

FACTSHEET Priority axis PA6_Promoting cross-border cooperation between institutions and citizens (Cooperation of institutions and communities)

Investment priority 11/b: Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)

Focus of interventions:

a) Cooperation for institutions

In compliance with the related Thematic Objective, this intervention is aimed at enhancing the joint institutional capacity to provide better services.

This entails providing support to joint projects of institutions, aimed at the development of joint solutions, methodologies, protocols, delivering joint training courses, helping the harmonization of relevant legislations, supporting institutional development, exchanging know-how, information, developing language skills to facilitate better communication, developing services provided, etc.

b) Cooperation for citizens

The focus of intervention is to help cooperation initiatives that bring institutions closer to communities and people, build cooperation and strengthen relationships.

Indicative actions:

a) Cooperation for institutions

The indicative actions will enable better service delivery and will consist of predominantly soft measures carried out jointly to identify needs, bottlenecks hindering better, more efficient service delivery and to implement actions (capacity development, exchange of information, knowledge transfer, etc.) to remedy the problems identified.

b) Cooperation for citizens

The indicative actions will provide support to initiatives and events promoting and preserving cultural diversity and common traditions – involving the local civil society. Examples may

include support to small-scale cooperation initiatives of communities, civil organizations and institutions in the fields of culture, sports, youth and other leisure activities (e.g. organising village-days, joint sport events, preserving common cultural traditions) which are essential from social and cultural point of view. In order to improve sustainability, it is proposed that multiannual programmes are supported instead of one-off projects.



Types of activities include, among others:

- a) *Cooperation for institutions*
- ✓ Analysis of the regulatory background in different fields, proposing solutions and actions to harmonize relevant regulations
 - ✓ Initiatives aimed at the reducing of administrative burdens of cross-border activities of people, enterprises and other organizations
 - ✓ Needs assessment, identification of legal, social and economic conditions and obstacles of service provision
 - ✓ Elaboration and introduction of institutional cooperation models
 - ✓ Capacity development of regional and local public administration bodies to facilitate more active participation in cross-border cooperation
 - ✓ Institutional capacity building and promotion of the EU legislation through training courses, dissemination actions
 - ✓ Activities focusing on the improvement of cross-border services, development of necessary small-scale works and purchase of equipment

When designing your project, please keep in mind that instead of one-off cooperation initiatives, projects that can sustain cooperation in the long-run are favoured.

b) *Cooperation for citizens*

Types of actions include, among others, small-scale joint initiatives in the fields of sport, culture and leisure - cultural events, performances, festivals, and sports competitions, extracurricular cooperation of schoolchildren - exchange programmes, trainings promoting cultural diversity and joint traditions, with the aim of creating sustainable networks and cooperation.

When designing your project, please keep in mind that in order to improve sustainability, it is proposed that multiannual programmes are supported instead of one-off projects.

The scope of the project and the related activities will have to ensure the fulfilment of the programme's specific objective related to *Intensifying sustainable cross-border*

cooperation of institutions and communities, in a way that will contribute to more active cross-border cooperation of various institutions and citizens.



The list of potential beneficiaries includes:

a) *Cooperation for institutions*

- ✓ Local and county governments / administrations, authorities and their institutions;
- ✓ National ministries and their specialized institutions, regional offices;
- ✓ Management organisations of Euroregions;
- ✓ EGTC;
- ✓ Regional and county development agencies;
- ✓ Chambers of commerce;
- ✓ Public educational and higher education institutions;
- ✓ Governmental Offices located in the counties.

b) *Cooperation for citizens*

- ✓ Local and county governments / administrations and their institutions;
- ✓ Non-governmental, non-profit organisation;
- ✓ Management organisations of Euroregions;
- ✓ EGTC;
- ✓ Microregional associations;
- ✓ Churches;
- ✓ Public educational and higher education institutions.



Target groups:

a) *Cooperation for institutions*

- Public institutions and authorities
- Students of higher education institutions, pupils of educational institutions
- People living in the eligible border area

b) *Cooperation for citizens*

- Population of the eligible area



Methodology for defining and calculating the OUTPUT indicators:

Summary of key information

<i>ERDF funds allocated</i>	EUR 3,411,372
<i>Total estimated available budget</i>	EUR 4,013,379
Indicators	Assumed proportion of allocation
11/b 1	65% of total allocation
11/b 2	35% of total allocation

Categories of intervention:

Code
119. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

For measuring the outputs under this Ip, 2 output indicators have been identified; one is measuring the number of institutions expected to cooperate, the other one reflecting the number of people participating in joint initiatives.

ID Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)
11/b 1 Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives (programme specific output indicator)	Number of institutions	36

Considering the 65% financial allocation for the indicator 11/b 1, the total estimated cost per institution involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives should be a little over EUR 72,500 from total funds for 11/b1. This means that, no matter what your project involves in terms of activities, each 72,500 euro spent will have to ensure at least 1 institution directly involved in cooperation.

Definition

The indicator proposed is the “Number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives”. Institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives are those that demonstrably and actively take part in the supported cross-border cooperation project as a lead beneficiary or partner and sustain cooperation even after project completion. That means that the value of the indicator needs to be reported by the beneficiary after one year of project completion together with proofs that the cooperation is still sustained. Proof may be minutes of regular meetings, joint documents, records of joint activities after project duration. Institutions are public bodies and non-governmental non-profit organizations.

Any institution that may take part in more than one project can only be considered once in order to avoid double counting. Consequently, when quantifying the indicator the specific institutions also need to be registered.

