

# REGIONAL STATUS QUO

Steps 1 – 6

**Ister-Granum EGTC**

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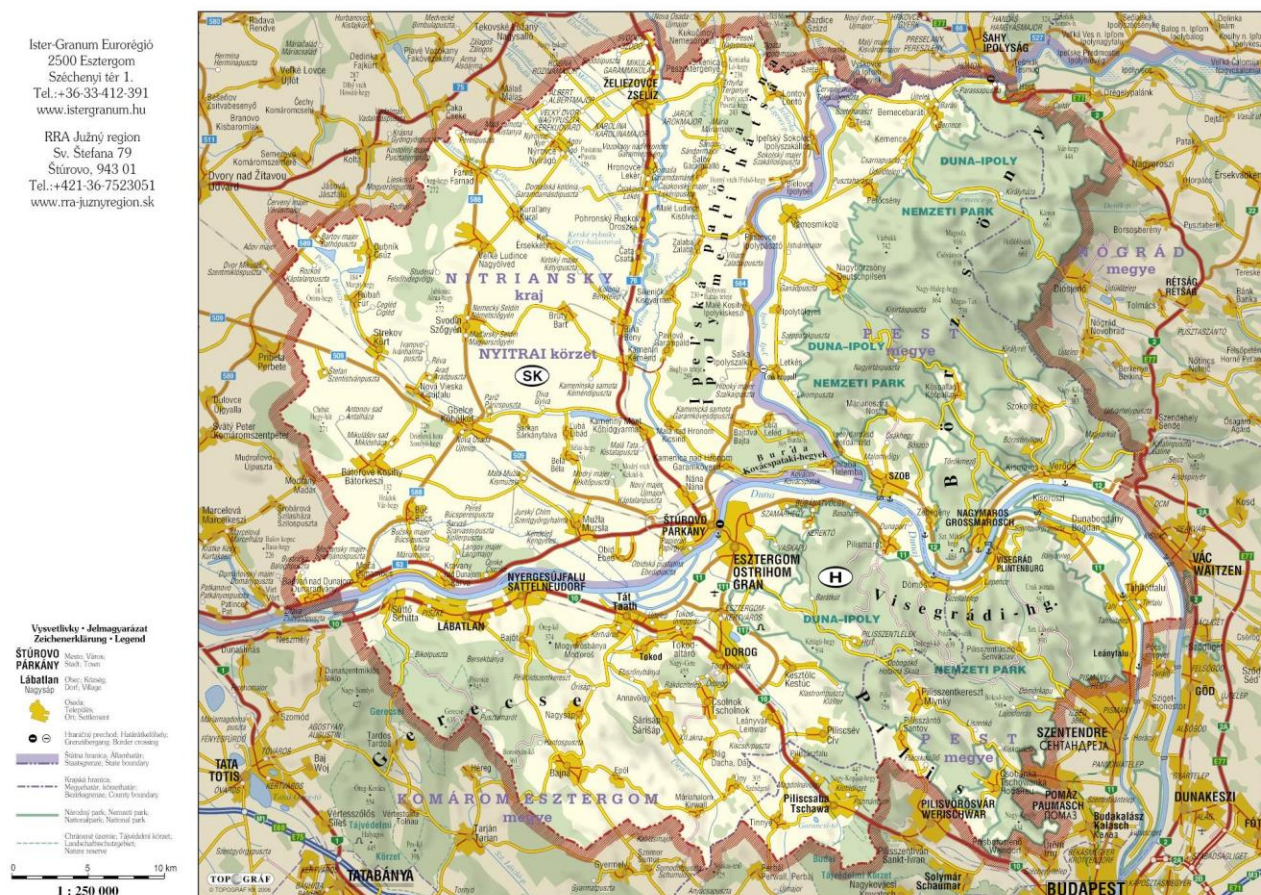


## STEP 1: SITE CONDITIONS: DESCRIBING AND DELIMITING THE FOCUS AREA

### What is the size and location of the area?

The Ister-Granum Euroregion is located along the Hungary-Slovakia border. Its centre is the Esztergom-Štúrovo cross-border twin-city with approx. 40 thousand inhabitants altogether. Esztergom is situated in a distance of 45 km to the north from Budapest, the Hungarian capital. The Euroregion itself is more or less identical with a 25 km wide influencing area of the “heart” of the region around the Mária Valéria Bridge which was constructed in 1893-95, ruined in 1944 and re-opened with the financial support of the EU in 2001. The Ister-Granum Euroregion was established in 2003 as a consultative institution aiming at the joint development of the shared borderland. The EGTC was set up later on, in 2008 as the second such entity of the EU. For the time being, the EGTC is managing the development activities of the euroregion which is considered as the geographic equivalent of the EGTC which is a governance solution.

