated projects on both sides of the border
- assure sufficient (national) funds for co-financing of joint or mirror projects in measures with an already high utilisation on Austrian side
- identifying co-operation areas which have not yet been dealt with adequately,
- and intensifying active joint project development in those areas.

In cases of high utilisation of funds in a measure on Austrian side (f.e. M1.3 Tourism and Leisure) joint or mirror projects from Czech side should be possible in the future. This might be achieved through Czech follow-up mirror projects to existing Austrian INTERREG projects, Czech participation in Austrian umbrella projects and / or that sufficient means from other national sources are provided for Czech Cross-border projects.

Place emphasis on the formulation of cross-border development strategies in key co-operation sectors. Core institutions on both sides of the border, which have institutional power and access to (national, regional) resources, should be involved in this process. (The establishment of thematic Bilateral Working Groups might be an appropriate approach).

Consider a reallocation of funds from Priority 2 to other priorities / measures (M 1.3, P 4.) with an already high utilization of funds if participation in the INTERREG programme continues to be low from the Federal Ministry of Transport and / or infrastructure projects in the programme area continue to be financed from other sources.



1.2. Implementation to date

Monitoring

- ❑ The indicator system used for the INTERREG part of the programme is still valid, besides most of indicators are part of the Austrian Central Monitoring System (ERDF) and this data structure has to be maintained throughout the programme period. But the analysis of the indicator system has revealed some shortcomings in relation to data input and standardisation, which merit to be improved (a detailed proposal is included in chapter 10) .
- ❑ The Austrian Central Monitoring System (ERDF) is a very refined and sophisticated system which is used for almost all Structural Fund Programmes in Austria. Data collection is very timely and reliable, thus the Central Monitoring System allows an accurate overview on programme implementation, which is very much appreciated by the programme partners (MA, OAAs, JTS).
- ❑ However, major differences exist between INTERREG and PHARE monitoring and the indicators used for this purpose. Central monitoring of PHARE CBC projects is done via periodic reports and in relation to input only (e.g. funds contracted, funds used), other indicators are foreseen for monitoring at project level.
- ❑ Thus the current indicator system cannot provide an accurate and timely picture of programme implementation on both sides of the border (apart from financial implementation). But discussions are well advanced among key staff from both countries for the preparation of a joint monitoring system, including harmonisation of indicators.
- ❑ The exact time for inclusion of a project proposal into the monitoring system is not harmonized between the different Länder in Austria. This might lead to time lags, intransparencies and a deficit of up-to-date information for other programme partner involved.
- ❑ The overall financial performance for the INTERREG part of the programme shows:
 - a relatively high level of approved funds by the JSC (65,4%)
 - commitments well in line with the elapsed period of time (50,0%)
 - a comparatively low level of disbursements (13,4%)
 - that the n+2 rule has already been accomplished and
 - an unbalanced utilization of funds in the various measures
- ❑ The programme has an excellent performance in relation to the quality aim (80% AA projects), but these initial assessments remain to be checked during implementation.
- ❑ The share of large projects is much higher than foreseen. As these large projects also include umbrella projects and SPF. In total there is a satisfactory outreach of the programme and funds are distributed among a large number of beneficiaries and project promoters.
- ❑ The targets set as priority level indicators seem to be very high estimates which will not be achieved until the end of the programme. In most priorities the number of projects is significantly below target numbers, indicating unexpected high project volumes. So far the targets set for programme level indicators can not provide an accurate picture of implementation success per priority.
- ❑ The geographic distribution of projects on INTERREG side shows that only few projects are covering the entire programme region and that there are practically no projects being



implemented in two of the administrative NUTS II regions of Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Vienna jointly.

- ❑ The targets defined at programme level concerning the size and quality of projects have been met until now. There are no equivalent targets for PHARE CBC.
- ❑ The corresponding CZ programme shows with regard to effectiveness:
 - a high share of commitments with regard to allocations, year 2000 (99,85%)
 - most of large projects are under implementation or before contracting, but a low contribution to overall programme objectives can be anticipated despite the fact that there is a high share of large projects (82,67%)
 - JSPF makes a significant contribution to the achievement of the programme's objectives (the share of JSPF is 17,33%)
- ❑ Information on disbursement in the Czech Republic is not available from the monitoring system in the period of this report elaboration.

