



Interreg 

Austria-Hungary 2014-2020

European Union – European Regional Development Fund



SELECTION CRITERIA

for applications submitted to the
INTERREG V-A Austria-Hungary Programme



Project selection in the programme INTERREG V-A Austria-Hungary

Project selection is based on two sets of criteria:

1. administrative and eligibility criteria,
2. quality assessment criteria.

Administrative and eligibility criteria have to be fulfilled by every project proposal; they are “knock-out” criteria. They do not measure the quality of the project or its content. Only if all administrative and eligibility criteria are fulfilled a project will proceed to the Monitoring Committee (MC) for decision.

Quality assessment criteria measure the relevance and feasibility of the project. This is reflected in two types of assessment criteria. Strategic assessment criteria are meant to determine the extent of the project’s contribution to the achievement of the programme objectives. A strong focus is given to the result orientation of a project with the demand for visible outputs and concrete results. Operational assessment criteria review the viability and feasibility of the proposed project, as well as its value for money in terms of resources used versus results delivered.

1. Administrative and eligibility assessment

Private persons, political parties and individual entrepreneurs are not eligible for funding (either as lead partners or as project partners).

All questions in the list of administrative and eligibility criteria must be answered with yes/no (for exceptions related to criteria A.3.5 and A.3.8. see footnotes 2 and 4). Those project applications that fully comply with the administrative and eligibility criteria will be subject to quality assessment.





Selection criteria

Table 1 Administrative and eligibility criteria

Nr.	Administrative criteria	Description	Yes or No
A.1	Delivered to the right location by the set deadline.	<i>Continuous submission. In general, applications submitted via eMS to the Joint Secretariat at latest by noon, 70 days before the MC meeting will be evaluated and -if eligible- proposed to the MC for decision. The MC can decide about a different (longer or shorter) time period for project submission. In any case the latest date of submission for projects to be proposed to the MC must be published on the programme webpage.</i>	
A.2	The application package is submitted in the required format.	<i>Electronic application form submitted via eMS.</i>	
A.3	All annexes are submitted.	<i>Obligatory annexes must be signed by the authorised signatory, scanned and attached to the electronic AF and be submitted by the deadline. One paper copy of the Lead Partner declaration and of the partnership agreement (see 1 and 2 below) has to be submitted -if the project is approved- until contracting. Obligatory annexes:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Lead Partner declaration, including a passage about the accuracy of data,</i> <i>2. partnership agreement,</i> <i>3. VAT statement of lead partner and partners (in Austria, if not entitled for VAT refund, incl. confirmation of the "Finanzamt", or if not available, a confirmation of a tax advisor),</i> <i>4. declaration about national contribution (if relevant: declaration about own resources)¹,</i> <i>5. de-minimis declaration²,</i> <i>6. list of all other national- or EU funded projects (submitted and/or approved) that are implemented by the project partners (in case of large organisations on the level of the unit acting as a beneficiary, if relevant) during the project implementation period (incl. information whether staff costs are included),</i> <i>7. if staff flat rate is applied, declaration of the relevant institution about the number of</i> 	

¹ If the financial commitment of a municipality, or (in Hungary) of a micro-regional association is bound to a municipality resolution or to a similar document by national legislation, this must be also attached.

² In exceptional cases, if a partner has not submitted the de-minimis declaration, the project can be considered as formally compliant under the condition that the partner concerned must not receive de-minimis support for the submitted project.





Selection criteria

Nr.	Administrative criteria	Description	Yes or No
		<p>employees covered by social insurance.</p> <p>For infrastructure projects:</p> <p>8. proof of property/rights of use^{3,4},</p> <p>9. if relevant revenue calculation,</p> <p>10. plans that enable a proper cost calculation,</p> <p>11. in case of large infrastructure division of costs (if applicable) between programmes/projects,</p> <p>12. for rail and road projects (IP7b) confirmation of the impact and TEN-T relevance by independent experts according to the specific criteria.</p> <p>Optional annexes (if relevant)</p> <p>13. annual report,</p> <p>14. registry/foundation documents.</p>	
A.4	The application package is compiled in the required language(s).	<p>The following documents must be bilingual (German and Hungarian):</p> <p>1. application form,</p> <p>2. lead partner declaration,</p> <p>3. partnership agreement.</p> <p>Other documents must be submitted in the native language of the partner concerned. Feasibility studies must have an executive summary in English.</p>	
A.5	Application form is correctly filled in.	All fields that are not correctly filled in, have to be corrected in the course of the clarification round ("Nachreichung /hiánypótlás").	

