

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL  
COOPERATION GOAL  
PART A**

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

CCI	2014TC16RFCB002
Title	(Interreg V-A) AT-CZ - Austria-Czech Republic
Version	2018.1
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	21-Jun-2019

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## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### **Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.**

The focus of the year 2018 was on the rapid implementation of the program. **One** meeting of the Monitoring Committee was held, in which a total of **11 new projects** with a financial volume of € **19.224.540,12,-** were approved. This means a **total commitment of 67% ERDF funds at 50 projects.**

#### **Output indicators:**

These 11 projects belong to almost all investment priorities (IP) (except IP 4) and through their approval an important contribution to the achievement of programme indicators could be made. It is necessary to note that the achievement affects only approved/allocated results and therefore tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after the finalisation of these projects.

In concrete terms the contribution for 2018 breaks down as follows:

IP 1b: In OP3, 3 out of 8 services and in OP4, 7 out of 6 enterprises were allocated;

IP 6c: In OP5; 8 out of 8 elements; in OP6, 3 out of 12 mechanisms and in OP7, 3 out of 5 elements were allocated; in CO 14; out 9,3 kilometres of reconstructed or upgraded roads of 10

IP 6f: In OP11, 2 out of 3 mechanisms were allocated;

IP 10a: In OP12, 1 out 6 mechanisms were allocated;

Taking into account all projects approved so far (2016-18) the output indicators of the IP 1a and IP 1b, IP 2.6.c, IP 2.6.d, IP 3.10.a, IP 4.11.a have been fully allocated. The target values of the OP10 in the IP 2.6.f still (one at 3) have not been met.

#### **Allocation of the ERDF funds:**

Considering the financial allocation of the projects approved so far (2016 -2018) in the amount of € 65.047.021,51,-. The IP6d is the best adopted investment priority, while IP6f lags behind. The same applies to the area of eco-innovation (IP6f). Again, based on the current allocation, there is still plenty of scope for good projects. Previous submissions have lacked the necessary innovative power. In the current and future information, events for applicants as well as in the relevant information channels (Internet, task force, Monitoring Committee) these IPs are therefore particularly advertised. The other investment priorities (6, 10, 11) are well on schedule.

In the year of 2018, a total of € **4.808.66,76,- ERDF** resources were paid to the beneficiaries.

In 2018 a total of **three** so called Task Forces (meetings of the programme partners), **five** unilateral Controllers meetings (MA and Austrian Controllers) and **one** bilateral Controllers meeting were organized. These meetings

are necessary to achieve good and result-oriented cooperation at the program level.

In order to inform the potential applicants and to present them the program INTERREG V-A Austria-Czech Republic, a total of **five seminars** were held for applicants during the year 2018. An equally important group addressed by the Program Authorities are the project partners. **Two seminars** were organized for project partners and carried out in the programme area. The seminars dealt with administrative issues after approval of the projects by the monitoring committee, reporting in the eMS, eligibility of expenditures and public procurement. Other points were the publicity database iBox and publicity requirements.

On September 27, 2018, the three cross-border INTERREG V-A programs Austria-Czech Republic, Austria-Hungary and Slovakia-Austria in cooperation with the City of Vienna invited to the **EC Day 2018**. The venue this year was the MAK (Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art) in Vienna. Since the event was also the annual event of the three organizing programs, it was also informed about the implementation and exhaustion of the programs in the morning. INTERREG V-A AT-CZ is currently implementing 50 projects, and the first results can already be seen. A special feature are two projects (BIG and SEDECO), which are implemented across all three programs. Trilateral cooperation - that's what we call exemplary neighborhood!

Another milestone last year was the meeting on the future of cross border cooperation, which was attended by representatives of the Lower Austria government, Upper Austria government and Vienna government and the Czech Ministry of Regional Development. The meeting was concluded with the signing of the document **Memorandum on the will to continue cross border cooperation**, which led to both sides note their interest in further cooperation in the new 2021+ programme period.

In 2018 the **programme evaluation** started with an online survey among project-partners, potential project-partners and relevant stakeholders followed by interviews with regional coordinators regarding the publicity of the program, the needs of the program region and the administrative burden.

In addition, program documents (various manuals) were revised or updated.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

#### 3.1 Overview of the implementation

<b>ID</b>	<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems</b>
1	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	2 projects were approved 2018, no significant problems were identified
2	Environment and Resources	8 projects were approved 2018, no significant problems were identified
3	Human resources development	1 project was approved 2018, no significant problems were identified
4	Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation	No projects were approved 2018
5	Technical assistance	No projects were approved 2018

### 3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

#### Priority axes other than technical assistance

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>
Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1a**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	OP 1	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of R&I (studies, strategies etc.)	Mechanisms	5.00	1.00	1 mechanism was reported in 2018 (ATCZ14, report 2.), none in 2017 and none in 2016 in sum 1 mechanism
S	OP 1	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of R&I (studies, strategies etc.)	Mechanisms	5.00	5.00	No mechanism in 2018, 3 mechanisms in 2017, 2 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 5 mechanisms have been selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 2	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	15.00	17.00	8 organisations in 2018 (2 – ATCZ38, report 2.1, ATCZ52, report 1.1., ATCZ21, report 1.1., ATCZ15, report 2.1), 6 organisations in 2017 (ATCZ133, report 1.1), 3 organisations in 2016 (ATCZ14, report 1.1) --> in sum 17 organisations/ research institutions were reported as output indicator for the end of 2018; this indicator is seen as delivered once the research institutions start to cooperate (mostly reported already in reports 1.1, crucial is the duration of the monitoring period - not the date of the submission of the report)
S	OP 2	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	15.00	22.00	No organisation in 2018, 10 organisations in 2017, 12 organisations in 2016 --> in sum 22 organisations have been selected as an indicator so far.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OP 1	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of R&I (studies, strategies etc.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 1	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of R&I (studies, strategies etc.)	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 2	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	9.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 2	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	22.00	12.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>
Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Specific objective	1a - Improved and extended research and innovation capacities

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1a.1a**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI 1	Research quota - share of R&I on the GDP	%	2.70	2011	3.00	3.00		To be reported in 2020 (according to approved CP), following observations were made in report 2016, therefore the value for 2017 is expected to remain the same: The figure, filled in under "2016 Total", is the most recent figure available from Eurostat, from the year 2014. It can be assumed that the quota for 2016 is not lower. Austria's R&D spending is steadily increasing and is now more over three percent (2014 : 3,17% in the AT-programme area, 3.06% in whole Austria), thus distinctly higher than the EU-average of two percent. Austria has the third-highest R&D quota of all EU countries. Overall, R&D expenditures in the Czech Republic are growing and approaching the EU average in terms of spending as a share of GDP (2014 : 2,52 % in the CZ-programme area, 1,97 % in whole Czech Republic). European structural funds are the main driver of this growth.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI 1	Research quota - share of R&I on the GDP	3.00		3.00		2.70		0.00	



<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1b**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	OP 3	Number of services to support enterprises' innovative capacity introduced or improved	Services	8.00	0.00	3 services in 2018, 1 service in 2017, 1 service in 2016 --> in sum 5 services have been selected as an indicator however none of them reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 3	Number of services to support enterprises' innovative capacity introduced or improved	Services	8.00	5.00	3 services in 2018, 1 service in 2017, 1 service in 2016 --> in sum 5 services have been selected as an indicator so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 4	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	6.00	0.00	7 enterprises in 2018, 2 enterprises in 2017, 20 services in 2016 --> in sum 29 enterprises have been selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 4	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	6.00	29.00	7 enterprises in 2018, 2 enterprises in 2017, 20 services in 2016 --> in sum 29 enterprises have been selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OP 3	Number of services to support enterprises' innovative capacity introduced or improved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 3	Number of services to support enterprises' innovative capacity introduced or improved	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 4	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 4	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	22.00	20.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</b>
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
Specific objective	1b - Fostering the involvement of enterprises (primarily SMEs) in the innovation system