Programme administration structures

- ❑ The *joint structures* which are required for programme implementation (JMC, JSC and TS) have been installed swiftly and seem to function quite well. Composition of membership of JMC and JSC has been extended and includes now participation of the regional level (CZ) and social partners (AT). It is quite similar which facilitates transfer of information.
- ❑ The MA is assuming its tasks in a very pro-active and dedicated manner, which is highly appreciated by all of the other operators. The same holds true for the National Authority in the Czech Republic. Jointly, both authorities have succeeded in establishing a good climate of collaboration and achieving a rather intense level of co-operation (especially when considering the difficult implementing context imposed by the differences of INTERREG and PHARE (see chapter 3.1). And they have collaborated well to lead the "managing transition" process, which has been carried out very efficiently by the appointed Task Force.
- ❑ The JTS was installed right at the start of programme implementation and carried out the activities as foreseen in the JPD. It notably assures effective support of the MA and the joint committees, the assessment of applications in collaboration with the OAAs. Moreover, it carried out most of the work for the revision of programme documents in the framework of the "managing transition" process.
- ❑ A new and effective division of labour has been installed between Federal and Länder level for the implementation of INTERREG programmes. Implementation has been concentrated at Länder level, whereby OAAs are carrying out project level implementation and act as one-stop shops for project holders (which is highly appreciated by them).
- ❑ So far there have not been adequate counterpart for the Austrian OAAs in the Czech Republic on regional level.
- ❑ Programme management is largely satisfactory, also from the point of view of project holders. However, contracting procedures are considered too long in Austria (mainly for projects involving co-funding from two ministerial departments) and there is a mixed performance by the three Länders concerning the swiftness of contracting procedures.



- ❑ A detailed proposal for the implementation of these recommendations has been prepared and discussed with the Task Force “Managing Transition”.

Programme implementation

Information and Public Relations

- ❑ (activities, material) is generally considered to be quite effective and satisfactory in both countries. Project promoters express their wish for more intensified exchange of experience and co-operation and project opportunities in the partner regions.

Assistance to project promoters:

- ❑ In Austria OAAs and Euregios are supporting promoters in a very pro-active manner and substantial INTERREG funding was made available to regional agencies. Also RDAs in CZ provide satisfactory assistance to SPF promoters.

Project assessment and selection

- ❑ There are substantial differences between the two countries on the approaches employed in identifying and assessing projects (calls with pre-selection based on expert assessments vs. continuous project development in partnership with OAAs):
- ❑ In Austria pre-assessment of projects takes place at the level of Länder (quite different approaches in the three Länder) and in line with the co-financing systems in place. This approach facilitates intensive consultation.
- ❑ In the Czech Republic Project selection of large projects is mainly based on decision-making at national level and projects of JSPF are selected on the basis of assessments by independent experts.
- ❑ In Austria project pre-assessment is seen as rather informal, lacking clear rules and standardized criteria interpretation. Pre-selection takes place on the level of three Länder with different level of transparency for the other programme partners.
- ❑ Due to the strict rules required under Phare CBC procedures in the Czech Republic seem rather formalized and based solely on points achieved in evaluation grids. Different expert views strongly influence project decisions, thus potentially declining a mirror project instead of giving support to eventually improve project quality.
- ❑ Final decisions for project selection (recommendation for co-funding) are taken jointly in the JSC, but they are to a large extent pre-determined by previous assessments.
- ❑ Concerning the Czech SPF selection procedure the lack of INTERREG knowledge of some assessors (and the transparency of the scoring results) and the lack of possibility to amend the expert pre-selection in the RSC have been criticized.
- ❑ Fundamental changes are unlikely to be achieved in the short run and practical solutions must be sought (and tested) for the remaining programme period.
- ❑ The *Lead partner principle* has not been applicable under the past framework conditions and joint applications under the lead partner principle will continue to be difficult, at least in the short term (many practical problems concerning e.g. eligible costs, control procedures, sharing of costs, responsibility and risks). But programme partners agree to in-



crease the share of “truly” joint projects and the lead partner principle is seen as an instrument in this direction (but not an end in itself).

