

Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Programming Committee

LOGISTICAL DATA

Date: 22 March 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Venue: Online meeting

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Institution	Function in PC
Ms Joanna Kiryłło	European Commission, DG REGIO	Advisor, EC
Ms Nikoletta Horváth	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Managing Authority, Hungary	Deputy Member
Ms Valentina Vidović	Ministry of European Integration, National Authority, Serbia	Deputy Member
Ms Katarina Ginić	Ministry of European Integration, National Authority, Serbia	National Authority
Mr Tamás Horváth	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Managing Authority, Hungary	Managing Authority
Ms Szilvia Hujbert	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Managing Authority, Hungary	Managing Authority
Ms Dóra Dékány	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Managing Authority, Hungary	Managing Authority
Mr Viktor Tunić	Joint Secretariat, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, SZPO Hungary	Joint Secretariat
Mr Viktor Oroszi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Budapest; EU Strategy for the Danube Region	Member
Ms Ágota Józán	Bács-Kiskun County, Hungary	Member
Mr Béla Hegyesi	Ministry of Finance, Hungary	Member
Mr Zoltán Nógrádi	Csongrád County Council	Deputy Member
Ms Eszter Csókási	Csongrád County Council	Member
Ms Radmila Mendebaba	DKMT	Advisor
Mr László Körmöczi	CSEMETE Nature and Environment Protection Association	Member
Mr Siniša Trkulja	Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure, Serbia	Member
Ms Kristina Ašković	Ministry of European Integration Republic of Serbia, Department for Cross-Border and Transnational Cooperation, Serbia	Deputy Member
Ms Ivana Đurica	Government of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina	Member
Mr Slobodan Milivojević	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities	Deputy Member
Ms Jasmina Radonjić	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia	Deputy Member
Ms Jelena Vasiljević	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia	Member

Ms Nikolina Pupavac	Regional Developmental Agency "Bačka"	Advisor
Mr Endre Balaša	Regional Developmental Agency PANONREG	Advisor
Ms Jelena Radoman Ilić	Developmental Agency Serbia	Deputy Advisor
Ms Irena Živković	Regional Center for Socio-Economic Development "Banat"	Advisor
Mr Branislav Milosav	Regional Center for Socio-Economic Development "Banat"	Deputy Advisor
Mr Richárd Gönczi	SZPO Hungary	Deputy Member
Mr Balázs Wächter	Vital Pro Ltd.	External expert
Mr Bonis Sebastian	Optimeast Europe Srl.	External expert
Ms Senka Gavranov	Optimeast Europe Srl.	External expert
Mr Zoran Krtnić	expert	External expert
Mr János Halász	Joint Secretariat, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, SZPO Hungary	Joint Secretariat
Ms Olivera Tanacković	Joint Secretariat, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, SZPO Hungary	Joint Secretariat
Ms Ágnes Dobrotka	Joint Secretariat, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, SZPO Hungary	Joint Secretariat
Ms Virág Borus	Joint Secretariat, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, SZPO Hungary	Joint Secretariat
Ms Andrea Szeti-Furka	Joint Secretariat, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, SZPO Hungary	Joint Secretariat
Mr Relja Burzan	Joint Secretariat Antenna, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, Subotica	JS Antenna
Mr Dejan Vujinović	Joint Secretariat Antenna, Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia, Subotica	JS Antenna

AGENDA

- 10:00-10:10 Introduction, Approval of the Agenda
- 10:10-10:20 Current status of EU legislation process
- 10:20-10:30 Introduction of the experts assigned with the task of the elaboration of Chapter 2
- 10:30-11:00 Discussion and decision regarding the Policy objectives and Interreg specific objectives
- 11:00-11:10 Next steps in the programming process
- 11:10-11:30 AOB

SESSION

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary, acting as the Managing Authority (MA) of the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Hungary-Serbia Programme, **Ms Nikoletta Horváth deputy head of the Managing Authority, Co-chairperson of the meeting** welcomes the participants of the Programming Committee (PC) to its second meeting.

The other Co-chairperson of the meeting was **Ms Valentina Vidović, representing Ministry of European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia – the Serbian National Authority (NA)**, in charge of the cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes. **Ms Vidović** continues with his welcome speech.

Ms Joanna Kiryłło, the Desk officer of the European Commission, responsible for the current programme, also introduces herself to the PC and offers to share some best practices related to programming.

Finally, **Mr Viktor Tunić**, the head of the Joint Secretariat greets the participants.

