# Information Days of the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Programme 2021-2027







### **Topics For Today (1)**

- 1. General information about the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Programme 2021-2027
- 2. Overview of the first Call for Proposals
- 3. Eligibility of a) organisations, b) activities (with indicators) and c) expenditure
- 4. Content of the application package





### **Topics For Today (2)**

- 5. Submission of applications
- 6. Project assessment and selection
- 7. Communication requirements towards projects
- 8. Q & A session





### 1. The Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Programme 2021-2027





### Project, CBJointStrategy'(1)

- Agreement of Managing Authority and HR National Authority:
   a strategic project should manage a) evaluation of old
   programme and b) planning of new programme.
- MC approval for 'CBJointStrategy' in May 2019
- Project duration: September 2019 April 2023





### Project, CBJointStrategy'(2)

- Sole Beneficiary: Pannon European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation
- Internal staff + external experts
- Outputs: (programme evaluation) + detailed situation analysis + joint development strategy + 5 complex strategic project ideas.





### Timeline (1)

- 2020, January: 1st **Programming Committee (PC)** meeting
- [2020, March: worldwide **COVID** outbreak]
- 2020, October: approval of situation analysis by PC
- 2020, November: **,orientation paper'** shared with PC





### Timeline (2)

- 2021, March: 2<sup>nd</sup> PC meeting, approving situation analysis and proposed Priorities of the IP
- 2021, November: extending PC with sectoral actors and NGOs operating in the planned Priorities
- 2022, March: 3<sup>rd</sup> PC meeting, approving draft IP
- 2022, April 1 (deadline): first submission of IP to the European Commission (EC)





### Timeline (3)

- 2022, May: approval of Strategic Environmental Report (SEA) by the PC
- 2022, second part and 2023, first part: bilateral meetings to agree on the programme's management structure
- 2023, November: 4<sup>th</sup> (last) PC meeting, approving the finalised IP document





### Timeline (4)

- 2023, December: **second IP submission** to EC
- 2024, January: handling of EC observations / comments
- 2024, March: **third submission** to EC
- 2024, March 21: official approval of the IP





### Interreg VI-A HU-HR Programme

- Total of 58 million EUR of EU contribution available
- 5 Priority Objectives:
  - Competitive border region (9,23 mEUR)
  - Greener and low-carbon border region (14,23 mEUR)
  - Connected border region (9,5 mEUR)
  - Inclusive border region (19,7 mEUR)
  - Cooperating border region (3,14 mEUR)
- Changed institutional setup concerning Managing Authority, National Authorities, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority.





### OSI-s

- Next to open call also Operations of Strategic Importance
- Agreed by the two Member States before submitting the IP
- 1 in Priority 1 continuation of the **Beneficiary Light Scheme** of the 2014-2020 programme.
- 2 in Priority 2 Geo Building, and Mosquitolab
- 3 in Priority 3 new border crossing roads at Sárok/Kneževo,
   Zákány/Gotalovo and detailed planning of the Mura-bridge at Murakeresztúr/Kotoriba
- 1 in Priority 4 Amazon of Europe Bike Trail
- **0** in Priority 5





## 2. Overview of the First Call for Proposals (CfP)





### **Information Days**

- Scheduled for the **second half of September** and covering the **eastern** and the **western part of the programme area** alike. (4 locations in the border region, always serving the potential applicants of 2-2 counties.)
- Published on the following website: <a href="http://www.huhr-cbc.com/en/news/information-days-announced/344">http://www.huhr-cbc.com/en/news/information-days-announced/344</a>
- In HU: Sept 17 Pécs, Sept 18 Kaposvár, Sept 24 –
   Zalaegerszeg
- In HR: Sept 16 Osijek, Sept 19 Križevci, Sept 23 –
   Virovitica, Sept 25 Čakovec





### **Partner Search Forum**

- 1 Partner Search Forum will be organised for the whole border region and for all Specific Objectives.
  - Date: 24 September 2024,
  - Location: Zalaegerszeg, the venue of the Information Day for the Zala County information day,
  - Timing: **14.00 16.00** (Starts with a lunch for all participants at **13.00** on the spot.)
- Please consider bringing well prepared project ideas which you are ready, and concisely present them to the audience, in English language.





### First Call for Proposals

- Published / launched in the frame of the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 on 2 September 2024 on the following website: <a href="http://www.huhr-cbc.com/">http://www.huhr-cbc.com/</a>
- INTERREG+ access FO: <a href="https://huhr.interregplus.eu/21-27">https://huhr.interregplus.eu/21-27</a>
- Submission deadline: 29 November 2024, 12.00 CET according to the system's clock.





### **First CfP Basic Information (1)**

- Reference number of the CfP: HUHR/2401
- **Programme and financing source**: Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Programme 2021-2027, approved by EC Decision C(2024) 1989 on 21 March 2024
- **Eligible applicants** to the 1st CfP:
  - public authorities,
  - bodies governed by public law,
  - non-profit organisations governed by private law.
- For a detailed description please consult Chapter 3.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants (GfA).





### First CfP Basic Information (2)

• Eligible area: Supported projects are required to be implemented within the eligible area of the Programme:

HUNGARY	CROATIA
1. Zala County	Međimurska County
2. Somogy County	2. Koprivničko-križevačka County
3. Baranya County	3. Virovitičko-podravska County
	4. Osječko-baranjska County
	5. Varaždinska County
	6. Bjelovarsko-bilogorska County
	7. Požeško-slavonska County
	8. Vukovarsko-srijemska County





### **First CfP Basic Information (3)**

- For the detailed description of the eligible activities please consult the document 'Eligibility of Activities'.
- Tourism Handbook: Important that project sizes + duration of projects are not relevant anymore for this CfP!
- Reason of including the document is the definition of Zone B
  within the eligible programme area. The Regional Tourism
  Product Plan has established this zone, and the programme
  planners 2021-2027 have also kept it.





### Language of the Call

- The language of the CfP and of the project proposals is **English.** (Subsidy Contract and Partnership Agreement will also be in English.)
- Exceptions are **certain supporting documents:** they are to be submitted in the **national languages** (Hungarian or Croatian), depending on the nationality of the Lead Partner / Project Partner (**see Chapter 6.2.1 of the Guidelines**), e.g. extract from register, establishing document, certain documents related to works components etc.





### Financial Setup of the CfP

- The indicative amount of the EU contribution for the second CfP to be applied for: 26.324.825 EUR.
- Matching state contribution depends on Member State and type of institution.
- Own contribution:
  - HU: 0-5% for Project Partners, depending on the category (see GfA, Chapter 2.2);
  - **HR: 20%** for both private and public entities state contribution is not available at the moment of publishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP inside the framework of the programme.





### Use of the Euro

- The budget of the project has to be planned in EUR.
- Project Reports are submitted using the Euro.
- The EU contribution is reimbursed to the Lead Partner in EUR.
- Eventual exchange rate risks are borne by the Hungarian LP/PP concerned.





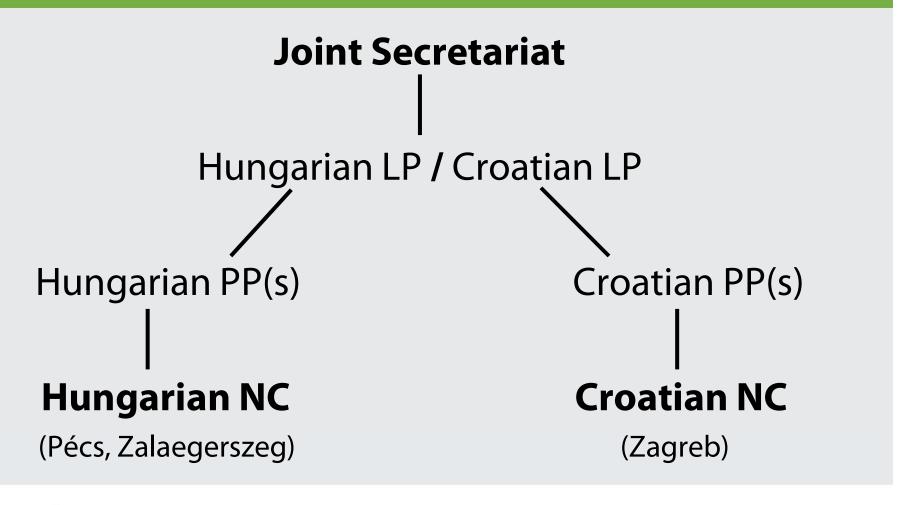
### Contracting, Reporting, Payment

- 1 Subsidy Contract with the MA for the EU contribution of the entire project
- 4-month reporting periods (to HU and HR National Controllers) – a post-financing system!
- JS-MA: approval of Application for Reimbursement and via Body with accounting function (BAF) technical transfer of EU contribution to the LP
- the LP forwards EU contribution to the PP-s





### Setup of Implementation







## 3. Eligibility ofa) organisations,b) activities with indicatorsand c) costs





### **Eligibility Criteria (GfA 3.1)**

- Eligibility criteria are related to:
  - Legal status
  - Geographical location
  - Professional and financial background
- Exclusion criteria
- Criteria connected to the project partnership





### Nature of Eligible Organisations (1)

### **Important note:**

In line with the approved Interreg Programme (see indicative lists of potential PP-s under the description of each Specific Objective), Calls for Proposals within the programme's framework are open as a general rule to non-profit organisations coming from one of the two participating Member States.

This basic eligibility criterion will be closely observed throughout the submission process of applications and during project implementation in case of Priority 2, 4 and 5.





### Nature of Eligible Organisations (2)

### There are two exceptions to that rule:

- **Priority 1** (Economic Development Enhancing the competitiveness of **SME-s**), managed separately in the framework of an umbrella project (the ,B Light Scheme 2').
- for-profit business entities owned to a 100 per cent extent by the state, a regional or local government or another public non-profit organisation (such as state-owned forest companies of the border area) can be eligible in Priority 2, 4 and 5 – please consult in every case with the Joint Secretariat.





