

FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

INTERREG IIIA/PHARE CBC Programme Austria – Slovak Republic

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2000 – 2006

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

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Programming period:	2000 – 2006
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This report covers also the 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 – Slovak 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 14th 2001 and amended five times during the implementation period: July 26th 2002; November 15th 2004, December 19th 2005, April 11th 2007 and April 16th 2008 (corrected 11.9.2009). 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 March 3rd 2009. Costs arising on Austrian territory were eligible for ERDF-cofinancing beginning with July 17th 2000, on Slovak territory with January 1st 2004 and ended for all beneficiaries on December 31st 2008. Costs arising in projects implemented in priority 6 “Special Support for Border Regions” were eligible for ERDF cofinancing in Austria beginning with January 1st 2002 and ending with December 31st 2004.

At the date of closure the total budget of the programme according to the last approved financial plan amounts to 64,901,211 Euro (financial plan). The financial support from the European Fund for Regional Development amounts to max. 35,271,992 Euro, whereby 24,373,545 Euro is national public co-funding and 5,255,674 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 Slovak Republic (Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of Slovak republic) with 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 Slovak Republic and Austria.

The programme aimed to support a joint strategy for economic and social development. The key objective was the development of an economically as well as socio-culturally integrated border region.

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 Slovak 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 – Slovak Republic 2007-2013” which was approved by the EC in December 2007.

Demography

The demographic structure and trends are affected by the regional structure of the border region with high concentration of population in the urban areas and on the opposite side the development of the rural regions. From these structural features the following most important demographic trends can be derived for the border region:

- ▶ increasing suburbanization processes in the urban areas
- ▶ dynamic population growth
- ▶ aging population as consequence of overall demographic change like decreasing fertility rates, increasing life expectancy
- ▶ increasing population due to migration – a special issue in urban areas

The immediate vicinity of the two capitals of Vienna and Bratislava has an enormous population potential within a rather “confined” space. The population trends are very dynamic, especially in the Austrian part. The growth rates have been far above the national average in the period from 1991 to 2001 in the suburbanisation areas e.g. Wiener Umland Nord and Süd and Nordburgenland.

In the Slovak part of the border region, the growth rate has only been positive in the region of Trnava, but not as high as in Austria. The subsequent period from 2001 to 2005 (AT)/2004 (SK) marked a moderate continuation of this trend. In this period the Austrian part of the region has reported a slight growth of its population in all regions except Wald- and Weinviertel and Mittelburgenland, the Slovak part of the region remained stable in Trnava. After years of decrease the region of Bratislava registered a slightly positive growth in this period.



Table 1

Population structure in 2001 and population trend 1991-2005

Regional unit	Population trend (change in %)				Share of		Share of	
Nuts III region	1991-2001		2001-2005 (AT)		under-15-year-olds		over-60-year-olds	
	2001-2004 (SK)				2001 (AT)/2004 (SK) in %			
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women
Mostviertel-Eisenwurzen	3.1	2.6	0.7	0.6	18.9	18.2	20.7	23.7
Niederösterreich-Süd	3.9	3.8	1.5	1.3	16.7	15.8	22.6	25.8
Sankt Pölten	3.6	2.8	2.0	1.8	17.1	16.2	21.7	24.8
Waldviertel	0.2	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	16.8	16.0	24.4	28.1
Weinviertel	1.5	0.4	-0.3	-0.6	16.3	15.6	24.6	28.7
Wiener Umland-Nordteil	11.0	10.5	3.0	3.0	17.1	16.3	21.2	23.8
Wiener Umland-Südteil	7.7	7.3	3.3	3.4	16.3	15.4	21.5	24.1
Mittelburgenland	-1.0	-1.4	-1.6	-1.9	14.9	14.7	26.1	30.1
Nordburgenland	6.3	5.8	1.6	1.5	15.6	14.9	23.3	26.7
Vienna	0.7	-0.8	4.9	4.0	14.7	13.6	21.7	25.4
Niederösterreich	4.9	4.3	1.5	1.4	17.1	16.2	22.2	25.3
Burgenland	2.5	2.0	0.2	0.1	15.2	14.6	24.1	27.6
AUSTRIA	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.8	16.8	15.9	21.1	24.2
Bratislava	-1.2	-	0.3	0.4	13.5	6.6	16.9	10.3
Trnava	1.7	-	0.4	0.5	15.8	7.7	16.2	9.8
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2.0	-	0.1	0.2	17.1	8.3	16.0	9.7

Source: Statistics Austria, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SO SR), Regional Comparisons in the Slovak Republic 2001, 2004 (SO SR), Population Age Composition 2004 (SO SR)

Economic structure and development

The level of economic activities and development of the Austrian/Slovak border region is characterised by

- ▶ pronounced regional differences in prosperity that become manifest in significant urban-rural disparities
- ▶ in the prosperity slope from the Austrian to the Slovak border region
- ▶ different speed of the economic growth (growth rates, jobs, structural changes)

While the gross regional product per inhabitant is between 62.2% and 163.1% of the EU average on the Austrian side of the border, in the Slovak border region it attains rates of between 81.9% and 160.3%.

Table 2

Level of economic development (GDP (PPS)/Inhabitant)

Regional unit	GDP (PPS) per capita 2007	GDP (PPS) per capita 2007
Nuts III region	Index national = 100	Index EU27 = 100
Mostviertel-Eisenwurzen	76.8	94.2
Niederösterreich-Süd	73.5	90.5
Sankt Pölten	98.7	121.3
Waldviertel	67.3	82.5
Weinviertel	50.7	62.2
Wiener Umland-Nordteil	68.0	83.4
Wiener Umland-Südteil	118.6	145.7
Mittelburgenland	59.8	73.4
Nordburgenland	72.9	89.7
Vienna	132.7	163.1
Niederösterreich	81.4	100.1
Burgenland	66.3	81.3
AUSTRIA	100.0	122.8
Bratislava	236.1	160.3
Trnava	120.7	81.9
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	100.0	67.7
EU27		100.0

Source: Eurostat

In 2002, the regions Bratislava (25.8%) and Trnava (10.1%) produced more than one third (35.9%) of the entire Slovak GDP. The gross regional product per inhabitant was 81.9% (Trnava) and 160.3.7% (Bratislava) of the EU27 average, making the Bratislava region one of the most promising regions within Central and Eastern Europe in general. In terms of GDP per inhabitant, Trnava attains a rate of 120.7% of the Slovak average, while Bratislava attains a rate of 236.1% of the Slovak average. The Trnava region exhibits a very different level of development. While by national standards the per capita regional product is relatively high, this region attains 81.9% of the EU27 average. In an overall Slovak comparison, the regions of Bratislava and Trnava with its economic structure are the economically most powerful regions in the country both at the national and European level.

In an overall Austrian comparison, the northern part of the Austrian border region with its predominantly rural structure is one of the country's economically weaker regions. In terms of GDP per inhabitant, the NUTS III region Weinviertel attains a rate of just over 50.7% of the Austrian average. Mittelburgenland attains about 59.8% and the region Waldviertel 67.3% of the Austrian average. Vienna (132.7) and the NUTS III region Wiener Umland Süd (118.6), by contrast, attain much higher values. The latter two regions actually feature among the economically most powerful regions both on the national and on the European level.

The heterogeneous economic structure of the Austrian/Slovak border regions is basically dominated by the urban agglomerations of Vienna and Bratislava, which constitute the centres



of economic activity and employment in the entire region. The main characteristics in terms of economic structures are:

- ▶ a higher dependency on the urban economies (dynamic, jobs, commuting)
- ▶ high shares of the tertiary sector with an important industrial base and a dynamic industrial development caused by foreign direct investment and new orientation
- ▶ agriculture as an important economic base in some subareas (e.g Wiener Umland Nord, Weinviertel, Nordburgenland, Southern part of Bratislava and Trnava region)

Labour market

In the Austrian-Slovak border region, Vienna and Bratislava are the centres of employment. Of the approx. 1.3 million persons employed in the Austrian border region in the production and services sectors, about 60% work in Vienna. In 2004, about 57% of the employees in the border region and 16.4% of all workers employed in Slovakia are concentrated in Bratislava. The dominating position of these two cities is also reflected in their strong influence on the labour markets of the surrounding regions. Weinviertel, for example, has a commuter share of 34%. In Slovakia the corresponding figures are even higher exceeding 50% in the districts of Senec, Pezinok, Malacky.

The labour market in the border region is characterised by:

- ▶ high concentration of jobs in the urban areas
- ▶ lacking job opportunities in the rural regions
- ▶ intensive commuting relationships (intraregional, cross-border)
- ▶ pronounced disparities in wage levels
- ▶ increasing unemployment, high share of unemployed persons with problematic background (longterm, low qualification, ...)

Employment: structure and trends

Since the early nineties, the labour market in the Austrian border region has registered a very dynamic development, albeit with substantial differences within the border region. In the period from 1999 to 2004 the trend slowed down somewhat compared to the preceding years. The most dynamic growth was reported for Mittelburgenland (+9%). The development in Nordburgenland (+1.0%) remained more or less stable, and the capital Vienna, Wald- and Weinviertel marked a decrease of the number of dependently employed persons in this period.

Above-average expansion of employment in this region was clearly attributable to the tertiary sector. New jobs were created in tourism (e.g. Vienna airport) and in trade (shopping malls, warehouses). In public services, trends in rural and urban regions differed remarkably.

The regional centres, job growth in the health sector (hospitals, social care institutions) has led to a rise in employment since the late eighties. This positive trend in services also had a positive impact on female employment. This expansion, however, was due largely to the creation of additional part-time jobs. This trend seemed to have continued in most of the regions (except Weinviertel and the capital Vienna) also until 2004.

In line with national trends the number of unemployed rose strongly in all Austrian sub-regions of the border region between 1999 and 2005. In this respect it is striking that the massive increase in unemployment has taken place in Wiener Umland-Nord and Nordburgenland whereas Vienna faced a relatively minor increase. The structure of unemployment in the rural areas is characterised by a large share of low-skilled workers and a disproportionate share of persons previously employed in production jobs. Remarkable differences by sex have to be noted: Male unemployment has been increasing even stronger in this period than female unemployment.

Table 3
Unemployment in the Austrian part of the region

Regional unit	Number of unemployed, 2005		Unemployment rate 2005, in %		Number of unemployed, change 1999-2005 in %		
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women	Men
Nuts III region							
Mostviertel-Eisenwurzen	4,972	2,194	5.1	5.4	21.6	17.9	24.8
Niederösterreich-Süd	7,875	3,271	7.3	6.9	15.5	15.7	15.3
Sankt Pölten	4,361	1,901	7.0	6.8	22.9	19.9	25.3
Waldviertel	6,439	2,789	7.2	7.2	8.0	-0.9	15.9
Weinviertel	3,353	1,412	6.6	6.4	24.7	16.2	31.6
Wiener Umland-Nordteil	6,750	2,995	5.4	5.3	28.8	28.6	29.0
Wiener Umland-Südteil	8,765	3,808	6.6	6.2	21.3	18.4	23.6
Mittelburgenland	1,102	494	7.3	8.0	3.8	-3.8	10.8
Nordburgenland	3,851	1,679	6.4	6.4	26.9	22.3	30.6
Vienna	81,436	32,810	11.2	9.4	19.1	14.2	22.6
Niederösterreich	42,600	18,409	6.4	6.2	19.5	15.9	22.4
Burgenland	8,412	3,641	9.0	8.4	15.5	7.7	22.4
AUSTRIA	252,654	108,415	7.2	6.9	13.9	8.1	18.6

Source: Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich, ÖIR-Berufstätigenfortschreibung



Table 4
Unemployment in the Slovak part of the region

Regional unit	Number of unemployed 2004 in thousands		Unemployment rate 2004, in %		Number of unemployed, change 1999-2004 in %		
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women	Men
Nuts III region							
Bratislava	27.0	14.8	8.2	9.3	9.8	18.4	9.8
Trnava	36.0	18.8	12.5	14.4	9.8	10.6	8.2
Slovak Republic	480.7	230.9	18.1	19.1	15.3	21.3	10.3

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic: Regional Comparisons in the Slovak Republic 1999, 2004

Compared with the Slovak average (18.1% in 2004) the unemployment rate in the border region is low. In 2004 the unemployment rate in Bratislava reached 8.2%. In other sub-regions of the border area the unemployment rate remained below the national average (2004).

1.1.2. Changes in national, regional and sectoral policies

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

The most relevant change was without any doubt the accession of the Slovak 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.

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 with Austria's participation. A series of seminars and workshops was organised 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 prepare the revision of the programme documents.

The Joint Programming Document (JPD) for the Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC Programme was reviewed with a participatory approach and active involvement of all stakeholders. It turned out that the objectives, the priorities and measures were still relevant and should be kept for the rest of the implementation period. With regard to the management structures the MA, PA were confirmed; the Ministry of Construction and Regional development became "National Authority" for Slovak Republic and the Regional Development Support Agency (RDSA) which is situated in the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development (MCRD). The parties 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. At the same time the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation were discussed and included into the documents as well. The Community Initiative Programme (CIP) was approved by the European

Commission in its decision (K) 4457 of 15th November 2004 increasing the available ERDF amount to EUR 37.152.521,00.

While the differences between Phare and Interreg had been a handicap to the co-ordinated implementation of the Interreg and Phare CBC programmes, the new phase (beginning with 2004) set a solid foundation to achieve real cross-border impact. The programme partners agreed that the implementation of genuine cross-border projects should be one of the key objectives to be achieved in the Interreg IIIA programme Austria-Slovakia 2004-2006.

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-sk.net. The MoU and the Rules of Procedure as well as annual reports could either be downloaded from the internal backoffice 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 Slovakia'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 1,678.000 EUR (839,000 EUR ERDF and 839,000 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 policy frame reference

In March 1998 the European Union formally launched the process that made the 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 Slovak Republic. The negotiations with these 10 best-prepared candidates were concluded on the basis of their progress in implementing the *acquis communautaire* up to 2002, and on their commitment to continue doing so until their accession.

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

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.



This legal framework built the basis for the Managing Transition process that was launched by the programme partners from Slovak Republic and Austria in order to amend the former Interreg IIIA/Phare CBC programme on the external EU border into a full Interreg IIIA programme at the 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.

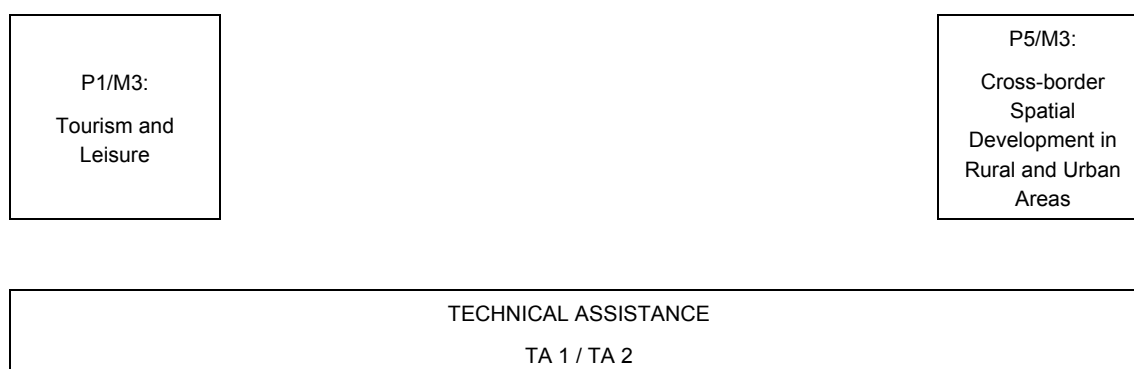
The projects, which were financed by this programme, were proposed by a variety of beneficiaries; amongst others: public administration and public bodies, research groups and other research bodies like universities, associations, trade unions and smaller acitivity groups. Beneficiaries and project partners 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 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 achieved.

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 Activities	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





Detailed information see Annex 1.

In total 343 projects were supported. 71,7 Mio Euro have been verified as ERDF-cofinanced project costs; thereof 35,4 Mio Euro ERDF (= 100% of planned ERDF). The public national cofunding amounts to 32,9 Mio Euro (=134,87% of plan); private co-financing amounts to 3,4 Mio. Euro (= 64% of plan).

Detailed information is provided in Annex 1 – Implementation: Number of projects and Expenditure per Priority and Measure

According to Article 10 of INTERREG Guidelines (20% flexibility clause) the NUTS III regions Niederösterreich Süd, Waldviertel and Sankt Pölten (Lower Austria) and Mittelburgenland are considered to belong to the border area. Table 5 shows the expenditure in these regions.

Table 5
Art. 10 regions

Art. 10 region	Total expenditure	In % of CIP
Niederösterreich Süd	117,384.59	0.16%
Waldviertel	174,649.30	0.24%
St. Pölten	43,695.53	0.06%
Mittelburgenland	6,103.50	0.01%
Total	341,832.93	0.48%

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 were used for both, the joint programme monitoring procedure as well as for the joint project selection process.