After the welcome speeches, it is concluded that the quorum is met.

Mr Tunić presents the agenda of the meeting and proposes it to approval.

The PC adopts the agenda.

After the approval of the Agenda, **Ms Horváth** presents the current status of EU legislation process. She explains that based on information received from the Commission the new legislation package is expected to come into force in June or July. After the adaptation the Programme will have 9 months to officially submit the programming document to the Commission. She continues that the Programme will be able to submit the Interreg Programme by the very end of the year. She states that the Strategic Environment Assessment also needs to be elaborated by this time. Other important issues are the thematic concentration, functional areas and simplification. Ms Horváth also explains that the allocation of the new programme is under negotiation. Based on these consultations, the proposed budget might not suffer from the drastic cut we face in the Hungarian CBC envelope.

Ms Kiryłło confirms that the legislation package is now under legal revision. She adds that the publication and the entry into force of the Regulations is expected by the end of June. She reminds the PC that the proposal for geographical allocation should be sent as soon as possible. She mentions the good practice example of the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme where the calls were published with a suspensive clause before the formal approval of the programme, which enabled the situation that the projects of the next programme were contracted as soon as possible after the approval of the programme. Here is more detailed overview of the situation regarding the state of things with the legislation:

1. CPR, ERDF/CF, ESF+, JTF were formally approved by COREPER on 4.3.2021. Interreg was confirmed in December (revision, cross-references).
2. The regulation is now under lawyer linguists review and translation phase. Plan to have reviews finished by end of May.
3. Council and EP aim to present all as a single package: CPR + Fund specific regulations.
4. Publication of the Regulations expected by end of June.
5. SFC will be ready for uploading and submissions once Regulations are published.

Implementing acts:

- 1) Budget – waiting for input from Member States, incl. Hungary

- 2) Geography – waiting for confirmation from both, Member States and partner countries
 - a. for this programme: no changes

to be adopted immediately after Regulations.

(for more detailed information, the e-mail of Ms Kiryłło about the Submission and adoption of an Interreg IPA CBC programme will be attached to the minutes e-mail)

Ms Vidović explains that the same approach is planned to be used within the Romania-Serbia cross-border programme, where the Interreg Programme is already prepared. The 1st Call for proposal will be published and the contracting phase starts when the Interreg Programme is adopted.

After the discussion of legislation process, **Mr Tunić** invites the expert team of the Chapter 2 document to introduce themselves.

With the lead of Mr **Balázs Wächter** the expert team gives a short introduction. After the introduction round **Mr Wächter** presents the essence of the Inception Report.

Mr Tunić summarises the proposed objectives and opens the discussion on the policy objectives and Interreg specific objectives.

Ms Jasmina Radonić emphasises that transport is not in the focus of the programme, however, there are certain activities that can be funded in the next period. She would see it helpful to collect the future possible activities, does not matter their scales that are relating to transport and could be financed by the programme.

Mr Tunić explains that allocation to ISOs are limited to a maximum: ISO1 is up to 20% and ISO2 is 5% of the entire allocation for the programme. It means that there can be transport related projects, but due to limits of ISO2, they can be either several small ones or perhaps one big transport project under that ISO.

Mr Wächter shares that, relating to tourist attractions, small scale bicycle paths and road constructions can fit into the activities. Under ISO1 a platform can also be prepared dealing with matters of transport.

Mr Tunić clarifies that there can be small scale transport developments under PO4.

Ms Kiryłło asked for explanation of the allocation of thematic objectives. The table of the discussion paper shows that PO2 and PO4 should be at least 60 percent according to the regulation. However, according to the regulation 60% of ERDF and IPA shall be allocated on PO2 and a maximum of two other POs *(According to the new CPR proposal, Article 15 Thematic concentration)*.

Mr Tunić thanks for the remark and clarifies that the experts are already aware of that rule and the data of the table is a mixture of the rule and the proposal – meaning that if this proposal is accepted, the programme would adhere to the mentioned rule.

Ms Horváth summarises the outcome of the Hungarian side consultation. Fine tuning of the text may be necessary, however this will not be part of the Interreg Programme, but serves the purpose to clarify the discussion paper. The Hungarian delegation also highlighted the important topics such as tourism in general, water related tourism, biodiversity and the importance of close connection to Danube Regional Strategy. The delegation also consulted on how to further fine tune the types of activities, the types of potential beneficiaries, target groups and having simpler indicators as much as possible.

