

Elaboration of DNSH Report of the Interreg A IPA III CBC
Hungary-Serbia Programme for the programming period
of 2021–2027, concerning the programming area of
Hungary and Serbia

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

30 November 2021

DNSH report prepared for the Interreg A IPA III CBC Hungary-Serbia
Programme 2021-2027

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Table of content

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 1 | Executive summary | 1 |
| 2 | Outline of the contents..... | 2 |
| 2.1 | Definition and purpose of the contract | 2 |
| 2.2 | Scope of the assessed Programme | 2 |
| 2.2.1 | Territorial scope of the assessed programme | 2 |
| 2.2.2 | Main objectives and structure of the assessed Programme | 2 |
| 2.3 | List of sources (relevant legislative acts and strategic documents) | 4 |
| 2.3.1 | Legislative and strategic documents of the European Union | 4 |
| 2.3.2 | Legislative and strategic documents of Hungary | 4 |
| 2.3.3 | Legislative and strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia..... | 5 |
| 2.3.4 | Legislative documents, explanatory notes and technical guidance used during the preparation of present Report | 5 |
| 3 | Methodological approach | 6 |
| 3.1 | Assessment procedure | 6 |
| 3.1.1 | Simplified assessment..... | 7 |
| 3.1.2 | Substantive assessment | 8 |
| 3.1.3 | Recommendations throughout Programme implementation | 8 |
| 4 | Assessment of the Programme measures potential effect on the environmental objectives | 10 |
| | Action 1.1.1. Joint development, coordination and improvement of the cross-border risk prevention and disaster management systems | 10 |
| | Action 1.1.2 Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change, addressing natural phenomena occurring as a consequence of climate change..... | 15 |
| | Action 1.1.3. Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change..... | 22 |
| | Action 1.2.1. Joint activities which identify and contribute to the elimination of the cross-border pollution sources | 27 |
| | Action 1.2.2. Joint initiatives for ensuring the sustainable development of natural areas | 32 |
| | Action 1.2.3. Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region | 37 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Action 2.1.1. Lifelong learning for social inclusion, social cohesion and environmentally sustainable and healthy digitalization..... | 42 |
| Action 2.1.2. Joint development of training, mentoring and outreach programs to combat and reverse early school leaving | 45 |
| Action 2.1.3. Joint development of vocational training | 48 |
| Action 2.2.1. Development of joint tourism products with joint marketing management of these products | 51 |
| Action 2.2.2. Cultural cooperation..... | 56 |
| Action 2.2.3. Joint management of information for tourism and cultural purposes | 60 |
| Action 3.1.1. Building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging 'people to people' (P2P) actions..... | 64 |
| Action 3.1.2. Actions supporting better cooperation governance | 67 |
| Action 3.2.1. Capacity development of border crossing management and mobility | 71 |
| 5 Proposals and protective measures to the Programme document..... | 75 |
| 5.1 Climate change mitigation | 75 |
| 5.2 Climate change adaptation..... | 75 |
| 5.3 Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | 76 |
| 5.4 Transition to a circular economy..... | 76 |
| 5.5 Pollution prevention and control | 76 |
| 5.6 Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems..... | 76 |
| 6 List of abbreviations | 77 |

1 Executive summary

The Taxonomy Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) 2020/852 of 18 June 2020) establishes the criteria for determining whether an economic activity qualifies environmentally sustainable throughout its life cycle. The Commission explanatory note to the application of the “DNSH” principle under Cohesion Policy (EGESIF_21-0025-00) recommends that one Programme’s measures must be assessed before its approval by the Programming Committee whether they have no or insignificant impact on the six environmental objectives listed in the Taxonomy Regulation. This requirement stands also for CBC programmes involving accession countries within their territories.

To fulfil this task the Managing Authority of present Programme ordered the assessment of the Programme’s indicative actions. The assessment has been carried out based on the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the RRF regulation when creating the methodology for assessment of the Programme as the Commission’s Explanatory note recommends to follow the RRF procedure.

The proposed types of actions listed in the Programme have been assessed for their impact on the six environmental objectives of the Taxonomy Regulation. It is concluded that indicative actions such as ‘Action 1.1.1 Joint development, coordination and improvement of the cross-border risk prevention and disaster management systems, Action 1.1.2. Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change, addressing natural phenomena occurring as a consequence of climate change, Action 1.1.3. Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change, Action 1.2.1 Joint activities which identify and contribute to the elimination of the cross-border pollution sources, Action 1.2.2 Joint initiatives for ensuring the sustainable development of natural areas and Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region aim directly to environmental protection and/or biodiversity, which by definition have the 100% coefficient (RRF regulation, ANNEX VI., Methodology for climate tracking) for the calculation of support to environmental objectives.

At all the remaining actions, where the possible technical content of the actions would provide for a slight probability to cause harm, a detailed analysis has been carried out, concluding that even those planned actions will do no significant harm to the observed environmental objectives – provided the Managing Authority pays attention to the implementing parties giving the DNSH principles special consideration.

2 Outline of the contents

2.1 Definition and purpose of the contract

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (MFA) as Managing Authority of the INTERREG A IPA III CBC Hungary-Serbia Programme 2021-2027 ordered the preparation of the DNSH (“do no significant harm”) report of the programme in the frame of a framework contract procured by 19 February 2021 (reg nr. KKM/8082/2021/Adm.), won by Ex Ante Ltd., signed by MFA on 29 March 2021, reg. nr. KKM/14300/2021/Adm.

2.2 Scope of the assessed Programme

2.2.1 Territorial scope of the assessed programme

The cooperation area of INTERREG A IPA III CBC Hungary-Serbia Programme covers a territory of 34 335 km², with 2.76 million inhabitants.