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1b**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI 2	R&I expenditure in the business sector in % of GDP	%	1.80	2011	2.20	1.93		To be reported in 2020 (according to the approved CP), following observations were made in report 2016 (the figure is expected to remain unchanged in 2017): The figure, filled in under "2016 Total", is the most recent figure available from Eurostat, from the year 2014. It can be assumed that the quota for 2016 is not lower. Austria: Approximately 70% of R&D spending is done by Austrian businesses. In the Austrian programme region it is 66%. The total spending in the programme region has increased since 2011 from 2,584 Million PPS (purchasing power standard) to 3,142 Million PPS in 2014. Czech Republic: Business R&D spending is relative low compared to other countries. It is evenly distributed among basic research, applied research and experimental development. Business enterprise research and development (BERD) represents the biggest share of R&D spending.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI 2	R&I expenditure in the business sector in % of GDP	1.93		1.93		1.80		0.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment and Resources</b>
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6c**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	10.00	0.00	No kilometres of reconstructed or upgraded roads were reported so far
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	10.00	9.30	9,3 kilometres of reconstructed or upgraded roads were selected in 2018
F	OP 5	Number of cultural/natural heritage elements with improved attractiveness	Elements	8.00	0.00	no elements were reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 5	Number of cultural/natural heritage elements with improved attractiveness	Elements	8.00	18.00	8,00 elements with improved attractiveness were selected in 2018, 10 elements with improved attractiveness were selected in 2017, tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 6	Number of cross-border mechanisms to ensure joint management of common heritage	Mechanisms	12.00	0.00	3 mechanisms in 2018, 8 mechanisms in 2017, 1 mechanism in 2016 --> in sum 12 mechanisms have been selected, however no mechanisms reported so far - tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 6	Number of cross-border mechanisms to ensure joint management of common heritage	Mechanisms	12.00	13.00	3 mechanisms in 2018, 8 mechanisms in 2017, 1 mechanism in 2016 --> in sum 12 mechanisms have been selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 7	Number of newly built/improved elements of public touristic infrastructure	Elements	5.00	0.00	3 newly built/ improved elements in 2018, 4 newly built/improved elements of public touristic infrastructure were selected in 2017; no elements have been reported so far - tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 7	Number of newly built/improved elements of public touristic infrastructure	Elements	5.00	7.00	3 elements in 2018, 4 newly built/improved elements of public touristic infrastructure were selected in 2017; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 5	Number of cultural/natural heritage elements with improved attractiveness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 5	Number of cultural/natural heritage elements with improved attractiveness	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 6	Number of cross-border mechanisms to ensure joint management of common heritage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 6	Number of cross-border mechanisms to ensure joint management of common heritage	9.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 7	Number of newly built/improved elements of public touristic infrastructure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 7	Number of newly built/improved elements of public touristic infrastructure	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment and Resources</b>
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	2a - Valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage of the common region in a sustainable way

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6c.2a**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI 3	Number of overnight stays in the region	Number	28,028,000.00	2013	31,500,000.00	31,861,315.00		To be reported again in 2020 (acc. to the approved CP), following observations were made in the report 2016 (the figure for 2017 is expected to remain the same as in 2016 or at least not lower): The tourism sectors are an important part of Austria's and Czech Republic's economies. In Austria, out of the Lands Lower, Upper Austria and Vienna, it was the capital, which recorded the highest increase of overnight stays in 2016 (14,962,438). In the Czech Republic, out of Vysočina, Jihomoravský kraj and Jihočeský kraj, it was the latter, which registered the highest number of overnight stays in 2016 (3,960,578).

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI 3	Number of overnight stays in the region	31,861,315.00		31,861,315.00		2,802,800,000.00		0.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment and Resources</b>
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6d**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	OP 8	Number of elements of green infrastructure realized	Elements	4.00	0.00	No elements in 2018, 4 elements in 2017, 2 elements in 2016 --> in sum 6 elements have been selected however none of them reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 8	Number of elements of green infrastructure realized	Elements	4.00	6.00	No elements in 2018, Due to modifications of the projects the total sum of the selected elements decreased from 8 to 6. Four elements in 2017 ,two elements in 2016 -> in sum 6 elements were selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 9	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of nature, landscape and biological species management	Mechanisms	10.00	0.00	No element in 2018, 12 mechanisms in 2017, 8 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 20 mechanisms were selected but none of them reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 9	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of nature, landscape and biological species management	Mechanisms	10.00	20.00	No element in 2018, 12 mechanisms in 2017, 8 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 20 mechanisms were selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OP 8	Number of elements of green infrastructure realized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 8	Number of elements of green infrastructure realized	8.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 9	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of nature, landscape and biological species management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 9	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of nature, landscape and biological species management	20.00	8.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment and Resources</b>
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Specific objective	2b - Increase of ecological stability and improvement of ecosystem services

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6d.2b**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI4	Share of weighings for category 4 and 5 measuring the quality of environment and ecosystem services	%	38.40		45.00	38.99		To be reported again in 2020 (acc. to the approved CP), following observations were made in the report 2016 (the figure for 2017 is expected to remain the same as in 2016 or at least not lower): The survey (German, Czech) was prepared by the MA and submitted to 225 experts in April 2017. Target group were national and regional experts from the fields of environment, nature and landscape protection, climate change, disaster control, civil protection, energy, and waste and water sector. A slight increase of measuring the quality of environment and ecosystem services from 38.40 % (in 2015) to 38.99 % (in 2016) could be noted.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI4	Share of weighings for category 4 and 5 measuring the quality of environment and ecosystem services	38.99		38.99		38.40		0.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment and Resources</b>
Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6f**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	OP 10	Number of eco-innovations introduced in the cross-border area	Eco-innovations	3.00	0.00	No eco-innovation in 2018, no eco-innovation in 2017, 1 eco-innovation in 2016 --> in sum 1 eco-innovation has been selected but not reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 10	Number of eco-innovations introduced in the cross-border area	Eco-innovations	3.00	1.00	No eco-innovation in 2018, no eco-innovation in 2017, 1 eco-innovation in 2016 --> in sum 1 eco-innovation has been selected but not reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 11	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of eco-innovations	Mechanisms	3.00	0.00	2 mechanisms in 2018, no mechanism in 2017, 1 mechanism in 2016 --> in sum 3 mechanism has been selected but not reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 11	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of eco-innovations	Mechanisms	3.00	3.00	2 mechanisms in 2018, no mechanism in 2017, 1 mechanism in 2016 --> in sum 3 mechanism has been selected but not reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OP 10	Number of eco-innovations introduced in the cross-border area	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 10	Number of eco-innovations introduced in the cross-border area	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 11	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of eco-innovations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 11	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of eco-innovations	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment and Resources</b>
Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
Specific objective	2c - Fostering the utilisation of eco-innovative potential of the region

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6f.2c**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI5	Share of weighings for category 4 and 5 measuring the level of eco-innovation activities	%	62.40	2015	75.00	63.90		To be reported again in 2020 (acc. to the approved CP), following observations were made in the report 2016 (the figure for 2017 is expected to remain the same as in 2016 or at least not lower): The survey (German, Czech) was prepared by the MA and submitted to 225 experts in April 2017. Target group were national and regional experts from the fields of environment, nature and landscape protection, climate change, disaster control, civil protection, energy, and waste and water sector. A slight increase of measuring the level of eco-innovation activities from 62.40 % (in 2015) to 63.90 % (in 2016) could be noted.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI5	Share of weighings for category 4 and 5 measuring the level of eco-innovation activities	63.90		63.90		62.40		0.00	



