

INTERREG VI-A IPA HUNGARY-SERBIA PROGRAMME

CALL FOR ASSESSORS



INTRODUCTION

The Joint Secretariat of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary-Serbia Programme on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Ministry for European Integration in the Republic of Serbia is launching call for assessors to select qualified and experienced professionals to join the Programme's Pool of Assessors.

The Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary-Serbia Programme (the Programme) is implemented within the 2021-2027 European Union financial framework under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Established by the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2021/1529 (IPA III Implementing Regulation) and implemented by the (Interreg) Regulation (EC) No 2021/1059 of the European Parliament, this instrument for pre-accession assistance serves as a financial source both for candidate (among them Serbia) and potential candidate countries. IPA addresses five policy areas and 'regional and territorial cooperation' (including CBC) is one of them.

In the current Programme, Hungary and Serbia co-operate in a joint structure through shared management and joint decision making, with common financial resources available. The Programme summarizing the priorities and objectives, as well as the main implementation modalities has been developed mutually, and it was approved by the EC by its decision C(2022) 7444 on the 14 October 2022.

The Programme is available on the Programme's official website: <http://www.hungary-serbia.eu>.

The partner countries selected the Policy objectives and Specific objectives available in Article 3 of the 2021/1058 Regulation and Article 14 of the (Interreg) Regulation 2021/1059. Based on these objectives the Programme lists priorities and objectives as well as the type of activities to be supported during Programme implementation. The assessors expertise must cover the fields of these priorities and objectives.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

Task of the external assessor is to support the Managing Authority, National Authority and the Joint Secretariat in the evaluation of projects via ensuring the necessary thematic expertise relevant for the specific objective. This task includes the followings activities:

- participation on briefings and trainings organised by the Joint Secretariat;
- acquaintance of relevant programme documents (e.g. Interreg Programme, Package of the Call for Proposals, Assessment Manual, etc.);
- assessment of content and financial background of the project proposals with using the quality assessment grid available in the INTERREG+ monitoring system.

The quality assessment grid is divided into sections and subsections according to the different aspects of the evaluation. The four main sections are: 'Financial and operational capacity of the partnership', 'Relevance, project content and CBC effect', 'Methodology (Work plan)' and 'Budget and sustainability'. All application forms will be assessed respecting the 4-eye principle. It means that impartiality will be ensured by involving two independent Assessors in the evaluation of each Application: one Assessor proficient in Hungarian and one Assessor proficient in Serbian as part of the supporting documents are only available in national language. The assessment consists of the following steps:

- appraise each criterion of the assessment grid with a score;
- scores given within a section must be justified by a clear qualitative statement in English language;
- appraise the financial plan of the application according to the principles of the sound financial management;
- provide overall professional opinion on the application in English language;
- attend the consultative meeting between the assessors if that becomes necessary
- provide further additional comments at the request of the JS;
- provide assistance to the Monitoring Committee;
- assist the complaint handling procedure if necessary.

THEMATIC FIELDS

Priority 1: A greener region

A greener Europe - A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility.

Objective 1.1: Climate change adaptation, risk prevention

Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches. The type of actions contribute to the Specific Objective by increasing the capacity to adapt to and to mitigate the effects of climate change and to improve the measures and interventions in disaster risk prevention in the region with active contribution to sustainable development as the horizontal principle 4 (Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)). The aim is to jointly develop specific skills and know-how as well as to improve the common infrastructural background for appropriate, timely and efficient interventions.

Objective 1.2: Biodiversity and reduced pollution

Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.

The types of actions contribute to the Specific Objective by strengthening the cooperation among stakeholders from the two sides of the border on the protection and preservation of the natural values and habitats, while enhancing the efficiency of the measures for safeguarding biodiversity. The aim is to tackle the unfavourable processes observed in the remaining natural areas as a result of the climate change and human activities. This includes initiatives to reduce and eliminate the pollution sources from the Programme area with active contribution to sustainable development and climate resilience as the horizontal principle 4 (Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)). The interventions should be selected with regard to the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

Priority 2: Enhancing the human and cultural values

More Social Europe - A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

Objective 2.1: Education and lifelong learning

Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training. This objective will contribute to sustainable development and the promotion of non-discrimination as horizontal principles 3 and 4 (Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)). In order to appropriately and efficiently respond to the identified problems and challenges of the region, this Specific Objective focuses on three types of actions.

Objective 2.2: Culture and tourism (SO 4.6)

Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

Based on the identified needs and challenges of the border region, the proposed Actions contribute to the Specific Objective in many ways. By using the tools of the modern age and incorporating innovative works in the area, the actions facilitate the creation of a competitive and socially inclusive tourism offer. Tourism products developed through the actions will be based on existing cultural traditions and natural values, thus assuring sustainable tourism, such as active and eco-tourism. Utilisation of products and services developed by creative industries, digitization, digitalization and online accessibility of cultural heritage, incorporated in tourism products developed through actions will allow access to cultural heritage to all people, including those who are economically disadvantaged, socially deprived or persons with disabilities such as reduced mobility. This ensures active contribution to promotion of non-discrimination as the horizontal principle 3 (Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)). Applicants will be encouraged to plan their activities in line with the best practices and relevant and available quality principles (e.g. relevant guidelines of ICOMOS, New European Bauhaus initiatives).