### **Legal Status**

**In general,** the following organisations are eligible to apply for the EU contribution:

- Public authorities,
- Bodies governed by public law (in line with Directive (EU) 24/2014),
- Non-profit organisations governed by private law.





### **Geographical Location – 11 Counties**

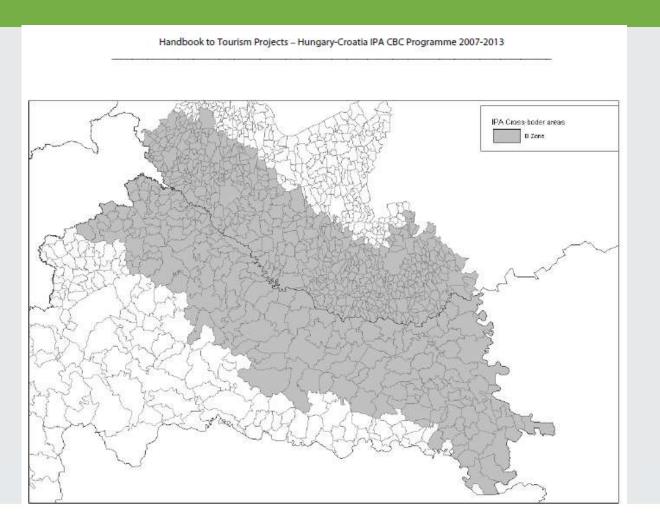






### **Geographical Location – in SO 4.1**

Developments should exclusively target municipalities located in Zone B as defined in the Handbook to Tourism Projects (it also includes zone C).





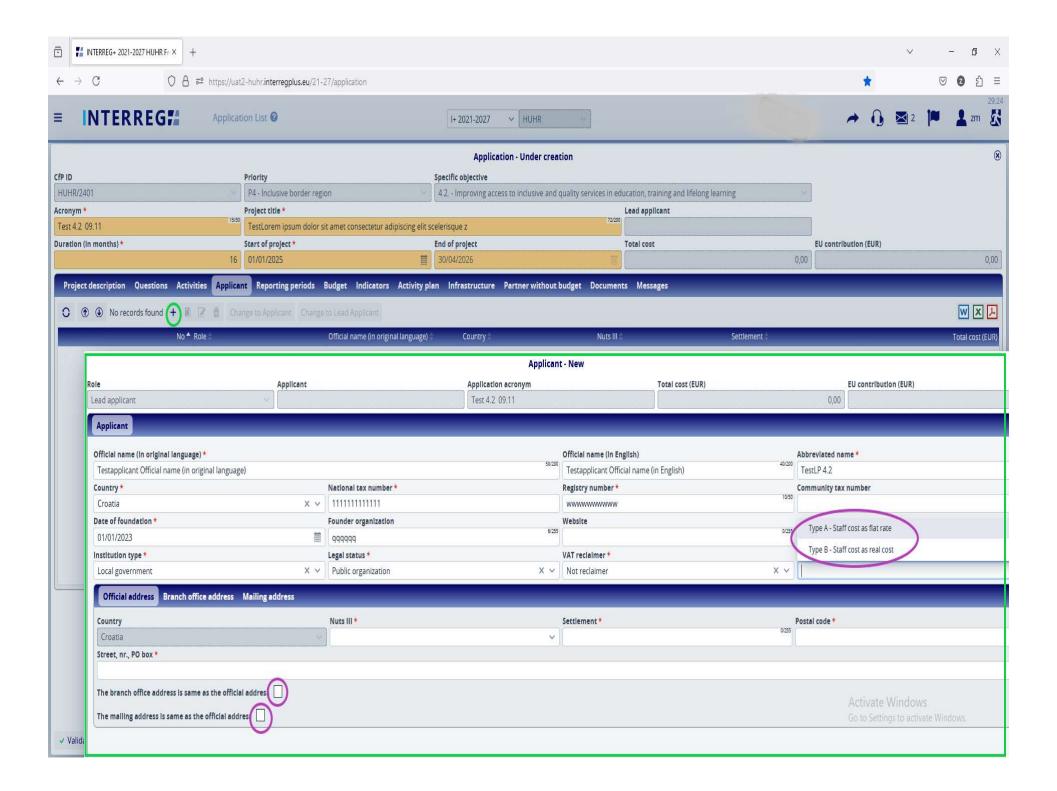


### If Headquarters **Not** in Eligible Area

- Basic rule: The headquarters of the organisation has to be in the eligible programme area.
- If the headquarters of the organisation is **not** registered in the eligible area, the existence of **a local/regional branch office** can justify the participation. (At least 1 year of operation!)
  - **a.** if the local/regional branch has legal personality then it should be the LP/PP;
  - **b.** if the local/regional branch is not a legal person then the national/regional organisation has to be the LP/PP.





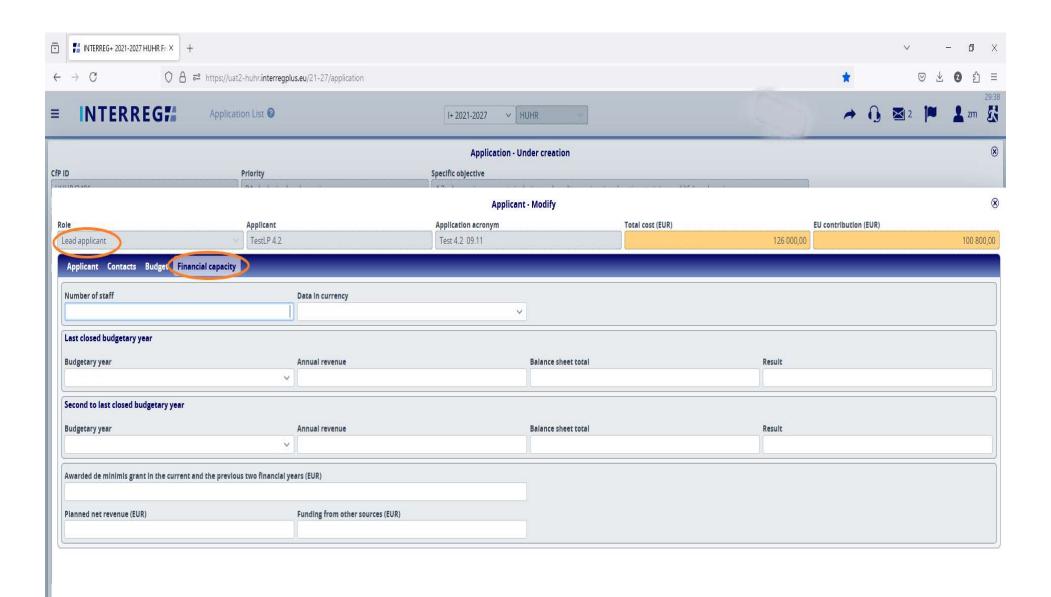


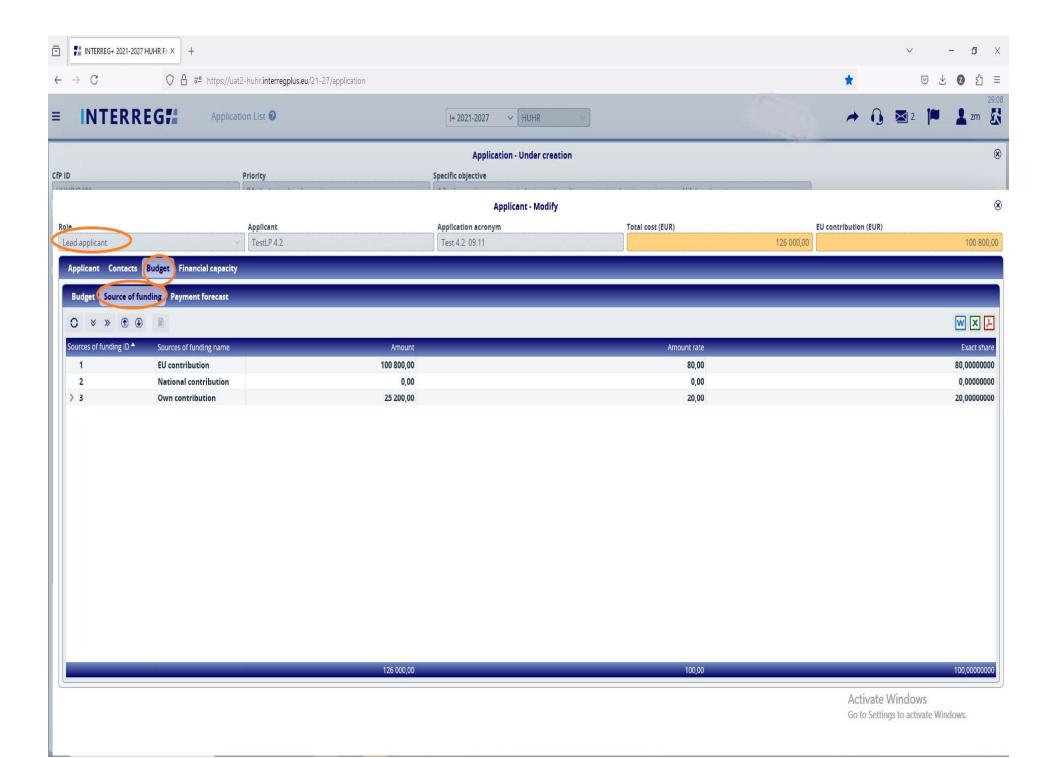
### **Professional-Financial Background**

- PP-s must be experienced and must prove their financial and administrative capacity to manage their share of activities in the planned project (ensuring pre-financing and own contribution, where relevant).
- PP-s have to have proper project management experience matching the scale of funding they are requesting from the present CfP.
- **Financial liquidity** of PP-s necessary due to the timeframe needed for the reimbursement of costs.
- **HU national co-financing** will this time be provided in one amount, but after the end of the project. (On the other hand, advance payment request for EU funding will be possible.)









