



**Interreg**   
**Austria-Hungary 2014-2020**  
European Union – European Regional Development Fund

# **INTERREG PROGRAMME AT-HU 2021-2027**

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## **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

**Final Report / 31.05.2021**

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## **1 Introduction**

In the process of programming Interreg AT-HU 2021-2027, in line with regulatory requirements laid down in the draft common provisions regulation, the programme involved relevant national, regional and local stakeholders. 220 stakeholders were involved in the Online Survey.

A consultation process was launched in November 2020, which built on thematic discussions and preliminary decisions taken by the Programming Group Members in two Programming Group meetings. The aim was to collect feedback on an early draft version of the future Interreg Programme, which already indicated possible future programme priorities, selected specific objectives, horizontal topics as well as relevant fields of action.

The stakeholders were invited to provide their feedback in an Online Survey, which was open between November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>. The survey focused primarily on quantitative feedback about the relevance of the priorities and possible fields of activity per Specific Objective (SO). In addition, respondents could include qualitative inputs (the questionnaire template is enclosed as Annex 1).

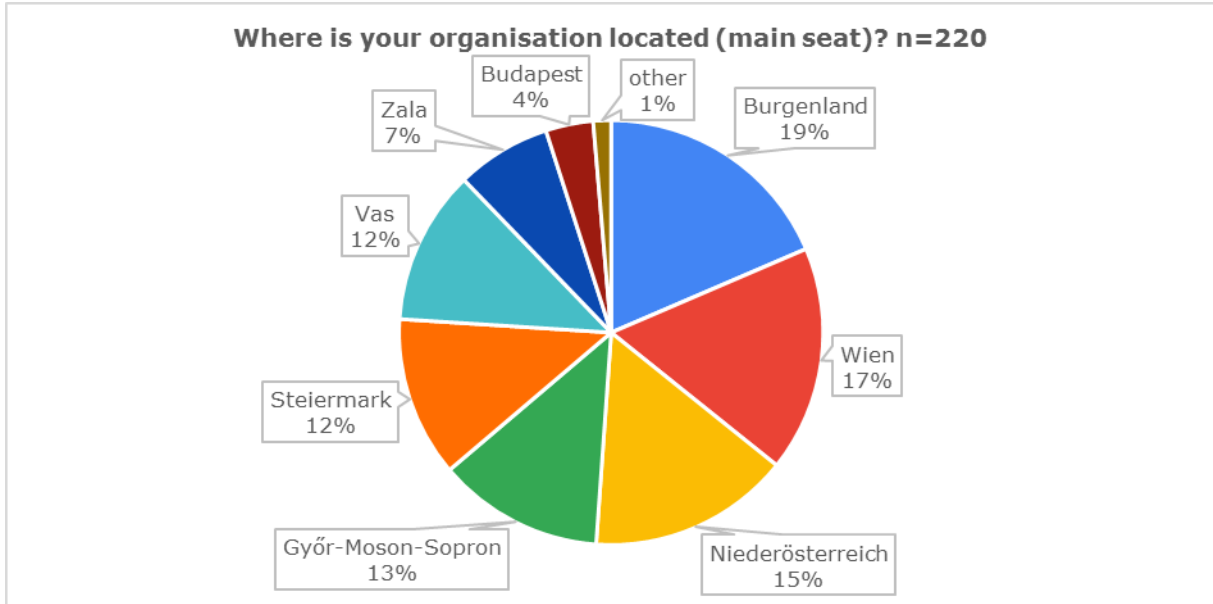
This report documents the outcomes of the stakeholder survey, being a valuable source of information for further fine-tuning the programme strategy and for drafting the programme intervention logic in the IP draft version. For the time being, the comments submitted by the participants are listed as a loose collection (this applies to chapter 3 Thematic concentration, subtopic “general comments”, chapters 3.1 to 3.4 subtopics “comments on the proposed fields of action” and “Focus on specific geographical area in the AT-HU border region” as well as on chapter 3.5 Additional comments and activities proposed).

The comments were discussed in the frame of two online stakeholder workshops (Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 with Hungarian stakeholders and Feb 16<sup>th</sup> with Austrian stakeholders). All comments received in the public consultation and the stakeholder workshops have been compiled in a list of comments that also contains information on which source the comment has been received and how it was considered in the programming process.

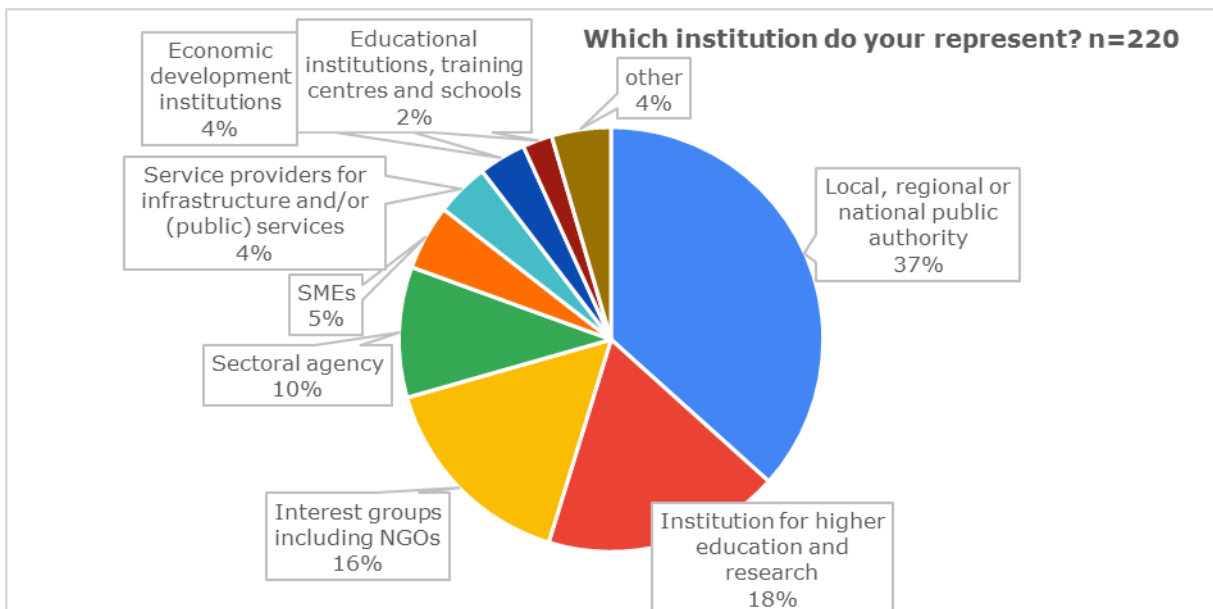
The outcomes of the stakeholder consultation were also integrated in a consolidated way in the report on the Strategic Thematic Directions as well as in the Programme Draft.

## 2 General Information

In total, 220 persons<sup>1</sup> participated in the online survey coming from Burgenland (41), Wien (38), Niederösterreich (34), Győr-Moson-Sopron (28), Steiermark (27), Vas (26), Zala (16), Budapest (8) and others (3).

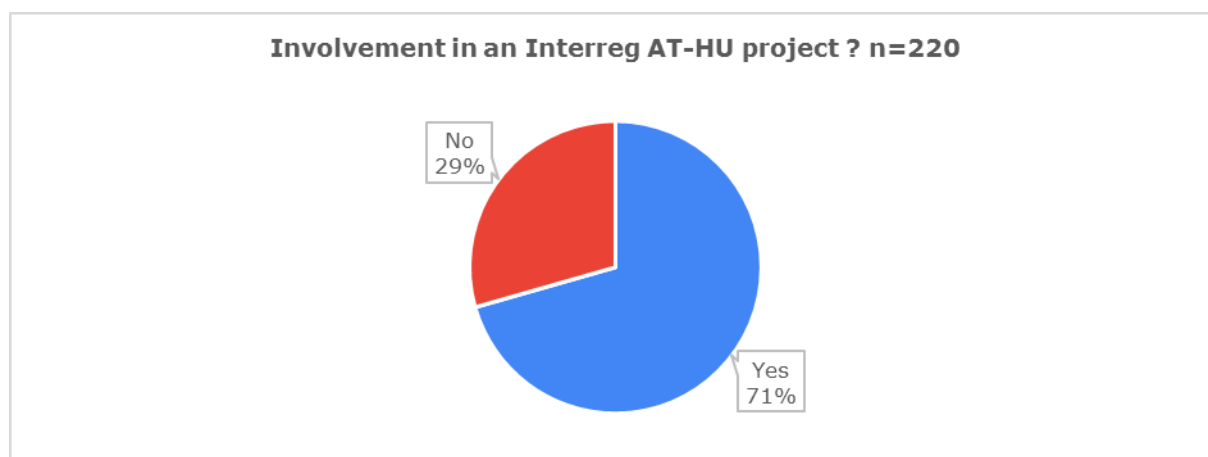


The most represented **types of institution** were local, regional or national public authorities (81), institutions for higher education and research (40), interest groups including NGOs (35) and sectoral agencies (22).



<sup>1</sup> Two participants submitted two answer sheets, only one of which was considered regarding the ratings. However, all comments were included.

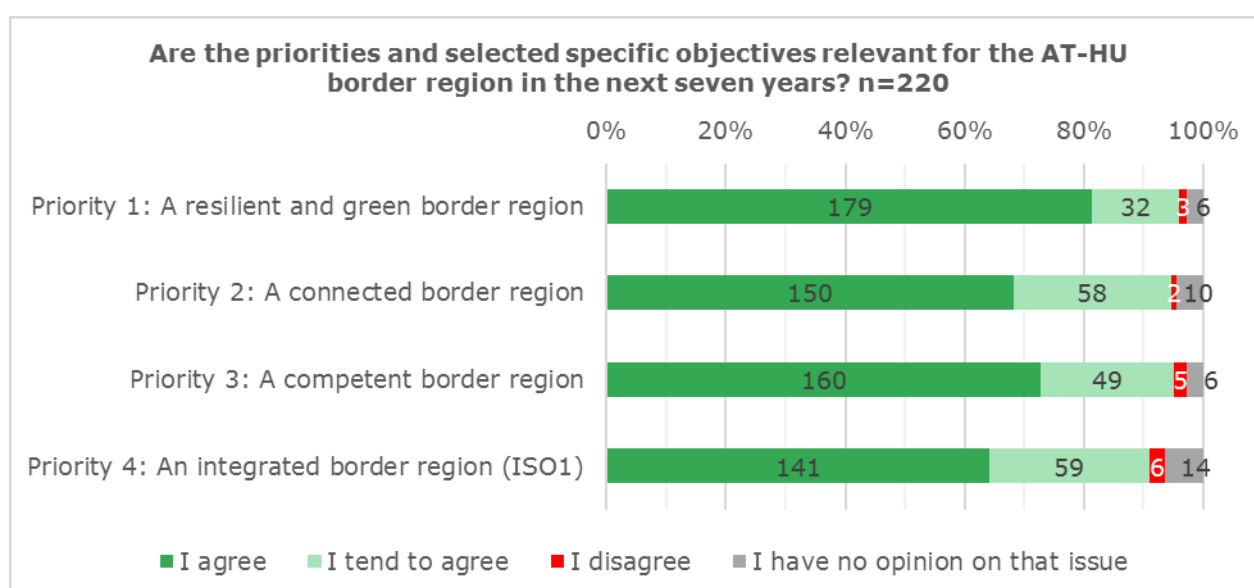
156 participants (71 %) have already been involved in an **Interreg AT-HU project**.



### 3 Thematic concentration

#### Relevance of priorities and selected specific objectives

The participants agreed to a large extent with the proposed priorities and selected specific objectives; 91 % up to 96 % agreed or tended to agree to the proposal. The highest agreement was with priority 1 (81 % fully agreed) and priority 3 (73 %) followed by priority 2 (68 %) and priority 4 (64 %).



