

**Final Environmental Report
of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the
ENPI CBC Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-
Ukraine Programme
2007-2013**



Project organisation

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1. Introduction

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for ENPI CBC Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programme 2007-2013 was ordered by the INTERREG Managing Authority in the National Development Agency from the RESPECT Consulting.

The Final Environmental Report (August 27, 2007 v2.0) of the strategic environmental assessment was prepared based on the "Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-Border Co-operation Programme Document (Draft version of April 12, 2007, and further updates of June 18, 2007 on Description, Objectives and Priorities chapter of the programme document and annexes).

1.1. *The SEA Directive – general provisions*

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

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

In designing the SEA process the following legal framework and its elements were considered:

EC 42/2001 SEA Directive

- 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of programmes and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development' (Article 1).

These objectives are to be achieved by:

- ensuring first, that 'an environmental assessment is carried out of certain programmes and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment' (Article 1)
- and second, that the 'effects of implementing [these] programmes and programmes are taken into account during their preparation and before their adoption' (Preamble, paragraph 4).

*ESPOO Convention (Espoo, 1991), Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kiev, 2003) - the 'SEA Protocol'**2/2005 (I.11.) Government decree – Hungarian regulation of SEA***1.2. Assessment methodology**

The first part of the programme document (1. Description, Objectives and Priorities) was analysed using sustainable development (SD) principles. SEA recommendations were formulated as a result of the analysis.

A framework of 8 sustainable development principles, and related 22 sub-principles were developed for the assessment based on the relevant and accepted draft SD strategies and environmental programmes (e.g. National Environmental Programme 2003-2008, Hungary).

The SD principles and sub-principles are shown in the following table.

SD principle	SD sub-principle
I. Sustainable use of the environment and natural resources	1. The conservation and improvement of the self regulatory ability of conditionally renewable environmental elements and systems should be preferred.
	2. The use of renewable energy resources should be preferred.
	3. The prevention and minimization of waste and contamination production; the decrease of waste and contamination related risks; and mitigation of waste and contamination originated damages should be considered.

	4. The economic and/or social values created during development programmes and projects should be in balance with the consumed or sacrificed environmental/natural values.
	5. The size of geographical areas used for development programs and projects should be minimised as much as possible; and environmental friendly projects should be preferred.
	6. In order to avoid possible damages on the long term, the precautionary principle should be considered. The precautionary principle (see EU COM(2000) 1 final 2.2.2000) is most often applied in the context of the impact of human actions on the environment and human health, as both involve complex systems where the consequences of actions may be unpredictable.
II. Conserving and maintaining existing natural values	7. The preservation of biological diversity, as well as the conditions for regeneration of biological diversity should be considered.
	8. The maintenance of values of the built environment (architectural and cultural) and the values of the landscape should be taken care of.
III. Securing the existence of local communities, and their quality conditions for their living	9. The use of locally manageable resources; and the use of local environmental/natural capital should primarily serve the benefit of local communities.
	10. Those cultural development of local communities should be supported, that can serve the harmony between the local people and their environment.
	11. The increase of the retaining ability of local communities and settlements should be supported.
	12. The principle of subsidiarity should be used during the decision-making regarding development programs and projects. The subsidiarity principle states that matters ought to be handled by the smallest (or, the lowest) competent authority. During the decision-making sufficient information need to be provided to the parties involved in the development process.

IV. Taking the advantage of technological development from a sustainable perspective	13. In selecting technologies for development projects low material and energy intensive solutions should be preferred against high material and energy intensive solutions. Technologies should support the development of knowledge and culture based economies.
	14. Technology development should focus on enforcing sustainability.
	15. Only those technology potentials should be exploited, which are in harmony with the local conditions of the society and the natural environment.
V. Development of persons and communities which are ready to take responsibility	16. The development and related interventions should contribute to the awareness raising regarding the value of the environment; and to the responsibility-taking for the environment both among the people in the communities and their organisations.
	17. The development of sustainability, as a moral value for the community should be supported, through the development of community self-awareness and the development of rich community life.
VI. Equal opportunities and territorial equivalence	18. Equal opportunities should be provided for everyone in accession to environmental information, and in related education, which are the basis for the development of environmentally conscious behaviour and life-patterns.
	19. Equal opportunities should be provided for everyone to live his/her own complete life.
	20. Territorial equivalence should be considered.
VII. Good governance	21. Administration and governance should focus on: promoting legal transparency; decreasing corruption, promoting subsidiarity; providing access to information and participation in decision-making; promoting effectiveness and coherency both programme and project in planning and implementation; and supporting awareness raising and responsibility taking.
VIII. Health protection, prevention in health care, and health development	22. Health protection, prevention in health care and health development should focus on the following issues: food safety, defencelessness related to health status and its control, development of health awareness, access to environmental health information, access to workplace and job related health information, enforcement of prevention in the institutional systems, securing the health of future generations, long and healthy life, active life for retired people.

The second part of the programme document contains the following chapters:

2. Programme management structure
3. Project development and selection
4. Information and publicity
5. Project level implementation and programme level financial management
6. Monitoring and evaluation
7. Specific implementation rules of the programme TA budget.

These parts of the programme document were analysed using programme and project management best available practices, especially “A toolkit for integrating the environment into regional development – Beyond compliance: how regions can help a sustainable Europe” Greening Regional Development Programme (www.grdp.org). The toolkit offers several techniques to increase the greening of regional programs through: greening the programme content, greening the operational system, greening the project life cycle, and greening the projects through help for project developers and managers.

SEA recommendations were formulated as a result of the analysis.

1.3. Report structure

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The SEA Directive – general provisions
- 1.2 Assessment methodology
- 1.2 Report structure

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE HU-SK-RO-UA PROGRAMME

According to Annex I (a)

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 An outline of the Programme
- 2.3 Objectives of the Programme
- 2.4 Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

3. DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AFFECTED BY THE PROGRAMME

According to Annex I (b)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AREAS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED

According to Annex I (c)

5. EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF THE AREA RELEVANT TO THE PROGRAMME

According to Annex I (d)

6. INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES IN THE PROGRAMME

According to Annex I (e)

7. LIKELY EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PREVENTIVE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

According to Annex I (f) and (g)

8. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

According to Annex I (i)

8.1 Monitoring provisions set by the SEA Directive

8.2 Implementation arrangements of the Programme

9. MILESTONES OF THE SEA PROCESS

10. CONSULTATION IN THE COUNTRIES

2. Description of the HU-SK-RO-UA ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme

2.1. Introduction

The Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 programme will be implemented during the 2007-2013 European Union financial framework. The Joint Programme Document (JPD) is based on the joint planning effort of all four participating countries and is aimed to establish a framework for the activities which will lead to intensified and deepened social and economic co-operation between regions of Ukraine and that of Member States sharing common border.

The JPD was prepared on the basis of the Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 and the ENPI objectives – supporting cross-border co-operation along the EU's external border – were fully taken into account.

The elaboration of the JPD was controlled by the Joint Task Force composed of central governmental organisations and NUTS III level units of each participating country. The programming process was coordinated by the Joint Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat.

The programming process started in July 2006 and ended when the Joint Programme Document finalised by the JTF was submitted to the European Commission for approval (milestones of the programming process is below). After approval the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) will be formed from the JTF, expectedly with the same members. The JMC will be playing the most important role in the project selection and the granting of support as the highest decision making authority of the Programme. Decisions will be made by consensus in the implementation phase as it was made during the programming process. Joint system of call for proposals will be set up applying the same conditions in all four participating countries.

2.2. An outline of the Programme

The Joint Programme Document (JPD) consists of the following main parts:

- the description of the programme area;
- the strategy including the objectives of the programme and the measures and activities which are eligible for support, indicative financing and indicators;
- recommendation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- the management, implementation and monitoring system of the programme.

In the first part the whole programme area is described concentrating on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the border region. The analysis is focusing on the following issues: population and society, economy (GDP, SMEs, infrastructure, and tourism) and environment and nature. Based on the local needs and opportunities identified (summarised by SWOT) and considering the aims of the ENPI the overall objective of the programme was formulated as follows:

'to intensify and deepen social and economic cooperation in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way between regions of Ukraine and that of Member States sharing common border'.

The achievement of the overall objective of the proposed strategy is envisaged by implementing measures that contribute to the achievement of the objective by their expected results. Foreseen measures are grouped into priorities, for each priority a "specific objective" has been established.

2.3. Objectives of the Programme

The overall objective is expected to be achieved by achieving these specific objectives, which are the following:

Specific objective nr. 1.: Increase knowledge transfer and practice-sharing between and promote joint developments of businesses, local governments and the civil society

Specific objective nr 2. : To enhance the quality of air, waters, soil and forestry resources and reduce risks of damages on natural environment

Specific objective nr 3. : Increase efficiency of border management on the Ukrainian border

Each specific objective is addressed by a priority. These are the following:

Priority No. 1.: Promote economic and social development

Priority No 2.: Enhance environment

Priority No. 3: Increase border efficiency

Measures and several activities implemented within each priority are expected to achieve the objectives described above, contributing this way to the general objective of the programme

2.4. Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

The proposed strategy of the ENPI CBC Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programming Document is not without antecedents. The ERDF has funded Cross Border Co-operation in EU border regions (including those at the external borders) since 1991 under the INTERREG Community initiative. Participation of Eastern European countries in cross-border co-operation has been funded under the Tacis programme since 1996. Between 2004 and 2006 a new approach was followed, with the introduction of the Neighbourhood Programmes. The Neighbourhood Programmes were an important initial step towards the fully integrated CBC approach foreseen under ENPI.

