



Where linking creates synergy

The INTERREG SI-AT Cooperation Programme Overview



TECES, October, 2015

Namen Purpose	INTERREG SI-AT Cooperation Programme overview regarding TECES and members activities and priority fields to identify proposal opportunities. Document is in English to ease the communication with Austrian stakeholders.
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NOTE:  this TECES sign is signalling the special interest of TECES under priorities within INTERREG Slovenia-Austria cross border cooperation programme.

The INTERREG SI-AT Cooperation Programme Overview



Programme web: http://www.si-at.eu/start_sl/

SI -AT Cooperation Programme in short

BUDGET: 57.213.193 € ERDF+NATIONAL PUBLIC+NATIONAL PRIVATE for entire timeframe till 2020.

COFINANCING: max 85% for AT and SI partners

DEADLINE: TO BE ANNOUNCED in DECEMBER 2015

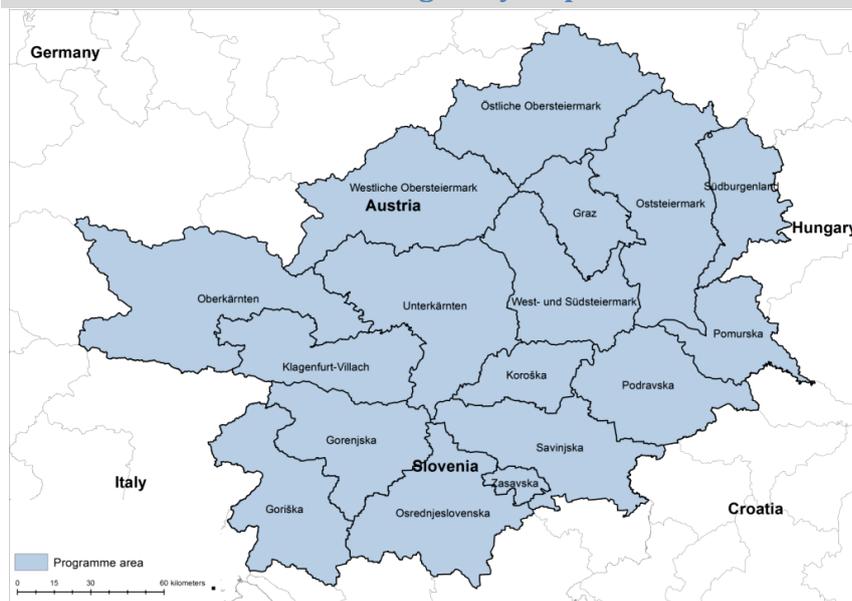
PROJECT APPLICATION: ● on the basis of the open call system **NEW!** ● 2 deadlines per year foreseen until all programme funds are disbursed **NEW!** ● Electronic submission of application documentation **NEW!** ● No more ISARR in reporting changed with electronic monitoring system (e-MS) **NEW!**

MIN REQUIREMENTS: N/A

LEAD PARTNER must be ERDF:

- Local, regional, national public bodies/ bodies governed by public law
- International organisations
- Private **non-profit** bodies

INTERREG SI-AT Territorial eligibility map:



The programme area covers:
8 Slovenian NUTS 3 regions: ● Gorenjska, ● Koroška, ● Savinjska, ● Podravska, ● Pomurska, ● Osrednjeslovenska, ● Goriška and ● Zasavska and

9 Austrian NUTS 3 regions: ● Oststeiermark, ● West- and ● Südsteiermark, ● Graz, ● Östliche Obersteiermark, ● Westliche Obersteiermark, ● Unterkärnten, ● Klagenfurt-Villach, ● Oberkärnten and ● Südburgenland.

The programme area covers 38,353 km² with a population of 3,467,000.

The overall INTERREG SI-AT objective:

The overall objective of the Cooperation Programme (CP) is to ensure the harmonious development of participating cross-border (CB) regions and to enable all citizens to make the best use of given natural conditions and opportunities, taking into account the specifics of each part of the programme area. Specific needs in the fields of **research, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), environment, resource efficiency and public administration**. The conceptual orientation of the CP therefore follows also the ambition of the Europe 2020 strategy with its aims at "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth".