#### General comments on the proposed fields of action:

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
thematic areas missing: business development, digitalization, cross-border services, start-up ecosystem	online survey	no	Rules of thematic concentration and the relative low level of relevancy of the relevant PO in the programme area

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
same areas covered as "always"; new approaches are missing	online survey	no	Continuity has been considered positive in a number of thematic areas and types of actions, in line with the needs in the area. New approaches are encouraged in the framework of the selected thematic areas.
bundle the topic "tourism" into a thematic area	online survey	yes	considered in PO4 culture and tourism
Important topics not covered: ageing, missing labour force, the state of the social care system	online survey	no	Rules of thematic concentration does not allow for the selection of all topics having some relevancy in the area. Ageing and labour-force development has been included, in Education and Interreg-specific cooperation topics.
Important topics not covered: cross-border health-care services	online survey	yes	considered in ISO
connect objectives to Sustainable Development Goals	online survey	no	
co-operation in the energy sector and of energy communities should be addressed	online survey	no	Rules of thematic concentration and the relative low level of relevancy of the relevant SO in the programme area
address issues related to the development "megatrend" of digitisation, especially in fields relevant for local resources and competencies - like automotive, health-care, wood, thermal	online survey	YES	considered horizontally
Social innovation should be a horizontal priority to any kind of novel solution to existing socio-economic problems (with involvement of citizens)	online survey	partially	considered in ISO
include technological research and innovation	HU workshop	no	Rules of thematic concentration and the relative low level of relevancy of the relevant PO in the programme area
include health cooperation	HU workshop	yes	considered in ISO
handle Diversity Management and Gender Equality as a cross-cutting topic	HU workshop	yes	considered horizontally
field of economic development, SME-Cooperation, Research&development should be considered	HU workshop	partially	considered in ISO

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
more involvement of the civil organisation (NGOs) is needed in projects in all topics, especially in actions for awareness-raising tourism and education as facilitators of multi-stakeholder partnerships	HU workshop	yes	considered in PO2
more room for digitisation is needed, preferably covering the business sector (SMEs and R&D)	HU workshop	no	Rules of thematic concentration and the relative low level of relevancy of the relevant PO in the programme area. Some specific needs of SME's are covered by PO4 Education and the Interreg-specific priority.

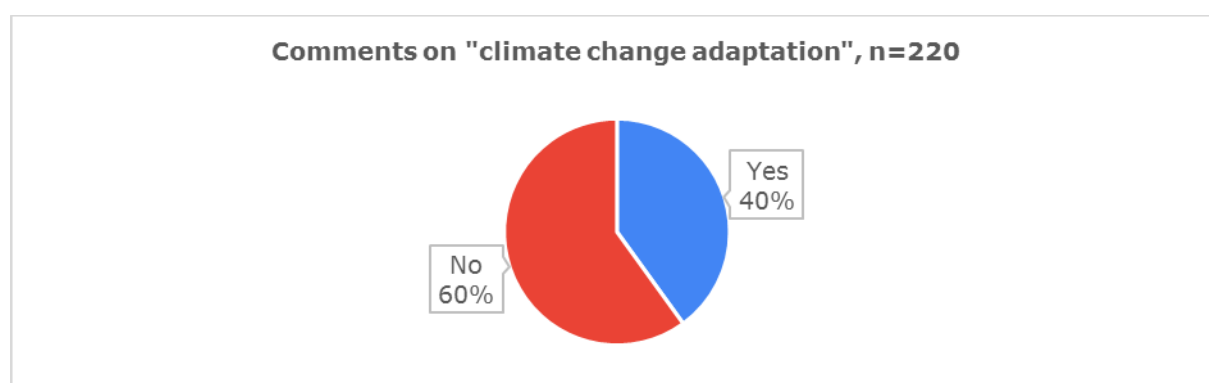
Following sections provide a more detailed view on the comments of the participants on the draft priorities, including the ones made on the online stakeholder workshops. Each of the following sections contains information on

- number of participants in the online survey submitting comment regarding the priority
- distribution of preferences of the respondents (expressed both in percentages in the text and the number of respondents in the charts) regarding the relevance of the fields of activities connected to the priority
- list of qualitative comments made both to the online survey and raised on the online stakeholder workshops in Austria and Hungary, with indication on how these comments are considered in the programming process

### 3.1 Priority 1: a resilient and green border area

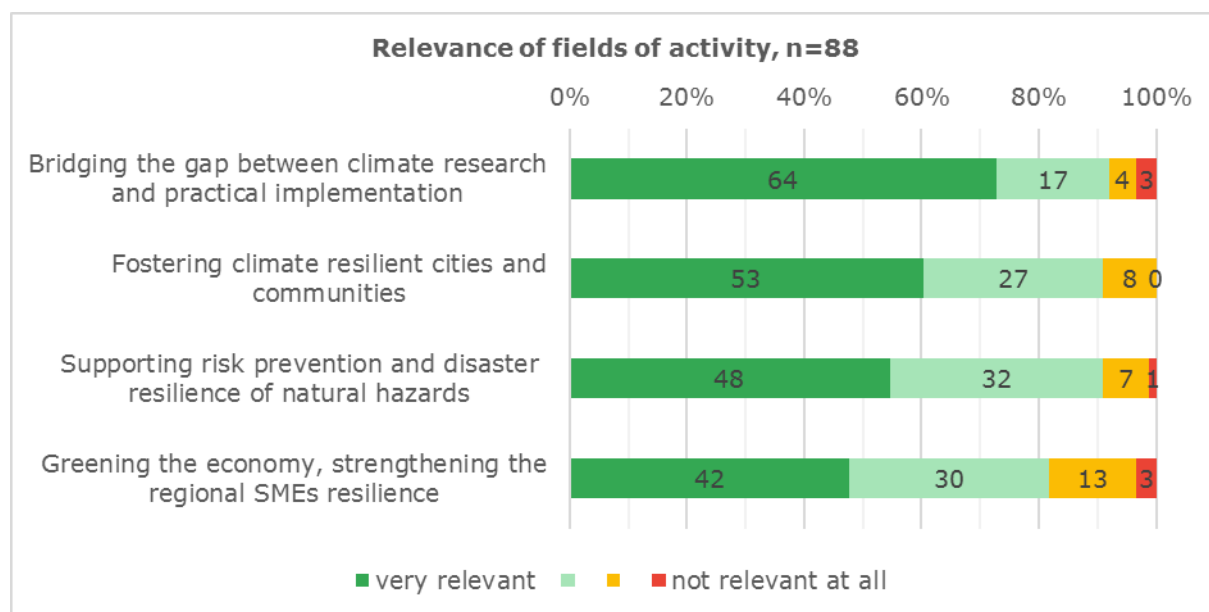
#### Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

**88 participants (40 %)** commented in the online survey on the specific objective of “climate change adaptation and risk prevention, including also horizontal activities regarding digitisation, R&I, SME competitiveness and smart specialisation”. Rest of the participants did not make any comment to this objective.





The overall approval to the proposed fields of activity was very high among the ones who commented, ranging from 91 % to 92 % of the participants rating them as (very) relevant - with the exception of “Greening the economy, having an overall approval of 82 %.” “Bridging the gap between climate research and practical implementation” was rated as the most relevant field of activity (73 % assessed it as very relevant, 19 % as relevant), followed by “fostering climate resilient cities and communities” (60 %; 31 %), “supporting risk prevention and disaster resilience of natural hazards” (55 %; 36 %) and “greening the economy” (48 %; 34 %).



**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

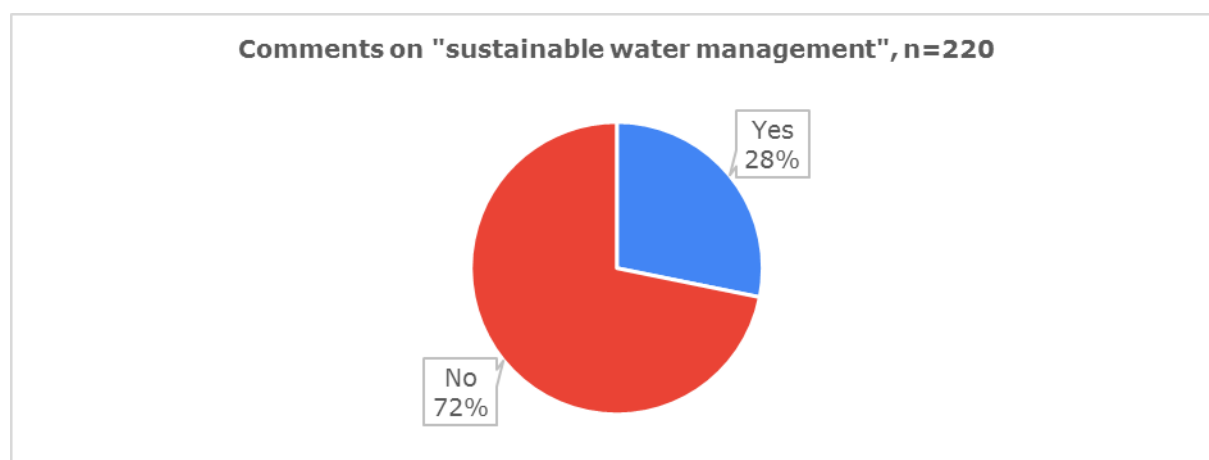
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
topic of soil and soil protection should be included	AT workshop	yes	
topic of closing carbon and nutrient cycles to be included	AT workshop	yes	
include actions avoiding climate change, rather than adapting to it	AT workshop	yes	
unrealistic to develop new curricula, avoid this phrase	AT workshop	yes	
Suitable Citizen Science activities in this area: phenological observations	AT workshop	yes	
adoption of nature conservation, of agriculture and forestry to the climate change shall be included	online survey	yes	
experiences in regional energy supply solutions should be shared	online survey	no	"Energy" has not been selected as SO supported by the programme, mainly due to the great differences in approaches and regulations in AT and HU

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
interrelation of vulnerability and adaptive capacity to be included	online survey	yes	
including social innovation to tackle climate-change related challenges	online survey	yes	
include hedges as Biotop Network as a key Action for Climate Change adaption	online survey	yes	
include common management of precipitation surplus and shortage	online survey	yes	
extend the scope of the priority area to resilience during pandemic crisis	online survey	no	Concentration on environment- and climate-related topics, in line with the selected PO
awareness creation is important, shall be included	online survey	yes	
support the use of Green Value Management approach resulting in more sustainable products and processes	online survey	no	only partially relevant and overly specific condition for the types of actions envisaged
use the new methods of raising awareness (social media)	online survey	yes	
focus on spatial planning in "greening" areas	online survey	yes	
Climate Change Mitigation should also be a topic	online survey	yes	
change the focus to climate change MITIGATION from ADAPTATION	online survey	partially	
include support to climate relevant traffic and vehicle solutions	online survey	yes	considered in PO3
disaster risk reduction and disaster-preparedness and response shall be included	online survey	yes	
practical implementation (not only soft projects) of green projects in SMEs	online survey	yes	
strategic area of "resilience" is too narrow, limited to environment	online survey	no	Concentration on environment- and climate-related topics, in line with the selected PO
border area is not the right geographical area for addressing climate change issues	online survey	no	A lot of relevant actions have been identified
education needs a more focus as preventive measure	online survey	yes	
create opportunities for projects determined by the Hungarian-Austro Water Committee	online survey	yes	considered in PO2 water management issues)
create the possibility for preparation of larger projects	online survey	yes	

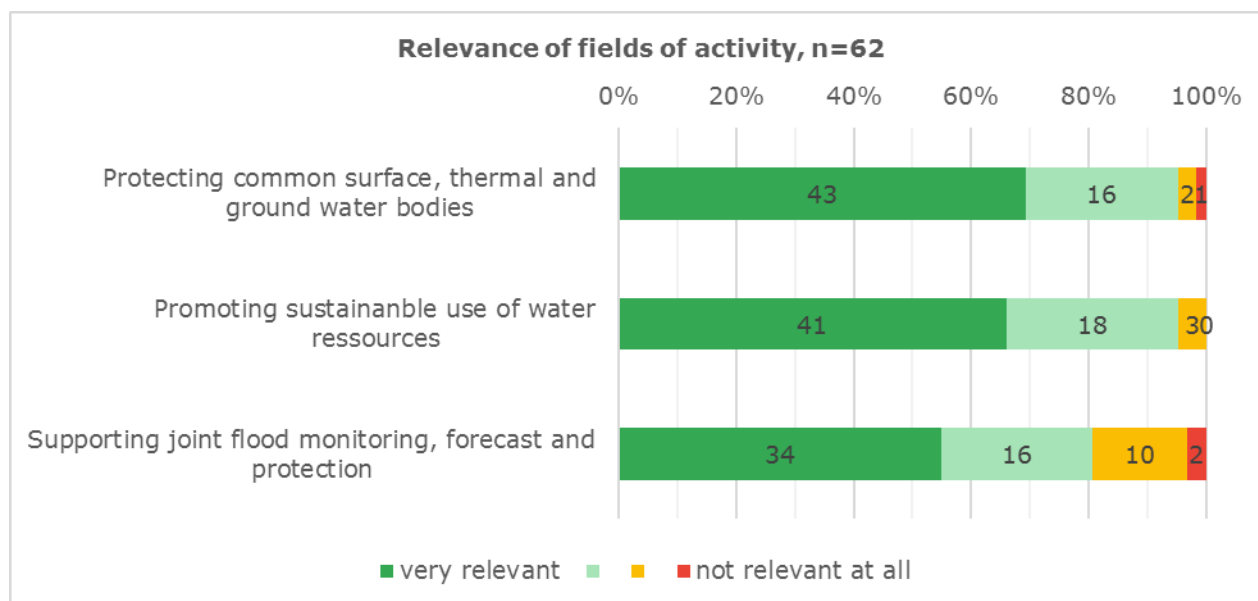
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
support practical collaborations such as common protection practices	online survey	yes	
support for development and execution of risk management plans for different hazards	online survey	yes	
support disaster prevention and preparedness	online survey	yes	
classification and grading (incl. Data collection) of reeds of Lake Neusiedl/Fertő	online survey	yes	
promotion of the sustainable use of soil resources should be included	online survey	yes	
focus the topic "Climate change adaptation" on community-level	online survey	yes	

### Promoting sustainable water management

**62 participants (28 %)** commented in the online survey on the specific objective "Promoting sustainable water management".