Contracting:

- Coordination between Länder OAs, “Landesförderstellen” and especially with involved Federal Ministries was reported difficult and frequently a long period of time elapses between project approval in the JSC and signature of the subsidy contract.
- In the light of future mirror projects harmonized, quick and reliable procedures at all stages of project assessment, selection and contracting will be crucial.

Monitoring

- Monitoring of the INTERREG programme is done within the Austrian Central Monitoring System (ERDF). This is a very refined, sophisticated system which is used for most Structural Fund Programmes in Austria. It functions very effectively and is highly appreciated by programme operators. Data input is done at Länder level and regular checks on plausibility of data are carried out by the Central Monitoring Authority (ERP Fonds).
- However, major differences exist between INTERREG and PHARE monitoring systems and also the indicators used differ substantially (see chapter 6.1). Thus - apart from financial implementation - the current monitoring system cannot provide an accurate and timely picture of programme implementation on both sides of the border.
- But a joint monitoring system will be established when the Czech Republic accesses the EU, which allows input of identical data sets on projects the same quality level. But parallel monitoring procedures for INTERREG and PHARE CBC might lead to a heavy administrative burden – and potential complications - over the next years.

Control

- Annual reports have been produced by the national financial control authority for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. 2nd level Financial Control was initiated in the beginning of 2003 by verifying the effectiveness of the management and control system in place. This control has notably concluded that the control systems foreseen in the JPD are in place and functioning, requirements of 1st level control are met and audit trails can be verified - but scope for further improvement has been identified. Sample checks on project level have recently been initiated at Länder level and will likely be concluded early next year.

Community Value Added:

- The aspect of *Gender Mainstreaming* is apparently not a specific issue for Interreg projects and/or difficult to integrate in cross-border co-operation - or it is at least not suitable to be dealt with by an indicator at project level.
- *Sustainability* is well considered in most projects and some specific sustainability oriented projects are being implemented.
- Other aspects of Added Value can be noticed in the area of:
 - Political added value
 - Policy added value
 - Institutional added value and
 - Operational added value



- However, these positive aspects are counteracted by the increasing administrative burden on project promoters which diminish added value

Recommendations:

In co-operation with the JTS, the evaluation team prepared a proposal for improvements of data input and interpretation on INTERREG indicators. Since this issue concerns all external INTERREG Programmes in Austria, the proposal will first be discussed at the 2nd Meeting of the Evaluation Steering Group. The results will be incorporated in the Final Report of the mid-term evaluation and will also be fed into the bilateral discussions on the joint monitoring system.

Case studies and in-depth analysis at project level should be carried out in the framework of the on-going evaluation, in order to validate their performance with regard to specific indicators (e.g. quality of co-operation, horizontal priorities, outputs and results). Priority should be given to umbrella projects or key projects on the Austrian and large projects in the Czech Republic. This analysis could also be used to identify deficiencies and the scope for integrating additional "mirror" projects.

Exchange of information and co-operation of the corresponding regional (AT-CZ) OAA structures should be intensified.

As there is already a high utilisation of funds in various measures on Austrian side it will be necessary to facilitate Czech follow-up projects to existing Austrian projects and the participation of new Czech projects in Austrian umbrella projects in the future. Otherwise joint or mirror projects can not be realized.

The JSC should periodically request information on the implementation of umbrella projects, Disfunds and Grant schemes in order to investigate the potentials for the participation of Czech / Austrian partners in existing projects.

OAA's and JSC should intensify project monitoring (f.e. progress of project implementation, co-operation quality)

Practical solutions must be sought for the present differences in project identification and selection. As the approaches currently used are rooted in profound differences of administrative cultures and experience, fundamental changes are unlikely to be achieved in the short run. Short-term solutions include defining joint selection criteria, introducing targeted tenders or basing project selection on the need to improve coherence of the existing project "patchwork" (e.g. by using the results of some of the analysis suggested above for the on-going evaluation).

Conditions for project management and requirements for project promoters should be harmonised as much as possible (at least between the three Länder).

A more accurate definition for the co-operation quality indicators and a more ambitious level for AA projects should be elaborated and the same standards for application should be assured between the involved partners in the whole programme region.