### **Grounds for Exclusion**

- In general, for-profit legal entities (undertakings) such as bodies with industrial and/or commercial character are not eligible for support, nor are natural persons and individuals.
- Also, any member of the project partnership falling under any
  of the grounds for exclusion listed under Chapter 3.2 of the
  GfA part may not participate in the partnership or be awarded
  subsidy.





## **Project Partnership**

- **Basic** requirement for a cross-border project: **at least one** organisation from Hungary **and at least one** from Croatia.
- Possible roles in a project:
  - Lead Partner (LP),
  - Project Partner (PP).
- Partners without budget (former 'Supporting stakeholders') signed letter of support to the given PP (see GfA 3.3.3).





### The Lead Partner (1)

- One Lead Partner (LP) has to be nominated for each project:
  - represents and mediates the whole project towards the programme implementing structures;
  - concludes the Subsidy Contract for the EU contribution with the MA;
  - transfers the EU contribution to the other PP-s;
  - has professional and financial responsibility for the overall implementation of the project;



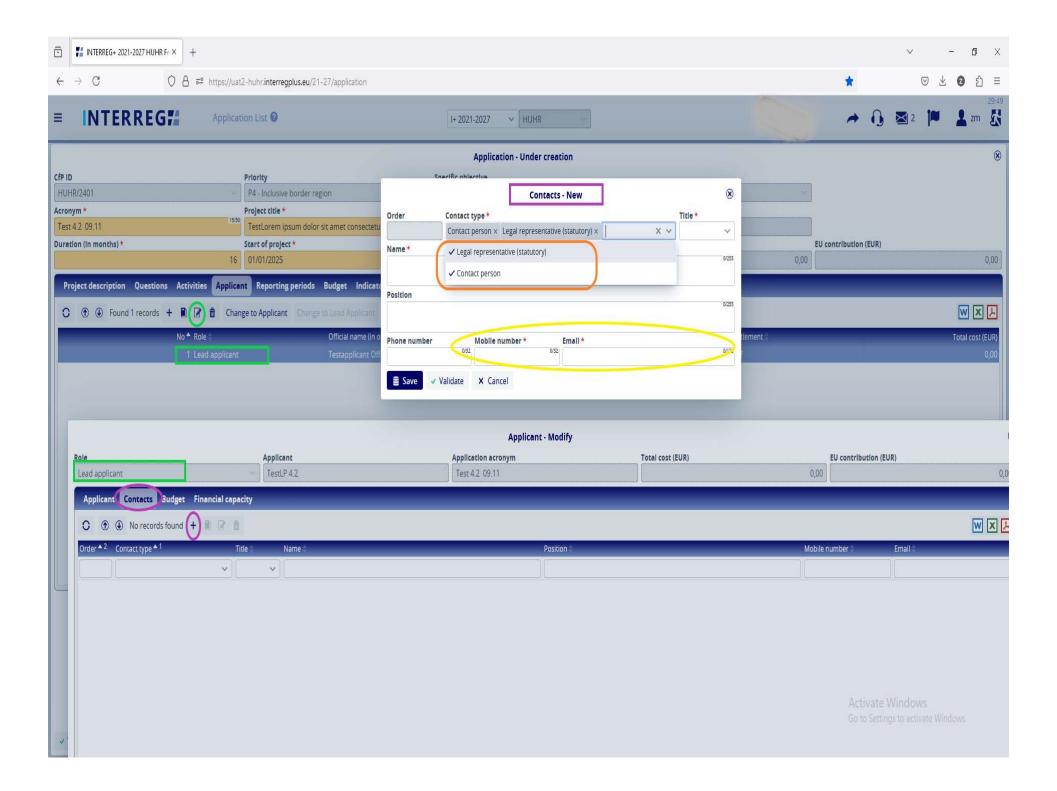


### **The Lead Partner (2)**

- has thus have to have the necessary human resources to coordinate the entire project;
- has to fill in and certify the Lead Partner statement, uploaded together with the application, taking on responsibilities in connection to the project and its partnership;
- will sign a Partnership Agreement with each PP if the project wins, and will submit it to the JS before contracting.