"Protecting common surface, thermal and ground water bodies" was rated as the most relevant field of activity (69 % assessed it as very relevant, 26 % as relevant, altogether 95% in these two categories). At a similar level of approval ranks "Promoting sustainable use of water resources" (66 %; 29%, altogether 95%), whereas "Supporting joint flood monitoring, forecast and protection" is considered as not as relevant with a total approval rate of 81 % (55 % very relevant; 26 % relevant).



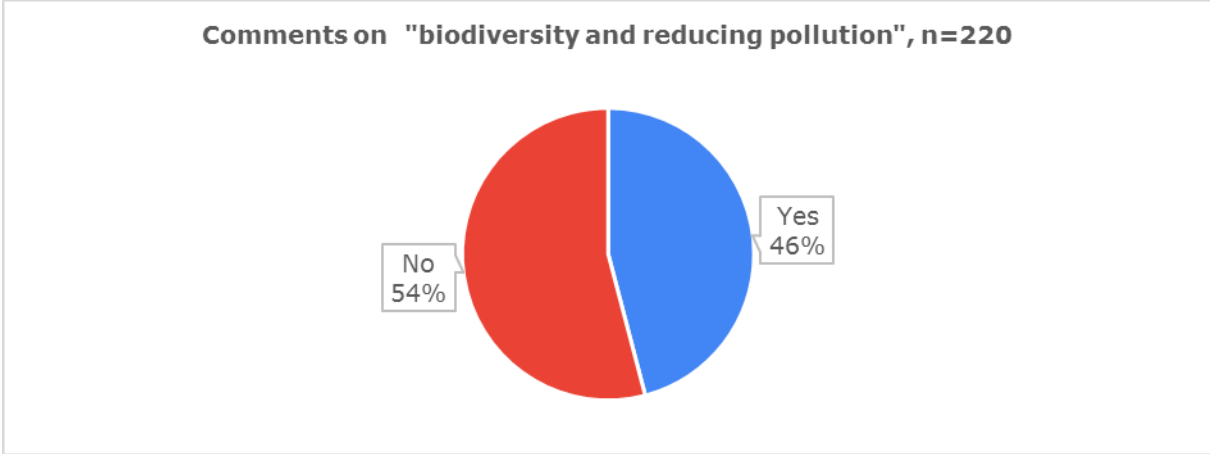
**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
joint method development and measurements in the field of sediment transport, river morphology and habitat quality on the Danube" to be added to "data collection and harmonisation" as indicative action	AT workshop	yes	
specific indicative action to be added to "Strategies and Action Plans" "on the hydromorphology of the Danube (e.g. sediment balance, morphodynamics)"	AT workshop	yes	
to know-how exchange and capacity building idea of "a know-how exchange centre for Integrative River Basin Management" to be added	AT workshop	yes	
change of wording from "Application and validation of modelling of sediment transport processes on real sample areas (continuation of SEDDON)" to Further development, practical application and validation of modelling of sediment transport processes, morphodynamics and habitat development concerning measures on real pilot stretches of the Danube (continuation of SEDDON	AT workshop	yes	
add "Sustainable use of water resources...to create new earning opportunities in all sectors"	AT workshop	no	Activity does not fit to the selected policy objective / specific objective
add "flood warning system for small catchments (> 50 km <sup>2</sup> )"	AT workshop	yes	

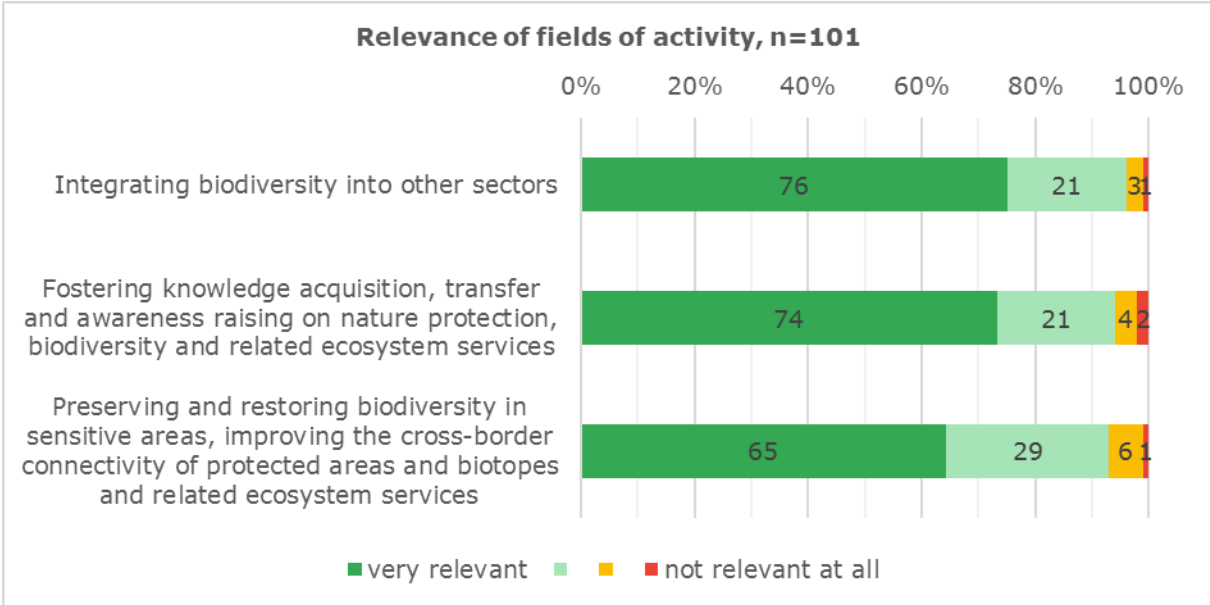
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
use of waterways as sustainable ways of passenger transport	online survey	partially yes	under PO 3, without investment in the waterway as infrastructure
need for more sustainable use of water resources	online survey	yes	
focus on sediment transport and river morphology	online survey	yes	
roll out information on innovative irrigation in the agriculture in the whole of the border region	online survey	yes	
link of water management and biodiversity missing	online survey	yes	
cross-sectoral cooperation between water management bodies and nature conservation institutions is needed	online survey	yes	
prevention of heat islands in cities by using natural watercourse	online survey	yes	
address problem of plastic in rivers	online survey	yes	
flood prevention and management of drinking water resources are not relevant in CBC	online survey	no	A lot of relevant actions have been identified
Improving ecological status and ensuring longitudinal continuity (such as planning fish ways, water supplementation, pilot implementation) needs to be included	online survey	yes	
educational aspects needs to be more expressed	online survey	yes	
joint and simultaneous monitoring activities and the installation of a permanent system of monitoring needs to be included	online survey	yes	
support small water cooperatives in water supply	online survey	yes	
address problem of rivers as transport pathways for waste	online survey	yes	
support to the implementation of integrated monitoring system on Raab (not feasibility of it)	HU workshop	yes	however, depending on resource-needs of the action

**Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution**

**101 participants (46 %)** commented in the online survey on the specific objective of “Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”.



“Integrating biodiversity into other sectors” was rated as the most relevant field of activity: 75 % assessed it as very relevant, 21 % as relevant. This is also the highest level of approval among all fields of activities mentioned in this consultation. At a very similar level of approval ranks “Fostering knowledge acquisition, transfer and awareness raising on nature protection, biodiversity and related ecosystem services” (73 %; 21 %), whereas “Preserving and restoring biodiversity in sensitive areas, improving the cross-border connectivity” is considered as not as relevant, as a direct comparison shows (64%; 29 %).



**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
add cross-border nature parks and national parks	AT workshop	yes	
make reference to the respective overarching strategies	AT workshop	yes	
extend the current focus of species and habitat conservation towards a more holistic approach to natural areas and other open spaces in urban and non-urban surroundings, taking into account a variety of society's demands, contributing to societal health, human well-being, and the green economy	AT workshop	yes	
in examples of projects, PaNaNet better fits for the strategies and action plans instead of Vogelwarte	AT workshop	yes	
Include "cooperation of the protected areas with the education system" in order to develop the topic of "Sustainable Learning with Nature"	AT workshop	yes	
Add "Action plans for the establishment of biodiversity-promoting structures in agriculture" under the premise "protect by using"	AT workshop	yes	
use word "species" for birds and for butterflies "insects".	AT workshop	yes	
add "Development of model regions of the circular economy and bioeconomy"	AT workshop	no	"circular economy" topic has not been focussed on by the programme, due to diverging approaches, policies and different level of preparedness of the two states. Institutional cooperation projects preparing the ground for further actions could be supported under the "governance" objective ("ISO").
include "nature park kindergartens and students" as beneficiaries	AT workshop	yes	
include "Development of business models to exploit the market potential for maintaining and improving rural ecosystem services and green infrastructure"	AT workshop	yes	
need to synchronise methods of surveys for biodiversity-studies and -monitoring	online survey	yes	
focus on grassland-ecosystems and the crossborder reedbelt of lake Neusiedl / Fertő	online survey	yes	

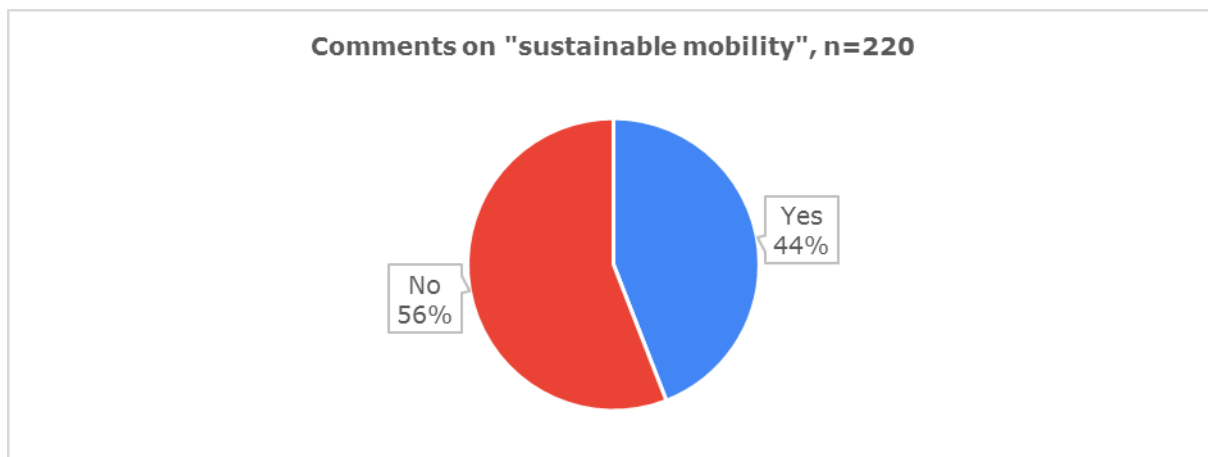
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
include crossborder ecological corridors	online survey	yes	
include urban gardening projects	online survey	yes	
include "citizen science" projects	online survey	yes	
"Green Value Management" method should be applied on all green infrastructure projects	online survey	no	
use new, innovative methods of communication in awareness-raising actions	online survey	yes	
focus on ecosystem services and the education of users /population	online survey	yes	
shall include reducing ammonia emission in the agriculture	online survey	yes	
include concept of green buildings / green quarters	online survey	yes	
involve local actors in conservation of biodiversity (like municipalities, NGOs)	online survey	yes	
Increase awareness of the sustainable use of resources is absolutely necessary	online survey	yes	
support knowledge sharing and demonstrate practice of organic farming	online survey	yes	
connecting natural habitats in networks	online survey	yes	
open-air museums as knowledge centers	online survey	yes	
open the possibility to develop geopark (inanimate natural environmental asset)	HU workshop	yes	

