

Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the Hungary-Croatia
IPA Cross-Border Co-operation Programme
2007-2013

Non-technical summary

(according to Annex 4 of the 2/2005 Government Decree
and Annex I(j) of the 2001/42/EC Directive)

Table of contents

I. Introduction and background	3
II. The relevant SEA framework.....	3
III. Short summary of the program analysed	4
IV. Methodology of Strategic Environmental Assessment.....	6
IV. Overview of the SEA and partnership process.....	8
IV.1. Milestones of the SEA process:.....	8
IV.2. The SEA and its partnership process.....	8
V. Analysis, major findings and recommendations of the strategic environmental assessment.....	10
V.1. Current state of environment	10
V.2. General evaluation of the Programme	11
V.3. Detailed evaluation and findings	11
V.4. Transboundary effects.....	14
V.5. Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the programme	15
VI. The SEA monitoring and follow-up measures	18

I. Introduction and background

In order to facilitate the application of the sustainability and environmental aspects, as well as to comply with legal regulations (Directive 2001/42/EC – hereafter Directive – and its national adaptation, Hungarian Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11.) – hereafter Government Decree), strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for the *Hungary–Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme* (hereafter Programme) have been commissioned by the National Development Agency. The objective of the environmental assessment was to foster the integration and application of environmental and complex sustainability aspects during the preparation process into the Programme. During the SEA process, special emphasis has been put on consultations and communication with partners as well as on the presentation of partners' ideas to planners. The SEA was carried out by an independent evaluator, the Respect Ltd.

This document summarizes the conclusions concerning the SEA of the *Hungary–Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme*. The aim of the SEA was to improve quality and consistency of the Programme, especially in a sustainability context by transferring the feedbacks from professionals and stakeholders to programme planners. SEA is a useful tool to highlight potential positive environmental impacts of a program and hinder measures that might be harmful for the environment, so SEA can improve the Programme's environmental outcome.

The strategic environmental assessment has the following main features:

- search for the main environmental impacts;
- strategic focus: carried out for programs, plans, policies;
- method based and process oriented, tailored to the subject of assessment;
- iterative process;
- has influence on decision-making process in the whole programming process;
- improves transparency of assessment and planning process, by ensuring public participation in decision-making;
- considers the implementation of programs, too, not just focuses at the planning;
- results of the SEA is documented in an Environmental Report;
- key instrument to ensure sustainable development (SD).

In this non-technical summary, we present an overview about the methodology and process of the strategic environmental assessment, highlight the SEA's main findings and recommendations. We summarize then how environmental considerations, the opinions expressed and results of evaluating potential transboundary effects were taken into account and have been integrated into the Programme. Moreover, this section summarises the measures decided upon for monitoring significant environmental impact.

II. The relevant SEA framework

The strategic environmental assessment of the *Hungary–Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme* was planned and carried out in line with the 2001/42/EC Directive (that defines and introduces strategic environmental assessment and introduces it into the planning process of programmes supported by EU Funds) and its national adaptation, the Hungarian Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11.).

EC 42/2001 SEA Directive:

aims “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development” (Article 1).

These objectives are to be achieved by:

ensuring first, that “an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment” (Article 1) and second, that the “effects of implementing [these] plans and programmes are taken into account during their preparation and before their adoption” (Preamble, paragraph 4).