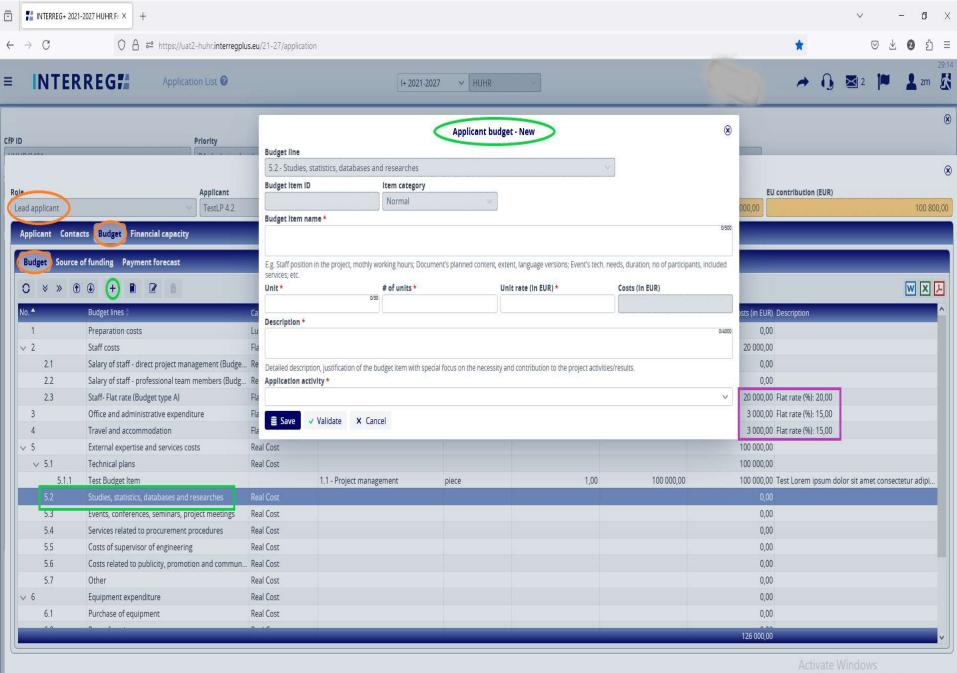


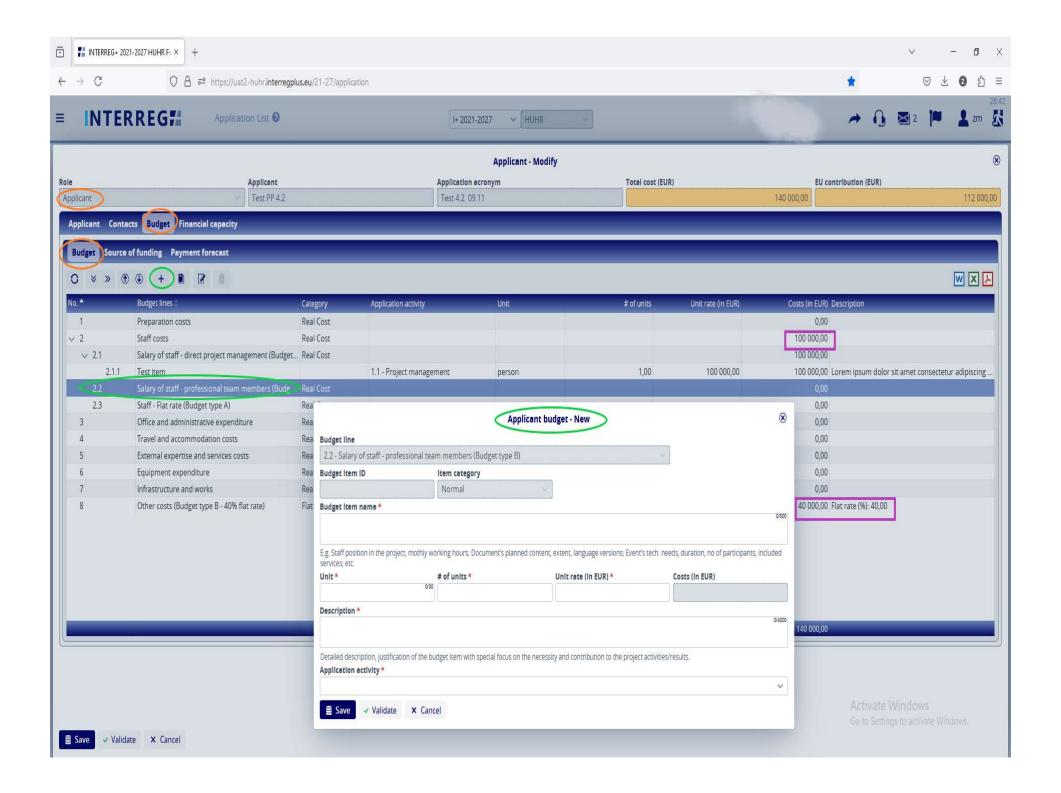
### **Balanced Partnership**

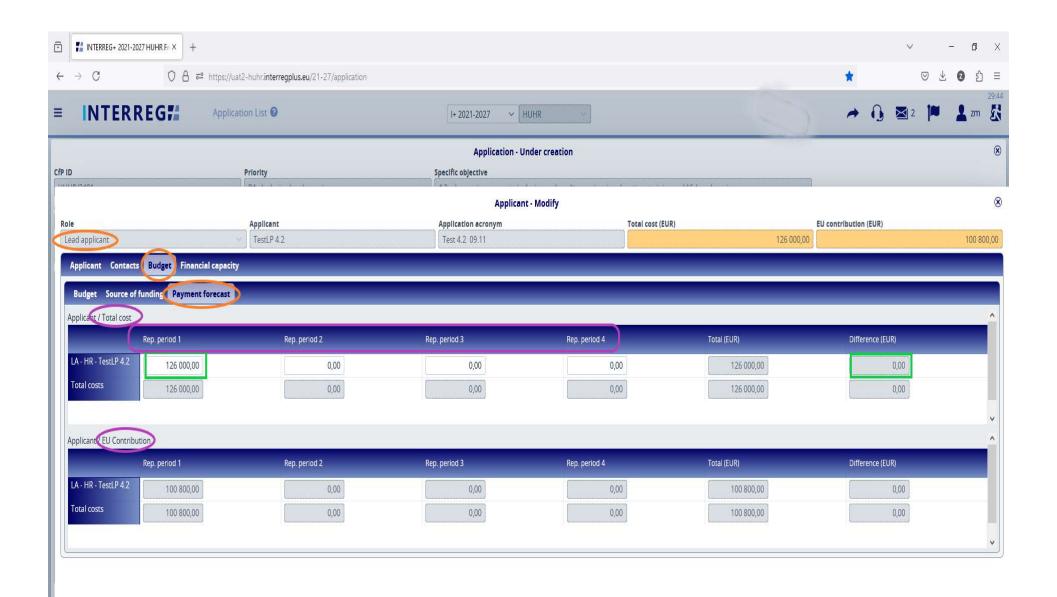
- Minimum setup: LP + at least one Cross-border PP.
- Maximum number of PP-s (together with LP) is eight (8).
- One organisation can be contracted in a maximum of five (5) projects.
- **Efficient division** of tasks and responsibilities (to carry out the implementation of project activities professionally)!
- Each PP is responsible for **irregularities** in its expenditures.
- Balanced funding necessary, to be planned proportionately to the planned activities.
- One-sided project partnerships will not receive funding.











# 3. b) Eligibility of activities





- Structure of the programme:
  - Priority 1 Competitive border region
  - Priority 2 Greener and low-carbon border region
  - Priority 3 Connected border region
  - Priority 4 Inclusive border region
  - Priority 5 / ISO Cooperating border region
- Different minimum and maximum sizes of subsidy, different project durations per Priority / Specific Objective.





- The document , Eligibility of Activities', part of the CfP package, describes the Specific Objectives in separate chapters.
- The lists of activities are indicative only, yet the activities of the LP-s / PP-s have to fit to the content of the SO.
- Important! A given project can either finance
  - the elaboration of construction plans or
  - the implementation of the construction of the coherent activities.





### **Eligibility of Activities**

Priorities and Specific Objectives (SOs)	Available EU contribution (ERDF €)		
Priority 2: Greener and Low-carbon Region			
SO 2.1: Energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions	3 684 000,00		
SO 2.4: Climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention, and resilience, using NBS	3 000 000,00		
Priority 4: Inclusive Border Region			
SO 4.6: Culture, sustainable tourism, social inclusion and social innovation	13 800 000,00		
SO 4.2: Education, LLL, on-line education and training	2 700 000,00		
Priority 5: Cooperating Border Region			
ISO 1b: Enhance efficient public administration	1 600 000,00		
ISO 1c: Build up mutual trust, encouraging people-to-people actions	1 540 825,00		
Total EU contribution (€):	26 324 825,00		





### **Amounts of EU contribution in SOs (ERDF)**

### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

<ul> <li>Soft projects (max. 24 months):</li> </ul>	120 000 – 280 000 EUR
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• With works (max. 24 months): 120 000 – 680 000 EUR

SO 2.4: **Climate change** (max. 24 months): 120 000 – 1 760 000 EUR

SO 4.6: **Sustainable tourism** (max. 24 months): 160 000 – 1 760 000 EUR

SO 4.2: **Education** (max. 18 months): 120 000 – 560 000 EUR

ISO 1b: **Public administration** (max. 18 months): 80 000 – 240 000 EUR

ISO 1c: **People-to-people** (max. 12 months): 40 000 – 160 000 EUR





### **SO 2.1:** Promoting **energy efficiency** and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

#### Main goals:

- A more energy efficient (EE) border region
- To reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emission
- Applying local renewable energy resources (RES)
- Increasing energy consciousness
- Fostering e-mobility
- Focus: energy refurbishment of <u>public buildings</u> such as heating/cooling systems and insulation etc.







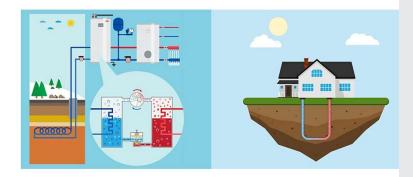




### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

- Analytical activities (studies, databases)
- Educational and training activities (training materials, knowledge-transfer)
- Methodological activities (measurements, toolkits, guidelines, recommendations, building renovation passports)
- Awareness raising activities (promotional materials, events, study tours, scientific papers)











### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

### Refurbishment of public buildings, SOFT projects:

- Eligible activities for **investment preparatory** projects:
  - o Feasibility studies of public building energy refurbishments
  - Elaboration of Energy Certificate for the initial status of building(s)
  - Elaboration of Energy Calculations (HU) or Energy Audit
     Report (HR) for the planned status of building(s)
  - Elaboration of construction plans, technical designs of energy refurbishments









### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

#### Refurbishment of public buildings, with WORKS projects:

- Eligible activities for **pilot investment** projects:
  - EE refurbishments (cooling/heating systems, insulation etc.)
  - Applying RES solutions tailor-made for the local energy needs and potentials (geothermal, solar)
  - Using high-tech smart metering

#### Integrated approach: combining EE refurbishment with RES!

Example: insulation + using heat pumps for heating/cooling +using solar panels for energy production for heat pumps + batteries for energy storage + using smart metering = integrated approach!







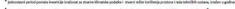


### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

### Main criteria towards SO 2.1 projects:

- · At least one joint methodological activity should be carried out
- · At least two awareness raising events should be organised
- For **soft projects** (investment preparatory projects):
  - at least one investment preparatory documentation for a public building on each side of the border (Energy Certificate or Energy Calculations (HU) or Energy Audit Report (HR) or construction plans or technical designs) should be elaborated

ener	getskom pregledu zgrade	za poboljšanje energetskih svojstava zgrade temeljem <i>Izvjei</i> rištenje zgrade vezano na ispunjenje temeljnog zahtjeva gos energetskih svojstava zgrade		•	
Redni broj	Element zgrade na koji se mjera odnosi	Opis mjera			JPP [a]
1.	Vanjska ovojnica zgrade	Rekonstrukcija vanjskih zidova izvedbom ETiCS sustava topi, izolacije na bazi min. vune 14 cm, J.max=0,036 W/mK, uz izvođenje izolacije im. topi, mostova i izvedou topi, izol. podnožja XPS-om			19,35
2.	Vanjska ovojnica zgrade	Zamjena postojeće drvene stolanje novom PVC stolanijom s ugrađenim dvostrukim izD stakkom Uwo 134 W/mZK (Usc 1.10 W/mZK)			50,00
3.	Vanjska ovojnica zgrade	One 1.5 vy/mc1 loge 1.0 vymc2.  Rekonstrukcije strope preme provjetravanom tavanu izvedbom topinske izolacije od mineralne vune debljine 20 cm, Amax20,036 W/mK na pod tavana uz postavljanje kišne brane i OSS ploča			3,95
4.	Sustav grijanja i PTV	Zemjena sustava grijanja na prirodni plin novim kondenzacijskim plinskim uređajem po dotrajalosti postojećeg, uz razmatranje uvođenja OIE			
5.	Sustav potrošnje el energije	Zamjena izvora svjetlosti učinkovitijima i nabava energetski učinkovitih kučanskih aparata razreda A ili više po dotrajalosti postojećih			
6.	Sustav potrošnje vode	Ugradnja periatora na slavine i novih vodokotića z funkcijom dvokoličinskog ispiranja po dotrajalosti postojećih			
7.	Kombinacija mjera A	Kombinacija građevinskih mjera A(1+2+3)		9,90	
8.					
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)pis pr	eporučene kombinacije mjera za p	oboljšanje energetskih svojstava zgrade	Potencijal razreda (Eprin) <sup>3</sup>	Potencijal smanjenja CO <sub>2</sub> [t/a] <sup>6</sup>	JPP [2]
Kombine	ocija građevinskih mjera A (1+2+3)		С	11,9	9,9
	scije mjere A obuhveće energetsku obnovo	one koje se odnose na troškovnu učinkovitost prijedloga m vanjske ovojnice – dijela koj nije toplinski izoliran. Uz procijenjenu inve nerpile, za zmanjenjem emislje 002 od 11,90 t/p; užtecama od 34.458.	sticiju od 143.165,0	0 kn + PDV ostv	eruju se



\* potencjal rezreda za referentne klimatske podatke i Algoritmom propisan režim kontitenja prostone i rade behničkih sustava, izražen u Eprim







### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

#### Main criteria towards SO 2.1 projects:

- For projects with works (pilot investment projects):
  - o only **public buildings** are eligible
  - at least one pilot investment should be implemented on **both sides** of the border
  - total investment costs of each PP shall not exceed 10 € / kgCO<sub>2</sub>/a emission reduction
    - Example: if yearly 10 000 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction is planned due to the energy refurbishment of a building/buildings of a PP then maximum 100 000 € of total cost is eligible for the investments at PP level
  - Declaration on CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction by energy experts should be submitted
  - total cost of all activities other than works should not exceed 250 000 € on project level

#### **DECLARATION ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION**

for Call for Proposal under Specific Objective 2.1 – Joint initiatives for a low-carbon border area of Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia Co-operation Programme 2021-2027

ACRONYM OF THE PROJECT:

NAME OF THE PROJECT PARTNER

Public building(s) of the PP included in the project subject to energy renovations:

Name of the building	Address of the building	

As energy expert, I declare hereunder that based on the Energy Certificate(s) and the Energy Calculations for the planned status of the building(s), the total calculated yearly (C2 emission reduction achievable for the public building(s) of the PP involved in the energy renovation project is:

... kgCO2/a

Name of the energy expert: ...

