



Interreg



SLOVENIA – AUSTRIA

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Cooperation Programme

Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria

Citizens' Summary



www.si-at.eu

THE PROGRAMME

The Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria is the continuation of a cooperation process, which started in the middle of the 90s under trilateral and bilateral compositions (Austria-Slovenia-Hungary, Slovenia-Hungary-Croatia, and Slovenia-Hungary Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes). This long tradition in CBC programmes resulted in an accumulation of valuable experiences regarding the EU territorial cooperation between the management bodies but also among relevant stakeholders from the two countries, which is taken into consideration by the current programme. In developing the strategy, the Task Force – the joint body responsible for the elaboration of the Cooperation Programme – considered the policy framework provided by the European, national and regional development strategies, the characteristics of the programme area, the experiences of the previous programme periods and the opinion of the stakeholders collected through dedicated events and activities.

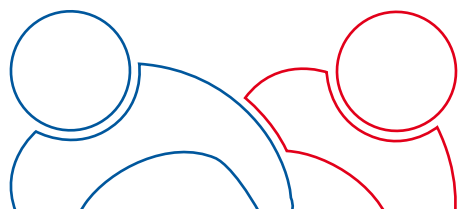
THE PROGRAMME AREA

The programme area of Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SI-AT 2014-2020 covers 8 Slovenian NUTS 3 regions Gorenjska, Koroška, Savinjska, Podravska, Pomurska, Osrednjeslovenska, Goriška and Zasavska and 9 Austrian NUTS 3 regions Oststeiermark, West- und Südsteiermark, Graz, Östliche Obersteiermark, Westliche Obersteiermark, Unterkärnten, Klagenfurt-Villach, Oberkärnten and Südburgenland.



THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

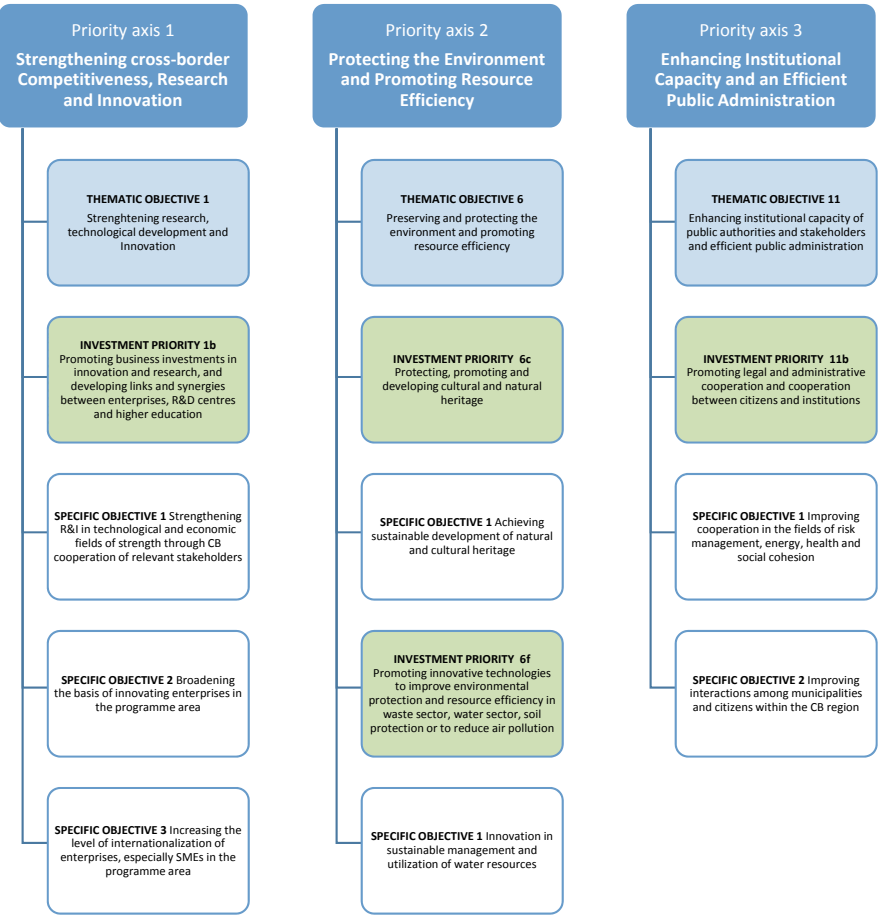
The overall objective of the Cooperation Programme (CP) is to ensure the harmonious development of participating cross-border regions and to enable all citizens to make the



best use of given natural conditions and opportunities, taking into account the specifics of each part of the programme area.