SI-AT Programme selected Thematic objectives and Priority axis:

To overcome defined challenges and intervention needs, the programme strategy builds on the following thematic objectives (TOs):

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (TO 1);
- Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO 6);
- Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration (TO 11).

Upper thematic objectives are translated into INTERREG SI-AT priorities, thematic objectives and investment priorities.

- **Priority axis 1:** Strengthening cross-border innovation, research and competitiveness  *EXPLAINED*
- **Priority axis 2:** Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency *NOT IN FOCUS*
- **Priority axis 3:** Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration  *EXPLAINED*

INTERREG SI-AT: Overview of priorities, Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities

Priority	Thematic objective	Investment priority
Priority 1  Strengthening cross-border Competitiveness, Research and Innovation	Thematic Objective 1  Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1(b)  Promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education
Priority 2 Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency	Thematic Objective 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6(c) Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage 6(f) Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution
Priority 3 Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration	Thematic Objective 11  Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	11(b)  Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
Priority 4 Technical Assistance : N/A – for programme bodies implementation activities		

Note: TECES has special interest under priorities marked with .

In following sections of this document we are offering an explanation on Priorities in relation to Specific Objectives set in framework of the named priority.

Explanation of Investment priorities in regards to Specific objectives:

Priority 1: Strengthening cross- border Competitiveness, Research and Innovation

Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Investment priority 1(b): Promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education

- 1.1. **Specific objective A.1.1:** Strengthening R&I in technological and economic fields of strength through CB cooperation of relevant stakeholders. *EXPLAINED*
- 1.2. **Specific objective A.1.2:** Broadening the basis of innovating enterprises in the programme area. *EXPLAINED*
- 1.3. **Specific objective A.1.3:** Increasing the level of internationalization of enterprises, especially SMEs in the programme area *EXPLAINED*

1.1 Specific objective A.1.1: Strengthening R&I in technological and economic fields of strength through CB cooperation of relevant stakeholders

1.1.1 Expected results: The geographic space generally shows a rich endowment with research institutions, but these are distributed unevenly. Consequently, large regional disparities in terms of regional capacities for R&I are evident. The lion's share of R&D infrastructures (such as universities and applied research institutes) is concentrated in the regional centres Graz, Ljubljana, and to a much smaller extent in Maribor. This is equally true on an interregional as an intraregional level. Even if the R&I infrastructure is centred in these two cities, in the past R&I competences and infrastructures were established successfully in the whole programme area. This shows a good endowment not only with universities and/or universities of applied sciences, but also good endowment with research and technology organizations as well as technology and science parks. R&D infrastructure has also formed the nodes of participation within the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technology (FP 6). Recent analyses show that project partners from Graz and Ljubljana account for the highest share of participation in the programme area. There is also a dense population of industry clusters by various cluster and network initiatives in strong economic sectors (automotive, wood, materials, electronics, etc.). Hence in the past, innovation systems were developed. However, the programme area is still characterized by fragmented R&I-capacities with the problem of achieving critical mass. Hence, the CP could overcome the problem by strengthening (already existing) cooperation activities in order to improve the interaction of research organisations and by building up know-how of research institutions and public administration (policy actors responsible for the coordination of strategic agendas and specialisation) across the border in order to respond to the progressive and growing trend in the development of R&I. The aim should be to reach critical mass by institutional cooperation, as this will also have a positive impact on companies in the programme area. Supporting coordination for exchange (especially at research institutions) should ensure strengthening of networking, active technology and knowledge transfer as well as overcome the lack of access to R&D in peripheral and CB regions. Analysis in the past showed that there is a strong interregional knowledge base in mechanical engineering and process engineering, materials (i.e. polymers), design, food, production, wood processing industry etc. The support for the development of institutional cooperation between R&D-infrastructure should therefore be related to existing technological and economic fields of strength in order to intensify research activities and the building up of know-how in order to create spill-over effects for the industry. The CP will help to expand existing capacities for strengthening R&I activities also in peripheral and CB regions and for exploiting and developing synergies across the border. This intends to contribute to structural improvement at research institutions and the visibility of the programme area as a research location within Europe.