Ms Vidović summarises as well the outcome of the Serbian side consultation. The delegation also highlighted the most important sectors. Possibilities of financing some small-scale projects related to

transport even in ISO2 or in ISO1 as cooperation between local municipalities were also discussed. The delegation consulted on the possibility of development of urban plans between border towns, which could also be an activity under ISO1.

Mr Tunić invites the expert team to explain why climate change adaptation and risk management are proposed under PO2, while water management is still important for the programme.

Mr Bonis confirms that water management is very important topic for the area. However, having examined the indicator fiches prepared by the Commission, the expert team came to the conclusion that the challenges what the area faces can be better reflected under climate change adaptation. Water management has several fields. Sewing management and drinking water are dealt on settlement level, while flood and draughts are better covered by climate change adaptation. As the concrete actions and interventions to be incorporated in the programming document will be proposed by the outcome of the future workshops. Therefore, the presence of the stakeholder is important and encouraged.

Ms Horváth mentions that the participants from Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture, as stakeholders, are ready to consult on these topics on the upcoming workshops to be held by the expert team.

Mr Oroszi emphasises that the SO relating to climate change and resilience is fully in line with the EUSDR objectives. He adds that civil protection and disaster management are also very important aspects of this SO, which connects to the initiative of EUSDR priority 5 environmental risk, that has a disaster management working group. The working group includes civil protection organisations as participants from both Hungary and Serbia. He continues that not only flood and draught, but also wild fires could be addressed in the region.

Mr Tunić says that the Committee can have a decision now on how the programme will look like in terms of SOs and IOSs and later on the Committee can discuss the definition of actions and calls. For this, the consultations on the upcoming workshops organised by the expert team are very important. The Joint Secretariat is also open for taking part on them. Mr Tunić invites the members to vote on the POs, SOs and IOSs as it appears on the last page of the proposal with repeating the proposed objectives.

Ms Horváth declares that based on the national consultation meeting and the consultation of the present meeting the Hungarian delegation does not have any objections to the proposed objectives.

Ms Vidović declares as well that the Serbian delegation does not have any objections to the proposed objectives.

Decision no.07/2021 (22/03) – The PC approves the summary of the objectives proposed on the last page of the discussion paper

Ms Horváth informs the PC on the next steps. She explains that the programming is according to the planned schedule. The experts are working on the dates of the workshops. According to the inception report the workshops should be done by 11 April and until the end of April the team will present the first draft of chapter 2. It means that next time the Committee will probably meet in May. In the meantime of SEA procurement is running. She continues that the future experts of SEA will be pushed to have the inception report early to start the assessment in a short time. The Hungarian Contact Point of SEA was also contacted. Ms Horváth explains that the approval of Chapter 2 is not necessary for starting the elaboration of the SEA document, because the long list of potential interventions can be sufficient for the screening exercise. Once the chapter 2 is approved the CESCO will fine tune the chapter

1 accordingly squeezing in the most important information into the given 10 000 characters. After that, parallel consultations for the SEA and for the Interreg Programme.

Mr Tunić says that a more detailed timetable is available and the Joint Secretariat will send the updated version to the participants with the minutes of this event.

Mr Halász confirms that the procurement of SEA experts is ongoing and the deadline for offers is 22 March. One offer is already submitted and if it can be approved then the contract will be signed soon.

Mr Tunić explains that the Discussion Paper will also be updated accordingly and that the Joint Secretariat will keep the Committee posted on upcoming written procedures.

Mr Wächter invites the Committee members to propose participants and dates for the upcoming workshops that will be moderated by the expert team. The workshops will be organised as per the chosen objectives.

Ms Horváth mentions, as part of any other business, that an administrative change is necessary in the Rules of Procedure, namely, that before the end of the year the Ministry of Innovation and Technology was responsible for the Hungarian coordination of development funds. On 1 January 2021, this portfolio was taken over by the Prime Minister's Office. This technical change will be circulate for approval together with the minutes of the meeting. She adds that according to the Rules of Procedure, when the POs and SOs are selected, the partner countries have the right to boost the nomination in terms of partnership principle. Therefore, as agreed with the Serbian colleagues, a new round of nomination can be expected. **Ms Horváth** also informs the Committee that programme bodies are currently working on the further chapters of the Interreg Programme as well. These documents will also be circulated soon.

Ms Vidović says that there no such changes are envisaged on the Serbian side.

Ms Kirylo shared additional information and advice concerning indicators to the pre-selected specific objectives, specifically concerning Specific Objective 4.5 and ISO1.

As there are no further comments, **Mr Tunić** concludes the 3rd PC.