The impact indicators were developed starting out from the project level – as 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 summarised 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 6
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 financed projects was reached through a qualitative typology, which combined 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 7

Quality of cooperation in projects

Quality of cooperation in project development and implementation		
Expected cross-border integration impacts:	Better: A	Minimum: B
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 contains the projects which fulfil 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 8

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	254 projects (74%)
Size of projects	5% large projects (total of public financial contribution above EUR 300,000)	55 projects (12%)*
	30 to 40%-share of (very) small projects (total of public financial contribution below EUR 50,000) thereof 109 projects out of Kleinprojektefonds	243 projects (54%)*

* Basis 452 projects = 343 "normal" + 109 "micro-fund/Kleinprojektefonds" projects

Project size

The 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 8 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 has been addressed in case studies. This revealed that most of these indicators indicated in the application are 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 are 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 in the Slovak 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 in the Slovak 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 9 outlines all projects that fulfil the above-mentioned criteria for joint or mirror project:

Table 9

Joint (J), mirror (M) and complementary (C) projects

JPN	Project AT No. CMS	Title	Project SK No. CMS	Title	Approved in LA (Date)
1_J_001	1BBCA_0003	MPARKWIEBRA	14120200001	Mobil-Parking	19-20/10/ 2005
1_J_002	1EAAA_0008	BGM II – Bilaterales Gesamt- projekt March, Phase II	14150200002	Bilaterálny projekt Morava – spoločný manažment vodohospodárskych	19-20/10/ 2005
1_J_003	1ECCA_0007	TWINCITY	14150300004	TWINCITY	19-20/10/ 2005
1_J_004	1EBAA_0009	Ausbildung zum March-Thaya Natur- und KulturführerIn	14150200004	Rozvoj ekoturizmu	22-23/02/ 2006
1_J_005	1EAAA_0009	Energy Net – Erneuerbare Energie	14150100017	Energy Net	22-23/02/ 2006
1_JMN_001	1TAAA_0001 1TABA_0001 1TACA_0001	TH –SK NÖ TH – SK BGL TH – SK Wien	ITMS 14160100009	Meetings of JSC and JMC	25-26/04/ 2005



Table 9 (continued)

Joint (J), mirror (M) and complementary (C) projects

JPN	Project AT No. CMS	Title	Project SK No. CMS	Title	Approved in LA (Date)
1_JMN_002	1TADA_0002	AT-SK TH 1 Joint Technical Secretariat	ITMS 14160100008	National Contact Point	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_003	1TBDA_0002	Mid-Term and ongoing evaluation of the programme	ITMS 14160100007	Mid-Term and ongoing evaluation of the programme	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_004	1ABCA_0005	Econet Plattform	ITMS 14110200004	Econet Plattform	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_005	1ABAA_0002	DIANE	ITMS 14110200003	IDOSAR	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_006	1DBBA_0001	EUSOA (BKF)	ITMS 141130100009	PRIZMA	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_007	1AAAA_0002	GIZ Marchfeld	ITMS 14130100001	CB Impulse Centre (RCIC)	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_008	1DACA_0006	ÜBS – interregional employment strategy	ITMS 14140100001	NSZ – interregional employment strategy	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JMN_009	1ACAA_0007	Euregio – vine event	ITMS 14110300016	ROZSAH	19-20/10/ 2005
1_JMN_012	1_TADA_0001	ERDF paying unit and monitoring	ITMS 14160100006	Interface Monitoringsystem	06/06/2004
1_JMN_016	1_CBCA_0001	Micro Project Fund Vienna	IMTS 14160100003	Administrative support for region Bratislava 2005	11/11/2004 Petronell
1_JMN_017	1_CBAA_0004	Micro Project Fund Lower Austria	ITMS 14160100004	Administrative support for region Trnava 2005	11/11/2004 Petronell
1_JCN_001	1TBDA_0001	AT-SK TH 2 Publicity of the MA	ITMS 14160200001	PR activities for the Programme Interreg IIIA	25- 26/04/2005
1_JCN_002	1ABBA_0001	New markets – new opportunities (WK Bgld.)	ITMS 14110200002	Neighbours help each other	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JCN_004	1AAAA_0002	GIZ Marchfeld	ITMS 14110300006	TIK NIVA (tourism only)	25-26/04/ 2005
1_JCN_009	1 DBAA_0010	Mikroorganismenflora aus Regenwurmkompost	ITMS 14150100018	Biodeg-I	22-23/02/ 2006
1_JCN_010	1ACBA_0006	Naherholungsraum Burgenland	ITMS 14110300039	Zabezpečenie rozvoja cykloturistiky	17/10/2006
1_JCN_011	1ACBA_0006	Naherholungsraum Burgenland	ITMS 14110300034	Festivaly ako prostriedok rozvoja kultúrneho cestovného ruchu v prihraničnom regióne	17/10/2006

Contribution to horizontal priorities - equal opportunities and sustainability

The environmental field was included within the context of the mid-term evaluation of the programme, 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.) are expected. The



assessment of environmental relevance of projects has 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 and environmental sustainability,
- ▶ positive impact on equal opportunities and 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 up to now:

Table 10

Impact of projects on environment

	neutral	positive impact	focus of project content
P 1 Cross-border Economic Co-operation	62	4	2
M 1.1 Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	13	1	1
M 1.2 Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	18	2	0
M 1.3 Tourism and Leisure	31	1	1
P 2 Accessibility	20	3	1
M 2.1 Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	11	1	1
M 2.2 Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	9	2	0
P 3 Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	80	17	3
M 3.1 Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	24	0	0
M 3.2 Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	56	17	3
P 4 Human Resources	45	0	3
M 4.1 Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	10	0	0
M 4.2 Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	35	03	3
P 5 Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	18	29	16
M 5.1 Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	9	17	10
M 5.2 Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	0	6	6
M 5.3 Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	9	6	0
P 6 Special Support for Border Regions	3	0	0
M 6.1 Special Support for Border Regions	3	0	0



P 7 Technical Assistance	35	0	0
M 7.1 Technical assistance in general	27	0	0
M 7.2 Technical assistance, further measures	8	0	0
	263	55	25

Table 11

Impact of projects on equal opportunities

	neutral	positive impact	focus of project content
P 1 Cross-border Economic Co-operation	67	1	0
M 1.1 Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	15	0	0
M 1.2 Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	19	1	0
M 1.3 Tourism and Leisure	33	0	0
P 2 Accessibility	24	0	0
M 2.1 Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	13	0	0
M 2.2 Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	11	0	0
P 3 Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	74	25	1
M 3.1 Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	23	1	0
M 3.2 Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	51	24	1
P 4 Human Resources	44	2	2
M 4.1 Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	8	1	1
M 4.2 Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	36	1	1
P 5 Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	63	0	0
M 5.1 Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	36	0	0
M 5.2 Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	12	0	0
M 5.3 Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	15	0	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	34	1	0
M 7.1 Technical assistance in general	26	1	0
M 7.2 Technical assistance, further measures	8	0	0
	311	29	3

Overall 55 projects with positive impact and 25 projects with a focus on sustainable environmental development were financed by the programme. 32 projects had a positive impact on equal opportunities. The other projects are neutral in terms of horizontal priorities.



2.2.2. Indicators on priority level

Table 12 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 12

Indicators for objectives on priority level

Indicator on priority level	Target	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		68	
Share of impact:			
60% leading to market integration and/or integration of products			45%
20% leading to transfer of knowledge and/or technologies			26%
20% partner search and creation of networks			29%
<i>P 2: Accessibility and Infrastructure:</i>			
Number of projects: 5-8		24	
Thereof: 4-6 projects (studies) for strategic support		9	
1-2 investments projects		7	
Share of impact:			
40% links to international transport routes, improved CBC transportation links			50%
60% improving CB-mobility, accessibility and intelligent traffic solutions and integrated use of information technology and communication infrastructure			50%
<i>P 3: Organisational structures and networks:</i>			
Number of projects: 20-30		100	
Thereof: 6-8 supported Euregios/CB-development organisations, (GEO)/regional managements		5	
150 projects in supported within Micro Project Funds		109	
Share of impact:			
50% development of implementation structures for CBC cooperation			40%
30% generating and expanding networks			23%
20% pilot projects and testing of new forms of collaboration			37%
<i>P 4: Human resources:</i>			
Number of projects: 20-30		48	
40 to 60 participating institutions in the fields of labour market and training		160	
Share of impact:			
25% projects preparing the integration of labour markets			18%
75% projects providing qualifications/knowledge with specific relevance to the neighbouring region			82%



P 5: Sustainable development:

Number of projects: 20-30	63
Share of impact:	
33% development of the region and the environmental conditions	48%
33% applying environmentally friendly technologies or representing technical infrastructure projects	32%
33% improving natural resources and environmental conditions including national and nature parks	20%

Generally it can be stated that the implementation of the programme shows the expected results on priority level.

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: seminars, web sites, 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 on the outputs achieved.

Please see also Annex 2 for best practice examples on project level.

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

0 project providing physical support for SME (plant and equipment etc.)
2 projects providing financial support to introduce environmental technologies or to develop eco-products
3 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;
2 vocational training and training projects
30 trainees
3 projects providing support for RTDI infrastructure;
2 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

10 projects providing business advisory services

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

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

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

0 Number of new business launched

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

1 project providing support for RTDI infrastructure;

0 projects creating networks or services for knowledge transfer

1 vocational training and training project (rural development, forestry, SMEs)

0 trainees

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

P1/M3: Tourism and Leisure

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

0 km of biking/hiking/horseback riding path constructed

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

1 vocational training and training projects (tourism)

70 trainees

2 projects providing support for rural tourism

P2/M1: Improvement of crossborder transport and telecom infrastructure

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

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

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

1 vocational training and training projects (information society)

0 projects providing IT services and applications for SMEs

P2/M2: Transport organisation, planning and logistics

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

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

1 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

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

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

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

4 Micro projects funds and 178 Micro Projects incl. People to people actions and small pilots

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

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

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

2 vocational training or training projects

10 trainees

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

0 centres for disabled people supported

0 kindergartens supported

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

29 vocational training or training projects (information society)

8075 trainees

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



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

5 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

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

1 projects providing business advisory services

4 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)

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

0 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

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

0 km² (ha) reafforested

10 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

257,000 KW of new capacity created

2 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

3 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

9 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

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

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

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

9 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
- 2 projects providing business advisory services
- 0 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
- 0 vocational training and training projects (SMEs); number of trainees
- b) 3 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) 0 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 projects.

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 incorporates too many impact dimensions and the co-operation phases are 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.

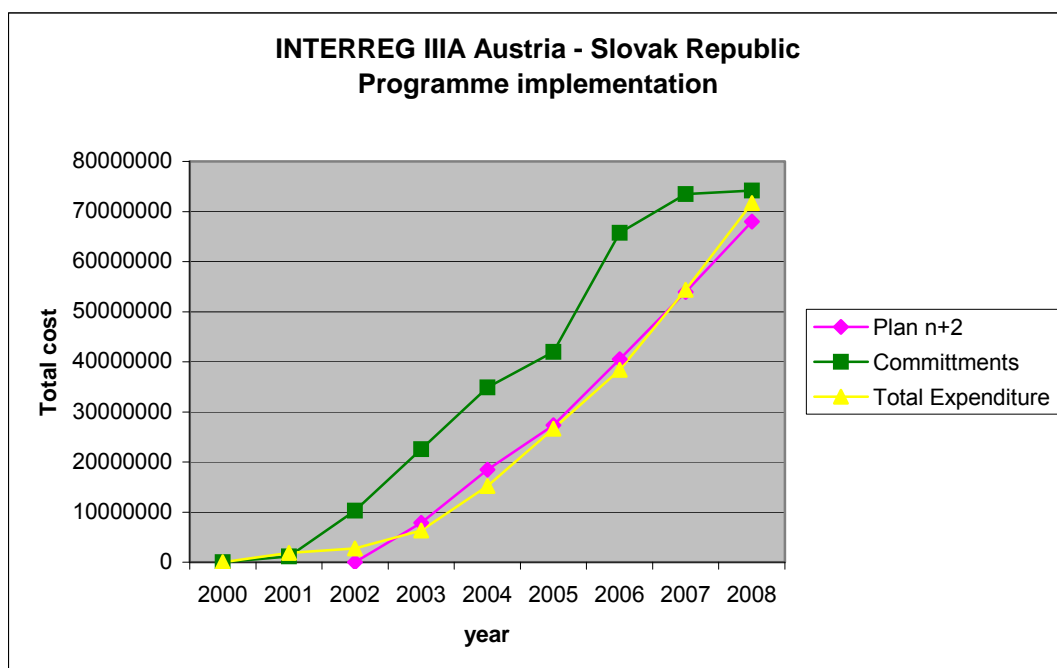
Chapter 3.3 reports on activities which were implemented in the framework of PHARE CBC.

3.1. General information on the financial implementation

The total budget for the Programme is 64,90 Mio. Euro, 35,27 Mio. Euro of which is ERDF (according to Commission Decision K(2008)1576 of April 16th 2008, corrected K(2008) 4962, 11.9.2008).

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 year 2002 15% of the total programme budget had been committed to projects (the budget was increased in 2004 due to the accession of the Slovak 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 6,681 EUR ERDF.

After the accession of the Slovak Republic to the EU the commitments increased again and reached already at the end of the year 2006 almost 90% of the budget.

In the year 2006 the n+2 rule could not be implemented successfully. Following the Art 31(2) of the Regulation (EC) no. 1260/1999 the Commission automatically decommitted from the allocation for the year 2004 1,873,848 EUR. The main reason 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) 2163 of 14th September 2001, the programme started with the approved ERDF contribution amounted to EUR 26,252.000.

Prior to the accession of the Slovak Republic to 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 1,678.000 EUR (839,000 EUR ERDF and 839,000 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 27,091,000.

► **revised by a Commission decision C(2004) 4457 of 15th November 2004**

The main change in 2004 was the accession of the Slovak 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) 4457 on 15th November 2004 increasing the available ERDF amount to EUR 37,152,521.00 including now ERDF share for Slovak Republic and indexation.

► **revised by a Commission decision K (2005) 5781 of 19th 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 832.318 EUR ERDF and lead consequently to automatic decommitment of 6.681 EUR of the “Special Support for Border regions”.

The programme partners submitted a revised financial table approved by the Monitoring Committee which has been approved by the Commission on 19 December 2005 by a Commission decision K (2005) 5781 the approved ERDF contribution amounts to EUR 37,145,840.

► **revised by a Commission decision K(2007) 1685 of 11th April 2007**

Based on requests of intermediate bodies from the Slovak Republic and Austrian side the Monitoring Committee approved on November 19th 2006 the following changes in the financial tables and the revision was submitted to the EC for approval:

Funds in Priority 1 ‘Cross-Border Economic Cooperation’ were increased by EUR 430,975 EUR. At the same time funds in Priority 3 ‘Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks’ were increased by 487.905 EUR. The increase of funds in these two priorities were achieved by decreasing funds in the remaining three priorities (Priority 2 Accessibility by 223,140 EUR; Priority 4 Human Resources by 315,311 EUR and Priority 5 Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development by 380,429 EUR).

The changes were approved by the Commission by 11.4.2007; the new financial tables of the Programme Complement were accepted by 5.6.2007

► **revised by a Commission decision K(2008) 1576 of 16th April 2008; corrected by a decision K(2008) 4962 of 11th September 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 1,873,848 ERDF. The programme partners submitted a revised financial table - approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee in a written procedure - to the Commission. The approved ERDF contribution amounted to EUR 35,271,992.

The Monitoring Committee decided in a written procedure closed at 30 December 2008 the final amendments of the financial table in the Programme Complement and submitted the new document to the EC for validation. The coherence with the PC was stated in a letter of EC by March 3rd 2009.



Table 13

Financial allocation according to the revised Programme Complement

Source								
Priorities/Measures	Total Costs	Total Public Expenditure	ERDF ¹⁾	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	17.457.349,00	14.547.259,00	9.441.525,00	8.015.824,00	5.105.734,00	2.910.090,00	26,90%	26,77%
1.1. Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	8.555.406,00	7.312.155,00	4.426.462,00	4.128.944,00	2.885.693,00	1.243.251,00	13,18%	12,55%
1.2. Cross-border Co-operation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	3.275.789,00	2.844.737,00	1.723.052,00	1.552.737,00	1.121.685,00	431.052,00	5,05%	4,89%
1.3. Tourism and Leisure	5.626.154,00	4.390.367,00	3.292.011,00	2.334.143,00	1.098.356,00	1.235.787,00	8,67%	9,33%
2. Accessibility	13.070.882,00	12.310.329,00	7.048.231,00	6.022.651,00	5.262.098,00	760.553,00	20,14%	19,98%
2.1. Improvement of Cross-border Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	6.316.541,00	5.919.320,00	3.354.394,00	2.962.147,00	2.564.926,00	397.221,00	9,73%	9,51%
2.2. Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	6.754.341,00	6.391.009,00	3.693.837,00	3.060.504,00	2.697.172,00	363.332,00	10,41%	10,47%
3. Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	7.652.684,00	7.011.816,00	4.285.466,00	3.367.218,00	2.726.350,00	640.868,00	11,79%	12,15%
3.1. Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	5.431.430,00	5.117.243,00	2.906.503,00	2.524.927,00	2.210.740,00	314.187,00	8,37%	8,24%
3.2. Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	2.221.254,00	1.894.573,00	1.378.963,00	842.291,00	515.610,00	326.681,00	3,42%	3,91%
4. Human Ressources	8.073.630,00	7.708.167,00	4.401.102,00	3.672.528,00	3.307.065,00	365.463,00	12,44%	12,48%
4.1. Development of Regional Labour Marktes within the Context of EU Enlargement	1.950.712,00	1.942.441,00	1.016.711,00	934.001,00	925.730,00	8.271,00	3,01%	2,88%
4.2. Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	6.122.918,00	5.765.726,00	3.384.391,00	2.738.527,00	2.381.335,00	357.192,00	9,43%	9,60%
5. Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	13.811.106,00	13.268.768,00	7.496.654,00	6.314.452,00	5.772.114,00	542.338,00	21,28%	21,25%
5.1. Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	4.723.615,00	4.464.255,00	2.678.611,00	2.045.004,00	1.785.644,00	259.360,00	7,28%	7,59%
5.2. Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	6.834.686,00	6.571.396,00	3.593.205,00	3.241.481,00	2.978.191,00	263.290,00	10,53%	10,19%
5.3. Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	2.252.805,00	2.233.117,00	1.224.838,00	1.027.967,00	1.008.279,00	19.688,00	3,47%	3,47%
6. Special Support for Border Regions	1.664.638,00	1.664.638,00	832.319,00	832.319,00	832.319,00	0,00	2,56%	2,36%
6.1. Special Support for Border Regions	1.664.638,00	1.664.638,00	832.319,00	832.319,00	832.319,00		2,56%	2,36%
Technical Assistance	3.170.922,00	3.134.560,00	1.766.695,00	1.404.227,00	1.367.865,00	36.362,00	4,89%	5,01%
Technical Assistance I	2.227.282,00	2.191.916,00	1.290.466,00	936.816,00	901.450,00	35.366,00	3,43%	3,66%
Technical Assistance II	943.640,00	942.644,00	476.229,00	467.411,00	466.415,00	996,00	1,45%	1,35%
TOTAL	64.901.211,00	59.645.537,00	35.271.992,00	29.629.219,00	24.373.545,00	5.255.674,00	100,00%	100,00%

1) The EU-contribution was calculated on the basis of total cost.



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 more resources were finally spent in priority I “Cross Border Economic Co-operation” whereas less money than originally planned was spent in priority 2 “Accessibility”. The changes in the other priorities have not been substantial.