Being consistent with the national Partnership Agreement of Austria and Slovenia, the CP Interreg V-A SI-AT promotes smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through an integrated approach combining thematic and territorial dimensions in the design of the priority axes, as summarised below.

PRIORITY AXES OF THE PROGRAMME



44,9 mio EUR ERDF available for projects

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

PRIORITY AXIS		ERDF SUPPORT
PA 1	Strengthening CB competitiveness, research and innovation	15,023,809
PA 2	Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency	17,564,263
PA 3	Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration	12,400,283
PA 4	Technical assistance	3,000,000

PRIORITY AXIS 1: Strengthening cross-border Competitiveness, Innovation and Research

15 mio EUR ERDF

INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1(b) Promoting business investments in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthening R&I in technological and economic fields of strength through CB cooperation of relevant stakeholders

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Improvement of CB competitiveness and excellence in R&I (e.g. by creation of joint CB platforms for know-how and technology transfer as basis for R&I, applied science projects, etc.).
- Support of a better access and use of research infrastructure for CB research institutions and relevant stakeholders (e.g. institutional cooperation between R&D-infrastructures). Use of potential of researchers and their international mobility (with the purpose of increasing the competitiveness of CB area).
- Implementation of research, innovation and technology transfer projects to support the building-up of competences in common fields of strength defined by the Smart Specialization strategy in both countries.
- Promotion of CB cooperation between research institutions and public administrations.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

Broadening the basis of innovating enterprises in the programme area

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Strengthening innovation processes and investment of CB clusters and networks, enterprises and other institutions cooperating across the border in order to develop new or improved products, services and pilot investments.
- Support to enterprises in the phase of testing innovation (including the process of certification).
- Enhancing the transfer of developed solutions and of new knowledge to the public domain.
- Strengthening growth and development of companies and especially SMEs (and their creativity and innovativeness, investment in processes and development as well as development of capabilities of SME's to cooperate) especially by design and implementation of support programmes in common fields of strength defined by the Smart specialization strategy in both countries.
- Strengthening the innovation ability of enterprises (offering innovation support services) or the use of new technologies in common fields of strength.
- Support to services for innovative (innovation in services, creative industries, product innovation, etc.) entrepreneurs/ companies and potential entrepreneurs to enable the start-up of business.
- Support to development of new CB business models and integrated models of business processes.
- Promotion and development of new (social) entrepreneurship models (innovative companies with potential of global growth, companies in CB areas facing the development challenges (problem areas)).
- Support of CB SME/networks to develop new or improved products, services or to enter new markets and improve their export potential.
- Encouragement and support to technology and know-how transfer (of best practices) between research, technology, educational institutions and/or institutions of the cultural and creative sector with enterprises for the development, adaptation and marketing of new technologies, products or services.
- Support to exchange of experiences in the field of business and innovation development.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

Increasing the level of internationalization of enterprises, especially SMEs in the programme area

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Support to creation of awareness towards internationalisation by promotion of enterprises (SMEs) in common fields of strength defined by the Smart specialization strategy in both countries (in the field of manufacturing, ICT, tourism and health and social work activities), especially for high-growth enterprises and enterprises with a potential to grow in the programme area.
- Increasing CB cooperation of companies for competitiveness, internationalization and export, e.g. by supporting net-working/clusters of enterprises, joint investments, joint participation on the market, etc.
- Implementation of services for knowledge intensive start-ups with the strong potential to internationalize.

MAIN TARGET GROUPS

- Institutions relevant for research and education, technology and infrastructure.
- Innovation leaders.
- Enterprises being at the threshold to innovation activities.
- Universities and other academic and education institutions.
- R&D institutions.
- Company founders and young entrepreneurs.
- Local business community.
- Business support mechanisms.
- Technology/business/university parks.

**TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES**

- Private and public business support institutions (incubators, technology parks, science parks, competence centres, business support centres).
- Enterprises (including SMEs).



