



**EX-ANTE EVALUATION
and STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT for the
HUSKROUA ENI CBC
PROGRAMME
2014-2020**



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SCOPING REPORT OF
SEA FINAL DRAFT
13/03/2015**



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NOTIFICATION

on the expected environmental effects related to the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020

In the new programming period of the European Union (2014-2020) the role of Ex-ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment is reinforced. The Strategic Environmental Assessment – based on the SEA Directive EU/2001/42 – aims at assessing the impact on the environment of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020. The SEA is an integral part of the whole programming process.

Under Article 3(3) and 3(4) of the SEA Directive, Environmental Assessment is required for certain categories of plans and programmes, only where they are likely to have significant environmental effects.

The following information is given in Scoping Report for decision on Scoping:

- information on the content of the programme,
- definition of the relevant geographic area and timeframe,
- overall information on the area, identifying environmental factors and problems related,
- identified environmental problems and legal background,
- Identifying relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives,
- definition of the appropriate environmental indicators that will be the basis of the SEA,
- definition of methods to evaluate the positive and negative impacts,
- concept of assessment
- information on the SEA process, involvement of responsible bodies, sources of information,
- definition of the method of generating and evaluating reasonable alternatives.

The Scoping Report and its Executive Summary are made available to the relevant environmental authorities to comment and approve the expected environmental effects related to the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the HUSKROUA ENI Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

The assessment object of the SEA is the Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020.

The geographical frame: The Participating Countries of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 are Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine. The programme area covers core regions and adjoining regions.

The core regions of the programme are the following 7 territorial units:

- Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county, Hungary (NUTS III)
- Košický region, Slovakia (NUTS III)
- Prešovský region, Slovakia (NUTS III)

- Maramureş county, Romania (NUTS III)
- Satu-Mare county, Romania (NUTS III)
- Ivano-Frankivska region, Ukraine
- Zakarpatska region, Ukraine

The adjoining regions of the programme are the following territorial units:

- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, Hungary (NUTS III)
- Suceava county, Romania (NUTS III)
- Chernivetska region, Ukraine

The timeframe: According to Article 4(1) of the SEA Directive “The environmental assessment referred to in Article 3 shall be carried out during the preparation of a plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.”

The time frame for the Strategic Environmental Assessment was determined by the description of the development trend related to the expected state of the environment, and the possible impacts on the environmental issues.

The time frame for the development trends related to the expected state of the environment and the possible impacts on environmental issues - is the programming period 2014-2020 plus two years.

The SEA process of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 started in parallel with the elaboration of the programme document, and according to the planned timing, it will be completed before its adoption. The whole Strategic Environmental Assessment process started in December 2014 and planned to be finalized after the consultation of the Environmental Report in all partner countries.

The outline of the content of the Programme:

The programme strategy involves the following thematic objectives¹:

- TO 3 Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage
- TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation
- TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems
- TO 8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security

The selected thematic objectives comprise of the following objectives and types of actions²:

Thematic objective	Priority	The objectives of the priority	Types of actions
TO3 Promotion	Priority 1:	To develop the	Preservation of historical heritage includes the

¹Joint Cooperation Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 chapter 3.Programme’s strategy, subchapter 3.1.2.Selected thematic objectives

²Joint Cooperation Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 chapter 3.Programme’s strategy, subchapter 3.1.3.Content of priorities within the selected thematic objectives

of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	Promoting local culture and history along with tourism functions	eligible area as a joint tourism destination based on its cultural, historical, religious values with the preservation of historical buildings	<p>following types of actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation and restoration of historical buildings in accordance with monument restoration requirements. ▪ Surveys on buildings of cultural, historical and religious heritage. <p>Tourism services include the following types of actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of touristic destinations, thematic routes connecting historical cultural or religious heritage sites. ▪ Promotion activities and information provision on routes and attractions (including the development of maps, online information sources, information materials, signs, etc.). ▪ Organization of joint cultural events with cross-border added value linked to historical heritage. ▪ Support of the production of traditional local (handicraft, (organic) agricultural) products at touristic sites. ▪ Creating cross-border standard of services. ▪ Exchange of experiences among organizations related to cultural religious and historic heritage. ▪ Training for locals in tourism, cooperation, promotion and networking.
TO 6 Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation	Priority 1: Support of sustainable waste and wastewater management systems	To support the solution of wastewater and solid waste caused environmental damages with cross border effect. The focus areas are especially the river valleys crossing the border with risk of contamination.	<p>Types of actions related to wastewater treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing of best practices, setting up of small scale pilot systems. ▪ Surveys on water quality problems of river basins crossing the border. ▪ Setting up of water quality monitoring systems. <p>Types of actions related to waste management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness campaigns. ▪ Sharing of best practices, setting up small scale pilot systems.
	Priority 2: Preservation and sustainable use of natural resources	To initiate actions for the sustainable use of natural values passing over state borders of the	<p>Types of intervention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of natural parks and forestry management systems with cross border effect. ▪ Protection of landscape, biodiversity and eco-systems.