1.1.2 Type and examples of actions to be supported:

- ✓ Improvement of CB competitiveness and excellence in R&I (e.g. by creation of joint CB platforms for know-how and technology transfer as basis for R&I, applied science projects, etc.).
- ✓ Support of a better access and use of research infrastructure for CB research institutions and relevant stakeholders (e.g. institutional cooperation between R&D-infrastructures).
- ✓ Use of potential of researchers and their international mobility (with the purpose of increasing the competitiveness of CB area).

1.2 Specific objective A.1.2: Broadening the basis of innovating enterprises in the programme area

1.2.1 Expected results: Based on strengthening R&I by the cooperation among institutions capable for research and education, technology and infrastructure (specific objective 1), specific objective 2 will help companies to broaden their R&I base. Companies will receive a better understanding of R&D and innovation capacities in the programme area. For technology and knowledge intensive companies, the access to infrastructures and their services will be secured. The improved “innovation ecosystem” will contribute to broadening of basis of innovating enterprises in the programme area⁵³. By providing specific support services, companies and especially SMEs will be able to implement RTI activities, especially in regions where companies are less innovative and have limited access to new technological knowledge. By supporting cooperation, networking of companies, research institutions (science-industry cooperation) and platforms could be improved and/or developed in order to achieve synergies across the border, to broaden the basis of innovating enterprises and to increase R&D investments in the programme area. The aim of CP Interreg Slovenia-Austria is to increase the territorial competitiveness, focusing on consolidation, modernisation and diversity of local and regional economies in order to support new business models and to introduce organisational, marketing and service innovations and technologies. The aim should be to support the development and improvement of products (with a focus on the development of new and joint products) and CB services. Growing synergies will lead to advantages for SMEs, as they will be able to reduce uncertainties and costs, as learning processes will be initiated, the migration of qualified workers from the region will be limited and the ability to network will be extended. SMEs will not only be encouraged to expand their businesses in the area, but also in achieving additional significant growth and use of new technologies. Soft measures, such as training programmes focused on gaining and improving specialised qualifications, skills and competences, are measures for enhancing the SME’s capabilities to cooperate. The key feature here is the development of innovation and process capabilities and the introduction of growth phases and strategies. Hence, within this processes, cooperation is necessary and can lead to increased knowledge and innovation capacities of entrepreneurs, and positive effects in productivity and profitability of supported SMEs. This includes also the establishment of innovative (in the sense of Open innovation) enterprises what means that the programme will support start-up of business. In order to secure and to further improve the high performance of the region, the potential of CB cooperation in the sense of a common R&I area will be fostered. Therefore, the cooperation activities will foster the basis for new products and processes what may lead to sustainable growth and jobs.

1.2.2 Type and examples of actions to be supported:

- ✓ Strengthening innovation processes and investment of CB clusters and networks, enterprises and other institutions cooperating across border in order to develop new or improved products, services and pilot investments.
- ✓ Support to enterprises in the phase of testing innovation (including the process of certification).
- ✓ Enhancing the transfer of developed solutions and of new knowledge to the public domain.
- ✓ Strengthening growth and development of companies and especially SMEs (and their creativity and innovativeness, investment in processes and development as well as development of capabilities of SME’s

to cooperate) especially by design and implementation of support programmes in common fields of strength defined by the Smart specialization strategy in both countries.

