

**Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the Hungary-Romania
Cross Border Co-operation Program
2007-2013**

Official Statement



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Official statement of the Managing Authority

This document presents the **official statement** of the Managing Authority according to the **EC 2001/42 SEA Directive Article 9 (1)**.

a) Information on the adoption of the Programme

Following the adoption of the “Hungary-Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013”, the Managing Authority will make available the operational programme (OP) and the environmental report for the authorities referred to in Article 6(3), for the public and the Member State consulted under Article 7 of SEA Directive.

The following means will be used for this purpose:

- **websites** of the National Development Agency of Hungary (www.nfu.hu), Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing (www.mdlpl.ro) and Váti Kht. (www.vati.hu);
- national and NUTS III level **newspapers** advertising on both sides of the border;
- **Kick-off meeting** of the Programme.

b) Integration of environmental considerations into the OP

b1) Consultation with the relevant authorities and the public

The consultation with the relevant authorities and the public was carried out through invited comments from Romania and Hungary via mail and e-mail sent to VÁTI Kht. in Hungary and to the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing in Romania. Beyond the written consultation, a special one-day SEA consultation workshop was organized, during which the purpose of the SEA process, the HU-RO programme document, and the related Draft Environmental Report was presented, and questions and recommendations were taken to develop the SEA report.

The public consultation process for the Programme and related SEA Reports was managed through the:

- announcement in **daily newspapers**,
- publication of the Programme and SEA documents, full English version and summary in Hungarian, on the following websites:
 - National Development Agency (Managing Authority and National Authority - HU): www.nfu.hu published: March 12th
 - Ministry of Development Public Works and Housing (National Authority-RO): www.mdlpl.ro published: March 14th
 - VATI Kht. (JTS): www.vati.hu published: **March 12th**

The consultations with the planners of the programme took place in form of several face-to-face meetings based upon the Draft Environmental Reports of the SEA consultants, and the table of accepted recommendations.

A special group of stakeholders of the Programme was the Task Force, composed basically of the representatives of the counties in the programme area and of those of the national authorities. It served as a consultative body throughout the programming period. During Task Force meetings the SEA consultants were requested to provide status reports on the SEA progress.

b2) Issues emerged during the consultation process and their status in the SEA

The following table provides information on the major issues emerged from the consultation process and their status in the SEA.

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	Status in SEA
1.	István Szatmári (Cultural Heritage Protection Office)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	The protection of built environment and heritage protection do not appear either in the OP or in the SEA. Is it possible to include these, since the OP is already in a rather advanced stage?	The protection of built environment and heritage protection can appear as a tourism related project (reconstruction of a building for example), but there should be a strong cross-border effect.
2.	Bitea Dr. Zoia (doctor, Oradea)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	Makes a proposal, to include the preparation of communities for the needed actions in case of a natural disaster within the OP.	Attention should be taken to communication between partners during the implementation of projects. This communication was difficult in the past because of the borders.
3.	Enache Felicia (Environmental Institute of Bihar County)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	There are deficiencies in the OP, mainly in relation to environmental elements and natural resources.	Planners accepted and asked for, access to these documents.
4.	Costandache Adrian (Ministry of European Integration)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	Is it possible to use the SEA method described in the handbook (GRDP 2006) and also proposed by them in this SEA? The methodology used in the present SEA is different from that in the handbook, thus explanation is wanted why the experts used this methodology instead of that in the handbook?	The EU regulations were taken into consideration during the selection of the SEA methodology. The SEA regulation opens up for several, equally useable methodologies to be used in SEA process. The SEA experts offered the most appropriate methodology for the OP and communicated in the scope of the SEA.
5.	Participant of the SEA workshop	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	All the OP-related documents need to be available in Hungarian.	Only the non-technical summaries were translated into national languages.

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	Status in SEA
6.	Participants	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	General opinion was positive on the Environmental Report presented. The issue of making environmental information accessible for the public was welcome.	No action required.
7.	Participant	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	What are the next steps in the planning process in developing action plans for the OP? How the public consultation on the action plan of the OP will be managed?	Issues are not in the scope of the SEA. VÁTI provided overview on the future planning process.
8.	Participant	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	The conditions and institutional frameworks related to environment protection are different on the two sides of the border making co-operation on nature protection difficult.	Transferred to planners for consideration.

b3) Program documents assessed in the SEA process

- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of February 19, 2007)
- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of March 2, 2007)
- National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)
- National Sustainable Development Strategy
- The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components is Romania
- Opinion of Békés County Council of Representatives
- Opinion of Csongrád County Council of Delegates
- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program SEA Workshop recommendations, Hungary-Békéscsaba, April 13. 2007.

b4) Major recommendations taken by the planners during the SEA process

The following table shows an overview on how the SEA recommendations of the subsequent environmental reports were taken into account by the planners of the programme.

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area						
1.1 Activity: Improvement of cross-border transport facilities	The statements of the situation analysis are in harmony with the priorities. The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. There is no reference to the Traffic OP and to the national strategies of traffic development other than that the Hungarian opinion is not known. It is rather important in relation of environmental sustainability, that the OP supports planning as well: the measure finances the work out of environmental assessments, environmental studies, final construction drawings. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The statements of the situation analysis are in harmony with the priorities. The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. There is no reference to the Traffic OP and to the national strategies of traffic development other than that the Hungarian opinion is not known. It is rather important in relation of environmental sustainability, that the OP supports planning as well: the measure finances the for out of environmental assessments, environmental studies, final construction drawings. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	partly integrated
1.2 Activity: Improvement of cross-border communication	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses only the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and recommendations of the SWOT. but this situation	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses only the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and recommendations of the SWOT. but this situation	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses on ly the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and recommendations of the SWOT. but this situation	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses on ly the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and recommendations of the SWOT. but this situation	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses on ly the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and recommendations of the	partly integrated

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	<p>analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure. The measure has an important role in relation of social sustainability because the measure finances the wide brand accessibility to the internet and the strengthening of local press, which can contribute to the formation and development of local cultures and to the prevail of the principle of subsidiarity. The measure can contribute also to the spread of knowledge and culture based production and consumption.</p>	<p>analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure. The measure has an important role in relation of social sustainability because the measure finances the wide brand accessibility to the internet and the strengthening of local press, which can contribute to the formation and development of local cultures and to the prevail of the principle of subsidiarity. The measure can contribute also to the spread of knowledge and culture based production and consumption.</p>	<p>analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure.</p>	<p>analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure.</p>	<p>SWOT, but this situation analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure.</p>	

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Nature protection	There is few words about natural values and protected (Natura 2000 for example) areas in relation of Romania. It is more detailed about the Hungarian situation, but not modulated enough. It would be practical to show the area in more details in the annex. There are only few words about surface water, ground water at part introducing the natural resources, but this is an incomplete chapter anyway. The measure will probably have a positive effect on environmental sustainability, but the situation analysis has to be supplemented.	There is few words about natural values and protected (Natura 2000 for example) areas in relation of Romania. It is more detailed about the Hungarian situation, but not modulated enough. It would be practical to show the area in more details in the annex. There are only few words about surface water, ground water at part introducing the natural resources, but this is an incomplete chapter anyway. The measure will probably have a positive effect on environmental sustainability, but the situation analysis has to be supplemented.	The description of Natura2000 sites appears at the situation analysis, but does not mention the role of ecological corridors, forests and river valleys in the preservation of biodiversity.	The description of Natura2000 sites appears at the situation analysis, but does not mention the role of ecological corridors, forests and river valleys in the preservation of biodiversity.	The description of Natura2000 sites appears at the situation analysis, but does not mention the role of ecological corridors, forests and river valleys in the preservation of biodiversity.	partly integrated
1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Water resources and quality management	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they have dot an important role in	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they have dot an important role in	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests. although they	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they have dot an important role in	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests. although	partly integrated

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	<p>water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years.</p>	<p>water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years.</p>	<p>have got an important role in water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years. The description of environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented: the surface- and ground water givens of the planning area in Hungary fundamentally effect the flood and inland water situation of the region. The Maros alluvium, which can be found mostly in the territory of Romania, is fundamentally effects the water supply of Békés and Csongrád county. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.</p>	<p>water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years. The description of environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented: the surface- and ground water givens of the planning area in Hungary fundamentally effect the flood and inland water situation of the region. The Maros alluvium, which can be found mostly in the territory of Romania, is fundamentally effects the water supply of Békés and Csongrád county. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.</p>	<p>they have got an important role in water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years. The description of environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented: the surface- and ground water givens of the planning area in Hungary fundamentally effect the flood and inland water situation of the region. The Maros alluvium, which can be found mostly in the territory of Romania, is fundamentally effects the water supply of Békés and Csongrád county. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.</p>	

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
<p>1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat, but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. The situation analysis in reality, does not deal with the situation of waste management. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat, but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. The situation analysis in reality, does not deal with the situation of waste management. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat, but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. The situation analysis in reality, does not deal with the situation of waste management. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>partly integrated</p>

Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
2.1 Activity: Support for cross-border business co-operation: Investment in business infrastructure	We recommend in relation of industrial, trading and logistical activities, that they should be realized as a brown-field development or as a complement to already existing infrastructure. The settling technology should be environmental friendly. Developments should point from the matter- and energy-intensive products and technologies towards a less matter- and energy-intensive knowledge and culture based production and consumption. The measure can have positive effect in relation of sustainability if such aspects emerge during the selection of the projects.	We recommend in relation of industrial, trading and logistical activities, that they should be realized as a brown-field development or as a complement to already existing infrastructure. The settling technology should be environmental friendly. Developments should point from the matter- and energy-intensive products and technologies towards a less matter- and energy-intensive knowledge and culture based production and consumption. The measure can have positive effect in relation of sustainability if such aspects emerge during the selection of the projects.	Fully integrated			
2.2 Activity: Promotion of co - operation in the field of R+D and innovation	At the situation analysis and in the SWOT, the low R+D activity is presented among the weaknesses. The plan sets the development of weaknesses as an objective, but it is not clear, what would be the relation between the supported R+D and the local environment and what would be the preferred R+D area. There is no multiplication effect detectable. The support of the R+D sector and the help of the spread of innovation	At the situation analysis and in the SWOT, the low R+D activity is presented among the weaknesses. The plan sets the development of weaknesses as an objective, but it is not clear, what would be the relation between the supported R+D and the local environment and what would be the preferred R+D area. There is no multiplication effect detectable. The support of the R+D sector and the help of the spread of innovation completely	Fully integrated			

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	completely contributes to the development of knowledge and culture based production and industry and to the environmentally friendly, thus sustainable developments.	contributes to the development of knowledge and culture based production and industry and to the environmentally friendly, thus sustainable developments.				
2.3 Activity: Co-operation in the labour market and education – joint development of skills and know	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions. The development of human resources, the work out of educational topics and curriculums, the support of research programs is indispensably important to the spread of environmental friendly, thus sustainable technologies and to the availability of well trained workforces.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions. The development of human resources, the work out of educational topics and curriculums, the support of research programs is indispensably important to the spread of environmental friendly, thus sustainable technologies and to the availability of well trained workforces.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions.	partly integrated
2.4 Activity: Health care and prevention of common threat	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities. This measure will have almost only positive effect regarding sustainability.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities. This measure will have almost only positive effect regarding sustainability.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities.	partly integrated
2.5 Activity: Cooperation between communities	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the	partly integrated

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	population, since bad mental and/or social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	

c) Monitoring arrangements

Managing Authority hereby declares that it will monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the "Hungary-Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013" in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. For this purpose, the Managing Authority will

- fully implement the existing and later developed monitoring measures of the Programme;
- co-operate with key political, economical and civil authorities of the border region;
- apply Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) principles for investment projects supported within the programme;
- support best available techniques (BAT) in the area of environmental development and increase quality of human resources through environmental education.

