



Hungary-Croatia
IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme



The first Call for Proposals in the Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 was closed

PRESS RELEASE OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
July 17th, 2009

Until June 24th 2009, 67 projects were submitted during the first Call for Proposals in the Hungary- Croatia IPA Cross-Border Co-operation Programme, published on March 26th 2009 by the National Development Agency and the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management.

The main objective of IPA Programmes is to assist EU candidate countries in adopting and implementing the “acquis communautaire” and the Community’s common policies. The purpose of co-operation of cross-border counties between Hungary and Croatia is to help integrate underdeveloped areas in the interest of socio-economic cross-border development.

Counties taking part in the Programme from the Hungarian side are Zala, Somogy and Baranya; while from the Croatian side the following counties are part of the eligible programme area: Međimurska, Koprivničko-križevačka, Virovitičko-podravska and Osječko-baranjska. In addition to border counties, four other counties - Varaždinska, Bjelovarsko-bilogorska, Požesko-slavonska and Vukovarsko-srijemska - participate in the Programme. Since these territorial units do not form a direct borderline with Hungary, they are so-called adjacent regions and can use a maximum 20% of the amount of Community funding available in the Programme.

Programme coordination is supervised by institutions jointly managed by the two participating countries. The long-term objective of the Programme is to support cultural and knowledge based development on the basis of the successful management of natural and cultural heritage and intense socio-economic interactions between the two sides of the eligible programme area.

Applications had to be submitted within one-round open procedure frame to the Joint Technical Secretariat in Budapest. Sustainable environment, landscape development, tourism, co-operative economy, as well as intercommunity human resources development areas are assisted throughout the Programme. The Programme has allocated around 11.7 million € of Community funding within the first Call. After receiving all the applications, the requested amount of funding is 16.2 million € in total.

Cross-border educational, training and exchange programmes have proved to be the most popular intervention areas, followed by People-to-people connections, Environmental planning activities and Joint Research, Development and Innovation (RDI).

Out of 67 applications, 49 have been initiated by Hungarian Lead Beneficiaries. Project assessment has started in June 2009 and will last for three months; subsequently the final decision regarding applications is to be expected in October 2009. The next Call for Proposals of the Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-Border Co-operation Programme is set to be launched in 2010.