- ✓ Strengthening the innovation ability of enterprises (offering innovation support services to support innovation) or the use of new technologies in common fields of strength.
- ✓ Support to services for innovative (innovation in services, creative industries, product innovation, etc.) entrepreneurs/companies and potential entrepreneurs to enable the start-up of business.
- ✓ Support to development of new CB business models and integrated models of business processes.
- ✓ Promotion and development of new (social) entrepreneurship models (innovative companies with potential of global growth, companies in CB areas facing the development challenges (problem areas).
- ✓ Support to CB SME/networks to develop new or improved products, services or to enter new markets and improve their export potential.

1.3. Specific objective A.1.3: Increasing the level of internationalization of enterprises, especially SMEs in the programme area

1.3.1 Expected results: Based on the objective of broadening the R&I base and increasing the territorial competitiveness (specific objective 2) consequently, specific objective 3 will help those companies and especially SMEs to increase the level of internationalization. The economy of the CB region is dominated by SMEs showing considerable problems in meeting future requirements and competitiveness. The innovation capacities are concentrated on a small number of front running enterprises serving international markets while the majority of companies (in particular SMEs and start-ups) are lagging behind in this respect. This is particularly true for companies located in border regions as they face disadvantage resulting from their peripherality. While industrial activities are concentrated in large and medium sized centres, peripheral territories show a larger share of SMEs in the service sector. The latter should play a comparatively larger role in supporting regional development. High seasonality of certain economic activities and small-sized enterprises as well as the lack of high-quality services for specific target groups are limiting the competitiveness of SMEs in an increasingly international environment. These SMEs, positioned mainly in the medium- and low-technology sector, are characterised by low levels of competitiveness, as they are not prone to innovations. They lack internationalisation and tend to serve local markets. This is particularly true for peripheral areas where market size is marginal and location of companies hampers proper supply of customers in the wider region. The CP offers additional measures oriented to the market growth (networking, clusters) and internationalisation, creating efficient and stable business environment. This will allow companies to grow sustainably. The first step is the cooperation across the border, helping to strengthen regional innovation capacities and contributing to regional smart specialisation strategies, building-up a critical mass and closing value chains before the companies can start long-distance internationalisation. The CP addresses these problems by supporting CB cooperation of companies for internationalization and export, by upgrading business environment and by creating awareness of enterprises (especially SMEs) towards internationalisation.

1.3.2 Type and examples of actions to be supported:

- ✓ Support to creation of awareness towards internationalisation by promotion of enterprises (SMEs) in common fields of strength defined by the Smart specialization strategy in both countries (in the field of manufacturing, ICT, tourism and health and social work activities), especially for high-growth enterprises and enterprises with a potential to grow in the programme area.
- ✓ Increasing CB cooperation of companies for competitiveness, internationalization and export, e.g. by supporting networking/clusters of enterprises, joint investments, joint participation on the market, etc.
- ✓ Implementation of services for knowledge intensive start-ups with the strong potential to internationalize.

1.3.3 Main target groups supported under the investment priority 1b

Main target groups:

→ Institutions relevant for research and education, technology and infrastructure Innovation leaders, → Enterprises being at the threshold to innovation activities, → Universities and other academic and education institutions, → R&D institutions, → Company founders and young entrepreneurs, → Local business community, → Business support mechanisms, → Technology/business/university parks.

1.3.4 Types of beneficiaries supported under the investment priority 1b

Beneficiaries:

→ Private and public business support institutions (incubators, technology parks, science parks, competence centres, business support centres), → Enterprises (including SMEs), → Clusters and networks (including clusters and networks of SMEs), → Tourism institutions, associations and agencies, → Research institutions, → Universities and other academic and higher education institutions as well as technology and business oriented high schools, → Training and education organisations and institutions, → Institutions and organisations representing economic and social interests of employees/ employers, → National, local and regional (public) authorities, → Local/regional institutions, development organisations and networks.

IMPORTANT: Specific guiding principles for IP 1b

- Connecting knowledge, competences and technologies in the priority areas, with regard to RIS3 strategy and CB impact should be part of all projects.
- Involvement of SMEs or SME-networks as project partners is strongly recommended. For actions under specific objective A.1.3 the involvement of at least one enterprise as a project partner is mandatory.
- Consulting and mentoring/coaching projects should develop or accompany sustainable or even high growth and/or internationalization processes.