Figure 2

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

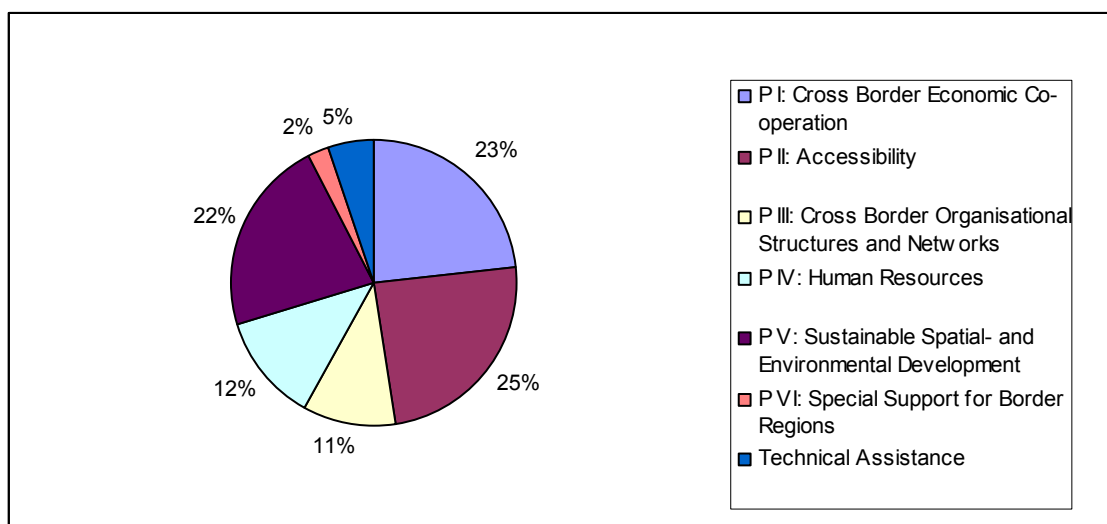
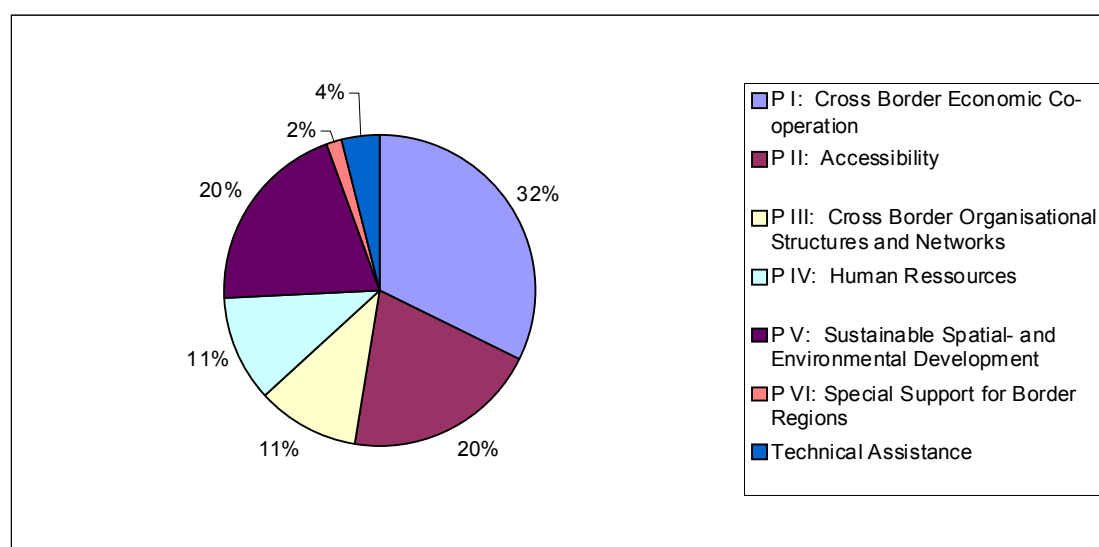


Figure 3

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



3.1.2. Use of the EURO

Payments to Slovak project owners had been executed in Slovak Koruna by the Sub-Paying Authority in Slovak Republic. For the purpose of establishing a statement of expenditure by the sub-PA the amounts of expenditure incurred in SKK 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 16 interim payment requests to the European Commission. The following table provides an overview on the respective dates and amounts.

Table 14

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			08.11.2001	1.837.640,00
for measure 6.1. amount Euro 58.730,-- date of transmission:2002-11-26				
measure 6.1. was finished in 2004, therefore the advance payment is handled as a reimbursement				
1.	18.12.2002	406.767,64	18.03.2003	406.767,64
2.	28.05.2003	793.797,01	16.09.2003	793.796,96
3.	18.11.2003	975.578,87	19.12.2003	975.578,82
4.	04.12.2003	123.072,01	08.03.2004	123.072,01
5.	15.10.2004	927.410,75	08.12.2004	797.443,87
6.	23.12.2004	4.554.203,02	28.02.2005	3.300.895,51
7.	15.04.2005	1.702.549,81	22.07.2005	1.137.168,89
8.	31.10.2005	1.516.870,39	09.12.2005	874.888,82
9.	28.12.2005	3.501.175,47	26.01.2006	3.248.690,62
10.	27.12.2006	5.813.977,64	02.02.2007	5.657.058,80
11.	04.10.2007	529.778,36	04.12.2007	523.276,46
12.	27.12.2007	7.554.389,24	08.05.2008	5.993.507,48
13.	10.06.2008	2.812.774,15	17.07.2008	1.188.393,01
14.	30.10.2008	3.952.120,09	15.12.2008	2.178.351,20
15.	19.02.2009	3.595.523,23	03.04.2009	3.317.394,67
16.	28.07.2009	1.439.875,31	25.08.2009	1.154.467,64
<i>final payment claim</i>		1.763.599,60		
total				33.508.392,40
advanced payment for measure 6.1. deducted, effectively received EUR 1.078.438,89				

In Annex 3 the total expenditure is broken down on fields of intervention at measure level



3.2.1. Information on the use of interests

No interests on the account of the Paying Authority have been earned.

4.742,71 EUR has been earned on the account of the sub-PA in the Slovak Republic. These interests have been used for the partial covering of over-contracting.

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 of Slovakia, Vienna, Burgenland and Lower Austria 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 were 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 Managing Authority – core management

In the framework of Technical Assistance the MA has concluded the following contracts²:

- ▶ 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, forecasts, 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 Slovak data, implementation of functions for the exchange of currencies and the automatic data transfer).
- ▶ One to 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 Slovak colleague of the TS a fully equipped working place at the premises in Vienna. The National Authority, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, directly contracts the Slovak TS member.
- ▶ One to the ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH to carry out the mid-term (including up-date) and on-going evaluation.

² for TA funds used in the reporting period please see chapter 2.3.

- One to former Österreichisches Institut für Raumplanung to assist in drafting the Operational programme for the SF-period 2007-2013.

The National Authority as well as the Intermediate Bodies of Bratislava and Trnava contracted several projects under TA 1 (see also chapter 2.3).

Additionally the Austrian IBs 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 there are no unfinished or non-operational projects.

3.2.4. Project suspended due to legal or administrative proceedings

There is not 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 Slovak Republic-Austria

List of grant schemes covered by Programme PHARE CBC Slovakia - Austria

2001 SR/AT

SR0113.01: Accessibility: Re-engineering of the water channel Chorvátske rameno.

SR0113.02: Sustainable spatial and environmental development: Waste water disposal system of the villages in the basin of the river Morava

SR0113.03: Cross-border economic co-operation: Business incubator in the city of Malacky

SR0113.04: Joint Small Projects Fund



2002 SR/AT

2002/000-642.02 - III/0238 Moravský Svätý Ján bridge over the river Morava

2002/000-642.03 - Joint Small Projects Fund

2003 SR/AT

2003/005-704.01 - Environmental protection and nature conservation grant scheme

2003/005-704.02 - Tourism Development grant scheme

2003/005-704.03 - Joint Small Projects Fund

Allocation of Phare funds according to FM (Project Fiche) financial table:

FM 2001

No.	Project Title	M EUR			
		Phare IB	Phare Investment	National Co-financing	TOTAL
SR0113.01	Accessibility: Re-engineering of the water channel Chorvátske rameno	-	1,6	0,56	2,160
SR0113.02	Sustainable spatial and environmental development: Waste water disposal system of the villages in the basin of the river Morava	-	2,0	1,254	3,254
SR0113.03	Cross-border economic co-operation: Business incubator in the city of Malacky	0,2	1,6	0,605	2,4
SR0113.04	Joint Small Projects Fund	0,6	-	0,067	0,667
	TOTAL	0,8	5,2	2,486	8,486



FM 2002

No	Project Title	MEUR			
		Phare IB	Phare Investment	National Co- financing	TOTAL
2002/000 -642.01	Innovation and Technology Development Grant Scheme – not implemented in MCRD	0.4	3.1	1.3	4.8
2002/000 -642.02	III/0238 Moravský Svätý Ján bridge over the river Morava	-	1.9	0.64	2.54
2002/000 -642.03	Joint Small Projects Fund	0.6	-	0.067	0.667
	TOTAL	1.0	5.0	2.007	8.007

FM 2003

CRIS No.	Project Title	PHARE Investment	PHARE Institution Building	TOTAL
2003/005-704.01	Environmental protection and nature conservation grant scheme	3,2	0,2	3,4
2003/005-704.02	Tourism Development grant scheme	1,7	0,3	2,0
2003/005-704.03	Joint Small Projects Fund	-	0,6	0,6
	TOTAL	4,9	1,1	6,0

PHARE CBC SR-AT - Disbursement of allocated funds for years 2001-2003

	Contracted amount (EUR)		Disbursement (EUR)	
Project title	Phare	State Budget + Beneficiary	PHARE	State Budget + Beneficiary
FM 2001				
SR0113.01 Accessibility: Re-engineering of the water channel Chorvátske rameno	737.918,68	259.280,59	737.918,68	259.280,51
SR0113.02: Sustainable spatial and environmental development: Waste water disposal system of the villages in the basin of the river Morava	1.998.276,49	1.434.820,99	1.998.276,49	1.434.108,11
SR0113.03: Cross-border economic co-operation: Business incubator in the city of Malacky	1 800 000,00	605 000,00	1 781 995,17	599 638,25
SR0113.04: Joint Small Projects Fund	593267,53	85146,12	545833,4	83139,17
Total	5129462,70	2384247,70	5064023,74	2376166,04
FM 2002				
2002/000-642.02 - III/0238 Moravský Svätý Ján bridge over the river Morava	1 703 185,13	573 704,46	1 646 031,20	554 452,62
2002/000-642.03 - Joint Small Projects Fund	594 601,96	72 792,89	544 904,73	67 711,05
Total	2 297 787,09	646 497,35	2 190 935,93	622 163,67



FM 2003				
2003/005-704.01 - Environmental protection and nature conservation grant scheme	3211173,36	1302068,11	3138545,51	1276091,00
2003/005-704.02 - Tourism Development grant scheme	1868421,91	595295,69	1786336,81	567876,73
2003/005-704.03 - Joint Small Projects Fund	593051,71	72574,62	538357,07	65624,30
Total	5672646,98	1969938,42	5463239,39	1909592,03

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 Slovak 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 Slovak 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 Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of Slovak Republic acting as National authority made during the shorten programming period regularly effort to improve the implementation of the programme on the Slovak side.

Starting in 2004 and continuing during the whole programme implementation regular contacts with potential applicants has been achieved through organization of the information seminars, telephone, e-mail communication and personal meetings which laid down an important basis for interactive connection and link between the implementing structure and potential beneficiaries.

Aiming to higher quality of payment request submitted from the recipients the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic also published on its website a special guidelines for payment request preparation which together with personal consultations led to decrease of the administrative and technical mistakes made by the beneficiaries in the payment claims.

All recommendations proposed by audit authorities during control and audit performance of the programme on the Slovak side were incorporated and regularly updated into the internal manual of procedures of the cross border cooperation department of the MoCRD. These implications accelerated internal procedures related to project assessment, contract preparation and especially first level control performance.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic was also deeply involved in the decision making process and together with the Austrian Managing authority mostly influenced the programme implementation. In order to support the management process the cross border cooperation department of the MoCRD was regularly personally strengthened which finally led to significant increase of the administrative capacities involved in the programme management on the Slovak side.

In December 2006 a new financial unit within department was created. Together with first level control unit (since September 2007) these two units were primary responsible for performance of expenditure verification and payments to final beneficiaries.

All these above mentioned changes contributed to the fact that the implementation on the Slovak side had shown no significant deficiencies.

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 emerged (state government and regions) 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 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-Slovak 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 is established with the PA. All Structural Funds resources are received at this account. Interest income, if any, is exclusively allocated to this account and, thus, to the Programme as required by the last sentence of Art. 32 (2). Appropriate organisational measures are to ensure efficient financial management so that the arising needs for financing can be covered by the advance payments of Structural Funds resources and a forfeiture of Structural Funds financing is 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 the 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 – Slovak Republic Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the INTERREG IIIA Programme Austria – Slovak Republic 2000-2006 a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) was established for the implementation of the Community Initiative Programme INTERREG IIIA Austria – Slovak 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 15

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

Programme year	JMC	Total JMC	JSC	Total JSC	Total JMC & JSC
2001	4th of October in Vienna	1	5th of October in Vienna	1	2
2002	12th of June in Stupava / Slovak Republic	1	24th of January in Vienna, 11th of June in Stupava / Slovak Republic, 14th of October in Zistersdorf / Austria	3	4
2003	23rd of January in Stupava / Slovak Republic, 1st of October in Vienna	2	22nd of January in Stupava / Slovak Republic, 18th of June in Neusiedl / Austria, 11th of December in Zistersdorf / Austria	3	5
2004	27th of January in Neusiedl / Austria, 6th of July in Stupava / Slovak Republic	2	30th of March in Vienna, 7th of July in Stupava, 11th of November in Petronell Carnuntum / Austria	3	5
2005	7th of July in Illmitz / Austria	1	25th/26th of April in Bratislava, 19th/20th of October in Pezinok	2	3
2006	7th of June in Piešťany / Slovak Republic	1	22nd and 23rd of February in Vienna, 6th of June in Piešťany / Slovak Republic, 17th of October in Orth/Donau, Austria	3	4
2007	13th of November in Eisenstadt / Austria	1	13th of November in Eisenstadt / Austria	1	2
2008	20th of November in Bratislava	1	-	-	1
Total		10		16	26

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 a single INTERREG IIIA Austria – Slovak Joint Steering Committee (JSC) was set up as a body responsible for the joint selection of all INTERREG IIIA projects and the 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 Chapter 10.1.2 of the CIP):

- ▶ discussion and approval of projects applying project selection criteria and the scoring system as defined in the Programme Complement and as approved by the JMC;
- ▶ discussion of project ideas of the Slovak regions;
- ▶ discussion and recommendation of projects and ERDF allocations for the INTERREG IIIA projects submitted;
- ▶ recommendation of the projects, approval of the ERDF funding for the projects;
- ▶ report on the conditionally recommended projects of JSC meetings as well as on other changes made to projects;
- ▶ discussion on the utilisation of ERDF funds;
- ▶ information on the on-going evaluation: project development structures;
- ▶ presentation of the rules of procedure for the JSC.

According to Chapter 10 of the CIP and pursuant to Art. 42 and Annex II Art. 8 of the INTERREG-Guidelines and Art. 5 par. 2 of the Commission Regulation Nr. 2780/98 a Joint Steering Committee for Small Projects / Kleinprojekte, people-to-people projects and pilot projects was established as a sub-committee of the JSC. The final clarification of Specific guidelines for the Small Project Fund has been done in compliance with the tasks described in the rules of procedure of the INTERREG IIIA AUSTRIA – Slovak Republic Steering Committee. 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 Slovak part of the the JTS was contracted and supervised by the National Authority of the Slovak Republic. The purpose of the Secretariat was to act as 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 named metis GmbH. Since 2004 the JTS Team in Vienna was completed by JTS members in Bratislava to support the Slovak 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-sk.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 Construction and Regional Development 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 six Task Force meetings and one workshop were held with the Slovak 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 Slovak JTS team members were gradually improved over the years. From accession onwards the cooperation was tightened and the Slovak 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. Development of Control System according to Art 5

4.2.1. Description of the Accounting and Information Systems

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-Slovak 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.

In the programme the IBs are 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 pays 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 is reported to the CMS.



On the Slovak side the 1st level control of the final beneficiaries' applications for payments were consulted by the IB Bratislava and IB Trnava and controlled and in case of correctness approved by the Ministry for Construction and Regional Development (MCRD). The approved application for payment was forwarded to the MCRD Paying Unit that carried out further checks and generated summary payment application that was forwarded to the sub-PA. After the funds were released by the sub-PA the MCRD Paying Unit made payments to final beneficiaries. The payments were reported in the Slovak monitoring system and transferred via data transfer into the CMS.

Sample checks on operations according to Art. 10 and the winding-up declaration according to Art. 15 of Commission Regulation 438/2001 have been carried out in Austria by the Federal Chancellery, Division IV/3 and in Slovak Republic, by the Ministry for Construction and Regional Development.

Inspections of the Management and Monitoring System were carried out by the Audit Authorities in Austria and Slovak Republic.

In Austria some weaknesses have been detected and reported. The necessary improvements to the Management and Monitoring System which had been ascertained in previous years were carried out by the responsible Intermediate Bodies and the Managing Authority.

On the Slovak 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.

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) was set up for the implementation of the Financial Control according to chapter IV and Winding Up of the Community Initiative Programme "INTERREG IIIA Austria – Slovak Republic" according to chapter V of Regulation (EC) 438/2001. The rules of procedure were adopted by a decision of the delegations of both participating states in May 2005 (first meeting of FCG). The FCG met at least once every year in order to discuss important findings and the drafts of the common annual reports (according to Art. 13 of Com.Reg. 438/2001) before sending to the Commission.