### 3.2 Priority 2: a connected border area

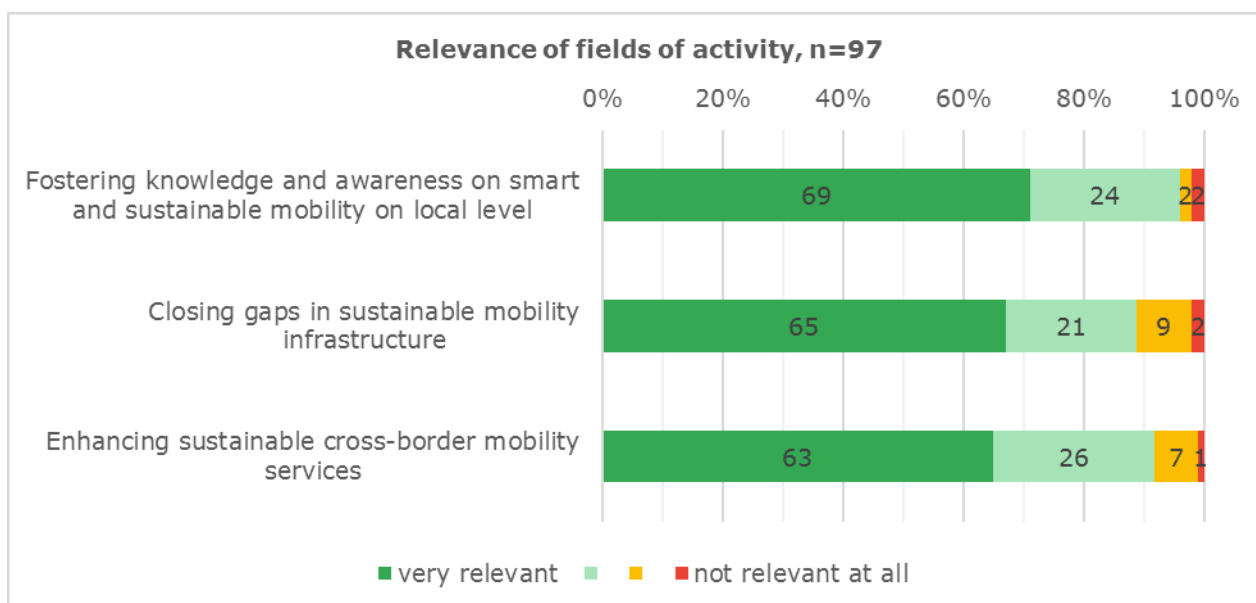
#### Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

**97 participants (44 %)** commented in the online survey on the specific objective of "Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility".





“Fostering knowledge and awareness on smart and sustainable mobility on local level” was rated as the most relevant field of activity (71 % assessed it as very relevant, 25 % as relevant). “Closing gaps in sustainable mobility infrastructure” (67 %; 22 %) and “Enhancing sustainable cross-border mobility services” (65 %; 27 %) seem to be a little less relevant to the participants.



**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
extend scope of the platform to "e-mobility/micro-public transport", (e.g. use of charging infrastructure / fuel cards, strategy for charging possibilities in the border area	AT workshop	yes	
include developing concepts for Park&Ride due to problems of congestion	AT workshop	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
Passenger survey and floating phone data, calibration with other mobility data should be used (data-collection)	AT workshop	yes	
focus shall be on public transport/intermodality, e-mobility	AT workshop	yes	
"Awareness-raising for public transport" to be added to build trust	AT workshop	yes	
"development of manuals" to mobility management to be added	AT workshop	yes	
"potential analysis" of intermodality to be added	AT workshop	yes	
"broadest possible definition of the term road safety" to be used	AT workshop	yes	
"collection of mobility-relevant data, especially commuter and employment data" to be added	AT workshop	yes	
improve the public transport connection of tourist POIs and cycle paths	AT workshop	yes	
add "evaluation concepts for mobility projects, possibly manual"	AT workshop	yes	
update ERRAM study 2015 (accessibility study)	AT workshop	yes	
allow for support to "integrated service planning"	AT workshop	yes	
include the provision of "cross-border information on all modes of transport"	AT workshop	yes	
support electric transportation vehicles, old internal combustion engines with new catalytic solution	online survey	no	action lacks proper CB character and seems to require investments beyond the possibilities of the programme
in community transportation, include the green resource utilization (hydrogen) as has much more potential, than bike tourism	online survey	no	action lacks proper CB character and seems to require investments beyond the possibilities of the programme
use waterways for passenger transport in Wien-NÖ-BURG-Győr-Moson-Sopron region	online survey	no	action seems to require investments beyond the possibilities of the programme. Preparation of such action could be subject of priority "Sustainable mobility" under TO3
legal framework for non-publicly accessible e-charging infrastructure needs to be developed	online survey	yes	
improvement of the data-base in cross-border transport issues	online survey	yes	

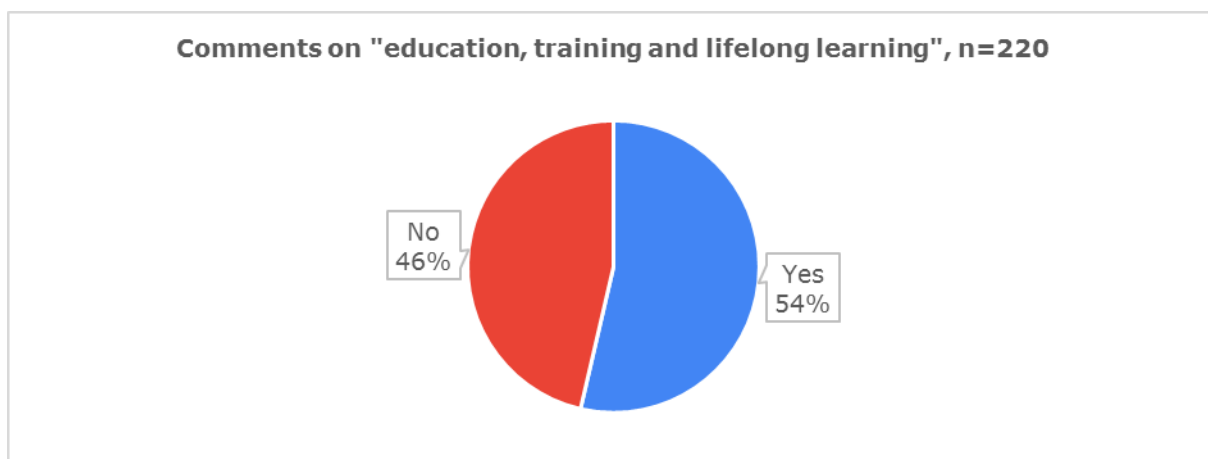
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
data collection and modelling impact of transport on climate-protection	online survey	yes	
investments in cycling infrastructure to areas around public transport nodes	online survey	yes	preparation/promotion of investments or small-scale demonstrative projects are realistic only
implement results of Horizon funding programme S2R (shift to rail) in a model region	online survey	yes	
set up a sustainable and greener mobility concept in the region, based on Greendrive's ride sharing model	online survey	yes	
build a network of organisations working in the field to gather data and for preliminary assessment of needs	online survey	yes	
more attention on mobility of elderly people in rural areas	online survey	yes	
transport of goods should be addressed	online survey	no	due to the scarcity of resources the programme concentrates on passenger transport/mobility, having stronger CB dimensions and more relevance for the programme
transport safety issues: lighting in rural areas, sensitivity of car drivers	online survey	yes	
development of E-carsharing models	online survey	yes	
monitoring of traffic data and situation	online survey	yes	
joint planning and schedule coordination	online survey	yes	
support of cooperation between stakeholders and decision makers	online survey	yes	
encourage cooperation of transport service providers, customers and stakeholders	online survey	yes	
traffic safety for all age groups, involving stakeholders	online survey	yes	
improve the connection of train lines and bike networks	online survey	yes	
local cooperation in common bike and hike projects	online survey	yes	
know-how on the topics of public mobility and active mobility in Niederösterreich (Regional Mobility Management Lower Austria) can be exploited	online survey	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
concentrate integrated mobility planning on Sopron - Wr. Neustadt area	online survey	yes	
demand-oriented public transport (call-collector cab) as crossborder pilot	online survey	yes	
road safety: education and awareness-raising is needed	online survey	yes	
mobility management shall be integral part of a development program	online survey	yes	
the program should also cover sustainable freight transport	online survey	no	due to the scarcity of resources the programme concentrates on passenger transport/mobility, having stronger CB dimensions and more relevancy for the programme
focus on better co-ordination on cross-border traffic infrastructure projects	online survey	yes	
"sustainable mobility" should also cover freight transport and logistics-related actions	online survey	no	due to the scarcity of resources the programme concentrates on passenger transport/mobility, having stronger CB dimensions and more relevancy for the programme
Support to research and development initiatives in the topic of sustainable and smart mobility	HU workshop	yes	
Transport safety, with a focus on awareness-raising and community involvement shall be included	HU workshop	yes	
Collection of transport data is essential to further development	HU workshop	yes	
potential in joint use of renewable energy sources (mainly wind) in operating the rail service	HU workshop	no	"Energy" has not been selected as SO supported by the programme, mainly due to the great differences in approaches and regulations in AT and HU

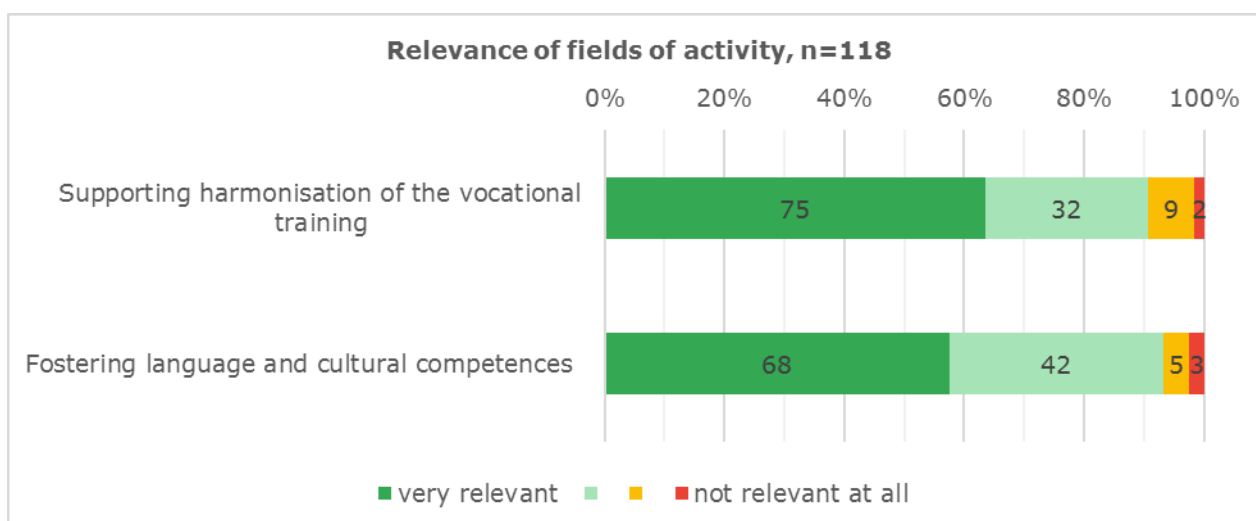
### 3.3 Priority 3: a competent border area

#### Improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders

**118 participants (54 %)** commented in the online survey on the specific objective of "Improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders".