Priority 2: Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency

Thematic Objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Investment priority 6(c): Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage

Specific objective A.2.1: Achieving sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage

Investment priority 6(f): Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution

Specific objective A.2.2: Innovation in sustainable management and utilization of water resources

NOTE: Priority 2 covers mainly water management with no energy issues included, regardless of the connection between energy and water electricity production resilience issues between floods!

Priority 3: Enhancing Institutional Capacity and an Efficient Public Administration

Investment priority 11b: Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions

- 3.1. **Specific objective A.3.1:** Improving cooperation in the fields of risk management, energy, health and social cohesion  EXPLAINED
- 3.2. **Specific objective A.3.2:** Improving interactions among municipalities and citizens within the CB region  EXPLAINED

3.1 Specific objective A.3.1: Improving cooperation in the fields of risk management, **energy**, health and social cohesion

3.1.1 Expected results: Both countries face same challenges – how to keep the economy globally competitive, how to *protect nature*, how to *manage multiplying natural disasters* and *manmade risks*, how to *create suitable living conditions* for the citizens. This specific objective is all about facing these challenges together. The situation analysis in the programme area showed *increasing energy consumption*, increased frequency of natural and other disasters and recurring need for risk management. These challenges can be solved the most effectively with sustainable measures and joint approach.

Regarding energy efficiency, especially the *Austrian* side possesses the needed technological know-how, skills and drive; wherein on the *Slovenian* side, the growing knowledge level still has to reach its full potential. CB cooperation ensures a more efficient knowledge transfer, contributes to capacity-building, networking and institutional support and by that to more coordinated innovation activities, resulting in the creation of positive synergy effects. Fostering improvements in the field of energy efficiency goes in line with awareness-raising activities among key stakeholders and the wider public (e.g. brochures, public events, etc.). The issue of risk management (water, soil, air) has been successfully tackled in the past, but joint CB measures remain of high importance. Through further cooperation in the field of public services, capacity building, networking enlargements and exchanging of know-how and best practices, CB cooperation will importantly contribute to natural risk prevention. Situation analysis showed also the need for increased social cohesion in the area of health and qualification. This area has been an important priority also in previous cooperation. As the CB mobility of patients has been increasing in the past years, it is important to provide them with the best health care services in terms of adequate medical workers, hospital infrastructure (e.g. availability of hospital beds) and information provision (hard and e-form). Within this, an important part is also the promotion of preventive sanctions (e.g. healthy living and eating habits) which gains momentum. Another challenge is to strengthen CB cooperation in the area of qualification. The reasons lie in different curricula, education systems and legal bases. Thereupon, cooperation and networking which lead to the basic quality improvements and coordination in the field of education and continuing vocational training in the inter-regional level, should be emphasized. Here, special attention will be given to the unemployed people aged 55 to 64. Possible results under this specific objective are strong networks on local/regional level aiming to build joint capacities, transfer and exchange of know-how, skills, knowledge and practices in the field of risk management, energy, health and qualification etc., wherein this primary aim will be supported by small scale investments which will make the impact of the programme visible to the citizens. The results to be achieved through EU support will contribute to increased intensity of CB cooperation in field of *energy*, risk management, health and qualification.

