

Interreg



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Austria – Hungary

INTERREG PROGRAMME AT-HU 2021-2027

Citizen's summary



The Interreg Programme VI-A Austria-Hungary 2021-2027 is the fifth cross-border funding programme in this border area and thus continues a long tradition of successful cross-border cooperation.

Programme area

The Austria-Hungary programme area consists of Burgenland, parts of Lower Austria (Niederösterreich Süd, Wiener Umland/Südteil), Vienna, Graz and Eastern Styria as well as the Hungarian counties of Győr-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala.

Programme budget

In total, EU funds amounting to almost 46 million euros are available for the implementation of projects in the Interreg Programme VI-A Austria-Hungary in the period 2021-2027. The co-financing rate is 80%, which means that 20% of the project costs must be borne by national funds (own funds or national funding).

Programme strategy

Priority 1: A green and resilient border region

Specific objective 1 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

How do we want to contribute to this objective?

- By bridging the gap between climate research and practical implementation, with a focus on areas particularly affected such as nature and biodiversity, forestry and agriculture, tourism, SME, urban environment and settlement development or health;
- by supporting risk prevention and disaster resilience to natural hazards with cross-border spillover effects, imposed by climate change;
- by finding sustainable, replicable and cost-effective solutions for climate resilient cities and communities;
- and, by greening the economy and strengthening the SMEs' resilience to climate change impacts.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Cross-border research as well as data collection and exchange to improve know-how and preparedness towards climate change impacts
- Developing cross-border strategies, management and action plans
- Implementing innovative actions helping to adapt to climate change impacts on regional and local level





- Awareness raising on climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially on local level

Specific objective 2 – Promoting access to water and sustainable water management

How do we want to contribute to this objective?

- By improving the protection of transboundary water bodies from negative impacts of human interventions (such as agriculture, intensive land use, river regulations, tourism) and climate change;
- by supporting joint flood monitoring, forecast and protection;
- and, by enhancing the knowledge and capacities of policymakers and stakeholders as well as the general public about sustainable water management issues promoting sustainable use of water resources.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Data collection, monitoring and analysis as well as (interdisciplinary) know-how exchange
- Developing strategies and action plans for a more sustainable water management in the border area
- Implementing actions including small scale investments promoting the sustainable water management and sustainable use of water resources

Specific objective 3 - Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

How do we want to contribute to this objective?

- By gaining knowledge about the regions’ ecological status as well as preserving and restoring biodiversity in sensitive areas, improving the cross-border connectivity of protected areas and biotopes;
- by establishing a common, interdisciplinary approach integrating biodiversity and reducing pollution into other sectors like agriculture, forestry, education, hunting, tourism, transport, water management or regional development;
- and, by fostering knowledge transfer and awareness raising on nature protection, biodiversity and related ecosystem services among decision makers, stakeholders and the general public at regional/local level.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Data collection and research as well as (interdisciplinary) know how exchange
- Developing strategies and action plans to enable a positive development of nature and biodiversity in the cross-border region
- Implementing actions that contribute to protecting nature or reducing pollution





Priority 2 – A better connected border region

Specific objective 4 - Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

How do we want to contribute to this objective?

- By promoting smart, safe, active and sustainable cross-border mobility services;
- by improving the cross-border multimodality (i.e. possibility to use different means of transport) and public transport connectivity through coordinated gap closures in the sustainable mobility infrastructure (especially daily cycling and walking infrastructure);
- and, by fostering knowledge and awareness on smart, safe, active and sustainable mobility on local level.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Cross-border data collection and know-how exchange on cross-border traffic patterns and the mobility behaviour of the population in the programme region
- Developing strategies and action plans aiming at a better organisation and linking of different modes of sustainable transport
- Implementing actions to enhance the sustainability, multimodality and safety of cross-border mobility

Priority 3: A competent border region

Specific objective 5 - 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

How do we want to contribute to this objective?

- By supporting coordinated learning activities contributing to build mutual trust and tolerance or fostering language and cultural competences;
- and, by supporting harmonisation of the vocational education and training systems, tackling the lack of skilled work force and increasing the offer of high-quality education and training, especially for youth and marginalized communities.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Cross-border research and data collection as well as strategy developing to better coordinate education and training issues across the border
- Development and implementation of (digital) training and further education offers and methods in the field of cross-border education and training
- Implementing joint training actions focusing on language- and intercultural aspects as well as labour-market needs

Specific objective 6 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

How do we want to contribute to this objective?





- By developing a joint strategic approach to a better and more sustainable valorisation of the regions natural and tangible/intangible cultural heritage;
- by extending the tourism activity throughout the year by aiming at tourism niches;
- by concentrating on environmentally sustainable touristic offers and measures mitigating negative impacts of the tourism;
- by boosting new and innovative solutions in the tourism sector;
- by improving the resilience and adaptivity of the cultural and the hospitality sector for example by strengthening regionality;
- by supporting the economic bailout from the COVID-19 crisis in the hospitality sector;
- and, by enhancing the digitalisation process in the culture and tourism sector.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Cross-border data collection and know-how exchange in the field of tourism and culture
- Developing cross-border strategies and action plans for a better coordination of projects addressing culture and tourism
- Implementing actions for sustainable culture and tourism development in the cross-border region
- Implementing thematic trainings and skill development of stakeholders in the culture and tourism sector

Priority 4 – An integrated border region

Specific objective 7 - Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions

How do we want to contribute to this objective?

The specific objective allows stakeholders at all levels to address cross-border aspects and obstacles when they appear. The range of different actions is wide, since experience shows that specific cross-border obstacles become evident only in the course of the actual initiating or implementing cross-border cooperation.

Key thematic fields among others which are defined based on previous programmes and projects are:

- demographic changes and the impacts on economic and social development in the border region
- SMEs and smart specialisation
- Cross-border labour market
- health care and long-term care services as well as emergency cooperation
- harmonised regional development
- circular economy
- digital transformation
- enhanced cross-border crisis management capacity, competence and communication





As a horizontal principle, environmental considerations shall be included, with a view to achieving sustainable development.

Which activities can be implemented?

- Monitoring and data exchange
- Developing strategic frameworks among public organisations
- Implementing joint solutions to improve cross-border governance and reduce cross-border obstacles
- Developing skills as well as awareness raising aiming at a better cross-border co-operation