Budapest, October 2007

Head of the Managing Authority
for the Hungary-Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013

**Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the Hungary-Romania
Cross Border Co-operation Program
2007-2013**

Part A:

**Statements summarising how the environmental
considerations have been integrated into the OP**



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Structure of the SEA Final Environmental Report

In order to present the SEA Final Environmental Report (FER) in a clear way to the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional Policy, the FER is structured into the following parts and related documents, which are required by the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC of June 27, 2001).

Part A: Statements summarising how the environmental considerations have been integrated into the OP

Part B: The non-technical summary

Part C: Public consultation

Part D: Monitoring measures

Official statement of the Managing Authority

SEA project organisation

The document was prepared by RESPECT Consulting, partner in the VITALPRO Consortium.

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1. Introduction

The Ex-ante evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Hungary-Romania Cross Border Co-operation Program 2007-2013 was ordered by VÁTI Kht. from VitalPro Consulting Consortium as a result of a public tendering process. RESPECT Consulting as part of the consortium is responsible for the SEA.

The reference documents used for the SEA were as follows:

Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of February 19, 2007)

Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of March 2, 2007)

National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)

National Sustainable Development Strategy

The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components in Romania

Opinion of Békés County Council of Representatives

Opinion of Csongrád County Council of Delegates

Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program SEA Workshop recommendations, Hungary-Békéscsaba, April 13. 2007.

2. The purpose of SEA

The purpose and use of SEA can be summarized as follows:

Searching for the main environmental impacts

Strategic level focused: programs, plans, policies

Method based and process oriented tailored to the subject of assessment

Iterative process, not a one-shot deal

Influencing decision-making process in the whole programming process

Ensuring transparency of assessment and planning process, public participation in decision-making

Considering the implementation of programs, not just the planning

Results of the SEA is documented in series of environmental reports (draft environmental report(s) and at the end of the assessment process in a Final Environmental Report (FER))

Key instrument to ensure Sustainable Development (SD) in planning and implementation of programs

3. Relevant SEA framework

- EC 42/2001 SEA Directive;
- ESPOO Convention (Espoo, 1991), Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kiev, 2003) - the 'SEA Protocol';

- 2/2005 (I.11.) Government Decree – Hungarian Regulation of SEA;
- Decision no. 1076/8.07.2004 for setting up the environmental assessment procedure of certain plans and programmes in Romania

4. Assessment method

The SEA assessment method is based on three different approaches focusing on three important aspects of the SEA process. These approaches are as follows:

The general review of the text with environmental focused ex-ante evaluation questions,

Sustainable development (SD) principles were developed by the SEA Team based on the relevant accepted and draft SD strategies and environmental programs (e.g. National Environmental Program 2003-2008). The SD principles were measured against the OP,

The DG Environment checklist for environmental assessment of National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NSRFs) and Operational Programmes (OPs) were. The OP was measured against the checklist.

4.1. Ex-ante type approach

The assessment method used for developing the major findings of the Final Environmental Report was taken from Ex-ante evaluation methodology as follows:

1. Appraisal of the socio-economic analysis, the relevance of the strategy and the needs identified, including:
Appraisal of the socio-economic analysis and assessment of the needs resulting of it;
Assessment of the relevance of the strategy and the identified needs.
2. Evaluation of the rationale of the strategy and its consistency, including:
In-depth analysis of the objectives and priorities of the programme;
Evaluation of the consistency of the strategy, including the sufficiency of the allocated financial resources to the strategy proposed;
Assessment of policy risk in the choice of priorities.
3. Appraisal of the coherence of the strategy with regional, national and supra-national policies and the Community Strategic Guidelines, including:
Appraisal of the coherence of the strategy proposed with regional and national policies with relevance for the future development of HU-RO CB Region and the Community policies outlined in the Community Strategic Guidelines, e.g. Lisbon objectives;
Assessment whether equality between men and women and non-discrimination issues has been appropriately taken into account.
4. Evaluation of expected results and impacts

Assessment of the appropriateness of the structure and hierarchy of the objectives and the indicators identified as well as the proposed quantification of the indicators, on the basis of past experience and appropriate benchmarks;
 Evaluation on whether the proposed system of indicators is manageable and usable.

4.2. Sustainable development principles based approach

With no relevant sustainable development strategy available on the Hungarian side, the SEA expert team, based upon internationally best available principles, developed a set of 8 sustainable development principles with 22 sub-criteria. The sustainable development criteria framework is presented below:

I. Sustainable use of the environment and natural resources	1. The conservation and improvement of the self regulatory ability of conditionally renewable environmental elements and systems.
	2. The preference of use of renewable energy resources.
	3. The prevention and minimize of formation of waste and contamination, decrease of danger and elimination of damages caused.
	4. The values created during development, should be in balance with the amount of the consumed or sacrificed natural values.
	5. During the use of sites, the size of environmentally usable area should be a strict upper limit, which means that the environmentally friendly solutions should be preferred.
	6. In order to avoid possible damages on the long term, the principle of awareness should be used.
II. Conserving and maintaining existing natural values	7. The preservation of the conditions of maintenance and regeneration of biological diversity.
	8. The maintenance of the values of the built environment (architectural and cultural) and the values of the landscape should be provided.
III. Securing the existence of local communities, and its quality conditions for their living	9. The resources and environmental givens that can be managed locally should serve primarily the benefit of local communities.
	10. The development and formation of local culture should be provided which can serve the harmony between the people and the environment.
	11. The increase of the retaining ability of local communities and settlements.
	12. The principle of subsidiary should be used during the decisions of development with providing sufficient information and the involvement of the concerned.
IV. Taking the advantage of technological development from a sustainable	13. Developments should turn from the materially and energetically intensive products and technologies towards a production and consumption that is materially and energetically poor and based much more on knowledge and culture.

sustainable perspective	14. Technological developments that enforce sustainability.
	15. Only technologies, which suit the local society and natural environment, can be used.
V. Development of persons and communities ready to take responsibility	16. Developments and interventions should contribute to the process that results in that people (those involved among natural persons and legal entities and the groups of these) feel responsibility for the values of sustainability and the environment.
	17. To provide the conditions of a complete life, stimulation of the development of community life through the development of moral values, which contains sustainability as a value.
VI. Equal opportunities and spatial equivalence	18. Everybody should have the equal opportunity to get the knowledge needed for environmental friendly life as well as education.
	19. The possibility of a whole and complete life should be provided to people and communities living among different conditions.
	20. The equalization of small areas with different development status should be an objective.
VII. Good governance	21. Legal certainty, transparency, the lack of corruption, subsidiary, the possibility to gain information, participation, effectiveness, coherency, awareness, responsibility should be provided during administration and governance.
VIII. Health protection, prevention in health care, health development	22. Health protection, prevention in health care, health development (mentally and physically), food safety, defence and control, development of health awareness, the possibility to get environmental, employment and work health information, emergence of prevention in the institutional system, the prevention of the health of the future generation, long and healthy life (lifetime expected at birth), active old-age.

4.3. DG Environment checklist approach

The DG Environment checklist for environmental assessment of National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NSRFs) and Operational Programmes (OPs) was applied to evaluate the SEA process through a DG Environment requirement set.

5. Major findings of the SEA

5.1. Comprehensive opinion on the operational program

It is difficult to analyse the exact environmental effects of the plan without the detailed Action plan, the project selection process and detailed financial table. Due to the general nature of the present plan, a wide scope of actions can be supported; therefore the project selection process should take the environmental and environmental sustainability aspects into consideration.

The financial table does not indicate the distribution of the financial sources in yearly breakdown and between the measures foreseen. Because of that, the amount dedicated to the environmental activities within the 1st priority cannot be judged.

The plan does not contain the expected impacts on the intervention areas. The indicators are questionable in several cases, for example the growth of protected areas (ha) in case of priority 1. In our opinion, this indicator is not suitable to measure the effectiveness of the activity. This way it is difficult to make an authentic opinion about the whole plan itself.

In many cases there are no indicators to serve as bases during the implementation. It is suggested to clarify the indicators during the call for application phase.

The natural axes of co-operation are the rivers, river-valleys and the catchment basins of rivers. In the cross-border region, which is mainly the bottommost area of the catchment basin of the Carpathian-basin, water management plays a crucial role. The EU Water Directive gives the background of the planning of catchment basins, so the reference to that need to be mentioned. Both countries have to prepare plans for the catchment basins in order to preserve the good quality of water. The waters come from Romania to Hungary, so it is Hungary's prime interest, that water control developments need to be implemented on the Romanian catchment basins, that do not endanger the quality of water. For this reason, in the development of industry and economy only those technologies should be supported, that radically decrease the present environmental hazards connected to the industry. In the past years, in the frame of the PHARE CBC, a lot of such developments have been implemented. The characterisation of the environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented according to its importance: the surface water and underground water situation of the planning area in Hungary significantly affects the regions inland water and flood situation. From the aspect of the water supply of Békés and Csongrád counties, the Maros alluvium that is situated mostly in Romania has a significant importance. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.

The emphasis of thermal waters mostly in reference of environmental resources is untouched. The expansion of the chapter that introduces the environmental resources (2.1.7.), with the presentation of other environmental elements and environmental resources is suggested. There is no harmony between the situation analysis and the measures formulated: while thermal water is emphasised within the environmental resources in the situation analysis, the use of thermal water (as a tourism attraction or as an alternative energy source) is not mentioned among the supported activities.

There is no significant description about the agriculture in the SWOT analysis, despite the fact that it has an important role in land-use and employment. The OP refers to agriculture in another relation, see: 1.1 Program summary: „With regard to the major economic sectors, agriculture and food industry play a key role in the economy of the entire area.” 2.1.3 Labour Market: In the programming areas, agriculture still plays an important role in the employment (in Annex 2.).

While on the Hungarian side the share of agricultural sector in employment is slightly higher, on the Romanian side the same indicator is similar to the national average; it has to be noted, that agriculture plays a more important role in employment at national level in Romania, than in Hungary.

Beyond the two large nations (Romanian, Hungarian) there is a unique ethnical picture in the area (Germans, Slovaks, Serbs), who are mentioned only in the annex, but the evaluation of data does not take place. It is missing from the analysis that the minorities found on the two sides of the border are in an organic connection with their mother countries, and the family and economic relations are key factors in the network system of the two countries.

It would be good to find data for good governance from both sides of the border. Issues such as legal stability, transparency, following legal requirements, the level of corruption, principle of subsidiarity, access to information, participation in decision-making, effectiveness, coherency, citizen awareness, and accountability should be guaranteed and supported in the governance and administration. The following questions need to be answered: (1) How these issues above could be enforced?, (2) In what extent can the minorities use their minority rights in the local decision-making?

The structure of the evaluation is not very useful to gain information on the sustainable development of the area. The reason for that is, that the evaluation is analytical, making an enumeration and description of the evaluated elements on their own, but does not connect them with each other. The analysis of the economy does not clarify, in what extent is the economy in the different areas relying up on the local natural resources and local cultural (professional) traditions. Information needs to be provided about the natural resources (energy resources, renewable and non-renewable potential, mineral raw materials, water supply, soil), so the level of dependence of the economy of the area on outer resources needs to be assessed. The level of dependence would be crucial information from the sustainability point of view. It would be good to see the present dependence on outer sources of the economy on energy and on raw materials.

The connection between the environmental, the social and economical changes are totally unfolded. For example issues need to be addressed such as the accumulating environmental problems of the development centres, or the relation of the poor population to the environment in the marginalized rural areas, that usually realised in damaging the natural environment.

There is no connection presented between the high commute rate, the transportation and traffic need, that can be originated from the development of the agglomeration of the cities and industries, and the environmental problems. There is no information about the combined, environmentally friendly transportation methods, although there are possibilities and existing infrastructures in relation of railroad. The structure of transportation within the area appears only on a map, but it is not analysed in relation

of ecological corridors, although due to their relative untouched nature, the unique value of the border areas that they conserved the ecological corridors, the important routes for the gene exchange.