The specific objective of this Ip is “Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities”. Intensity is best reflected in the number and also quality of the cooperation initiatives. The actions foreseen contribute to the increase of meaningful cooperation of institutions that are also sustainable. The output indicator measures the number of such interactions, so the output clearly contributes to the expected result.

Methodology for estimating the target value

65% of the total budget (EUR 2 608 696) will be allocated to cooperation of institutions under this Ip.

It is important to take into account:

- ✓ **That each partnership should preferably be equally represented for Romania and Hungary;**
- ✓ **That instead of general cooperation, cooperation initiatives with very specific objectives, delivering specific outputs and creating added value would be supported;**
- ✓ **That the establishment of sustainable cooperation is expected – real cooperation need to be sustained after the termination of projects.**

ID Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)
11/b 2 Number of people participating in cross-border cooperation initiatives (programme specific output indicator)	Number of people	2, 000

Considering the 35% financial allocation for the indicator 11/b 2, the total estimated cost per person involved in cooperation initiatives should be EUR 700 from total budget for 11/b2 funds. This means that, no matter what your project involves in terms of activities, each 700 euro spent will have to ensure at least 1 person participating in the cooperation initiative.

Definition

The indicator proposed is the “number of people participating in cross-border cooperation initiatives”. This is a simple indicator measuring the number of individuals participating in cooperation initiatives for citizens. Any project to be implemented under this heading brings together people from both sides of the border to take part in some form of an event. In order to be able to quantify the target value, beneficiaries need to record and report the number of participants. That requires from them to implement a method to record the number of

participants, preferably also a breakdown by nationality (Romanian, Hungarian) to reflect that a real cross-border event has taken place. If within a project several events are organized for the same target group (for instance the same classes from a Romanian and a Hungarian school), the number of people can only be counted once. The actual value on programme level will be the aggregation of values reported by projects.

The specific objective of this Ip is "Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities". Intensity is best reflected – as described above – in the number and quality of cooperation initiatives – but on the level of citizens also in the number of participants of cooperation initiatives. That makes this output indicator – and the output measured – relevant contribution to the specific objective. It is also important that instead of one-off events joint initiatives are organized that are sustainable – sustainability of events is an important requirement. That means that even during the project lifecycle the event is organized more than once, and its delivery continues even after the termination of the project.

Methodology for estimating the target value

The remaining 35% of the budget (EUR 1 404 683) will be allocated to cooperation for citizens.

It is important to take into account:

- ✓ **That each partnership has to prove that at least 100 people participate in the cooperation initiatives, events, with a balanced distribution of Romanian and Hungarian citizens;**
- ✓ **That the partnerships need to properly record and regularly report the number of participants, according to the rules described in the definition section;**
- ✓ **That the programme supports sustainable cooperation – consequently it is an expectation that the cooperation formed during the project is sustained beyond the project lifecycle.**



Methodology for defining and calculating the RESULT indicators:

It is mandatory to be mentioned in your application form, how the output indicators will contribute to the achievement of the result indicators of the programme. The result indicator for this Ip is:

Specific objective	SO11/a - Intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities					
Indicator	Measure-ment unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value	Source of data	Frequency of

				(2023)		reporting
Intensity of cross-border cooperation	Rate of intensity of cross-border cooperation	3,46	2015	3,57	Survey among the public institutions operating in the eligible area	2019, 2021, 2023

Definition of the indicator:

Cooperation intensity or degree of cooperation is an abstract term, referring to the quality of cooperation between two or more partners. Although cooperation is a process that evolves over time (or fades, for that matter), it is possible to seize its level of intensity or degree at any given moment.

The intensity of any cooperation may be described by a small number of key characteristics, including:

- The frequency of meetings and communication between the partners involved – how often do they actually meet;
- The existence and number of joint initiatives / projects / actions – do they actually have joint initiatives, do they act together? How often?
- The existence of documented record of cooperation – like for instance a cooperation agreement / cooperation action plan or joint protocols;
- Joint capacity development, training – do the partners have joint training or other capacity development programmes? How often?
- Exchange of knowledge or best practices – do the partners mutually support each other by know-how transfer?
- Existence of a joint organizational structure and joint service provision

In addition to these characteristics that describe the cooperation intensity, it is also important how the partners themselves perceive the quality of cooperation. Do they think it is a good cooperation?

Using these key features of cooperation, it is possible to construct a simple survey that leads to a scale indicator, measuring cooperation intensity.

Relation to the specific objective and actions:

The specific objective is to intensify sustainable cross-border cooperation of institutions and communities. This literally means increase in the level of cross-border cooperation of the public institutions and non-profit organizations.

The increased value of the two output indicators (number of institutions directly involved in cross-border cooperation initiatives and number of people participating in cross-border cooperation initiatives) means higher intensity of cooperation: the more institutions take part in the direct cooperation and the more people are involved, the higher the cooperation intensity is.

! Special attention to horizontal principles

During the implementation of the projects the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination shall be respected.

Projects with a direct negative impact on not ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination will not be selected for financing.

Special attention will be paid on reinforcing social inclusion of disadvantaged people, as well as the inclusion of minorities in the programme area, i.e. Roma population.

Where it is feasible, preference may be given on the social inclusion of people living in deep poverty.

Besides the overall principle to be ensured stipulated in Chapter 8.2. of the Interreg V-A RO-HU Programme and Chapter 1.2.3. Horizontal principles of the GfA, the projects under Ip 11b will pay attention to the equality between men and women.

Projects with a direct negative impact on equality between men and women will not be selected for financing.