- Clusters and networks (including clusters and networks of SMEs).
- Tourism institutions, associations and agencies.
- Research institutions.
- Universities and other academic and higher education institutions as well as technology and business oriented high schools.
- Training and education organisations and institutions.
- Institutions and organisations representing economic and social interests of employees/ employers.
- National, local and regional (public) authorities.
- Local/regional institutions, development organisations and networks.

PRIORITY AXIS 2: Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency

17,5 mio EUR ERDF

INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1

6(c) Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

Achieving sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Development and practical implementation of necessary joint strategies and action plans for management and active conservation of natural heritage in terms of bio- and geodiversity as well as cultural heritage sites (e.g. Natura 2000 sites, cultural monuments etc.).
- Sustainable utilization and management of natural and cultural heritage, including nature protection measures.
- Conservation, protection, restoration, development and valorisation of cultural and natural heritage sites as well as public visitor infrastructure for their utilization in the field of sustainable tourism.

- Support of know-how transfer, training and capacity building as well as awareness-raising for relevant stakeholders for development of corresponding skills.
- Joint development of new/improved products and services in the field of sustainable tourism in order to preserve/valorize the natural/cultural heritage in an appropriate way and/or to increase the attractiveness of the programme area (e.g. accommodations, tours, transportation, recreational activities, development of joint quality standards in tourist services).
- Development and improvement of long-term approach and measures for cultural heritage protection through comparative studies of risk-preparedness tools and mechanisms (e.g., recording, monitoring, risk assessment, etc.).
- Investments for improvement of Natura 2000 species and habitat types, functioning of ecosystems (e.g. restoration of ecosystems and habitats, control of invasive alien species), their sustainable utilization and management.
- Promotion of awareness raising with the direct involvement of local communities (including investments in nature interpretation infrastructure).

MAIN TARGET GROUPS

- Public and private institutions as well as owners and managers responsible for natural and cultural heritage.
- Local and regional public and state administrations.
- Institutions in the field of tourism.
- Citizens.



TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES

- Local, regional and national authorities and organisations (e.g. ministries, local communities, public institutes and services).
- Institutions, organisations, associations and NGOs in the field of nature protection and conservation, environment, spatial planning, public transport, culture and tourism.



INVESTMENT PRIORITY 2

6(f) Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

Innovation in sustainable management and utilization of water resources

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Development and practical implementation of joint sustainable water strategies to set out long-term plans for improving the quality status and securing the water future of the programme area.
- Development and practical implementation of joint modelling, monitoring and forecasting studies and research works with the inclusion of climate change implications and action plans for reducing the overall water and wastewater footprint.
- Development and practical implementation of integrated flood determination, protection and control measures as well as river restoration measurements.
- Practical implementation of joint monitoring activities (qualitative and quantitative) to assess the status and impacts of the measures incorporated.
- Preparation and implementation of construction and non-construction anti flood measures in line with the flood risk management plan.

MAIN TARGET GROUPS

- Local, regional and national authorities and organisations (e.g. ministries, local communities, public institutes and services).
- Bilateral CB commissions.
- Institutions and organisations in the field of water management, nature protection, environment and risk prevention, spatial planning.
- Research institutions.

**TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES**

- Local, regional and national authorities and organisations (e.g. ministries, local communities, public institutes and services).
- Institutions and organisations in the field of water management, nature protection, environment and risk prevention, spatial planning and other research organizations.
- Associations and NGOs in the field of water, nature protection, bio/geodiversity and environment.

**PRIORITY AXIS 3: Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration**

12,4 mio EUR ERDF

INVESTMENT PRIORITY

11(b) Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1

Improving cooperation in the field of risk management, energy, health and social cohesion

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Developing and implementing CB tools and services (e.g. analytical tools, management tools, technical tools, software tools, etc.) for the purpose of risk management and prevention (e.g. joint monitoring, etc.).
- Joint programming, project preparation and demonstration actions of local governments, non-profit organizations, development and energy agencies in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Active awareness raising among key stakeholders as well as the wider public (e.g. information sheets, public information events, brochures, etc.).
- Developing and implementing training programmes and schemes (in order to intensify future CB cooperation as well as to build up capacities and skills needed for the CB labour market (e.g. intercultural communication and qualification trainings, language courses, joint schemes to support transfers of best practices and know-how, study visits, vocational

training)).