There is no information from the analysis of education (there are no data available) about the amount of the educated people staying locally, or gained high education. Further questions need to be addressed such as: (1) How many people can get jobs connected to the development centres or how many people can get jobs in the rural areas?, (2) How the education reacts upon the needs of the local economy?, and (3) In what extent the educational is capable to follow the possible changes of the job market? The last question is also valid for the research and development areas.

The evaluation dealing with the environment and the natural resources does not contain problem descriptions. The environmental effects of mining are not mentioned as problems that should be solved.

The evaluation should mention that the relative untouched status of the nature contributes to the value of the border areas. From Hungary's biodiversity point of view, the corridors that provide gene exchange from the Carpathian hills through river basins for species' populations that are expanding their territory are essential. The preservation of these connections depends on the intensity of the development projects cutting these corridors. There is no doubt, that all of the green field investments damage the favourable situation regarding nature. However, the reparation of already used areas, for example the reconstruction of brown field areas through new ways of site use, or with the improvement of the performance of industrial sites increase could contribute positively to nature protection. The integration of settlements to the landscape would also improve the natural conditions.

It is also important to mention, that the interpretation of sustainable development in the programme is usually narrow, concentrating on environmental sustainability, but does not look for the synergies that can be found in the context of environmental, economic and social development.

Within the horizontal theme of equal opportunity, the issues relating to Roma communities are under represented. The Roma populations affected by the lack of communication possibilities and poverty; have got much less opportunities in cross border co-operations, although it is possible that they would have got no lingual differences on the two sides of the border. There are no initiatives represented in the plan that would change this situation. It is important to solve the problem of the Roma communities in relation of sustainability, because their increasing handicap is resulting in bad social conditions, which might lead to the over-exploitation of the natural values in their surroundings.

A serious deficiency of the plan is that the in depth analysis of the human resources are missing. This is important, because the bad mental and social state could have seriously harmful impacts on the environment. The following questions need to be addressed: (1) What is the mental and social state of the population in the cross-border area?, (2) What deviant behaviour forms have appeared?, (3) In what situation are the civil societies on both sides of the border?, and (4) How many and what kind of civil organizations are there in the area as potential partners for cross-border projects?

5.2 Analysis of sustainable development related documents in Romania

A comparison was carried out between OP priorities and Romanian sustainable development related strategy documents in order to check coherency with national programs.

The table below presents the major comments made during the comparison.

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)	National Sustainable Development Strategy	The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components in Romania
1	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.1 Activity: Improvement of cross-border transport facilities	The development of traffic is emphasised both in the OP and in this document. There is close connection between the two documents, but in the case of OP, the environmental effects could be predicted only according to the Action Plan. In this document however, specifically environmental friendly development is the priority.	The development of traffic has got an important role in both documents, since traffic is the primary condition of the operation of every sector. It appears as a priority just like in the OP among others: -the connection to the European traffic networks - environmental friendly traffic modes: combined transportation, electrification of railroad routes This way, a close connection can be indicated between the two documents.	This document does not contain the development of traffic as a priority, but it is formulated that development of traffic can be implemented only in a way that does not endanger biodiversity. These aspects should be considered in the Action Plan of the OP and during the selection of the projects.
2		1.2 Activity: Improvement of cross-border communication	This priority does not appear in this document, so there is no connection either.	The development of communication technologies is a priority in both documents, so there is a close connection between the two documents. According to this document, the development of communication is a base of sustainable development.	This priority is not presented in this document so there is no connection either.
3		1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment Nature protection	Similar to the OP, the following are the priorities in this document: Strengthening the capacity of organisations, strengthening the planning capacities, harmonisation of legislation, working out of a measurement, forecaster and monitoring system, strengthening of the institutional system, adaptation activity, taking over of best practices. There is total harmony between the two documents.	The priorities formulated in the OP are not formulated explicitly in this document but there is still some kind of connection between the objectives.	The priorities formulated in the OP are not formulated explicitly in this document but there is still some kind of connection between the objectives.

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)	National Sustainable Development Strategy	The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components in Romania
4			There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.	<p>The priorities formulated in the OP can be found in this document too. Forestry and silviculture is emphasised much more in relation of water management. Common priorities:</p> <p>Water management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous and secure supply mainly for the population (water reservoir, separation of communally and industrial water supply systems) - Protection of water quality with the use of environmental friendly technologies - Improvement of ecological condition of natural waters - Flood-protection, reduction of threat of flood <p>There is total harmony between the two documents.</p>	<p>Similarly to the OP, water management activities get great emphasis, but it is also formulated, that these can be done only with the consideration of ecological aspects.</p> <p>We recommend that ecological aspects should be included to the evaluation in the Action Plan of the OP, in harmony with this document.</p>
5	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment Reducing pollution	There is tight connection between the two documents regarding the priorities.	There is clear connection between the two documents regarding the priorities. There is a difference between them however that this document clearly supports recycling besides collection. This aspect is not represented in the OP in an emphasised way, as a supportable activity.	There is very tight connecting between the priorities of the two documents, since pollutions are the biggest threats to biodiversity so the force back of these is very important.
6	Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area	2.1 Activity: Support for cross-border business co-operation Investment in business infrastructure:	There is connection between the documents if only those economic activities will be supported in the OP, which take reduction of emission into consideration. If there will be such selection aspects in the action plan of the OP, then there is tight connection.	There is connection between the documents if only those economic activities will be supported in the OP, which take into consideration the principles of sustainable development and the environment. If, during the selection process of the projects, these aspects emerge, then there is connection.	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)	National Sustainable Development Strategy	The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components in Romania
7		2.2 Activity: Promotion of co-operation in the field of R+D and innovation	Research and development is a priority in this document similarly to the OP. The support of using alternative energy sources needs the support of research and development too. Tight connection.	The principle of providing sustainable development is the spread of research and development and innovation, this is why this document handles this as a priority similarly to the OP. Tight connection.	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.
8		2.3 Activity: Co-operation in the labour market and education – joint development of skills and knowledge	There can be possibly tight connection between the two programmes. Trainings have got a priority in both documents. There is tight connection.	Similarly to the OP, this document deals with the development of human resources as a priority, since the base of sustainable development are trainings, development of human resources and the improvement of the mental condition of the population. Tight connection.	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.
9	Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area	2.4 Activity: Health care and prevention of common threat	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.	Similarly to the OP, this document deals with the improvement of the social, mental and health condition of the population, as a priority. This document also - reform of public health system - development and reform of the provider system - prevention - popularization of health-aware lifestyle There is tight connection.	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.
10		2.5 Activity: Cooperation between communities	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.	Unlike in the OP, community-development does not appear in the text in an emphasised way, but the development of training and human resources do. This definitely has community – development effect too.	There is no intervention in this document that can be connected to the priority formulated in the OP.

5.3 Analysis of the ex-ante key issues on the OP

The analysis is presented in a table format below.

In the last column titled: 'Planners' acceptance of the SEA findings' summarizes the status of the SEA recommendations acknowledged and accepted by the OP planners within the consultation process in three categories:

fully integrated into the last OP version
partly integrated in the last OP version
not integrated in the last OP version.

The last OP version assessed was the Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of March 2, 2007).

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
1	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.1. Activity: Improvement of cross-border transport facilities	The rationalization of the Hungarian railroad network and the development of the highways and clearways are represented in a deficient way. This way, the environmental risk and dangers of traffic are not represented. The lack of presentation of the risks and dangers of traffic is a serious problem especially along the Maros river.	The situation analysis is in harmony with the priorities of the plan. On the other hand, it does not evaluate the environmental effects of traffic.	It contains reference to the other sectorial OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	The plan deals with the environmental effects of the development strategy only in a rather generous way.	Partly integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
2		1.2. Activity: Improvement of cross-border communication	The development of communication across the border and the support of local press, contributes to the development and establishment of local culture that can provide the harmony between people and environment.	The situation analysis does not give a picture about the present situation of the use of IT tools (in reference of the number of Internet users, the Romanian situation is mentioned), it analyses only the state of development of the telephone-line network, and there is no mention about Internet providers. It is mentioned as a weakness in the SWOT analysis though. There is harmony between the statement of the SWOT analysis and the intervention proposal, but this is not convincingly established in the evaluation of the situation. There is no mention about the environmental risks and dangers originating from the obsolescence of IT tools.	It contains reference to the other sectoral OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	The environmental sustainability of the activity is assured.	Not integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
3		1.3. Activity: Protection of the environment Nature protection	The relevance of the priority is explicit.	The situation analysis contains little about the natural values and the condition of environmental elements protected areas	It contains reference to the other sectoral OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	The sustainability of the priority is assured.	Partly integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
4	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.3. Activity: Protection of the environment Water resources	The relevance of the priority is explicit.	The situation analysis mentions thermal water on the first place, as a resource. Despite of the above mentioned, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of them is presented from the point of catastrophic hazard in the plan (floodplains, hazard rate of inland waters, the rate of people living in these regions, industrial facilities).	It contains reference to the other sectoral OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	There is only a few words about forests, thus forests have play a very important role in relation of water management and disaster recovery. Romania is very rich in forests and the demand for wood is increasing. There is no word about the forests in the chapter of the description of the natural resources or at the description of the economy, although as an important natural resource, it could have a decisive role as the base of sustainable development in the local economy. It has an important role in wood industry, energy, building industry, tourism, forest fires, and water management. It would worth to analyse the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the past years. These factors could influence sustainability.	Not integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
5			The relevance of the priority is explicit.	The situation analysis mentions industrial contamination as the primary environmental problem. Even so, the proposed measure concerns the communal area. The plan points out the importance of the development of communication, which will increase the spread of IKT appliances and also the increase of the amount of waste connected to them. It would be practical to deal with this problem in the field of development of waste management and to connect the two areas.	There is no coherency in the plan because if we would like to achieve development in the IT area and also would like to develop the waste management system, than we can and have to harmonise the two development directions.	The situation analysis deals with the industrial contamination as a priority but we cannot find solution for this situation in the implementation section. The plan only describes the management of waste connected to the population, but not adequately accent in that the problem should be solved in a systematic way and selective collection, recycling should be preferred to dumps. Sustainability can be influenced by the legislative environment. It is not clarified in the plan, whether the cross-border transportation of waste is possible or not.	Not integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
6	Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area	2.1. Activity: Support for cross-border business co-operation Investment in business infrastructure:		There are no potential sites mentioned in the evaluation of the situation for brown field investments. These could be marked on maps, such as the sugar factories in Sarkad and in Mezőhegyes, or the old hemp factories at Nagylak and Mezőhegyes.	It would be important to revitalise facilities, areas with small added values and with the use of the existing infrastructures.	Possibly the development of the business infrastructure will result in the development in the further development of the already developed towns and industrial areas. This means the formation of a lot of waste and the break away of rural areas. It would be important not to support the involvement of new areas but to re-use the given-up areas.	Not integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
7		2.2. Activity: Promotion of co-operation in the field of R+D and innovation	The support of R+D activities is relevant from the point of the environment, since developments should turn from the materially and energetically intensive products and technologies towards a production and consumption that is materially and energetically poor and based much more on knowledge and culture	Among the weaknesses there is the low activity rate of R+D sector and the weak infrastructure. The weak local economy and the low productivity of agriculture also mentioned here. The plan mostly marks out the development of the weaknesses.	It cannot be red out of the present plan, what is the relation between the supported R+D and the local environment, what would be the preferred R+D sector? The multiplication effect cannot be detected. The parts of the plan that supports the human and institutional connections, and the parts development of partnership is important for the successfulness of the other interventions.	The sustainability of the activities is assured.	Fully integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
8		2.3. Activity: Co-operation in the labour market and education – joint development of skills and knowledge	The support of trainings might be relevant in relation of environment because this activity could contribute to the deepening of environmental awareness.	This chapter is OK. Although the situation analysis could contain a more detailed analysis in reference of the professions which are needed. Neither the situation analysis, nor the chapter that contains text about the principle of equality as a horizontal principal, describe the situation of groups with disadvantages in the necessary details: what is the mental and social situation of the population?	It contains reference to the other sectoral OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	The sustainability of the activities is assured.	Not integrated
9	Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area	2.4. Activity: Health care and prevention of common threat		The situation analysis does not deal with disaster recovery or with the civil defence, although the development of these is mentioned among the priorities.	It contains reference to the other sectoral OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	This measure will have almost only positive effect according to sustainability.	Partly integrated

No.	Designation of objective/priority	Activity	Relevance	Consistency	Coherence	Results and impacts	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
10		2.5. Activity: Cooperation between communities	The measure might be relevant in relation of environment because the interventions can contribute to the process that results in that people (those involved among natural persons and legal entities and the groups of these) feel responsibility for the values of sustainability and the environment, and that this view becomes some kind of moral standard.	The utilizes of local resources are the population on both sides of the border so the development of the connection of these populations is essential. The program is consistent in this relation.	It contains reference to the other sectoral OPs in the case of both countries and evaluates the coherency with them.	The accessibility of the border helps to recover the geographical, economical connections. The revitalisation and development of the local economy is the base of sustainable development.	Fully integrated

5.4. Analysis and findings of the program document based on sustainable development principles

The analysis is presented in a table format.