Qualification reference number (Jogosultsági szám / Registarski broj) of the energy expert 1: ...

Signature of the energy expert

Date: .







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Requirement in Hungary: energy certifier (energetikai tanúsító, TÉ) or building energy expert (épületenergetikai szokérő, SZÉSÓ) certified by the Hungarian Chamber of Engineering (Magyar Mérnöki Kamara) and/or the Chamber of Hungarian Architects (Magyar Épitész Kamara).

Requirement in Croatia: Certificated Energy Auditor which is certified by national Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets according to Building Act [0G 135/13, 20/17, 39/19, 125/19] and Ordinance on persons authorized for energy certification, energy audits of buildings and regular inspections of heating systems and cooling or air-conditioning systems in buildings [0G 73/15, 133/15, 60/20, 78/21.)

### SO 2.1: Energy efficiency

#### Main selection criteria:

- The whole territory of the Programme is targeted but: geographical preference on lagging behind sub-regions suffering from energy poverty (list is in the EoA appendix 1-2)
- Applying integrated approach: combining EE measures with tailor-made RES solutions
- Significant CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction
- · Cost-effectiveness of pilot investments
- Sustainability (environmental and economic) of project results
- Applying innovative technologies









SO 2.4: Climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention, and resilience, using NBS

### Main challenges:

- · Water: floods, droughts
- · Degradation of biodiversity
- · Degradation of green and blue infrastructure
- Degradation of soil
- Degradation of habitats
- Invasive species











### **SO 2.4: Climate change**

- Joint water and forest management actions (combating floods, forest fires, droughts etc.)
- Applying of NBS (e.g. natural water retention measures such as rain gardens)
- Joint disaster risk management actions (combating climate change induced disasters such as wildfires, pandemics etc.)









### **SO 2.4: Climate change**

- Joint waste management interventions
- Raising awareness about climate change impacts
- Promoting circular economy
- · Reduction of pollution and landfills
- · Promoting recycling, reusing, upgrading









### **SO 2.4: Climate change**

#### Main selection criteria:

- Applying NBS
- Complexity of the project
- Focusing on sensitive areas (NATURA2000 sites, TBR MDD, riverine ecosystems, including urban areas)
- Sustainability of project results
- Cross-border relevance of project activities
- · Cost-effectiveness









#### SO 4.6: Culture, sustainable tourism, social inclusion and social innovation

#### Important geographical focus:

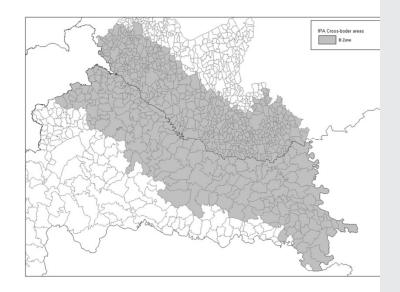
Activities in this SO are only eligible if they target a location or area which is located inside a 40 km zone on each side from the three main rivers of the border area (list of local governments Zone B is in Annex 3 of EoA).

#### Main goals:

To increase the quality of tourism services, attractions, and infrastructure

To enhance visibility of the border area

To support the **green transformation** of tourism sector







### SO 4.6: Sustainable tourism

#### Prioritised forms of tourism:

- Ecotourism
- · Cultural tourism
- Wine and gastronomy
- · Cycling tourism
- Sport tourism
- Health tourism
- Water tourism
- Various innovative forms of tourism (pilgrim)









#### SO 4.6: Sustainable tourism

- Infrastructure development of existing or new tourism attractions
- Development of cycling and hiking paths
- Development of water tourism infrastructure
- Joint promotional events (marketing)
- Supporting **digitalisation** of tourism offer
- Complex cross-border tourism supply package









#### SO 4.6: Sustainable tourism

#### Main selection criteria:

- Complexity of projects, interrelatedness of activities
- Sustainability of project results
   (environmentally, socially, and financially)
- Focus on lesser-known and lagging behind areas along the border
- Cost-effectiveness
- · Cross-border character





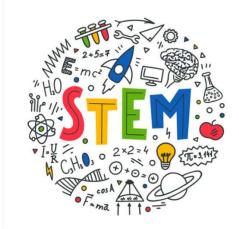




### SO 4.2: Education

- Popularisation of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
- Development and implementation of joint curricula/courses
- Digitalization of education
- Fostering **student exchange** programmes
- Talent management











#### SO 4.2: Education

- Promoting dual education
- Supporting adult education and LLL
- Capacity building of educational institutions (from kindergartens to universities)
- Developing mentoring systems (especially for marginalized groups and/or lagging behind areas)
- Social inclusion of marginalized groups (minorities, Roma people etc.)









#### SO 4.2: Education

#### Main selection criteria:

- The project responds to real challenges
- The cooperation is based on local and/or crosscultural knowledge
- · Integration of digital skills
- Sustainability of joint educational activities
- Involvement of marginalised groups
- Supporting de-segregation
- · Cross-border character













### **ISO 1b: More efficient public administration**

- Identifying legal and administrative barriers in the border area
- **Developing solutions** to overcome these barriers
- Capacity building of local public administration institutions (human resources, skills etc.)









### **ISO 1b: More efficient public administration**

- Fostering digitalisation in local public administration
- Harmonization of databases and administrative processes
- Cross-border cooperation of labour market,
   health, and social care institutions
- Knowledge transfer









### ISO 1b: More efficient public administration

#### Main selection criteria:

- · Capitalisation potential to build upon
- · Sustainability of joint solutions developed
- The scale of geographical coverage (the bigger the better)
- · Cross-border character









### ISO 1c: Encouraging people-to-people actions

#### **Expected results:**

- Existing links in civil society getting stronger
- Further developing **relationships** in civil society
- New links, new cooperations in civil society in the border region

- · Cooperation in arts, music, culture, sport
- Fostering regional traditions
- Promotion of trust and intercultural dialogue









# **Eligible Activities**

### ISO 1c: Encouraging people-to-people actions

#### Main selection criteria:

- **New partners** involved in cooperation topic
- New links established in civil society
- Sustainability of cooperation after project closure
- The scale of geographical coverage (the bigger the better)
- · Cross-border character









# Indicators (1)

Explained in the , Guidance on Interpretation of indicators' document.

High importance of programme level indicators!

Projects have **to directly contribute** to the expected results and outputs of the relevant **Specific Objective!** 

**Novelty:** All indicators have to be connected to a relevant **Activity Group.** 





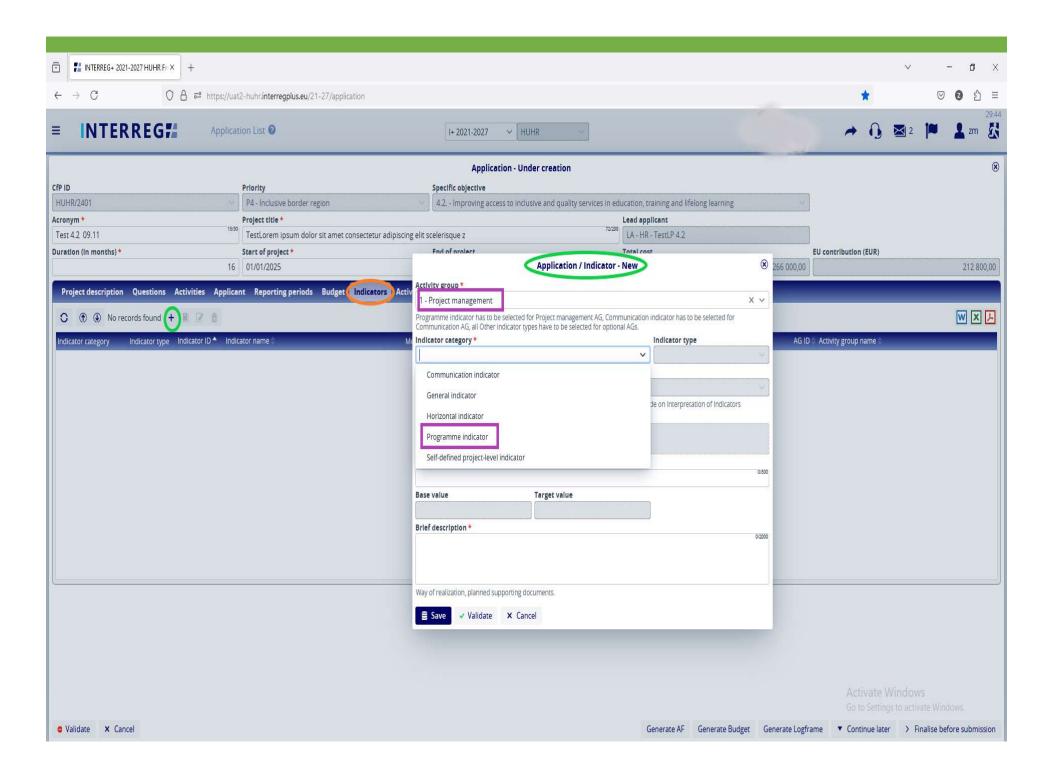
# Indicators (2)