<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Human resources development</b>
Investment priority	10a - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.10a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	700.00	656.00	13 persons have been reported as an indicator in 2016 (ATCZ5); 321 in 2017 (18 in ATCZ65; 303 in ATCZ35); 322 in 2018 (117in ATCZ35, 23 in ATCZ62 ; 50 in ATCZ5, 132 in ATCZ65) it means 656 in total by the end of 2018. Crucial is here the duration of the monitoring period, not the date of the submission of the project report.
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	700.00	1,205.00	752 persons in 2018, No persons in 2017, 453 in 2016 --> 1205 persons have been selected as an indicator so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
F	OP 12	Number of cross-border mechanisms to promote joint training and education	Mechanisms	6.00	0.00	1 mechanism in 2018, no mechanisms in 2017, 5 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 6 mechanisms have been selected but not reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
S	OP 12	Number of cross-border mechanisms to promote joint training and education	Mechanisms	6.00	6.00	1 mechanism in 2018, no mechanism in 2017, 5 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 6 mechanisms have been selected so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	334.00	13.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	453.00	453.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 12	Number of cross-border mechanisms to promote joint training and education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 12	Number of cross-border mechanisms to promote joint training and education	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Human resources development</b>
Investment priority	10a - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
Specific objective	3a - Extension of common supply of education and qualification activities in order to utilize human resources potential in cross-border region

**Table 1: Result indicators - 3.10a.3a**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI6	Joint education activities and qualification supply	number	75.00	2015	100.00	133.00		To be reported again in 2020 (acc. to the approved CP), following observations were made in the report 2016 ((the figure for 2017 is expected to remain the same as in 2016 or at least not lower): In the year 2016, only 29 joint educational activities and qualification supplies could be reported. This rather low number is due to the fact that no cross border projects have been implemented so far. The respondent institutions pointed out planned activities for the year 2017 considering the already approved projects in the investment priority 10a.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI6	Joint education activities and qualification supply	133.00		104.00		75.00		0.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>4 - Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation</b>
Investment priority	11a - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.11a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	OP12	(Project)Partners responsible in form and content involved in cross-border activities	Partners	320.00	265.00	14 project partners were reported as an indicator in 2016 (6 at ATCZ1 report 2.1; 5 at ATCZ49 report 1.1; 3 at ATCZ22 report 1.1), 2 in 2017 (2 at ATCZ100 report 1.1), 249 project partners were reported in 2018 (246 at ATCZ49, 1 at ATCZ68 and 2 at ATCZ125)-> in sum 265
S	OP12	(Project)Partners responsible in form and content involved in cross-border activities	Partners	320.00	322.00	0 in 2018, 313 in 2017, 9 in 2016 --> in sum 322 project partners have been selected as an indicator so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	OP12	(Project)Partners responsible in form and content involved in cross-border activities	16.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP12	(Project)Partners responsible in form and content involved in cross-border activities	322.00	9.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>4 - Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	11a - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration
<b>Specific objective</b>	4a - Fostering cross-border cooperation of communities and institutions in joint regions

**Table 1: Result indicators - 4.11a.4a**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
RI 7	Share of weighings for categories 4 (above average) and 5 (intensive) measuring the level of cooperation/ integration	%	22.00	2014	30.00	20.77		To be reported again in 2020 (acc. to the approved CP), following observations were made in the report 2016 ((the figure for 2017 is expected to remain the same as in 2016 or at least not lower): The survey (German, Czech) was prepared by the MA and submitted to 578 experts in April 2017. The survey contained questions concerning experiences with ETC programmes and the intensity and quality of cross border cooperation. Target group were persons from public administration, municipalities, enterprises, research, schools, fire departments, culture, tourism, transport and infrastructure and others. A slight decrease of measuring the level of cooperation/ integration from 22.00 % (in 2014) to 20.77 % (in 2016) could be noted. This decrease could be explained through the fact that no cross border projects have been implemented so far.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI 7	Share of weighings for categories 4 (above average) and 5 (intensive) measuring the level of cooperation/ integration	20.77		20.77		22.00		0.00	

## Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	5 - Technical assistance
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**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 5.Technical assistance**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	O 17	Number of compulsory information events for beneficiaries at project	Number	12.00	6.00	2 events was organised in 2018, 4 events were organised in 2017-> in sum 6
S	O 17	Number of compulsory information events for beneficiaries at project	Number	12.00	12.00	No events in 2018, no events in 2017, 12 in 2016 --> in sum 12 events have been selected as an indicator so far
F	OP 15	No of projects committed and successfully closed (P)	Number	200.00	0.00	No projects were committed and successfully closed either in 2018 and 2017 or 2016
S	OP 15	No of projects committed and successfully closed (P)	Number	200.00	200.00	No more projects were selected as an indicator in 2018
F	OP 16	Number of major publicity events (P)	Numbers	2.00	2.00	No major publicity events were organised in 2018, each 1 event was organised in 2016 and 2017
S	OP 16	Number of major publicity events (P)	Numbers	2.00	2.00	No in 2018, no in 2017, 2 in 2016 --> 2 major publicity events have been selected as an output indicator so far
F	OP 18	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance "	Full time equivalents	15.00	12.25	12,34 in 2018, 12.25 FTE in 2016 and also in 2017
S	OP 18	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance "	Full time equivalents	15.00	12.25	No more in 2018, no more in 2017, 12.25 in 2016 --> so far 12.25 full time equivalents have been selected so far

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O 17	Number of compulsory information events for beneficiaries at project	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O 17	Number of compulsory information events for beneficiaries at project	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 15	No of projects committed and successfully closed (P)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 15	No of projects committed and successfully closed (P)	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 16	Number of major publicity events (P)	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	OP 16	Number of major publicity events (P)	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	OP 18	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance "	12.25	12.25	0.00	0.00
S	OP 18	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance "	12.25	12.25	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

### 3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2018	Observations
1	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	1791939	14,685,062.00	2,382,713.17	
1	O	OP 2	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	2	15.00	17.00	8 organisations in 2018, 6 organisations in 2017, 3 organisations in 2016 -> in sum 17 organisations/ research institutions were reported as output indicator for the end of 2018; this indicator is seen as delivered once the research institutions start to cooperate
1	O	OP 3	Number of services to support enterprises' innovative capacity introduced or improved	Services	1	8.00	0.00	3 services in 2018, 1 service in 2017, 1 service in 2016 --> in sum 5 services have been selected as an indicator however none of them reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
2	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	2	10.00	0.00	9,3 kilometres of reconstructed or upgraded roads were selected in 2018, but none reported so far.
2	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	6 520 356	53,434,764.00	807,782.73	
2	O	OP 5	Number of cultural/natural heritage elements with improved attractiveness	Elements	1	8.00	0.00	8,00 elements with improved attractiveness were selected in 2018, 10 elements with improved attractiveness were selected in 2017 ; no elements were reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
2	O	OP 9	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of nature, landscape and biological species management	Mechanisms	2	10.00	0.00	No element in 2018, 12 mechanisms in 2017, 8 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 20 mechanisms were selected but none of them reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
3	O	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	100	700.00	656.00	752 persons in 2018, no persons in 2017, 453 in 2016 --> 1205 persons have been selected as an indicator so far; 656 have been reported by the end of 2018.
3	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	1 963 177	16,088,368.00	1,315,037.02	
3	O	OP 12	Number of cross-border mechanisms to promote joint training and education	Mechanisms	1	6.00	0.00	1 mechanism in 2018, no mechanisms in 2017, 5 mechanisms in 2016 --> in sum 6 mechanisms have been selected but not reported so far; tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of these projects
4	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	2,924,151	23,963,618.00	734,819.30	
4	O	OP12	(Project)Partners responsible in form and content involved in cross-border activities	Partners	40	320.00	265.00	14 project partners were reported as an indicator in 2016 2 in 2017, 249 project partners were reported in 2018 -> in sum 265

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	OP 2	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	9.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	OP 3	Number of services to support enterprises' innovative capacity introduced or improved	Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	OP 5	Number of cultural/natural heritage elements with improved attractiveness	Elements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	OP 9	Number of cross-border mechanisms in the field of nature, landscape and biological species management	Mechanisms	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	O	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	334.00	13.00	0.00	0.00
3	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	O	OP 12	Number of cross-border mechanisms to promote joint training and education	Mechanisms	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	F	F11	Eligible expenditures certified	EUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	O	OP12	(Project)Partners responsible in form and content involved in cross-border activities	Partners	16.00	14.00	0.00	0.00