In the last column titled: 'Planners' acceptance of the SEA findings' summarizes the status of the SEA recommendations acknowledged and accepted by the OP planners within the consultation process in three categories:

- fully integrated into the last OP version
- partly accepted into the last OP version
- not accepted into the last OP version.

The last OP version assessed was the Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of March 2, 2007).

The following table shows the analysis and findings:

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
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No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
1	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.1. Activity: Improvement of cross-border transport facilities	I/3	The prevention and minimize of formation of waste and contamination, decrease of danger and elimination of damages caused	Overlaps cannot be identified at this level of generality, there are no explicit references	Railroad traffic, especially the electric railroad should be preferred if there is a choice to choose between railroad and road traffic if the financial needs are in line with the possibilities provided by the plan. A system of collection and disposal of the waste generated along the traffic corridors and especially at the border crossing point should be created. During the selection of projects, such consideration system should be used that prefers environmental aspects.	Partly integrated
2			I/4	The values created during development, should be in balance with the amount of the consumed or sacrificed natural values.	This aspect is appropriately represented in the plan, the measure finances the preparation of environmental surveys, impact assessments, implementation plans	This should be an evaluation aspect during the selection process of the projects by all means.	Fully integrated
3			I/5	During the use of sites, the size of environmentally usable area should be a strict upper limit, which means that the environmentally friendly solutions should be preferred.	The restoration of traffic network is presented in the measure	The preference of restoration instead of construction of new, should be presented in the plan. This should be an evaluation aspect during the selection process of the projects by all means.	Fully integrated
4			I/6	In order to avoid possible damages on the long term, the principle of awareness should be used.	This aspect is appropriately represented in the plan, the measure finances the preparation of environmental surveys, impact assessments, implementation plans		Fully integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
5			VI/20	The equalization of small areas with different development status should be an objective.	This aspect is appropriately represented in the plan, the measure finances the improvement of the accessibility of small settlements, and the creation of connection between the two sides of the borders.		Fully integrated
6	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.2. Activity: Improvement of cross-border communication	III/10	The development and formation of local culture should be provided which can serve the harmony between the people and the environment.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the widespread accessibility of Internet and the strengthening of local press.		Fully integrated
7			III/11	The increase of the retaining ability of local communities and settlements.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the widespread accessibility of Internet and the strengthening of local press.		Fully integrated
8			III/12	The principle of subsidiary should be used during the decisions of development with providing sufficient information and the involvement of the concerned.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the widespread accessibility of Internet and the strengthening of local press, this way providing the conditions of local decision making.	The realization of the principle of subsidiary should be provided during the selection of the projects.	Partly integrated
9			IV/13	Developments should turn from the materially and energetically intensive products and technologies towards a production and consumption that is materially and energetically poor and based much more on knowledge and culture.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the widespread accessibility of Internet which is a fundamental base of the spread of the knowledge based technologies		Fully integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
10			VI/18	Everybody should have the equal opportunity to get the knowledge needed for environmental friendly life as well as education.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the widespread accessibility of Internet and the strengthening of local press, and development of networking between settlements.		Fully integrated
11			VI/20	The equalization of small areas with different development status should be an objective.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the widespread accessibility of Internet and the strengthening of local press that can equalize the regional differences.	During the selection of the projects, such a consideration system should be developed, that is capable of dealing with the equalization of regional differences.	Fully integrated
12			VII/21	Legal certainty, transparency, the lack of corruption, subsidiary, the possibility to gain information, participation, effectiveness, coherency, awareness, responsibility should be provided during administration and governance.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the plan finances the strengthening of local press.		Fully integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
13	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.3. Activity: Protection of the environment Nature protection	II/7	The preservation of the conditions of maintenance and regeneration of biological diversity.	This subject is under-represented in the description of the situation. However, it is presented in the intervention as a supportable activity. See the following document: The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable use of its Components (Romania).	Such complementation of the chapter 2.1.7. of the situation analysis is necessary by all means. The description of Natura 2000 sites appears in the situation analysis, but there is no mention about role of ecological corridors, forests, river valleys in the preservation of biological diversity. There is a mistake in the situation analysis: there are three National Park Directorates concerned in the Hungarian planning area, because the western part of Csongrád county is in the jurisdiction of the Kiskunsági National Park Direct.	Partly integrated
14			II/8	The maintenance of the values of the built environment (architectural and cultural) and the values of the landscape should be provided.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the measure finances the co-operation between authorities and institutions and the alignment of management plans.	It would be more appropriate if the preservation of landscape elements could be financed too, not only the areas of "official" nature conservation, but the measure would make possible the subsistence of landscape elements and landscape values on other areas, with great emphasis on the fact that agricultural land use is decisive on both sides of the border. During the selection procedure of the projects, those developments should be favoured which take into consideration these aspects.	Not integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
15			III/9	The resources and environmental givens that can be managed locally should serve primarily the benefit of local communities.	The phrasing makes it clear that state managed protected areas are absolutely preferred whether the harmonization of planning or creating the requirements of visitation is the subject.	It would be practical to create the possibility of cross-border development of local landscape values, and landscape-use systems. The scope of applicants should be formed in a way that this aspect could emerge, for example by the local civil organizations.	Partly integrated
16			V/16	Developments and interventions should contribute to the process that results in that people (those involved among natural persons and legal entities and the groups of these) feel responsibility for the values of sustainability and the environment.	This aspect is represented in the plan, the measure finances the PR activity connected to nature conservation.		Fully integrated
17		1.3. Activity: Protection of the environment Water resources and quality management	I/1	The conservation and improvement of the self-regulatory ability of conditionally renewable environmental elements and systems.	This aspect is strongly represented in the case of water management. In the case of other environmental elements, it is not represented.		Partly integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
18	Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area	1.3. Activity: Protection of the environment Water resources and quality management	I/3	The prevention and minimize of formation of waste and contamination, decrease of danger and elimination of damages caused	This aspect is strongly represented in the case of water management, but it is impossible to decide what the subject of the intervention is. The characterisation of the environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented according to its importance: the headwater and under water situation of the planning area in Hungary significantly affects the regions inland water and flood situation. From the aspect of the water supply of Békés and Csongrád counties, the Maros alluvium that is situated mostly in Romania has a significant importance. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.	According to the evaluation of the present situation, the contamination caused by the industry is a big problem and is a recurring problem in relation of water. It is not cleared in the plan how it will achieve the objective. This should be refined.	Partly integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
19		1.3. Activity: Protection of the environment Reducing pollution	I/3	The prevention and minimize of formation of waste and contamination, decrease of danger and elimination of damages caused	This aspect is not represented sufficiently enough in the plan, the phrasing too generous, it is not verified what is the plan with the disposal of the industrial waste mentioned as a serious problem in the evaluation of the situation. Solid and liquid waste has been mentioned.	The evaluation of the situation does not contain a satisfactory analysis of waste management. It would also be important to examine whether the legal environment allows the introduction of the planned measures. Probably there have been waste dumps up to now. There is no word about the recultivation of these. Disposal of industrial waste is not mentioned either. It would also be important to raise awareness among the population to decrease the amount of garbage and to dispose the collected litter and garbage. It would be important to put not only collection but recycling among the supportable measures.	Not integrated
20			IV/14	Technological developments that enforce sustainability.	The aspect is represented but recycling and the problem of handling of agricultural waste is not presented strong enough to the weight of this subject.	Within collection of waste, selective collection should be emphasised, while during disposal recycling should be highlighted. Incinerators should be preferred instead of collecting garbage and litter in waste dumps.	Not integrated
21	Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area	2.1. Activity: Support for cross-border business co-operation Investment in business infrastructure tourism	I/4	The values created during development, should be in balance with the amount of the consumed or sacrificed natural values.	This aspect is not represented in the plan, we can only make conclusions that the development of the available infrastructure is possible.	There are several one-time industrial sites (they were related to the sugar industry), by all means brown-field investments should be preferred even in the case of new constructions. This could be an aspect during the selection of the projects.	Partly integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
22			I/5	During the use of sites, the size of environmentally usable area should be a strict upper limit, which means that the environmentally friendly solutions should be preferred.	This aspect is not really represented in the plan. No such expectations are formulated in relation of settling industry or any other activity.	We suggest that in relation of industrial, trade and logistical activities, the brown-field investments should be the expectation, or as a complementary investment to an existing infrastructure. The settling technology should be operated in an environmentally friendly way.	Partly integrated
23			IV/13	Developments should turn from the materially and energetically intensive products and technologies towards a production and consumption that is materially and energetically poor and based much more on knowledge and culture.	This aspect is totally missing from the plan. At the evaluation of the situation, mining and the industry connected are represented, but do not appear at the environmental or business industrial infrastructure parts.	We suggest that knowledge-based value production should be an expectation even at the designation of the scope of the entitled or in reference of the financed activities.	Partly integrated
24			II/8	The maintenance of the values of the built environment (architectural and cultural) and the values of the landscape should be provided.	The expectation is not represented in the plan, there is no guaranty to the succession of the principal.	Does the bracket show examples, or it should be defined as a restriction, and resembles absolutism among the supportable activities? Maybe it is supposed to resemble priority? We think that the enumeration is misleading, the scope of supportable activities should be much wider. The need that constructions should harmonize with the local traditions of architecture and culture as well as the landscape should be represented in the plan and later in the invitation to tender.	Partly integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
25			III/9	The resources and environmental givens that can be managed locally should serve primarily the benefit of local communities.	The plan gives the opportunity of the fulfilment of this aspect, but it does not give guaranty		Partly integrated
26			2.2. Activity: Promotion of co-operation in the field of R+D and innovation	IV/13.	Developments should turn from the materially and energetically intensive products and technologies towards a production and consumption that is materially and energetically poor and based much more on knowledge and culture.	The support and the help of the spread of innovation and the R+D sector contribute fully to the development of the knowledge and culture based production and industry.	
27			IV/14.	Technological developments that enforce sustainability.	The support and the help of the spread of innovation and the R+D sector contributes fully to the environmentally friendly and this way sustainable technological development.		Fully integrated
28		2.3. Activity: Co-operation in the labour market and education – joint development of skills and knowledge	IV/13.	Developments should turn from the materially and energetically intensive products and technologies towards a production and consumption that is materially and energetically poor and based much more on knowledge and culture.	The support of development of human resources, the preparation of curriculum and thematic of training and the research programmes is crucial for the spread of knowledge based production and technologies and to provide qualified manpower.		Fully integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
29			IV/14.	Technological developments that enforce sustainability.	The support of development of human resources, the preparation of curriculum and thematic of training and the research programmes is crucial for the spread of knowledge based production and technologies and to provide qualified manpower.		Fully integrated
30			VI/19	The possibility of a whole and complete life should be provided to people and communities living among different conditions.	The fulfilment of this aspect is appropriate in the plan because it provides the education of the disadvantaged groups.	This could be an evaluation aspect during the selection of the projects.	Partly integrated
31		2.4. Activity: Health care and prevention of common threat	VI/19	The possibility of a whole and complete life should be provided to people and communities living among different conditions.	The fulfilment of this aspect is appropriate in the plan.	This could be an evaluation aspect during the selection of the projects.	Partly integrated
32		2.4. Activity: Health care and prevention of common threat	VIII/22	Health protection, prevention in health care, health development (mentally and physically), food safety, defencelessness and control, development of health awareness, the possibility to get environmental, employment and work health information, emergence of prevention in the institutional system, the prevention of the health of the future generation, long and healthy life (lifetime expected at birth), active old-age.	The plan provides the possibility to fulfil the aspect but gives no guaranty. The examination of the mental, health and social situation of the population is not presented in the situation analysis with the needed emphasis. The situation analysis contains only the co-operation of public health institutions.	We advise to include the examination of the populations mental, health and social situation to the situation analysis, because bad social conditions may have a bad environmental effects.	Not integrated