- ³ Depending on the ownership/rental conditions the proof of ownership/usage rights includes:
- Copies of land registry about the construction sites as listed in the application.
 - If the construction site is not the property of the respective project partner, *additionally* the written agreement of the owner (acc. land registry) about the rental or the transfer of usage rights to the project partner. In case of institutional ownership the documentation must be clearly compliant with the internal authorization procedures (e.g. attach municipal resolution, where relevant). Rights of use after project closure in compliance with article 71 of 1303/2013/EU must be also proven.
- ⁴ In cases of projects submitted to the programme specific objective 31 (investment priority 7b), **documents referring to the ownership-acquisition procedure** (purchase or expropriation), are sufficient. The documentation must be clear and transparent, and include at least:
1. copies of the land registry (of the original ownership),
 2. map extracts of the lands necessary for the project, with the identification of the planned track,
 3. as well as an acquisition timetable ensuring fulfilment of the requirements set in the Eligibility Handbook (5.6.3.2.b.a.).





Selection criteria

Nr.	Administrative criteria	Description	Yes or No
A.6	Administrative and formal data in the application package are consistent.	<i>Information presented in all application package documents (application form and annexes) is consistent.</i>	

Nr	Eligibility criteria	Description	Yes or No
B.1	The project fulfils minimum requirements for partnership.	<i>At least one Austrian and one Hungarian partner are involved.</i>	
B.2	The lead partner is an eligible organisation.	<p><i>The lead partner is:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. national, regional or local public body (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) EGTC Regulation), public equivalent body, non-profit organisation or other institution which on project level acts in public interest,</i> <i>2. private institution, including private companies, having legal personality.</i> <p><i>The lead partner must be located</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. in the programme area,</i> <i>2. or if duly justified, outside the programme area provided that it has legally defined competences or field of functions for certain parts of the eligible area ("assimilated partner", considered to be inside the eligible area, e.g. ministry).</i> 	
B.3	All project partners are eligible organisations.	<p><i>The partners are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. national, regional or local public bodies (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) EGTC Regulation), public equivalent bodies, non-profit organisations or other institutions which on project level act in public interest,</i> <i>2. private institutions, including private companies, having legal personality.</i> <p><i>Partners must be located</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. in the programme area,</i> <i>2. or in justified cases outside the programme area, provided that they have legally defined competences or field of functions for certain parts of the eligible area ("assimilated partners", considered to be inside the eligible area, e.g. ministries),</i> <i>3. in only exceptional and duly justified cases outside the programme area (acc. to Art. 20 (2) of ETC Regulation).</i> 	
B.4	Time limits are respected.	<i>Project implementation falls between 1.1.2015 – 31.12.2022.</i>	





Selection criteria

Nr	Eligibility criteria	Description	Yes or No
B.5	Project is assigned to programme priority and its specific objective.	<i>Thematically, project fits into the programme and one priority axis.</i>	
B.6	There is no evidence of double funding of activities.	<i>See declaration included in the lead partner declaration as well as the relevant section of the partnership agreement..</i>	
B.7	Minimum and maximum budget requirements are respected including percentage of co-financing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>ERDF does not exceed 85%.</i>2. <i>Min. 15% national contribution is secured</i><ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <i>by declaration about third party contribution</i>b. <i>and/or by own resource declaration, if relevant by local council's resolution about own resources..</i>3. <i>Minimum project budget = 25 000 € total costs.</i>4. <i>No maximum limit.</i>	





2. Quality assessment

Based on the submitted application form (and its annexes), the Joint Secretariat (JS) assesses every project and produces a non-binding recommendation to the MC. The evaluation includes scores as well as written comments to each criteria and a summary (including strengths, weaknesses and open questions with regard to the project). The purpose of the evaluation is to support the MC in its decision making. The right and responsibility to decide about project approval is the sole responsibility of the MC, whose decision may be different from the recommendation of the JS. Projects will be evaluated according to the criteria in the table below.

Scores are allocated to each evaluation criteria between 0-3:

- 0=insufficient
- 1=low
- 2=sufficient
- 3=excellent

Each evaluation criteria has a weight of either 1 or 2, whereby a higher weight is given to those criteria that are considered by the MC to have more significance for the quality of the project. The weighted total score of the project is the product of score and weight for each question, summed up for all the criteria: maximum 45 points for the strategic, as well as for the operational assessment criteria, altogether maximum 90 points for a project.

The regional coordinators (RC), in exceptional cases external experts or relevant line ministries that are not members in the MC – contribute to some criteria (marked in bold) with written comments. The JS consolidates these comments and, if needed, adds comments of its own and summarises the evaluation of these criteria by giving scores.