Both fields of activity were rated as relevant or very relevant by more than 90 % of the participants. "Supporting harmonisation of the vocational training" receives the highest undivided approval; 63 % rated it as very relevant. However, "Fostering language and cultural competences" has slightly more positive votes in total (93 %); it is considered as very relevant by 58 % of the participants.



**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
promotion for better placement of graduates in the labour market	AT workshop	yes	
Include further and continuing education as a concept, integrate non-formal education institutions, explicitly address kindergarten and senior citizens as target groups	AT workshop	yes	
Platform building, student exchange in view of the labour market with Hungary	AT workshop	yes	
Teachers as sources for new learning materials (exchange of experiences, job shadowing)	AT workshop	yes	

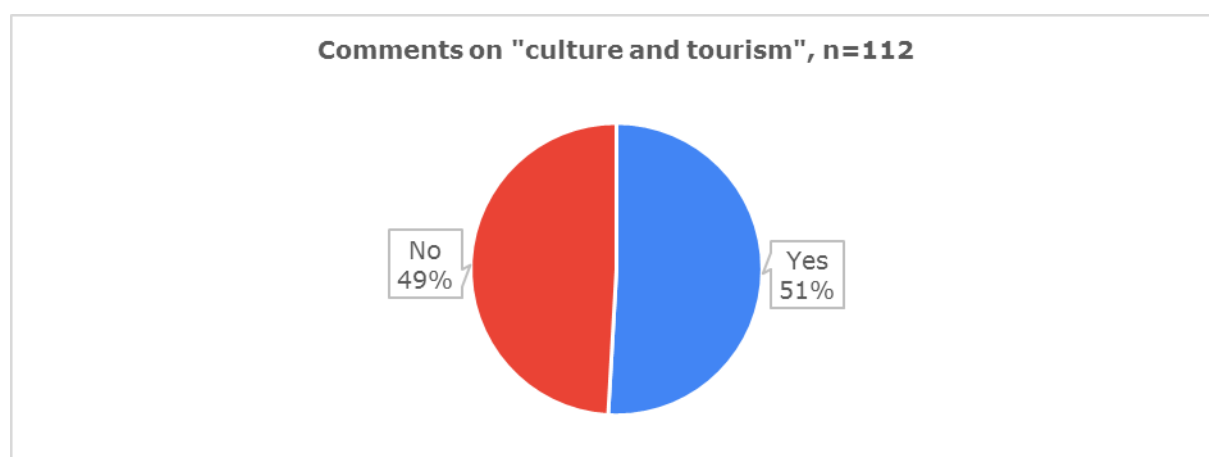
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
Harmonisation/agreement of curricula not in the competence of the project promoters, this is the responsibility of education policy	AT workshop	yes	
cultural competence development in the context of "civil society engagement" by informal education	AT workshop	yes	
focus on talents in technical handicraft (talents can already be found in kindergarten)	AT workshop	yes	
topic of sustainability in kindergartens and schools, e.g. sustainability counselling	AT workshop	yes	
digitalisation, e.g. in social entrepreneurship, women in digitalisation, employees in digitalisation based on learnings from COVID	AT workshop	yes	
Sub-regional education and training strategy: decision-makers have to be involved in the first place	AT workshop	yes	
Education on digitalisation, robotics already starts in kindergarten, programme shall reflect this	AT workshop	yes	
sustainability and digitisation should be integrated more broadly, at all levels following lifelong learning principle	AT workshop	yes	
kindergartens are key players in development of intercultural competences with language competences	AT workshop	yes	
more focus on formal and informal (further education) events and courses	AT workshop	yes	
the largest possible target group should be addressed (kindergarten to tertiary education)	online survey	yes	
more emphasis on non-institutional (non state) actors	online survey	yes	
evaluation of results	online survey	yes	
establishment of high quality international schools in the Órség (HU) region	online survey	no	Action has a weak crossborder character and requires resources beyond the possibilities of the programme
common learning platforms, common fact finding missions, excursion, site visits to build new cross border contacts	online survey	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
fostering digital competences as a possible means to build mutual trust	online survey	yes	
increase knowledge about rights and responsibilities of (Hungarian) employees in Austria	online survey	yes	
support kindergardens in language trainings	online survey	yes	
job-orientation towards a career in the STEM domains	online survey	yes	
cooperations on school level, especially upper secondary education	online survey	yes	
empowerment of women, equal opportunities	online survey	yes	
support exchanging approaches in innovation management and knowledge transfer between universities and industry	online survey	yes	
more MOOCs shall be elaborated and offered	online survey	yes	
student / teacher exchange programs, common project between students	online survey	yes	
job orientation, both at elementary and secondary level, in sectors relevant to the programme region (e.g. automation, digitalisation, robotics)	online survey	yes	
cooperation of institutions in non-formal and informal education	online survey	yes	
a transfer of knowledge and cooperation to jointly prevent the shortage of skilled workers in certain areas	online survey	yes	
intensify existing programs offering Hungarian in Primary and Secondary schools in Austria as well as German in schools in Hungary	online survey	yes	
joint language and knowledge development of the youngest	online survey	yes	
make joint use of existing educational and placement opportunities in the region, such as nature park schools.	online survey	yes	
further training of (language) pedagogical staff	online survey	yes	
education should concentrate on preparing for digitisation like self-monitoring in health parameters, understanding and interpreting data, etc.	online survey	no	"Education" priority concentrates on actions with stronger CB character and impact

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
joint field exercises for those involved in water damage prevention and conservation organizations	online survey	yes (under PO2)	
crossborder training for healthcare service providers	online survey	yes	
fostering harmonisation of higher education	online survey	yes	
fostering social inclusion, cross-border and intergenerational solidarity	online survey	yes	
Cooperation between Universities should be intensified	online survey	yes	
include more possibilities for Higher Education institutions as beneficiaries of cooperative educational projects, also beyond vocational and language training	HU workshop	yes	
more explicit reference on supporting combined work-based trainings ("dual training")	HU workshop	yes	

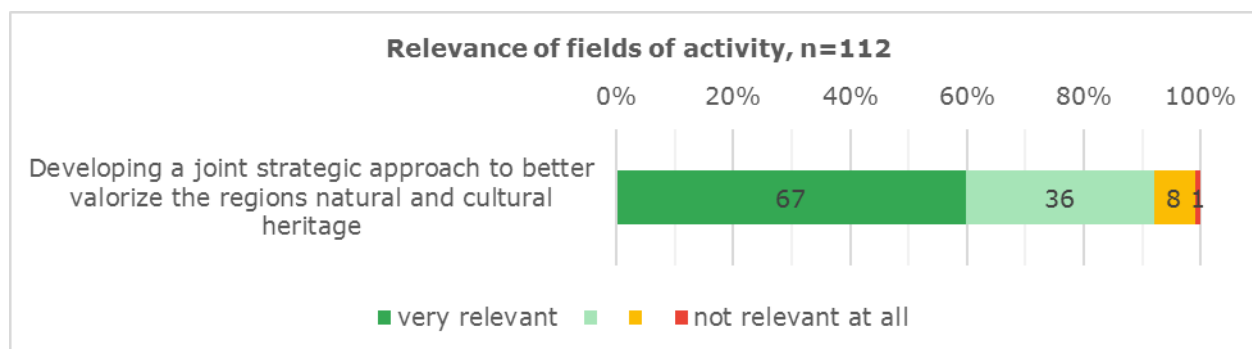
### Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

**112 participants (51 %)** commented in the online survey on the specific objective of "Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation".



Again, 92 % approved that the proposed field of activity is (very) relevant, 60 % rated "Developing a joint strategic approach to better valorize the regions natural and cultural heritage" as very relevant and another 32 % as relevant.





**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
Combination of different elements (nature, movement, culture/art, culinary) to create interesting and unique products.	AT workshop	yes	
Integration of digitisation	AT workshop	yes	
Further use and promotion of already established bilateral brands or projects' results	AT workshop	yes	
combination of nature tourism and cultural tourism as a special chance to develop underdeveloped areas in Styria, Southern Burgenland and in the Hungarian counties	online survey	yes	
development of a cross-border touristic organisation	online survey	yes	
development of common labels and unique topics under them	online survey	yes	
elaboration of a framework for sustainable tourism in protected areas	online survey	yes	
development of cross border offers	online survey	yes	
develop "virtual tourism" - online accessibility of destinations	online survey	yes	
monitoring of the cultural heritage, building culture and cultural landscape	online survey	yes	
encourage biking in Naturparks and National Parks	online survey	yes	
specific programs for handicapped persons	online survey	yes	
sustainable forms of travelling in environmentally sensible areas	online survey	yes	

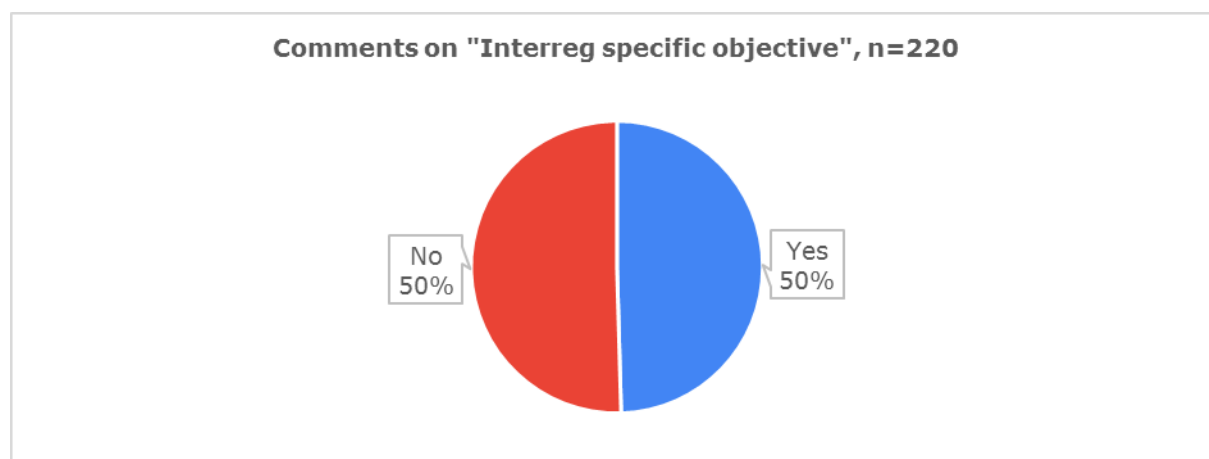
comment	origin	considered	note by experts
mixing cultural experiences with other competence fields like health, nature or cuisine to create unique tourism products	online survey	yes	
intangible cultural heritage should also be protected	online survey	yes	
cooperation of service providers (such as introduction of a Neusiedler See Card)	online survey	yes	
strong focus on the climate-friendly mobility to the touristic destinations (like solutions for the last mile)	online survey	yes	
encourage networking of actors and know-how exchange	online survey	yes	
awareness-raising, including the use of social media	online survey	yes	
coaching and educating the service providers	online survey	yes	
devising strategic framework for development	online survey	yes	
preservation and contemporary utilisation of historical heritage	online survey	yes	
build up strategic competences in the area of conflict between ecology and profit and to build up entrepreneurial resilience	online survey	yes	
exploitation of the potential of common tourist routes	online survey	yes	
encourage the better alignment of touristic services in sub-regional frameworks	online survey	yes	
support walking and cycle tourism and health-related tourism products	online survey	yes	
crafts as a potential new theme	online survey	yes	
solutions for integrating disadvantaged groups (e.g. long-term unemployed, NEETs, elderly people) into tourism needs to be developed	online survey	yes	
SMEs in tourism must be given the chance to participate in nature- and culture-tourism	online survey	yes	
thematic trainings to keep alive occupations that are in the process of disappearing	online survey	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
promote network of smart tourism cities, more strategic cooperations of the cities	online survey	yes	
clearer emphasis on preferring the use of digital technologies (in every action)	HU workshop	yes	
include trainings, taking over good practices of qualifications and professional standards	HU workshop	yes	
set up crossborder working group for a coordinated product-development	HU workshop	yes	