No.	Description of objective/priority	Activity	Identifier of the concerned SD	Short description of SD (sustainable development) value element concerned	Qualitative description of the overlap of the OP element and the SD value	Qualitative description of the missing OP elements based on SD values	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
33		2.5. Activity: Cooperation between communities	III/11	The increase of the retaining ability of local communities and settlements.	The plan provides the opportunity for the aspect to emerge.	The evaluation aspects should contribute to the opportunity for the small settlements and small areas to take part, and protect them from the over domination of the big settlements.	Partly integrated
34			V/16	Developments and interventions should contribute to the process that results in that people (those involved among natural persons and legal entities and the groups of these) feel responsibility for the values of sustainability and the environment.	The plan provides the opportunity for the aspect to emerge.		Fully integrated
35			V/17	To provide the conditions of a complete life, stimulation of the development of community life through the development of moral values which contains sustainability as a value.	The plan provides the opportunity for the aspect to emerge.		Fully integrated

**Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**of the Hungary-Romania
Cross Border Co-operation Program
2007-2013**

**Part B:
Non-technical summary**



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1. Introduction

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Hungary-Romania Cross Border Co-operation Program 2007-2013 was conducted by RESPECT consulting as part of the consortium responsible for the SEA. The aim of the assessment was to measure the programme against a set of environmental sustainability criteria.

The reference documents used for the SEA were as follows:

- Hungary – Romania Cross Border Co-operation Program Document (final version of July)
- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of February 19, 2007)
- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of March 2, 2007)
- National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)
- National Sustainable Development Strategy
- The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components in Romania
- Opinion of Békés County Council of Representatives
- Opinion of Csongrád County Council of Delegates
- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program SEA Workshop recommendations, Hungary-Békéscsaba, April 13. 2007.

2. The purpose of SEA

- Searching for the main environmental impacts
- Strategic level focused: programs, plans, policies
- Method based and process oriented tailored to the subject of assessment
- Iterative process, not a one-shot deal
- Influencing decision-making process in the whole programming process
- Ensuring transparency of assessment and planning process, public participation in decision-making
- Considering the implementation of programs, not just the planning
- Results of the SEA is documented in series of environmental reports (draft environmental report(s) and at the end of the assessment process in a Final Environmental Report (FER))
- Key instrument to ensure Sustainable Development (SD) in planning and implementation of programs

3. Relevant SEA framework

- EC 42/2001 SEA Directive;
- ESPOO Convention (Espoo, 1991), Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kiev, 2003) - the 'SEA Protocol';
- 2/2005 (I.11.) Government Decree – Hungarian Regulation of SEA;
- Decision no. 1076/8.07.2004 for setting up the environmental assessment procedure of certain plans and programmes in Romania;

This document presents the non-technical summary of the strategic environmental assessment according to the EC 2001/42 Directive Annex 1 point j) on strategic environmental assessment.

A. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or the programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

The eligible border area covers the eight NUTS III level counties with fairly similar economic and social situation in general. The major towns - the county-seats – play a central role in the development of the area, as most of the public institutions, higher educational facilities as well as the major economic actors are concentrated in these towns. All of the county seats, with the exception of Nyíregyháza and Timisoara - are located in the immediate proximity of the border (within 10-30 km); consequently, their impact potentially reaches well beyond the border.

The development process is still under way, and the international accessibility of the area has improved a lot with the development of motorway connections. Accessibility of small rural settlements, especially in the immediate proximity of the state borders, however, is still heavily compromised.

The programme strategy strives to bring the different actors – people, economic actors and communities – closer to each other, in order to better exploit the opportunities offered by the joint development of the border area. The co-operation area faces a unique moment: Romania's accession to the European Union will lead to the gradual elimination of the state border currently cutting through the area and separating people and communities with various natural and traditional linkages. This is a major change, which has important implications for the strategy. The proposed strategy, therefore, is centered on making use of this one-time opportunity, mainly through:

- Improving the key conditions of co-operation through addressing the most important obstacles;
- Supporting the actual co-operation initiatives of various actors.

Relevant policies have been considered when preparing the Hungary – Romania Cross Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013. Development Programme for the New Hungary is considered as the National Strategic Reference Framework of Hungary, which defines the development strategy to ensure economic and employment growth; assigns the most important development tasks; provides the framework for drawing up development operational programmes reflecting the Lisbon and the Gothenburg objectives; and aims for the national and regional programmes to complement and support themselves.

Integration of Hungary into the European space is through cross-border, multi- and trans-national co-operations. Though the European territorial co-operation is in close relation to the NSRF, latter doesn't include further documents about territorial co-operations. Regarding that, separate documents are prepared.

The key aims of the Romanian National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (NSRF) are to strengthen the strategic focus of Romania's Economic and Social Cohesion and Regional Policies and to make the correct and appropriate linkages to the European Commission policies, notably the Lisbon Strategy, which builds policies for economic growth and the creation of jobs. The NSRF has its genesis in the National Development Plan (NDP) which was developed as a tool to guide National, European Union (EU) and other funding sources available to Romania.

In terms of general criteria, the Hungary – Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 *differs from other Hungarian and Romanian sectoral or regional OPs:*

- 1) Territorial impoundment – just 4 NUTS III region from the Hungarian and 4 NUTS III region from the Romanian border region are eligible for support from the cross-border programme;
- 2) Joint projects – joint co-operation resulting joint projects is necessary in the frame of the cross-border programme;
- 3) Beneficiaries from the public and non-profit sphere – enterprises are not eligible for support in the Hungary – Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme.

At intervention level, in cases where overlapping may occur with sectoral or regional operational programmes, special criteria will be defined in the Implementation Manual in order to serve specification.

Hungary – Romania Cross Border Co-operation Programme is intended to be coherent with regional and sectoral policies and programmes. Therefore, on the one hand representatives of relevant Regional Development Agencies will be invited to the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee as observers in order to facilitate synergies with regional development programmes and, on the other hand representatives of relevant ministries with the purpose to promote and ensure sectoral coherence.

B. The relevant aspects of the current state of environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan of the programme

The border area is characterized by clean natural environment where the level of various forms of pollution is relatively low. National parks and the landscape protection areas account for nearly 9% of the total co-operation area in Hungary and 50.000 ha surface in Romania. The rivers in the area establish natural connections between the Romanian and Hungarian parts playing an important role in preserving the biodiversity. They are not used, however, for water transportation or for agricultural irrigation or for energy production, mainly because of their small size. The unique gallery-forests alongside the rivers create special natural values for the area with their rich animal, bird and vegetable life.

Another roots of key problems are improper land-use, and the lack of water reservoir systems: the combination of these two factors lead to either serious droughts (on dry summers), or to excessive inland-water (in rainy seasons, mostly in springs) in certain parts of the border area.

In terms of collected municipal waste per capita per year, a major difference can be observed on the two sides of the border area. Dynamically growing figures in Hungary probably indicate both an increasing consumption and the expansion of waste collection systems. In Romania, the consumption is probably growing without the same tendency in the municipal waste collected. This fact may also reveal the relatively high level of illegal dumping, requiring joint efforts to counteract.

C. The environmental characteristics of areas likely significantly affected

A significant part of the border area is covered by either national parks or landscape protection areas. More integrated approach should be taken in order to avoid local actions focusing only on one side of the border: establishment of joint areas, development of joint management procedures and common actions.

Another important characteristic is the abundance of rivers. Most of them cross the border carrying the risk of floods and river pollution. Major projects are implemented in both countries, mainly in the field of flood prevention. It is important to co-ordinate this development and complement flood prevention facilities with properly functioning joint warning systems. Another important risk factor is the occasional excessive inland water. Here again, integrated interventions are required.

Finally, the former existence of major sources of industrial pollution, and the increasing trend of domestic waste in the co-operation area call for joint actions in the field of waste management.

D. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC

- 1.1. Improvement of cross-border transport facilities – *If environmental friendly solution used, than no significant negative impact.*
- 1.2. Improvement of cross-border communication – *Not relevant*
- 1.3. Protection of the environment – *Positive impact*
- 2.1. Support for cross-border business cooperation – *Not relevant*

2.2. Promotion of cooperation in the field of R+D and innovation – *Not relevant*

2.3. Cooperation in the labour market and education–joint development of skills and knowledge
– *Not relevant*

2.4. Health care and prevention of common threat – *Not relevant*

2.5. Cooperation between communities – *Not relevant*

E. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation

The NATURA 2000 network established by the European Union covers a significant part of the eligible border area. The network is an interconnected European ecological network with the aim of preserving the biodiversity through the protection of the types of natural habitat as well as the species of wild flora and fauna of Community interest, and assisting for the sustainable maintenance and restoration of their favourable conservation status. The network is consisted of areas designated by the EU guidelines 1) about the Important Bird Areas (IBA) (directive on the conservation of wild birds; 79/409/EC); 2) about the Special Areas of Conservation (directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; 43/92/EC).

National parks and the landscape protection areas (LPA) in Hungary account for nearly 9% of the total co-operation area. There are two national parks: the Hortobágyi National Park (which is also part of the World Heritage), and Körös-Maros National Park; and 6 landscape protection areas, including the Bihari-Sík LPA, the Hajdúsági LPA, the Közép-Tiszai LPA, the Szatmár-Beregi LPA, the Mártélyi LPA and the Pusztaszeri LPA. In Romania, the natural parks and natural protected areas account for a surface of about 50.000 ha. In the programme area, there are parts of Natural Park Apuseni (Bihar county), the Natural Park of the Low Meadow of Mures (Arad county) and more than 40 small areas indentified under the Natura 2000 Programme (Special Protected Areas and Sites of Communnity Interest. There are also many other smaller natural protected zones, according to the national legislation.

Another major natural resource of the area is thermal water, which is available across the entire co-operation area. The cross-border Hungarian-Romanian border area is very rich in high quality therapeutic thermal water. There is an abundance of spa resorts throughout the area; some of these resorts have even acquired international reputation, e.g. Baile 1 Mai and Felix Spa in Romania, Debrecen, Hajdúszoboszló and Gyula in Hungary.

In the mountainous and hilly areas of the Romanian part are also other diverse subsoil natural resources, including ores (iron, copper, zinc, lead, uranium), precious metals – gold and silver, and also construction materials (sand, granite, clay and marble).

Regarding the subsoil natural resources there are significant levels of oil and gas production in Hungary and Romania as well. Geothermal water and natural resources of carbon dioxide are also exploited.