The FCG consisted of a limited number of representatives from national authorities of the two Member States of the INTERREG IIIA Austria – Slovak Republic programme. These national authorities were 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 were conducted on the Austrian and the Slovak side according to the annual audit plan of the respective year. Reports on the single audits were made and executive summaries were 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 Slovak 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. Some weaknesses and deficiencies identified by the Ministry of Finance as Audit body were corrected and all recommendations proposed by audit authorities during control and audit performance of the programme on the Slovak side were incorporated into internal manual of procedures of the National authority.

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 2004 weaknesses at one of the IB Vienna was 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 from the programme. 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 the Slovak 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 2008 (yearly tranche of 2006) amounting to 1,873,848 Euro (more information see chapter 3.1).

Audit on retrospective verification of public procurement in Slovak Republic

An audit focused on retrospective verification of the public procurement was initiated by EC pursuant the Article 38 (4) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 and based on several audit missions in the SR which detected some deficiencies in the functioning of the management and control system in relation to public procurement procedures. The audit covered all operational programmes in the Slovak Republic including the INTERREG IIIA AT-SK programme and was performed on individual projects co-financed within the 2004-2006 programming period. A summary report of this audit including the identified deficiencies, appropriate measures and financial impacts was sent to the EC on October 31st, 2008.

In the period of November 10th-14th 2008 there has been subsequent audit mission taken by EC aimed to assess the reliability of the results of the retrospective verification of public procurement carried out by the authorities in SR and to assure whether the authorities have proposed in the report sufficient financial corrections in order to compensate the EU budget according to the errors in public procurement procedures.

As a result of the audit mission the following 3 areas of public procurement failures were identified generally:

- unjustified use of direct award or negotiated procedure without publication
- irregular direct award of additional works
- too restrictive selection criteria

For the aforementioned reasons the following financial corrections have been identified for the INTERREG III A AT-SK programme:

- the error rate according to the EC methodology: 0,74 %
- total correction for individual findings including the extrapolation: 24 537,11 EUR

Financial corrections were identified in case of 2 individual projects.

In order to avoid similar failings in the future the MCRD SR took measures in terms of check lists revision, more precise control of the expenditure and strengthening the trainings for controllers in public procurement field according to the findings identified by the audit. By the EC letter of October 1st, 2009 sent to SR, EC concluded that the revised results from the retrospective verification and the corresponding financial corrections proposed by SR authorities satisfactorily address the issues identified by the DG REGIO's auditors during their audit mission carried out in November 2008. The corrections of irregular expenditure were administrated by the MCRD SR in accordance with Article 39 (1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

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 Slovakia'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 could be downloaded from the programme website.



Folder (2001, 2002) and folder for pupils (2007): JTS has elaborated the concept and layout of a folder informing of the start of all four external border programmes. 10.000 pieces of this folder were printed in November 2001 and have been 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). Moreover, 12.000 pieces of a bilingual

INTERREG folder targeted to pupils aged 14 to 19 years old and teachers were printed in April 2007. It was distributed to all communities, schools, beneficiaries and other partners in the programme area before the summer break. An electronic version could be downloaded from the programme website www.at-sk.net.

Project documentation and documentation of project results: based on the information on committed projects in the CMS the JTS started 2003 to set up a project documentation comprising all relevant information which is 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 around 70 to 80 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 from February 2008 onwards on the programme website under projects/"Success Stories" (overview of projects by priorities and measures). For each project additionally a documentary archive (*.zip) was created so that project results can be downloaded.



Programme website www.at-sk.net: the website was on-line since February 2002 in German, Slovak 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 Slovak 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 Slovak, English and German language were carried out in close cooperation with our Slovak partners. 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-sk.net/Service/intern: from December 2002 onwards (until November 2009) the MA/JTS offered all Committee members an information repository which could be accessed through the programme website. Basically, it consisted of a personal calendar and a file manager which contained 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 was widely used by programme partners and was regularly up-dated.

Information events: 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 and in an INTERREG conference in Bratislava. 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. Also, presentations have been held on three other information days. The JTS has informed of the state of play of the MT process in the framework of an INTERACT information day and has

held presentations for regional stakeholders on the INTERREG IIIA programme in Bratislava and Nitra. Moreover, the JTS organized in total five 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.

4.4.2. Activities of the Intermediate Bodies

The IB of Burgenland gave information by means of an e-mail action. The IB also provided updated information on the website: www.burgenland.at/eu-service.htm; since 2007 there existed a new website: www.rmb.at. Information was also been provided via press releases to promote the Kleinprojektfond (Small Project Fund), and via presentations. Two brochures and three folders including two folders for pupils were published and could be downloaded from the website.

The IB Vienna held information days, two information seminars, and two workshops on the Kleinprojektfond (Small Project Fund) for potential applicants. A third workshop was held for project owner of already approved projects. A second call for projects under the Viennese Kleinprojektfond (disposition fund) was published. Information has been 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 have been attended by politicians from seven cities and seven regions; the subsequent kick-off conference has taken place in Kittsee. The IB Vienna hosted the presentation of the OECD-study on the "Twin Cities Vienna-Bratislava".

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 2006. A guide for submission of projects has been elaborated and published; it can also be downloaded from the website. A variety of description of projects, reports on seminars related to Interreg and articles have been published in journals, for example in the journal "Raum&Ordnung". Two newsletters have been 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) has been produced including special editions for the different regions of Lower Austria. The IB has published also two brochures including DVDs.

The main activities of the Slovak partners: the Regional Development Support Agency (RDSA) which is situated in the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development provided

regularly up-dated information about project implementation for the wider public on a website. The RDSA attended meetings to spread information on future possibilities. As standard activities in the course of Calls for PHARE CBC information meetings for applicants had been held at the beginning of the Call. After closure and awarding of contracts training meetings for final beneficiaries had been organised. The major workload for the Slovak part of the JTS, the IBs as well as for the Info Point were the individual consultations with project applicants. The NCP and the Slovak part of the JTS organised an information and training event for potential applicants. Another information seminar for beneficiaries of the INTERREG IIIA programme Austria-Slovakia and also for potential stakeholders of the cross border programme AT-SK 2007-2013 was organized by the city of Bratislava in close cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development. Furthermore the IB Trnava carried out so called project initiating meetings with potential beneficiaries within the region. The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development published a brochure with successful projects in frame of the PHARE CBC programme Slovakia – Austria and also for the INTERREG III A programme Austria-Slovakia.

4.5. Evaluation on the programme

According to the regulations the INTERREG IIIA Programme Austria-Slovak 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 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 JPD already contained the results of the foregone evaluation loop. Altogether the ex-ante evaluation 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 2003³ 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 findings⁴ and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation.

The mid-term evaluation report was sent to the Commission on 22nd December 2003. The Commission confirmed in its letter dated 20.2.2004 the completeness of the report.

Main results of MTE⁵

<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

³ The tender procedure pursuant to § 34 of BVergG 2002 has been formally launched in early 2003 and the formal decision to contract the ÖAR-Regionalberatung GmbH has been taken by mid 2003. The mid-term evaluation report Interreg IIIA Austria – Slovak Republic was prepared in time by mid December and has been sent to the EC on 22nd December 2003 (the final report in English as well as a summary in English and German can be downloaded from the internal Backoffice area).

⁴ See Annex 7 for a summary of the mid-term evaluation

⁵ Detailed information on the recommendation and the implementation is given in the up-date MTE report (there chapter 3)



Recommendation of evaluators	Implementation
	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 the 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 committees	Actually social partners were members of the JMC. 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.

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 8, chapter 2.2.1, 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 – Slovak 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 2006⁶.

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 Slovak 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

⁶ The conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact as well as the recommendations of the up-date MTE report see Annex 8

addressed the Slovak programme stakeholders. Finally all partners discussed the results and draw 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.
- ▶ the clarification of concerns/interests of programme partners and discussion of recommendations contained in the Up-dates of Mid-Term Evaluations.
- ▶ the identification of main experiences, 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).



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 a 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 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 as well as 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 within Slovak Republic

In the Slovak Republic, the National Authority took appropriate steps in order to ensure the coordination of all the community structural supports which were distributed to Slovak beneficiaries. With regard to coherence with other Programmes, the National Authority participates in the Monitoring Committees of other Community Initiatives in the Slovak 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 Slovak 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) has installed a specific working group for authorities participating in the management of EU programmes. The working group meets regularly to discuss topics and requests of interest from a cross-programme perspective for the stakeholders of EU-programmes in the Austrian administration. It has 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 are represented.



6. REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES IN 2008

The following chapter describes 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 –Slovak 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-Slovak 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 1 new project was approved by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) furthermore for 10 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 December 2008. The revised financial tables and the revised Programme Complement (PC) were sent to the Commission in December 2008. The EC confirmed the revised PC in a letter dated March 3rd 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 of the intervention 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 every single measure and hence in every priority (with the exception of Priority 6) expenditure was effected in 2008.

6.3.1. Forecasts and payments received in 2008

Table 16 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 and 2009 as well as the cumulated payments 2001-2008/2009. The forecast was submitted in April 30th 2008. Due to delayed payments in 2008 and updated forecast was sent on October 15th 2008 with regard to payments for 2009..

Table 16 a

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
6.840.000	5.993.507,48	08.05.2008	1.837.640,00	27.198.890,09	35.271.992,00
	1.188.393,01	17.07.2008			
	2.178.351,20	15.12.2008			
	<i>total</i>				
	9.360.251,69				

* without advanced payment received 2001

Table 16 b

Forecast for and Payments received in 2009 (in Euro)

Forecast (ERDF) 2009	Payments received in 2009	Date	Advance Payments received 2001	Payments received 2001-2009*	Total ERDF allocation
7.000.000	3.317.394,67	03.04.2009	1.837.640,00	31.670.752,40	35.271.992,00
	1.154.467,64	25.08.2009			
	<i>total</i>				
	4.471.862,31				

* without advanced payment received 2001



Table 16 c**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
13.840.000	5.993.507,48	08.05.2008	1.837.640,00	31.670.752,40	35.271.992,00
	1.188.393,01	17.07.2008			
	2.178.351,20	15.12.2008			
	3.317.394,67	03.04.2009			
	1.154.467,64	25.08.2009			
	<i>total</i>				
	13.832.114,00				

* without advanced payment received 2001

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 was sent to the Commission in December 2008. The EC confirmed the revised PC in a letter dated March 3rd 2009.

6.4.1. Report on the activities of the JMC and JSC

One JMC meeting took place on November 20th 2008. Written procedures concerning amendments and/or changes of financial tables were launched on:

- ▶ March 10th 2008
- ▶ May 16th 2008
- ▶ June 4th 2008
- ▶ November 13th 2008

The written procedures were launched for the approval of the Annual Implementation Report 2007, the increase of the ERDF co-financing for eight already approved projects and two other already approved TA projects and for the approval of one new project.

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

The Federal Chancellery in its function as 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 17

Agenda 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 having met the Slovak counterparts (the Financial Control Group meeting took place on June 10th 2008 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-403.621/0008-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

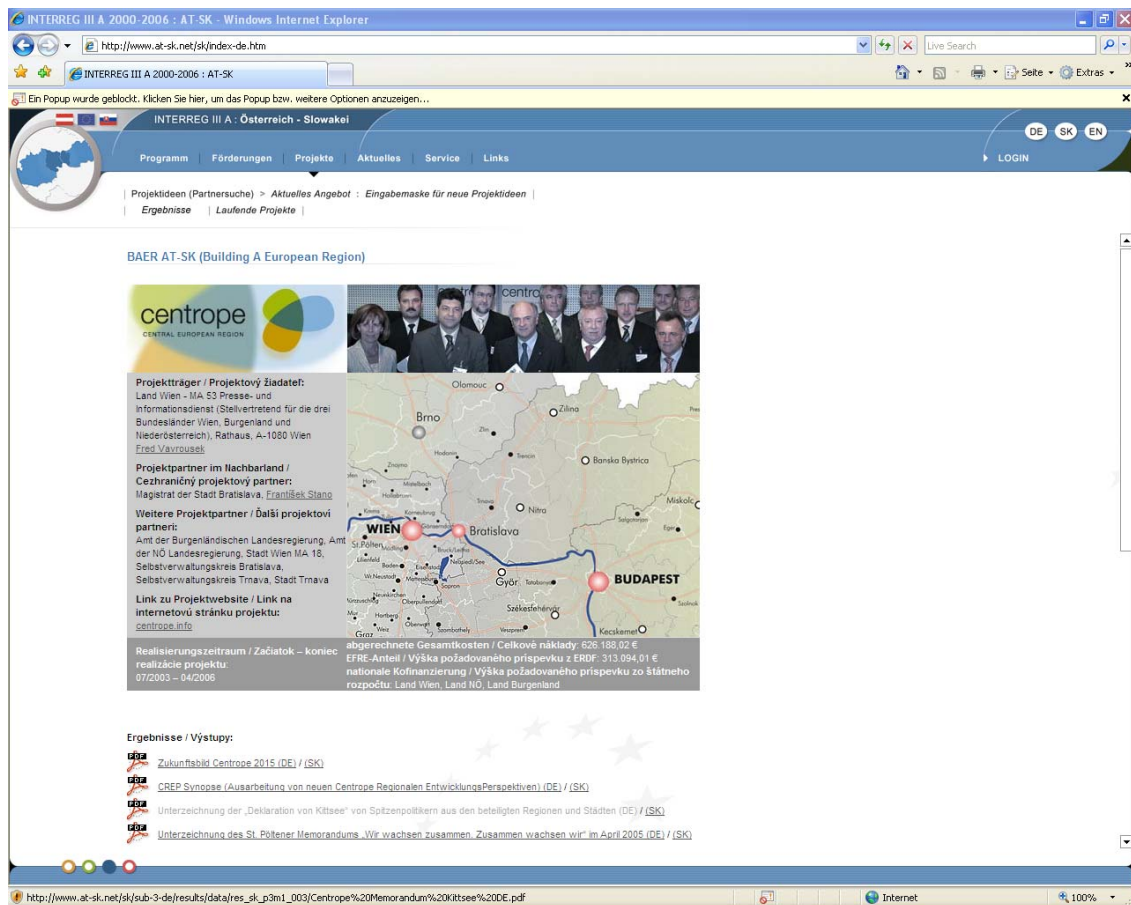
Within priority 7 “Technical Assistance” no new project was approved in 2008. Within the projects of the MA/NA and the IBs activities were implemented and most of the activities were finalised in December 2008 as the eligibility ended at 31.12.2008 (e.g. JTS was closed in December 2008). Some management 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 has 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 a documentary archive. For that purpose the JTS asked the project owners for relevant information and comprised the information for the programme’s website www.at-sk.net under the heading “projects/results”. Below you find a screenshot of one of the projects.



Detailed information on publicity activities which were implemented by the MA, NA and Intermediate Bodies is provided in chapter 4.4 of this report.

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

See chapter 5.

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	68	23.077.306,55	132,19%	21.667.068,62	148,94%	10.911.435,64	115,57%	12.165.870,91	151,77%	10.755.632,98	210,66%	1.410.237,93	48,46%	32,19%	30,79%
1.1. Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	15	10.757.672,55	125,74%	10.417.375,99	142,47%	4.402.991,84	99,47%	6.354.680,71	153,91%	6.014.384,15	208,42%	340.296,56	27,37%	15,01%	12,42%
1.2. Cross-border Co-operation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	20	3.471.712,97	105,98%	3.233.694,44	113,67%	1.735.384,75	100,72%	1.736.328,22	111,82%	1.498.309,69	133,58%	238.018,53	55,22%	4,84%	4,90%
1.3. Tourism and Leisure	33	8.847.921,03	157,26%	8.015.998,19	182,58%	4.773.059,05	144,99%	4.074.861,98	174,58%	3.242.939,14	295,25%	831.922,84	67,32%	12,34%	13,47%
2. Accessibility	24	14.571.922,24	111,48%	14.198.145,76	115,34%	7.119.975,75	101,02%	7.451.946,49	123,73%	7.078.170,01	134,51%	373.776,48	49,15%	20,33%	20,09%
2.1. Improvement of Cross-border Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	13	7.076.657,11	112,03%	7.060.697,51	119,28%	3.379.053,02	100,74%	3.697.604,09	124,83%	3.681.644,49	143,54%	15.959,60		9,87%	9,53%
2.2. Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	11	7.495.265,13	110,97%	7.137.448,25	111,68%	3.740.922,73	101,27%	3.754.342,40	122,67%	3.396.525,52	125,93%	357.816,88	98,48%	10,46%	10,55%
3. Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	100	7.634.771,17	99,77%	7.186.058,24	102,48%	3.869.261,76	90,29%	3.765.509,41	111,83%	3.316.796,48	121,66%	448.712,93	70,02%	10,65%	10,92%
3.1. Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	24	5.627.673,86	103,61%	5.494.803,26	107,38%	2.793.635,23	96,12%	2.834.038,63	112,24%	2.701.168,03	122,18%	132.870,60	42,29%	7,85%	7,88%
3.2. Pilot projects including people to people networks and other Pilots	76	2.007.097,31	90,36%	1.691.254,98	89,27%	1.075.626,53	78,00%	931.470,78	110,59%	615.628,45	119,40%	315.842,33	96,68%	2,80%	3,03%
4. Human Resources	48	7.914.118,69	98,02%	7.705.944,13	99,97%	3.998.537,33	90,85%	3.915.581,36	106,62%	3.707.406,80	112,11%	208.174,56	56,96%	11,04%	11,28%
4.1. Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	10	1.857.167,46	95,20%	1.850.952,52	95,29%	922.012,02	90,69%	935.155,44	100,12%	928.940,50	100,35%	6.214,94	75,14%	2,59%	2,60%
4.2. Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	38	6.056.951,23	98,92%	5.854.991,61	101,55%	3.076.525,31	90,90%	2.980.425,92	108,83%	2.778.466,30	116,68%	201.959,62	56,54%	8,45%	8,68%
5. Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	63	14.577.496,33	105,55%	13.653.514,05	102,90%	7.428.489,23	99,09%	7.149.007,10	113,22%	6.225.024,82	107,85%	923.982,28	170,37%	20,34%	20,96%
5.1. Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	36	5.227.702,07	110,67%	4.934.316,29	110,53%	2.755.465,82	102,87%	2.472.236,25	120,89%	2.178.850,47	122,02%	293.385,78	113,12%	7,29%	7,77%
5.2. Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	12	7.176.247,20	105,00%	6.642.634,05	101,08%	3.566.848,95	99,27%	3.609.398,25	111,35%	3.075.785,10	103,28%	533.613,15	202,67%	10,01%	10,06%
5.3. Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	15	2.173.547,06	96,48%	2.076.563,71	92,99%	1.106.174,46	90,31%	1.067.372,60	103,83%	970.389,25	96,24%	96.983,35	492,60%	3,03%	3,12%
6. Special Support for Border Regions	5	1.152.464,17	69,23%	1.152.464,17	69,23%	578.068,11	69,45%	574.396,06	69,01%	574.396,06	69,01%	0,00	0,00	1,61%	1,63%
6.1. Special Support for Border Regions	5	1.152.464,17	69,23%	1.152.464,17	69,23%	578.068,11	69,45%	574.396,06	69,01%	574.396,06	69,01%	0,00		1,61%	1,63%
Technical Assistance	35	2.753.565,12	86,84%	2.752.561,07	87,81%	1.537.683,01	87,04%	1.215.882,11	86,59%	1.214.878,06	88,82%	1.004,05	0,00	3,84%	4,34%
Technical Assistance I	27	2.423.912,63	108,83%	2.422.908,58	110,54%	1.370.684,34	106,22%	1.053.228,29	112,43%	1.052.224,24	116,73%	1.004,05		3,38%	3,87%
Technical Assistance II	8	329.652,49	34,93%	329.652,49	34,97%	166.998,67	35,07%	162.653,82	34,80%	162.653,82	34,87%			0,46%	0,47%
TOTAL	343	71.681.644,27	110,45%	68.315.756,04	114,54%	35.443.450,83	100,49%	36.238.193,44	122,31%	32.872.305,21	134,87%	3.365.888,23	64,04%	100,00%	100,00%



Measure 1.2.

