



EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION
AUSTRIA-CZECH REPUBLIC 2007-2013
Gemeinsam mehr erreichen. Společně dosáhneme více.

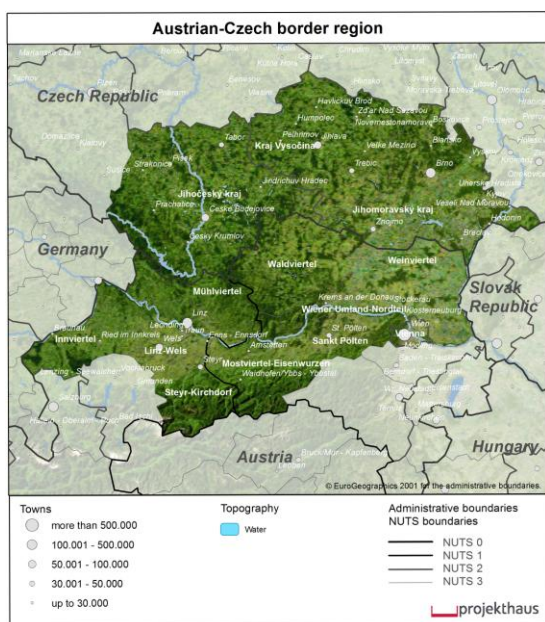
Operational Programme 2014 – 2020 – Public version

24th July 2014

The programme area

The following NUTS III regions form the Austrian-Czech border region: in Austria Mostviertel-Eisenwurzen, Sankt Pölten, Waldviertel, Weinviertel, Wiener Umland-Nordteil, Wien, Innviertel, Linz-Wels, Mühlviertel, Steyr-Kirchdorf; in the Czech Republic Jihočeský kraj, Kraj Vysočina, Jihomoravský kraj.

Map: Programme Region



The contribution of the programme to the EU 2020 strategy

The European Territorial Cooperation programmes should contribute to the overall – economic, social and territorial – cohesion of the EU. They are intended to complement the European mainstream programmes such as “rural development” or “investment for growth and jobs” programmes. They aim to strengthen cooperation structures in defined areas linked to activity fields of given priorities, they want to create a common identity, an integrated physical space, a balanced development and improved and harmonized policies and governance structures.

Thus the programme contributes also to the specifications in the Position Papers for Austria and the Czech Republic where the development of a stronger coherence with programmes under the 'investment for growth and jobs' goal and other EU or national programmes in order to exploit synergies for interventions in different thematic areas.

Following the orientation of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Territorial Agenda 2020 and taking into account the specific characteristics and challenges analyzed for the Austrian-Czech border region the main elements of the programme's strategy are:

- Strengthening the existing co-operation and communication structures and the institutional capacities
- Developing an innovative and skill oriented economic and social system
- Securing the regional, social and cross border accessibility in regard to jobs, housing, public and private services, innovation and know-how, natural and cultural assets

- Strengthening the regional economies' resilience to climate risks
- Improving the quality of the natural and cultural resources
- Harmonising the (regional) legal and institutional framework

Taking into account the goals, the existing disparities and the diversity in this border region the chosen strategic approach leads to a concentration of the programme on four thematic objectives to support a regional development process based on

- knowledge, research and innovation, integration SMEs into the innovation system and the establishment of systems for cross-border information exchange
- a green and more resource-efficient and competitive economy, including cross-border mobility and taking into account the impacts of climate change.
- the preservation and development of the natural and cultural heritage as main elements to strengthen sustainable tourism as part of a territorial strategy aimed at achieving employment-friendly growth;
- ecological stability and an improved ecosystem
- the development of the administrative capacity and strengthen the cross-border cooperation structures

The thematic objectives (TOs) are:

- TO 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- TO 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
- TO 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
- TO 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration
- Technical Assistance (TA)

The overall programme budget amounts EUR 115.076.394 with an ERDF contribution of EUR 97.817.933. The cross border programme is to be understood as a supplement to the national and regional programmes for investment for growth and jobs and the ESF programme focusing on common and cross border specific activities. This approach is expressed in the allocation of the financial means for thematic objective 1 and 10 where about 26,2 Mio Euro corresponding to app. 26,7 % of the total ERDF budget is for seen.