F. The likely significant effect on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors

See the table of the point „G“.

G. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme

Key to the table (Regarding the assessment of the effect the following criteria set (Annex I, footnote):

- NR = not relevant
- + = positive effect
- = negative effect
- C = Cumulative
- S = synergetic
- sT = short term
- mT = medium term
- IT = long term

Intervention	Potential environmental elements effected	Effect	Measures – preventive mitigation
1.1 Improvement of cross-border transport facilities	Biodiversity	-/C/sT	If environmental friendly solution used, than no significant negative impact.
	Flora	-/C/sT	
	Fauna	-/C/sT	
	Human health	-/S/IT	
	Soil	-/C/IT	
	Water	-/C/sT	
	Air	-/C/IT	
1.2 Improvement of cross-border communication	Cultural heritage	NR	
	Biodiversity	NR	
	Flora	NR	
	Fauna	NR	
	Human health	NR	
	Soil	NR	
	Water	NR	
1.3 Protection of the environment	Air	NR	
	Cultural heritage	NR	
	Biodiversity	+	
	Flora	+	
	Fauna	+	
	Human health	+	
	Soil	+	
2.1 Support for cross-border business cooperation	Water	+	
	Air	+	
	Cultural heritage	NR	
	Biodiversity	NR	
	Flora	NR	
	Fauna	NR	
	Human health	NR	
2.2. Promotion of cooperation in the field of R+D and innovation	Soil	NR	
	Water	NR	
	Air	NR	
	Cultural heritage	NR	
	Biodiversity	NR	
	Flora	NR	
	Fauna	NR	
2.3 Cooperation in the labor market	Human health	NR	
	Soil	NR	

and education – joint development of skills and knowledge	Fauna	NR	
	Human health	NR	
	Soil	NR	
	Water	NR	
	Air	NR	
	Cultural heritage	NR	
2.4 Health care and prevention of common threat	Biodiversity	NR	
	Flora	NR	
	Fauna	NR	
	Human health	+	
	Soil	NR	
	Water	NR	
	Air	NR	
2.5 Cooperation between communities	Cultural heritage	NR	
	Biodiversity	NR	
	Flora	NR	
	Fauna	NR	
	Human health	NR	
	Soil	NR	
	Water	NR	
	Air	NR	
Cultural heritage	+		

H. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information

In the program document assessed, during the SEA process no alternatives were presented by the planners, therefore no alternative was assessed.

I. Description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10

This chapter gives information according to article 10 and annex 1 lit i of the Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA-Directive). The monitoring process is planned to go hand in hand with other evaluation processes, so confusion or duplication can be avoided (the SEA monitoring is coordinated with the programme’s mid-term evaluation and the final evaluation on the occasion of the programme’s closure). The exchange of information gained from the SEA-monitoring and the Programme-monitoring will supposedly positively influence the overall programme design.

The character of the programme and its strategy defined generally on the priority axis level which outline indicative type of supported activities, require mainly non-technical and technical measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize and compensate the environmental impacts. Considering landscape planning activities, it is necessary to take into account the adopted landscape planning documents. For all activities that may have direct or indirect impact, assessment of the environmental impact should be completed based on the criteria defined by national legislation.

Considering technical measures, during planning of production technologies, infrastructure and tourism development, and activities supporting human capital in supported projects, beneficiaries are expected to select – within possibility - the best available technologies, promote environmental protection and minimize negative impact on:

- Geological basis and soil
- Air

- Ground and surface water
- Fauna and flora
- Structure and character of the landscape
- Socio-economic activities
- Protected areas
- Systems of ecological stability
- Health of the population

From the viewpoint of non-technical measures, promotion of education activities concerning the nature protection and conservation of natural wealth, promotion of partnerships between representatives of industry and authorities for protection and monitoring of environment and cultural heritage including municipalities for purpose of coordination of interests of various participants in early stages of projects preparing, is essential. It also includes interconnection of implementing of mentioned technical measures with information and educational activities, increasing positive consequences, gained experience also to spheres which are not directly part of the project, and support of partnership between scientific institutions in the region, industry and public representatives with the purpose of contributing to extension and penetration of information and knowledge in the area of nature protection, environment development under conditions focused on competitiveness development which can also lead to stimulating of economic activities in the region.

Monitoring and evaluation of impacts is conducted at the project level as well as on the programme level using the standardized procedures and documents (evaluating reports, monitoring reports of the programme, requests for allocations).

Based on the SEA recommendations as well, indicators concerning the environmental aspects have been built in the programme document to be able to monitor the macroeconomic environment of the program and the fulfillment of the principles of sustainable development. During the interim and final evaluations, indicators will be monitored in the following areas:

- ▶ Promotion of sustainable development
- ▶ Use of infrastructure
- ▶ Improvement transport
- ▶ Healthcare and risk prevention
- ▶ Improved environmental situation
- ▶ Environment and nature protection

Based on project indicators (core indicators), monitoring of efficiency and effectiveness of intervention can be conducted at satisfactory level based on the guidelines outlined in the strategic document. It also allows comparing planned and obtained impacts and provides information for managing structures necessary for management of the whole program and its components.

On project level, mainly in case of larger projects, regular monitoring and assessment of added value (based on cost-benefit analysis) are expected, which takes into account environmental impacts, both benefits and costs, of the project.

In a first step a general screening of the supported projects is expected from the beneficiary. Therefore every supported project should be analyzed regarding its effects on the environmental protection interests. The assessment can be done by following the relevance matrix and procedure: firstly it has to be considered if any effects are identifiable and secondly these effects have to be rated. A general three grade system (positive, neutral/no influences, negative effects) is appropriate to avoid pseudo. If relevant and available additional data can support the assessment, e.g. environmental relevant data collected according to the Operational Programme's indicator system.

In a second step comments and suggestions based on expert experience and the data collected in step one are to be formulated. The pre-screening of the supported projects can give first hints on problematic developments.

Beside this project level monitoring, additional expert statements should give more detailed information on specific environmental aspects, recommendations for the further programme implementation or for the next programming period should be formulated. Due to its importance special focus is put on the project selection process.

The monitoring system based on expert statements is also applied in case that the programme is modified (in relation to environmental aspects) or it is obvious that the circumstances (especially regarding the environmental situation) have changed significantly. In this case the focus of environmental concerns might change too. Expert statements should inform about the new or changed relevant environmental concerns and give suggestions for the further programme implementation, as in these cases the data of the present Environmental Report might be outdated.

Quality of monitoring and evaluation procedures and efficiency of obtained empirical data depends on the quality of available data (monitoring systems) and the users' competition.

**Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the Hungary-Romania
Cross Border Co-operation Program
2007-2013**

**Part C:
Public Consultations**



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1. Milestones of the SEA and the consultation process

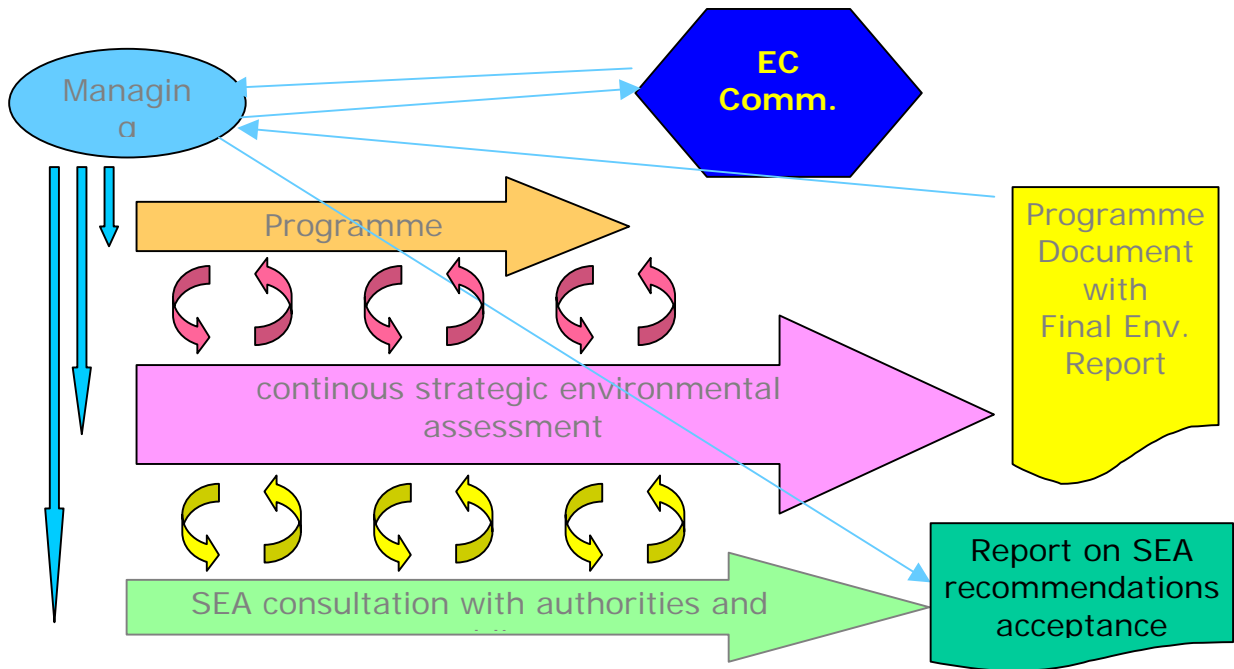
1.1 Milestones of the SEA process

The following milestones summarize the overall SEA process:

Date	Action	Relevant SEA documents (submitted to VÁTI Kht.)
Jan. 08. 2007	Submission of the HU-RO SEA 1st Draft Environmental Report in English and the summary in Hungarian	HU-RO_OP_SEA_1st_Draft_Report_20070108_1.0 HU-RO_OP_SEA_1st_kornyezeti_osszefoglalo_HU_1.0
Jan. 18. 2007	Submission of the HU-RO SEA 2nd Draft Environmental Report in English and the summary in Hungarian	HU-RO_OP_SEA_2nd_Draft_Report_20070117_1.0 HU-RO_OP_SEA_osszefoglalo_20070117_HU_v2.0
Jan. 26. 2007	Submission of the SEA Scope	HU-RO_OP_SEA_Scope_20070126_v1.0 RO_INTERREG_SKV_partnersegi_taj_VATI_honlapra_01.26_1.0 RO_INTERREG_korny.ert_sajt_kozlemeny_jav_01.26_1.0 Cimlista_konzultaciohoz_HU_RO_20070126 v1
Jan. 26. 2007	Submission of the HU-RO SEA Process Plan	HU-RO SEA process plan 20070126 v1
Jan. 30. 2007	Task Force, Hungary-Hajdúszoboszló	Status_Report_HU-RO_20070130_Hajduszoboszlo_prez_EA_06
Feb. 15. 2007	SEA Scope feedback from Romania	-
Feb. 28. 2007	Submission of the HU-RO SEA 3rd Draft Environmental Report in English and the summary in Hungarian	HU-RO_OP_SEA_3rd_Draft_Report_20070228_v1.0 HU-RO_OP_SEA_3rd_kornyezeti_osszefoglalo_20070309_HU_v02
Mar. 02. 2007	SEA Scope feedback from Békés and Csongrád county	-
Mar. 12. 2007	Submission of the HU-RO SEA 4th Draft Environmental Report in English and the summary in Hungarian	HU-RO_OP_SEA_4th_Draft_Report_20070312_EN_v2.0_A HU-RO_OP_SEA_4th_Draft_Report_20070312_EN_v2.0_B HU-RO_OP_SEA_4th_kornyezeti_osszefoglalo_20070312_HU_v02
Mar. 21- Apr.02. 2007	Documents for Workshop Hungary-Békéscsaba, invitations for e-mail	Meghivo_HU_RO_OP_SKV_konzultacio Cimlista_konzultaciohoz_HU_RO_20070320_roman_civil SKV_szerepe_1.0
Apr. 13. 2007	Workshop Hungary-Békéscsaba	HU-RO_SKV_konzultacio_20070413_program_msztan_javaslatok_Respect_01 HU-RO_SKV_konzultacio_20070413_kerdes_valasz_felvetes_Respect
April 27., 2007	Submission of the HU-RO SEA Final Environmental Report	HU-RO_OP_SEA_Final_Report_20070427_EN_v01_A HU-RO_OP_SEA_Final_Report_20070427_EN_v01_B HU-RO_OP_SEA_Final_kornyezeti_osszefoglalo_20070427_HU_v01

1.2 Description of the consultation process

The consultation process within the SEA process was an interfacing function between the planners of the programme document and the authorities and the general public as shown in the figure below.