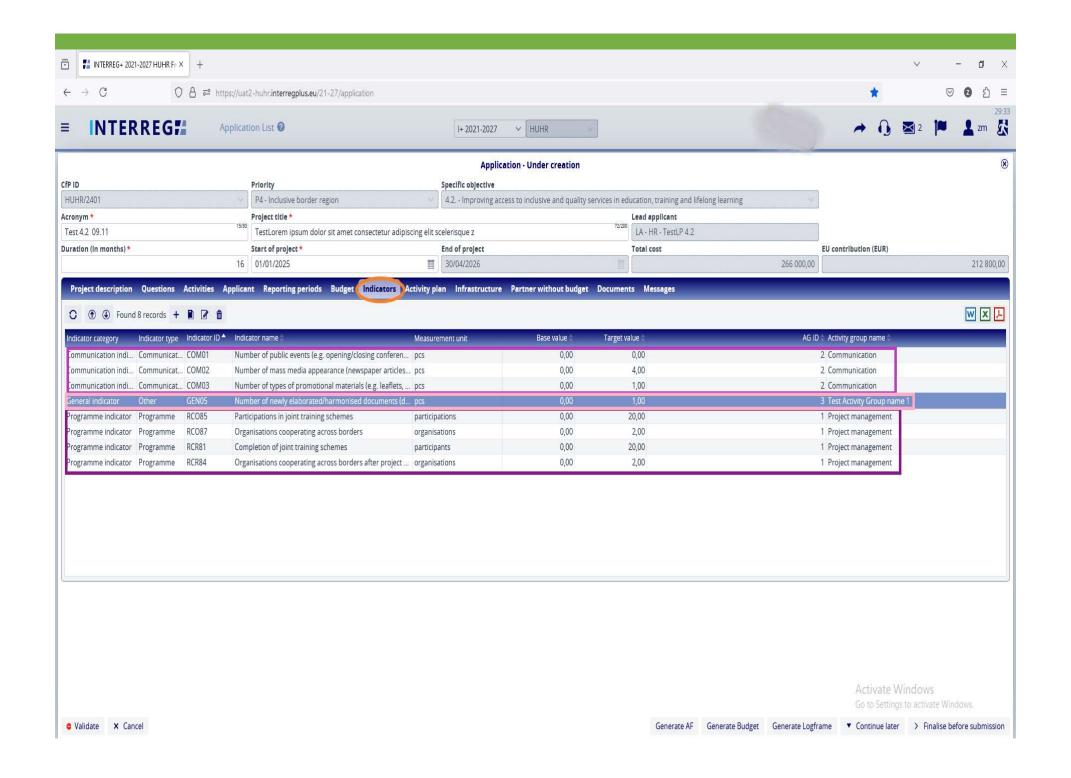
### **Categories/types of indicators – Activity Groups**

- **1. Programme** indicators (select ALL and connect to the 'Project Management' AG);
- **2. Communication** indicators (select min. 3, max. 6 and connect to the 'Communication' AG);
- **3. General** indicators (select as many as needed and connect to the relevant self defined AG);
- **4. Horizontal** indicators (select min. 1 and connect to the relevant self defined AG);
- **5. Self-defined project specific** indicators (create max. 3 if not available above and connect to the relevant self defined AG).









# 3. c) Eligibility of expenditure





# **General Requirements (1)**

Expenditure has to fulfil the following requirements in general:

- it is compliant with EU-, programme- and national rules, in particular with regard to the provisions of public procurement law,
- it is incurred during the **preparation and implementation** of a project (approved by the MC) and in period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2029,





# **General Requirements (2)**

- it complies with the principle of sound financial management (~ efficient, economic, expedient),
- it has been incurred and paid by the Lead Partner or its Project Partner(s) and can be verified via INTERREG+ system on the basis of invoices or other accounting documents with equivalent probative value (real costs except for simplified cost options (SCO-s), where specific verification rules apply).





# Ineligible Expenditure (Examples 1)

- Value added tax (in case recoverable under the national VAT legislation),
- conversion costs, charges, exchange losses,
- bank charges, except the charges for transnational financial transactions or explicitly required separate account,
- the purchase of land for an amount exceeding 10% of the total project budget,
- all contributions in kind (any contribution without money flow),





# **Ineligible Expenditure (Examples 2)**

- any form of double financing: expenditure which is already supported by an EU or other international or national grant,
- services provided by contractors with whom there is conflict of interest,
- subcontracted activities to the LP/PP of the same project,
- etc.





Budget type A (Staff as flat rate)		Budget type B (Staff as real cost)	
Cost category	Form of reimbursement	Cost category	Form of reimbursement
Staff costs	10% or 20 % flat rate of direct costs (real costs)	Staff costs	Real costs
Office and administration costs	15 % flat rate of staff costs	Other costs	40% flat rate of staff costs for all other costs
Travel and accommodation	15% flat rate of staff costs		
Preparation costs	Lump sum		
External expertise and services costs	Real costs		
Equipment costs	Real costs		
Infrastructure and works	Real costs		

# **Preparation Costs (1)**

### LUMP SUM

- Approved projects are entitled to receive reimbursement of their preparatory and contracting costs in the form of a lump sum in the total amount of 4.000 EUR; covering the staff costs, translation, cost of partnership meetings, travel cost and cost related to contracting procedure.
- Need to be planned in the budget, in a division between the partners which is agreed between them. (No reallocations are acceptable.)





# **Preparation Costs (2)**

• In case of Project Partner(s) using **Budget type B – no preparation costs** can be planned (i.e. they are included in the 40% flat rate of the Staff costs).

### **Audit trail**





## **Staff Costs (1)**

**Budget type A:** FLAT RATE (10% or 20% of direct costs)

Budget type B: real costs.

- Expenditure on staff costs **consists of** the gross employment costs of staff employed by or engaged by the LP/PP institution for implementing the project administratively and professionally (e.g. internal experts).
- Staff costs shall consist of gross employment costs of staff employed by the LP / PP in one of the following ways:
  - Full-time employee, or
  - Part-time employment with fixed percentage.





## **Staff Costs (2)**

Full-time employee:

Employees who work 100% of their work time on a project, regardless of the number of hours they were hired for; the total gross employment costs incurred by the employer are to be considered as eligible.

 Part-time employment with fixed percentage of time per month dedicated to the project:

Individuals employed by the LP / PP to work part of their time on the project according to a fixed percentage of time per month.





# Staff Costs (3)

### **Audit trail**

Budget type A: **FLAT RATE** 

PP-s do not need to document that the expenditure has been incurred and paid, **but** documentation of existence of at least one staff member is needed.





## **Staff Costs (4)**

### Budget type B: real costs

- employment contract or an appointment decision/contract;
- job description providing information on responsibilities related to the project;
- documentation of the monthly gross staff costs;
- payslips / proofs of payments;
- salary contributions (social contributions, personal income tax advance etc.);
- other additional documents based on national requirements (e.g. periodic staff report).





## Office and Administration (1)

### **FLAT RATE**

Office and administration costs **cover operating and administrative expenses** of the Project Partner organisation necessary for the implementation of the project.

- 15% of staff costs, in case the Partner applies Budget type A,
- In case the Project Partner applies **Budget type B**, the flat rate for Office and administration costs is already included in the 40%.





# Office and Administration (2)

 Covers utilities, office supplies, accounting, cost of opening and administering the separate project bank account, charges of transnational financial transactions.

### **Audit trail**





### **Travel and Accommodation**

### **FLAT RATE**

Related costs of project management staff and internal experts for missions necessary for project implementation (e.g. project meetings, site visits, seminars, conferences etc).

- 15 % of staff costs in case the PP applies Budget type A.
- In case the PP applies **Budget type B**, the flat rate for travel and accommodation costs is already included in the 40%.

### **Audit trail**





# **External Expertise / Services (1)**

Budget type A: real costs

**Budget type B:** FLAT RATE (included in the 40%)

Includes services and expertise provided by a public or private body or a natural person other than the LP / PP of the project, as

- studies or surveys (e.g. evaluations, strategies, concept notes, design plans, handbooks) and translations,
- trainings;
- promotion, communication, publicity or information;
- services related to the organisation and implementation of events or meetings (including rent, catering or interpretation),





# **External Expertise / Services (2)**

- participation at events (e.g. registration fees);
- travel and accommodation for external experts, speakers of meetings and service providers;
- technical plans and permits (excluding building permits).

### Audit trail

**for Budget type B** (FLAT RATE):





# **External Expertise / Services (3)**

### for Budget type A (real costs):

- evidence of the selection procedure;
- contract / written agreement specifying the services;
- invoice or request for reimbursement providing all relevant information in line with the applicable accountancy rules;
- deliverables produced or, where applicable, documentation of the delivery (e.g. in case of events: agenda, list of participants, photo-documentation etc);
- document proving the completion of the service (proof of fulfilment) + proof of payment (e.g. bank statement, extract from a reliable accounting system).





# **Equipment (1)**

Budget type A: real costs

**Budget type B:** FLAT RATE (included in the 40%)

Equipment purchased or rented by the LP / PP necessary for the implementation of the project, **limited to the following:** 

- office equipment; IT hardware and software;
- furniture and fittings;
- laboratory equipment; machines and instruments;
- tools or devices;
- Vehicles, and
- other specific equipment needed for the project.





# **Equipment (2)**

### <u>Audit trail</u> for **Budget type A** (real costs):

- evidence of the selection procedure;
- contract / written agreement including adequate technical specifications and sufficiently detailed financial information;
- invoice or request for reimbursement providing all relevant information in line with the applicable accountancy rules;
- other supporting documents (e.g. documents of bookkeeping, proof of receipt, documents of guarantees, photo documentation, acknowledgement of performance);
- proof of payment (e.g. bank statement, extract from a reliable accounting system) + documentation of inventory.





# **Equipment (3)**

### **Audit trail**

### **for Budget type B** (FLAT RATE):





# Infrastructure and Works (1)

Budget type A: real costs

**Budget type B:** FLAT RATE (included in the 40%)

Expenditure for the financing of works refers to costs incurred by the LP / PP for the execution of an item of infrastructure (adaptation of already existing infrastructure is included). Costs for infrastructure and works **shall be limited** to the following:

- purchase of land in accordance with point (b) of Article 64(1) of the CPR;
- building permits;
- building material; labour; and specialised interventions (such as soil remediation, mine-clearing.