DIANE CCC - Direct Investment Agency Net - Cross Border Business Cooperation for Central Europe

	
<p>Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ: Ecoplus. Niederösterreichs Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH (ECOPLUS) IZ NÖ Süd, Strasse 3, PF 70 businesslocation@ecoplus.co.at</p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Cezhraničný projektový partner: Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) office@sario.sk</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Další projektoví partneri: Weitere Projektpartner</p> <p>Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú stránku projektu: www.centrope.com</p>	
<p>Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu: 01/2002-06/2005</p>	<p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 923.633,02 € EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 461.816,49 € nationale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu: Land Burgenland, Eigenmittel des Projektträgers</p>

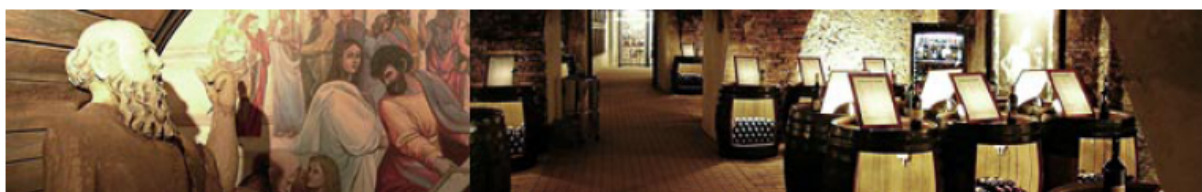
Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Ziel des Interreg IIIA Projektes Direct Investment Agency Net (DIANE) war die Errichtung eines überregionalen Netzwerkes der Betriebsansiedlungsgesellschaften im mitteleuropäischen Zentralraum - der CENTROPE Region (Vienna Region, Südböhmen, Südmähren, Westslowakei und Westungarn) zum Zweck eines gemeinsamen Standortmarketings.

Um diese Ziel zu erreichen, wurden von Jänner 2002 bis Juni 2005 die Projektaktivitäten in folgenden Phasen umgesetzt:

- Phase 1: Errichtung eines überregionalen Netzwerkes der Betriebsansiedlungsagenturen in der Centrope Region zum Zweck eines gemeinsamen Standortmarketings.
- Phase 2: Entwicklung und Initiierung eines gemeinsamen Marketingprozesses, Entwicklung einer gemeinsamen Marke. Festlegung einer Corporate Identity für die gesamte Region.
- Phase 3: Entwicklung, Konzeption und pilotmäßige Durchführung gemeinsamer Marketingaktivitäten
- Phase 4: Projektevaluierung und Erstellung des Projektendberichtes.

Insbesondere während der Phasen 2 und 3 konnte das erfolgreich aufgebaute DIANE-Netzwerk im Rahmen des Projektes DIANE CCC nachhaltige Erfolge für die Region Centrope erzielen, mit denen zu Projektbeginn nicht gerechnet werden konnte. Mit zu den wichtigsten Resultaten des Projektes DIANE CCC zählt die Akquisition und Erstsiedlungen internationaler Unternehmen innerhalb der Region CENTROPE aufgrund der durchgeführten Marketingaktivitäten (z.B. internationale Investorenseminare, Direct Mailings, Telemarketing). Weiters konnten im Rahmen des Projektes DIANE CCC internationale Unternehmen identifiziert werden, die ein mittel- bis langfristiges Interesse am Wirtschaftsstandort CENTROPE haben. Eine weitere Ermutigung, den kooperativen Weg der gemeinsamen Regionsvermarktung weiter zu verfolgen, erhielt das DIANE Team genau am letzten Tag der Projektlaufzeit (30. Juni 2005): Der Werbefilm von DIANE CCC über CENTROPE wurde von einer internationalen Jury in La Baule (Frankreich) mit dem "European Attractiveness Award" ausgezeichnet.

Measure 1.3.**Národný salón vín Slovenskej republiky (Galéria vín Slovenska) / Galerie der slowakischen Weine**


Projektový žiadateľ / Projektträger:
Zväz výrobcov hrozna a vína na Slovensku
Matúškova 25, 83101 Bratislava
Jaroslava Kaňuchová Pátková

**Cezhraničný projektový partner /
Projektpartner im Nachbarland:**
Turisticko-informačná agentúra Rakúskeho
vinárskeho mesta Poysdorf, sekretariát

**Ďalší projektoví partneri / Weitere
Projektpartner:**
Mesto Pezinok, Oliver Solga, primátor

**Link na internetovú stránku projektu / Link
zu Projektwebsite:**
www.nsvsr.sk

Celkové náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 228.650,79 €
Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 114.325,40 €
**Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu / nationale
Kofinanzierung:** SK, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development,
Vlastné zdroje projektového žiadateľa

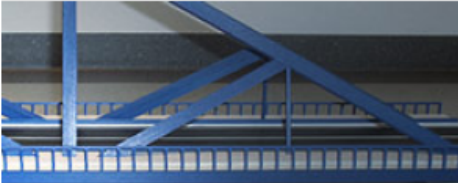
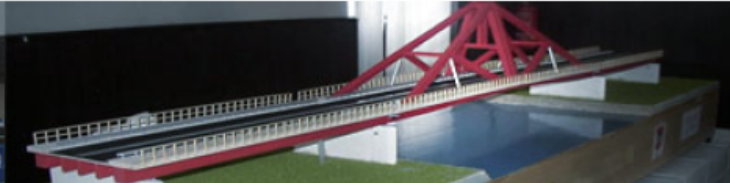
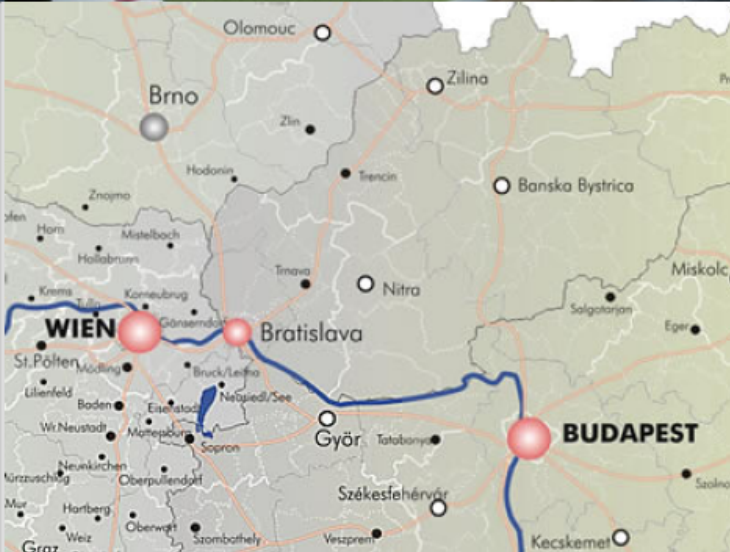
**Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu /
Realisierungszeitraum:**
03/2006 – 11/2006

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

- Grafický návrh, náplň a výroba informačných stojanov a panelov expozície, na ktorých sú zobrazené historické témy o vinohradníctve, prezentácia Rakúskeho partnera, ktorý si sám dodal grafické podklady, dodal aj prezentačné materiály, nachádzajú sa tu dekoračné a sprievodné prvky expozície, graficky spracované témy vinárskych oblastí Slovenska, odrôd hrozna, druhy pôdy, najúspešnejšie etikety, víno a gastronómia, dekoračné spracovanie Kupeckého obrazov spojených s témou degustácie.**
- Grafický návrh a výroba objektov, scenérií a atrakcií expozície,** ktoré pútavou formou vtiahajú návštevníkov do života regiónu v minulosti. Posedenie v sude s Diogenom, sv. Urban-patrón vinohradníkov a historické scenérie spojené so spracovaním hrozna v miestnych obciach približia históriu a kultúru vinohradníctva všetkým, aj zahraničným návštevníkom. Propagácia projektu sa uskutočnila v spolupráci s mestom Pezinok, ktoré sa podieľa na zviditeľnení projektu pomocou reklamných pútačov umiestnených v meste.
- Degustácia vzoriek, výber 100 najlepších slovenských vín.**
Kolekcia prezentovaných vín je vhodná pre odborníkov k relatívne rýchlemu posúdeniu úrovne a zamerania vinárstva na Slovensku, rovnako pre úspešné porozumenie vínu v prípade začiatočníkov.
- Výstupy projektu:**
zariadená plocha, poskytovanie nových služieb v regióne – degustácie, predaj hologramov pre výrobcov, publicita výrobcov, vytvorenie nových pracovných miest.

Measure 2.1.

Cestné premostenie rieky Moravy: Angern / Záhorská Ves / Straßenüberbrückung Morava: Angern / Záhorská Ves

	
<p>Projektový žiadateľ / Projektträger: Bratislavský samosprávny kraj Sabinovská 16 820 05 Bratislava Ján Kizek</p> <p>Cezhraničný projektový partner / Projektpartner im Nachbarland: Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, St. Pölten</p> <p>Ďalší projektoví partneri / Weitere Projektpartner: Obec Záhorská Ves; Obec Angern</p> <p>Link na internetovú stránku projektu / Link zu Projektwebsite: www.region-bsk.sk</p>	
<p>Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu / Realisierungszeitraum: 11/2006– 06/2007</p>	<p>Celkové náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 63.115,54 € Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 31.557,77 € Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu / nationale Kofinanzierung: SK, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development</p>

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Hlavným cieľom projektu bolo vypracovanie projektovej dokumentácie mosta, ktorá je potrebná pre získanie stavebného povolenia.

V súčasnosti je celá oblasť Bratislavského regiónu západne od Bratislavy bez cestného prepojenia so susedným Rakúskom. Tento projekt navrhuje priame cestné cezhraničné prepojenie medzi Bratislavským a Dolnorakúskym regiónom – premostením rieky Moravy – čím sa dosiahne skrátenie súčasnej komplikovanej prepravnej vzdialenosti medzi regiónmi, ktorú možno uskutočňovať len cez Bratislavu (čo predstavuje obchádzku cca. 80 km). Chýbajúce cezhraničné prepojenie je obmedzujúcim prvkom a brzdou v rozvoji hospodárskych aktivít a cezhraničných kontaktov.

Most, ktorého konštrukcia je naplánovaná na roky 2010-2011, spojí slovenskú obec Záhorská Ves s rakúskou obcou Angern. V súčasnosti premáva medzi týmito obcami kompa (po rieke Morava), ale so zvyšujúcou sa ekonomickou spoluprácou a rastom turizmu v tomto regióne bude vybudovanie mosta nevyhnutnosťou. Vybudovaním mosta sa vytvoria dobré podmienky cezhraničnej spolupráce v oblasti hospodárskych aktivít súvisiacich s lokalizáciou nových priemyselných parkov v danom území. Taktiež sa vytvoria nevyhnutné podmienky pre rozšírenie a zintenzívnenie cestovného ruchu v uvedenej oblasti.

K hlavným aktivitám projektu patrilo :

predbežné a definitívne statické posúdenie návrhu hlavného poľa mosta cez rieku Morava, geodetické merania, geologické vrty a merania, vypracovanie projektu priameho premostenia a vyhotovenie makety mosta.

Measure 2.2.

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

	
<p>Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ: Magistratsabteilung 18 – Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung, Rathausstraße 14-16, 1082 Wien</p> <p><u>Andreas Rauter</u></p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Cezhraničný projektový partner: Magistrat der Stadt Bratislava, II. Sektion, Primacialne nam. 1, SK-814 9 Bratislava, Ivan Macko, Tel.: +42 12 59356 223</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Ďalší projektovi partneri: BMVIT, ÖBB (Personenverkehr, Immobilien, Netz), Wiener Hafen GmbH, VUC Bratislava, VUC Tmava, ZSR / ZSSK Slowakische Bahn</p> <p>Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú stránku projektu: www.project-central.at</p>	
<p>Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu: 07/2003 – 06/2008</p> <p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 3.106.037 € EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 1.553.018,49 € nationale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu: Land Wien</p>	

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

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 Schirmpjekts 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.

Frauen - Ženy - Länderübergreifendes [e] Netzwerk für berufstätige Frauen / Frauen - Ženy - Cezhraničná (e) sieť pre zárobkovo činné ženy

	
<p>Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ: AIVET Aus- & Weiterbildungs GesmbH Meldemannstraße 18, A-1200 Wien Petra Zink</p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Cezhraničný projektový partner: University of Economics in Bratislava Ludovít Zachar</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Ďalší projektoví partneri: Symfony Consulting</p> <p>Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú stránku projektu: dtz. keine vorhanden, Informationen bei Petra Zink</p>	
<p>Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu: 02/2006 – 12/2006</p> <p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 186.409,68 € EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 93.204,84 € regionale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu: WU Wien</p>	

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Im Jahr der europäischen Mobilität 2006 wurde das Projekt „FRAUEN - ZENY“ gestartet. Es war ein länderübergreifendes Projekt zur Vernetzung berufstätiger Frauen mit besonderem Interesse an den Wirtschaftsstandorten Slowakei und Österreich. Inhaltlich lag der Schwerpunkt auf der „weiblichen“ Berufs- und Kommunikationswelt. Beleuchtet wurden die speziellen Bedürfnisse von Frauen ebenso wie mögliche Konfliktfelder im Berufsalltag (Mobbing, Mentalitätsunterschiede, Einsatz moderner Kommunikationstools). Zu diesem Zweck fanden im Rahmen des Projektes drei synchrone Veranstaltungen in Wien und Bratislava statt. Via Webkonferenz war eine „grenzüberschreitende“ Kommunikation der TeilnehmerInnen trotz physischer Entfernung möglich. Aus diesen Events sollten österreichisch-slowakische berufsbezogene Frauen-Communities resultieren. Als Medium wurde daher im Rahmen des Projektes eine Kommunikationsplattform eingerichtet, welche interessierten Frauen – aber auch Männern – über die Landesgrenzen hinaus als Kommunikationsmittel zur Verfügung stand. Es konnte dadurch auch abseits der Veranstaltungen gewährleistet werden, dass ein qualifizierter Austausch zwischen den österreichischen und slowakischen Frauen stattfand. Unsere ProjektpartnerInnen waren primär verantwortlich für die Organisation der Events (Einladung, Betreuung bei den Veranstaltungen).

Measure 3.2.

Rusovce Gerulata - Petronell Carnuntum - Germánske osídlenie pri Dunaji v priestore Bratislavskej brány ako širšie hospodárske a sociálne zázemie Carnunta a Gerulaty / Germanische Besiedlung an der Donau auf dem Gebiet des Bratislavaer Tores als ein breiteres wirtschaftliches und soziales Umfeld von Carnuntum und Gerulata

	
<p>Projektový žiadateľ / Projektträger: Bratislava, Hlavné mesto SR Primaciálne nám. 1 81499 Bratislava 1 Barbora Lukáčová</p> <p>Cezhraničný projektový partner / Projektpartner im Nachbarland: Archäologischer Park Carnuntum</p> <p>Ďalší projektoví partneri / Weitere Projektpartner: Weinviertel Management</p> <p>Link na internetovú stránku projektu / Link zu Projektwebsite: www.bratislava.sk, www.carnuntum.co.at</p>	 <p>Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu / Realisierungszeitraum: 05/2006 – 10/2006</p> <p>Celkové náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 14.662,51 € Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF / EFRE-Anteil: 7.331,26 € Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu / nationale Kofinanzierung: SK, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development</p>

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Rímsky Limes Romanus patrí k najveľkolepejším pamiatkam Rímskeho Impéria, ktorý okrem obrannej funkcie bol i kultúrnym, obchodným a informačným centrom medzi rozvinutým Stredomorím a ostatným svetom. Mal dĺžku okolo 3000 km a rozprestieral sa na územiach od Británie po Balkán. Dva vojenské tábory Carnuntum v Rakúsku (Bad Deutsch Altenburg-Petronell) a Gerulata na Slovensku (Bratislava-Rusovce), vzdialené od seba iba cca 14 km sú prezentované vďaka výstupom projektu ako jedna významná turistická destinácia.

Realizáciu vytýčeného cieľa v oblasti vytvorenia informačno-propagačného balíka realizátor projektu zabezpečil kvalitnejšiu informovanosť pre turistu/návštevníka a rovnako zlepšil orientáciu a navigáciu pre turistov, návštevníkov i obyvateľov spádového regiónu (BSK, Dolné Rakúsko). Tým prispel k vyššej návštevnosti oboch pamiatkových zón v cezhraničnom priestore. Pridanou hodnotou bolo i zefektívnenie a koordinovanie činností a aktivít odborníkov a vedeckých pracovníkov Mestského múzea Bratislava a Archäologischer Park Carnuntum.