The input for the consultation with the planners came from two sources: (1) the expertise of the SEA consultants themselves, and (2) the opinions, recommendations received within the consultation process with authorities and general public.

The equal treatment of the Romanian public during the consultation process was ensured through the following activities:

Scoping phase

Hungary

- On 2nd of February the scoping report and the draft OP was published on the National Development Agency and VATI Kht's websites

Romania

- On the 29th of January 2007, the scoping report and the draft of the OP have been received by the Romanian National Authority

- On the 6th of February 2007, the scoping report and the draft of the OP have been sent for comments to the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

- On the 15th of February 2007, the comments of the Romanian National Authority on the scoping report have been sent to the Managing Authority

- On the 27th of February 2007 the comments made by the Romanian Ministry of Environment

and Sustainable Development have been forwarded to the Managing Authority

Consultations on the environmental report

Hungary	Romania
The consultation started on 12th of March 2007 and has been finalized on 11th of April	The consultation started on the 12th of March 2007 and has been finalized on the 14th of April.
On the 12th of March 2007, an announcement was published on the website of the National Development Agency and VÁTI Kht, inviting people to send their comments and views on the draft environmental report and draft OP (the two documents have been made available on the website). The deadline for the submission of comments has been the 11th of April 2007.	On the 12th of March 2007, an announcement has been published on the website of the Romanian National Authority, inviting people to send their comments and views on the draft environmental report and draft OP (the two documents have been made available on the website). The deadline for the submission of comments has been the 14th of April 2007.
On 21 st of March an announcement, in the national daily newspaper "Népszabadság", called upon the public's attention, on the started consultation process.	<p>On the 28th of March 2007 the Romanian National Authority has sent official letters to the following environmental authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; - Environmental Protection Agency of Timis County; - Environmental Protection Agency of Arad County; - Environmental Protection Agency of Satu Mare County; - Environmental Protection Agency of Bihor County; - Timis County Council; - Arad County Council; - Bihor County Council; - Satu Mare County Council; - Public Health Authority of Timis County; - Public Health Authority of Arad County; - Public Health Authority of Bihor County; - Public Health Authority of Satu Mare County.

By those official letters, the above-mentioned authorities have been informed about the consultation process, about the website where the documents (SEA report and programme) could've been found, and they have been invited to participate in the Workshop organized on the 13th of April 2007, in Békéscsaba - "To The Consultation Day of the Strategic Environmental Assessment".

The invitation to the Workshop, as well as the information about the consultation, has also been sent by e-mail to the following environmental NGOs:

- WWF Programul Dunăre-Carpați România
- Asociația pentru Protecția Păsărilor și a Naturii "Grupul Milvus"
- Societatea Ornitologică Română
- Centrul Zonal Ecologic Arad

- Asociația pentru Cercetare Multidisciplinară din Zona de Vest a României
 - Asociația pentru Reciclarea Materialelor
 - Centrul pentru arii protejate și dezvoltare durabilă – Bihor
 - Ecotop
 - Fundația Hit és Feny
 - Grupul Ecologic de Colaborare Lotus
 - Societatea Carpatina Ardeleană
 - Societatea de Istorie Naturală Nymphaea
- Several comments have been made by the Romanian Authorities during the Workshop organized on the 13th of April in Békéscsaba.

The consultation with authorities and public was carried out through invited comments from Romania and Hungary via mail and e-mail to VATI Kht., announced at the VÁTI home page. Beyond the written consultation, a special one-day SEA consultation workshop was organized, during which the purpose of the SEA process, the HU-RO TCP document, and the related Draft Environmental Report was presented, and questions and recommendations were taken to develop the SEA report.

The consultations with the planners took place through several face-to-face meetings based upon the Draft Environmental Reports of the SEA consultants.

A special group of stakeholders of the Programme was the Task Force, and during their several meetings the SEA consultants were requested to provide status reports on the SEA progress.

1.3 Major issues emerged from the consultation process and their status in the SEA

The following table provides information on the major issues emerged during the consultation process and their status in the SEA.

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	Status in SEA
1.	István Szatmári (Cultural Heritage Protection Office)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	The protection of built environment and heritage protection do not appear in the OP, and in the SEA neither. Is it possible to include these, since the OP is already in a rather advanced stage?	The protection of built environment and heritage protection can appear as a tourism related project (reconstruction of a building for example), but there should be

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	Status in SEA
				a strong cross-border effect, which is not emphasised in the OP.
2.	Bitea Dr. Zoia (doctor, Oradea)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	Makes a proposal, to include the preparation of communities for the needed actions in case of a natural disaster within the OP.	Attention should be taken to communication between partners during the implementation of projects. This communication was difficult in the past because of the borders.
3.	Enache Felicia (Environmental Institute of Bihar County)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	There are deficiencies in the OP, mainly in relation to environmental elements and natural resources.	Planners accepted and asked for, access to these documents.
4.	Costandache Adrian (Ministry of European Integration)	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	Is it possible to use the SEA method described in the handbook (GRDP 2006) and also proposed by them in this SEA? The methodology used in the present SEA is different from that in the handbook, wants explanation why the experts used this methodology instead of that in the handbook?	The EU regulations were taken into consideration during the selection of the SEA methodology. The SEA regulation opens up for several, equally useable methodologies to be used in SEA process. The SEA experts offered the most appropriate

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	Status in SEA
				methodology for the OP and communicated in the scope of the SEA.
5.	Participant of the SEA workshop	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	All the OP related documents need to be available in Hungarian as well	Only the non-technical summaries were translated into national languages..
6.	Participants	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	General opinion was positive on the Environmental Report presented. The issue of making environmental information accessible for the public was welcome.	No action required.
7.	Participant	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	What are the next steps in the planning process in developing action plans for the OP? How the public consultation on the action plan of the OP will be managed?	Issues are not in the scope of the SEA. targeting on the programme. VÁTI provided overview on the future planning process.
8.	Participant	SEA workshop comment (Békéscsaba, 13.04.2007)	The conditions and institutional frameworks are different on both sides of the border making recommendations on co-operation on nature protection not easy.	Transferred to planners for consideration.

1.4 Major recommendations taken by the planners during the SEA process

Programme documents assessed in the SEA process:

- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of February 19, 2007)

- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program Document 2007-2013 (version 11. of March 2, 2007)
- National Action Plan of Climate Change of Romania (2005-2007)
- National Sustainable Development Strategy
- The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Biological Diversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of its Components in Romania
- Opinion of Békés County Council of Representatives
- Opinion of Csongrád County Council of Delegates
- Hungary-Romania European Territorial Co-operation Program SEA Workshop recommendations, Hungary-Békéscsaba, April 13. 2007.

The following table shows an overview on how the SEA recommendations of the subsequent environmental reports were taken into account by the planners of the Programme as a result of several consultations between the planners and the SEA experts.

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
Priority 1. Improvement of the key conditions of joint sustainable development in the co-operation area						
1.1 Activity: Improvement of cross-border transport facilities	The statements of the situation analysis are in harmony with the priorities. The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. There is no reference to the Traffic OP and to the national strategies of traffic development other than that the Hungarian opinion is not known. It is rather important in relation of environmental sustainability, that the OP supports planning as well: the measure finances the work out of environmental assessments, environmental studies, final construction drawings. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The statements of the situation analysis are in harmony with the priorities. The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. There is no reference to the Traffic OP and to the national strategies of traffic development other than that the Hungarian opinion is not known. It is rather important in relation of environmental sustainability, that the OP supports planning as well: the measure finances the for out of environmental assessments, environmental studies, final construction drawings. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	The evaluation does not deal with the environmental effects of traffic. It would be important in relation of environment to develop the system of litter collection and disposal at the surrounding of traffic routes.	partly integrated
1.2 Activity: Improvement of cross-border communication	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses only the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses only the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses on ly the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses on ly the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the statements and	There is no word in the situation analysis about the present usage situation of IT tools: it analyses on ly the development of telephone network but there is no word about internet providers. It appears as a weakness at the SWOT as well. There is harmony between the	partly integrated

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	<p>recommendations of the SWOT, but this situation analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure. The measure has an important role in relation of social sustainability because the measure finances the wide brand accessibility to the internet and the strengthening of local press, which can contribute to the formation and development of local cultures and to the prevail of the principle of subsidiarity. The measure can contribute also to the spread of knowledge and culture based production and consumption.</p>	<p>recommendations of the SWOT, but this situation analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure. The measure has an important role in relation of social sustainability because the measure finances the wide brand accessibility to the internet and the strengthening of local press, which can contribute to the formation and development of local cultures and to the prevail of the principle of subsidiarity. The measure can contribute also to the spread of knowledge and culture based production and consumption.</p>	<p>recommendations of the SWOT, but this situation analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure.</p>	<p>recommendations of the SWOT, but this situation analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure.</p>	<p>statements and recommendations of the SWOT, but this situation analysis is seems to be not well grounded. There is no word about the environmental danger and hazards caused by IT tools as dangerous waste. It would be practical to increase the synergy between this activity and the measure"1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution", in such a way to be possible to collect and recycle the old information technology tools within the mentioned measure.</p>	

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Nature protection	There is few words about natural values and protected (Natura 2000 for example) areas in relation of Romania. It is more detailed about the Hungarian situation, but not modulated enough. It would be practical to show the area in more details in the annex. There are only few words about surface water, ground water at part introducing the natural resources, but this is an incomplete chapter anyway. The measure will probably have a positive effect on environmental sustainability, but the situation analysis has to be supplemented.	There is few words about natural values and protected (Natura 2000 for example) areas in relation of Romania. It is more detailed about the Hungarian situation, but not modulated enough. It would be practical to show the area in more details in the annex. There are only few words about surface water, ground water at part introducing the natural resources, but this is an incomplete chapter anyway. The measure will probably have a positive effect on environmental sustainability, but the situation analysis has to be supplemented.	The description of Natura2000 sites appears at the situation analysis, but does not mention the role of ecological corridors, forests and river valleys in the preservation of biodiversity.	The description of Natura2000 sites appears at the situation analysis, but does not mention the role of ecological corridors, forests and river valleys in the preservation of biodiversity.	The description of Natura2000 sites appears at the situation analysis, but does not mention the role of ecological corridors, forests and river valleys in the preservation of biodiversity.	partly integrated
1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Water resources and quality management	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they have dot an important role in	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they have dot an important role in	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although they	The situation analysis mentions thermal water as a natural resource, but does not mention surface water and ground water. Despite of this, there is no development connected to thermal water. Neither of the sides are presented form the point of disaster hazard (flood areas, threat of inland floods, the ratio of population living in such areas, industrial establishments in such areas). There is no map about the potential places of water pollution of floods. There are rather few words about forests, although	partly integrated