III. Short summary of the program analysed

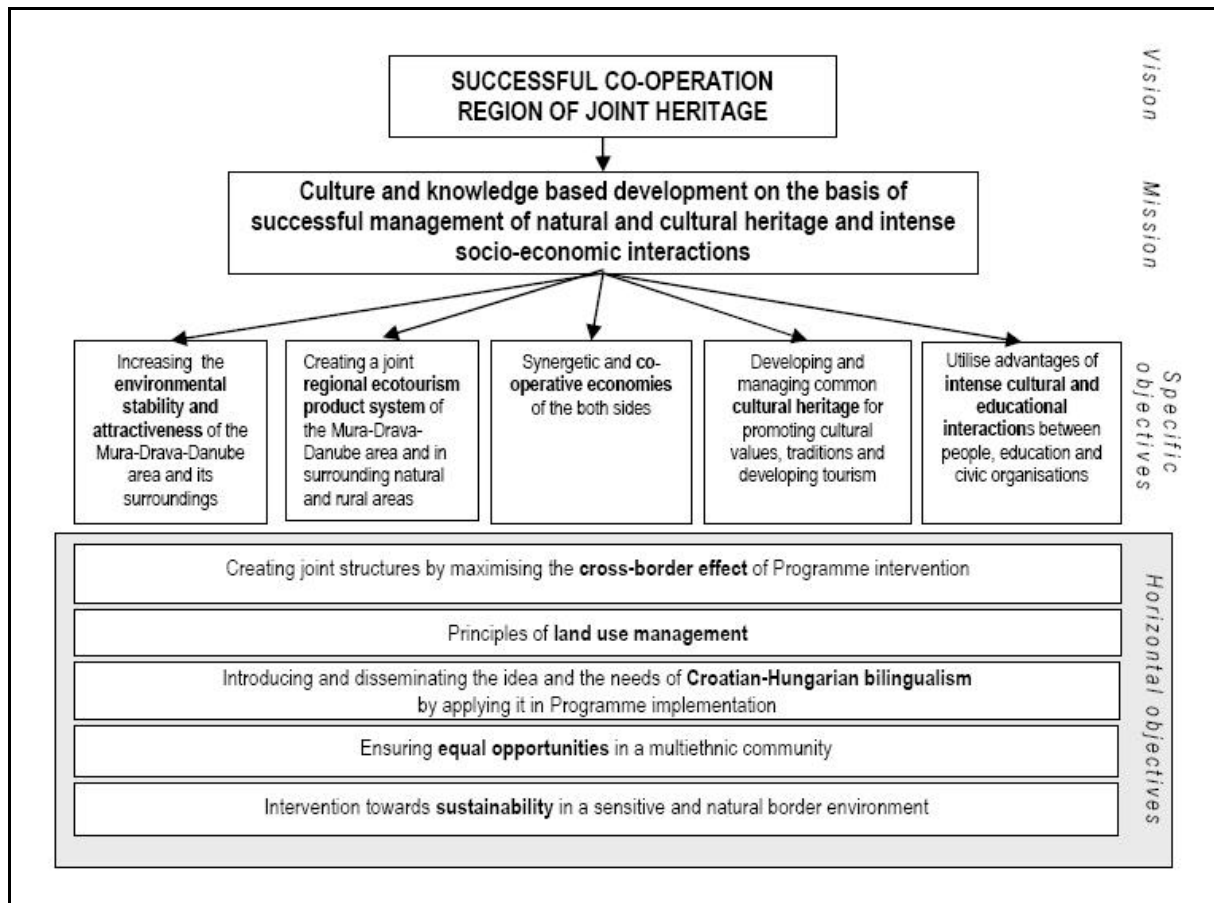
The *Hungary–Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme* will be implemented within the 2007-2013 European Union financial framework. This strategic document is based on joint strategic planning effort of the Croatian and Hungarian parties and has been negotiated with the European Commission before its approval. The *Hungary–Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme* will be operating between 2007 and 2013 as an IPA Programme (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance). According to the Council’s Regulation No. 1085/2006 and to the Commission Regulation (EC) 718/2007 this new instrument for pre-accession assistance provides financial resource both for candidate (Croatia, Turkey, FYR of Macedonia) and potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro) in the 2007-2013 budgetary period 2007-2013. Assistance will be used to support both the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire*; and the preparation for the implementation and management of the Community's common policies.

The assistance is implemented through five components:

- Transition Assistance and Institution Building;
- Cross-Border Co-operation (CBC);
- Regional Development;
- Human Resources Development;
- Rural Development.

The CBC component has the objective of promoting good neighbourly relations, fostering stability, security and prosperity in the mutual interest of all countries concerned, and of encouraging their harmonic, balanced and sustainable development. Croatia is going to cooperate among others with Hungary within the framework of a common programme based on a joint institutional background. The two countries lay down their strategic development priorities in a joint programming document. Common financial resources available in the Programme will be used within a framework of an open call system. Implementation of the Programme will be carried out in joint structure through common projects and joint decision making.

The following chart presents the strategy of the *Hungary–Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme*.



The strategy will be implemented through 2 specific priorities. The implementation of the Programme will be assisted by the 3rd priority, called “Technical Assistance”.

Priority 1 - Sustainable Environment and Tourism

The aim of this priority is to foster environmental sustainability and safety in the border region, as well as the complex eco-tourism development of the Mura-Drava-Danube River Area and its immediate surroundings, in order to create a joint eco-tourism product through sustaining rich natural and cultural heritage.

Priority 2 – Co operative Economy and Intercommunity Human Resource Development

The aim of this priority is to facilitate economic ties, including business contacts, cross-border employment opportunities and cross-border research, development and innovation activities. The priority will also promote the establishment of common educational and cultural connections, as well as bilingualism in the Croatian-Hungarian border region. Activities in this priority will support local actors re-building the ties in the border region to create organic, coherent and vibrant socio-economic relations.

Priority 3 – Technical Assistance

The aim of this priority is to assure the successful operation of the Programme and to contribute to effective project generation, project selection and project implementation, thus increasing the quality of projects funded from the Programme. Priority 3 contributes to achieving all five specific objectives due to assuring successful operation of the Programme.

IV. Methodology of Strategic Environmental Assessment

The SEA method was based on two different approaches, which focused on the main aspects of the assessment process. These complimentary approaches were as follows:

1. The general review of the Programme (programme document) with environment focused ex-ante evaluation questions targeting on the relevance, coherence (linkages to other programming documents), consistency (clear and logical structure within the document), and result and impacts of the Programme.