Increase the influence of JSC and JRC on re-assessment and selection of projects even though pre-assessment of projects is undertaken by independent assessors or OAA's



(provide information as well on (technically) negative assessed projects and enable discussion and re-ranking for mirror projects).

The involved administration on both sides should agree on binding time-limits and speed-up procedures for the various stages of assessing and contracting projects in order to enable joint implementation of mirror projects and project parts on both sides of the border.

The personal resources in the Austrian OAAs should be extended in order to avoid back lags of contracting projects, undertaking 1st level control, processing disbursement claims and effectuating payments.

The programme should enable project applicants to go for the lead partner principle, but the framework of already approved projects and the conditions of programme management have to be taken into account. During the remaining programme period other options to achieve the aim of more “true” joint projects should be favored. This notably includes an increase in cross-border project development, elaboration of mirror projects, joint presentation of applications to the JTS, the application of joint criteria and standards for project assessment and joint monitoring of project implementation.

Information material should be produced which provides orientation for project holders on eligible costs and other aspects which are crucial for financial control or the submission of invoices (wherever feasible this should also be done in the Czech Republic).

Programme partners should take steps to ensure transparency and wide publicity, e.g. by actively spreading information on approved projects, establishing a database of upcoming Czech / Austrian projects, supporting exchanges and cooperation among projects or ensuring timely publicity on tenders.

Intensified involvement of gender representatives and specific discussion of gender and sustainability aspects in the JSC might be considered.



Vienna, Praha
October 2005

**Impulse für
dynamische Entwicklung**



Up-date of Mid Term Evaluation

Community Initiative Programme INTERREG III A „Austria – Czech Republic“

Report

M. Kojan,
K. Navratilova

ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH

Vienna, Praha
October 2005

**Impulse für
dynamische Entwicklung**



7 Conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact

The INTERREG part of the programme shows a still rather low level of commitments (54,6%) and a even lower level of disbursements (32%). The level of commitments and disbursements is however varying substantially among different priorities and measures. However, these figures do not yet include the reallocations between Priorities and the projects approved at the last Steering Committee Meetings. If these new projects were included, commitment rates would be actually much higher and so there are only modest resources remaining for new projects in most measures.

The n+2 rule has been accomplished for 2003 and 2004.

Even though that the forecast for 2005 (see Table 2, date 15.07.2005) shows that efforts are still needed until the end of the year, by mid October the necessary disbursements have already taken place and de-commitments are avoided.

The programme continues to have an excellent performance in relation to the quality aim (85% AA projects). The case studies and other exercises in ongoing evaluation have shown that the indicators can be considered in a majority of cases reliable.

Most of the cross-border cooperation indicators indicated in the application are really accomplished in practice. However, the criterion for achieving an AA rating is not very significant as it can apparently be reached quite easily.

The case studies, which have been carried out in the framework of the on-going evaluation, revealed that the quality of co-operation is largely satisfactory. Projects have to a large extent achieved their objectives - or are likely to achieve them until the end of the programme period. And in many cases sustainable impacts can be demonstrated through follow-up activities or the joint use of project outputs.

The targets defined at programme level concerning the size of projects have been met until now. And the targets for priority - level indicators have already largely been achieved or seem achievable until the end of the programme period.

Concerning the geographic distribution, (still) only few projects are covering the entire programme region.

Now that also the projects of the Micro Project Funds are included in the Central Monitoring System the percentage of large projects (>300.000 EUR) is still much higher than foreseen in the JPD/CIP (5%). On the other hand the share of small projects is with 76% much higher than planned.

With this large number of projects INTERREG has obtained a satisfactory outreach and funds are distributed among a large number of beneficiaries and project holders.

Small project funds are an important tool to initiate co-operation or to prepare larger projects, but the administrative burden - imposed by financial control - is excessive. A number of Micro Project Funds has not met these requirements and has been suspended by financial control.

The programme structures mostly continue to function well. However programme structures on both sides are not used yet to the intensified level of joint programme implementation, as it is possible and necessary since the Czech Republic's EU membership. Efforts are needed to improve information flow between the IBs and to ensure joint support for joint and mirror projects in project development.



The division of labour on The Austrian side between Federal and Länder level, which has been established at the start of the programme, continues to be effective. Project level implementation is concentrated at Länder level, where IBs act as one-stop shops for project owners and organise co-financing from Federal and Länder sources.