### 3.4 Priority 4: an integrated border area

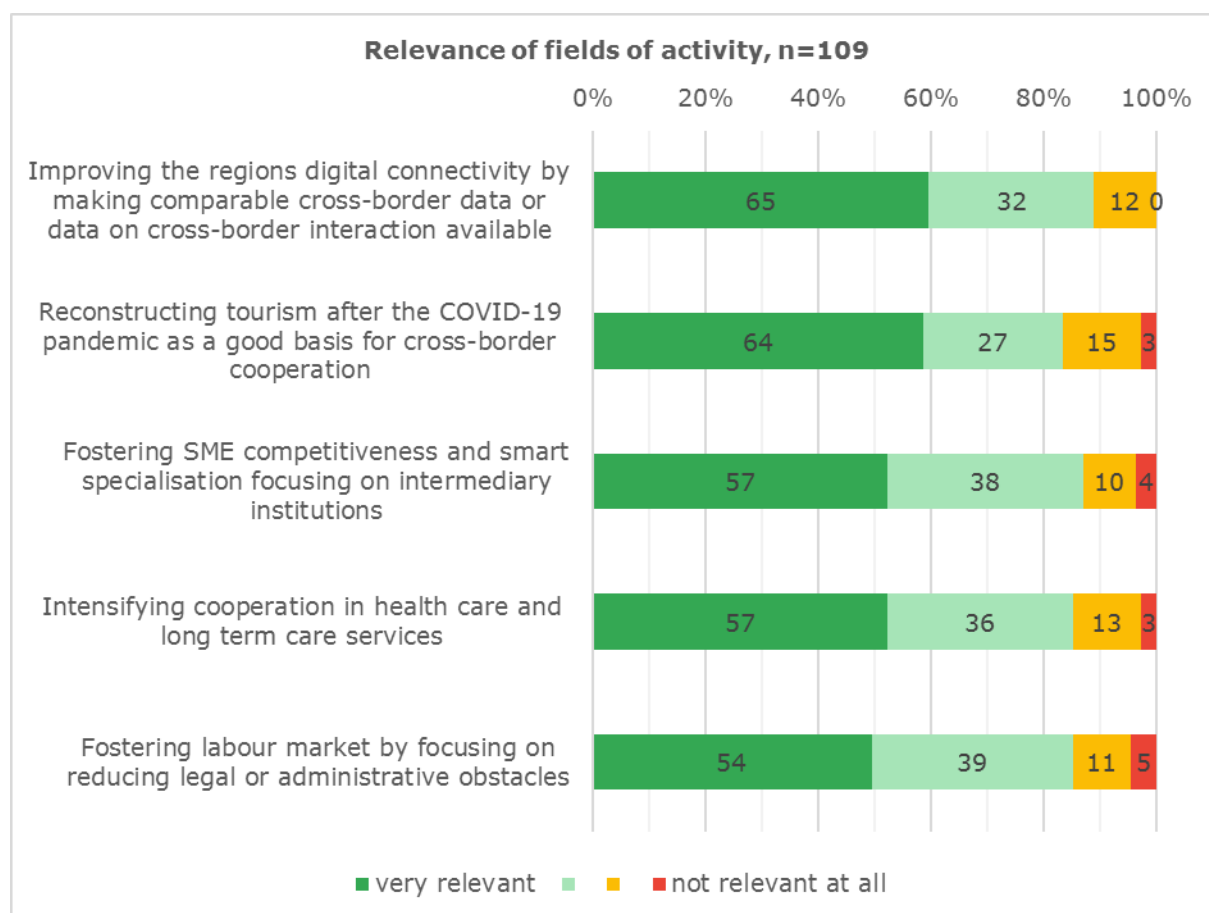
#### Interreg specific objective - Institutional capacity of public authorities, Legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, People-to-people actions for increased trust

**109 participants (50 %)** commented in the online survey on the “Interreg specific objective - Institutional capacity of public authorities, Legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, People-to-people actions for increased trust”.



The overall approval of the proposed fields of activity ranks between 84 % and 89 %. “Improving the regions digital connectivity by making comparable cross-border data or data on cross-border interaction available” is ranked number one in fields of relevance in this specific objective. 60 % of the participants assessed it as very relevant, 29 % as relevant, none as not relevant at all. This is followed by “Reconstructing tourism after the COVID-19 pandemic as a good basis for cross-border cooperation” considering the approval rate (59 %; 25 %). “Fostering SME competitiveness and smart specialisation focusing on intermediary institutions” and “Intensifying cooperation in health care and long-term care services” were rated almost equally (52 %; 35 % and 52 %; 33 %) in midfield. “Fostering

labour market by focusing on reducing legal or administrative obstacles” is considered as “very relevant” by 50 % of the participants, and as “relevant” for another 36 %.



**Comments on the proposed fields of action:**

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
knowledge transfer between stakeholders in the field of health-care (health care professionals, educators, patients)	online survey	yes	
health as potential focus area, including selecting health-related SO (in PO4)	AT workshop	no	specific objective on health not selected due to the relatively small number of actions expected to become mature enough for implementation in the programme's timeframe. Options for future actions will be explored by actions in ISO.
Cross-border strategic approaches in the field of spatial and regional development to jointly discussed and outlined (development potentials of certain typical areas)	AT workshop	yes	
use the aspect / term "re-use" as it's extremely relevant for sustainability	AT workshop	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
issue of gender equality on labour market needs to be tackled (competence building, sensitisation and know-how building)	AT workshop	yes	
cross-thematic and cross-priority networking of projects and actors as well as capitalisation of previous project results to be supported	AT workshop	yes	
further initiatives drawing on the findings of the bSolution project with the schools in clusters: multilingualism, promotion of native speakers for teaching	AT workshop	yes	considered in PO 4 Education
use of digital possibilities to promote CB cooperation shall be promoted in general	AT workshop	yes,	considered as a horizontal principle
agricultural enterprises shall be included	AT workshop	yes	SMEs without sectoral limitation
SME digitalization, digital connectivity and bike tourism under insititutional cooperation makes no sense	online survey	no	The institutional aspects of the types of actions have been identified
cooperation between non-governmental organizations should be the main focus	online survey	yes	
On the labour market clarifying the rules and the protective measures for employees are the most relevant issues. Advisory services for commuters are needed.	online survey	no	Due to the uncertainty of needs in the area of labour market, related SO has not been selected for being included in the programme. "Governance" objective ("ISO") may offer projects strengthening the cooperation of institutions in this field.
Fostering social innovation in all relevant topics	online survey	yes	
in healthcare ensure border interoperability in emergency response	online survey	yes	
in healthcare the acquisition of equipment, the transfer of know-how and the coordination of administrative activities	online survey	partially	limited purchase of equipment
cooperation in health care should specifically mention inter-institutional cooperation	online survey	yes	
involvement of county and local governments in business development	online survey	partially yes	involvement is relevant at the level of strategies
cross-border availability of the data in every thematic field	online survey	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
capitalization of previous interventions in very thematic field	online survey	yes	
rural development and specific aspects of living in rural areas have to be focused on	online survey	yes	
thematic networking of actors as well as networking across projects and priorities needs to be encouraged	online survey	yes	
funding possibility for small initiatives (possibly a small project fund or a comparable umbrella project) is lacking	online survey	yes	
re-use of old industrial sites/buildings needs to be a topic (strategy, database, know-how, instructions to pilot projects)	online survey	yes	
promotion of city partnerships on joint urban problem areas and solutions	online survey	yes	
recommended topics: tackling problems of generation shift at SMEs	online survey	no	Weak crossborder character of the action. Suitable PO nr. 1 and SO (SMEs) has not been selected.
recommended topics: cooperation among SMEs involving higher education institutions	online survey	yes	
identify SMEs needs in post-pandemic situation (like changes in supply chains, local sourcing, etc.)	online survey	yes	
promotion of local value chains of local products, developing novel opportunities for selling (e.g. webshops, consumer communities, etc.), including infrastructure development for small food manufactures	online survey	no	Suitable PO nr. 1 and SO (SMEs) has not been selected. Topic could be addressed at strategy level under ISO.
promote smart farming, improve resilience of food systems, organise resilient regional food systems	online survey	no	Suitable PO nr. 1 and SO (SMEs) has not been selected. Topic could be addressed at strategy level under ISO.
research and innovation sector should be strengthened by cooperation	online survey	no	Suitable PO nr. 1 and SO (R&D) has not been selected, due to the differences of needs of the institutions in the two countries.
circular economy, waste treatment should be a topic	online survey	yes	
enhancing capabilities to promote animal health and manage infectious threats	online survey	no	suitable SO has little relevance in the region

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
Social innovation should be a horizontal priority to any kind of novel solution to existing socio-economic problems (with involvement of citizens)	online survey	yes	
explore potentials of social agroecology in small-scale agricultural regions	online survey	yes	
recommend the introduction of a small project fund from which applicants can get between 100 and 200 thousand euros per project	online survey	yes	Small projects are considered useful. Implementation details shall be elaborated by the MA.
promotion of social partners', trade union, employer cooperation and involvement in labour market-related institutional planning and management	online survey	yes	
support civil actions and support local health organisations and facilities	online survey	yes	
hospital to hospital cooperation, sharing each other's infrastructure and medical staff of different fields of medical services	online survey	yes	
interlinkage with transnational Interreg programmes and their flagship projects	online survey	yes	
awareness-raising regarding circular economy at local level by small-scale community initiatives	HU workshop	yes	
exploring good practices, analysis of crossborder flow of materials to explore potential in circular economy	HU workshop	yes	
expand cooperation in healthcare to elderly care / homecare services and sensitise local communities to the needs of elderly people	HU workshop	yes	
support preventive measures (like addictions to drugs, screen...)	HU workshop	yes	considered in PO4 Education
explore the potential in a coordinated provision of social services (for better use of capacities / optimising resource-efficiency	HU workshop	yes	
criticism because of the „lack of focus“ of priority under ISO	HU workshop	partially	
initiatives to encourage networks to disseminate and adapt results of successfully completed projects	HU workshop	yes	
need for capacity-building of civil (non-governmental) organizations	HU workshop	yes	

comment	origin	considered	note by experts
cooperation on specific land-use problems / of specific areas (rural, urban, agglomerations, etc.)	HU workshop	yes	
encourage projects that are linked to results of larger scale („mainstream”) measures	HU workshop	yes	
more actions to be taken to boost economic development /SME-development	HU workshop	yes	



**Annex 1: List of participants<sup>2</sup>**

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
<b>Burgenland</b>			
		Raaberbahn AG	
		Berufsförderungsinstitut Burgenland	
		Regionalmanagement Burgenland	
		Land Burgenland	
		WFP GmbH	
		Nationalpark Neusiedler See - Seewinkel	
		Umweltanwaltschaft Burgenland	
		EEE GmbH	
		Nationalpark Neusiedler See-Seewinkel	
		Frauenberatungsstelle Oberpullendorf	
		Kroat. Kultur- und Dokumentationszentrum	
		Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung	
		Verein zur Förderung des Naturpark Raab	
		Land Burgenland	
		Forschung Burgenland	
		Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung	
		Fachhochschule Burgenland GmbH	
		Coop Consulting Leeb	
		MiRo Mobility GmbH	
		Naturschutzbund Burgenland	
		Tourismusverband Region Oberwart	
		Landesregierung Burgenland	
		Neusiedler See Tourismus GmbH	
		Projektberatung Schlögl	
		Forschung Burgenland GmbH	
		Wirtschaftskammer Burgenland	
		Wirtschaft Burgenland GmbH	
		Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH	
		Land Burgenland, Baudirektion	
		Arbeiterkammer Burgenland	
		Burgenland Tourismus GmbH	
		Burgenländisches Schulungszentrum (BUZ)	
		Gemeinde Deutsch Schützen - Eisenberg	
		Fachhochschule Burgenland GmbH	
		Fachhochschule Burgenland GmbH	
		Land Burgenland, Abteilung 4, Biologische Station Neusiedler See	

<sup>2</sup> names and e-mail addresses not published due to data protection

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
		Regionalmanagement Burgenland	
		Amt d. Bgld. Landesreg.-Baudirektion, Wasserwirtschaft, ASt Oberwart	
		Naturpark Geschriebenstein-Írottkö	
		Land Burgenland	
<b>Győr-Moson-Sopron</b>			
		Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Kormányhivatal	
		Pannon Business Network	
		KVA	
		Fertő-Hanság Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság	
		Sopron Megyei Jogú Városi Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara	
		Consilior Project Nonprofit Kft.	
		Széchenyi István Universitat / Széchenyi István Egyetem	
		hungarian	
		Kapuvár Városi Önkormányzat	
		Soproni Egyetem	
		Mobilis Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.	
		Széchenyi István Egyetem	
		Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Önkormányzat	
		PBN ASSOCIATION	
		Soproni Egyetem	
		Soproni Erzsébet Oktató Kórház és Rehabil- itációs Intézet	
		Gold Brück Buchhaltung	
		Észak-dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság	
		Soproni Evangélikus Egyházközség	
		Észak-dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság	
		BETA KUTATÓ INTÉZET	
		Rábensteiner Kft	
		Győr-Moson-Sopron Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara	
		Soproni Evangélikus Egyházközség	
		GYSEV / Raaberbahn	
		Egyesített Egészségügyi és Szociális In- tézmeny Győr	
<b>Niederösterreich</b>			
		PAMEA	
		Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Wissenschaft und Forschung	
		Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abt. Kinder- gärten und Schulen	
		Abteilung Umwelt- und Energiewirtschaft	