Figure 1.: The analysed territory of the INTERREG A IPA III CBC Programme Hungary-Serbia 2021-2027 (Source: Territorial analysis prepared by CESC, 2020.)

2.2.2 Main objectives and structure of the assessed Programme

The Interreg A IPA III CBC Hungary-Serbia Programme plans to organize the development activities of the next 7-year period along three priorities, which are the following:

- P1 – A greener region
- P2 – Enhancing the human and cultural values
- P3 – Cross-border institutional and civil cooperation

The table below indicates the identified priority objectives and the connected types of indicative actions.

| | |
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| PA1 | A greener region |
| SO 2.4 (iv) | <i>Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches</i> |
| Action 1.1.1 | Joint development, coordination and improvement of the cross-border risk prevention and disaster management systems |
| Action 1.1.2. | Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change, addressing natural phenomena occurring as a consequence of climate change |
| Action 1.1.3. | Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change |
| SO 2.7 (vii) | <i>Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution;</i> |
| Action 1.2.1 | Joint activities which identify and contribute to the elimination of the cross-border pollution sources |
| Action 1.2.2 | Joint initiatives for ensuring the sustainable development of natural areas |
| Action 1.2.3 | Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region |
| PA2 | Enhancing the human and cultural values |
| SO 4.2 (ii) | <i>Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training</i> |
| Action 2.1.1 | Lifelong learning for social inclusion, social cohesion and environmentally sustainable and healthy digitalization |
| Action 2.1.2 | Joint development of training, mentoring and outreach programs to combat and reverse early school leaving |
| Action 2.1.3 | Joint development of vocational training |
| SO 4.6 (vi) | <i>Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</i> |
| Action 2.2.1 | Development of joint tourism products with joint marketing management of these products |
| Action 2.2.2 | Cultural cooperation |
| Action 2.2.3 | Joint management of information for tourism and cultural purposes |

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| PA3 | Cross-border institutional and civil cooperation |
| ISO 1 | <i>Better cooperation governance</i> |
| Action 3.1.1 | Building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging 'people to people' (P2P) actions |
| Action 3.1.2 | Actions supporting better cooperation governance |
| ISO 2 | <i>A safer and more secure Europe</i> |
| Action 3.2.1 | Capacity development of border crossing management and mobility |

Figure 2: Defined programme priorities and their relationship to the selected Policy Objectives/Interreg Specific Objectives.

2.3 List of sources (relevant legislative acts and strategic documents)

The assessed Programme and Environmental Report comply with the below listed legislative and strategic documents as an indication that the assessed Programme complies with the relevant EU legislation and does not entail environmental harm.

Additionally, we enlist all relevant legislative documents, explanatory notes and technical guidance taken into consideration during the preparation of present Report.

2.3.1 Legislative and strategic documents of the European Union

The European Green Deal
European Climate Law
EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
EU Water Framework Directive
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives
EU Environment action programme to 2030
European Landscape Convention
EU Strategy for Energy System Integration
EU Hydrogen Strategy
European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

2.3.2 Legislative and strategic documents of Hungary

National Development and Territorial Development Concept of Hungary (until 2030)
National Transport Infrastructure Development Strategy of Hungary
National Tourism Development Strategy 2030 of Hungary (until 2030)
Jenő Kvassay Plan – National Water Strategy of Hungary (2017-2030)
Government Decision No 1155/2016. (III. 31.) on Hungary's revised River Basin Management Plan 2015
"Healthy Hungary 2021–2027" – Health Sector Strategy (2021-2027)

National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development of Hungary (2012-2024)
National Nature Protection Plan V. (proposal) (2021-2026)
National Landscape Strategy of Hungary (2017-2026)
National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS-2) 2018
National Energy and Climate Plan of Hungary
National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) of Hungary
Territorial Development Concept of Bács-Kiskun County (2021-2027)
Territorial Development Concept of Csongrád-Csanád County (2021-2027)
Climate Strategy of Csongrád County 2017

2.3.3 Legislative and strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia

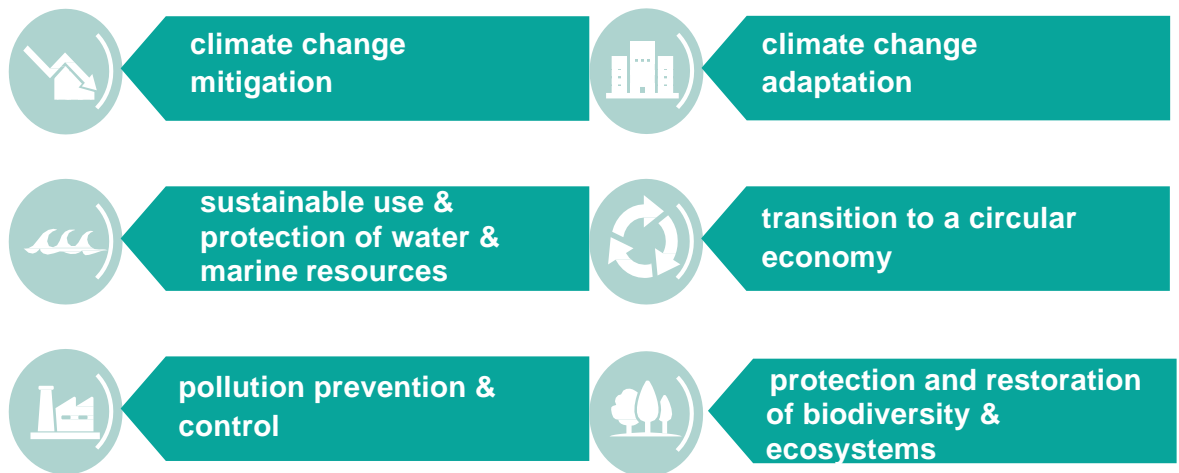
Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030
Water management strategy in the territory of the Republic of Serbia until 2034
Nature protection strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2019 to 2025
Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period by 2025 with projections by 2030
Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030
Smart Specialisation Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the Period from 2020 to 2027
Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period from 2016 to 2025
Strategy for the Development of Culture in the Republic of Serbia from 2020 to 2029

2.3.4 Legislative documents, explanatory notes and technical guidance used during the preparation of present Report

Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)
Taxonomy Regulation 2020
Commission explanatory note on the application of the DNSH principle under Cohesion Policy
Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021
Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021
European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure (2014-2020)

3 Methodological approach

The Taxonomy Regulation entered into force in June 2020 with the aim to establish the criteria for determining whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable.