### 3.4. Financial data

**Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level**

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
1	ERDF	Total	14,685,062.00	85.00	11,816,684.30	80.47%	11,541,817.60	2,388,007.13	16.26%	11	2,382,713.17
2	ERDF	Total	53,434,764.00	85.00	42,783,091.56	80.07%	42,281,209.27	1,014,072.26	1.90%	21	807,782.73
3	ERDF	Total	16,088,368.00	85.00	7,151,736.07	44.45%	7,030,601.27	1,316,225.49	8.18%	4	1,315,037.02
4	ERDF	Total	23,963,618.00	85.00	9,194,438.12	38.37%	9,186,652.12	737,879.52	3.08%	6	734,819.30
5	ERDF	Total	6,904,584.00	85.00	5,467,115.10	79.18%	5,467,115.10	692,731.15	10.03%	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>115,076,396.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>76,413,065.15</b>	<b>66.40%</b>	<b>75,507,395.36</b>	<b>6,148,915.55</b>	<b>5.34%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5,240,352.22</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>115,076,396.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>76,413,065.15</b>	<b>66.40%</b>	<b>75,507,395.36</b>	<b>6,148,915.55</b>	<b>5.34%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5,240,352.22</b>



**Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)**

n.a.

**Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention**

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	058	01	01	07	01		20	CZ031	1,253,423.40	1,253,423.40	5,000.00	1
1	ERDF	058	01	02	07	01		20	AT312	1,581,850.87	1,581,850.87	1,161,272.33	1
1	ERDF	060	01	01	07	01		08	CZ064	1,012,218.10	1,012,218.10	22,882.58	1
1	ERDF	060	01	01	07	01		20	AT124	1,773,774.67	1,773,774.67	148,343.58	1
1	ERDF	060	01	01	07	01		20	AT130	1,494,783.64	1,367,445.48	488,949.13	1
1	ERDF	060	01	02	07	01		22	AT312	869,488.23	869,488.23	249,240.36	1
1	ERDF	060	01	02	07	01		24	AT312	622,303.67	622,303.67	133,434.48	1
1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		08	AT130	700,643.88	700,643.88	5,000.00	1
1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		13	AT130	653,123.71	653,123.71	5,000.00	1
1	ERDF	062	01	02	07	01		11	AT124	1,195,659.09	1,100,617.12	5,000.00	1
1	ERDF	063	01	01	07	01		24	AT314	659,415.04	606,928.47	163,884.67	1
3	ERDF	118	01	01	07	10		19	CZ031	1,154,987.50	1,154,987.50	339,227.79	2
3	ERDF	118	01	02	07	10		19	AT123	4,547,030.66	4,461,990.60	543,047.07	1
3	ERDF	118	01	03	07	10		19	CZ063	1,449,717.91	1,413,623.17	433,950.63	1
4	ERDF	119	01	02	07	11		20	AT123	1,362,002.89	1,362,002.89	176,911.79	2
4	ERDF	119	01	02	07	11		21	AT313	197,820.15	190,034.15	61,544.26	1
4	ERDF	119	01	02	07	11		24	CZ063	1,711,695.21	1,711,695.21	175,111.28	1
4	ERDF	119	01	03	07	11		21	CZ063	228,799.87	228,799.87	36,776.41	1
4	ERDF	119	01	03	07	11		24	CZ031	5,694,120.00	5,694,120.00	287,535.78	1
2	ERDF	013	01	03	07	06		10	CZ064	1,162,862.00	1,162,862.00	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	017	01	01	07	06		11	AT312	919,475.75	848,432.40	0.00	1
2	ERDF	017	01	01	07	06		11	CZ063	999,700.26	957,676.86	418,627.44	1
2	ERDF	034	01	03	07	06		23	CZ031	5,546,833.00	5,546,833.00	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	085	01	03	07	06		22	AT125	2,171,069.09	2,171,069.09	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	085	01	03	07	06		22	CZ031	1,663,827.00	1,663,827.00	211,289.53	1
2	ERDF	085	01	03	07	06		22	CZ064	1,756,833.88	1,756,833.88	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	03	07	06		22	CZ031	1,259,694.94	1,259,694.94	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	06		22	AT130	5,883,953.55	5,883,953.55	0.00	1
2	ERDF	087	01	03	07	06		22	AT123	1,002,493.48	995,504.78	0.00	1
2	ERDF	090	01	03	07	06		23	CZ064	1,373,096.84	1,373,096.84	0.00	1
2	ERDF	091	01	03	07	06		22	CZ031	3,452,297.09	3,452,297.09	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	091	01	03	07	06		23	AT125	1,870,030.05	1,870,030.05	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	091	01	03	07	06		23	AT313	1,000,210.45	960,146.74	57,428.25	1
2	ERDF	091	01	03	07	06		23	CZ064	498,328.73	498,328.73	113,848.35	1
2	ERDF	092	01	02	07	06		08	CZ064	3,248,218.64	3,218,601.79	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	092	01	02	07	06		23	CZ031	2,553,344.46	2,455,092.42	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	092	01	03	07	06		23	AT313	2,349,223.39	2,135,329.15	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	092	01	03	07	06		23	CZ063	1,790,155.59	1,790,155.59	5,000.00	1
2	ERDF	093	01	01	07	06		23	AT130	1,156,082.54	1,156,082.54	87,154.43	1
2	ERDF	093	01	03	07	06		23	CZ031	1,125,360.83	1,125,360.83	75,724.26	1
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	AT123	4,118,314.00	4,118,314.00	275,774.95	2
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	CZ010	1,278,211.10	1,278,211.10	405,964.42	2
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	CZ031	23,530.00	23,530.00	4,105.85	1
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	CZ063	23,530.00	23,530.00	3,481.18	1
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	CZ064	23,530.00	23,530.00	3,404.75	1

**Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area**

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

## 4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The evaluations of the result/output indicators proceeded without any significant problems. It is necessary to note that this achievement affects only approved/allocated results and therefore tangible outputs can be monitored only through implementation/after finalisation of the approved projects. The first final project report is expected in June 2019. The allocation of output indicators of the approved projects is satisfactory and it can be assumed that the program-targets will be fulfilled.

In 2018, the program evaluation started with an online survey among project-partners, potential project-partners and relevant stakeholders followed by interviews with regional coordinators regarding the publicity of the program, the needs of the program region and the administrative burden. The first results have been written down in draft-reports and can be summarized as follows:

### **Impact of communication and PR**

The applicants and beneficiaries feel sufficiently informed about the programme's orientation. The programme's interventions (including the results of previous periods) are well known to those that are involved, but to a much lesser degree for other groups.

The analysis has shown that personal contacts play a much bigger role for making the programme visible than the current information and communication tools. The “traditional” communication activities targeted at programme stakeholders, beneficiaries and applicants are fit for their purpose, whereas the potential of social media to provide short and up-to-date information to a wider target group is not utilized.

However, the communication approach is to focus on the most important programme functions, i.e. to inform the stakeholders on the programme. This is efficient in relation to the resources given.

### **Needs of the area & intervention logic**

The evaluation found that climate change and sustainable use of natural resources, particularly in context of preservation of the natural heritage will continue to be two of the most important challenges for the border region. This pillar (PA 2) is therefore more relevant than ever.

The joint development and marketing as a common tourist- and culture destination will also be relevant in post 2020+. This is an important area particularly for beneficiaries who have selected this field as greatest opportunity for development for the development of the border region (51% of respondents of the online survey).

The evaluation also found that R&D&I (PA 1) shows the largest potential for cooperation, and cross-border activities have increased reasonably in this field.

Concerning the Specific Objective 1b ‘Fostering the involvement of enterprises (primarily SMEs) in the innovation system’, continued efforts to finally realise the objective will be needed, particularly given the

lack of projects carried out by/with SMEs.

The common supply of education, particularly training of workers, and early childhood education regarding language skills (PA 3) will continue to be of great interest in the future period.