If the JS gives 0 points in any of the quality assessment criteria, they must give a justification and input for improvement. Giving 0 points in the quality assessment shall be a strong signal to the MC, meaning that there are serious problems with the project. The MC is expected to discuss these criteria, and approval may only be possible, if a sufficient answer can be given to the problem (either in the MC, in the form of a condition or in a resubmitted application).

Low scores received at the strategic and/or operational assessment criteria signal the poor quality of the application. As the strategic relevance of project applications and a clear added-value of the cross-border approach are at the core of the Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary Programme, the importance of strategic criteria is mirrored accordingly by the setting of thresholds. Consequently, if the project scores

- 26 points or less in the strategic assessment criteria
- or 23 points or less in the operational assessment criteria,

it will be put on a risk list. In such a case the decision of the MC has to be “rejection” or “postponing”.

The special criteria and principles that have been defined for the specific objectives are assessed separately in a written evaluation. For those criteria no scores will be given because neither the projects nor the criteria in the different specific objectives are comparable.



Selection criteria

Table 2 Strategic assessment criteria

Assessment questions	Criteria for the assessment	Scores	Weight	Comments	Sections in AF
<p>Project's context (relevance and strategy)</p> <p><i>How well is a need for the project justified?</i></p>	<p>The project clearly contributes to a wider strategy on one or more policy levels (EU / national / regional).</p>	0-1-2-3	1		C.3.1
	<p>The project addresses common territorial challenges of the programme or a joint asset of the programme area - there is a real need for the project (well justified, reasonable and well explained).</p> <p>With respect to the above, it represents added value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - either by demonstrating new solutions that go beyond the existing practice in the sector/programme area/participating countries, - or by adapting and implementing already developed solutions, - while at the same time it capitalizes on (makes use of) available knowledge, builds on existing results and practices. 	0-1-2-3	2		C.1.1 C.1.2 C.3.2 C.3.3
	<p>The project makes a positive contribution to one or more of the programme horizontal principles: equal opportunities and non-discrimination, equality between men and women, sustainable development.</p>	0-1-2-3	1		C.4
<p>Cooperation character</p> <p><i>What added value does the cooperation bring?</i></p>	<p>The importance of the cross-border approach to the topic addressed is clearly demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the results cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without cooperation and/or, - there is a clear benefit from cooperating for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the project partners, · for target groups, · for the project/programme area. 	0-1-2-3	2		B.1 C.1.3
	<p>At least 3 cooperation criteria are fulfilled: joint development (mandatory), joint implementation (mandatory), and joint staffing or joint financing. Partner level consultation with the relevant regional coordinators is considered to be an advantage.</p>	0-1-2-3	1		C.1.4, D





Selection criteria

Assessment questions	Criteria for the assessment	Scores	Weight	Comments	Sections in AF
<p>Project's contribution to programme's objectives, expected results and outputs</p> <p><i>To what extent will the project contribute to the achievement of programme's objectives?</i></p>	<p>Internal links of the project intervention logic and their contribution to the programme objectives are appropriate, the project's results and main outputs clearly link to programme priority and its indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project overall objective clearly links to a programme priority specific objective, - The project results clearly link to a programme result indicator, - The project specific objectives clearly link to the project overall objective, - The project main outputs clearly link to the project specific objectives, - The project main outputs clearly link to programme output indicators. 	0-1-2-3	2		C.2.1, C.5 D
	<p>Project specific objectives, results and main outputs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specific / concretely defined, - realistic (is it possible to achieve them with given resources -i.e. time, partners, budget- and they are realistic based on the quantification provided). 	0-1-2-3	2		C.2.1, C.5 D
	<p>Project main outputs have an impact beyond the immediate operation. In this meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project main outputs are durable (the proposal is expected to provide a significant and durable contribution to solving the challenges targeted) – if not, it is justified. - Project main outputs are applicable and replicable by other organisations/regions/countries outside of the current partnership (transferability) – if not, it is justified. 	0-1-2-3	1		C.5
<p>Partnership relevance and distribution of tasks</p> <p><i>To what extent is the partnership composi-</i></p>	<p>The project involves the relevant actors needed to address the territorial challenge/joint asset and the objectives specified.</p>	0-1-2-3	1		B
	<p>All partners play a defined and active role in the partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In compliance with their role, partner organisations have proven experience and competence in the thematic field 	0-1-2-3	2		B, C.5