*Figure 3: The six environmental objectives to which no significant harm should be done
Source: European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (Angelica Marino, DG R&I – G2)*

The Commission’s explanatory note on the application of the DNSH principle under Cohesion Policy states that the compliance of the DNSH principle must be assured during programming phase at the types of action level. The Explanatory note recommends following the approach of the RRF taking into account the Common Provisions Regulation.

Based on the above the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the RRF regulation has been applied when creating the methodology for assessment of the Programme.

3.1 Assessment procedure

Following the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the RRF regulation all types of actions are assessed following the simplified approach as a first step. The Technical guidance uses the phrase measure as the level of assessment-according to the commission explanatory note in the observed Programme a type of action is considered as a measure.

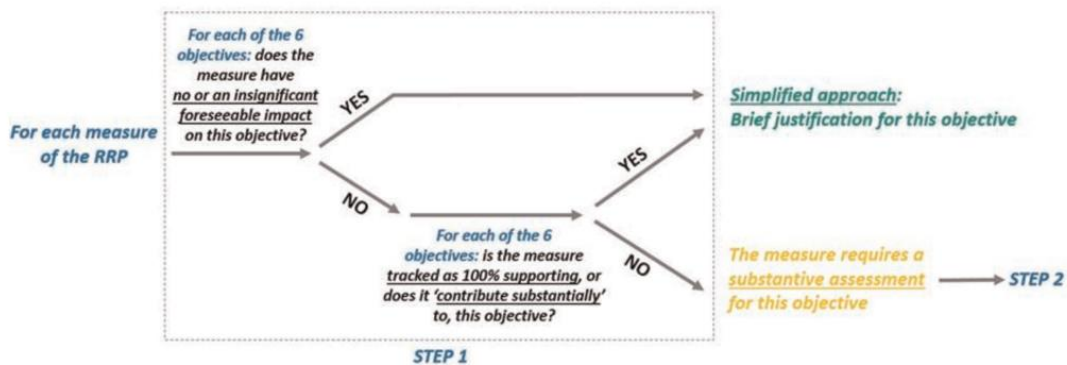


Figure 4: Decision tree to be used to assess the planned measures (types of actions)

Source: Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021

3.1.1 Simplified assessment

During this simplified assessment all actions are tested whether they require a substantive assessment regarding the below listed environmental objectives (listed in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation):

- a) climate change mitigation;
- b) climate change adaptation;
- c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;
- d) the transition to a circular economy;
- e) pollution prevention and control;
- f) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

An action does not require a substantive assessment (does not need to go through step 2) in the following cases:

- a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective
- b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective

To decide whether an action measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective the methodology of the European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure has been adopted as follows:

- An action does not harm an environmental objective in any way if a “climate action is fundamental to the design and impact of the activity and is an explicit objective of the activity; e.g. wind farms, energy efficiency, adaptation to climate change measures, cycle tracks.”¹

¹ European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure, “Common methodology”, page 1

- An action does not harm an environmental objective significantly “where climate action is a significant, but not predominant objective. Climate action, although important, is not the principal reason for undertaking the activity; e.g. air quality measures, enhancement of biodiversity, sustainable transport modes, such as railways, inland water ways, clean urban transport systems.”²
 - An action has the potential to have negative effects on an environmental objective when it “does not target climate action, e.g. motorways and roads, airports, waste management.”³
- c. The measure ‘contributes substantially’ to an environmental objective, pursuant to Articles 10-16 of the Taxonomy Regulation, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective

In all cases it is briefly explained why the observed action does not have any or significant negative effect on the given environmental objective.

3.1.2 Substantive assessment

After the completion of the simplified assessment, all actions that prove to have possible negative effects on any of the six observed environmental objectives must go under a substantive assessment in that regard. (Step 2 of the decision tree)

Since none of the assessed actions proved to negatively affect the observed environmental objectives, a substantive assessment has not been carried out according to the decision tree indicated in the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation.

3.1.3 Recommendations throughout Programme implementation

In order to ensure that the implemented projects supported by the Programme fully comply with the DNSH principles, it is highly recommended⁴ for the future calls to assure that implemented projects meet the following criteria:

- if applicable projects have to include elements requiring companies to implement a recognised environmental management system, such as EMAS (or alternatively ISO 14001 or equivalent), or to use and/or produce goods or services that are awarded an EU Ecolabel or another Type I environmental label;
- the project has to concern the implementation of best environmental practices or the reaching of benchmarks of excellence set out in the Sectoral Reference Documents

² European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure, “Common methodology”, page 1

³ European Commission Fact sheet on monitoring climate expenditure, “Common methodology”, page 1

⁴ Annex II of the Technical guidance on the application of DNSH under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation, page 12

adopted according to Article 46(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS);

- for public investments, the project respects green public procurement criteria;
- for infrastructure investments, the investment has been subject to a climate and environmental proofing.