The proposed strategy is fully taking into account

- The ENPI Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, ENPI/CBC Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and the ENPI CBC Implementing Rules;
- The Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-2013;
- Development plans of the different geographical area of programming area.

The overall objective of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013 is "to intensify and deepen cooperation in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way between regions of Ukraine and that of Member States sharing common border". Coherence with national and other cross-border co-operation programmes has to be checked to facilitate synergy and to avoid overlapping. In order to achieve this, special attention was paid for impoundment of eligible activities. Present programme document is therefore in coherence with the following programmes:

a) The National Strategic Reference Framework of Hungary 2007-2013

The overall objective of The New Hungary Development Plan considered as the Hungarian National Reference Framework is „to expand employment and to create the conditions for long term growth“. In order to achieve this objective, six priority axes have been identified for the next seven years:

- Economic development
- Transport development
- Renewal of the society
- Environment and energy development
- Regional development
- State reform

The NSRF of Hungary aims to strengthen the regional and social cohesion eliminating inequalities that is considered as main conditions for the renewal of the country. This may be achieved through a multi-level cohesion. Differences in the level of development need to be reduced between the regions; the Hungarian NSRF has to contribute to the cohesion of the European region as a whole by deepening contacts between Hungarian and other European regions and promoting co-operation among them and harmonising measures of neighbouring regions.

b) The Romanian National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007-2013

The key aims of the Romanian National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (NSRF) are to strengthen economic and social cohesion in Romania and to reduce regional disparities and to make the correct and appropriate linkages to the European Commission policies, notably the Lisbon Strategy, which builds policies for economic growth and the creation of jobs. The NSRF bases its genesis on the National Development Plan (NDP) which was developed as a tool to guide National, European Union (EU) and other funding sources available for Romania.

The close links and cooperation in various activities with the border regions of the neighbouring countries, with the view of addressing joint challenges, were taken into consideration. NUTTS III level authorities pursued to ensure coherence and clear impoundment between objectives of this programme and objectives financed under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and those under the Convergence Objective, and as well as those under the National Rural Development Programme and Fisheries OP.

The correlation between the strategy of the Joint Programme Document and other CBC OP strategies, targeting parts of the Romanian eligible area, was checked by the Romanian National Authority. In order to achieve coherence, the strategy was developed in partnership with key actors at national and local level, analyzed during consultations with the OP Managing Authorities for Objectives 1 and 3 and line ministries and debated in a public consultation exercise.

c) National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic

The National Strategic Reference Framework of the Slovak Republic provides the framework for drawing up development operational programmes reflecting the Lisbon and the Goteborg objectives.

The NSRF of the Slovak Republic for the programming period 2007-2013 is covering the EU objectives of 'Convergence' and 'Regional competitiveness and employment'. The strategic objective of Slovakia for the 2007-2013 programming period is formulated as follows:

'To increase significantly competitiveness and efficiency of the regions and the Slovak economy and to achieve employment growth in a sustainable way by the year 2013'

With regard to the identified disparities and development factors, the NSRF focuses on the following thematic strategic priorities:

- Infrastructure and regional accessibility
- Knowledge-based economy
- Human resources

d) The National Strategy of the Regional Development of Ukraine 2004 – 2015

The geographical situation of Ukraine is favourable for the development of inter-state political, trade, economic and cultural links with the neighbouring countries. Strategies of regional and socio-economic development with specific cross border components have been developed by the regional administrations responsible for cross-border programmes. The aim of the National Strategy of the Regional Development of Ukraine is the establishment of the conditions for competitive ability of the

regions, the maintenance of constant development based on new technologies, high productive ability of the industry and the employment of the population. Creation of the prerequisites for Ukraine to acquire the membership in the European Union, ensuring of the sustainable economic growth, establishment of the innovative development model and social re-orientation of the economic policy is the strategic objective. Priority directions for strategic development are as follows:

- Creating and upgrading the infrastructure to improve investment appeal of Ukraine and its regions;
- Restructuring economic resources of individual regions and promoting their diversification based on new technologies;
- Human resource development;
- Regional co-operation development.

e) Cross-border and territorial co-operation programmes

The Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme 2004-2006 is being implemented presently with a budget of nearly EUR 32 Million from the European Regional Development Fund in Hungary and Slovakia, in addition, funded by the TACIS in Ukraine. This programme document serves as a basis for efficiently using EU funds allocated for cross-border co-operation in the border area concerned. The strategic global objective of the Programme was to strengthen the level of economical and social integration of the cross border region. The aim of the Hungary–Slovakia-Ukraine NP 2004-2006 has been to promote development of the trilateral border area to become a common, future-oriented economic and living space, to improve its competitiveness within European context, to improve sustainable living conditions of the residents in the eligible area and to help to overcome regional development disadvantages caused by separation through national borders. Therefore all projects financed from the Neighbourhood Programme must have proved cooperation among cross-border partners and must have demonstrated cross-border impact on the eligible area. Although some changes have taken place since the preparation of this programme, many of its cornerstones remained to be valid even today. Therefore the strategy proposed for the period 2007-2013 can be considered as an evolution of the strategy underpinning the Neighbourhood Programme for Hungary - Slovakia - Ukraine 2004-2006. Beside the trilateral programme several bilateral cross-border co-operation programmes are being implemented as well in parts of the programme area concerned (e.g. Hungary-Slovakia, Hungary-Romania Cross-border Co-operation Programmes and Romania-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme). The global objective of the Romania-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme 2004-2006 is:

"To improve cross-border integration between boundary regions while posing good bases for sustainable economic development"

The opportunities for cross border co-operation in the eligible regions can be converted in 4 intermediate/specific objectives, which are instrumental to achieve the general objective:

- Strengthening existing common assets to ignite a new integrated cycle of sustainable development
- Supporting a new cycle of sustainable development with key infrastructures
- Developing cross-border cooperation to preserve common socio-cultural heritage linked to the local history and environment
- Strengthening cross-border co-operation at operational level

d) Experience of previous programmes

The CBC programmes have succeeded in laying the foundations and improving the basic conditions of long-term co-operation, especially in the field of institutionalised cooperation and the awareness of local actors towards the potential benefits of cross-border cooperation.

Experience gained during the implementation of previous programmes shows that "joint small project fund" was a success in Hungary and in Romania. The selected projects were mainly focusing on soft, people to people measures (organizing meetings, events, training, etc.). Although these projects were very popular among the applicants, there were only a few numbers of projects which were really innovative kind and the co-operation among the partners having realised the projects was hard to maintain (since they were focusing on one or a series of events). Sec only, due to the restricted capacity of the business support infrastructure which are able to support networking of enterprises and business co-operations the projects based on co-operation could be realised only in a restricted number as well. As a consequence of this it would be worthwhile to support the institutions supporting businesses. On programme management level the Hungarian Managing Authority had to face the problem that as a result of the low budget and the high number of soft projects, these types of projects are difficult to manage since the implementation management requires huge human resource capacity. In Romania as a result of decentralisation of EU funds management, CBC Regional Office was established in the border area being in charge of grant schemes implementation. Closer contact and providing information was thus ensured for the potential beneficiaries. Due to training and TA funds support, the workload was divided between implementing agency and CBC regional office, but further support and trained staff is necessary in order to overcome the increased workload.

As the main impediment of accessing EU funds was and is still considered the lack of strong commitment of key actors for identifying the necessities and to start designing projects for the common benefit. A real CBC cooperation initiated and encouraged by concerned national authorities

may be achieved and sustained by establishing CBC partnerships at local level based on strong commitments.

3. Description and analysis of the geographical areas affected by the programme

3.1. General information

The programme area is located on the Hungarian-Slovak-Romanian-Ukrainian border, and includes the following territorial units: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (Hungary), Košický and Prešovský (Slovakia), Maramures, Satu Mare and Suceava (Romania), Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska (Ukraine). Suceava and Chernivetska are included on the basis of special rules. The programming area covers 32% of Slovak Republic, 14% of Hungary, 6% of Ukraine and 8% of Romania.

The programme area includes approximately 598.9 km joint border with Ukraine which covers fully the Slovak-Ukrainian (97.9 km) the Hungarian-Ukrainian (134.6 km) and partially the Romanian-Ukrainian (366.4 km) border lines and at the same time internal EU borders between Hungary and Slovakia (297.4 km) and between Hungary and Romania (103.2 km).

The programme area was determined on the basis of strong historical and cultural connections since this area has long common history. The most of the programming area has had common governance under the Kingdom of Hungary and later on under the Austro-Hungarian Empire; moreover after the Second World War the whole area was under Soviet control.

The peace-treaty signed in Trianon in 1920 (verified by the peace treaty after World War II as well) has divided the area into nation-states. However, a considerable number of nationalities have become minorities due to the new borders. As a result of this several problems have raised in connection with the minorities in all countries in the last decades. (Several co-operation programmes – like this one as well – have been introduced with the aim to eliminate conflicts and bring the population of these neighbouring countries closer to each other.)

As a result of the common history the inhabitants of the separate regions are linked by common cultural heritage and common religious traditions as well.

Based on the abovementioned common historical roots, the ENPI objectives promoting co-operation and development along the EU's external borders offer great opportunity for this area to enhance economic and social co-operation.

3.2. Population

The programme area is inhabited by 8 012 259 people. More than 44% of the total population is Ukrainian citizens, 16% is Hungarian, 19% Slovak and almost 20% Romanian. The average population density varies from 82 per/sq km (Maramures), to 114 person/q km (Košice region). This means 94 person/sq km in an average which does not differ significantly from the European average.