		border area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection of water resources. ▪ Joint ecological education programmes. ▪ Co-operation between institutions, authorities and civil organizations for the sustainable use of natural resources. ▪ Harmonization of relevant regulations.
	Priority 3: Support to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources	To increase the energy efficiency of buildings, industrial and agricultural production in the border region and increase competences in the use of renewable energy sources.	<p>Types of actions in the frame of the priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of measures to increase energy efficiency, energy savings and recycling. ▪ Elaboration of joint low-carbon strategies. ▪ Exchange of best practices and expertise, study tours, education on energy efficiency. ▪ Strengthening competences and skills in the fields of eco-innovation and for low-carbon solutions. ▪ Harmonization of local renewable energy production strategies for biomass, water and geothermal.
TO 7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems	Priority 1: Development of transport infrastructure to improve the mobility of persons and goods	To improve the mobility of persons and goods, create the basis of economic co-operations and reduce the disparities of regions via the development of transport infrastructure and services.	<p>Types of actions in the frame of the priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building, modernization and upgrading of roads leading to and crossing the border to improve the opportunities for transboundary mobility. ▪ Building, modernization and upgrading of bicycle paths, routes leading to and crossing the border. ▪ Development of cross-border public transport initiatives, harmonization of systems. ▪ Awareness-raising activity regarding the importance of environment-friendly transport system (low emission and low noise forms of cross-border transport). ▪ Development of IT solutions for public transport facilities. ▪ Elaboration of recommendations concerning legal administrative bottlenecks hampering cross-border mobility.
	Priority 2: Development of ICT infrastructure and information sharing	To increase the penetration of information tools and help the share of information among the citizens, institutions and	<p>Types of actions in the frame of the priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of cross-border broadband internet infrastructure and communication centres. ▪ Development mutually usable local media content and related media production capacities.

		businesses of the border region.	
TO8 Common challenges in the field of safety and security	Priority 1: Support to joint activities for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters as well as joint action during emergency situations	To create technical background, strategies and co-operation platforms for the prevention and handling of natural and man-made disasters may risk the citizens of the border area.	Types of actions in the frame of the priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harmonizing activities in the field of flood prevention, development of flood prevention infrastructure. ▪ Setting up joint early warning systems for fire, avalanches, or other natural disaster incidents. ▪ Strategic and technical planning and establishment of joint monitoring systems on environmental (air, water, soil) pollutions. ▪ Increasing awareness and knowledge and developing skills to develop local and regional strategies to prevent and mitigate the impact of global climate change. ▪ Support/cooperation/network of non-governmental rescue teams/organizations. ▪ Database regarding natural disasters incidents. ▪ Joint training programmes and workshops, exchange of experiences, study tours.
	Priority 2: Support to the development of health	To improve the prevention activities, the availability and level of services of health and social programs for the citizens of the border area.	Types of actions in the frame of the priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement of health care and prevention infrastructure and equipment related to cross border service provision, joint capacity development. ▪ Joint development and establishment of patient care areas. ▪ Exchange of know-how, joint training programmes, joint prevention programs, joint support services. ▪ Co-operation between institutions on the field of human epidemiology. ▪ Improvement of social care services infrastructure.

The environmental assessment shall be carried out since the characteristics of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 fulfill the categories and requirements which determine the necessity for the Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure, due to the following reasons:

- The Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 is a programme which is determined to be likely to have significant environmental effects according to Article 3(3) and 3(4) of the SEA Directive. The determination of the likely significance of effects is detailed in chapter 3.

- The Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 is subject to preparation and adoption by national and regional authorities in the Participating Countries, and prepared for adoption through legislative procedure by the Governments.
- The Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 is required by legislative provisions.
- The Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 is financed by the European Union and by national Governments.
- The Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 is prepared for several sectors detailed in chapter 4.
- The Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 sets a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II of the Directive EIA.

Therefore the SEA has to be carried out during the preparation of the programme and has to be completed before the approval and submission to the Commission in order to ensure the high level protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental aspects into the preparation and adoption of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 with special regard to the promotion of sustainable development.