K hlavným výstupom tohto projektu patria:

- Veľkoplošné plagáty umiestnené na turisticky strategických bodoch Bratislavy s nápisom "Rímsky vojenský tábor Gerulata v Rusovciach"
- Skladačka, ktorá plní funkciu informačno-navigačného sprievodcu, ktorý turistovi/návštevníkovi poskytuje najdôležitejšie informácie o oboch kultúrnych pamiatkach.
- Brožúra - plnofarebná 16-stranová publikácia vyhotovená v slovenskej a anglickej mutácii, ktorá predstavuje materiál so základnými informáciami o národnej kultúrnej pamiatke Rímsky kastel Gerulata v Rusovciach

Measure 4.1.

Überregionale Beschäftigungsstrategie Wien-Bratislava (ÜBS Wien-Bratislava) / Nadregionálna stratégia zamestnanosti - NSZ

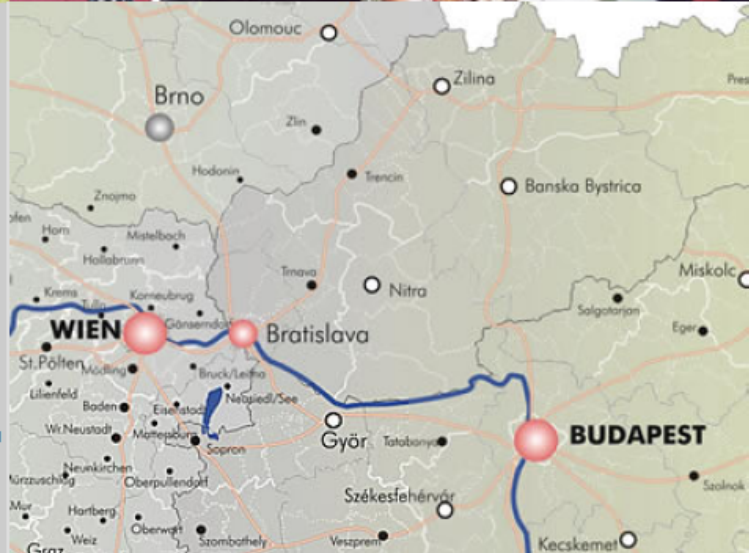


Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ:
waff Programm Management GmbH
Nordbahnstraße 36, A-1020 Wien
[Erika Hess](#)

Projektpartner im Nachbarland /
Cezhraničný projektový partner:
Landesregierung (Bratislavský samosprávny kraj)
[Elena Globanová](#)

Weitere Projektpartner / Další projektoví partneri:
[Liste der weiteren Projektpartner](#)

Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú stránku projektu:
keine vorhanden



Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu:
06/2004 – 12/2006

abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 451.542,27 €
EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 225.771,14 €
nationale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu: Stadt Wien (MA 27), Eigenmittel des Projektträgers

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Die Überregionale Beschäftigungsstrategie Wien-Bratislava war eine Initiative von Stadt Wien, Wiener ArbeitnehmerInnen Förderungsfonds (waff) und dem Territorialen Beschäftigungspakt Wien. Das Projekt definierte sich als gemeinsame Arbeitsmarktplattform zur Förderung der arbeitsmarktpolitischen Zusammenarbeit zwischen Wien, Bratislava und Trnava. Die dabei gesetzten Aktivitäten zielten darauf ab, einen positiven Beitrag zur Entwicklung der Arbeitsmarktlage in der Gesamtregion zu leisten sowie Unternehmen und Beschäftigte auf die Anforderungen des grenzüberschreitenden Arbeitsmarktes vorzubereiten.

Im Rahmen des Projekts wurde eine gemeinsame Wissensbasis der arbeitsmarktpolitischen Akteure geschaffen und ein Strategiepapier für die weitere Zusammenarbeit entwickelt. Aufbauend auf diesen Informations- und Vernetzungsaktivitäten entstanden bilaterale Kooperationen bzw. konnten arbeitsmarktpolitische Steuerungsinstrumente durch folgende konkrete Pilotprojekte erprobt werden:



Im Rahmen des „Lehrlingsaustausches“ absolvierten jeweils fünf Lehrlinge im Nachbarland dreiwöchige Betriebspraktika. Der „AusbilderInnenaustausch Wien-Bratislava“ ermöglichte österreichischen und slowakischen AusbilderInnen einen vertiefenden grenzüberschreitenden Erfahrungsaustausch auf betrieblicher Ebene. Innerhalb des Projektes „Kooperation Berufsschulen“ nahmen Berufsschüler und Lehrkräfte aus dem automotiven Bereich beider Städte an einem Praxislehrgang bzw. Erfahrungsaustausch teil. Am grenzüberschreitenden Qualifizierungsverbund „CEE Cluster Communication Wien-Bratislava“ beteiligten sich Unternehmen beider Städte aus dem IT-Sektor.

Auf der Slowakischen Seite wurde ein Spiegelprojekt umgesetzt.



Measure 4.2.

IKUB-K II: Interkulturelle Bildung für Kinder – spielerisches Erlernen von Slowakisch, Tschechisch und Deutsch in den Kindergärten der Grenzregionen in Niederösterreich und der Slowakei unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Mehrsprachigkeit der Gruppe / Interkultur.vzdelávanie detí – naučenie sa SK, CZ a nemčiny hravou formou v d.škôlkach

 <p>Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ: NÖ Landesregierung, Abt. Kindergärten Landhausplatz 1, A- 3109 St. Pölten Marianne Erasmus</p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Cezhraničný projektový partner: Gemeinde Zahorska Ves, Kindergarten Zahorska Ves</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Další projektoví partneri: NÖ Landesakademie, Bereich Politik und Verwaltung</p> <p>Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú stránku projektu: keine vorhanden</p>	 <p>Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu: 09/2005 – 09/2007</p> <p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 455.204 € EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 227.602,00 € nationale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu: Eigenmittel des Projektträgers</p>
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Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Im Jahr 2004/2005 fanden im Rahmen des Interreg IIIA Projekts IKUB-K I erste Versuche zur Implementierung von Slowakisch und Tschechisch in Kindergärten der Grenzregionen statt. Aufbauend auf diesen Erfahrungen wurden drei wesentliche Themenbereiche für die kindgerechte Vermittlung von Fremdsprachen festgelegt und dazu Ziele und Indikatoren definiert, deren Realisierung Inhalt des Projekts IKUB-K II war: Globalisierung – Regionalisierung – interkulturelle Kompetenz; kindgerechte Vermittlung von Fremdsprachen; Rahmenbedingungen und Elternarbeit.

15 muttersprachliche Mitarbeiterinnen betreuten und begleiteten 80 Kindergärten in den niederösterreichischen Grenzregionen und gaben Anstöße zum spielerischen Erlernen von Slowakisch und Tschechisch im Kindergarten. So wird die Mehrsprachigkeit der Gruppe im gesamten Tagesablauf des Kindergartens gefördert. In diesem Projekt wurde auch vermehrt Augenmerk auf Information und Einbeziehung der Eltern bzw. der Öffentlichkeit gelegt. Das Projekt umfasste u.a. auch die Konzepterstellung anhand der o.a. Themenbereiche und Indikatoren, Besuche von Kindergärten in der Slowakei und in Tschechien, Begleit- und Abschlussseminare, Workshops für Kindergärtnerinnen zur Konzepterstellung und inhaltlichen Weiterentwicklung, Erarbeitung von Lehr- und Lernmaterialien, Hilfestellungen für die slowakischen Projektpartner bzw. Kindergärten bei der Implementierung des Projekts „Deutsch lernen im Kindergarten“ sowie grenzüberschreitenden Erfahrungsaustausch von muttersprachlichen Mitarbeiterinnen aus Österreich, Slowakei und Tschechien.

Measure 5.1.**Energetické dreviny – základ energetických koncepcií obcí / Energieliefernde Gehölze – Basis für Energiekonzeptionen von Gemeinden****Projektový žiadateľ / Projektträger:**

Synergia, občianske združenie

Martingerova 20

811 02 Bratislava

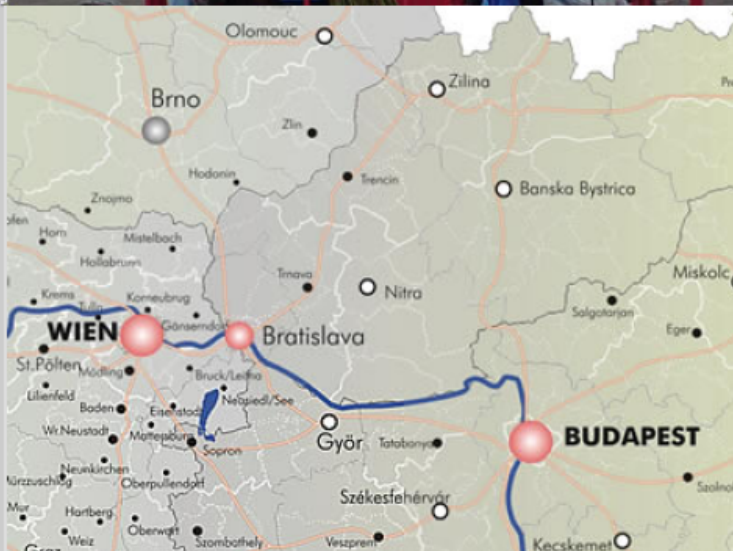
Peter Žilavý**Cezhraničný projektový partner /****Projektpartner im Nachbarland:**

ARGE Energienetzwerk noerdliches

Niederösterreich, Weinviertel

Ďalší projektoví partneri / Weitere**Projektpartner:**

Obec Kuchyňa

Link na internetovú stránku projektu / Link**zu Projektwebsite:**www.ekoenergie.sk**Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu /****Realisierungszeitraum:**

04/2007 - 04/2008

Celkové náklady / abgerechnete Gesamtkosten: 136.650,00 €**Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF / EFRE-Anteil:** 68.324,99 €**Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu / nationale****Kofinanzierung:** SK, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development,

Vlastné zdroje projektového žiadateľa

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Tento projekt sa snaží riešiť problematiku energetických koncepcií miest a obcí (vysoká energetická náročnosť objektov v správe miest a obcí) ako aj problémy slabého využívania obnoviteľných zdrojov energie na Slovensku (100% závislosť obcí a miest od dodávok fosílnych palív - plyn, uhlie, neexistujúce projekty v oblasti vlastnej produkcie biopalív na úrovni miest a obcí a nedostatočný transfer skúseností rakúskych energetických agentúr).

Hlavným cieľom projektu je rozvíjať cezhraničnú spoluprácu rakúskych a slovenských subjektov v oblasti tvorby energetických koncepcií a pestovania energetických rastlín a využitie bohatých skúseností z Rakúska v tejto oblasti. Za týmto účelom vzniklo partnerstvo medzi občianskym združením Synergia a Rakúskou ARGE Energienetzwerk noerdliches Niederösterreich, spoločnosti so širokými kontaktmi v eko-energetickej oblasti.

V rámci uskutočnenia tohto projektu bol vytvorený „tandemový“ systém práce slovenských a rakúskych konzultantov, teda zmiešaných rakúsko-slovenských tímov expertov a tým bol realizovaný transfer poznatkov rakúskej energetickej agentúry. V týchto skupinách boli spoločne spracované energetické koncepcie pre 6 obcí západoslovenského kraja, založené na využívaní alternatívnych energetických zdrojov a znižovaní energetickej náročnosti objektov.

Boli vysadené rýchlorastúce dreviny na 40 ha s cieľom zníženia energetickej závislosti miest a obcí na fosílnych palivách a tým boli položené základy pre využívanie obnoviteľných zdrojov energie v budúcnosti.

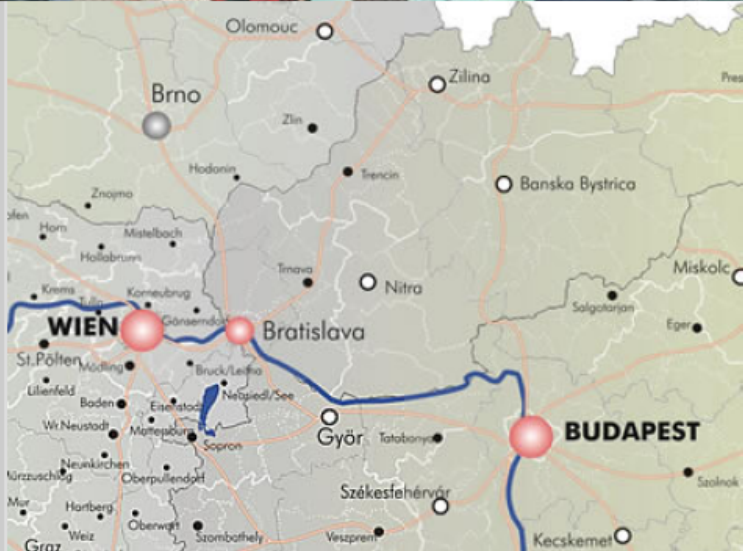
Measure 5.2.**Unterwasser-Beobachtungsstation im schlossORTH Nationalpark-Zentrum / Podvodná pozorovacia stanica zámok Orth – centrum Národného parku**

Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ:
Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH, Schloss
Orth
A-2304 Orth an der Donau
[Carl Manzano](#)

**Projektpartner im Nachbarland /
Cezhraničný projektový partner:**
Ekozentrum Daphne, Bratislava
[Katarína Zlochová](#)

**Weitere Projektpartner / Další projektoví
partneri:**
Österreichische Bundesforste AG, SPAP
Slowakische Schifffahrt- und Häfen AG,
Städtisches Museum Bratislava und Burg
Devin, Kulturhaus in Stupava, Slowakische
Akademie der Wissenschaften

**Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú
stránku projektu:**
keine vorhanden



**Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec
realizácie projektu:**
06/2005 - 09/2007

abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 485.227,10 €
EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 207.000 €
**regionale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho
rozpočtu:** BMLFUW, Eigenmittel des Projektträgers

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Im Projekt „Nationalpark Donau-Auen: Grenznahe und grenzüberschreitende Entwicklung von Nationalpark-Infrastruktur und -Tourismus“ wurde das schlossORTH Nationalpark-Zentrum errichtet. Als inhaltliche Schwerpunkte umfasst das Zentrum die Ausstellung DonAUräume und das Au-Erlebnisgelände Schlossinsel mit Stationen zu autypischen Tieren und Pflanzen.

In diesem Projekt wurde als zusätzliche Attraktion auf der Schlossinsel die Unterwasser-Beobachtungsstation als begehrter Donau-Altarm errichtet. Ziel war es, den BesucherInnen erstmals eine neue Dimension der Naturerfahrung zu bieten: den Blick unter die Wasseroberfläche. Das Thema Wasserökologie spielt im Nationalpark eine wichtige Rolle, bis dahin konnten BesucherInnen des Nationalparks diese Au-Landschaft zwar bei Bootstouren kennen lernen, der Blick unter Wasser blieb jedoch verwehrt. Die Unterwasser-Beobachtungsstation ist einzigartig in Österreich.

Das schlossORTH Nationalpark-Zentrum mit dem Outdoor-Bereich Schlossinsel und Unterwasser-Beobachtungsstation ist heute zu einem Impulsgeber für die gesamte Region in Österreich sowie auch in der Slowakei geworden und wird als Servicezentrum für lokale und regionale Aktivitäten bestens angenommen. Sehr erfolgreich war die Etablierung eigener Angebote für slowakische Besucher im schlossORTH Nationalpark-Zentrum bzw. auf der Schlossinsel.

Measure 5.3.

KOBRA 2010 - Stadt Umland Kooperation Bratislava 2010 / Spolupráca mesta a okolia Bratislava

<h1>KOBRA +</h1> <p>RÄUMLICHES LEITBILD - RAHMENKONZEPT</p>	
<p>Projektträger / Projektový žiadateľ: Regionalmanagement Niederösterreich, Gaswerkqasse 9, 3109 St. Pölten, c/o Büro Weinviertel, Hauptstraße 31, 2225 Zistersdorf Friedrich Zibuschka, post.ru7@noel.gv.at</p> <p>Projektpartner im Nachbarland / Cezhraničný projektový partner: Stadt Bratislava, Magistrat, Abt. Stadtplanung Gabriel Čech</p> <p>Weitere Projektpartner / Ďalší projektoví partneri: Weinviertel Management, Alena Hosch; Regionaler Entwicklungsverband Industrieviertel, Regionalmanagement Burgenland</p> <p>Link zu Projektwebsite / Link na internetovú stránku projektu: www.pgo.wien.at</p>	
<p>Realisierungszeitraum / Začiatok – koniec realizácie projektu: 01/2006 - 10/2007</p> <p>abgerechnete Gesamtkosten / Celkové náklady: 61.267,39 € EFRE-Anteil / Výška požadovaného príspevku z ERDF: 30.633,69 € nationale Kofinanzierung / Výška požadovaného príspevku zo štátneho rozpočtu: Land Niederösterreich</p>	

Výstupy / Ergebnisse:

Internationale Studien bescheinigen den Großraum Wien - Bratislava beste Entwicklungschancen. Im Auftrag der Raumplanungsabteilungen der Länder Burgenland und Niederösterreich wurden im Rahmen der PGO (Planungsgemeinschaft Ost-Region) Entwicklungsperspektiven für die österreichischen Anrainergemeinden mit den Entwicklungshöherstellungen der Stadt Bratislava erarbeitet.

Ziel war es, in Kooperation mit niederösterreichischen und burgenländischen Regionalmanagements die Umlandgemeinden auf die Veränderungen im Raum Bratislava vorzubereiten.

Ein räumliches Leitbild-Rahmenkonzept definiert Rollen und Funktionen der Gemeinden. So wurde ein Masterplan Grünraum, Erholung und Tourismus konkretisiert und mit den Überlegungen zur Flächenwidmung der Stadt Bratislava abgestimmt. Durch konkrete Projekte ist angedacht, die Kooperation vor allem auf politischer Ebene zwischen Gemeinde und Stadt zu verstärken. Angedacht ist unter anderem

- die Errichtung einer Marchbrücke für Radfahrer und Fußgänger zwischen Schlosshof und Devínska Nova Vés
- eine Radroutenvernetzung im gesamten Großraum
- die Ausweisung einer Landschaftsachse entlang der Österreich-Slowakischen Grenze südlich der Donau.