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
		Pädagogische Hochschule Niederösterreich	
		Nationalpark Donau-Auen GmbH	
		Bildungsdirektion für Niederösterreich	
		Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Wasserbau	
		LAG Bucklige Welt - Wechselland	
		NÖ Landesgesundheitsagentur	
		Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Kunst und Kultur	
		NÖ.Regional GmbH	
		NÖ Landesgesundheitsagentur - Initiative Healthacross	
		NÖ Landesgesundheitsagentur - Initiative Healthacross	
		FOTEC Forschungs- und Technologietransfer GmbH	
		Wiener Alpen in Niederösterreich	
		Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Naturschutz	
		Donau Niederösterreich Tourismus GmbH	
		AGRAR Plus GmbH	
		Universität für Bodenkultur	
		NÖ.Regional.GmbH	
		NÖ Regional GmbH	
		Amt der Niederösterreichischen Landesregierung	
		QGV	
		Land Niederösterreich	
		Stadtgemeinde Baden	
		NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde -Landentwicklung -Bodenschutz & Landschaftsgestaltung	
		KEM Bucklige Welt - Wechselland	
		LEADER-Region Bucklige Welt - Wechselland	
		Landesforstdirektion NÖ, Amt der NÖ Landesregierung	
		Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH	
		Österreichische Bundesforste	
		NÖ Landesgesundheitsagentur / Healthacross	
<b>Steiermark</b>			
		AMT der STEIERMÄRKISCHEN LANDESREGIERUNG Abt14 Wasserwirtschaft, Ressourcen und Nachhaltigkeit	

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
		FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences	
		Regionalentwicklung Oststeiermark	
		Studien- & Technologie Transfer Zentrum Weiz	
		Waldverband Steiermark	
		Tourismusverband ApfelLand-Stubenbergsee	
		Klimabündnis Österreich GmbH	
		Land Steiermark, Abteilung 6, Fachabteilung Gesellschaft	
		nowa Training Beratung Projektmanagement	
		ECOsmart GmbH	
		Diözese Graz-Seckau	
		Kneipp Landesverband Steiermark	
		Freiraum GmbH & Co KG	
		Amt der Stmk. Landesregierung, Ateilung für Landes- und Regionalentwicklung	
		Technische Universität Graz	
		Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH	
		Univ. Prof. Dr.med.	
		Baubezirksleitung Südoststeiermark	
		Energieagentur Weststeiermark	
		Chance B Gruppe Gleisdorf	
		Hügel- und Schöcklland	
		bit schulungcenter GmbH	
		Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 11, Referat Arbeit, Integration & Soziale Absicherung	
		Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 14	
		University of applied sciences Graz	
		Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung - Abteilung 14, Wasserwirtschaft, Ressourcen und Nachhaltigkeit	
		Naturschutzbund Steiermark	
<b>Vas</b>			
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzat	
		Savaria Turizmus Nonprofit Kft.	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Savaria Turizmus Nonprofit Kft.	
		Nyugat-dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság	

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
		Nyugat-Pannon Nonprofit Kft.	
		Hungarian	
		Régiófókuszt Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft	
		Hegypásztor Kör	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzat	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzat	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Őrségi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Változó Világért Alapítvány	
		IITF Institut für Innovations- und Trendforschung	
		Szentgotthárd és Térsége Turisztikai Egyesület	
		Hungarian	
		Felsőbbfokú Tanulmányok Intézete	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Vas Megyei Önkormányzati Hivatal	
		Kőszeg Város Önkormányzata	
		Őrségi Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság	
<b>Wien</b>			
		University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna	
		Central Danube Region Marketing & Development GmbH	
		ipcenter.at GmbH	
		ipcenter.at GmbH	
		European Office, Board of Education for Vienna	
		Verracon	
		Bio Forschung Austria	
		TU Wien	
		Universität für Bodenkultur Wien	
		Stadt Umland Management Wien Niederösterreich	
		Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft, Institut für Wasserbau und hydrometrische Prüfung	
		Stadt Wien - Umweltschutz	
		GD Consulting	
		MA31 - Wiener Wasser	
		Practical Robotics Institute Austria	
		Stadt Wien, Forst- und Landwirtschaftsbetrieb	
		BOKU University Vienna	

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
		Klinische Abteilung für Rheumatologie, Klinik für Innere Medizin III, Medizinische Universität Wien	
		FH Wien	
		Stadt Wien	
		BMLRT	
		Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien	
		Verkehrsverbund Ost-Region (VOR) GmbH	
		Bundesarbeitskammer	
		Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien	
		Berufsförderungsinstitut Wien	
		Bildungsdirektion für Wien (Europa Büro)	
		Umweltschutzorganisation GLOBAL 2000	
		Wiener Kinderfreunde	
		IZ - Verein zur Förderung von Vielfalt, Dialog und Bildung	
		German	
		Pädagogische Hochschule Wien	
		Zentrum für Soziale Innovation	
		Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie	
		L&R Sozialforschung	
		Profactor GmbH	
		ZAG	
		Universität für Bodenkultur	
<b>Zala</b>			
		Zala Megyei Önkormányzat	
		Zala Megyei Önkormányzat	
		Zala Megyei Kormányhivatal Foglalkoztatási, Munkaügyi és Munkavédelmi Főosztály	
		Göcseji Múzeum	
		Zala Megyei Cigány Civil Szervezet	
		University of Pannonia	
		Zala Megyei Vállalkozásfejlesztési Alapítvány	
		Zalakaros Város Önkormányzata	
		MJ kanizsa Consulting Kft.	
		Lenti és Vidéke Fejlesztési Ügynökség Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.	
		A Cigánységért az Európai Unióban Egyesület	
		Lenti Város Önkormányzata	

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>e-mail-address</i>
		Zala Megyei Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara	
		Göcseji Múzeum	
		Zala Megyei Önkormányzat	
		Szent István Egyetem	
<b>Budapest</b>			
		NIF Zrt.	
		Budapest University of Technology and Economics	
		Innovációs és Technológiai Minisztérium	
		Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma	
		Magyar Szakszervezeti SZövetség	
		Volánbusz Zrt.	
		Állami Egészségügyi Ellátó Központ	
		Külgazdasági és Külügyminisztérium Duna Régió Stratégia Környezeti Kockázatok Prioritási Terület	
<b>Others</b>			
		EUSDR PA5	
		Balaton-felvidéki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság	
		Pécsi Tudományegyetem	

## **Annex 2: Online Survey Questionnaire**



# INTERREG PROGRAMME AT-HU 2021-2027

Have your say in the Interreg Programme Austria Hungary 2021-2027!

We are preparing the **Interreg Programme AT-HU** for the next seven years and kindly invite you to contribute to the Draft Programme strategy.

**The consultation is open from November 12th to November 26th, 2020.**

Depending on how many topics you want to comment on, you will need up to thirty minutes to contribute to this consultation. Please let us know your name and contact data, so we can get back to you in case of questions or for more information!

The Draft Programme strategy is available in English only, but of course you can contribute in the language of your choice: English, Hungarian or German.

Thank you very much for your contribution, which is a very valuable input for the planned bilateral workshops and for the entire programming process!

**Tatjana Paar**

Managing Authority Interreg Austria-Hungary

\* **Erforderlich**

1. E-Mail-Adresse \*

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## Personal data usage

With your participation in this consultation, you give consent to processing your data by the Interreg Austria-Hungary programme. The programme will process your data only as far as strictly necessary for the programming process. The personal data collected include your name, email address and the name of your organisation. Your personal data may be shared with third parties which are involved in the programming process, such as programme bodies and the external experts contracted to draft the cooperation programme. The data will only be stored as long as necessary for the finalisation of the programming phase. You can withdraw consent at any time by way of addressing an e-mail to [js@interreg-athu.eu](mailto:js@interreg-athu.eu). Please tick the case below to actively agree to the processing of your personal data in compliance with GDPR article 13.

2. Personal data usage: \*

*Wählen Sie alle zutreffenden Antworten aus.*

I consent to the processing of my personal data in compliance with article 13 of the GDPR.

Identification

3. Your First Name:

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4. Your Last Name:

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5. The name of your organisation in original language (German/Hungarian):

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6. Which institution do you represent?

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

- Local, regional or national public authority
- Sectoral agency (e.g. local or regional development agencies, environment, energy, labour market agencies)
- Service providers for infrastructure and/or (public) services (e.g. public transport, utilities (water supply, sewage, electricity, gas supply, waste disposal, etc., airports, ports, railways)
- Interest groups including NGOs (e.g. international organisations, trade unions, non-profit foundations, charities, voluntary organisations, associations)
- Institution for higher education and research (e.g. universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutes, institutions for technology development, research clusters)
- Educational institutions, training centres and schools (e.g. primary and secondary education institutions, pre-schools, further education institutions)
- Enterprises (excluding SMEs)
- SMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises)
- Economic development institutions (e.g. chambers of industry and commerce, chambers of trade, chambers of crafts, business development agencies, innovation centres, business clusters)
- International organisations, EEIG under national law
- Sonstiges: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Where is your organisation located (main seat)? \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

- Burgenland
- Niederösterreich
- Steiermark
- Wien
- Győr-Moson-Sopron
- Vas
- Zala
- Sonstiges: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you already been involved in an Interreg Austria-Hungary project?

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

Yes

No

Thematic  
concentration

ⓘ In the current status of discussion and expert's recommendation, the draft AT-HU 2021+ programme consists of four priorities. Each priority refers to a selected policy objective as set by the EU draft regulations. The policy objectives are further subdivided into **selected specific objectives** and also cover **horizontal issues**, as shown below:

ⓘ Draft Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027: thematic concentration

#### Priority 1 A resilient and green border region (PO2)

Selected specific objectives:

- climate change adaption and risk management
- sustainable water management
- biodiversity, reducing pollution

*Issues also covered: digitisation, R&I, SME, smart specialisation, tourism (nature tourism)*

#### Priority 2 A connected border region (PO3)

Selected specific objectives:

- Sustainable mobility

*Issues also covered: Digitisation, digital connectivity, tourism (bike infrastructure)*

#### Priority 3 A competent border region (PO4)

Selected specific objectives:

- education, training and lifelong learning
- culture and tourism

*Issues also covered: digitisation, labour market and SME*

#### Priority 4 An integrated border region (ISO1)

This priority is obligatory for Interreg Programmes and aims at a better Interreg Governance by enhancing the **institutional capacity** of public authorities, a better **legal and administrative cooperation** and cooperation between citizens and institutions and **People-to-people actions** for increased trust

*Issues covered: SME support, smart specialisation, digitisation, digital connectivity, labour market, health/long term care and tourism*

9. In your opinion, are the priorities and selected specific objectives **relevant for the Austrian-Hungarian border region** in the next seven years? \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval pro Zeile.

	I agree	I tend to agree	I disagree	I have no opinion on that issue
Priority 1: A resilient and green border region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority 2: A connected border region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority 3: A competent border region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority 4: An integrated border region (ISO1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. If you disagree, please tell us why:

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Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

11. Climate change adaption and risk prevention, including also horizontal activities regarding digitisation, R&I, SME competitiveness and smart specialisation - **Would you like to comment on this specific objective? \***

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 18 fort*

Promoting  
climate  
change  
adaption,  
risk  
prevention  
and  
disaster  
resilience

ⓘ Due to climate change, Central Europe will face an increase in heat extremes and decrease in summer precipitation, leading to an increasing risk of river floods and forest fires, as well as to a decrease in economic value of forests and increase in energy demand for cooling. The **regions in the border area will face similar challenges**, since large parts of them are situated in the Pannonian climate province, being overall warm and dry (annual precipitation 550-700 mm) and characterized by large seasonal differences and extreme values - hot summers and cold winters with little snow and low groundwater recharge.