3.1.3 Actions to be supported:

- ✓ Developing and implementing CB tools and services (e.g. analytical tools, management tools, technical tools, software tools, etc.) for the purpose of risk management prevention (e.g. joint monitoring, etc.).
- ✓ Joint programming, project preparation and demonstration actions of local governments, non-profit organizations, development and energy agencies in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- ✓ Active awareness-raising among key stakeholders as well as the wider public (e.g. information sheets, public information events, brochures, etc.).
- ✓ Developing and implementing training programmes and schemes (in order to intensify future CB cooperation as well as to build up capacities and skills needed for the CB labour market (e.g. intercultural communication and qualification trainings, language courses, joint schemes to support transfers of best practices and know-how, study visits, vocational training).
- ✓ Strengthening cooperation within CB networks on local/regional level as well as the cooperation of institutions providing public services, training and educational institutions, cultural associations, etc. (e.g. capacity building, knowledge exchange and networking activities).
- ✓ Developing and implementing CB tools and services (e.g. analytical tools, management tools, technical tools, software tools, etc.) for the purpose of emergency interventions (e.g. information about hospital beds, availability of ambulances and medical workers, etc.).
- ✓ Developing human skills and knowledge (including language skills) enabling institutions to continue and intensify CB cooperation
- ✓ Developing new services and products regarding important regional topics in order to ensure closeness to citizens and the visibility of the programme (e.g. trainings, consultancies).
- ✓ Joint development of common approaches to identified common problems such as social inclusion and employment promotion for marginalized groups.
- ✓ Joint improvement of basic health and social services in the border region by the use of ICT technologies.
- ✓ Better harmonization of the demand and supply side of the labour market such as creation of sub- or micro-regional employment pacts or collection of labour market information and data.
- ✓ Developing and delivering shared labour market information and guidance for the employers and potential employees in the CB region (with special attention also to the age group of 55 to 64).
- ✓ Formulation of bottom up, multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to develop territory based integrated solutions on employments.

3.2 Specific objective A.3.2: Improving interactions among municipalities and citizens within the CB region

3.2.1 Expected results: As both countries have the same cultural basis, there is a strong potential for cooperation among municipalities in the region. Due to different regional strategies and processes in both countries, there is a need to harmonize them. Improving public administration and public services could also be solved with various joint measures. The CP aims to reach more stable and more extended legal and administrative CB cooperation among municipalities from both sides of the border. Implementing and strengthening networks, exchange of experience, know-how, best practices and other forms of capacity building will result in more efficient public administration and delivery of quality public services in the programme area. Possible results under this specific objective will include strong networks on local/regional level, joint strategies, processes and services, exchange of know-how, skills, knowledge and practices, etc. This primary aim will be supported by small scale investments making the impact of the programme visible to the citizens. The results to be achieved through the EU support will improve the environment for cooperation among municipalities and citizens within the programme area.

3.2.2 Actions to be supported

- ✓ Strengthening public institutional cooperation among regions, municipalities and citizens as well as key institutions involved in regional development activities (e.g. exchanging practices, knowledge, know-how, services, development strategies, etc.).
- ✓ Improving interaction among municipalities by improving coordination, tools and methods for evidence-based policy making, mechanisms for public participation, tools for increased transparency and accountability, etc.

- ✓ Improving the quality of services by reforms for reducing administrative burden, integration of services (focus on e.g. e-government/ e-justice, etc.).
- ✓ Organizing meetings and seminars for the exchange of experiences, information in order to identify common development issues, ideas and structures.

3.3 Main target groups supported under the investment priority:

Main target groups:

→ Local and regional public and state administrations, → Other types of public and private organizations/institutions interested in CB cooperation (e.g. training and educational institutions, → institutions and organizations in the field of risk management, health, energy, qualification and labour market, etc.), → NGOs and associations of socially excluded, → Citizens.

3.4 Types of beneficiaries supported under the investment priority

Beneficiaries:

→ Local and regional public and state administrations.
→ Other types of public and private organizations/institutions interested in CB cooperation (e.g. training and educational institutions, institutions and organizations in the field of risk management, health, energy, qualification and labour market, NGOs and associations of socially excluded, associations for children, etc.).

IMPORTANT: Specific guiding principles for TO 11

The defined guiding principles should primary serve as recommendations in the project selection process under TO 11.

- Wider usability of project deliverables in at least one of three areas (energy efficiency and risk management, health and qualification as well as cooperation among municipalities and citizens) is defined (e.g. pilot and demonstration projects, tools and services, training programmes and schemes, etc.).
- Projects involving new composition of networks will be prioritized.
- Solely those measures which are able to provide evidence of harmonization in implementation of the measures or setting up/ensuring common standards will be funded.