The project selection process is still entirely unilateral on both sides of the border. Joint / mirror projects are only discussed at Steering Committee level. There are no specific criteria applied that would evaluate joint/mirror projects. There do not exist Joint Steering Committees (CZ-AT) for the various SPF and Umbrella projects, thus small projects are not at all selected jointly. Improvements towards a more intense cross-border information flow between IBs during project development and project assessment phase towards real joint project assessment have to be made.

The JTS continues to take part in the assessment of applications and oversees the implementation of funding conditions agreed by the JSC. In addition, the JTS facilitates learning and information exchange across programmes and organises meetings to address specific issues (e.g. application of the Lead Partner Principle).

Programme management is largely satisfactory, but the duration of contracting procedures has not been significantly reduced and can thus still be considered too long in Austria.

A "Joint" Monitoring System is still not functioning well. Actually there still remain mayor problems with the compatibility of data, data input and data transfer. There is a lot of repeated manual data input required on Czech side. All involved actors are well aware of the existing problems and satisfactory solutions should be implemented by the end of the year 2005.

8 Recommendations

8.1 Recommendations for remaining years of the programme

At the time of current MTE up-date report the most programme funds have been already allocated to approved or currently planned projects. Regarding project development and selection there is therefore little room for manoeuvre left. However the evaluation team considers following recommendations to be realistically and achievable in the remaining programme period.

a) Improve the chances for mirror and joint projects in project development and assessment

As stated in the MTE the programme partners have stressed their dedication to continuously increase the share of joint projects. Following measures shall be taken to improve the situation:

- Analyse present weaknesses of information flows, notably cross-border and agree on early cross-border exchanges of project information (e.g. informal exchanges between IBs, entry into monitoring system already in idea phase).
- Make explicit use of existing quality indicators (impact/cooperation) when discussing project quality. Case studies in ongoing evaluation have shown that these indicators are rather soft but well applicable for assessment.
- Ensure cross-border information flow in pre-assessment phase by strengthening mutual involvement of partners in pre-assessments (i.e. invite preliminary comments by IBs, make use of IB meetings to screen project applications!)
- Raise awareness at both project applicants and programme partners to clearly earmark mirror and joint projects as such in the application form (by ticking the respective box plus describing the substance of mirror and joint project implementation)
- Require information by JTS/IB in partner country on foreseen project partners (experience, credibility and capacity) and ensure that information in applications is systematically counter-checked by JTS / IBs in partner countries (especially on joint planning, application and financing)

b) Ensure joint monitoring of project implementation

Results of ongoing evaluation have shown that project implementation in a majority of cases fits submitted project applications in terms of impact and cooperation indicators. However there is room for improvement by use of following measures:

- Aim for early cross-border exchanges of project information (e.g. informal exchanges between IBs, entry of projects into monitoring system already in the idea phase). Pro-actively signal problems or doubts on cross-border co-operation to the IB on the other side, requesting checks and/or assistance if appropriate
- Raise awareness of project holders to maintain regular contact with partners and assist them in case of interrupted partnerships and in identifying suitable replacements
- When project partners are changed during project implementation up-date information on project partnerships and their contact details in the Central Monitoring System.
- Follow up on project implementation including quality of cross-border co-operation
- Pro-actively signal problems or doubts on cross-border co-operation to the IB on the other side, requesting checks and/or assistance if appropriate

⁴ The definition of "Joint Projects" in the Programme Complement includes joint pre-assessment and joint recommendation for ERDF funding by the respective IBs.



- Inform Czech IBs about the ongoing Austrian umbrella projects and involve them as full members into the project steering structures.
- Introduce standardised project reports at least for newly committed projects and especially for joint projects! At least project reports of joint and mirror projects should be translated and provided at least to the concerned IBs.