The average data shows only insignificant majority of the rural population (51.4%) in the whole region. Looking at the statistics more in details, it can be stated that the population structure of the area is balanced. The majority of the population lives in rural areas in the Ukrainian regions (average amounting till 60%) and in Suceava (56.7%), and lives in cities in Maramures (58.8%), Košice region and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (56.2% each).

3.3. Age structure

As for the age structure of the population it can be stated that in most of the programme area the ratio of inhabitants of pre-productive age is higher than the ratio of inhabitants of post-productive age (see in Annex 1). The only exceptions are Chernivetska and Ivano-Frankivska where more people of post-productive age live than of pre-productive age. However, the population ageing index of the programme area is relatively high (81.2% on an average, varying from 59.4% up to 114.2%) which shows that the ratio of the pre-productive population is hardly higher than the ratio of the post-productive population. The lowest proportion of post-productive population is in Košice, Prešov, Maramures and Satu Mare regions (11-12%). The highest ratio of pre-productive age population is noticed in Zakarpatska and the lowest in Prešov region and all together 18.17% of the total population of the programme area is of pre-productive age. There is a relatively low diversity in the ratio of productive population between the ranges of 59% (Ivano-Frankivska) to almost 71% (Košice, Maramures und Satu Mare). The most of the programme area can be characterized by a falling population trend (see Annex 2), caused by natural loss and a very high share of migration loss (69.7% of total loss). Extremely high level of migration loss can be noticed in Maramures (83% of the total loss) and Zakarpatska (77% of the total loss). The only exceptions are the Slovak regions and Suceava where the natural growth index achieves high positive level, but even in these regions migration loss is noticed. High level of out-sourcing migration is dangerous as most of the people leaving the border area are of productive age. It can cause shortage in working force and significant ageing of the society in the future.

3.4. Nationality

As for the national identity in Hungary more than 90% of the population is Hungarian. The largest minority group is the Roma, 5.36% of the total population considers themselves to be Roma in the Hungarian part of the programming area.

On the Slovak side 86% of inhabitants are Slovaks. The major minorities are Hungarian 6.37%, Roma 5.02%, Ruthenians 1.71%, Ukrainian 0.65%. In Romania 83% of the population is Romanian on an average (96% in Suceava). The most important minority group is the Hungarian 11.2% (in Satu Mare 35.2%), the others having high importance are Ukrainian 2.8% and Roma 2%.

The Ukrainian part of the programming area is inhabited mostly by Ukrainians; 86% of the population is Ukrainian. Important minorities are Hungarian 4.26%, Romanian 4.14% and Russian 2.62%. Ukrainian regions differ significantly with regard to the minorities. Two out of the three regions participating in the programme is inhabited by minorities in high proportion; Zakarpatska (Hungarian 12.1 %, Romanian 2.6%) and Chernivetska (Romanian 12.5%).

The programme area has four dominant languages – Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak and Ukrainian. This language barrier unfavourably affects the cross border contacts and cooperation. Since there are living a numerous Hungarian and, in some parts of the area, Romanian minorities, often these languages serve as a basis for communication. Sometimes external languages (most frequently English) are used for communication.

Settlement structure

The main centres of the cross-border region are Košice, Prešov, Miskolc, Nyíregyháza, Satu-Mare, Suceava and Baia-Mare, Uzhgorod, Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankivsk. These main cities play important role on national level as well, and they also have cross-border impact on consumption, culture, traffic and employment.

On regional level there are several centres. These towns supply different functions to the micro regions. However, the level of services provided by them is lower and the institutional and economic environment is poorer than in larger Western-European cities.

Small towns have not developed in the same way and pace as the more significant towns on county level during the last decade. In the nineties most of them lost their economic base; nowadays their labour market depends on the economic condition of larger cities, or on the future of the local SMEs. A lot of these towns have a potential for tourism development: mountains and thermal sources offer outstanding opportunities for the tourism sector.

As for settlements, small villages (500 – 2000 inhabitants) are typical in the cross border region: more than 77% of the settlements have less than two thousand inhabitants (see Annex 3). Several of them are situated in peripheral territory, in the mountains or along the border. These settlements are gradually losing their population; they suffer the

segregation of poor people. Their economic, social, and employment situation is very problematic.

It can be concluded that the settlement structure of the programming area is facing several problems. The major problems are the unemployment and economic problems and the threat of segregation and the ageing population.

3.5. Environment and nature

In geographical terms some parts of the programming area, i.e. parts of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Ivano-Frankivska and Zakarpatska regions are lowlands, the central area and the eastern parts are hilly or mountainous. The water reservoirs of the described territory belong to the Danube and the Tisa basins. The annual average flow of most of the rivers show significant differences during a year and the flood is a real danger for the population of the region which could not be prevented several times in the last years. Thus flood control remains one of the major problems in the eastern part of Tisza/Tisa basin (Hungarian–Ukrainian border region). In Romania, besides the flood problem, landslides are also considered as significant threat.

The programme area has rich bio-diversity with relatively well-preserved ecosystems. Protected areas on a multilevel system can be found with significant natural and cultural values. Several parks are situated in the described area. The Carpathian Mountains covering the most of the territory present a unique natural ecosystem that is of supranational value. Several park systems were created for preserving and multiplying the landscapes. The Aggtelek National Park situated in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county was primarily created for protecting geomorphological formations; surface karst phenomena and caves. The karst cave of Aggtelek together with the Slovak karsts is part of the World heritage .The Carpathians host the greatest in the European primeval forest sites, unique alpine zone groups of flora and fauna, etc. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Zakarpatska) ecosystem is referred to the most valuable ecosystems on the Earth and included into the UNESCO international network of biosphere reserves. At the same time the region is characterized by a high level of dangerous geological processes, such as shifts, lodge, lateral fluvial and planar erosion, karsts, etc.

The main tourist attractions of the border region are the natural landscapes. Along the Tisza (Ukraine, Hungary, Romania) the water tourism is popular. Each side of the programme region has tourist destinations in the mountains (Carpathians and Oas mountains). Besides these, there is a significant cultural heritage. The Romanian wooden churches of Maramures have been listed by the UNESCO as World Heritage Site in 1999. Suceava has the largest surface covered with forest in Romania. The programme area is very rich in thermal and mineral

water resources. There are numerous health-resorts in Hungary and in Slovakia. Slovakia and Ukraine are rich in mineral water (e.g. Solotvyno mines).

3.6. Economic structure

In general, the economic development of the programme area is lagging behind. Statistics shows that the GDP in each of the regions is below the national average and the GDP per capita is below the 30% of that of the EU27 (see Annex 4). The highest level of GDP per capita was measured in Košice region, 26% of the EU average. Extremely low level is noticed in the Ukrainian regions with data amounting only to 3.7% of the EU average (Ivano-Frankivska). Košice and Prešov regions jointly contribute 21.9% of the national GDP of the Slovak Republic. The other partner regions' contribution to their appropriate national budgets is rather marginal (8.1% in Hungary, 4.7% in Ukraine and 5.5% in Romania).

The economic structure varies depending on the different regions. The breakdown of market sectors gross value added compared to the GDP shows that the services sector has the highest share within the GDP of the participating areas, varying from 41.8% (Suceava) up to 55.2% (Zakarpatska). The industrial sector gross value added is around 30% of the GDP of each participant except for Zakarpatska where the ratio is 18.5%. The agricultural sector gross value added is varying from 2.7% of the GDP (Ivano-Frankivska) up to 21.4% (Suceava).

3.7. Labour market

The employment situation in the area is not balanced: the level of employment is higher in the bigger cities of the region. The structure of employment in the Hungarian counties, Slovak regions and Suceava county suits to the modern economic structures, more than 50% of the employees represent the tertiary sector (see Annex 5). However, there are some regions where the ratio of people employed in the industrial sector is still relatively high: from 37.5% in Prešov region up to 48.4% in Sătmăre county. Regarding the employment in agriculture, the average figures for the majority of the area are close to the EU15 and EU25 average – Romanian part (3%), Slovak (5.2%), Hungarian (3.6%), Ivano-Frankivska in Ukraine (5.1%). The only exceptions are Zakarpatska and Chernivetska where the figures reach respectively 28.6% and 29.2%.

The unemployment in the area concerned has evolved during the transition period. The major industries have collapsed; therefore the unemployment has increased rapidly. The average unemployment rate for the programming area is about 10-11%. There are large differences in terms of unemployment rate between the separate countries. High rate of unemployment still denotes one of the major problems of the Hungarian and the Slovak side of the border and in parts of the Ukrainian part (average respectively 11.6% and 23.1% and 10.2% and 9.8% in Ivano-

Frankivska and in Chernivetska). The unemployment in these regions creates the real problem. The situation in Romania and in Ukraine in this prospect is quite different. In the three Romanian counties and Zakarpatska involved, the unemployment rate shows a lower level of 7.8% and 7% in Suceava and in Zakarpatska, going down to 4.6% in Maramures and only 2% in Satu-Mare

3.8. Main industries, products and company structure

Profit oriented and private organizations of the programme area represent high share in the national total. Regions differ significantly in view to the number of the enterprises per 1000 inhabitants. In Hungarian regions can be found the highest number of SMEs, the lowest is noticed in the Ukrainian ones. In the Romanian regions the number of SMEs per 1000 inhabitants varies from 17 in Satu-Mare to 12 in Suceava .

The number and activity of SMEs play an important role in local employment and indirectly in the local economic development of the regions concerned. However, there are some barriers, i.e. poorly developed business support infrastructure, lack of partnership between economic actors, and low level of investment which need to be broken down.

The most frequent fields of activity of the enterprises on the Hungarian side are agriculture, tourism and industry. In the Slovak border region one of the basic elements supporting economic development is the dynamic increase of small and medium-sized enterprises. High number of manual workers proves the potential and increasing role of small and medium-sized enterprises in local employment.