Die Ergebnisse zum Thema Grünraum und Erholung sind in einem Folder dargestellt. In einer Ausstellung in Marchegg wurde das Thema „Wohnen am Land – Arbeiten in der Stadt“ (Bratislava) thematisiert. Gerade für niederösterreichische Gemeinden eröffnen sich hier bisher ungeahnte Chancen. Angedacht werden auch Kooperationen im Bereich öffentlicher Nahverkehr, aber auch an eine nach wie vor stärkere Positionierung der Gemeinden auf österreichischer Seite, um die Entwicklungsvorstellungen auch in örtlichen und regionalen Entwicklungskonzepten und Raumordnungsprogrammen zu binden.

Ein weiterer Schritt ist es nun, gemeinsam mit der Stadt Bratislava die Kooperation weiter zu vertiefen und zu institutionalisieren. Aus den Besprechungen mit den politischen Vertretern hat sich herauskristallisiert, vor allem auch eine Plattform zwischen den Stadtteil-Bürgermeistern von Bratislava, die auch mit entsprechenden Kompetenzen ausgestattet sind bzw. mit den burgenländischen und niederösterreichischen Bürgermeistern einzurichten. Wenn dieser Schritt gelingt, ist auch ein Modell für die erste grenzüberschreitende Stadtumland-Kooperation in Österreich geschaffen. Vor allem im Rahmen der ETZ - Programme der Europäischen Union wird es möglich sein, diesen wichtigen Entwicklungsprozess weiter zu unterstützen.

Das Projekt KOBRA wurde mit dem EUREGIO – Innovationspreis 2007 ausgezeichnet.



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	17.457.349	23.077.307	132,19			
M 1.1: Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	8.555.406	10.757.673	125,74			
					161	0,00
					162	0,21
					163	0,90
					164	5,99
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	1,52
					168	0,38
					169	5,99
M 1.2: Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	3.275.789	3.471.713	105,98			
					113	0,00
					128	0,00
					1305	0,00
					1307	0,00
					161	0,00
					162	0,22
					163	2,08
					164	2,34
					165	0,10
					166	0,00
					167	0,03
					168	0,07
					169	0,00
M 1.3: Tourism and Leisure	5.626.154	8.847.921	157,26			
					1310	0,38
					171	5,99
					172	1,88
					173	3,79
					174	0,32
P 2: Accessibility	13.070.882	14.571.922	111,48			
M 2.1: Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	6.316.541	7.076.657	112,03			
					311	0,00
					312	0,00
					3121	0,27
					3122	3,45
					3123	0,00
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	4,77
					322	0,91
					323	0,00
					324	0,47



M 2.2: Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	6.754.341	7.495.285	110,97			
					311	0,24
					312	0,00
					3121	0,00
					3122	1,12
					3123	0,00
					313	0,00
					314	0,84
					315	0,00
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	4,33
					319	0,23
					322	3,86
					323	0,01
					324	0,00
P 3: Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	7.652.684	7.634.771	99,77			
M 3.1: Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	5.431.430	5.627.674	103,61			
				164		7,85
M 3.2: Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	2.221.254	2.007.097	90,36			
				164		2,80
P 4: Human Resources	8.073.630	7.914.119	98,02			
M 4.1: Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	1.950.712	1.857.167	95,20			
				21		2,04
				22		0,27
				24		0,28
				36		0,00
M 4.2: Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	6.122.918	6.056.951	98,92			
				181		3,63
				23		3,46
				24		0,00
				323		1,32
				324		0,04
P 5: Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	13.811.106	14.577.496	105,55			
M 5.1: Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	4.723.615	5.227.702	110,67			
				125		0,00
				126		0,00
				127		0,00
				1301		0,00
				1308		0,42
				1312		0,00
				1313		0,64
				151		0,00
				152		0,31
				162		0,24
				163		0,16
				332		1,29
				333		0,56
				341		0,13
				342		0,00
				343		0,58
				344		0,00
				345		0,97
				353		1,97
M 5.2: Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	6.834.686	7.176.247	105,00			
				125		0,00
				126		0,00
				127		0,00
				1301		0,00
				1308		0,00
				1312		0,79
				1313		0,00
				353		9,22

M 5.3: Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	2.252.805	2.173.547	98,48			
					1308	0,32
					164	0,34
					351	0,17
					352	1,67
					353	0,45
					354	0,07
P 6: Special Support for Border Regions	1.664.638	1.152.464	69,23			
M 6.1: Special Support for Border Regions	1.664.638	1.152.464	69,23			
					162	0,00
					163	0,10
					164	0,00
					165	0,00
					167	0,00
					171	0,00
					173	0,00
					22	0,00
					23	0,00
					311	0,21
					3121	0,00
					3122	1,20
					313	0,00
					314	0,00
					315	0,11
					316	0,00
					317	0,00
					318	0,00
					319	0,00
P 7: Technical Assistance	3.170.922	2.753.565	86,84			
M 7.1: Technical Assistance I - TA in general	2.227.282	2.423.913	108,83			
					411	3,38
M 7.2: Technical Assistance II - TA other measures	943.640	329.652	34,93			
					412	0,11
					413	0,08
					414	0,00
					415	0,29
Total INTERREG III A	64.901.211	71.681.644	110,45			100,00

1) plan (total per measure) according to PC

2) eligible certified EFRE/ESF/EAGFL co-financed project cost (= 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

project code:	project owner: project title:	status	approved ERDF- cofinanced project costs:	approved project financings: public funds totals	ERDF	national	verified ERDF- cofinanced project costs:	expenditure: public funds totals	ERDF	national
1TAAA_0001	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1 - SK	4	5.985,45	5.985,45	2.992,72	2.992,73	5.985,45	5.985,45	2.992,72	2.992,73
1TAAA_0002	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 1 NÖ-SK 2004 - 2008	4	86.486,77	86.486,77	43.243,38	43.243,39	86.486,77	86.486,77	43.243,38	43.243,39
1TABA_0001	Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH TH Österreich-Slowakei (2000/2001)	4	12.927,70	12.927,70	6.463,85	6.463,85	12.927,70	12.927,70	6.463,85	6.463,85
1TABA_0002	Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH Technische Hilfe TH-1 Bgld.-SK	4	146.350,55	146.350,55	73.175,27	73.175,28	146.350,55	146.350,55	73.175,27	73.175,28
1TABA_0003	Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH Technische Hilfe TH 1 Bgld.-SK 2007-2008	4	74.771,66	74.771,66	37.385,83	37.385,83	74.771,66	74.771,66	37.385,83	37.385,83
1TACA_0001	Stadt Wien - MA 27 - EU-Strategie und Aktivitäten für Ausschusssitzungen	4	7.450,77	7.450,77	3.725,38	3.725,39	7.450,77	7.450,77	3.725,38	3.725,39
1TACA_0002	Stadt Wien - MA 27 - EU Strategie und Unterstützende Tätigkeit 1 st level control (SK)	4	58.750,00	58.750,00	29.375,00	29.375,00	61.680,66	61.680,66	29.375,00	32.305,66
1TACA_0003	Stadt Wien - MA 27- EU-Strategie und Programmmanagement AT - SK	4	155.878,24	155.878,24	77.939,12	77.939,12	155.878,24	155.878,24	77.939,12	77.939,12
1TACA_0004	Stadt Wien - MA 27- EU-Strategie und Externe unterstützende Tätigkeit FLC AT-SK	4	20.191,20	20.191,20	10.095,60	10.095,60	20.191,20	20.191,20	10.095,60	10.095,60
1TADA_0001	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 EFRE-Zahlstelle und Monitoring	4	181.346,79	181.346,79	90.673,39	90.673,40	181.346,79	181.346,79	90.673,39	90.673,40
1TADA_0002	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Gemeinsames Technisches Sekretariat	4	959.381,38	959.381,38	479.690,67	479.690,71	959.381,38	959.381,38	479.690,67	479.690,71
1TAEA_0001	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Národný kontaktný bod v Bratislave	4	9.233,41	9.233,41	6.925,05	2.308,36	5.577,51	5.577,51	4.183,13	1.394,38
1TAEA_0002	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Národný kontaktný bod v Bratislave – súčasť JTS	4	9.150,57	9.150,57	6.862,93	2.287,64	6.469,75	6.469,75	4.852,31	1.617,44
1TAEA_0003	Bratislavský samosprávny kraj Administratívna podpora pre rok 2005	4	12.732,81	12.732,81	6.366,42	6.366,39	9.941,88	9.941,88	4.970,95	4.970,93
1TAEA_0004	Trnavský samosprávny kraj Administratívna podpora pre rok 2005 - TSK	4	14.331,35	14.331,35	10.748,51	3.582,84	6.405,55	6.405,55	4.804,16	1.601,39
1TAEA_0005	Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Senec-Pezinok Infobod RRA Senec – Pezinok	4	10.656,34	10.123,53	7.992,25	2.131,28	7.141,71	6.784,63	5.356,28	1.428,35



<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>
1TAEA_0008	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Vývoj a implementácia prídavných softw. modulov	4	79.641,78	79.641,78	59.731,34	19.910,44	79.445,44	79.445,44	59.584,08	19.861,36
1TAEA_0008	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR NCP-Bratislava-1.112004-31.3.2005	4	11.112,12	11.112,12	8.334,08	2.778,04	6.785,98	6.785,98	5.089,48	1.696,50
1TAEA_0009	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Zasadnutia SRV a SMV	4	24.171,99	24.171,99	18.128,99	6.043,00	13.305,31	13.305,31	9.978,98	3.326,33
1TAEA_0010	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR NCP v BA – súčasť JTS – od 1.4.2005 -31.10.2005	4	12.742,39	12.742,39	9.556,79	3.185,60	12.406,76	12.406,76	9.305,07	3.101,69
1TAEA_0011	Bratislavský samosprávny kraj Administratívna podpora pre rok 2006	4	16.161,64	16.161,64	8.080,81	8.080,83	12.386,93	12.386,93	6.193,46	6.193,47
1TAEA_0012	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR NCP Bratislava, súčasť JTS–od 1.11.2005-31.12.2008	4	271.544,30	271.544,30	203.658,23	67.886,07	271.544,30	271.544,30	203.658,23	67.886,07
1TAEA_0013	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR AT vybavenie NO a NCP pr. INTERREG IIIA AT-SK	4	226.048,05	226.048,05	169.536,04	56.512,01	128.734,31	128.734,31	96.550,73	32.183,58
1TAEA_0014	Trnavský samosprávny kraj Administratívna podpora pre rok 2006 - TSK	4	16.000,54	16.000,54	12.000,41	4.000,13	13.149,01	13.149,01	9.861,76	3.287,25
1TAEA_0015	Regionálna rozvojová agentúra Senec-Pezinok Infobod RRA Senec – Pezinok pre rok 2006	4	16.462,43	15.639,31	12.346,82	3.292,49	12.939,43	12.292,46	9.704,57	2.587,89
1TAEA_0018	Trnavský samosprávny kraj INTERREG IIIA Slovensko – Rakúsko v Trnavskom kraj	4	84.522,13	84.522,13	63.391,60	21.130,53	76.868,63	76.868,63	57.651,47	19.217,16
1TAEA_0019	Bratislavský samosprávny kraj INTERREG IIIA Slovensko – Rakúsko v BSK	4	57.373,27	57.373,27	28.686,63	28.686,64	48.358,96	48.358,96	24.179,47	24.179,49
totals M 7.1: Technical assistance in general			2.581.405,63	2.580.049,70	1.487.107,11	1.092.942,59	2.423.912,63	2.422.908,58	1.370.684,34	1.052.224,24



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:	status	approved ERDF- cofinanced project costs:	approved project financings: public funds totals	ERDF	national	verified ERDF- cofinanced project costs:	expenditure: public funds totals	ERDF	national
1TBAA_0001	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Öffentlichkeitsarbeit - SK	4	34.820,10	34.820,10	17.410,05	17.410,05	34.820,10	34.820,10	17.410,05	17.410,05
1TBAA_0002	Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Technische Hilfe 2 NÖ-SK 2004 - 2008	4	71.299,70	71.299,70	35.649,85	35.649,85	71.299,70	71.299,70	35.649,85	35.649,85
1TBBA_0001	Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH Technische Hilfe TH-2 Bgld-SK	4	10.226,23	10.226,23	5.113,11	5.113,12	10.226,23	10.226,23	5.113,11	5.113,12
1TBDA_0001	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Öffentlichkeitsarbeit der Verwaltungsbehörde	4	89.865,87	89.865,87	44.932,92	44.932,95	89.865,87	89.865,87	44.932,92	44.932,95
1TBDA_0002	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Evaluierung des Programmes	4	71.344,84	71.344,84	35.672,42	35.672,42	71.344,84	71.344,84	35.672,42	35.672,42
1TBDA_0003	Bundeskanzleramt, Abt. IV/4 Vorbereitung OP Ziel 3 AT-SK	4	43.406,00	43.406,00	21.703,00	21.703,00	43.406,00	43.406,00	21.703,00	21.703,00
1TBEA_0001	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR On-going hodnotenie programu INTERREG III A AT-SR	4	6.066,00	6.066,00	4.549,50	1.516,50	6.066,00	6.066,00	4.549,50	1.516,50
1TBEA_0002	Ministerstvo výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Publicita	4	14.316,73	14.316,73	10.737,56	3.579,17	2.623,75	2.623,75	1.967,82	655,93
totals M 7.2: Technical assistance, further measures			341.345,47	341.345,47	175.768,41	165.577,06	329.652,49	329.652,49	166.998,67	162.653,82



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	17.457.349	6.150.566	35,23			
M 1.1: Development and Support of Business Sites and Business Service Infrastructure in Border Areas	8.555.406	3.337.459	39,01			
					161	0,00
					162	14,35
					163	1,83
					164	1,29
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	440,10
					168	113,18
					169	636,47
M 1.2: Cross-border Cooperation of Enterprises (SMEs) and Counselling and Support for Crossborder Business Activities	3.275.789	682.811	20,84			
					113	0,00
					128	0,00
					1305	0,00
					1307	0,00
					161	0,00
					162	5,29
					163	49,28
					164	25,00
					165	0,00
					166	0,00
					167	7,27
					168	50,53
					169	0,00
M 1.3: Tourism and Leisure	5.626.154	2.130.296	37,86			
					1310	0,00
					171	10,34
					172	564,10
					173	687,61
					174	0,00
P 2: Accessibility	13.070.882	4.284.147	32,78			
M 2.1: Improvement of Crossborder Transport and Telecommunication Infrastructure	6.316.541	2.695.242	42,67			
					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	1.717,94
					322	27,43
					323	0,00
					324	18,13



M 2.2: Transport Organisation, Planning and Logistics	6.754.341	1.588.905	23,52			
					311	11,10
					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	294,64
					323	0,43
					324	0,00
P 3: Cross-border Organisational Structures and Networks	7.652.684	2.345.977	30,66			
M 3.1: Support of Crossborder Organisational Structures and Development of Networks	5.431.430	1.589.027	29,26			
					164	29,26
M 3.2: Micro-projects including People-to-People Actions and Small Pilots	2.221.254	756.950	34,08			
					164	34,08
P 4: Human Resources	8.073.630	2.098.164	25,99			
M 4.1: Development of Regional Labour Markets within the Context of EU Enlargement	1.950.712	176.202	9,03			
					21	21,39
					22	0,00
					24	1,26
					36	0,00
M 4.2: Development of Co-operation and Infrastructure in the Fields of Education, Training and Science	6.122.918	1.921.962	31,39			
					181	29,22
					23	33,36
					24	0,00
					323	184,38
					324	1,34
P 5: Sustainable Spatial and Environmental Development	13.811.106	3.870.255	28,02			
M 5.1: Resource Management, Technical Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Supply	4.723.615	2.004.104	42,43			
					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	159,45
					162	3,42
					163	13,91
					332	77,85
					333	0,00
					341	0,00
					342	0,00
					343	0,00
					344	0,00
					345	303,89
					353	157,58
M 5.2: Measures for Nature and Environmental Protection including National and Nature Parks	6.834.686	1.202.541	17,59			
					125	0,00
					126	0,00
					127	0,00
					1301	0,00
					1308	0,00
					1312	0,00
					1313	0,00
					353	22,13

M 5.3: Cross-border Spatial Development in Rural and Urban Areas	2.252.805	663.610	29,46			
					1306	0,00
					164	25,50
					351	47,00
					352	13,70
					353	26,75
					354	0,00
P 6: Special Support for Border Regions	1.664.638	0	0,00			
M 6.1: Special Support for Border Regions	1.664.638	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	3.170.922	822.356	25,93			
M 7.1: Technical Assistance I - TA in general	2.227.282	802.329	36,02			
					411	36,02
M 7.2: Technical Assistance II - TA other measures	943.640	20.027	2,12			
					412	0,00
					413	0,00
					414	0,00
					415	4,24
Total INTERREG III A	64.901.211	19.571.464	30,16			

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 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

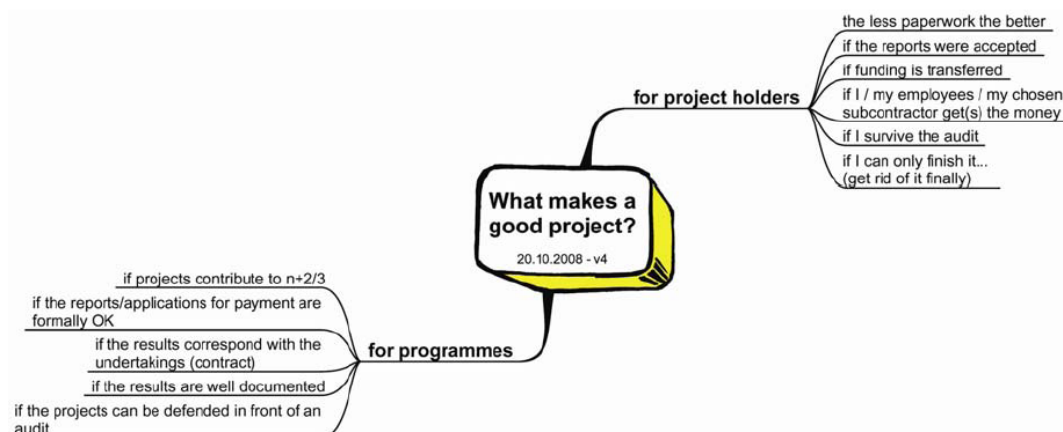
- Cross-border cooperation has long tradition in Burgenland. Cooperation takes place with Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia. It is the basis for regional development in Burgenland
- Topics of particular importance are renewable energies (keyword: climate change), transport, nature parks and institutional 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!