4 Assessment of the Programme measures potential effect on the environmental objectives

Action 1.1.1. Joint development, coordination and improvement of the cross-border risk prevention and disaster management systems

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|---|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>Although construction and excavation related to flood protection infrastructure and infrastructure preventing or eliminating risks posed by natural and man-made hazards can cause (mainly local) GHG emissions, those are not significant due the expected number and size of projects.</p> <p>According to the Article 10 of Taxonomy regulation, the activity contributes</p> |

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| | | | <p>substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas removals, including through process innovations or product innovations, by strengthening land carbon sinks, through restoration wetlands.</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA the action is likely to have positive impact on climate. "The joint development of disaster management institutional systems through enhancing response capacity, and preparing the population for these critical weather situations, which are expected to recur in a few years' time, will help to protect human life and property more effectively".</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> |

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| | | | Also according to the findings of the SEA "The action may play a significant role first of all in climate change adaptation, as the shift in climate parameters induce an increased frequency of extreme weather events (e.g. storms, torrential rains)." |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The action aims at the sustainable use and protection of water where that activity contributes to achieving the good status of bodies of water, including bodies of surface and groundwater by improving water management and efficiency by contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks</p> |

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| | | | <p>(including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>All future projects of this action will have small waste production, therefore the impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any negative impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| <p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have a small effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level, whilst the outcomes of the developed strategies and action plans may significantly contribute to pollution</p> |

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| | | | <p>prevention and control to air, water and soil.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any negative impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water or land.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>The projects of this action may have a small direct effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their direct impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level, whilst the outcomes of the developed strategies and action plans may significantly contribute to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.1.2 Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change, addressing natural phenomena occurring as a consequence of climate change

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>According to the Article 10 of Taxonomy regulation, the activity contributes substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas removals, including through process innovations or product innovations, by</p> |

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| | | | <p>strengthening land carbon sinks, through restoration wetlands.</p> <p>The SEA recommends "It is recommended that during Programme implementation a priority should be given to those solutions that, in addition to climate change adaptation contribution, also result in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. agricultural practices that increase the organic matter content of soils)"</p> |
| <p>Climate change adaptation</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The action is likely to have positive impact on climate: The development of risk management related preventive and post-intervention systems, infrastructures and proper cooperation between authorities will greatly help to reduce and as far as possible, to prevent damages caused by extreme weather events which are expected to become more and more frequent (e.g. storms, floods). The action supports the revitalization of natural riverbeds and floodplains, thereby retaining part of flooding water. In</p> |

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| | | | <p>addition to preventing flood damages, it can also mitigate the potential water stress typically affecting surface water and groundwater bodies in the region, as well as its consequent adverse effects on wildlife and the economy (e.g. wetland desiccation, decrease of agricultural yields due to drought).</p> <p>The SEA concludes that "In line with its title, the action will be effective in helping climate change adaptation, especially in the most vulnerable development areas: water management, agriculture and nature conservation."</p> |
| <p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>The planned actions contribute indirectly to the sustainable use and protection of water where that activity contributes potentially to achieving the good status of surface and groundwater bodies by mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. The planned actions are expected to have positive, direct impacts on transboundary water bodies, they aim</p> |

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| | | | <p>to reduce the risk of human-made and natural disasters via prevention, education and common management strategies.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that "The focal point of the action is to improve water management and reduce water related sensitivity of the area. Therefore, the overall quantitative and qualitative status of surface water and groundwater is expected to improve once the intervention gets implemented"</p> |
| <p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>Although construction and excavation related to some flood protection infrastructure and some infrastructure preventing or eliminating risks posed by natural and man-made hazards can produce waste, those are not significant due the expected number and size of projects. The indirect effect of the measure is that the use of sandbags may release environmentally harmful plastics and micro-pollutants into the soil and surface waters, but this can be prevented</p> |

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| | | | by complying with the regulations in force. |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>Majority of the elements of the action do not affect municipal air quality. An exception is restoration of floodplains along rivers and related revitalization of wetlands, especially if they take place on urban lands. Increase in the extent of the undeveloped strips covered with vegetation or water supports urban ventilation, absorption of pollutants and thus reducing the concentration of air pollutants in the affected settlements.</p> <p>The action has likely positive impact on water. It is evolutionary that the measure related to flood protection mentions the restoration of natural floodplains of watercourses. At the same time, flood defense infrastructure development should also seek to apply nature-based solutions, otherwise the effects of the measures may be counteracted.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Although construction and excavation related to some flood protection infrastructure and some infrastructure preventing or eliminating risks posed by natural and man-made hazards can produce some waste, those are not significant due the expected number and size of projects. The indirect effect of the measure is that the use of sandbags may release environmentally harmful plastics and micro-pollutants into the soil and surface waters, but this can be prevented by complying with the regulations in force.</p> |
| <p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 035-037 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches)).</p> <p>It is evolutionary that the measure related to flood protection mentions the restoration of natural floodplains of watercourses. If natural floodplains cover a larger area, the number and extent of semi-natural habitats can be significantly increased. It should be noted that the development of flood protection infrastructure should always be based on the prioritizing nature-based solutions</p> |

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| | | <p>wherever possible. Increasing water resources supply may also be a favorable intervention if it is combined with the optimization and regulation of the use of water resources.</p> <p>The SEA states that "Being a multipurpose intervention, all of its elements may have a positive impact on wildlife and protected natural areas. Indirect effects may be generated by water management developments and measures aimed at reducing climate change exposure of agriculture. Considering biodiversity, measures targeting the protection of natural habitats may play a key role, which can clearly have a positive effect on both flora and fauna, and the condition of Natura 2000 sites"</p> |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.1.3. Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
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| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and</p> |