Interreg SI-AT budgeting and amounts

Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in EUR)

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding (€)
Priority axis 1 	Thematic objective 1	15,023,809	2,651,261	17,675,070
Priority axis 2	Thematic objective 6	17,564,263	3,099,576	20,663,839
Priority axis 3 	Thematic objective 11	12,400,283	2,188,286	14,588,569
Priority axis 4	Technical Assistance	3,000,000	1,285,715	4,285,715
TOTAL		47,988,355	9,224,838	57,213,193

Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in EUR) Fund per year

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	0	5,855,759	4,963,236	9,018,169	9,198,533	9,382,504	9,570,154	47,988,355
Total	0	5,855,759	4,963,236	9,018,169	9,198,533	9,382,504	9,570,154	47,988,355

INTERREG SI-AT PROGRAMME SWOT:

Research and Innovation

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good regional endowment with R&D infrastructures, innovation infrastructures and research and technology organisations. - Regional universities are integrated into European research networks and have high potential in areas of technological, natural and social sciences - Initial experience in co-operation between R&D institutions, universities and enterprises - Technology parks enabling concentration and integration of entrepreneurship, knowledge and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heterogeneous levels of R&D and innovation intensity – R&D activities are concentrated in regional centres and do not reach out into periphery - R&D and innovation is supported by a very strong, but narrow peak of large leading enterprises – SMEs are lagging behind - Lack of industry science cooperation across the border - Low knowledge of scientific and technological competences - Lack of non-technological innovations
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better CB coordination of innovation and R&D policies could lead to a coherent development and thus form the basis for an interregional science and technology space such as the Rhine-Maas triangle. - Good scientific and entrepreneurial innovation potential - Further fostering of CB cooperation between R&D institutions and enterprises could help the programming area to increase its regional innovation capacities - Promotion of non-technological innovation could foster more marketable products and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parallel activities (clusters, R&D infrastructure) could lead to fragmented competition, thus weakening the position on a broader EU-level - Mismatch between SME's innovation needs and offers by universities and R&D institutions because of low key profile of SMEs cooperation requests - Growing international orientation of excellent R&D institutions in terms of contract R&D could reduce regional industry science cooperation potentials

Competitiveness and SMEs

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common technological specialisation and sectors exist (e.g. automotive industry, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), environmental technology, wood and furniture industry etc.) - Strong regional knowledge base in mechanical engineering and process engineering - Dense population of industry clusters in the programme area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate cooperation and internationalisation of SMEs - Low knowledge of potential partners along the value chain across the border - Enterprises find themselves in an unfavourable sandwich position between high technology manufacturing and service regions in the core of Europe and low technology suppliers in Croatia, Romania and Turkey - Lack of entrepreneurial initiatives in rural areas (a small number of family SMEs) - Poorly developed and used areas within the creative industries
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of CB value chains could help regional SMEs to gain capacities to access international markets and growth prospects - Fostering of entrepreneurial activity could strengthen the local firm base in peripheral rural areas - Increased mobility of skilled workers across the border could overcome existing shortages and growth barriers - Fostering creative industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Globalisation threatens the industry location of the programme area. New and future competitors are of non-European origin (e.g. China, India, Brazil etc.) - Poor equity capital basis and growth prospects of SMEs could lead to increased business failures - Disruptive innovations (e.g. 3D printing, cyberphysical systems etc.) could make existing competences in low and medium technology sectors obsolete

The TECES Technological Fields 2015-2020:

TECES and its members have defined Technological Fields of engagement in the period of 2015-2020.

- ***Automotive: Electrical mobility:***

focused on electrification of vehicles and energy conversion and storage in vehicles with products such as drive-trains, electric motors, electronic converters, storage systems, mechatronic systems and components, actuators, as well as on infrastructure for electric mobility with products such as charging stations, power electronic converters, management systems, protection.