3.9. Tourism

As it was introduced in the previous chapters, the area has several potential tourism attractions. The natural landscape such as the mountains, rivers, forests, karst caves; the rich biodiversity, the cultural heritage and the numerous number of health resorts located in the programme area serve as a good basis for developing various types of tourism, e.g. eco-tourism, thermal tourism, rural tourism, etc. As for the accommodation capacity, more than 60% of the total accommodation capacity of the area is in located in three (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Prešov and Ivano-Frankivska) out of the ten participants. Low number of accommodation capacity is noticed in the remaining area.

The total number of overnight stays compared to the accommodation capacity shows that the capacity utilisation is under the potential, varying from 8.4% in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county up to 67.8% in Chernivetska. The average number of the overnight stays spent by tourists arriving in the area is 2.3 nights per capita which still could be risen as well. The highest average figure noticed in Ivano-Frankivska (5.6 overnight staying) and the lowest figure was measured in Satu Mare (1.6

overnight staying). The under-utilised potentials are partly due to the weak marketing promotion of the border area as a tourist destination and the underdeveloped tourism information system (see Annex 7).

Since developing the tourism sector has a great potential for decreasing the ratio of migration via job creation and increasing income, it would be important to meet tourists' expectations and attract more visitors in the area.

3.10. Infrastructure

Due to the geographic location of the border area, its accessibility depends on the number and quality of roads. The road and railway chains are relatively well-developed, but the quality of major and minor roads is differing. There is no built transport connection at high quality level (highway or high speed road) in west-east direction on the Slovak and Romanian side. In Hungary the accessibility is a bit better. The M3 motorway between Budapest and Debrecen ensures the East-West accessibility of the eastern part of the region. This highway is part of the Corridor No. V (Venice-Triest/-Ljubljana-Uzhgorod-Lvov). In the whole area the condition of roads does not meet European standards. Road conditions on Ukrainian side of the border, particularly in mountainous areas and in the winter season, are inadequate.

The railway accessibility of bigger towns is sufficient, but the population of several small settlements in Slovakia and Hungary does not have railway connection. The railway transport connection of the Ukrainian-Slovak and the Hungarian-Ukrainian borders can be characterized by two railway systems with different track gauge, which is extended up to Košice on the Slovak side. Air transport in the region is based on the international airport in Košice and important airports at regional-level in Uzhgorod, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsy, Miskolc, Nyíregyháza, Baia Mare. The Satu-Mare international airport is situated 60 km from Baia-Mare airport that is under modernisation to become international; the Suceava airport's facilities have been improved to accommodate international flights. The number of flights and passengers depends on the regional traffic.

On an average the density of the border crossing points seem to be relatively good at the Ukrainian border and among the member states as well (on an average 1 border-crossing point per each 28 km). However, the density of border-crossing points differs a lot in relation to the separate borders. On the Hungarian-Ukrainian border for instance there is a border-crossing point (railway, road or pedestrian point) each 22.4 km but on the Hungarian-Slovak border the same figure is only 49.6 km. On country level between Romania and Ukraine one can find every 31 km an opportunity for crossing the border. If we take a look at on county level, in Suceava on each 15.9 km there is a border-crossing point, while in Maramures only on each 54.4 km. At the Slovak-Ukrainian border (97.6

km long) all together five border station are available for passengers (each 19.6 km)

The number of the public roads accessing the borders and pedestrian points, and their capacity still leaves a lot to be desired (1 per 48 km). Their technical condition and the capacity available for custom clearance are inadequate to handle the traffic volume. Queuing and awaiting hours at the borders interfere significantly the tourism development of the programming area and the cooperation between its inhabitants. Visa regime which still exists towards the Ukraine represents an extra burden for the countries participating in this programme.

3.11. Environmental infrastructure

The most decisive factors that affect the environmental situation in the programme area are the following:

- insufficient water management (insufficient capacity of sewage system and wastewater treatment plants),
- inadequate waste management,
- road transport,
- industrial emission (coal-heated power plants).

In the Hungarian border region the connection of settlements to drinking water networks is almost complete. However, the sewage system is poorly developed. The situation of rural areas, especially in the villages, is even worse. Conditions are alarming especially in the small villages located along the borders. Even in settlements where drainpipes are built, the number of households which are connected to the system is very low.

The Romanian part does not differ significantly. However, almost 80 % of the urban population has access to drinking water and sewage public networks; the situation in the rural areas is really critical. The system of public utilities is in a bad condition, with regard to the drinking water supply (average accessibility 20%) and to the sewage system as well, in Satu Mare only 2.4%, in Suceava 3.1% and in Maramures 5.6% of the rural population is connected to public services. Investments are required in order to preserve the ecosystem since the waste produced by households and public institutions, the wide deforestation actions and pollution are factors which still deteriorate the environment.

In the Slovak border region the development of public sewage system significantly lags behind the development public water supply. A large number of big towns have built only partial sewage system or a sewage system without a wastewater treatment plant, therefore hardly more than half of the population is connected to the public sewage system.

In Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska the water conduit and the wastewater treatment are provided only in towns and in some communes. In rural settlements the most common problem is the lack of both water conduit and wastewater treatment. In the field of drinking

water supply the basic task is the protection of water resources and the building of public water supply infrastructure. Besides, in Chernivetska and Ivano-Frankivska the industrial pollution prevails. In Zakarpatska industrial pollution decreases, but the communal waste water pollution is significant in the main cities. Ground waters are highly contaminated which endanger the tourism potential.

The waste management of extensive areas is still unsolved in the programme area. The small villages along the border are in the worst situation in terms of waste management. However a positive trend is evolving by the implementation of the recycling system of communal waste, the problem is still unsolved as there are still problems connected to the processing.

3.12. Telecommunication networks

In the programme area the situation in telecommunications has been improving very fast in the last decade. Recently, the use of mobile phones and of Internet services is considerably increasing in the region.

On an average in the Hungarian areas around 250 out of 1000 inhabitants are equipped with fixed telephone line while in the Romanian ones only 140. Despite of the statistics of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Romania (respectively 14, 13.8 and 15 internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants), the access to the internet significantly differs from EU standards. On the remaining area the access to internet is remarkably low (1.41 persons per 100 in Slovakia and less than 1 per 100 in Ukraine).

3.13. Education, research

As for the highest completed level of education, the majority of the population of the programme area has finished secondary education. About 7% of inhabitants hold university degree.

The most important university centres are located in Chernivtsy and Ivano-Frankovsk. Beside them, Mukachevo and Uzhgorod, each with 2 higher education institutions are located on the Ukrainian side. In the Romanian area there are 4 centres of higher education in Satu-Mare county, 3 higher education institutions in Maramures county and 1 centre in Suceava ensuring the possibility for advanced education after having finished the secondary school.

The most important higher education centre of the Hungarian part of the programme area is the University of Miskolc. Beside the traditional departments (technical, industrial) new courses (economics, law) have been introduced to meet the challenges of the new era. Apart from Miskolc other traditional educational centre of the region is Nyíregyháza, where a Teacher's Training College is located.

Several R&D centres are located in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (respectively 24 and 21). Košice, Zakarpatska and Chernivetska are in a mid-field position considering R&D. At the same time the highest level of capital expenditure were allocated in Ivano-

Frankivska, Chernivetska and Suceava (9 centres employing high number of scientists and engineers, and functioning with high level of capital expenditures). There are several ongoing R&D projects in the Romanian border area: 333 in Suceava, 103 in Satu-Mare and 71 in Maramures. Chernivetska is the most advanced in implementation of the R&D projects (726 units). These data show that there is a real potential to develop cross border cooperation in R&D sector.

4. Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

4.1. Environmental characteristics of the border areas

The main environmental processes in the border areas are as follows:

- the annual average flow of most of the rivers show significant differences during a year and the flood is a real danger for the population of the region which could not be prevented several times in the last years,
- in Romania, besides the flood problem, landslides are considered as the main source of emergency.
- The main tourist attractions of the border region are the natural landscapes. Along the Tisa river (Ukraine, Hungary, Romania) the water tourism is popular,
- insufficient water management (insufficient capacity of sewage system and wastewater treatment plants),
- inadequate waste management,
- significant road transport.

4.2. Environmental characteristics of the non-border areas

- the Carpatian Mountains covering the most part of the territory present a unique natural ecosystem that is of supranational value,
- at the same time the region is characterized by a high level of dangerous geological processes, such as shifts, lodge, lateral fluvial and planar erosion, karsts, etc,
- each side of the programme region has tourist destinations in the mountains (Carpathians and Oas mountains),
- insufficient water management (insufficient capacity of sewage system and wastewater treatment plants),
- inadequate waste management,
- industrial emission (coal-heated power plants),
- the sewage system is poorly developed,
- the situation of rural areas, especially in the villages, is even worse,
- even in settlements where drainpipes are built, the number of households which are connected to the system is very low.

5. Existing environmental problems of the area relevant to the programme

The main environmental problems of the programming area are as follows:

- Incomplete technical and biological re-cultivation of old environmental burdens,
- Insufficient waste management infrastructure and sewage treatments,
- High number of water-courses with insufficient water quality (contaminated ground waters),
- Insufficient joint planning, programming and monitoring in the field of natural environment protection,
- Lack of joint flood protection structures and strategies,
- Over exploitation of forestry resources,
- Lack of harmonized investment support schemes (UKR),
- Lack of proper mechanism for environmental legislation implementation,
- Escalation of environmental problems,
- Surface and ground water quality is endangered by the economic activities,
- Increasing amounts of sewage water and communal waste in settlements in the border area,
- Relatively high risk of serious natural disasters,
- Inappropriate nature protection and forestry management,
- Low level of environmental investments.