- Strengthening cooperation within CB networks on local/regional level as well as the cooperation of institutions providing public services, training and educational institutions, cultural associations, etc. (e.g. capacity building, knowledge exchange and networking activities).
- Developing and implementing CB tools and services (e.g. analytical tools, management tools, technical tools, software tools, etc.) for the purpose of emergency interventions (e.g. information about hospital beds, availability of ambulances and medical workers, etc.).
- Developing human skills and knowledge (including language skills) enabling institutions to continue and intensify CB cooperation
- Developing new services and products regarding important regional topics in order to ensure closeness to citizens and the visibility of the programme (e.g. trainings, consultancies).
- Joint development of common approaches to identified common problems such as social inclusion and employment promotion for marginalized groups.
- Joint improvement of basic health and social services in the border region by the use of ICT technologies.
- Better harmonization of the demand and supply side of the labour market such as creation of sub- or micro-regional employment pacts or collection of labour market information and data.
- Developing and delivering shared labour market information and guidance for the employers and potential employees in the CB region (with special attention also to the age group of 55 to 64).
- Formulation of bottom up, multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to develop territory based integrated solutions on employments.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

Improving interactions among municipalities and citizens within the CB region

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

- Strengthening public institutional cooperation among regions, municipalities and citizens as well as key institutions involved in regional development activities (e.g. exchanging practices, knowledge, know-how, services, development

strategies, etc.).

- Improving interaction among municipalities by improving coordination, tools and methods for evidence-based policy making, mechanisms for public participation, tools for increased transparency and accountability, etc.
- Improving the quality of services by reforms for reducing administrative burden, integration of services (focus on e.g. e-government/ e-justice, etc.).
- Organizing meetings and seminars for the exchange of experiences and information in order to identify common development issues, ideas and structures.

MAIN TARGET GROUPS

- Local and regional public and state administrations.
- Other types of public and private organizations/institutions interested in CB cooperation (e.g. training and educational institutions, institutions and organizations in the field of risk management, health, energy, qualification and labour market, etc.).
- NGOs and associations of socially excluded.
- Citizens.



TYPES OF BENEFICIARIES

- Local and regional public and state administrations.
- Other types of public and private organizations/institutions interested in CB cooperation (e.g. training and educational institutions, institutions and organizations in the field of risk management, health, energy, qualification and labour market, NGOs and associations of socially excluded, associations for children, etc.).



PROGRAMME STRUCTURES

For the implementation of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria the following structures are responsible:

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit
Managing Authority	Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC), European Territorial Cooperation and Financial Mechanism Office, Cross-border Programmes Management Division
Joint Secretariat	The Joint Secretariat is hosted by the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC), European Territorial Cooperation and Financial Mechanism Office, Cross-border Programmes Management Division
National/regional Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC), European Territorial Cooperation DivisionRegionalmanagement Burgenland GmbHAmt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 17 Landes- und RegionalentwicklungAmt der Kärntner Landesregierung, Abt. 3 – Gemeinden- und Raumordnung, Uabt. Ort- und Regionalentwicklung in cooperation with <ul style="list-style-type: none">KWF Kärntner, Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds
Certifying Authority	Public Fund for Regional Development of the Republic of Slovenia

Audit Authority	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia, Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks (First Level Control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC), Control division ETC, IPA and IFM programmesRegionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH, Abteilung ControllingAmt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 17 Landes- und Regionalentwicklung , Stabstelle Controlling, Innerer Dienst und HaushaltsführungAmt der Kärntner Landesregierung, Abt. 1 - Kompetenzzentrum Landesamtsdirektion, Uabt. Wirkungsrechnung- und Controlling in cooperation with <ul style="list-style-type: none">KWF - Kärntner, Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds, Projektcontrolling
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks (Audit Authority and Audit Body)	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia, Budget Supervision Office of the RS Federal Chancellery of Austria, department IV/3 Financial Control of the ERDF
Monitoring Committee	The Monitoring Committee is composed of representatives of the national/regional level, the Managing Authority, the European Commission and other relevant public institutions and stakeholders.

* The contact data is available on the programme website.

For a better future