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| | | | <p>management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>As activities for awareness rising are primarily targeting climate change adaptation purposes, their impact is direct and positive.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that “The action essentially aims to raise awareness and train two target groups, farmers and community members, in relation to climate change and adaptation to it.” ... “significant results might be achieved in the adaptation field, even more likely among farmers, who also have a direct financial interest. However, as generally at awareness raising activities, indirect positive effects can be expected, so no certain extent of impacts can be determined.”</p> |
| <p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-</p> |

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| | | | <p>based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>The impact of the projects of this action on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that significant progress can be made in terms of water conservation, both among the population and agricultural enterprises. Within the framework of the action, engagement of both target groups is planned. Regarding agriculture, protecting the quantity of surface waters and groundwater is possible via applying water-saving technologies and drought-tolerant species. There are also many opportunities for community members for water saving (shift in watering practices, rainwater harvesting, etc.).</p> |
| <p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have small waste production, however their</p> |

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| | | | <p>impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect impact on air quality, water use and land use, however that impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA identifies various degree of positive impact related to pollution prevention and control to water, and land and no impact on air.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> |

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| | | | <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 35-37: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches) has a coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>As activities of awareness rising projects are directly aiming at nature and environmental protection purposes, their impact on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems will be positive.</p> |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.2.1. Joint activities which identify and contribute to the elimination of the cross-border pollution sources

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
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| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 050 in the Annex VI. to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure).</p> <p>The activity contributes substantially to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system consistent with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement through the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase of greenhouse gas removals, including through process innovations or product innovations, by strengthening land carbon sinks, through avoiding forest degradation, restoration of forests, sustainable management and restoration wetlands, afforestation.</p> <p>The activity contains joint interventions to map pollution sources and/or</p> |

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| | | | <p>development of up-to-date solutions to eliminate various pollution sources and pollutants from air, soil, or water – e.g., elimination/reduction of greenhouse gasses and different kind of liquid and solid waste such as paper, plastics, metals, chemicals in solid form</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA the action has no direct impact on climate protection or adaptation. At the same time, exploring pollution sources and removing pollutants from the atmosphere, water bodies and soil may indirectly help to prevent pollution and reduce the volume of harmful activities resulting pollution, which, at the same time, may lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions..</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 050 in the Annex VI. to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure).</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA the action has no direct impact on climate protection or adaptation.</p> |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and</p> |

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| | | | <p>as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 050 in the Annex VI. to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure).</p> <p>The activity contributes substantially to the sustainable use and protection of water; contributes substantially to achieving the good status of bodies of water, including bodies of surface water and groundwater; to preventing the deterioration of bodies of water that already have good status.</p> <p>Also according to the findings of the SEA the action can clearly improve the quality of surface waters and groundwater by eliminating pollution. Particular attention has to be drawn to the goal of reducing the amount of microplastics, which are currently one of the most problematic pollutants in water.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 050 in the Annex VI. to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure).</p> <p>The measure targets to map pollution sources and/or development of up-to-date solutions to eliminate various pollution sources and pollutants from air,</p> |

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| | | | <p>soil, or water – e.g., elimination/reduction of greenhouse gasses and different kind of liquid and solid waste such as paper, plastics, metals, chemicals in solid form.</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA, the action can clearly improve the quality of surface waters and groundwater by eliminating pollution.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 050 in the Annex VI. to the RRF Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure).</p> <p>The activity contributes substantially to pollution prevention and control where that activity contributes substantially to environmental protection from pollution by improving levels of air, water and soil quality and by cleaning up litter and other pollution.</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA the action targets both preventing and eliminating pollution of the air, surface water and groundwater, as well as soil..</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective.</p> <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 050 in the Annex VI. to the RRF</p> |

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| | | <p>Regulation with a coefficient of 100 % (Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure).</p> <p>The activity contributes substantially to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems where that activity contributes substantially to protecting, conserving or restoring biodiversity or to achieving the good condition of ecosystems, or to protecting ecosystems that are already in good condition.</p> <p>Also, according to the findings of the SEA the intervention is of paramount importance for wildlife, as the goal is to reduce pollution of air, soil and water, thus pressure on all habitats can be reduced and draws the attention that one-off decontamination interventions are not sufficient to ensure lasting impact. Once the contamination sources have been identified, it is necessary to prevent further contamination.</p> |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.2.2. Joint initiatives for ensuring the sustainable development of natural areas

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
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| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change mitigation is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>According to the SEA the action may have a direct impact on climate protection or adaptation, although this linkage is not mentioned in the Programme itself. Increasing biodiversity, protecting and revitalizing complex ecosystems will make natural and semi-natural areas more resilient towards the increasingly extreme climatic conditions. Preserving and expanding green spaces will also play an</p> |

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| | | | important role in climate protection by increasing carbon sequestration capacity. |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change adaptation is detected.</p> <p>As activities for awareness rising (e.g. creating educational trails in nature) are primarily targeting climate change adaptation purposes, their impact is direct and positive.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action may have a direct impact on climate protection or adaptation, although this linkage is not mentioned in the Programme itself. Increasing biodiversity, protecting and revitalizing complex ecosystems will make natural and semi-natural areas more resilient towards the increasingly extreme climatic conditions. Preserving and expanding green spaces will also play an important role in climate protection by increasing carbon sequestration capacity.</p> |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and |

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| | | | <p>as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the sustainable use and protection for water is detected.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that by improving the status and revitalization of natural habitats, the status of natural waters also improves by joint blue (e.g. backwater) and green interventions for in-situ conservation, reconstruction, protection, restoration or revitalization of natural habitats including in areas characterized by eco and active tourism</p> |
| <p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm is detected.</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have small waste production and their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> |

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| | | | The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure. |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the air, water and land is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect impact on air quality, water use and land use, however that impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA identify various degree of positive impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no</p> |