6. Integration of environmental protection objectives in the programme

6.1. The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

In 2004 the European Union launched the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), whose aim is to strengthen relations between the EU and its neighbours. The key element of the European Neighbourhood Policy is the bilateral ENP Action Plans mutually agreed between the EU and each partner country. These set out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities. The ENP Action Plans include the environment component under sustainable development. The priorities identified in the Action Plans, agreed with the authorities of the country, are also useful in guiding the programming of assistance programs – including other donors and International Funding Institutions (IFIs). In the environment area, the action plans foresee cooperation in three key areas: environmental governance and strengthening of environmental administrative structures, improving environmental legislation and its implementation, and promoting global and regional environmental cooperation. Implementation of the national action plans will be discussed and monitored with each country inside the ENP environment subcommittees.

6.2. European Framework Directive on Water 2000/60

The goal is the integrated management of water resources, a process which promotes the coordinated development of water, land and related resources to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner, without compromising the durability of vital ecosystems. This concept is increasingly being used in water policies, even if effective implementation is slow. The WFD introduces a regime for management of river basins and adjoining coastal areas based on their drainage basins rather than administrative barriers. It introduces the principle of the combined approach whereby emission controls and quality objectives are both applied. The objective of the directive is the attainment or preservation of good ecological and good chemical status.

6.3. Natura 2000 Network

The legislation on specially protected areas of the programming area, which members of the European Union must conform to, is the EC Council Directive 92/43 on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. The Directive sets up a coherent ecological network of special areas of conservation under the title 'Natura 2000'. This network is composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types of Community interest listed in

Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II (species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation.

6.4. The Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Countries that ratify this protocol commit to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases. The Kyoto Protocol now covers more than 160 countries globally and over 55% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The objective is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." The treaty was negotiated in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997, opened for signature on March 16, 1998, and closed on March 15, 1999. The agreement came into force on February 16, 2005 following ratification by Russia on November 18, 2004. As of December 2006, a total of 169 countries and other governmental entities have ratified the agreement (representing over 61.6% of emissions from Annex I countries). Notable exceptions include the United States and Australia. Other countries, like India and China, which have ratified the protocol, are not required to reduce carbon emissions under the present agreement. However, questions have been raised about the Kyoto deal to question its continuation in its present form after the first implementation period 2008-2012. The Kyoto Protocol binds participating industrialised countries, listed in Annex I of the agreement, to cut emissions on the principle that industrialised countries produce the largest amounts of emissions through industry and transportation, and therefore bear prime responsibility to reverse the problem. But the largest pollutant, the United States has remained on the sidelines of the Kyoto Protocol and the agreement does not cover rapidly industrialising countries like China, India, Brazil and Mexico. A new three-year dialogue has been launched by COM+: The Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), a network of lawmakers from around the world. The COM+ Alliance is a partnership of international organisations and communications professionals from diverse sectors committed to using communications to promote sustainable development. COM+ members include the BBC World Service Trust, the World Bank, IUCN (World Conservation Union), the Reuters Foundation and Inter Press Service (IPS). The dialogue will bring together legislators from the G8 countries as well as from India, China, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Spain and Australia and international business leaders and civil society "to generate an understanding of the beyond-Kyoto scenarios and to discuss a 2012 climate change agreement."

7. Likely effects on the environment and preventive and mitigation measures

The nature of the actions foreseen to be materialized through the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-Border Co-operation Programme, except for the 3.1 measure on "Improvement of border crossing transport infrastructure and equipment at border controls", are without "hard" actions such as development of new infrastructure. Therefore, the Programme's implementation is not expected to cause *per se* significant adverse effects on the environment.

Creating sustainability is part of the horizontal objectives and expressed among the principles of the programme. In connection with environmental sustainability, the future project selection under the programme requires that safe and environmentally friendly technologies need to be used whenever construction is involved. The programme supports actions, which improve the quality of living environment and diminish the contamination of natural environment.

Each one of the measures takes into consideration the environmental dimension, being one of the main dimensions of the sustainable development. As a consequence, the Programme is expected to have an overall positive impact on the environment of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI cross-border area. However, the magnitude of financing the programme creates minimal potentials to realise those positive effects.

The environmental effects mentioned in relation to the measures of the programme concentrate on the potential negative environmental effects, since the overall effects resulting from the general principles are acknowledged to be positive.

Regarding the mitigation measures, these refer mainly to recommendations in order to ensure that the positive effects of the programme will be realised.

Since the actions cannot be identified within the Priority 4.: Technical Assistance at this point in the programming procedure, the related assessment of potential environmental effects and mitigation measures cannot be performed, as well.

The following part summarizes the environmental effects and mitigation measures relating to the certain measures. The very detailed recommendations originated from either the SEA experts themselves and parties involved, and their acceptance-status in the consultation process is

shown in chapter 10.3 "Major issues emerged from the consultation process and their status".

Priority 1 - Economic and social development

Measure 1.1.: Harmonized development of tourism – The aim of this measure is to increase the number of visitors in the border area, through taking the advantage of its rich natural and cultural values. Partnership-based developments are expected to be implemented, that serve the current or future development of the tourism products of the area.

Environmental effects

- The programme considers the direction of development of tourism adequately, puts the emphasis on the presentation and exploitation of natural values. The potential negative environmental effects may be related to the number and impacts of visitors in the programme area over-using the natural environment.
- Utmost attention should be taken during the development of tourism products related to border crossings. For the past decades within the programme region the developments and free movement of people have been limited. For this reason, the relatively undisturbed areas served as excellent habitats for wildlife and vegetation.

Mitigation measures

- The tourism sector based on natural resources should calculate with the carrying-capacity of the given natural resource. The sustainable exploitation of the natural resources is possible only if, the carrying-capacity is taken into account during the early stages of planning.
- The "border-zone-effect" resulted in undisturbed rich habitats in the border areas needs to be considered and maintained, while developing the tourism in the programme area as much as possible. The last resorts for several endangered, volatile plant and animal species need to be protected.

Measure 1.2.: Create better conditions for SMEs and business development – The aim of this measure is to boost the performance of the SME sector in the border area by increasing market knowledge and creating better infrastructure services for existing businesses, as well as potential investors.

Environmental effects

- Although the programme refers to the necessity of preferring environmental friendly development objectives, from the strategic environmental point of view, this objective is not formulated in a specific way. Therefore it opens the room for wide spectrum of interpretations on what environmental friendly objectives and

activities mean in relation to SME development. The potential for misinterpretation may result in negative environmental effects.

Mitigation measures

- During development related to the programme those small and middle size enterprises should be preferred, that are active in environmental technology or providing environmental service(s).
- Only those economy development projects should be supported, which comply with a minimum environmental criteria set established by the programme prior programme launch. The minimal environmental criteria should be defined and introduced into project generation and selection. Projects that cannot comply with the minimum environmental criteria should be rejected.

Measure 1.3.: Institutional cooperation – The aim of this measure is to improve the effectiveness of public services by promoting cooperative actions to create effective and solid systems and frameworks for sustained information flow and practice-sharing between institutions active mainly in the field of public administration and services, such as employment, education, health and culture, as well as crime prevention.

Environmental effects

Unfortunately the support of co-operation of environmental and nature conservation institutes is missing from the institutional co-operation field. The environmental problems do not stop at the border within the planning region. Several times the environmental problems caused in one country, will have an effect in the other country (see the past contamination cases of the Tisa River). The lack of co-operation between environmental and nature conservation institutes may have negative environmental effects.

Mitigation measures

Priority should be given to establish and develop co-operation of institutes and research institutes in the environment and nature protection field targeting on prevention, elimination and mitigation of possible damages, as well as in rehabilitation efforts.

Measure 1.4.: "People to people" cooperation – The aim of this measure is to increase the mutual understanding of various groups of the society and promote exchange of ideas through a wide spectrum of activities.

Environmental effects

There are two kinds of negative environmental effects are foreseen: (1) the topic for people-to-people cooperation is not in line with the programme sustainability principle, (2) the implementation of people-to-people projects have significant impact on nature or on the environment

(e.g. litter production, using not environmental friendly office equipment, etc.)

Mitigation measures

Nature and environmental protection guidelines should be provided in the project generation phase to assure that potential negative environmental effects are considered and avoided in an appropriate manner.

Priority 2 - Enhance environmental qualities

Measure 2.1.: Environmental protection, sustainable use and management of natural resources – The aim of this measure is to preserve and improve environmental qualities of soil, ground- and surface waters and the richness of ecosystems, and promote actions and developments, that ensure sustainable use of environment on the long term.

Environmental effects

The measure targets on environmental protection, the sustainable use and management of natural resources, therefore may have very positive environmental effects. However, the lack of focusing the efforts may decrease the efficiency of this measure.

Mitigation measures

Environmental protection (related to soil pollution and degradation, air pollution, water pollution, waste management, etc) and nature conservation (habitat management and development, reconstruction, biodiversity protection, etc.) should be dealt with in an integrated way, or specific focus areas need to be identified.

Measure 2.2.: Emergency Preparedness – The aim of this measure is to improve preparedness of the authorities and inhabitants of the border region for the management of emergency situations caused by natural disasters, such as floods, fires, avalanches and landslides, as well as industrial accidents generating cross-border pollution and to improve the effectiveness of environmental monitoring activities.

Environmental effects

The measure has very direct positive environmental effects.

Mitigation measures

No mitigation measures are foreseen.