The likely significance of effects of the programme:

The effects of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 have been determined – by the specificity of the programme and the types of actions planned – as likely significant, having cumulative nature according to the criteria of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment –ANNEX II.

According to the characteristics of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020:

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources:	considerably
- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy:	even tempered
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development:	considerably
- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme:	to a high degree
- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of	facilitates this type of

Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection):	implementation
According to the characteristics of the effects:	
- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects:	widely
- the cumulative nature of the effects:	widely cumulative
- the transboundary nature of the effects:	in respect to the Participating Countries
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents):	risk exists
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected):	widely
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognized national, community or international protection status:	interventions may affect protected areas
According to the value and vulnerability of the programme area – likely to be affected:	
- due to the specific natural characteristics or cultural heritage:	such areas may be affected
- due to the exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values:	such areas may be affected
- due to intensive land use (such as areas of intensive agricultural or forestry growing, production, areas with dense population, etc.):	such areas may be affected

The HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020 puts the main focus on the protection of the environment and meeting climate change challenges, as well as on the support of transport, research and technological developments. The potential impacts are referring also to environmental purposes and to sustainable development.

Parts and content of the Environmental Report (including public consultation and the integration of comments from the consultation process in all Participating Countries):

The Environmental Report comprises information which can be gathered with reasonable efforts and takes into account the available information, comments received from the Joint Task Force, commonly applied audit methods as well as scope and level of detail of the programme. While

several countries take part in the Programme, the Environmental Report will be a joint Report for the whole programme area. The Environmental Report will present clear suggestions for the organizations responsible for the elaboration of the Joint Operational Programme of the period 2014-2020 of the cross-border eligible area of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine based on facts and the special nature of the programme. The content of the Environmental Report will be based on the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) and will strictly follow the Annex 1 of the Directive.

According to Art.6 and Art.7 of the SEA Directive the Environmental Report and the Programme must be made available to the relevant authorities and the public. Official consultation process in accordance with SEA Directive Article will be carried out.

The possible remarks of the environmental authorities will be integrated into the final Scoping Report and into the Environmental Report.

The Environmental Report will be available for consultation at the same time with the draft Operational Programme (SEA Directive - Article 6.2 and Annex 1). Subsequent to the consultation responses collected, an explanation shall be given on how the Environmental Report and consultation comments have been taken into consideration in the Operational Programme (SEA Directive - Article 8).

The final version of the SEA Report will be prepared taking into consideration the received opinions from the consultation process. Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the JOP on the environment. SEA objectives should derive from environmental objectives, from baseline information and from environmental problems in order to test the environmental effects of the JOP. The consultation bodies may also suggest SEA objectives.

The Environmental Report includes the following sections which are required by the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC of June 27, 2001):

Part A: non-technical summary of the Environmental Report

- An easy-to-read non-technical summary, which allows for the dissemination of the content of the Environmental Report to the general public.

Part B: the environmental report

- the chapters of the Environmental Report will fully follow the Annex 1 of the SEA Directive
- the Environmental Report will include a description of the public consultation and will describe the consultation process to be carried out
- Chapter „The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme” present the description of the planned monitoring measures on how the monitoring of the environmental effects of the implementation of the programme should be carried out.

Part C: statement summarizing how the environmental consideration has been integrated into the OP

- According to Article 9(b) of the Directive on the assessment of the certain plans and programmes on the environment, the environmental statement has been prepared on the basis of the OP and includes
 - A short description of the content and the most important programme objectives as well as of the relation to other relevant plans and programmes,
 - A description of the environmental objectives relevant to the programme and the account taken of them,
 - The description of the status quo and its presumable development in the case the programme is not implemented,
 - A description of the presumable considerable impacts on the environment,
 - The short description of the environment protection objectives,
 - The description of measures that are planned in order to prevent, to reduce and to compensate for the considerably harmful environmental impacts,
 - A short description of the reasons for the choice of the alternatives examined and a description of the way the how the SEA has been implemented,
 - Evidence of difficulties which have occurred during the compilation of information.

This Executive Summary is based on the Scoping Report of the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020. The Scoping Report is provided for the environmental authorities for their decision on the likely significance of effects of the Joint Operational Programme for the HUSKROUA ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020.

Environmental authorities have 30 days to send their remarks in English language. The possible remarks of the environmental authorities will be integrated into the final scoping report and into the environmental report. Non-reception of comments will be considered as approval of the document. The Scoping Report is available in English language in PDF format on the Programmes's website.