2. Analysis of the Programme (programme document) based on 11 sustainable development principles listed in Annex 1 of the Directive (grouped in 8 categories) with special attention to the criteria for determining the significance of effects listed in Annex 2 of the Directive. The factors considered are:

I. Biodiversity, flora, fauna	This factor includes measures for the conservation of the diversity of habitats, of endangered species of flora and fauna, of natural values, of ecological networks embracing bio-geographic regions, as well as those concerning the preservation of the diversity of the biosphere, respectively the consideration of the protection of ecosystems and of the principle of sustainable development with natural resources.
II. Population and human health	This factor includes the moderation of effects endangering the population's economic and social quality of life and health status. The objectives include the reduction of number of diseases retraceable to environmental effects by restraining the pollution of environmental elements, as well as by spreading environmental aware behaviour and approach.
III. Soil	This factor includes activities related to the moderation of processes generating the (usually adverse) modification of the soil's mechanic and chemical structure, as well as activities for prevention of erosion and deflation, as the two biggest mechanic soil exhaustion processes, as well as soil acidification and salinisation, as the two most important chemical soil exhaustion processes.

IV. Water	<p>In case of the status and protection of waters we will consider the following detailed aspects:</p> <p>Development of waste water disposal and treatment, complex water protection investments, improvement of the oxygen and nutrient balance and water quality determined for flowing and still waters.</p> <p>In case of subsurface waters the reduction of polluting effects of endangering sources, furthermore, the matter of securing actual and potential drinking water resources in vulnerable environment. The reduction of concentration of natural materials in drinking water.</p> <p>Flood control, river and lake regulation, drainage and local water damage prevention. Implementation of technical interventions and developments for prevention of water damages.</p>
V. Air and climatic factors	<p>This factor includes measures taken against the qualitative status of the air and climatic factors: reduction of concentration of air-polluting materials emitted in large quantities - sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon-monoxide, carbon-dioxide and particulate matter; moderation and elimination of temporarily occurring pollution cases above the limit values lasting longer and occurring more frequently; the moderation of effects causing global air pollution through the combustion of fossil fuels, certain industrial and agricultural activities, and the application of substances causing greenhouse effect and ozone depletion.</p>
VI. Material assets and cultural heritage	<p>This factor includes measures taken against the damage caused by environment pollution in human establishments, material assets, as well as in buildings of the cultural heritage, monuments, museums, etc. (causing intellectual and financial loss for the society).</p>
VII. Landscape	<p>This factor includes measures affecting the establishment of a uniform landscape, taken for the rehabilitation of areas deteriorated mainly from the point of view of environment protection, for new, anthropogenic activities integrated in the nature, as well as for the realization of traditional farming types (grazing livestock holding, pasture management).</p>
VIII. Interrelationship between factors 1-7	<p>This factor includes the analytical cases in which the joint, inseparable effect of two or more factors of factors 1-7 have to be considered.</p>

The analysis of certain objectives and priorities of the Programme has been completed in accordance with the Directive according to the factors above, taking into account the probability, duration, frequency, reversibility, extent and spatial extension (including their cross-border effect) of the effects. The SEA framework and sustainable development criteria are in line with ones laid down in the National Sustainable Development Strategy as well.

IV. Overview of the SEA and partnership process

IV.1. Milestones of the SEA process:

- Task Force Meeting, (31st January, 2007) Budapest– SEA team presented the SEA framework, scope and methodology to Programme planners and stakeholders
- Preparation of SEA scope and methodology (January - February, 2007);
- Partnership consultation of SEA Scoping (February,2007) – the opportunity was offered to official and NGO-partners to express their opinions and recommendations concerning the scope of SEA (documents were accessible for everyone on the homepages of National Development Agency and VÁTI Kht);
- SEA consultation in Pécs (2nd March, 2007) – organized for a wider range of stakeholders (official and civil partners) offering an extra opportunity to exchange information directly
- Partnership consultation of SEA report and the related Programme document (March, 2007) – the opportunity was offered to official and NGO-partners and wider public to express and submit their opinions and recommendations concerning the SEA report and the related Programme document (documents were accessible for all at the homepages of National Development Agency and VÁTI Kht)
- Task Force meeting (7th March, 2007, Osijek) – first SEA results and considerations were presented to planners and feedback from planners and stakeholders were gathered
- Communication of the conclusions and recommendations of the SEA report to Programme planners (April, 2007);
- Final environmental report – 27th June, 2007.
- Programme submitted to European Commission: 12th July, 2007.

IV.2. The SEA and its partnership process

The scope and methodology of the SEA report was prepared in line with Annex 4 of the Government Decree and Annex 1 of the Directive. The scope document of SEA was made available for official partners (ministries, national and regional authorities stipulated by Annex 3 of the Government Decree), as well as for non-governmental associations and chambers and they could express and submit their opinions related to the scoping for the SEA team (according to Article 7 of the Government Decree).

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_13733