Priority 3: Increase border efficiency

Measure 3.1.: Improvement of border crossing transport infrastructure and equipment at border controls – The aim of this measure is to increase the transport and trade capacities in the border region, especially in Ukraine, through increasing capacities of existing infrastructure as well as supporting the establishment of infrastructure for new border crossing points.

Environmental effects

It should be stated that the increased pressure on the environment may be expected at the border crossing points due to increased traffic resulting in the increase of air pollution, appearance of illegal transportation of communal waste, etc., and causing significant negative environmental effects.

Mitigation measures

Activities planned and implemented linked to the “Improvement of border crossing transport infrastructure and equipment at border controls” measure should consider and mitigate the environmental risks and damages.

8. Implementation and monitoring

8.1 Monitoring provisions set by the SEA Directive

In accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive “Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes in order, *inter alia*, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.” Article 10 extends Member States' duties beyond the planning phase to the implementation phase and lays down the obligation to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes. Monitoring is an important element of the Directive since it enables the results of the environmental assessment to be compared with the environmental effects which in fact occur.

The Directive does not define the meaning of 'monitoring'. Monitoring can, however, be generally described as an activity of following the development of the parameters of concern in magnitude, time and space. Also the character (e.g. quantitative or qualitative) and detail of the environmental information necessary for monitoring depending on the character and detail of the plan or programme and its predicted environmental effects. Monitoring should be integrated in the regular program and project management lifecycle, and related programme and project management structures.

8.2 Implementation arrangements of the Programme

The programme document contains the following chapters:

2. Programme management structure
3. Project development and selection
4. Information and publicity
5. Project level implementation and programme level financial management
6. Monitoring and evaluation
7. Specific implementation rules of the programme TA budget.

All of these chapters have crucial role in implementation and monitoring.

The SEA recommendations were made in order to assist the program to consider the environmental sustainability principle. The recommendations below are linked to the referred part of the programme.

Management and Implementation Structures

Joint Structures

Monitoring Committee (MC): The programme document mentions only governmental actors to be appointed into the MC. In order to ensure the balanced control and related transparency of the whole programme, representatives not only from governmental bodies, but also representatives from different stakeholder groups, such as business associations, and civil organizations from the different countries need to be appointed into the MC when applicable; or need to be invited to as observers.

Joint Managing Authority (JMA):

ENPI CBC Implementing Rules: External expertise need to be used in order to develop an environmental minimum criteria set for projects to be generated, and an evaluation system accordingly, that ensures that only the projects meeting the environmental criteria should be funded.

Auditing: Within the group of assigned auditors, it is essential to have at least one auditor appointed with environmental background and with the task to audit the environmental impacts of the projects selected and funded.

Project development and selection

Application Packages: should contain the environmental minimum criteria set for projects to be developed and evaluated. The criteria set need to be developed as part of the package preparations.

Project generation

Into the list of "While generating projects the following have to be secured:" the following need to be added: preparing a brief manual and providing related technical assistance in building projects considering environmental sustainability.

Project selection

An environmental minimum criteria set for projects need to be developed and communicated in the Application Packages, and incorporated into the evaluation system accordingly, that ensures that only those projects that meet the environmental criteria gain funding.

Information and publicity

- The Information and Publicity Plan need to have a specific chapter on the potential environmental impacts and the related precautionary and mitigation activities, as well as the minimum environmental criteria set for projects.
- JTS tasks need to be widened with the task of promoting project generation and implementation considering environmental sustainability through the information events to be organized.

Project level implementation

Lead partner/beneficiary responsibilities need to be extended, and need to be made him responsible, that environmental sustainability is considered during the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting of his project.

Monitoring

- The well defined indicator system to be developed need to contain indicators for environmental sustainability at all the three levels: programme level, priority level and project level.
- Programme Monitoring and Information System: should have the capability to collect, store and analyse information gained from projects regarding their environmental performance in relation to project-level environmental minimum criteria set and programme-level environmental sustainability indicators.

Evaluation

- The annual reports on implementation should provide a summary on the achievements made based on the environmental sustainability indicators.
- Programme evaluation documents should dedicate a separate chapter on environmental impacts and the related pre-cautionary and mitigation activities.

9. Milestones of the planning and SEA process

Date	Action	Relevant SEA documents (submitted to VÁTI Kht.)
January 17, 2007	Submission of the SEA Scope	ENPI CBC HU-RO-SK-UA SEA 20070117 prez_1 1.ppt
March 14, 2007	Submission of the Programme Document	JPD_Draft_070412.doc
June 12, 2007	Submission of the 1 st Draft Environmental Report	ENPI_1st_DER_v1.0_2007-06-11.pdf
June 18, 2007	Submission of the Programme Document	JPD_Draft_070618-chapter1+annexes.doc
July 02, 2007	Submission of the 1 st Draft Environmental Report v.2.0	ENPI_1st_DER_20070704_v2.0.pdf ENPI_1st_DER_20070704_v2.1.pdf
August 17, 2007	Submission of Final Environmental Report draft	ENPI_FER_20070817_v1.0.pdf
August 28, 2007	Submission of Final Environmental Report	ENPI_FER_20070827_v2.0.pdf

10. Consultation in the countries

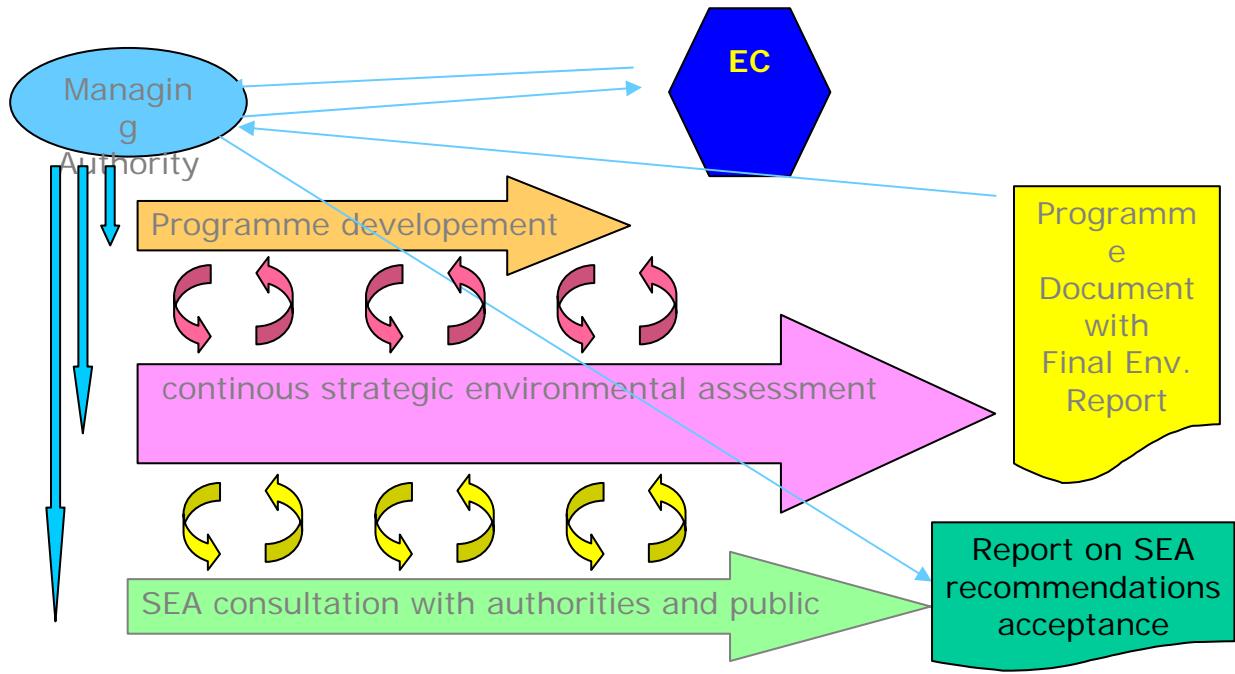
10.1 Major milestones of the consultation process

Task	Start	Finish
Preparation of SEA Scope document, by RESPECT and submission of it to VÁTI	June 1, 2007	June 15, 2007
Sending Scope documents to SK, RO and UA by VÁTI	June 15, 2007	June 15, 2007
Public announcement of SEA process in HU, SK, RO and UA (in newsletter and on the web in national languages) making available the related Scope document in English on the web	June 18, 2007	June 18, 2007
Collecting feedbacks for 30 days via e-mail on Scope from HU, SK, RO and UA by VÁTI and transferring them to RESPECT for processing on a weekly basis	June 18, 2007	July 17, 2007
Public announcement of the SEA 1 st Draft Environmental Report in English and related non-technical summary in HU, SK, RO and UA in national languages (both documents to be placed on the web)	June 19, 2007	July 9, 2007
Collecting feedbacks for 30 days on the SEA 1 st Draft Environmental Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via e-mail: in HU, SK and RO • Via local workshops organised by the UA authorities Feedbacks to be transferred to RESPECT for processing on a weekly basis	June 19, 2007	July 31, 2007
Presentation of the status report based on the SEA 1 st Draft Environmental Report to the 6 th Task Force Meeting	19 July, 2007	19 July, 2007
Consultation workshop on SEA in Ukraine	July 31, 2007	July 31, 2007

Task	Start	Finish
Preparation of SEA Final Environmental Report and final non-technical summary by RESPECT and submission of it to VÁTI	July 31, 2007	August 28, 2007
Decision on the Programme		To be determined
<p>“Information on the decision” closing communication to the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to be prepared by RESPECT in English, • then submission of it to VÁTI, • VÁTI transfers it to SK, RO and UA, • translations into national languages • public announcement of the “Information on the decision” (newspaper and on the web) 		After decision on the programme within 5 days

10.2 Description of the consultation process

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



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

The consultation with authorities and public was carried out through invited comments from Hungary, Slovakia, Romania via mail and e-mail to VATI Kht. (the sponsor for the SEA consultants). The Environmental Reports were announced at the VÁTI home page. Beyond the consultation in written form, a special one-day SEA consultation workshop was organized in Uzghorod, Ukraine (July 31, 2007), during which the purpose of the SEA process, the ENP JPD, and the related Draft Environmental Report was presented, and questions and recommendations were taken to develop the SEA report.