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	<p>water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years.</p>	<p>water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years.</p>	<p>have got an important role in water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years. The description of environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented: the surface- and ground water givens of the planning area in Hungary fundamentally effect the flood and inland water situation of the region. The Maros alluvium, which can be found mostly in the territory of Romania, is fundamentally effects the water supply of Békés and Csongrád county. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.</p>	<p>water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years. The description of environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented: the surface- and ground water givens of the planning area in Hungary fundamentally effect the flood and inland water situation of the region. The Maros alluvium, which can be found mostly in the territory of Romania, is fundamentally effects the water supply of Békés and Csongrád county. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.</p>	<p>they have got an important role in water management and disaster recovery. It would be interesting to examine the connection between the condition of the forests and the floods of the last years. The description of environmental elements is not satisfactory. Although the situation analysis regarding water is the most complete, it is still under-represented: the surface- and ground water givens of the planning area in Hungary fundamentally effect the flood and inland water situation of the region. The Maros alluvium, which can be found mostly in the territory of Romania, is fundamentally effects the water supply of Békés and Csongrád county. The preservation of this alluvium is the task of both countries.</p>	

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
<p>1.3 Activity: Protection of the environment: Reducing pollution</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat, but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. The situation analysis in reality, does not deal with the situation of waste management. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat, but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. The situation analysis in reality, does not deal with the situation of waste management. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>The situation analysis mentions industrial pollution as the most important threat, but the proposed measure deals with communal area. The plan deals only with the treatment of waste from the population, but it is not emphasized that the problem should be approached as a system: recycling, burning, selective collecting should be preferred instead of deposits. The plan mentions the development of communication, which would cause the rapid spread of information and communication tools and the increase of such waste. It would be practical to deal with this in relation of waste management and to connect the two. The situation analysis in reality, does not deal with the situation of waste management. It would be important to check whether the legislative environment makes the introduction of the planned measures possible. The situation analysis does not evaluate the situation of waste management in details.</p>	<p>partly integrated</p>

Priority 2. Strengthen social and economic cohesion of the border area

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
2.1 Activity: Support for cross-border business co-operation: Investment in business infrastructure	We recommend in relation of industrial, trading and logistical activities, that they should be realized as a brown-field development or as a complement to already existing infrastructure. The settling technology should be environmental friendly. Developments should point from the matter- and energy-intensive products and technologies towards a less matter- and energy-intensive knowledge and culture based production and consumption. The measure can have positive effect in relation of sustainability if such aspects emerge during the selection of the projects.	We recommend in relation of industrial, trading and logistical activities, that they should be realized as a brown-field development or as a complement to already existing infrastructure. The settling technology should be environmental friendly. Developments should point from the matter- and energy-intensive products and technologies towards a less matter- and energy-intensive knowledge and culture based production and consumption. The measure can have positive effect in relation of sustainability if such aspects emerge during the selection of the projects.	Fully integrated			
2.2 Activity: Promotion of co - operation in the field of R+D and innovation	At the situation analysis and in the SWOT, the low R+D activity is presented among the weaknesses. The plan sets the development of weaknesses as an objective, but it is not clear, what would be the relation between the supported R+D and the local environment and what would be the preferred R+D area. There is no multiplication effect detectable. The support of the R+D sector and the help of the spread of innovation	At the situation analysis and in the SWOT, the low R+D activity is presented among the weaknesses. The plan sets the development of weaknesses as an objective, but it is not clear, what would be the relation between the supported R+D and the local environment and what would be the preferred R+D area. There is no multiplication effect detectable. The support of the R+D sector and the help of the spread of innovation completely	Fully integrated			

Name of objective/priority/ action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	completely contributes to the development of knowledge and culture based production and industry and to the environmentally friendly, thus sustainable developments.	contributes to the development of knowledge and culture based production and industry and to the environmentally friendly, thus sustainable developments.				
2.3 Activity: Co-operation in the labour market and education – joint development of skills and know	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions. The development of human resources, the work out of educational topics and curriculums, the support of research programs is indispensably important to the spread of environmental friendly, thus sustainable technologies and to the availability of well trained workforces.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions. The development of human resources, the work out of educational topics and curriculums, the support of research programs is indispensably important to the spread of environmental friendly, thus sustainable technologies and to the availability of well trained workforces.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions.	The situation analysis could contain more comprehensive evaluation in relation of rare professions.	partly integrated
2.4 Activity: Health care and prevention of common threat	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities. This measure will have almost only positive effect regarding sustainability.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities. This measure will have almost only positive effect regarding sustainability.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities.	The situation analysis does not deal with the disaster recovery, civil defence organisations, although the development of this subject appears within the priorities.	partly integrated
2.5 Activity: Cooperation between communities	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the population, since bad mental and/or	The measure inevitably contributes to social and environmental sustainability, but it would be good to read about the social and mental conditions of the	partly integrated

Name of objective/priority/action	1 st Environmental Report	2 nd Environmental Report	3 rd Environmental Report	4 th Environmental Report	Final Environmental Report	Planner's acceptance of the SEA finding
	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	population, since bad mental and/or social condition often manifests in the harm of the environment.	

**Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the Hungary-Romania
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2007-2013**

**Part D:
Monitoring measures**



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1. Monitoring arrangements

This declaration gives information according to article 10 and annex 1 lit i of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The Managing Authority shall be responsible for implementing the existing and later revised, developed monitoring measures of the “Hungary - Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme”.

The monitoring process is planned to go hand in hand with other evaluation processes and to avoid any confusions or duplications. The SEA monitoring is coordinated with mid-term and final evaluation of the Programme. The exchange of information gained from the SEA-monitoring and the Programme-monitoring will supposedly positively influence the overall programme design.

The character of the programme and its strategy defined generally on the priority axes level which outline indicative type of supported activities, require mainly non-technical and technical measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize and compensate the environmental impacts.

Considering technical measures, during planning of production technologies, infrastructure and tourism development, and activities supporting human capital in supported projects, beneficiaries are expected to select – within possibility - the best available technologies, promote environmental protection and minimize negative impact on:

- Geological basis and soil
- Air
- Ground and surface water
- Fauna and flora
- Structure and character of the landscape
- Socio-economic activities
- Protected areas
- Systems of ecological stability
- Health of the population

From the viewpoint of non-technical measures, promotion of education activities concerning the nature protection and conservation of natural wealth, promotion of partnerships between representatives of industry and authorities for protection and monitoring of environment and cultural heritage including municipalities for purpose of coordination of interests of various participants in early stages of projects preparing, is essential. It also includes interconnection of implementing of mentioned technical measures with information and educational activities, increasing positive consequences, gained experience also to spheres which are not directly part of the project, and support of partnership between scientific institutions in the region, industry and public representatives with the purpose of contributing to extension and penetration of information and knowledge in the area of nature protection, environment development under conditions focused on competitiveness development which can also lead to stimulating of economic activities in the region.

Impact on	Proposed measures	Purpose	Type of measure	Responsible for implementation
– Population – Human health – Fauna and flora – Soil, land-use, property – Water quality and hydrology, – Air quality,	– Create and develop functional and efficient cooperation structure of key authorities (political, economical and civil) of border region development – Apply EIA principles for investment projects supported within the programme	– Increased efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditures management processes influencing development of the cross-border region, quality of environment and health of population – Using environmentally effective solutions for implementation of projects supported with	Non-technical Technical	On programme level: Joint Monitoring Committee Romania – Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing Hungary – National Development Agency

climate, noise and vibrations,	Increase quality of human resources through environmental education and edification, perusing the newest trends and BAT in the area of environmental development	the programme	
- Landscape and visual surroundings,		- Include elements of environmental prevention and protection into implementation of particular projects	
- Historical and cultural heritage		- Help key participants of the cross-border development to orientate in the issues of environmental development	
		- Create knowledge database serving environmental management of the programme	

Monitoring and evaluation of impacts is conducted at the project level as well as on the programme level using the standardized procedures and documents (evaluating reports, monitoring reports of the programme, requests for allocations).

Based on the SEA recommendations as well, indicators concerning the environmental aspects have been built in the programme document to be able to monitor the macroeconomic environment of the programme and the fulfilment of the principles of sustainable development. During the interim and final evaluations, indicators will be monitored in the following areas:

- ▶ Promotion of sustainable development
- ▶ Use of infrastructure
- ▶ Improvement transport
- ▶ Healthcare and risk prevention
- ▶ Improved environmental situation
- ▶ Environment and nature protection

Based on project indicators (core indicators), monitoring of efficiency and effectiveness of intervention can be conducted at satisfactory level based on the guidelines outlined in the strategic document. It also allows comparing planned and obtained impacts and provides information for managing structures necessary for management of the whole program and its components.

On project level, mainly in case of larger projects, regular monitoring and assessment of added value (based on cost-benefit analysis) are expected, which takes into account environmental impacts, both benefits and costs, of the project.

In a first step a general screening of the supported projects is expected from the beneficiary. Therefore every supported project should be analyzed regarding its effects on the environment. The assessment can be done by following the relevance matrix and procedure: firstly it has to be considered if any effects are identifiable and secondly these effects have to be rated. A general three grade system (positive, neutral/no influences, negative effects) is appropriate to avoid pseudo. If relevant and available additional data can support the assessment, environment related data can be collected in accordance with the Operational Programme's indicator system.

In a second step comments and suggestions based on expert experience and the data collected in step one are to be formulated. The pre-screening of the supported projects can give first hints on problematic developments.

Beside this project level monitoring, additional expert statements should give more detailed information on specific environmental aspects, and recommendations for the further programme implementation or for the next programming period should be formulated. Due to its importance special focus is put on the project selection process.

The monitoring system based on expert statements is also applied in case that the programme is modified (in relation to environmental aspects) or it is obvious that the circumstances (especially regarding the environmental situation) have changed significantly. In this case the focus of environmental concerns might change too. Expert statements should inform about the new or changed relevant environmental concerns and give suggestions for the further programme implementation, as in these cases the data of the present Environmental Report might be outdated.

Quality of monitoring and evaluation procedures and efficiency of obtained empirical data depends on the quality of available data (monitoring systems) and the users' competition.

2. OP implementation provisions

In order to ensure the effective implementation of sustainable development, and especially environmental sustainability in the Hungary-Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013, the following recommendations need to be accepted in the programming and implementation efforts:

Programme Management structure:

- **Joint Monitoring Committee:** The document mentions only national and NUTS III level actors to be appointed to the JMC. In order to ensure the balanced control of the whole programme, representatives not only from governmental bodies, but also representatives from business associations, and civil organizations from both sides of the border need to be appointed. External expertise need to be used in order to develop an environmental minimum criteria set for projects to be generated, and an evaluation system accordingly, that ensures that only the projects meeting the environmental criteria should be funded.
- **Audit Authority:** Within the group of auditors, it is essential to have at least one auditor appointed with environmental background and with the task to audit the environmental impacts of the projects selected and funded.
- **Joint Technical Secretariat:**
 - as part of the required promotion activities, special sessions need to be organized on how to develop projects complying with environmental minimum criteria.
 - environmental civil organizations and environmental experts need to be involved in the working groups elaborating/revising the programming documents.
 - within the “prepare proposals for programme amendments” it is essential that the amendments will be subject for the necessary Strategic Environmental Assessment, prior implementation.

Project Implementation and selection:

- The Implementation Manual should contain the environmental minimum criteria set for projects to be developed and evaluated.

Information and publicity:

- The project communication plans need to have a specific chapter on the potential environmental impacts and the related pre-cautionary and mitigation activities.
- “Ongoing information, communication and presentation” need to have a specific chapter on the potential environmental impacts and the related pre-cautionary and mitigation activities.

Implementation of projects:

- Project reports need to have a specific chapter on the potential environmental impacts and the related pre-cautionary and mitigation activities.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- The Annual Report on Implementation should provide a summary on the achievements made based on the environmental sustainability indicators.
- Project level monitoring should provide relevant and accurate information on the environmental minimum criteria set met during the project implementation.
- Programme Monitoring and Information System should have the capability to collect, store and analyze information gained from project regarding their environmental performance in relation to project-level environmental minimum criteria set and programme-level environmental sustainability indicators.
- Programme evaluation documents should dedicate separate chapter on environmental impacts and the related pre-cautionary and mitigation activities.