PA 4 (Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation) is particularly important, as it enables actions and interventions in various different areas. Additionally, it deals with projects that add to the reduction of barriers by implementing projects with a public interest. It enables the implementation of projects in areas that are not priority areas, as well as projects that are close to the population (small projects fund).

However, some relatively new topics have gained importance such as digitalisation or demographic change, which will have to be integrated to the programme.

### **Administrative burden**

In general, the internal cooperation and distribution of roles between the different programme actors work well. All programme bodies are functional and even though resources are scarce, the main tasks can be done without bigger problems.

The highest quality for counselling and/or support was in average attested for regional coordination offices, followed by Joint Secretariat and First Level Control Authorities.

The Austrians assessed the usefulness and comprehensibility of programme-documents in general lower (mean 3.78 points out of 6) than their Czech counterparts (4.20). However, it was also mentioned that many documents would not be easy to understand, especially for stakeholders not very experienced with the programme.

While the programme actors do not see major problems in the application phase, the participants in the online-survey assess the administrative effort to submitting a project proposal relatively high.

The eMS has proven its benefits for the programme bodies. However, there is space for improvement in the usability for applicants and beneficiaries.

The effort for different tasks for preparation, application and project implementation was assessed very high from both, actual beneficiaries as well as from participants without a project.

In spite of the rather high administrative burden, 73.2% of project promoters would recommend the implementation of a project in the INTERREG V-A programme Austria – Czech Republic to potential applicants.

The evaluation of the thematic objectives is foreseen for 2019, therefore no findings can be reported in

this report.

As the first evaluation reports are draft-reports and not committed by the Monitoring Committee, the table below is not figured out. Details see chapter 10.1.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

### **(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken**

In 2018, no issues affected the performance of the programme. The designation process could be finished successfully and the first payment request was made in time. Nevertheless, the performance framework could not be fulfilled satisfactorily, because of the late start of the programme in 2016. Therefore, in 2018 the JS asked all project partners and all controllers to improve their performance to keep their working packages in time and to report their outputs accordingly. With this task, the timely fulfilment of some output indicators was enhanced.

In recent years, there have also been macroeconomic and political challenges in Europe that could have an influence on the performance of our programme. But those issues are not really addressed by the INTERREG V-A AT-CZ programme, respectively are tackled on a higher political level, thus the programme has not been affected actually.



**(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.**

**General assessment of the current programme performance**

- In general the AT-CZ programme is “on track” with a commitment of 66%. The aim is that all funds are committed by the end of 2019/beginning of 2020. This leaves sufficient time for the disbursements to be made.
- The output indicators of the performance framework for 2023 can be achieved. Most of them are expected to be achieved with the already approved projects.
- The programme only partially meets the milestones in 2018. This is not due to a general lack of efficiency, but caused by a late programme start and the approval of larger projects with a duration of up to 3 years.

## **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**8.1. Major projects**

**Table 7: Major projects**

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

**Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them**

n.a.

**Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme**

n.a.

## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

n.a.

**Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

n.a.

## 9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

### 9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
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In 2018, 99 % of the investment priority 1a was allocated. The investment priority 1b was filled with 54 % out of the approved budget for this priority.

The chosen indicator “research quota” - one of the Europe 2020 main target indicators - represents the level of R&I activities in this priority. The approved projects will contribute to an increase of the R&I expenditure so an effect to the research quota is expected. Due to Eurostat data, the relation of R&I expenditure to the GDP was at 3.00 % in 2016.

Priority axis	2 - Environment and Resources
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In 2018, already 72 % of the investment priority 6c was allocated. The increase in figures compared the previous report is due to the fact, that in 2018 six projects were successfully approved in that priority axis. Furthermore, the investment priority 6d already exceeded the planned budget with 119 % allocated, while the investment priority 6f reached 49 % of its total budget.

The supported actions will help to protect, promote and develop the rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage in the Czech-Austrian border region in a sustainable and resource-efficient way.

Priority axis	3 - Human resources development
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In 2018, 56 % of the investment priority 10a was allocated. As education and qualification are main elements in a cross-border integration process, investing in people and skills is one of the priority axes, also formulated in the Danube strategy. The identified challenges and planned activities under this IP therefore contribute to the implementation of a common Danube Region strategy.

For measuring the results of the planned interventions, the indicator “Joint education activities and qualification supply” was chosen. This indicator includes and describes joint (i.e. cross-border) activities in the field of education and qualification (e.g. joint training, courses, educational programmes, other forms of joint education and training or student exchange etc.).

In the year 2018, only 6 joint cross-border educational activities and qualification supplies could be reported. This rather low number is due to the fact that in total only 5 educational cross border projects have been implemented so far.



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Priority axis	4 - Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation
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In 2018, 38 % of the investment priority 11 was allocated.

The projects within this IP seek to achieve a higher level of regional integration, cross-border coordination and better neighbourhood relations. This is to be achieved by a wide range of cooperation activities between citizens, communities and institutions, making use of participation and civil society activities.

As a result, indicator measuring the level of cooperation, integration, harmonization and coherence in local/ regional governance the “share of weighings for category 4 (above average) and 5 (intensive)” was chosen.

In total 6 projects have been approved in that IP. The current results show an increase of the level of cooperation/ integration from 20.77 % (in 2016) to 38 % (in 2018). Further increase can be expected especially with regard to the extension of the two IPs bigger projects, the Small Project Fund (FMP/KPF) and ConnReg.

Priority axis	5 - Technical assistance
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The investment priority for Technical Assistance remained the same as reported in 2016, with 79 % allocated of the total budget. There were no new projects submitted and currently there are no projects under preparation for submission in that IP.

This priority axis includes activities for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of the present programme as well as information and publicity to support the active participation of all partners and regions. This should guarantee the preconditions (materials and personnel resources) for programme implementation, efficient and effective monitoring, including controlling, monitoring, evaluation, information and public relations.

## **9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

All 11 projects approved in 2018 within the programme INTERREG V-A Austria-Czech Republic are consciously dealing with equality between men and women and non-discrimination and realize their aims while taking into account the principle of appreciation of diversity. Also projects, which assessed their work in the application form as “neutral” in terms of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, contribute to these themes just by setting these standards and working by these standards. From the 11 projects that have been approved in 2018, 2 projects state to have a positive influence on equality between men and women and 9 to be neutral; 6 projects state to have a positive influence on non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and 5 to be neutral.

The following examples present contributions of our projects to equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme:

“REEagain” (ATCZ172) is a research project that deals with the recycling of rare earths. In this project, the awareness of the difficulties for working mothers is high. That is why flexible working hours are used to meeting the needs of working mothers.

In the project “COL” (ATCZ171), the main objective is the restoration of two buildings of cultural heritage. Part of a monastery in the city of Znojmo (Czech republic) and a granary in the city of Retz (Austria) will be restored in a way that makes the building handicapped accessible.

In another project that deals with cultural heritage named “Lidová kultura / Volkskultur AT-CZ” (ATCZ181), a dye house in the Austrian city Gutau is adapted to a museum. The newly build rooms are handicapped accessible.

Lastly, the project “C4PE” (ATCZ23) aims to contribute to the conditions of education in vocational schools in the border region which currently do not meet the needs of the cross-border labor market.

The project focuses on the topic "women in technical professions". This approach contributes to the awareness of gender diversity and the principle of equality between women and men.

### 9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

Overall, 50 projects were approved within the programme INTERREG V-A Austria-Czech Republic so far.

There are 11 research collaborations between universities and research institutes, 21 cooperation projects dealing with the conservation, development and expansion of the natural and cultural heritage as well as nature conservation and eco-innovation, 5 joint training initiatives, 6 projects to promote cross-border cooperation between administrative units, institutions and regional development institutions and 7 Technical Assistance projects, ensuring a solid program implementation and management.

Overall, regarding the field of sustainability, there are three different areas to which the projects contribute – the ecological, the economical and the social area.

All former and new projects contribute in one way or another to the promotion of sustainable development in the programme territory.