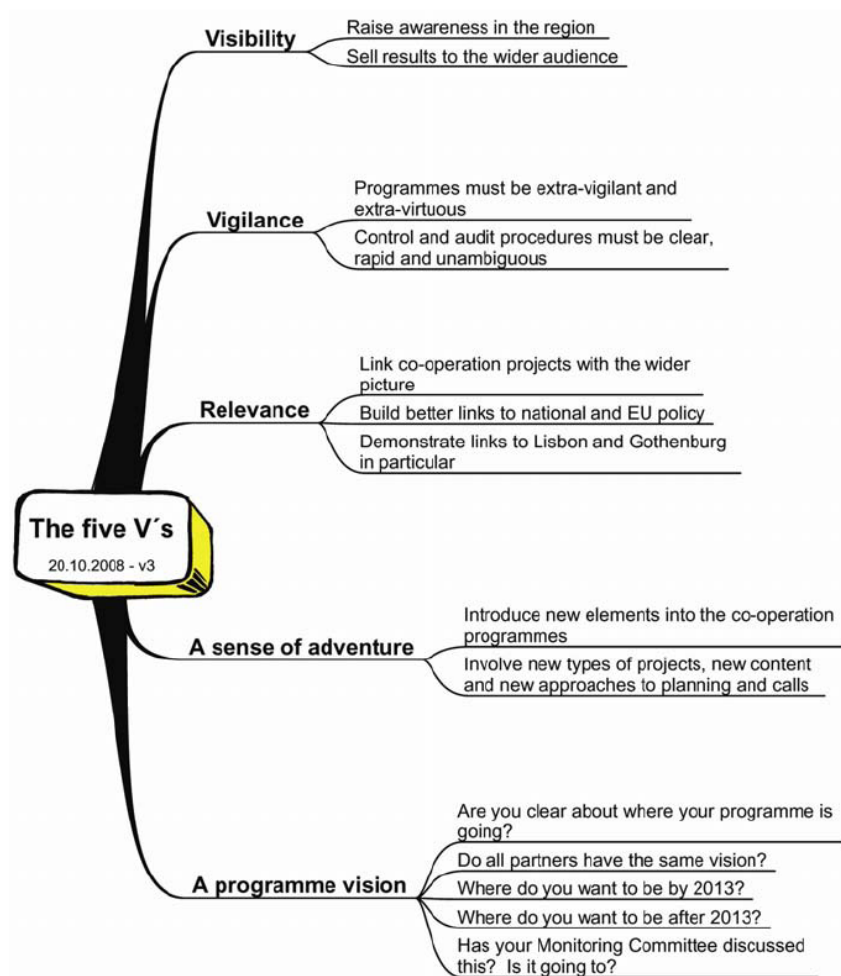
Good projects are usually determined by some or most of the following characteristics:

- 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?

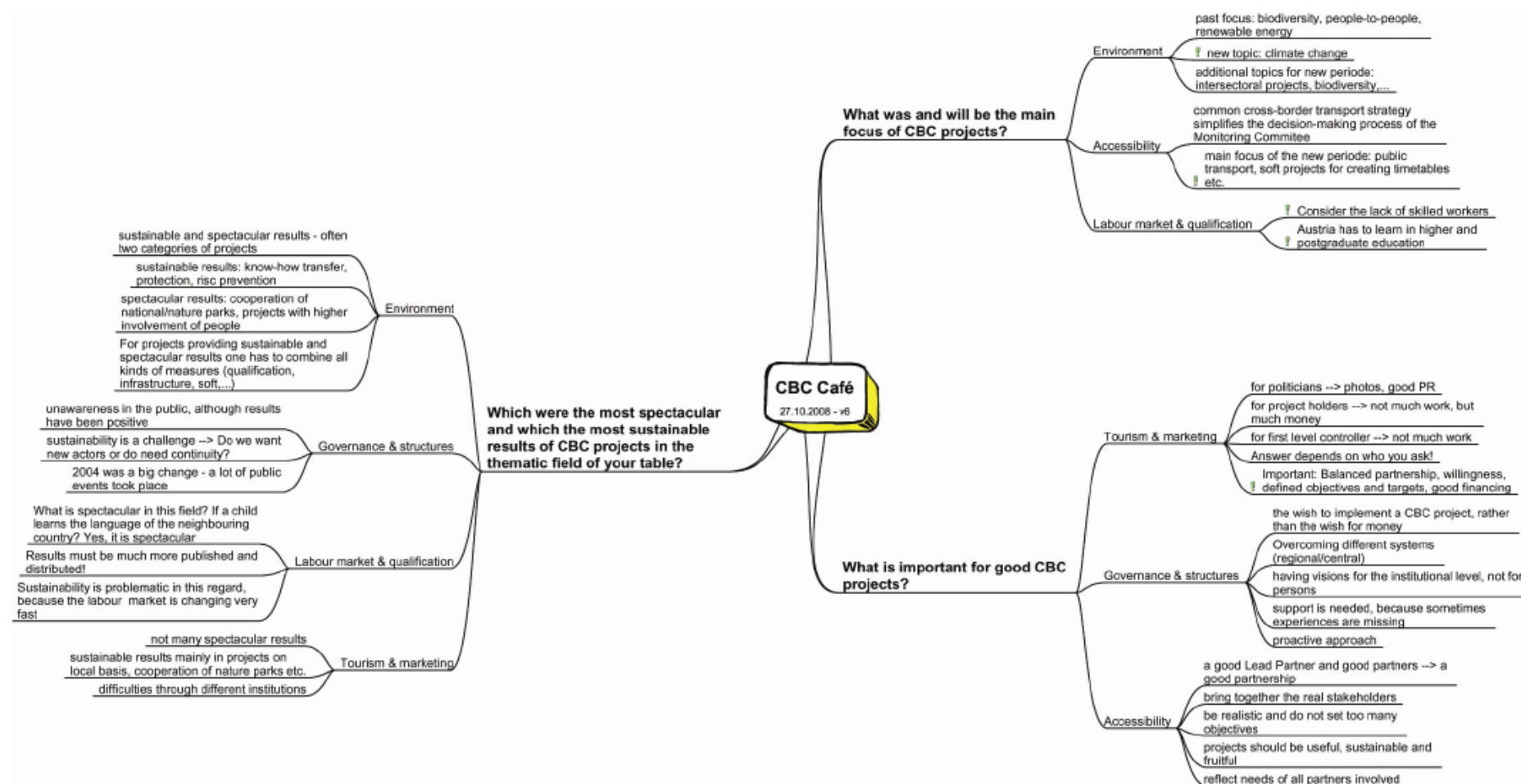
- Systematic communication with specialised journalists
- Mention loud and again that a project was funded by the EU because financial information is not very interesting for journalists
- Many story-proposals lead to a few stories → try again and be insistent
- Long-term cooperation with journalists 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 the mid-term evaluation



Mid Term Evaluation

Community Initiative INTERREG III A „Austria – Slovakia“

Final Report

K. Reiner
(ÖAR-Regionalberatung)

M. Kaufmann

Vienna, 19.12.2003

**Impulse für
dynamische Entwicklung**



1. Summary and recommendations

The mid term evaluation concerns the programme period 2000 – 2003. The mid term evaluation focuses on INTERREG.

With regard to the joint planning process (JPD (CIP) aspects of the PHARE CBC will be included in the evaluation. It has to be mentioned that already many important steps towards joint border crossing cooperation have been made. Due to the different procedures until now joint projects have been possible in a very limited extend.

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 enlargement of the eligible area in the Slovak part of the Programme region for the remaining Programme period (kraj Trnava).
 - The up-date of context indicators shows that only marginal changes have taken place in the socio-economic situation (population, economic and labor structure). Vienna shows slightly worse figures: number of population, GPD as well as unemployment rate. The labour market situation on Slovak side still tends to get worse.
 - 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.
- A major change has taken place in the **institutional context** for cross-border co-operation, namely the consolidation and strengthening of organisations in the border region, especially on Slovak side (for more details see chapter 8): 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 continued to hinder cross-border implementation.

- ❑ Major efforts have been made 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..
- ❑ The various Small/Micro Projects Funds have been very successful in involving many people and institutions in cross-border activities and by contributing to the main objective of the Programme “strengthening of cross-border relations between people”. However, different procedures to assess and select the projects lead to less joint projects and some disappointments on Austrian side.
- ❑ Until now not all of the programme’s objectives and strategies seem to have been addressed by the projects approved until now. On Austrian side there is slightly imbalanced utilisation of funds in the different priorities and measures. High utilisation by the level of approvals (M1.1, M1.3, M2.1, M2.2, M5.2) 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 M4.1. On Slovak side there have not yet been any projects approved in priority 4.
- ❑ The aspect of Gender Mainstreaming is apparently not a specific issue for Interreg projects and 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.

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 broad 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.
- ⇒ There is actually no need for amendments in allocations between the priorities of the INTERREG IIIA Austria-Slovakia.
- ⇒ 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).

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 (OAA's, JTS).
- ❑ However, major differences exist between INTERREG and PHARE monitoring and the indicators used for this purpose. Central monitoring of PHARE CBC 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. But discussions are well advanced among key staff from both countries for the preparation of a joint monitoring system, including harmonisation of indicators.
- ❑ But a joint monitoring system will be established when Slovakia 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.
- ❑ Annual reports have been produced by the national financial control authority for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. Financial 2nd level 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.
- ❑ 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 partners involved.
- ❑ The overall financial performance for the INTERREG part of the programme shows:
 - a relatively high level of approved funds by the JSC (67%)
 - commitments well in line with the elapsed period of time (43,4%)
 - a comparatively very low level of disbursements (6,8%)
 - that the n+2 rule has already been accomplished and
 - a slightly unbalanced utilization of funds in the various measures
- ❑ The targets defined at programme level concerning the size and quality of projects have to a large degree been met until now:
 - The programme has an excellent performance in relation to the quality aim (88% 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, especially if the large number of micro projects are taken in consideration
- ❑ 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 – or a much lower average project size has been assumed. So far the targets set for pro-

programme level indicators can not provide an accurate picture of implementation success per priority.

Programme administration structures

- ❑ Joint structures (JMC, JSC and JTS) have been installed swiftly and function well. The JMC involves a broad range of partners, but some improvements are needed to ensure effective participation of all partners (i.e. regions, social partners). The JSC has approved 72 projects to date.
- ❑ 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 responsible authorities on both sides 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.
- ❑ 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).
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Programme management is largely satisfactory, also from the point of view of project holders. However, increased transparency and coordination will be necessary to enable a optimum of cross-border project implementation. Time lag between JSC approval, contracting and especially disbursements can be a major obstacle for project holders.
- ❑ Major efforts have been undertaken by the programme partners with regard to information and publicity at national, Länder and regional level.. Nevertheless, access to information continues to be a problem in both countries and there is interest in more exchanges at project level.
- ❑ Imbalances exist with regard to support for project holders. In Austria this has been increased substantially and is highly satisfactory, whereas in Slovakia this type of support is not as developed yet.
- ❑ There are quite different approaches employed in identifying (annual priorities vs. continuous project development) and selecting projects (calls with selection based on expert assessments vs. continuous project development in partnership with OAAs). Project holders have stressed the need for a more transparent project assessment and selection process.
- ❑ Project holders in Austria have expressed the need to obtain information on other projects (although most of this information is available on the programme’s website). And they have stated their interest in having more exchanges with related projects / partners and in being involved in strategy formulation.

- ❑ A strong need for support is seen in search for partners for so called “mirror projects”. Programme partners agree to increase 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!).

Recommendations:

- ⇒ In co-operation with the JTS, the evaluation team prepared a proposal for improvements of data input and interpretation on INTERREG indicators. 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. The initial targets for indicators on priority level should be reviewed and discussed and new estimates are to be made.
- ⇒ Measure M4.1 of the INTERREG programme show commitment figure significantly below average. Support activities are recommended also for M4.1.
- ⇒ Funds for measures M1.1, M2.1 and M5.2. have almost completely been allocated by JSC project approvals on INTERREG side. It is recommended to analyse potential of complementary mirror projects (in Slovakia?) to already approved ones especially for these measures. It is understood, to see the different approaches needed between soft- and hardware measures.
- ⇒ 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. This analysis could also be used to identify deficiencies and the scope for integrating additional “mirror” projects.
- ⇒ Present imbalances in support for project holders should be corrected, e.g. by assuring the provision of support through RDAs on both sides of the border.
- ⇒ 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, precautions to prevent declining of mirror projects in regional pre-assessment and improved co-ordination in formal and informal ways between OAAs, JTS and RDSA .
- ⇒ Administrative capacities of Austrian OAAs should be increased in order to avoid backloads in 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.¹ During the remaining programme period other options to achieve the aim of more “true” joint projects should be favoured. 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.

¹ Representatives of the MA and the Länder expressed their concerns that a strict application of the LPP is currently not an option due to several open issues: in particular contracting procedures might be impeded and costs and risks for project applicants might be considerably increased.

- ⇒ Conditions for project management and requirements for project holders should be harmonised as much as possible (at least between the Länders). 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.

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

Annex 8 Recommendations from the up-date of the mid term evaluation

Up-date of Mid Term Evaluation

Community Initiative Programme INTERREG III A „Austria – Slovakia“

Final Report

Karl Reiner
ÖAR-Regionalberatung

Pavol Karasz
econsulting

Vienna, Bratislava
December 2005

**Impulse für
dynamische Entwicklung**

Interreg IIIA Austria – Slovak Republic

7 Conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact

The INTERREG part of the programme shows a rather sound level of commitments (61,4%) but comparatively low level of disbursements (22,4%).

The level of commitments and disbursements is 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 2001 and 2002. The forecast for 2005 regarding the annual allocation for 2003 (see Table 2, date 15.07.2005) shows that significant efforts are still needed until the end of the year.

The programme continues to have an excellent performance in relation to the quality aim (87,8 % AA projects). The case studies and other exercises in the ongoing evaluation have shown that the indicators can be considered in a majority of cases reliable.

Most of the cross-border cooperation indicators pointed out 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 and concerning the size and quality of projects have been met until now. The targets for priority - level indicators seem achievable until the end of the programme period.

INTERREG has obtained a satisfactory outreach and funds are distributed among a large number of beneficiaries and project holders. Concerning the distribution of spatial impact, most projects focused at the level of Länder and very few projects cover the entire border region.

The joint structures which have been established for the programme implementation (JMC and JSC) continues to function well. To date the JSC held 11 meetings and approved altogether 135 projects for co-funding under INTERREG IIIA.

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

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).

A joint monitoring system was established after accession of SR by amending the Austrian Central Monitoring System (CMS) to the new needs (set up of English surface and reports, inclusion of Slovak data). Thus the same set of INTERREG indicators is now applied on both sides. Actually there are still problems to set up the interface.

Programme management is largely satisfactory, but contracting procedures have not been significantly reduced and can thus still be considered too long in Austria and the mixed performance by the Länders concerning the swiftness of contracting procedures remains.

The project selection process is still handled in different ways: whereas on the Austrian side the so-called “on-going” application is possible, on the Slovak side after the initial publication of an open call regular internal deadlines have been set for the submission of project proposals – if an applicant misses one deadline the submission is possible at a later stage. And the assessment of these projects is done by external experts, whereas in Austria this is mainly carried out in line with the co-financing systems in place and the involvement of key institutions (see MTE).

This situation has been aggravated by the fact that cross-border information exchange between IBs is particularly weak at the pre-assessment period. Formal criteria apparently play an important role in assessments on the Slovak side. These different implementing regimes obviously form a major obstacle to implement genuine cross-border projects:

The analysis was also used to identify the potential for corresponding activities to already approved projects. Most of the Austrian projects have stated that they desire complimentary activities on the Slovak side and have indicated concrete activities and actors, which to a large extent can be regarded as mirror projects or a continuation of past activities. However, information provided to Slovak authorities on this potential for “mirror” projects was apparently not used in further project selection.

This situation is not in line with the intention of programme partners (expressed in the MTE) to increase the share of joint projects as an important step towards a more widespread application of the lead partner principle. And it is rather insufficient compared to the low level of connectivity between projects shown in the Coherence Analysis.

After the 1st call for proposals some 3 joint and 19 mirror projects have been approved. An interface for common project development and pre-assessment is still missing.

The Reporting not only differs considerably on both sides, but also has shortcomings and weaknesses at the Austrian side. The reports are rather heterogeneous and contain little information needed to assess the quality of cross-border co-operation or impacts produced/expected. The analysis of information flows revealed that there is no structured exchange of information among IBs about the projects during implementation (outside the JSC Meetings). A standardised format has been developed during the ongoing evaluation programme with IBs, but it will not be used in the AT-SR programme. The implementation of a common reporting about cross-border aspects has been recommended by the MA during the last JMC in July 2005 – at least for the Austrian IBs.

SR developed an own standardized INTERREG IIIA report format, which has to be used for the reporting on Slovak side.

The case studies which have been carried out in the framework of the on-going evaluation revealed that the quality of co-operation in the past was not satisfactory. The Partners involvement is almost only formal.

Cross-border co-operation structures have gained momentum and are increasingly playing a proactive and supportive role in programme implementation.

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 the project development and selection there is little room for “manoeuvre”. 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!)¹⁴
- 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 to 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

¹⁴ The definition of “Joint Projects” in the Programme Complement includes joint pre-assessment and joint recommendation for ERDF funding by the respective IBs.

- Inform Slovak 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 legal framework for the period 2007-2013 has not been approved yet, so many conditions are not clarified yet. Nevertheless the programming for the next period has started in autumn 2005. 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 prevailingly) 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 prevailingly 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 data entry to Monitoring System (level of detail, inclusion of partner projects)

These measures could also reduce potentially 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 Slovak 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)
- To facilitate trilateral 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.
- Re-design tasks between IB – JTS (division of work, installation of a common bilingual JTS)
- Further use and development of CMS, because of considerable investments on both sides

d) Differentiate mechanisms for project generation

There are different practices and cultures in project generation in Austria (and also within Austria) and Slovak Republic. Both have their 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 the 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.