# Infrastructure and Works (2)

### Audit trail for **Budget type A** (real costs):

- evidence of the selection procedure;
- contract or written agreement laying down the works and related supplies and/or services to be provided with a clear reference to the project and the programme;
- invoice providing all relevant information in line with the applicable accountancy rules and a detailed description of the works carried out in line with the content of the contract;
- proof of payment (e.g. bank statement, extract from a reliable accounting system);
- construction log;





# Infrastructure and Works (3)

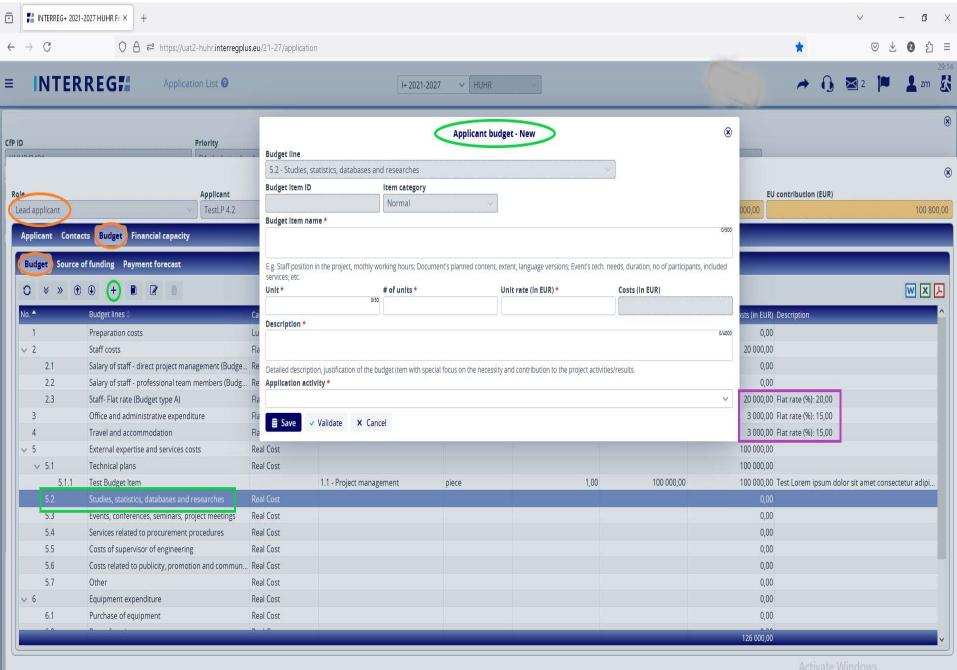
- photo documentation of the works;
- documents of registration if applicable;
- other specific documents in case of plans and permits and land purchase.

### **Audit trail**

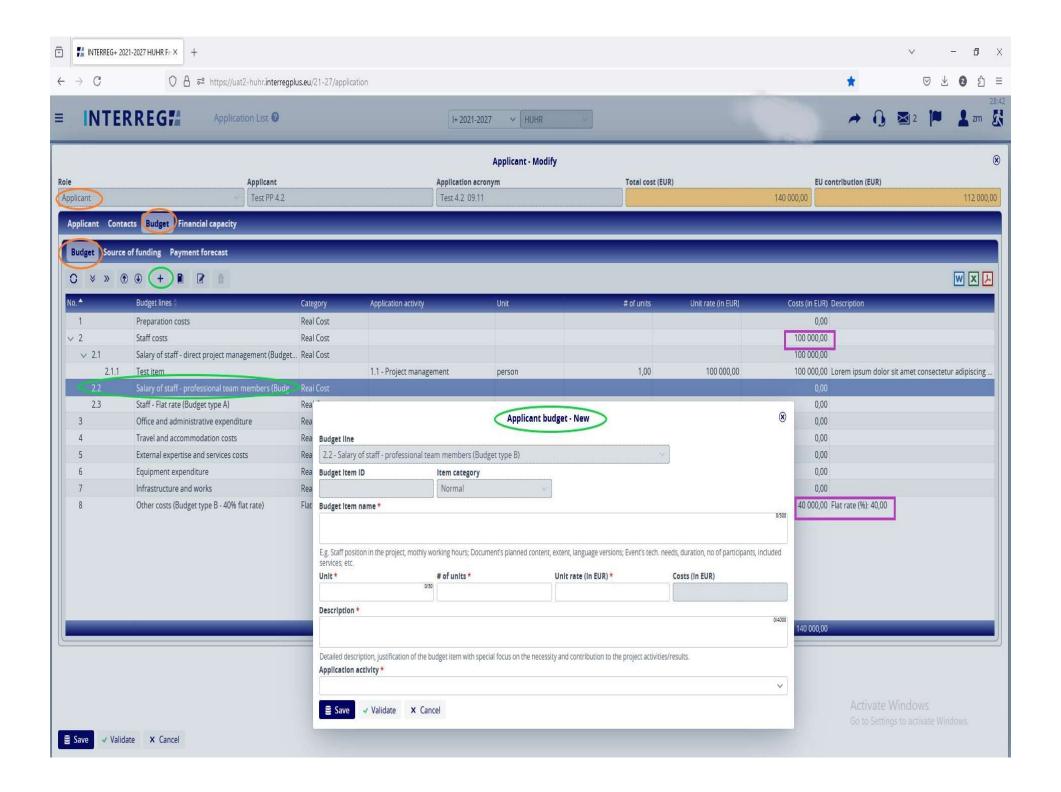
**for Budget type B** (FLAT RATE):