Projects approved in 2018 like ATCZ163 Cultural and natural heritage Schwarzenberger Alluvial Canal – Bavarian Floodplain, ATCZ147 Porzt Island, ATCZ179 Zadní Zvonková – Schöneben, ATCZ 181 Folk Culture AT-CZ, ATCZ182 Search for Traces Southern Bohemia – Upper Austria or ATCZ171 COL contribute to this goal for example by strengthening the awareness of environmental protection and preserving local cultural and natural heritage, while also strengthening the economic sustainability by promoting sustainable regional tourism in the cross-border area.

Other projects like ATCZ183 IRAS, ATCZ167 HTPO, ATCZ190 SAFEBRIDGE or ATCZ172 REEgain show a clear contribution regional ecological sustainability, by for example supporting environmentally friendly and low-energy extraction of heavy metals from secondary raw materials, analysing cross-border thermal water resources and their sustainable use, investigating the maintenance, operation and evaluation of infrastructure facilities to sustain the use of existing infrastructure or develop applicable recycling technologies for the recovery of rare earths from electronic waste and wastewater.

The selected projects contribution to sustainability is also seen in their ability to actively establish sustainable cooperation structures in the programme area.

Projects like ATCZ23 C4PE are helping to maintain and develop intellectual resources and therefore to establish sustainable social structures. This not only supports interpersonal cross- border relations but also helps to create better job opportunities for the local population.

#### 9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
2	10,338,529.37	22.76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,338,529.37</b>	<b>10.57%</b>

There are currently eight projects running dealing with climate-change issues:

ATCZ 167, HTPO - deals with the potential and joint management measures of cross border thermal water resources in the Laa - Pasohlávky region.

ATCZ 142, The overall project objective is to initiate the adaptation of the existing green infrastructure to climate change in the participating regions, to initiate a strengthening of the ecosystem and to increase the biodiversity of the "Green Infrastructure" and to actively implement climate protection measures by expanding the Green Infrastructure.

ATCZ 28, SEDECO - deals with sediments, ecosystem services and interactions with floods and droughts in the AT-CZ border region

ATCZ 147, Portz Insel - Development of bicycle tracks and renewal of the composed historical landscape

ATCZ 37, Malse Muschel - Promotion of the natural environment and occurrence of the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) in the Maltsh catchment area, increasing the biodiversity

ATCZ 45, ConNat - The overall project goal is, in line with the EU Green Infrastructure Strategy, the large-scale habitat connection between the Lower Austrian Alps, the Bohemian Forest, the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, Lower Austria and the Carpathians, to secure the linking across the border and to maintain the core habitats through coordinated management measures. The aim is to implement Natura 2000 conservation objectives, to ensure biodiversity, further landscape ecosystem services and an attractive recreational area for the population.

ATCZ 7, Thaya 2020 - Harmonization of monitoring and assessment of water status, development of the fish population and improvement of the river morphology. The project will also produce five elements of green infrastructure to support morphological water diversity, fish migration and reproduction.

ATCZ 182, Spurensuche - The main objective of the project is to develop and disseminate previously less well-known parts of the natural heritage of the common cross-border region (National Nature Reserve Olšina, European important locality and bird reserve Boletice, protected areas Natura 2000).



## **9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

The INTERREG programme AT-CZ has several structures for the implementation in which the partners are involved accordingly.

### Monitoring Committee (MC)

The role and tasks of the MC and its members are laid down in the Rules of Procedure and mainly cover the following areas: Selection of the projects to be supported, acceptance and approval of programme progress reports, programme evaluation, communication measures, approval of programme-related documents such as the common eligibility rules, evaluation plan, communication strategy, assessment criteria for the formal and qualitative evaluation of the applications, programme changes, etc.

The list of the MC-members is published on the programme website <http://www.at-cz.eu/at/downloads/programmdokumente>.

In 2018, one meeting of the MC took place, in which 17 projects were discussed.

### Task force

The task force is a joint working group of the program partners: Development, discussion and adoption of documents for programme implementation - manual for applicants, manual for project partners; Preparation and discussion of programme-relevant documents submitted to the MC for decision-making: common eligibility rules, assessment criteria for the formal and qualitative assessment of the applications, evaluation plan, communication strategy; Ongoing monitoring of the programme, coordination of priorities and events, regular exchange on current and expected projects. The TF-members are the representatives of the programme regions (regional bodies of the regions/federal provinces), CZ-ministry as National Authority, controllers, Certifying Authority, Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat.

In 2018, 3 TF-meetings took place: The program partners held their meetings at different locations within the program regions. Various topics were discussed; among others project submissions, the above mentioned programme-relevant documents and processes, the designation process and the programme evaluation. One TF-meeting was also held as a meeting of the programming group 2021+ and the first steps for the preparing of the future programme period were agreed.

What can also be highlighted positively is the signing of a pre-agreement for the cooperation of the programme partners in the future programming period, which was discussed and prepared in the TF-

meetings.

#### Ongoing meetings and coordination

The MA and the JS carried out ongoing coordination and small meetings with the representatives of the Member States and controllers for the further development of the eMS, manual for applicants, manual for project partners, eligibility rules, pre-agreement (see above) and all other relevant documents and processes regarding the managing and control system.

Public event on 27th September 2018 in Vienna (EC-Day): All partners, both from the level of administration and from the political side, have participated with their own contributions (speeches, interviews, statements). The event with over 200 participants went well and a good common picture was presented to the outside. This event was held together with the “neighbouring” programmes AT-HU and SK-AT, what can also be seen as an innovative, collaborative approach to bring the EU closer to the citizens. The civil society was involved through the above-mentioned public event, seminars and workshops for applicants. In sum, about 300 participants took advantage of these information events and could gain new knowledge about the programme (see also 10.2).

## **10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

### **10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations**

In 2018, the program evaluation started with an online survey among project-partners, potential project-partners and relevant stakeholders followed by interviews with regional coordinators regarding the publicity of the program, the needs of the program region and the administrative burden. The first results have been written down in draft-reports and can be summarized as follows:

#### **Impact of communication and PR**

The applicants and beneficiaries feel sufficiently informed about the programme's orientation. The programme's interventions (including the results of previous periods) are well known to those that are involved, but to a much lesser degree for other groups.

The analysis has shown that personal contacts play a much bigger role for making the programme visible than the current information and communication tools. The “traditional” communication activities targeted at programme stakeholders, beneficiaries and applicants are fit for their purpose, whereas the potential of social media to provide short and up-to-date information to a wider target group is not utilized.

However, the communication approach is to focus on the most important programme functions, i.e. to inform the stakeholders on the programme. This is efficient in relation to the resources given.

Follow up: for 2019 the redesign and relaunch of the programme-website is planned, as well as the implementation of a media campaign, which is currently under preparation.

#### **Needs of the area & intervention logic**

The evaluation found that climate change and sustainable use of natural resources, particularly in context of preservation of the natural heritage will continue to be two of the most important challenges for the border region. This pillar (PA 2) is therefore more relevant than ever.

The joint development and marketing as a common tourist- and culture destination will also be relevant in post 2020+. This is an important area particularly for beneficiaries who have selected this field as greatest opportunity for the development of the border region (51% of respondents of the online survey).

The evaluation also found that R&D&I (PA 1) shows the largest potential for cooperation, and cross-border activities have increased reasonably in this field.

Concerning the Specific Objective 1b ‘Fostering the involvement of enterprises (primarily SMEs) in the innovation system’, continued efforts to finally realise the objective will be needed, particularly given the



lack of projects carried out by/with SMEs.

The common supply of education, particularly training of workers, and early childhood education regarding language skills (PA 3) will continue to be of great interest in the future period.

PA 4 (Sustainable networks and institutional cooperation) is particularly important, as it enables actions and interventions in various different areas. Additionally, it deals with projects that add to the reduction of barriers by implementing projects with a public interest. It enables the implementation of projects in areas that are not priority areas, as well as projects that are close to the population (small projects fund).

However, some relatively new topics have gained importance such as digitalisation or demographic change, which will have to be integrated in the programme.