Selection criteria

Assessment questions	Criteria for the assessment	Scores	Weight	Comments	Sections in AF
<i>tion relevant for the proposed project?</i>	<p>concerned, as well as the necessary capacity to implement the project (financial, human resources, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Furthermore, the distribution of tasks among partners is in line with their role in the project, and the sharing of tasks is clear and logical. 				
	Maximal score	30			
	Maximal weighted score:		45		
<p>Fulfilment of special criteria and principles that have been defined for the specific objectives</p> <p><i>To what extent is the project in line with the specific criteria and principles of the chosen thematic field?</i></p>	<p>3d:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The application is NEITHER focusing on purely academic research or basic research NOR on a mere exchange of knowledge. - Involvement of SMEs or SME networks is considered as an advantage (direct involvement of SMEs as project partners is not necessary). - The applicability of results and the impact of planned activities on SMEs are considered as advantage. - Projects that target territories with poor economic performance or scarce job opportunities are preferred. 	no scores	-		C
	<p>6c:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The application is NOT focused on touristic offers for single destinations in one Member State. - Supported heritage sights will be open to the public. - Natural and/or cultural heritage preservation projects must comply with local environmental protection requirements and ecosystem integrity. 	no scores	-		
	<p>6d:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management and protection plans demonstrate evidence for a practical application in sustainable development of the programme area. - Including activities targeting awareness raising is considered as an advantage. - Opportunities for initiatives and/or platforms and networks that provide for an exchange of good practice shall 	no scores	-		





Assessment questions	Criteria for the assessment	Scores	Weight	Comments	Sections in AF
	be explored.				
	6f: - Actions targeted to improve the management and protection of water bodies are not contradictory to the targets of the Austro-Hungarian Water Commission.	no scores	-		
	7b: - The project improves a connection between a tertiary node and the TEN-T network. - The project concerns a connection which effectively crosses the border or which creates a new, direct border crossing. - By the project travel time will be shortened. - There is mutual (on both sides of the border) socio-economic and environmental benefit. - The project is in line with the road safety directive. - The newly constructed road will be open for transport for a minimum period of 5 years.	no scores	-		
	7c: - -	no scores	-		
	11: - Involvement of partners new to the programme is considered as an advantage.	no scores	-		





Selection criteria

Table 3 Operational assessment criteria

Assessment questions	Criteria for the assessment	Scores	Weight	Comments	Sections in AF
Management <i>To what extent are management structures and procedures in line with the project size, duration and needs?</i>	Project management is in line with the needs of effective and efficient project implementation. For this purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management structures (e.g. project steering committee) are proportionate to the project size and needs and allow partners' involvement in decision-making. - Management procedures (such as reporting and evaluation procedures in the area of finance, project content, communication) are clear, transparent, efficient and effective. - Project management ensures the involvement of all partners, strategic partners and if relevant other stakeholders and ensures transfer of expertise. 	0-1-2-3	1		C.5 WP Mgt
	The (lead) partner demonstrates competency in managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects or can ensure adequate measures for management support.	0-1-2-3	2		B.1
Communication <i>To what extent are communication activities appropriate and forceful to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders?</i>	Communication activities and deliverables are appropriate to reach the relevant target groups and stakeholders.	0-1-2-3	1		C.5 WP C
	Communication objectives are relevant and are expected to make effective contribution to the project specific objectives.	0-1-2-3	2		C.5 WP C
Work plan <i>To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent?</i>	Proposed activities are relevant and lead to the planned main outputs and results. If activities outside the programme area are foreseen, their contribution to the project objectives and consequently the benefit to the programme area are clear.	0-1-2-3	2		C.5, C.6
	Activities, deliverables and outputs are in a logical time-sequence, and the overall time plan is realistic (contingency included).	0-1-2-3	1		C.5, C.7





Selection criteria

Assessment questions	Criteria for the assessment	Scores	Weight	Comments	Sections in AF
Budget <i>To what extent is the budget coherent and how far does it demonstrate value for money?</i>	Total partner budgets reflect partners' real involvement (are balanced and realistic).	0-1-2-3	2		B.1, C.5, PART D, PART E
	The budget allocated to staff and external expertise (for both management and thematic tasks) is in line with the project content as well as with the available capacities and competences of the respective partners. Based on this, the need for engaging external expertise is justified and the costs are realistic.	0-1-2-3	1		B.1, C.5, PART D, PART E
	The added value of investments and equipment purchases (if applicable) and their cross-border relevance is demonstrated to reach the project objectives, their costs are realistic.	0-1-2-3	1		B.1, C.5, PART D, PART E
	The budget is clear and realistic. The available information in the budget and the link of individual budget items to the project activities is transparent and sufficient. On that basis, the project budget appears proportionate to the proposed work plan, the main outputs and results aimed for.	0-1-2-3	2		B.1, C.5, PART D, PART E
	Maximal score	30			
	Maximal weighted score:		45		