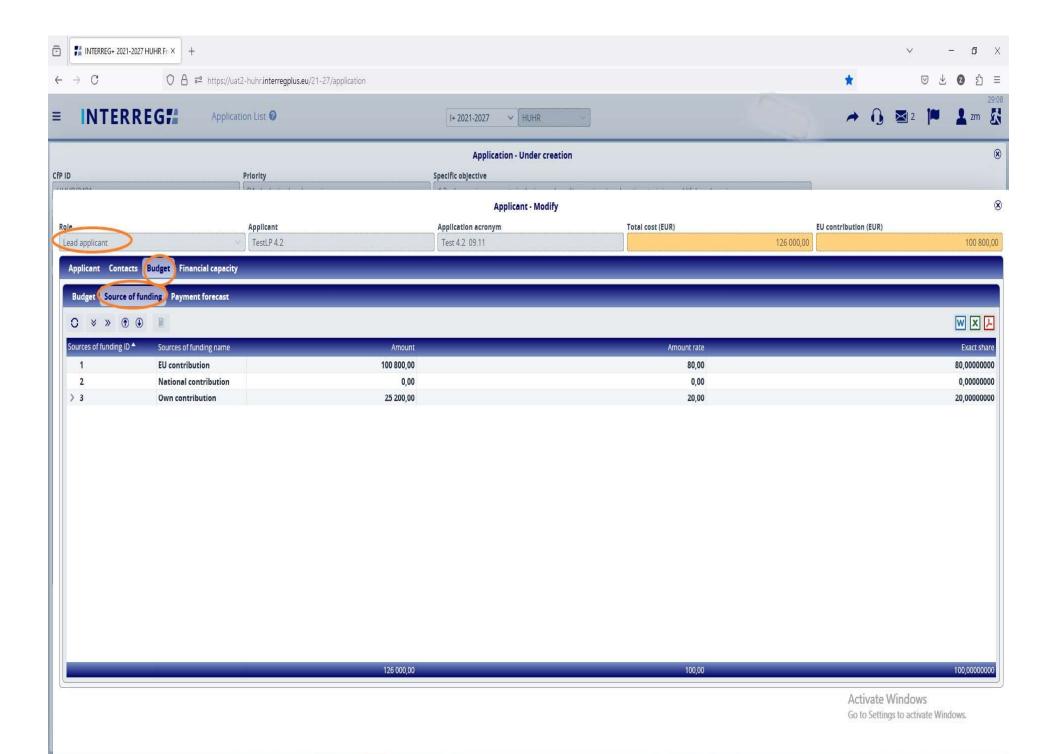


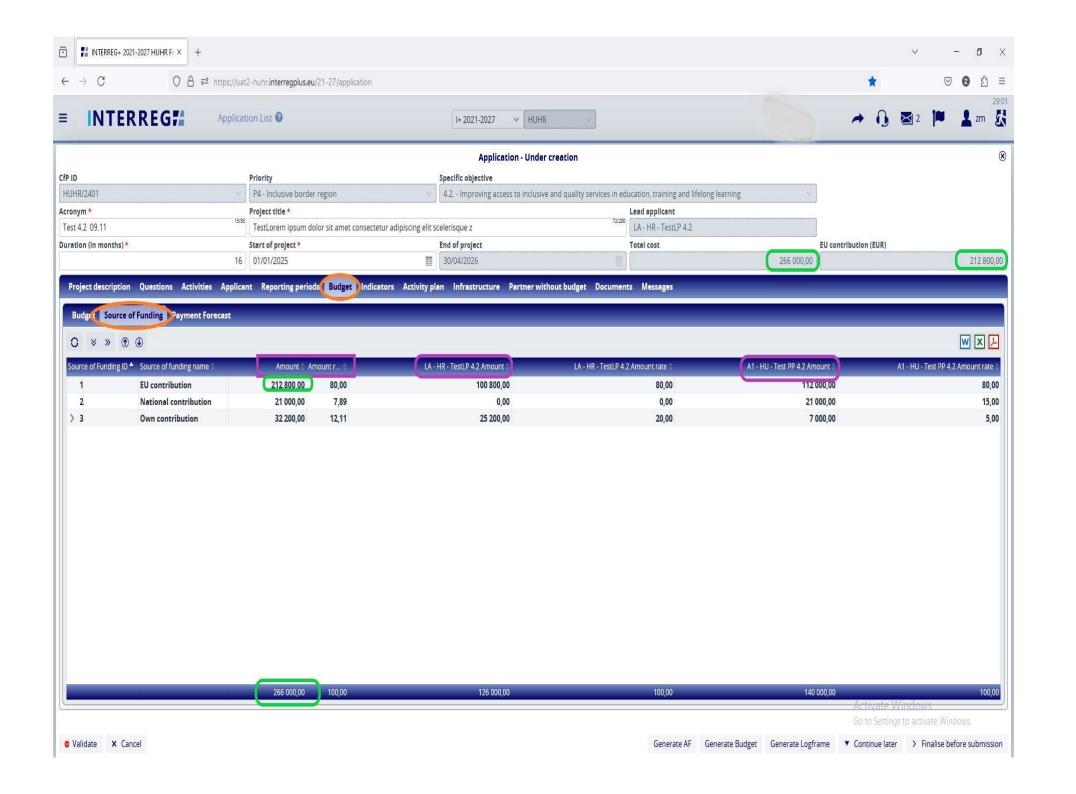


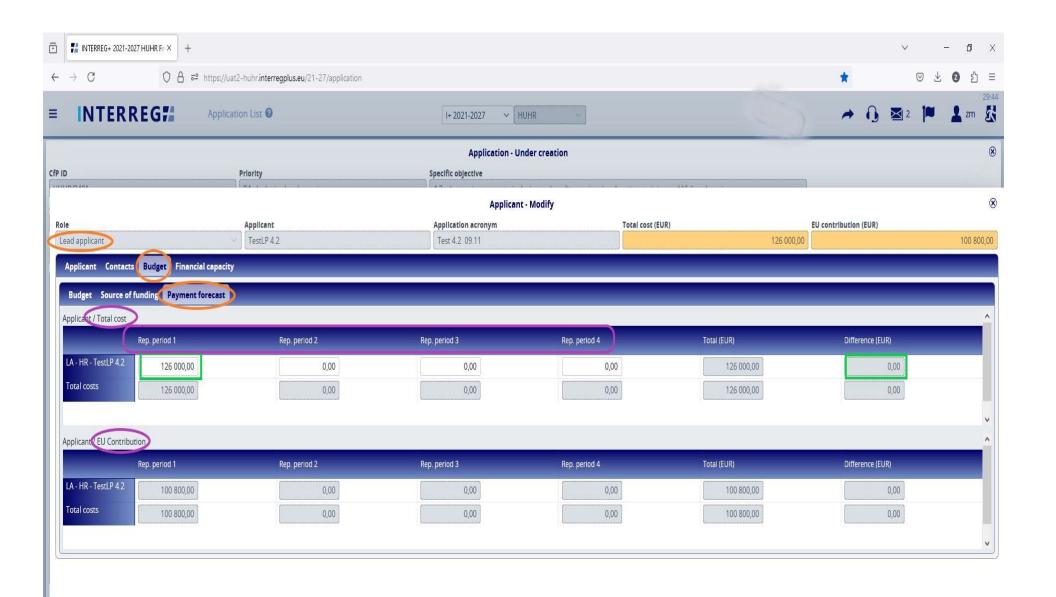


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## **State Aid Rules (1)**

Funds granted by the programme must comply with State aid rules (Article 107 of the TFEU).

In practical terms, State aid applies when all five criteria listed below are met:

- The recipient of the aid is an 'undertaking' which is carrying out an economic activity in the context of the project.
- 2) The aid is granted by the State or through State resources and it is imputable to the State, which is always the case for any Interreg programme.





## **State Aid Rules (2)**

- 3) The aid gives an **economic advantage** (a benefit), which an undertaking would not have obtained under normal market conditions.
- 4) The aid is **selectively** favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods or provision or certain services.
- 5) The aid **distorts or threatens to distort** competition and affects trade within the EU.





## State Aid Assessment / Scenarios

State aid assessment **may lead to** one or more of the following scenarios (contractual conditions):

- a) No State aid relevance.
- b) Risk of State aid that can be removed.
- c) Direct State aid granted to one or more PP-s.
- d) Indirect state aid granted to third parties.

**State aid declaration (as part** of the Statement of the LP/ PP – see Annex 1-2 of the GfA).





## Aid Granting (1)

- Direct aid granted under Article 20 of the GBER; the programme grants direct State aid under this exemption for Interreg. The aid granted by the programme is up to EUR 2.000.000 of total aid amount per undertaking and per project; aid intensity shall not exceed the maximum 80% cofinancing rate.
- **Direct aid** granted under the **de minimis regulation** cannot exceed **EUR 300.000 of total aid amount** over any period of the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years; a Project Partner may receive de minimis aid from the Partner Country in the programme.





## Aid Granting (2)

 Indirect aid granted under Article 20a of the GBER to third parties – aid granted to an undertaking that is the final beneficiary of project activities cannot exceed EUR 20.000 per undertaking, per project.





# 4. Content of the application package





## The Application Package (1)

- Call for Proposals
- Guidelines for Applicants (with appendices and annexes):
  - Appendix 1: Recommended content for feasibility assessments
  - Appendix 2: Formal- and eligibility assessment grid
  - Appendix 3: Quality assessment grid(s)
  - Statement of the Lead Partner
  - Statement of the Project Partner
  - Partnership Statement
  - Template of the Declaration on GHG emission reduction





## **The Application Package (2)**

- Eligibility of Activities document,
- Eligibility of Expenditure document,
- Guidance on the Interpretation of Indicators,
- Guide for the Resilience Assessment of Projects,
- Draft Subsidy Contract for the EU Contribution and draft SC General Conditions (for information),
- Model Partnership Agreement (for information),
- Handbook to Tourism Projects 2007-2013
- + User Manual for the INTERREG+ Application Module





## 5. Submission of applications





## **Submission of Applications**

#### **Deadline for submission:**

**29 November 2024,** 12.00 CET, <u>according to the system clock</u> of INTERREG+

#### Way of submission:

<u>Electronic submission only, in INTERREG+!</u> Applications submitted in any **other way** (e.g. on paper via post or personal submission) will be **rejected!** 

**Please regularly check** the programme website for eventual new / additional information.





## **Project Development Assistance (1)**

Besides Information Days and Partner Search Forum, recommended personal consultations with the JS:

- strongly advised before the submission of an application;
- help to potential LP-s / PP-s with the **clarification of programme rules** as specified within the GfA;
- provided only at pre-arranged appointments at the given office hours;
- limited to max. 2 consultations per draft applications.





## **Project Development Assistance (2)**

#### **JS contact persons** and telephones:

Mr András Tálos, Budapest +36-1-224-3149

Ms Marian Zelei, Budapest +36-1-224- 3159

Ms Andrea Kakas, Pécs +36-72-513-455

E-mail: info@huhr-cbc.com

**FAQ** will be published after the Info Days on the website.





## **Project Development Assistance (3)**

#### **Hungary-Croatia Joint Secretariat (HU-HR JS)**

hosted by Széchenyi Program Office Nonprofit LLC H-1053 Budapest, Szép u. 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

E-mail: info@huhr-cbc.com

**No more questions** possible or in any manner to contact the JS **3 working days prior** to the **submission** deadline of the CfP.

Please regularly **check the website** of the programme (<u>www.huhr-cbc.com</u>) for updated CfP information.





## 6. Project assessment and selection





## Automatic Rejection If Not Fulfilled (1)

- The application has been submitted via the INTERREG+ system.
- The application has been submitted on time.
- All fields of the application are filled in.
- The application has been filled in in English (technical terms in national languages are acceptable).
- The budget has been prepared in EUR.
- The Partnership Statement has been uploaded into the relevant folder of INTERREG+, is properly certified, and belongs to that application to which it is uploaded.





### Automatic Rejection If Not Fulfilled (2)

- All construction plans or equivalent documents have been uploaded (in case of a project with a works component).
- Next to the eligible LP at least one cross-border PP from the other Member State, eligible for funding participates in the project.
- The project activities are in line with the DNSH principle (see GfA Chapter 4.2).
- Important **for SO 4.1:** Developments are **exclusively** targeting municipalities located **in Zone B** as defined by the Tourism Handbook (see Appendix 3 of ,Eligibility of Activities').





## **Selection Process of Regular Projects**



Formal & eligibility assessment (JS)

Quality assessment (JS + external experts)

Decision on funding (MC)

Informing LP-s (MA+JS)





# 7. Communication requirements towards projects





## **Highlighting Interreg Support**

- providing on the website of the PP (if such exists) and on its social media sites a short description of the project,
- providing a statement highlighting the support from Interreg on documents and communication material,
- in case of projects with a total cost of over 100.000 EUR, displaying durable plaques or billboards,
- for projects not falling under the point above, displaying at a location clearly visible to the public at least one poster of a minimum size A3 or equivalent electronic display with information about the project.





## Tasks and Responsibilities

- The PP-s have to use the logo of the programme when using any of the communication tools and whenever communicating and promoting project results.
- The LP bears the responsibility on the project level for informing the public about the funding obtained from the EU.
- The costs of the communication activities of a project can be planned in its budget and can be eligible for funding.
- The MA, the JS and the National Controllers will ensure the control of the implementation of the communication measures.





## Projects and the Internet

- LP-s of supported projects will have to create a projectspecific subpage on their already existing website, presenting the entire project (and the official website of the programme will contain links to these in order to help the dissemination of the projects' results).
- Based on Chapter 2.5 of the ,Eligibility of Expenditure' document, the developing of new project websites is not an eligible cost under the programme, except for specialised websites the creation/development of which is one of the professional activities of the project.





## Interacting With the Programme

To keep the information flowing, make sure that **you can** receive e-mail from the following address:

info@huhr-cbc.com

#### The Programme on social media:

- www.facebook.com/huhr.cbc
- https://x.com/InterregHUHRcbc
- #HUHRcbc





## Thank you for your attention!

Hungary-Croatia JS