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

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

10.3 Major issues emerged from the consultation process and their status

The following table provides information on the major issues emerged from the consultation process and their status regarding SEA experts and planners' acceptance:

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
1.	Gyula Raisz	North-Eastern Environmental Protection, Water Management and Nature Protection Agency, Hungary E-mail of June 22, 2007	Required the Hungarian translation of the SEA scope to be able to react.	The contracted SEA expert work was carried out in English, no obligation was made for translations.	-
2	András Szirányi	National Environmental Protection, Water Management and Nature Protection Agency, Hungary e-mail of June 25, 2007	Stated special communication requirements and protocol in approaching the Agency.	Issue was transferred to VÁTI.	-
3	Ákos Reinhardt	State Secretary for Sport, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Hungary e-mail of July 20, 2007	No comment was made.	-	-
4	Dr. Judit Haraszti	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Hungary e-mail of July 20, 2007	No comment was made.	-	-
5	László Dióssy	Strategy Department, and Water Management State Secretariat, Ministry of Environment Protection and Water,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information required on the GRDP collection of recommendations. • Technical problems downloading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted • Transferred to VÁTI. 	-

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
		Hungary Letter of July 17, 2007	<p>the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubted the feasibility of the SEA process timing. • Need summary on the relevant EU regulations and related funding opportunities. • Reference to be made for the Danube River Protection Convention , as an agreement covering the program area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing is based on similar projects and considered feasible. • Programme document has an overview on the relevant EU regulations, however the funding-map is not in the scope of the SEA process. • Accepted. Transferred to planners. 	- - accepted
6	Mr. Vasile Iacoban	Suceava County Council e-mail of July 17, 2007	<p>Proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. joint projects on consolidation of the river banks (Due to river bank erosion. 2. joint projects on technologies and framework instruments for ecosystems rehabilitation following mine exploitation. 	Accepted. Will be transferred to planners.	accepted
7	Mrs.Morari Ana	Maramureş Environment Protection Agency e-mail of July 17, 2007	<p>Proposal to improve the Environmental Report (on Priority 2 – Enhance environmental qualities) by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including the national legislation referring to EU legislation (Directive EC 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna, Directive 79/409/EEC of the conservation of wild birds), • taking into account the national strategy for biodiversity preservation and sustainable use of natural resources in respect with Nature 2000. • recommending to grant special attention to projects under Priority 2 (regarding natural resource and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The request to add national legislation referring to the EU Directive will be transferred to planners. - The request to add national legislation referring to the EU Directive will be transferred to planners - This item is the responsibility of the national authorities according to national legislation, however attention can be raised in the 	accepted -

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
			sustainable development of tourism) and if protected areas are involved in the projects implementation process, the agreement/authorization of Environment Authority should be mandatory for beneficiaries before starting the projects.	Application Package (manual for project generation) check in documents. No action required.	
8	Mr. Homiuc Dumitru	Chief police inspector Maramureş Border Police Inspectorate e-mail of July 17, 2007	<p>Recommendation that ER and Non-technical summary, should include for Priority 2 –Enhance environmental qualities, the elaboration of the projects for consolidation of the river banks.</p> <p>Protection of river banks (for the rivers in border area) are necessary due to river bank erosion as result of high floods especially in the habitable areas (Lunca la Tisa, Crăciuneşti, Tisa, Sighet) and in the places where the soil erosion affects the national territory and the local communities life.</p> <p>Proposal that the border police should be involved, due to experience and competence, in monitoring activities related to environment in the programme eligible border area.</p>	<p>Accepted. Will be transferred to planners.</p> <p>Accepted. Will be transferred to planners.</p>	<p>accepted</p> <p>Not accepted for the OP. Proposed to be discussed among project selection criteria</p>
9	Mr.Constantin Pulbere, Counselor	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development e-mail of July 17, 2007	<p>He does not agree with the conclusion: "Lack of proper mechanism for environmental legislation implementation"(Chapter.5, page 30-th from ER) and has the following general comments:</p> <p>>The ER should provide and present a list of "the environment protection objectives established at International, European and Member States level which are relevant for the programme"; the ER should present also the way those objectives and any other environmental consideration were</p>	<p>Accepted, and to be transferred to planners. This conclusion will be adjusted: "There are some differences in the enforcement of environmental legislation."</p> <p>The relevant legislation are listed in the program.</p>	<p>Agreed – not included with the OP – however, original statement is valid for Ukraine, as discussed on regional workshop in Uzghorod</p> <p>-</p>

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
			<p>taking into account .</p> <p>> The ER should provide an outline of the reasons for selecting the relevant alternative and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p> <p>> The non-technical summary, must be included as a part of ER.</p>	<p>No alternatives were presented in the programme document, therefore SEA had nothing to analyse.</p> <p>Non-technical summary was already prepared and distributed to countries.</p>	-
10	Mrs. Edit POP	<p>Representing- NGO platform MM President: Ecologic Association Representing- WWF Danube –Carpaths-Romania-Programme in the SEA public debate Chamber of Commerce and Industry Maramures County, Baia-Mare, ROMANIA e-mail of July 24, 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She agreed with the approach and the content of the Environment Report and remarked in a positive way the recommendation to take into consideration the protection of the natural resources (measure to reduce the environmental negative effects regarding Measure 1.1) • She remarked in a positive way “the improvement and capitalization of environmental services” and declared that all the economic initiatives promoting the capitalization of this kind of services should take into account the environmental aspects. 	<p>No action required.</p> <p>No action required.</p>	-
11	Mr.Georg Rast	<p>Senior Water Management Officer WWF German in the SEA public debate Chamber of Commerce and Industry Maramures County,</p>	<p>Agreed with the approach of Environment Report of the Operational Programme ENPI CBC Hungary-Slovakia- Romania-Ukraine 2007-2013.</p> <p>Encouraging the environment friendly technologies does not necessarily mean a</p>	<p>No action required.</p> <p>No action required.</p>	-

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
		Baia-Mare, ROMANIA e-mail of July 24, 2007	positive effect on the environment (Measure 1.2).		
12	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_001	Besides cultural-historical connection, geographical-ecological basis of the programme area has to be referred to as well	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted. If accepted: some more information will be requested by planning team.
13	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_002	description of agriculture is totally missing from the situation analysis	Accepted.	Land is used dominantly by agriculture and forestry. As there is no proposed action in agriculture, planners' proposal is not to gather further information. If accepted: some more information will be requested by planning team.
14	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_003	Environmental expert education in the Hungarian part	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted. <i>„1.2.6. Experts are trained in the field of environmental engineering in Nyíregyháza and Miskolc.”</i>
15	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_004	Floods at the Tisza are mainly due to the unsustainable use of the catchment basins	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted.
16	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_005	„Environment and Nature” chapter is asymmetrically short	Accepted.	H_006 and H_007 is proposed to be accepted which will improve the structure.
17	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_006	relevant bio-geographic regions should be listed in the analysis	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted. (the Pannonian, the Continental and the Alpine).
18	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	H_007	Natura2000 network should be introduced because the MSs are involved	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted.
19	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_001	Intentions for the improvement of environmental sensibility of the people are missing	Accepted.	There are proposed activities under 1.4 People to people cooperation: "Joint environmental awareness campaigns and knowledge transfer

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
					events".
20	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_002	Environmental support-ability has to be taken into consideration when planning the activities related to tourism development	Accepted.	Criterion for project selection can be included (support-ability of the natural resources).
21	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_003	„borderzone-effect“: the relatively undisturbed areas served as an excellent habitat	Accepted.	It can be included in the analysis; this has to be taken into account when selecting tourist projects.
22	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_004	SMEs providing environmental services / carrying out environmental industrial activity shall be preferred to others	Accepted.	Not proposed to be accepted. Not relevant in the area, not proved market need for the services.
23	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_005	"minimal environmental threshold" should be defined and introduced in project selection	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted.
24	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_006	co-operation of environmental and nature conservation institutes should be supported	Accepted.	Proposed to be accepted. Under institutional co-operation these types of institution can be supported as well
25	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_007	problems of the environment and nature conservation should be treated separately	Accepted.	Not proposed to be accepted. Flexibility of the priority shall be preserved (interest in the different types of projects is unknown)
26	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	C_008	increased pressure on the environment should be expected at the border crossing points	Accepted.	Not proposed to be accepted. Activities help to decrease the pressure on the environment (decreased waiting time, reconstructed border stations).
27	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_001	<i>Monitoring Committee (MC):</i> The programme document mentions only governmental actors to be appointed into the MC. In order to ensure the balanced control and related transparency of the whole programme, representatives not only from governmental bodies, but also representatives from different stakeholder groups, such as business associations,	Accepted.	Accepted. The participation of civil actors will be secured to safeguard environmental aspects.