Programme structure

TO1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	TO 6: Environment and Resources	TO 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure	TO 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services
<p><u>IP 1a</u> Enhancing R&I infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest</p> <p><u>IP 1b</u> Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector,</p>	<p><u>IP 6 c</u> Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage</p> <p><u>IP 6 d:</u> Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services including through Natura2000, and green infrastructure</p> <p><u>IP 6 f:</u> Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution</p>	<p><u>IP 10b</u> Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing and implementing joint education, vocational training and training schemes</p>	<p><u>IP 11</u> Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions</p>

PRIORITY AXES

Priority axis 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Investment Priority 1a:

Enhancing R&I infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence in particular those of European interest

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Within this investment priority and with the aim to reach the specific objective, following types of activities as examples will be realized:

- a) Preparatory studies and planning activities for investments in R&I infrastructure which will be jointly used/shared by cooperating R&I institutions from both sides of the border
- b) Investments in new jointly used/shared R&I facilities or extension and modernisation of technology facilities, research capacities, laboratories which are of regional/cross border interest
- c) Supporting concrete joint cross-border R&I activities (projects) using existing R&I capacities on one and/or the other side of the border with the aim to realize economies of scale and by joint use to increase utilisation of existing capacities, instead of purchasing similar capacities on both sides of the border and fostering the preparation of the implementation of results.

Types of beneficiaries

- public and private R&I institutions
- universities and universities of applied sciences and studies
- public authorities (state, regions, municipalities and their organisations)
- actors in the non-profit sector

Investment Priority 1b:

Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Within the investment priority following types of activity will be supported:

- a) Joint research projects, technology transfer and know-how transfer between research/technology institutions and businesses (incl. necessary R&I equipment)

- b) Systemic measures to facilitate enterprises (primarily SMEs) in joining the innovation system and using results of regional R&I system (incl. specific services in R&I sector - intermediation of information, contacts, consultancy and other assistance to enterprises (primarily SMEs) aiming at their increased innovativeness)
- c) Promoting networking and cooperation activities among research institutions, education/research institutions, universities and businesses.
- d) Support will be provided to networking and cooperative actions that enable enterprises (primarily SMEs) to use results of R&I, increase their innovativeness and support them in entering the innovation system.

Types of beneficiaries

- enterprises
- public and private R&I institutions
- universities and universities of applied sciences
- public authorities (state, regions, municipalities, and their organisations)
- non-profit actors
- chambers and associations

Priority Axis 2: Environment and Resources

Investment priority 6c:

Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Supported actions within this Investment Priority may target the following areas (types of actions):

- a) Systemic measures of common character (e.g. studies, strategies, plans, systematic promotional activities) in the field of preservation, development and utilization of cultural / natural heritage
- b) Reconstruction, recovery and promotion of cultural / natural sights and monuments
- c) Preservation, development and promotion of the cross-border region's intangible cultural heritage
- d) Support the utilization of the cultural/natural heritage potential by investment in sustainable (public) touristic infrastructure and information facilities
- e) Reconstruction, upgrading and improving transport infrastructure and management of traffic flows in context with touristic locations and with the need to improve accessibility of existing cultural and natural heritage

Types of beneficiaries

- public and private R&I institutions
- universities and universities of applied sciences
- public authorities (state, municipalities, regions and their organisations)
- non-profit actors involved in protection, management and promotion of cultural and natural heritage
- chambers and associations

Investment priority 6d:

Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services including through Natura2000, and green infrastructure

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Following types of actions will be promoted:

- a) Investments in Green infrastructure, i.e. natural and landscape elements that are contributing to:
 - The prevention of flooding and/or water retention (such as floodplain restoration, wetlands, re-naturalizing rivers and river banks etc.),
 - The adaptation to climate change or the mitigation of negative effects (incl. measures dealing with droughts),
 - An easier migration of species in the joint region (artificial landscape elements etc.)