The AT-HU cross-border area is assessed as having a medium to high environmental sensitivity to climate change. The impact of **climate change in the AT-HU border region is already perceivable in many ways** and will be a huge challenge for the region's ecosystems, its population and its economy in the next decades. Immediate action is required to meet these challenges.

Which are, in your opinion, the **most relevant fields of activity** regarding climate change adaption and risk prevention to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?

12. **Bridging the gap between climate research and practical implementation** (what does the state-of-the-art mean for the region?), with a focus on areas particularly affected such as forestry and agriculture, tourism, regional SME, urban environment, construction and settlement development to develop tailor made adaption measures in the AT-HU border region \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

1      2      3      4

very relevant     not relevant at all

13. Supporting **risk prevention and disaster resilience of natural hazards** with cross-border spillover effects, imposed by climate change, helping to mitigate threats to settlements, infrastructure, livelihoods and human lives \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

14. Empowering the regional diverse business landscape to adapt their business models, products and services ("**Greening the economy**"), drawing a new, positive picture of the future and **strengthening the regional SMEs resilience** to climate change impacts \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

15. Fostering **climate resilient cities and communities** by finding optimal, cost-effective, scientifically sound and consistent solutions for sustainable, future-oriented communities and inform authorities and stakeholders as well as the general public about measures they can take to proactively adapt to climate change \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

16. Do you have any comment on the **proposed fields of action**?

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17. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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#### Promoting sustainable water management

18. Sustainable water management, including also horizontal activities regarding digitisation and R&I: **Would you like to comment on this specific objective?** \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 24 fort*

#### Promoting sustainable water management

① The cross-border cooperation in management of the common water bodies is determined by the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Floods Directive and very well developed via the permanent Austro-Hungarian Water Commission. A range of cross-border projects are successfully implemented via the former (joint) cross-border programmes, including INTERREG AT-HU 2014-2020, building a solid base of knowledge in a variety of water management issues and a common understanding of possible measures. In the future, cooperation is essential for further improve the understanding of the water systems, implementing measures especially on groundwater protection, flood and sediment control, risk management and sustainable water management, and to specifically prepare for climate change impacts (including extreme events) preferably by mutually beneficial measures with EU WFD. It is also essential that the countries coordinate their actions to multiply effectiveness and step forward in a parallel way – in several water courses the solutions are ready to be initiated based on prior cooperation.



Which are, in your opinion, the **most relevant fields of activity** regarding sustainable water management to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?

19. Protecting common surface, thermal and ground water bodies by coordinated monitoring surveys and status assessment as well as development and implementation of measures suitable to tackle the challenges imposed on the quality and quantity of the border regions water bodies by **human intervention** (such as agriculture, intensive land use, hydropower plants, river regulations) and **climate change** \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

20. Supporting joint **flood monitoring, forecast and protection** as the border region is particularly expected to face an increasing risk of river floods due to climate change \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

21. Promoting **sustainable use of water resources** by enhancing the knowledge and capacities of policymakers and stakeholders how to contribute to a more sustainable water management, involving also authorities responsible for agriculture and environment, as well as informing the general public about sustainable use of water resources \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

22. Do you have any comment on the **proposed fields of action**?

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23. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

24. Biodiversity, reducing pollution, including also horizontal activities regarding digitisation and nature tourism: **Would you like to comment on this specific objective? \***

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 30 fort*

Enhancing  
biodiversity,  
green  
infrastructure  
in the urban  
environment,  
and reducing  
pollution

① The joint management of large protected areas or biotope network systems is quite established in the programme area and will become increasingly important in the future regarding the resilience of habitats. Ongoing land consumption and pressure of use due to the region's economic development caused by housing development, the construction of roads or tourism projects – additionally fired by climate change – bears increasing risks of habitat fragmentation, loss of biodiversity and reduced ecosystem services.

Thus, in order to keep up the resilience of the habitats, there is a need to focus on improving the cross-border connectivity of protected areas and biotopes by establishing cross-border migration corridors and additional stepping stone biotopes helping to connect areas of habitat, allowing (endangered) species move between them and to engage in genetic exchange as well as improving the permeability of migration barriers (rail, road, weirs). Also, climate change has a specific impact on eco-systems by changing the composition of fauna and flora, shifting the vegetation cycles and favouring pests. There is a need of knowledge-generation and exchange on neobiota (new animal and plant species) in the programme area, their influence on both protected and unprotected habitats and the related ecosystem services and possible measures to conserve biodiversity and species protection.

Which are, in your opinion, the **most relevant fields of activity** regarding biodiversity, green infrastructure and reducing pollution to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?

25. Preserving and restoring **biodiversity in sensitive areas, improving the cross-border connectivity of protected areas and biotopes and related ecosystem services** by gaining knowledge about the regions ecological status and threats as well as developing and demonstrating innovative measures suitable to tackle the challenges imposed by land consumption, pressure of use and climate change \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

26. **Integrating biodiversity into other sectors** like agriculture, forestry, hunting, tourism, transport, water management or regional development by establishing a common approach for a clear focus, use of synergies and more sustainable results in biodiversity, an approach already implemented in the nature and national parks, so they can serve as starting points for further development \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

27. Fostering knowledge acquisition, transfer and awareness raising on nature protection, biodiversity and related ecosystem services among decision makers, stakeholders and the general public at regional/local level aiming at **changes of attitude and behaviour** (e.g. urban or private gardening, nature tourism, soil protection) \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

28. Do you have any comment on the **proposed fields of action**?

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29. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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

30. Sustainable mobility, including also horizontal activities regarding digital connectivity, R&I and tourism: **Would you like to comment on this specific objective? \***

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 36 fort*

Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national,

© Cross-border commuting and other forms of economically based cross-border relations have become increasingly relevant in the last years in the border area. Labour mobility is considerable even in European comparison: more than 20.000 employees are daily commuters from the Hungarian counties mostly to Burgenland, Vienna and Graz with increasing tendency, typically travelling five times a week. Traffic generated by tourism shows an increasing trend, too, however, domestic tourism is more dominant in both countries. Increase of cross-border tourism, however, can be considered as important development potential for the region's tourism industry. Due to clear gaps in terms of intra-regional and cross-border accessibility in public transport, individual motorized traffic is becoming the predominant mode in travels crossing the border. Besides loss of time due to the increasing occurrence of difficulties in traffic,

regional  
and local  
mobility,  
including  
improved  
access to  
TEN-T and  
cross-  
border  
mobility

the increasing traffic burden endangers quality of life in the settlements in the border area and puts unnecessary pressure on environment.

Which are, in your opinion, the **most relevant fields of activity** regarding sustainable mobility to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?

31. Enhancing sustainable **cross-border mobility services** by better organisation and linking of different modes of transport as well as a common management framework of transport services \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> not relevant at all

32. Closing gaps in **sustainable mobility infrastructure** (especially daily bike infrastructure) by a coordinated preparation and implementation of small scale infrastructure contributing to a better cross-border multimodality and public transport connectivity \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> not relevant at all

33. Fostering knowledge and awareness on smart and sustainable mobility on local level aiming at **changes of attitude and behaviour** towards rail, (e-)bike and walking to increase multimodality of transport \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

34. Do you have any comment on the **proposed fields of action**?

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35. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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Improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders.

36. Education, training and lifelong learning, including also horizontal activities regarding digitisation, labour market and SME competitiveness : **Would you like to comment on this specific objective? \***

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 41 fort*

Improving access to and the quality of education, training and lifelong learning across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders.

Ⓢ Language barriers and still existing cultural differences in most of the segments of the population are the main obstacle of deepening cooperation in the border region. Intercultural learning approaches rank among the most effective ones to address these barriers and the existing prejudices and to foster changes of perspective and mindset of people, having little attention at national level.

Additionally, labour market and employment issues have strong cross-border relevance mainly because a great quantity of Hungarian workforce commuting to Austrian workplaces. However, the risks of changes in this field, due to unforeseeable consequences of the COVID pandemic, threaten the previously good absorption capacity of direct interventions. Thus, labour market issues have been chosen rather to be addressed indirectly, mainly through the coordinated development of the training capacities of the programme region. In the field of vocational training, further training, higher education diplomas, joint development and mutual recognition of qualifications could best enhance the effectiveness of the labour market. Provision of accessible high-quality education could narrow the gap in terms of attractive-ness of these concentrated hubs and the rest of the region (smaller towns, rural areas), contributing to the increased competitiveness of the border region, as a whole.

**Which are, in your opinion, the most relevant fields of activity regarding education, training and lifelong learning to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?**



37. Fostering **language and cultural competences** by strategically coordinated learning activities serving as catalysts to build mutual trust and raise awareness of communities to acknowledge and accept the values of others \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

38. Supporting **harmonisation of the vocational training** by harmonising education and training systems, tackling the lack of skilled work force and increasing the offer of high-quality education and training, encompassing also digital competences \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

39. Do you have any comment on the **proposed fields of action**?

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40. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

41. Culture and tourism, including also horizontal activities regarding digitisation:  
**Would you like to comment on this specific objective? \***

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 45 fort*

Enhancing  
the role of  
culture and  
tourism in  
economic  
development,  
social  
inclusion and  
social  
innovation

① Tourism is an important part of the economy in all regions, and generates much regional value added for many sectors from agriculture to commerce. Tourism is one of the branches most heavily affected by travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will cause substantial changes in the whole tourism structure regarding both supply and demand. The reconstruction of tourism could be a good basis for cross-border cooperation, however, future tourism projects need to be embedded in a strategic framework to assure synergies among projects.

**Which are, in your opinion, the most relevant fields of activity regarding culture and tourism to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?**

42. Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development by developing a **joint strategic approach** to better valorize the regions natural and cultural heritage, e.g. by jointly elaborating key themes for tourism development or creating a joint destination under one label \*

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

1      2      3      4

very relevant     not relevant at all

43. Do you have any comment on the **proposed field of action**?

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44. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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Interreg specific objective - Institutional capacity of public authorities, Legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, People-to-people actions for increased trust

45. Interreg specific objective - Institutional capacity of public authorities, Legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions, People-to-people actions for increased trust, relating mainly to SME competitiveness and smart specialisation, digital connectivity, labour market, health and long term care, and tourism: **Would you like to comment on this specific objective? \***

*Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.*

Yes

No *Fahren Sie mit Frage 53 fort*

Interreg specific objectives -  
Institutional capacity of public  
authorities, Legal and  
administrative cooperation and  
cooperation between citizens

① Improving the Interreg Governance (i.e. reducing administrative and legal obstacles) is one of the declared objectives of the European Commission in cross-border cooperation.

For the AT-HU border region, studies on European and programme level recommend a flexible, more strategic approach in cross-border cooperation, as

and institutions, People-to-people actions for increased trust

well as reducing administrative barriers and awareness raising of public authorities about the benefits of cross-border cooperation.

Which are, in your opinion, the **most relevant fields of activity** regarding better Interreg Governance to be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027?

46. Fostering **SME competitiveness and smart specialisation** focusing on intermediary institutions, in order to better clarify and better understand administrative barriers (concerning also the labour market) \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

47. Fostering **labour market** by focusing on reducing legal or administrative obstacles e.g. clarifying the rules across the border and a strategic approach in these terms \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

48. Intensifying cooperation in **health care and long term care services** to contribute to a better accessibility also in remote, close-to-the border-areas as well as a quick emergency response \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

49. Reconstructing **tourism** after the COVID-19 pandemic as a good basis for cross-border cooperation by embedding future tourism projects in a strategic framework to assure synergies among projects \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

50. Improving the regions **digital connectivity by making comparable cross-border data or data on cross-border interaction available** for setting a valid base for the regions needs and challenges as well as for assessing the region's interconnectedness. Additionally, harmonizing data bases regarding topics relevant in the cross-border context (health care, labour market, SME, transport) might considerably open up possibilities for better cross-border cooperation \*

Markieren Sie nur ein Oval.

	1	2	3	4	
very relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not relevant at all

51. Do you have any comment on the **proposed fields of action**?

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52. In your opinion, should the proposed actions be focused on some **specific geographical area** in the AT-HU border region? If yes, which one(s)?

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#### Final question

53. Please indicate **any not yet mentioned field of action**, which, in your opinion, should be supported by the Interreg Programme AT-HU 2021-2027:

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Thank you for  
your  
participation

Your contribution is a very valuable input for the planned bilateral workshops and for the entire programming process!

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