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
			and civil organizations from the different countries need to be appointed into the MC when applicable; or need to be invited to as observers.		
28	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_002	<p><i>Joint Managing Authority (JMA):</i> ENPI CBC Implementing Rules: External expertise need to be used in order to develop an environmental minimum criteria set for projects to be generated, and an evaluation system accordingly, that ensures that only the projects meeting the environmental criteria should be funded.</p> <p><i>Auditing:</i> Within the group of assigned auditors, it is essential to have at least one auditor appointed with environmental background and with the task to audit the environmental impacts of the projects selected and funded.</p>	Accepted.	<p>Not accepted. Environmental a minimum criteria set will not be used, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only PRAG to be followed, the inclusion of sustainable development principle exists. there are areas e.g people-to-people and institutional cooperation where the minimum environmental criteria set is not feasible the program is small, the generation, selection and management of projects need to be kept simple
29	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_003	<p><i>Application Packages:</i> should contain the environmental minimum criteria set for projects to be developed and evaluated. The criteria set need to be developed as part of the package preparations.</p>	Accepted.	Not accepted.
30	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_004	<p><i>Project generation</i> Into the list of "While generating projects the following have to be secured:" the following need to be added: preparing a brief manual and providing related technical assistance in building projects considering environmental sustainability.</p>	Accepted.	Accepted. A couple of pages to be developed in the Application Package.

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
31	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_005	<i>Project selection</i> An environmental minimum criteria set for projects need to be developed and communicated in the Application Packages, and incorporated into the evaluation system accordingly, that ensures that only those projects that meet the environmental criteria gain funding.	Accepted.	Not accepted.
32	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_006	The Information and Publicity Plan need to have a specific chapter on the potential environmental impacts and the related precautionary and mitigation activities,	Accepted.	Accepted.
33	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_007	JTS tasks need to be widened with the task of promoting project generation and implementation considering environmental sustainability through the information events to be organized.	Accepted.	Accepted, in relation to awareness raising on environmental sustainability.
34	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_008	<i>Project level implementation</i> Lead partner/beneficiary responsibilities need to be extended, and need to be made him responsible, that environmental sustainability is considered during the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting of his project	Accepted.	Accepted.
35	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_009	<i>Monitoring</i> The well defined indicator system to be developed need to contain indicators for environmental sustainability at all the three levels: programme level, priority level and project level.	Accepted.	Accepted.
36	RESPECT Consulting (SEA)	IMPL_010	<i>Monitoring</i> Programme Monitoring and Information	Accepted.	Accepted regarding environmental performance, but not accepted relating to use environmental

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
	experts)		System: should have the capability to collect, store and analyse information gained from projects regarding their environmental performance in relation to project-level environmental minimum criteria set and programme-level environmental sustainability indicators.		minimum criteria set
37	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_011	<i>Evaluation</i> The annual reports on implementation should provide a summary on the achievements made based on the environmental sustainability indicators.	Accepted.	Not accepted.
38	RESPECT Consulting (SEA experts)	IMPL_012	<i>Evaluation</i> Programme evaluation documents should dedicate a separate chapter on environmental impacts and the related pre-cautionary and mitigation activities.	Accepted.	Accepted
39	Zinoviy Broyde	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Point 4: Monitoring of the methodical basis, according to principles of IPPC EU Directive, and actual Ukrainian legal instruments (e.g., on forecasting and identification of waste according to State Standards 3911-99 and primary accounting of waste and packaging material after Order of Ministry of Nature [of Ukraine] # 85 dated 12.03.2007) should be included in the general recommendations of the SEA and instructions on project generation, selection and implementation (including projects in the field of education)	The monitoring of the methodological basis of the referred legal instruments is not in the scope of the SEA process. SEA considers only the programming document, and focuses on delivering recommendations how to improve the programme.	-
40	M.Chernyavskyy, V.Negrya, I.Delegan, Z.Tymchyna	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	It is necessary to carry out assessment (on the cross border territories) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact of waste from photo, cinema and x-ray-equipment on soils, city wastewater and sewage treatment facilities; 	The issue of the "impact of waste from photo, cinema and x-ray-equipment on soils, city wastewater and sewage treatment facilities" will be added to the Environmental Report Chapter 5. on "Existing environmental problems of the area	Agreed. Shall be discussed among project selection criteria. (looks like a project proposal)

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
				relevant to the programme"	
41	M.Chernyavskyy, V.Negrya, I.Delegan, Z.Tymchyna	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	- Resources of biomass as "bio-fuel";	This issue was not mentioned as an environmental problem, therefore it is out of the SEA scope.	-
42	M.Chernyavskyy, V.Negrya, I.Delegan, Z.Tymchyna	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	- Impact of long term economic activity in forests on ecological situation;	The issue of the "impact of long term economic activity in forests on ecological situation" will be added to the Environmental Report Chapter 5. on "Existing environmental problems of the area relevant to the programme" and will be considered as a factor influencing the value of the region for tourism.	Agreed, reference made in OP
43	M.Chernyavskyy, V.Negrya, I.Delegan, Z.Tymchyna	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	- Impact on the gene pool of rare, endangered and hunted species, and their migration;	This issue was already raised by SEA experts and delivered to planners.	As above
44	M.Chernyavskyy, V.Negrya, I.Delegan, Z.Tymchyna	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	• Impact of global climate change on biodiversity of forest ecosystems;	This issue is considered as a condition for the programme and not linked to programme goals through any measures, therefore it is out of the SEA scope.	-
45	M.Chernyavskyy, V.Negrya, I.Delegan, Z.Tymchyna	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	• Development of hunting tourism.	This issue suggests project ideas for tourism development. The idea is valid, but out of the scope of SEA dealing with the program level.	OP text not changed, in principle, no specific sector within tourism is mentioned. To be discussed among project selection criteria at a later stage.
46	L.Sorokhan, V.Zadorozhny, O.Bobrujko, Z.Broyde, M.Konyak, E.Birov, M.Rad	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Priority №1, measure 1.1: harmonisation of tourism development: 1) Tourism project should be relevant with regional development programme;	This issue was taken into account during programme development by programme planners.	-

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
47	L.Sorokhan, V.Zadorozhny, O.Bobrujko, Z.Broyde, M.Konyak, E.Birov, M.Rad	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	2) To extend the scope of tourist services and information to include health care institutions in activities;	This issue suggests project ideas for tourism development. The idea is valid, but out of the scope of SEA dealing with the program level.	-
48	L.Sorokhan, V.Zadorozhny, O.Bobrujko, Z.Broyde, M.Konyak, E.Birov, M.Rad	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	3) Wide use of regional mass media.	This issue will be addressed by JTS during programme implementation (environmental aspects were recommended for inclusion into communications). SEA experts raised this issue already regarding the "Information and publicity" part.	-
49	L.Sorokhan, V.Zadorozhny, O.Bobrujko, Z.Broyde, M.Konyak, E.Birov, M.Rad	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 1.3: add "and health care institutions" into activities aimed at neglecting of negative impact	Measure 1.3 already has the opportunity for cooperation between health care institutions, while stating: "...between institutions active mainly in the field of public administration and services, such as employment, education, health and culture, as well as crime prevention"	-
50	L.Sorokhan, V.Zadorozhny, O.Bobrujko, Z.Broyde, M.Konyak, E.Birov, M.Rad	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Priority №2, measure 2.1: add "protection of atmospheric air".	Adding "protection of atmospheric air" will be transferred to planners.	accepted
51	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 1.1: add to the aim: foresee the development of a procedure to identify ecosystems' optimal potential capacity in relation to tourist pressure	This issue was already raised by SEA experts and transferred to planners.	Reference made in OP-
52	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko,	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31,	General comment to all measures: foresee preliminary public consultations/hearings	This issue relates to JTS future supporting activities on project	-

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
	Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	2007)	of projects.	generation. SEA experts raised this issue already regarding the "Information and publicity" part.	
53	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 1.2: the development of ecological criteria, with the involvement of the public, should be obligatory for potential applicants.	The involvement of the public into project generation is a wider issue, and linked not only to measure 1.2. This issue relates to JTS future supporting activities on project generation. SEA experts raised this issue already regarding the "Information and publicity" part.	-
54	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 1.3: should! be priority.	Agreed. No action required.	-not agreed, reasons spelled out on JTF meetings. Opinion lacks arguments.
55	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 1.4: add into the aim: „Nature and environmental protection guidelines should be provided in the project generation phase to assure that potential negative environmental effects are considered and avoided in an appropriate manner” – this formulation should be used in all priorities in all measures.	Agreed. Already in SEA Report, No action required.	-
56	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 2.1: add to the aim: - „and effectiveness of energy sources use, use of alternative sources of energy”.	Adding to measure 2.1 “and effectiveness of energy sources use, use of alternative sources of energy” agreed, will be transferred to planners.	Not accepted as changing the objective but added to rationale of the measure
57	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko,	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31,	- „prevention of application and use of outdated technologies and	Avoiding using out-of-date technologies in development	Agreed, however. No need to change OP but would be desirable

No.	Sender	Reference	Brief description	SEA experts acceptance	Planners' acceptance
	Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	2007)	waste”.	projects could be used as tool for securing more environmental projects. No action is required.	to discuss among project selection criteria.-
58	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 2.2: add to the aim: „improvement of emergency situations forecasting system”.	The issue of the “improvement of emergency situations forecasting system” is already covered by the measure 2.2. No action is required.	-
59	V.Voloshyn, I.Dmytruchenko, Y.Zizda, V.F.Golovchak, Y.Sholokh, L.M.Gayduk, I.Maslyuk	Ukranian SEA workshop (July 31, 2007)	Measure 3.1: add to the aim: „improvement of the control of the movement of rare types of flora and fauna; and the transportation of waste ...”	The issue of the „improvement of the control of the movement of rare types of flora and fauna; and the transportation of waste ...” is valid, and will be transferred to planners.	Accepted, reference made in rationale of the measure