Priority 3: Cross-border institutional and civil cooperation

Better cooperation governance

Objective 3.1: Harmonious neighbourly relations through cooperation (ISO1)

The planned Actions shall contribute to the development of the cooperation among local governments and civil organisations, thus reinforcing the trust among people living in the border region. The youth, older people and people with disabilities, as the highlighted target groups, can be the engine for strengthening the cross-border relationships regardless of the mother tongue spoken, with active contribution to promotion of non-discrimination as the horizontal principle 3 (Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)).

The development of the town twinnings with involvement of both public and civil organisations can significantly improve the quality of local governance and encourage introduction of innovative solutions and with deeper involvement of local communities into the governmental actions.

By focusing on the elimination of obstacles in the cross-border labour market, trade of local products and health or social services, the joint institutional activities can make the cross-border cooperation among people, enterprises or relevant institutions and civil organisations closer, stronger and enduring.

PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Professional requirements must be in line with the above detailed priorities and objectives of the programme. Requirements are:

- university or college degree relevant to the Programme connecting to the relevant thematic field;
- at least 5 years professional experience acquired in positions related to one or more of the thematic objectives listed above;
- sound knowledge of the Programme area;
- sound knowledge of national legislation of the relevant thematic field;
- analytical and evaluation skills;
- proficiency in Hungarian or Serbian language;
- fluency in English (the assessment is carried out in English);
- IT literacy.

Assets are:

- skills for compiling a financial and budgetary analysis of applications;
- experience in project evaluation;
- sound knowledge of cross-border cooperation and/or EU Funds and/or project implementation;
- knowledge of both Hungarian and Serbian languages;
- qualification of the expert in more than one thematic field is considered to be an asset.

The professional requirements and assets can be proven by a CV (obligatory) and any of the following supporting documents (optional: recommendation letter, reference, contract or assignment, etc)

OTHER TERMS OF ASSIGNMENT

Briefing meetings and trainings with the Joint Secretariat takes place in Budapest at the premises of the Joint Secretariat or may be done online. Experts will be required to carry out their tasks remotely using their own devices at their habitual working place. The assessment of the assigned applications shall be performed and finalised online via INTERREG+ monitoring system according to a time schedule as agreed with the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat. The project proposals subject to the assessment will be available online in the monitoring system.

The number of project proposals which will be assigned to an expert may vary depending on the thematic scope and number of proposals received and will be agreed between the expert and the MA/JS. The assessor is entitled to a fee¹ of 130€ for assessing each application independently from the thematic field.

¹ The indicated fee shall be considered as VAT excluded amount in case of legal person and gross amount in case of natural person.

To ensure the independence of the quality assessment, prior to the signature of the contract the selected expert has to sign a declaration of impartiality certifying that there is no conflict of interest exists and that they undertake to inform the MA/JS if any situation of conflict, even potential, or external attempt to interfere occurs while carrying out their duties. Personal data submitted by the experts will be only used for the participation to the selection procedure and for the possible signature of a contract with the MA/JS.

APPLYING

Applications have to include the following documents:

- professional CV;
- motivational letter, describing the experience, qualifications, skills and motivation to perform the tasks with the reference to the relevant action;
- scanned copies of diplomas and certificates in national languages;
- further documents proving the skills;

In the documents, candidates must provide evidence that they possess the required skills, sufficient professional experience and expertise in specific areas. The Managing Authority reserves the right to ask the candidates fulfilling requirements for participating in personal interviews conducted by the programme bodies selecting the assessors. Applications not including all the above mentioned documents or submitted above the deadline will be rejected.

Deadline for sending the applications is **05/09/2023 | 23:59 CET**. The documents shall be sent electronically to the e-mail address: apply@hungary-serbia.eu. Please indicate in the subject the following text: 'HUSRB – CfA'.

When submitting an application within the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary-Serbia Programme as a natural person (referred to: the Person) the Person gives consent that within the Programme for its implementation the personal data provided by the Person shall be handled in line with the relevant national and EU regulations. The condition for submitting an application within the Interreg VI-A is to understand and accept the present privacy policy, available here: [\[GDPR\]](#).

Applicants fulfilling requirements and selection criteria will be assessed by the Selection Committee composed by the Managing Authority, National Authority and Joint Secretariat. Selection process will be conducted based on the criteria set by the current Call for Assessors. Applicants will be informed about the result of the selection process via e-mail in due time.

Selected applicants will be included into the Pool of experts. Please note that being registered in the Pool of Assessors does not imply any obligations on Joint Secretariat and Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC. regarding the assignment of project proposals to the selected assessors.