



Newsletter

Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013

Dear Reader,

on behalf of the HU-SK JTS let me tell you about the events and results of our top year 2011. I would also like to take the chance here to express our appreciation to all our partners, applicants, beneficiaries, partner organizations and colleagues who contributed to our fantastic year and success.

2011, the year of Dynamism

At the very end of the year before the JTS launched a **Call for proposal**, which was very special not only for us but also for the applicants. This was the first time the programme used an **online application system, the IMIS 2007-2013**.



The system was supposed to make it easier to develop and submit a project idea, to increase the transparency related to the application procedure, and also to reduce the administrative overload that usually goes hand in hand with an application.

This Call for proposal had only a little more than 10 million euro ERDF to offer with limited number of measures opened. For example due to the floods causing serious problems in the Eastern part of both Slovakia and

Hungary in 2009 summer we focused the financial sources available in the Water management measure to flood management. The grants available could be used for preventive actions and also to moderate the consequences of the disaster in a cross-border manner.

This relatively small Call was also an excellent chance to test live our online application system. We gained useful information through this process. Using the experiences and applicant feedbacks we further developed the system and corrected the misleading parts. The goal was to adjust the IMIS to the needs of the users as much as possible. We hope that we are one step closer to be as applicant-friendly as possible, and this way by transferring the efforts to project development from project compilation allow generating even more elaborated project ideas that could contribute to the overall goal of the programme. Within the frames of this Call for proposals we could publish the list of 20 projects to be co-financed.



Based on our experiences during the last 3 years the general public has been very hard to reach. That is why the JTS decided to try a new approach. Instead of the usual exclusive programme events we planned a **big open air festival, called 'Project fair'** in Esztergom, on the border of Hungary and Slovakia in June 2011. Our goal was to show the population of the programme area tangible results and examples to offer a more accurate picture and easy-to-understand information. We were hoping that this new way of communication might raise more awareness about the programme.



The target groups were our (potential) beneficiaries (LPs and PPs), the colleagues from the implementing and managing bodies, *everyone who is involved or interested* in our programme. The event had the atmosphere of a fair where the visitors could interact with each other in a thematic way in an **informal environment**, which facilitated a more **open communication**. Fortunately the nice weather helped creating this friendly atmosphere and drove many "outsiders" to the event. In the thematic tents (Tourism, Environment protection, People to people, Business co-operation, Health, Transport) our **flagship and good example projects** were displayed to show what can be achieved with the help of the EU funds on the border region. One Lead Partner in each tent represented personally his/her project, and they were open to answer every question in connection with their project, their experiences with the implementation or the cooperation with the programme bodies. They could **provide authentic information** to those who were interested in participating in the programme in the future.



We believe that we could bring this form of funding closer to the people. The almost 300 participants prove that **people are open to us and what we do, we just need to find the right way to address them**.

It has been one of the JTS's priority in terms of communication to get closer to our target groups. This fair seemed to be a good tool for that.

This days was also very important because the programme launched its **4th call for proposals**, which was the last call with high amount of ERDF available. According to the programme strategy it was very important to offer a considerable amount of support in the middle of the period to invite

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initiatives developed after the capitalisation of the results and experience from the first co-financed projects. Almost 50 million EUR will be distributed among the submitted proposals in spring 2012.

With this call the programme and the **work of the JTS has reached its full capacity**. We are managing the app. **180 running projects** from previous calls, we are **contracting the 20 winners** from 3rd call and we are **evaluating the almost 400 projects** of the 4th call. Due to the overload of work two new colleagues have joined us. Altogether 9 people are working in the HU-SK JTS at the moment.



Related to the 4th CfP the JTS decided to organize a **Partnersearch forum** for the potential applicants in Lučenec, Slovak republic. We remembered from 2009 that it was quite a popular event but what we faced in August really surprised us. Instead of the 120 registered participants we saw more than 180 people queuing in front of the conference room, talking and networking meanwhile. After a plenary introduction we divided the participants into smaller groups and

held thematic workshops to connect those people who were interested in the same measure.



The submission of the 4th call projects was due at the very end of October, when finally almost 400 proposals arrived to the JTS which will keep us busy for the next couple of months.

N+3

Another positive news of last year was that the HU-SK programme successfully reached the targeted numbers of N+3. Important to know that not only 2011 but **50% of 2012 N+3 target was also covered** with approved payments by the end of the year.



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Cross-border Co-operation
Programme 2007-2013

European Union
European Regional Development Fund



2011 was a busy year for the HU-SK programme but it was one of most successful as well.

If you are interested in our events mentioned before please visit our website for more photos – <http://www.husk-cbc.eu/hu/fenykepgaleria>, <http://www.husk-cbc.eu/hu/hirek>.

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