- b) Coordinated preparation and/or implementation of NATURA 2000 and other concepts for protected areas and other measures supporting the preservation of biodiversity
- c) Preparation and implementation of joint cross border mechanisms – like researches, studies, strategies, plans, coordinated management approaches, awareness raising and education activities and other structural cooperative measures in the field of nature and landscape protection and utilization

Types of beneficiaries

- public and private R&I institutions
- universities and universities of applied sciences
- public authorities (state, municipalities, regions and their organisations)
- non-profit actors involved in protection, management and promotion of environment
- chambers and associations involved in protection, management and promotion of environment

Investment priority 6f: Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Following types of actions will be supported:

- Realization of cooperation pilot projects for testing and implementing innovative technologies and approaches to improve environmental protection in joint region (e.g. waste management)
- Innovative projects realized cross-border that focus on energy efficiency incl. implementation of low-energy solutions (management plans, pilot actions, know-how and good practice transfer etc.).
- Research, studies, strategies, plans and other mechanisms realized cross-border to promote innovative technologies and approaches in the field of environment protection and resource efficiency

Types of beneficiaries

- public and private R&I institutions
- universities and universities of applied sciences
- public authorities (state, municipalities, regions and their organisations)
- non-profit actors involved in protection, management and promotion of environment
- chambers and associations

Priority axis Human resources development

Investment Priority 10:

Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing and implementing joint education, vocational training and training schemes

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Within the IP and with the aim to reach the specific objective, following types of activities as examples may be realized:

- d) Adaption of educational conditions/systems to the economic and cultural needs of joint region (meeting the needs of labour market etc.)
- e) Actions to support harmonisation of the vocational education system for meeting the needs of joint labour market (e.g. joint schemes to support long-term traineeship of students in companies across the border - "Dual education")
- f) Development and implementation of common systemic measures and jointly realised programmes in the field of education in form of:
 - study plans/curricula,
 - student and staff exchange,
 - preparing basic principles for harmonization and acceptance of qualifications,
 - specialised bilateral trainings schemes
 - language learning

The types of envisaged interventions cover studies and expertise, planning activities, as well as investment in infrastructure, equipment and facilities (under conditions given as specific selection criteria).

Types of beneficiaries

- educational institutions
- universities and universities of applied sciences
- public authorities (state, regions, municipalities, and their organisations)
- non-profit actors involved in education
- chambers and associations

Priority axis: Sustainable networks and institutional co-operation

Investment Priority 11:

Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions

Actions to be supported under the investment priority

Within the investment priority and with the aim to reach the specific objective the following types of activities may be realized:

- a) Fostering the cooperation of municipalities, cities and regions and other institutions within public sector
- b) Strengthening of networks (esp. of NGOs) on local/regional level and fostering the potential to extend cooperation with clear cross border approach and targets
- c) Fostering small scale integration, cooperation between citizens and institutions and other local cohesion activities (SPF).

Such a special funds may be established to support cooperative activities and cross-border exchange between local people and local and regional initiatives and institutions in the field of social, cultural regional integration and development for better mutual understanding and the development of a common regional identity.

Examples of concrete areas/activities within above mentioned types:

- Joint social, cultural and other similar cooperation activities contributing to mutual understanding and cohesion in cross border area
- Systemic cooperation of educational and labour market institutions
- Cooperation activities in the field of transport - measures for better coordination and harmonization of public transport operation in the cross-border region, measures for coordination of transport network development etc.
- Cooperation activities of bodies responsible for risk management
- Cooperation activities of schools and others educational institutions (mutual meetings, activities for children etc.)
- Other cooperation measures in the field of public services and activities of public interest

Types of beneficiaries

- public authorities (state, regions, municipalities, and their organisations)
- non-profit actors
- chambers and associations
- public and private R&I institutions
- educational institutions
universities and universities of applied science