Follow up: Considering the recommendations in the programming 2021+ discussion in the programming group and in the Monitoring Committee in 2019, possibly a programme change related to the results of the evaluation of the investment priorities (to be done during 2019)[GC(1)]

### **Administrative burden**

In general, the internal cooperation and distribution of roles between the different programme actors work well. All programme bodies are functional and even though resources are scarce, the main tasks can be done without bigger problems.

The highest quality for counselling and/or support was in average attested for regional coordination offices, followed by Joint Secretariat and First Level Control Authorities.

The Austrians assessed the usefulness and comprehensibility of programme-documents in general lower (mean 3.78 points out of 6) than their Czech counterparts (4.20). However, it was also mentioned that many documents would not be easy to understand, especially for stakeholders not very experienced with the programme.

While the programme actors do not see major problems in the application phase, the participants in the online-survey assess the administrative effort to submitting a project proposal relatively high.

The eMS has proven its benefits for the programme bodies. However, there is space for improvement in the usability for applicants and beneficiaries.

The effort for different tasks for preparation, application and project implementation was assessed very

high from both, actual beneficiaries as well as from participants without a project.

In spite of the rather high administrative burden, 73.2% of project promoters would recommend the implementation of a project in the INTERREG V-A programme Austria – Czech Republic to potential applicants.

Follow up: Considering the recommendations in the programming for 2021+, in the ongoing amendments of programme documents (eligibility rules, handbook for beneficiaries), in the meetings of the Controllers (FLC-meetings) and in the Task Force meetings (programme partners)

The evaluation of the thematic objectives is foreseen for 2019, therefore no findings can be reported in this report and only the planned measures are figured out in the table below.

Monitoring Committee in 2019, a programme change related to the results of the evaluation of the investment priorities (to be done during 2019) is possible.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
Planned	Assessment of Specific Objectives of PA	ERDF	2019	Impact	01 06 10 11	<p>Qualitative reconstruction of the impact hypothesis developed in an intervention logic (plausibility check).  Type of interventions and their suitability: Can they trigger the desired results and contribute to the Specific Objectives?  <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment of potential results:  – direct results (contributions to the objectives)  – indirect results (e.g. strengthening of cross-border cooperation)  Qualitative contrafactual approach to analyse the value added of the programme for the achievement of the results.</p>		

## 10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The aim of the information and communication activities is to ensure an efficient and accessible communication flow, both, for the general public and for all (potential) beneficiaries.

A budget of € 306,600.00 is planned under the "Technical Assistance" for the information and communication activities of the programme.

In 2018 according to the communication strategy there have been carried out various information actions and events.

### January, February

- Publishing material for project partners to help them comply with the mandatory publicity (poster templates)
- Workshop for internal programme partners (Controllers)

### March, April

- Promotion of the project ATCZ71 "Grünraum" in the context of EYCH 2018 in Vienna. (European Year Of Cultural Heritage | [https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/european-year-cultural-heritage\\_en](https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/european-year-cultural-heritage_en)).

### May June

- Project presentations during the EUropa event in Vienna (May 14 - 19),
- Information stand INTERREG
- Updating the list of beneficiaries on [www.at-cz.eu](http://www.at-cz.eu) according to Transparency requirements
- Bilateral Network Meeting on Priority 1 in South Moravia
- Bilateral Network Meeting South Bohemia (Hluboká nad Vltavou) on the subject education on 24.5.
- Cross-border conference Jihlava (Czech republic) on culture and tourism on 21. 6.
- Annual Implementation Report with Citizens Summary on [www.at-cz.eu](http://www.at-cz.eu)

### July, August

- Relaunch of the programme website [www.at-cz.eu](http://www.at-cz.eu)
- Ordering of giveaways from environmentally friendly, sustainable material

### **September, October**

- EC Day, together with the INTERREG-programmes Austria-Hungary and Slovakia-Austria in the presence of the press with around 200 participants
- Two seminars for project partners

### **Ongoing activities**

- Distribution of program brochures and giveaways at meetings, seminars and events
- Updating, publishing the manuals for applicants and promoters
- Maintenance of the website (regular news bulletins), the social media pages (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter) and the iBox (information platform of the approved projects)
- Participation and lecturing at relevant events
- Supporting beneficiaries in public relations actions and communication activities

Current press articles about the program and program progress

**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme**

n.a.

## 11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

n.a.

### 11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The applicants have to indicate in the application form whether the project contributes to a macro-regional strategy and, if so, how. All of the approved projects have stated to contribute to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. These projects can be assigned to the priorities of the EUSDR as follows:

#### **PA3 – To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts:**

ATCZ143 Designinnovationen von der Moderne um 1900 zur digitalen Moderne

ATCZ31 Verbesserung des Zutritts und der Bewerbung des Kulturerbes in Regionen Südböhmen-Vysočina-Waldviertel-Mühlviertel

ATCZ41 Borderless cycling along the Green Belt of Europe

ATCZ59 Internationale Kulturplattform

ATCZ71 Inwertsetzung von Grünräumen

ATCZ74 Kultur und Natur am Grünen Band

ATCZ91 Nature and culture experience on the castles and palaces path

ATCZ147 Portz Insel

ATCZ171 Zentrum für Erneuerung des gemeinsamen Kulturerbes

ATCZ179 Zadní Zvonková – Schöneben

ATCZ181 Volkskultur AT-CZ

ATCZ163 Schwarzenberský plavební kanál

#### **PA 5 – To manage environmental risks:**

ATCZ28 Sediments, ecosystem services and interrelation with floods and droughts in the AT-CZ border region



**PA 6 – To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils:**

ATCZ21 Mechanischer Aufschluss von Laubholz

ATCZ142 Anpassung der Grünen Infrastruktur an den Klimawandel

ATCZ37 Förderung der natürlichen Umwelt und des Vorkommens der Flussperlmuschel (Margaritifera margaritifera) im Maltzsch-Einzugsgebiet

ATCZ45 Crossborder Habitat Network and Management - Connecting Nature AT-CZ

ATCZ7 THAYA 2020

ATCZ42 Innovation der Technologien bei Kompostierung, Kompostanwendung und Bodenschutz

ATCZ183 Innovative Recyclingtechnologie für Aschen und Schlacken

ATCZ182 Spurensuche SB – OÖ

ATCZ167 Hydrotermální potenciál oblasti

**PA 7 – To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies:**

ATCZ133 Competence Center Mechano-Biology in Regenerative Medicine

ATCZ14 Czech-Austrian Center for Supracellular Medical Research

ATCZ15 Joint Czech-Austrian Center for Algae Biotechnology

ATCZ38 Competence Center for High-Resolution 3D X-ray Imaging

ATCZ40 Innovationsförderung in der Grenzregion Österreich – Tschechische Republik durch die Schaffung von Synergien im Bereich der Forschungsinfrastruktur

ATCZ52 Infrastruktur für Metabolomik-Forschung und medizinische Chemie

ATCZ175 Interoperabilität heterogener Funkssysteme

ATCZ190 Safebridge

ATCZ172 REEgain

**PA8 – To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development:**

ATCZ16 Service Innovation Process for Small and Medium Enterprises

**PA 9 – To invest in people and skills:**

ATCZ35 Durch den mathematischen Weg zur Technik

ATCZ5 Educational Cooperation in the Border Region

ATCZ62 Methodisches Konzept zur effektiven Unterstützung von Schlüsselkompetenzen in einer Fremdsprache

ATCZ65 Educational Framework for Garden-Pedagogy

ATCZ68 Schulung, Coaching & Integrationsmodelle für Berater/innen für arbeitslose Menschen über 50 Jahre in Südböhmen und Oberösterreich

ATCZ23 Concepts for Professional Education in Border Regions

**PA 10 – Institutional Capacity & Cooperation:**

ATCZ1 Connecting Regions AT-CZ

ATCZ100 Unterstützung der grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit im Bereich der nachhaltigen Entwicklung LA21/G25

ATCZ125 Grenzüberschreitende Gesundheitsversorgung Niederösterreich - Südböhmen

ATCZ22 Gemeinsame grenzüberschreitende Gesundheitsversorgung Niederösterreich – Südmähren – Südböhmen

ATCZ49 Kleinprojektfonds im Kooperationsprogramm INTERREG V-A Österreich-Tschechische Republik

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

**The pillar(s) and priority area(s) that the programme is relevant to:**

	<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Priority area</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.1 - Mobility - waterways
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.2 - Mobility - rail, road & air
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.3 - Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.4 - Culture and tourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.1 - Water quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.2 - Environmental risks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.3 - Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.1 - Knowledge society
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.2 - Competitiveness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.3 - People & skills
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.1 - Institutional capacity & cooperation
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.2 - Security

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSDR**

**A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSDR?**

Yes  No

**a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSDR**

Yes  No

**b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)**

**c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

**d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSDR?**

Yes  No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSDR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

**D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSDR (n.a. for 2016)**

**E. Does the programme contribute to the targets as validated by the national coordinators and priority area coordinators in 2016 (uploaded on the EUSDR website)? (Please specify the target(s))**

**11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation**

n.a.