8.2 Recommendations for future programming

The programming process for the next period has not (formally) started, so many conditions are not clarified yet. Following recommendations therefore can not cover all aspects of the future programme but highlight experiences of the recent programme in the light of known new programme conditions.

a) Maintain / improve attractiveness of INTERREG funding

Projects funded in INTERREG IIIA focussed (not only, but prevalently) on “soft” measures to establish better cross-border cooperation and make better use of potential synergies for the benefit of the respective border regions. Compared to PHARE CBC and other programmes focussing prevalently on “hard” (large infrastructure investment) measures it shall not “only” enable this measures by additional funds but shall in first place motivate and activate institutions in the border regions to start and intensify cross-border activities. Conditions will be more difficult for project holders in the upcoming period (see Lead Partner Principle), therefore efforts are necessary to reduce barriers and restrictions whenever feasible to keep up the activating character of INTERREG:

- Assure transparent implementation processes and not so administrative demanding (however standardized on both sides) formal requirements for project applicants (e.g. application forms, contracting, reporting, financial control)
- Apply the principle of proportionality (less financial control requirements for smaller projects, reduce administrative burden)
- Introduce cross-border SPF with bilateral assessment procedure, possibly implemented only at regional level.

b) Prepare for sound implementation of Lead Partner Principle

The Lead Partner Principle will be a new condition in the upcoming programming period. It will be challenging for project holders (as lead partners) who should be supported by information and training as well by transparent and smooth programme implementation:

- Organise joint training for project owners (e.g. on partnership development, project management)
- Prepare joint application forms (bilingual) for the new programme period, which also include partnership agreements
- Elaborate common guidelines for applicants by screening and / or merging existing guidelines and defining common eligibility rules for future INTERREG projects
- Prepare templates for joint contracting
- Clarify details for administering the LPP (contracting authority, legal basis, responsibilities and procedures for first level control, language issues)
- Consider the introduction of project coaches (within the JTS or IB) who follow closely the implementation of projects and assist pro-actively the Lead Partner of a project in administrative and also general (cbc) management issues.



- Clarify how data entry into the Monitoring System (level of detail, inclusion of partner projects) may assure adequate consideration of Lead Partner principle.

These measures could also reduce potential negative consequences of the Lead Partner Principle. However additional measures might be needed to secure sufficient programme outreach (enable also smaller projects, private lead partners, SPF with less demanding requirements, etc).

c) Assure efficient programme management

The programme management has proven effective, successful elements should therefore be maintained. However in the light of new possibilities (genuine joint programme implementation from the very beginning) some improvements are necessary:

- Collaborative decentralised management structures have proven to be effective, however cross-border information flow (especially between IBs) are to be improved.
- Support for project applicants in the phase of project development was feasible and useful for project (and thus programme) quality. Thus same level of support to project applicants on both sides of the border shall be assured.
- Joint, efficient project assessment procedures shall be organised. With both the Lead Partner Principle and the general dedication of programme partners to increase the share of comprehensively joint projects the need for structured joint assessment will clearly increase. Different practices on Czech and Austrian side shall be combined to a joint approach enabling both transparent (independent) assessment of expected project impacts and cooperation quality as well as the possibility to improve project applications' quality in an ongoing project development process.
- Minimise time lags in programme implementation (especially in contracting, financial control and payment processes)
- In the current programme some tri- or even quattro-lateral projects have been submitted and implemented. To facilitate such projects in the upcoming period adjacent cross-border programmes have to be harmonised (eligible actions, target groups) and co-ordination between the concerned programmes has to be assured.

d) Differentiate mechanisms for project generation

There are different practices and cultures in project generation in Austria (and also within Austria) and Czech Republic which both have there advantages and disadvantages. The evaluation team recommends making use of both sides' experiences in combined mechanism for project generation:

- On one hand proactive "top - down" project development by the programme partners shall be implemented in jointly agreed strategic areas. Key actors from both sides have to be involved in this process (→ bilateral thematic working groups)
- On the other hand calls for project ideas with subsequent screening and regrouping of ideas shall be carried out in selected areas.
- A third mechanism recommended are cross-border SPF with calls for proposals (not necessarily applying the Lead Partner Principle)

e) Monitoring and reporting

Based on the experience of the current programme following recommendations are provided by the evaluation team:



- The Common Monitoring System (CMS) has been widely appreciated and proven useful. It is recommended to base a future joint system on the existing database and procedures.
- Improvements of the CMS shall be implemented in project monitoring. For this purpose joint standards of project reporting shall be applied and also regularly exchanged across the border. With up-date of monitoring data based on these reports project monitoring can be supported by the CMS.