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| | | <p>significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems is detected.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that in terms of habitats, this is the most important action of the whole programme, as the action just aims to improve the status of natural habitats. The revitalization and restoration of natural habitats has to be highlighted. It is forward-looking that the programme also emphasizes the issue of natural areas affected by ecotourism and active tourism, which ensures that the effects of different programme interventions do not counteract with each other, and that possible negative effects of tourism are also addressed within the programme itself.</p> |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 1.2.3. Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
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| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change mitigation is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that although the action does not specify directly climate protection, environmental education may also have an (indirect) positive effect on climate protection.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> |

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| | | | <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the climate change adaptation is detected.</p> <p>As activities for awareness rising are primarily targeting climate change adaptation purposes, their impact is direct and positive.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that although the action does not specify directly climate protection, environmental education may also have an (indirect) positive effect on climate protection.</p> |
| <p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the sustainable use and protection for water is detected.</p> <p>The negative impact of the projects of this action on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level, whilst the outcomes of the activities with the significantly improved awareness of the sustainable use of natural resources will substantial positive</p> |

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| | | | <p>impact on the sustainable use and protection of water resources.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that some elements of the action (such as sustainable use of natural resources, awareness raising on the adverse effects of human consumption) may have a positive effect on the status of natural waters, if dissemination and awareness raising activities will contribute to reducing water consumption.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm is detected.</p> <p>Future projects of this action may have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> |

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| | | | <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the air, water and land is detected.</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect impact on air quality, water use and land use, however that impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA identify various degree of positive impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>b. The measure is tracked as supporting a climate change or environmental objective with a coefficient of 100 %, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>According to RRF Regulation Annex VI, point 50: Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure has a coefficient of 100%, therefore no significant harm to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems is detected.</p> <p>As activities of awareness rising projects are directly aiming at education activities, and awareness raising and knowledge sharing in the field of nature protection and biodiversity, by their very nature their impact on the protection and restoration</p> |

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| | | | of biodiversity and ecosystems will be positive. |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.1.1. Lifelong learning for social inclusion, social cohesion and environmentally sustainable and healthy digitalization

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on climate as an environmental system.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving access to inclusive and quality education are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> |

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| | | | The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on climate as an environmental system. |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on surface water and groundwater.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and |

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| | | | <p>primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving access to inclusive and quality education are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.1.2. Joint development of training, mentoring and outreach programs to combat and reverse early school leaving

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
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| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on climate as an environmental system.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving access to inclusive and better education are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> |

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| | | | The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on climate as an environmental system. |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on surface water and groundwater.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and |

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| | | | <p>primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving access to inclusive and better education are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.1.3. Joint development of vocational training

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
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| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on climate as an environmental system.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving access to inclusive and better education are not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> |

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| | | | The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on climate as an environmental system. |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have local water use, however their impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on surface water and groundwater.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and |

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| | | | <p>primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may have a small indirect effect on air quality, water use and land use, however their impact on pollution prevention and control to air, water or land will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that improving access to inclusive and better education are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.2.1. Development of joint tourism products with joint marketing management of these products

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|---|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The enhancement cross-border movement of the cooperation activities, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, entail some greenhouse gas emission, however, its level can be reduced by various means. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the key development directions of the HUSRB CBC Programme, above all development of active and ecotourism, imply the lowest emissions out of all tourism sub-sectors.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that common feature of the numerous activities involved is that they aim to strengthen cross-border socio-economic cooperation. This can be considered beneficial from the climate protection aspect, as the emergence of shorter supply chains and regional integrated labour markets will result overall in the reduction of transport and</p> |

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| | | | public transport needs and thus of greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measures foreseen are mostly neutral from climate change adaptation point of view, though a slight positive impact is expected from growing cooperation activities, therefore no significant harm is foreseen.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that common feature of the numerous activities involved is that they aim to strengthen cross-border socio-economic cooperation. This can be considered beneficial from the climate protection aspect, as the emergence of shorter supply chains and regional integrated labour markets will result overall in the reduction of transport and public transport needs and thus of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The SEA concludes that water tourism is one of the development directions the action focuses on. In terms of the</p> |

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| | | | <p>potentially affected water bodies, growing number of visitors may lead to an increased pressure on waters, even if assumed that environmental consciousness of water tourism participants is higher than average. The extent and geographical scope of impacts is highly dependent on the number of visitors, but is most likely to occur near the waterfront infrastructure elements (boat ports and marinas, coastal accommodations, tourist facilities, nature trails, etc.).</p> |
| <p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As a result of tourism development the number of visitors and the duration of stay are increasing. All this leads to an increase in waste production at accommodation and at tourist attraction sites. We can assume that most of the waste generated by tourists would have appeared anyway (at their place of residence). It is likely that the measure will mainly attract tourists from the two countries covered by the Programme, so that the increase in environmental burden can be considered insignificant at the level of the countries concerned.</p> <p>Improvement of buildings and infrastructures (renovation, reconstruction of heritage sites; improve the infrastructural background of tourism</p> |

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| | | | <p>destinations) results in construction and demolition waste. The treatment and recycling of these materials in accordance with current regulations is complying with the principles of the circular economy.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Enhancement of tourism, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, operation of accommodation establishments and attractions, entail significant greenhouse gas emission, and pressure on the soil and water resources, however, its level can be reduced by various means. Key development directions of the Action may generate more traffic thus having a marginal negative environmental impact. The extent and geographical scope of loads is highly dependent on the number of visitors, but it is likely that only a few point-like or smaller areas may be affected, therefore causing no significant harm to air, water and land.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is</p> |

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| | | <p>considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The intended tourism is one of the development directions the action focuses on. In terms of the potentially affected ecosystems, growing number of visitors may lead to an increased pressure on the ecosystem, even if assumed that environmental consciousness of ecotourism participants is higher than average. The extent of this pressure is estimated to be very low and therefore causing no significant harm to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.2.2. Cultural cooperation