### 13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The cooperation programme INTERREG V-A Austria – Czech republic contributes to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, with regard to its selected thematic objectives and priorities. It takes into account national and regional needs but also lessons drawn from the previous programming period.

The programmes priority for **Smart** growth is striving to strengthen knowledge and innovation as drivers of future regional growth. The EUs current target, formulated in the Europe 2020 strategy, is to invest 3% of the GDP in R&D and innovation. INTERREG V-A Austria – Czech republic contributes to this through expressing the need for both the public and private sectors to invest in R&I. This focus is observable through the programmes 1st investment priority (Strengthening of research, technological development and innovation). In establishing, developing and upgrading common infrastructure, the cross-border cooperation programme contributes to regional and national innovation strategies and thereby complements the ESI funds.

Eurostat (2018) and OECD data (2018) on GDP expenditure in the EU-28 on R&D show a decline in spending from previously 2.03% (stagnating from 2014 to 2016) to 1.96% in 2017. However, according to the OECD on 2017 both Austria (3.16%) and the Czech Republic (1.79%) show a slow growth in numbers and thereby reflect national efforts in promoting smart growth strategies. Overall, the programme has dedicated around 12% of its total budget to the investment priority 1 (1a and 1b), supporting R&D processes in the border region and in 2018 already reached around 80% absorption of the IPs budget. Although the share of SMEs the programme region is high, their contribution to R&I activities within the innovation system is rather low. The programme therefore focuses on areas such as infrastructure, business services and the overall support for businesses investing in R&I. In addition to other regional and national activities, the programme strives to extend the activity level of enterprises in the cross-border region and strengthen their competitiveness.

The programmes aim for **Sustainable** growth becomes evident in its 2nd (2a, 2b, 2c) investment priority (Environment and resources) supporting environmental protection, resource efficiency and sustainable, green economy in the programme region. Actions taken under this priority require, among others, implementing emission reducing activities and the spread of innovative technological solutions to environmental and climate related challenges. Here the focus has been strongly laid on the tourism sector, as an important part of both Austria's and Czech Republic's economies. This IP is strongly dedicated towards issues such as the development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas as well as the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure in the programme region. Furthermore, the programme deals with topics related to unsustainable land use with negative effects on biodiversity and regional ecosystems as well as resource efficiency issues, sustainability and climate change. Especially the IP 2b (Increase of ecological stability and improvement of ecosystem services) already exceeded the IPs budget by 119% and reflects the strong interest in the programme region for this priority.

**Inclusive** growth is understood, among others, as the empowerment of people in the programme region through high levels of employment, investing in skills, foster poverty reduction and social participation, the modernising of labour markets, training and the installation of social protection systems supporting people to manage regional challenges and moreover to build a cohesive society. Actions taken under the 3rd (3a) investment priority (Development of human capital) address the modernising and strengthening of employment, education and training policies, the establishment of social protection systems and the reduction of structural unemployment as well as raising the corporate social responsibility among businesses. Of particular importance is the development of skills and qualifications in order to improve and foster cross-border cooperation activities. In the cross-border context of the programme region, social innovations and activities fostering cultural rapprochement (e.g. through language learning, cultural activities, development of common skills, sharing joint experiences etc.) play a key role for the joint development process. Overall, 56% of the IPs budget

was allocated so far.



## **14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

### **Assessment of the performance framework**

- The table 3 in chapter 3.3 shows that for the financial indicators the milestones are reached (above the 65% threshold) in terms of certified expenditure for Priority axis 1 and 3 and the others are below the 65% threshold.
- For the output indicators, it can be stated that the milestones are met for OP 2, CO 46 and OP 13; for all other indicators, the values are not reached. This is because these outputs can be mostly reported only after finalization of the relevant projects.

### **Does the AT-CZ programme therefore have general shortcomings in terms of performance?**

With regard to compliance with the milestones, is the question whether the programme has general and serious weaknesses in performance justified? Two steps are necessary to answer this question: (i) the identification of causes for the lack of target achievement in 2018 and (ii) an assessment of the achievability of the targets of the performance framework 2023.

### **The difficulties in reaching the milestones of 2018 result from three factors:**

- The late start of the programme is a key factor and entailed a delay in programme implementation.
- The evaluation of the projects showed that in the project selection rather larger projects with a longer duration (3 years) were selected by the partnership.
- Due to the indicators in the performance framework, the outputs can generally only be recorded and verified at the end of the project term.

When the programme actually started in 2016 and larger projects with an average duration of 3 years were selected, it is obvious that the 2018 output targets could not be achieved. The projects were selected according to the quality of the projects. The programme would have made further progress with regard to the 2018 milestones if the selection of projects had been "indicator-driven". But it can not be in our

interest to select projects primarily on the basis of their contribution to the milestones rather than on quality aspects.

### **Targets of performance framework 2023**

Absorption - Financial indicators:

By the end of 2019/beginning of 2020 all ERDF funds should be committed so that a corresponding disbursement can be made by 2023 and so that full absorption of funds is ensured.

Programme - Outputs

In 6 out of 7 output indicators more than 80% of the 2023 objectives will already be met by the projects approved by June 2018. For 4 indicators the targets are expected to be already met (>100%).

These data should be robust. The MA/JS have proceeded very carefully in assessing these data. All approved projects have been contacted in recent months. No relevant deviations from the objectives of the projects were reported.

This will allow the 2023 targets to be met, and these are ultimately the decisive values.

### **General assessment of the current programme performance**

- In general the AT-CZ programme is “on track” with a commitment of 66%. The aim is that all funds are committed by the end of 2019/beginning of 2020. This leaves sufficient time for the disbursements to be made.
- The output indicators of the performance framework for 2023 can be achieved. Most of them are expected to be achieved with the already approved projects.
- The programme only partially meets the milestones in 2018. This is not due to a general lack of efficiency, but caused by a late programme start and the approval of larger projects with a duration of up to 3 years.

Under this circumstances a suspension of interim payments – according to EC a possible consequence - would be a counterproductive intervention.

## DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens summary 2018 _CZ	Citizens' summary	12-Sep-2019		Ares(2019)6219050	Citizens summary 2018 _CZ	08-Oct-2019	nweissbh
Citizens summary 2018 _DE	Citizens' summary	12-Sep-2019		Ares(2019)6219050	Citizens summary 2018 _DE	08-Oct-2019	nweissbh
Reply Letter AIR 2018	Citizens' summary	12-Sep-2019		Ares(2019)6219050	Reply Letter AIR 2018	08-Oct-2019	nweissbh
Implementation report_2014TC16RFCB002_2018_1	Citizens' summary	12-Sep-2019		Ares(2019)6219050	Implementation report_2014TC16RFCB002_2018_1	08-Oct-2019	nweissbh



Severity	Code	Message
Warning	2.53.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 113.33% of the total target value for "F", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1a, indicator: OP 2, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 155.56% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: 11a, indicator: OP12, year: 2016. Please check.