- ***Energy efficient (electrical) energy use in buildings and homes:***

focused on smart and energy-efficient devices, with products such as smart household appliances, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems (HVAC), smart lighting, energy conversion, as well as on building control and energy management systems (EMS), with the entire corresponding energy, communication and information infrastructure for energy management and local generation.

- ***Sustainable energy management and energy resources:***

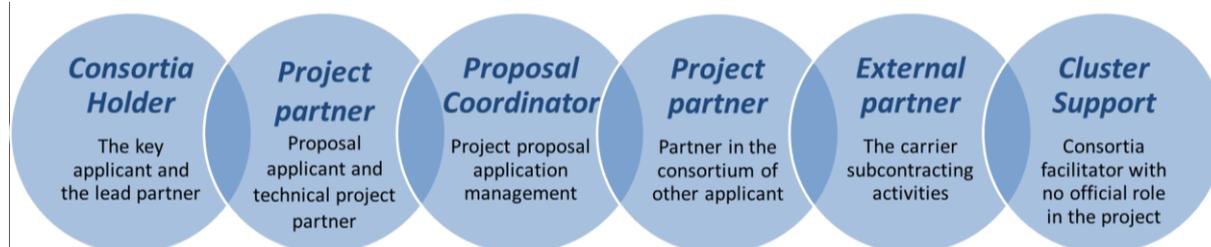
focused on sustainable energy generation with products such as systems for cogeneration of electricity and heat from alternative fuels, systems and components for generating electric energy from water, wind and solar, on efficient conversion, distribution and storage of energy with products such as advanced devices for primary energy infrastructure, measurement and protection systems, as well as control systems for electric power systems and energy management with products such as advanced control and optimisation for electric power systems, energy management systems, support for system and market services, advanced information and communication infrastructure in smart grids.

- ***Smart industrial mechatronic systems:***

focused on mechatronic systems for smart factories with products such as mechatronic components, local control, measurement and supervision as well as advanced machine and control structures, as well as smart factory management with products such as smart machines for intralogistics, automation and control of manufacturing processes and energy infrastructure.

See info graphic here http://www.teces.si/dokumenti/dokument_ex.asp?id=1615

The TECES SI-AT Programme collaboration focus:



as the **project partner** and **facilitator** of its networks and R&I environment including industrial, academia research and governmental stakeholders in Slovenia is interested in collaboration on following themes within INTERREG SI-AT Programme:

<p>LEAD PARTNER</p>	<p>PRIORITY AXIS 1: STRENGTHENING CROSS - BORDER COMPETITIVENESS, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic objective 1: STRENGTHENING RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION <i>Investment priority 1b):</i> PROMOTING BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION AND RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPING LINKS AND SYNERGIES BETWEEN ENTERPRISES, R&D CENTRES AND HIGHER EDUCATION) <i>Specific objective A.1.1:</i> Strengthening R&I in technological and economic fields of strength through CB cooperation of relevant stakeholders. <i>Specific objective A.1.2:</i> Broadening the basis of innovating enterprises in the programme area. <i>Specific objective A.1.3:</i> Increasing the level of internationalization of enterprises, especially SMEs in the programme area
<p>PROJECT PARTNER</p>	<p>PRIORITY AXIS 3: ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND AN EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic objective 11: ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION <i>Investment priority 11b):</i> PROMOTING LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS (ETC-CB) <i>Specific objective A.3.1:</i> Improving cooperation in the fields of risk management, energy, health and social cohesion <i>Specific objective A.3.2:</i> Improving interactions among municipalities and citizens within the CB region

First 2015 INTERREG SI-AT is expected to be open at end of 2015.

Entities interested in collaboration on upper selected priorities, please contact TECES at eucooperation@teces.si

Your valuable collaboration requests will be collected **until end of October 2015**.

TECES, 14.10.2015

Reference documents: http://www.si-at.eu/images/uploads/CP_INTERREG_V-A_SI-AT_approved_16-09-2015_1.pdf