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the climate change mitigation.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The promotion of cultural cooperation has no direct impact on climate change adaptation at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the climate change adaptation.</p> |

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| <p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Though all projects of cultural cooperation will have local water use, it has no impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to the sustainable use and protection for water resources.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources.</p> |
| <p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| <p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental</p> |

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| | | | <p>objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The SEA concludes that among the cultural programmes, events and festivals, there is a possibility of point-like noise pollution in the case of outdoor ones, the extent of which depends on the volume and circumstances of the event. However, significantly increased noise exposure of affected communities is not anticipated taking into account frequency.</p> <p>Cultural cooperation has no impact on the other environmental aspects, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated.</p> |
| <p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As activities that target promotion of local and regional cooperation in culture and arts are not fundamentally for nature and environmental protection purposes, and also taking it to account that their ecological effects are very low, their impact on protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the protection and restoration</p> |

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| | | | of biodiversity and ecosystems of the measure. |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 2.2.3. Joint management of information for tourism and cultural purposes

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|---|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that enhancement of tourism, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, operation of accommodation establishments and attractions, entail significant greenhouse gas emission, however, its level can be reduced by various means. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the key development directions of the HUSRB CBC Programme, above all development of active and ecotourism, imply the lowest emissions out of of all tourism sub-sectors. Furthermore, as these tourism types might replace long-distance travelling, perhaps even air travel, it is assumed (however, not justified) that they can even be beneficial from a climate protection point of view. Consequently, tourism actions of the HUSRB CBC</p> |

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| | | | Programme cannot be considered as posing high risk in terms of climate protection. |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The promotion of cultural cooperation has no direct impact on climate change adaptation at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that enhancement of tourism, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, operation of accommodation establishments and attractions, entail significant greenhouse gas emission, however, its level can be reduced by various means. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the key development directions of the HUSRB CBC Programme, above all development of active and ecotourism, imply the lowest emissions out of of all tourism sub-sectors. Furthermore, as these tourism types might replace long-distance travelling, perhaps even air travel, it is assumed (however, not justified) that they can even be beneficial from a climate protection point of view. Consequently, tourism actions of the HUSRB CBC Programme cannot be considered as posing high risk in terms of climate protection.</p> |

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| <p>The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Though all projects of cultural cooperation will have local water use, it has no impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to the sustainable use and protection for water resources.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources.</p> |
| <p>The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| <p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental</p> |

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| | | | <p>objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The SEA concludes that enhancement of tourism, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, may lead to an increase in air pollutant emissions. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the key development directions of the HUSRB CBC Programme, such as development of active and ecotourism, as well as cultural tourism of regional significance, imply the lowest emissions out of all tourism sub-sectors. Consequently, tourism actions of the HUSRB CBC Programme cannot be considered as posing high risk in terms of air quality.</p> <p>Cultural cooperation has no impact on the other environmental aspects, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated.</p> |
| <p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems of the measure.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.1.1. Building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging 'people to people' (P2P) actions

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|---|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action's direct contribution to GHG emissions will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the among many elements of the action, above all, experience exchange on green urban management practices across local governments and municipalities, municipal management companies and other stakeholders can indirectly result in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and successful municipal adaptation. However, due to its indirect nature, the magnitude of the effect cannot be determined.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> |

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| | | | <p>Given its nature this action is not fundamentally for climate adaptation purposes, their impact on climate change adaptation at program level is insignificant.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the among many elements of the action, above all, experience exchange on green urban management practices across local governments and municipalities, municipal management companies and other stakeholders can indirectly result in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and successful municipal adaptation. However, due to its indirect nature, the magnitude of the effect cannot be determined.</p> |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on surface water and groundwater.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on surface water and groundwater.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> |

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| | | | <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on waste production and recycling.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on pollution to air, water or land.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to pollution prevention and control to air, water or land.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Given its nature this action will not have a significant direct effect on biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that the action is not likely to have an effect on biodiversity, flora, fauna, and Natura 2000 territories, nature reserves.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.1.2. Actions supporting better cooperation governance

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|---|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The enhancement cross-border movement of the cooperation activities, in particular due to the growing transportation needs, entail some greenhouse gas emission, however, its level can be reduced by various means. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the key development directions of the HUSRB CBC Programme, above all development of active and ecotourism, imply the lowest emissions out of all tourism sub-sectors.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that common feature of the numerous activities involved is that they aim to strengthen cross-border socio-economic cooperation. This can be considered beneficial from the climate protection aspect, as the emergence of shorter supply chains and regional integrated labour markets will result overall in the reduction of transport and</p> |

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| | | | public transport needs and thus of greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The measures foreseen are mostly neutral from climate change adaptation point of view, though a slight positive impact is expected from growing cooperation activities, therefore no significant harm is foreseen.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that common feature of the numerous activities involved is that they aim to strengthen cross-border socio-economic cooperation. This can be considered beneficial from the climate protection aspect, as the emergence of shorter supply chains and regional integrated labour markets will result overall in the reduction of transport and public transport needs and thus of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the sustainable use and</p> |

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| | | | protection for water and marine resources for the measure. |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>As a result of growing cooperation activities the number of cross-border travellers are going to increase. All this leads to an increase in waste production. We can assume that most of the waste generated by the participating population would have appeared anyway (at their place of residence). The increase in environmental burden can be considered insignificant at the level of the countries concerned.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The growing transportation needs, operation of cooperation activities, entail increased greenhouse gas emission, and pressure on the soil and water resources,</p> |

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| | | | <p>however, its low incremental level can be reduced by various means.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land of the measure.</p> |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems of the measure.</p> |

Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

Action 3.2.1. Capacity development of border crossing management and mobility

Simplified assessment (Step 1)

| Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below are <u>likely to be negatively affected</u> by the measure, taking into account its life cycle. | Yes | No | Detailed justification based on evidence if "No" has been selected? |
|---|-----|----|---|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>All future projects of this action may make a small contribution to GHG emissions, but this impact will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>The SEA concludes that most of the planned actions do not have any climate protection implications, at the same time, one can also count with a possible capacity development of the existing border crossing points. Although this may increase traffic locally, it may also eliminate the use of routes used so far. From climate protection point of view, the total volume of traffic in the area is decisive, but its extent can only be assessed after a thorough survey on the affected roads' traffic conditions.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is</p> |

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| | | | <p>considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>The capacity development has no direct impact on climate change adaptation at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to climate change adaptation</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the climate change adaptation of the measure.</p> |
| The sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Though all projects of the capacity development will have local water use, it has no impact on sustainable use and protection for water resources at all, therefore no significant harm could be anticipated in relation to the sustainable use and protection for water resources.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the sustainable use and protection for water and marine resources of the measure.</p> |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> |

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| | | | <p>All future projects of this action have small waste production, however their impact on circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling will be insignificant at program level.</p> <p>Small-scale modernization of infrastructure results in construction and demolition waste. The treatment and recycling of these materials in accordance with current regulations is complying with the principles of the circular economy.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any impact related to the use of materials or waste production for the measure.</p> |
| <p>Pollution prevention and control to air, water, or land</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Most of the planned actions do not have an impact on air quality, as they are mainly aimed at improving the equipment and human resources of border crossing points. However, one of their aims is to reduce temporary congestion at borders, which, in addition to reducing waiting times, also contributes to reducing temporary local emissions of air pollutants from transport.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any other impact of the measure related to pollution prevention and control to air, water and land.</p> |

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| <p>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> | | <p>X</p> | <p>a. The measure has no or an insignificant foreseeable impact on the environmental objective related to the direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life cycle, given its nature, and as such is considered compliant with DNSH for the relevant objective</p> <p>Purchase of equipment and implementation of small-scale infrastructural interventions is possible component of the projects, therefore at the end of the life-cycle, the disposal of the worn out equipment or construction activities might have pressure on the environment, however, the scale and the probability is marginal, therefore no significant harm is foreseen.</p> <p>The SEA does not identify any other impact of the measure related to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> |
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Based on the assessment carried out in step 1, there is no need to carry out substantive assessment.

5 Proposals and protective measures to the Programme document

Throughout the assessment procedure the following proposals and protective measures are recommended to be embraced by the Programming Committee for better compliance with the environmental objectives enlisted in the Taxonomy Regulation.

It is recommended, that in actions, where the indicative actions include infrastructure works, partial rebuilding of existing infrastructure or purchase of equipment, the call for proposal includes a highlighted warning to applicants, indicating that the DNSH principle should be given special consideration throughout the project implementation and the life cycle of the equipment and structures.

5.1 Climate change mitigation

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region' and 'Action 2.1.2 Lifelong learning for social inclusion, social cohesion and environmentally sustainable and healthy digitalization' the transfer of knowledge related to climate change mitigation is recommended.

Throughout the entire programme where possible interventions include infrastructure construction or partial reconstruction of existing buildings, the projects should incorporate the use of renewable energy, which can reduce GHG emissions from the energy consumption of the related facilities

In the case of the tourism development actions special attention should be paid (both actual tourism development, and actions, which are developing future tourism attractions or activities) to mitigation measures of the possible GHG emission of increasing traffic.

5.2 Climate change adaptation

'Action 1.1.2 Joint actions aimed to reduce the impact of climate change, addressing natural phenomena occurring as a consequence of climate change: This action focuses on technical preparation of common infrastructure development projects and implementation of common interest infrastructure development projects. It is highly recommended to give special consideration to the EU Taxonomy regulation when planning future infrastructure projects in the region. Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 1.1.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change' and 'Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region', the transfer of knowledge related to climate change adaptation is recommended for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.3 Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 1.1.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change' and 'Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region' the transfer of knowledge related to the main message of the Water Framework Directive, namely to achieve the good status in all water bodies is recommended for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.4 Transition to a circular economy

All the activities, where the eligible activities include construction, partial reconstruction activities, the concept of circular economy has to be in the forefront and reuse of materials is to be encouraged.

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 1.1.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change' and 'Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region' the transfer of knowledge related to the concept of circular economy is recommended for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.5 Pollution prevention and control

In the case of future plans and concepts and e.g. planned training and education activities of 'Action 1.1.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change' and 'Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region' the transfer of knowledge of good practices to prevent pollution and control is recommended for planners, applicants and those, who implement the projects.

5.6 Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

In the case of 'Action 2.2.1 Development of joint tourism products with joint marketing management of these products' we recommend that during the design of tourism facilities, efforts should be made to reduce land occupation and the extent of paved surfaces in order to improve the chances for protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Throughout the entire programme, but especially in the case of planned training and education activities of 'Action 1.1.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on causes and consequences of climate change' and 'Action 1.2.3 Joint awareness raising and educational activities on environmental and nature protection topics in the border region' the transfer of

knowledge related to the concept of protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems for applicants and those, who implement the projects.

6 List of abbreviations

| | |
|----------------|--|
| CBC | Cross border cooperation |
| DNSH | Do no significant harm |
| EGESIF | Expert Group on European Structural Investment Funds |
| RRF | Recovery and Resilience Facility |
| RRF Regulation | Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility |
| OP | Operational Programme |
| CPR | Common Provisions Regulation |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| MA | Managing Authority |
| JS | Joint Secretariat |