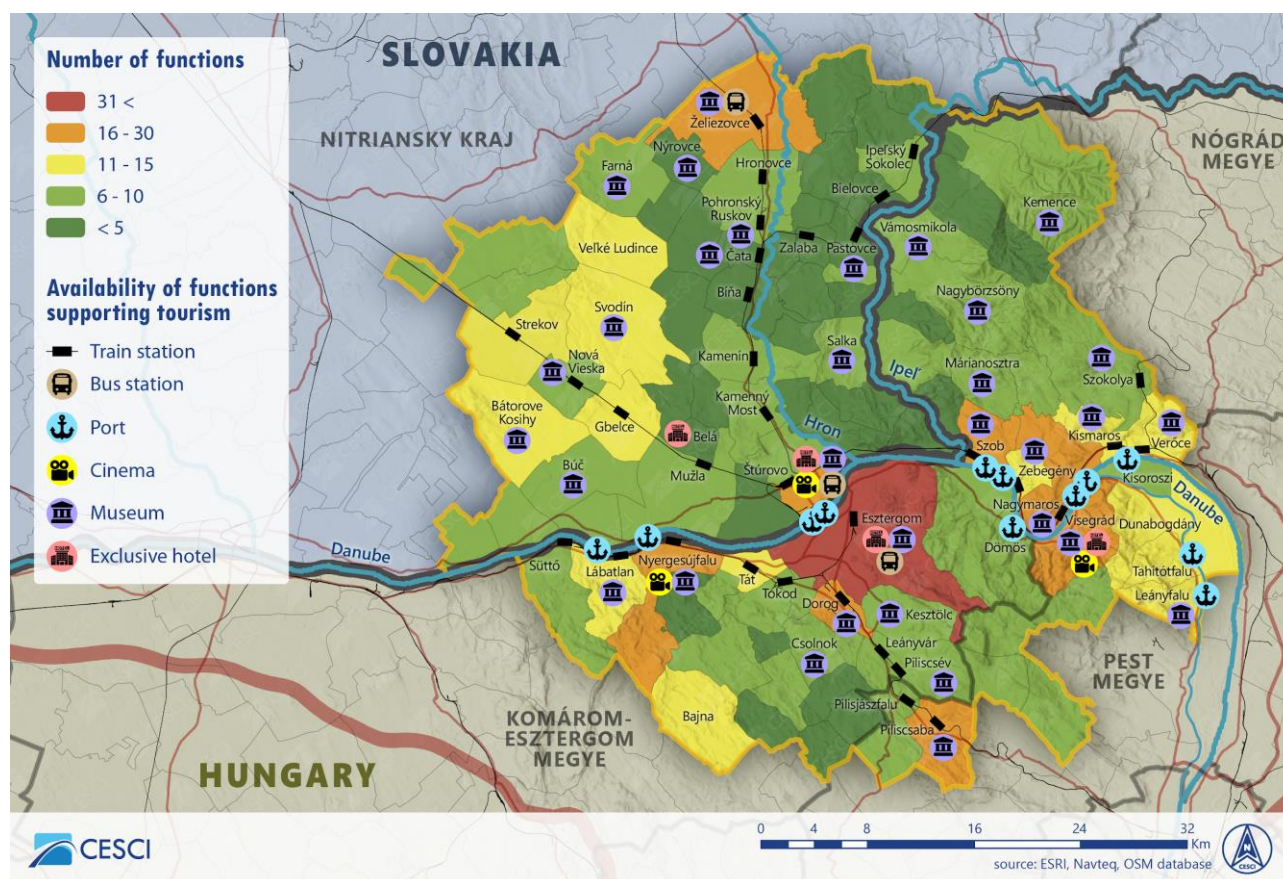
Figure 1: The territory of the Ister-Granum Euroregion



The euroregion covers the territory of 102 municipalities with a total surface of 2.238 km<sup>2</sup> and with a total population of more than 200 thousand inhabitants. The major part of the territory and the population belong to Hungary.

	Number of settlements	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2019)
HU	53	1 223 (55%)	153 254 (72%)
SK	49	1 015 (45%)	60 874 (28%)
IG	102	2 238	214 128

Figure 2: The geographic share of functions within the euroregion



The functional and gravitational centre of the euroregion is Esztergom whose urban influencing zone is stretching even beyond the frontiers of the euroregion and covers a larger region in Southern Slovakia where the majority of the population is Hungarian by ethnicity: it is an administrative, commercial, educational and health centre, home of several large enterprises (including the European factory of the Suzuki car producing company) and, thus, a pool of jobs. This abundance of functions compensates the lack of functions in the majority of the settlements around the twin cities, especially in the villages of 200-300 inhabitants.

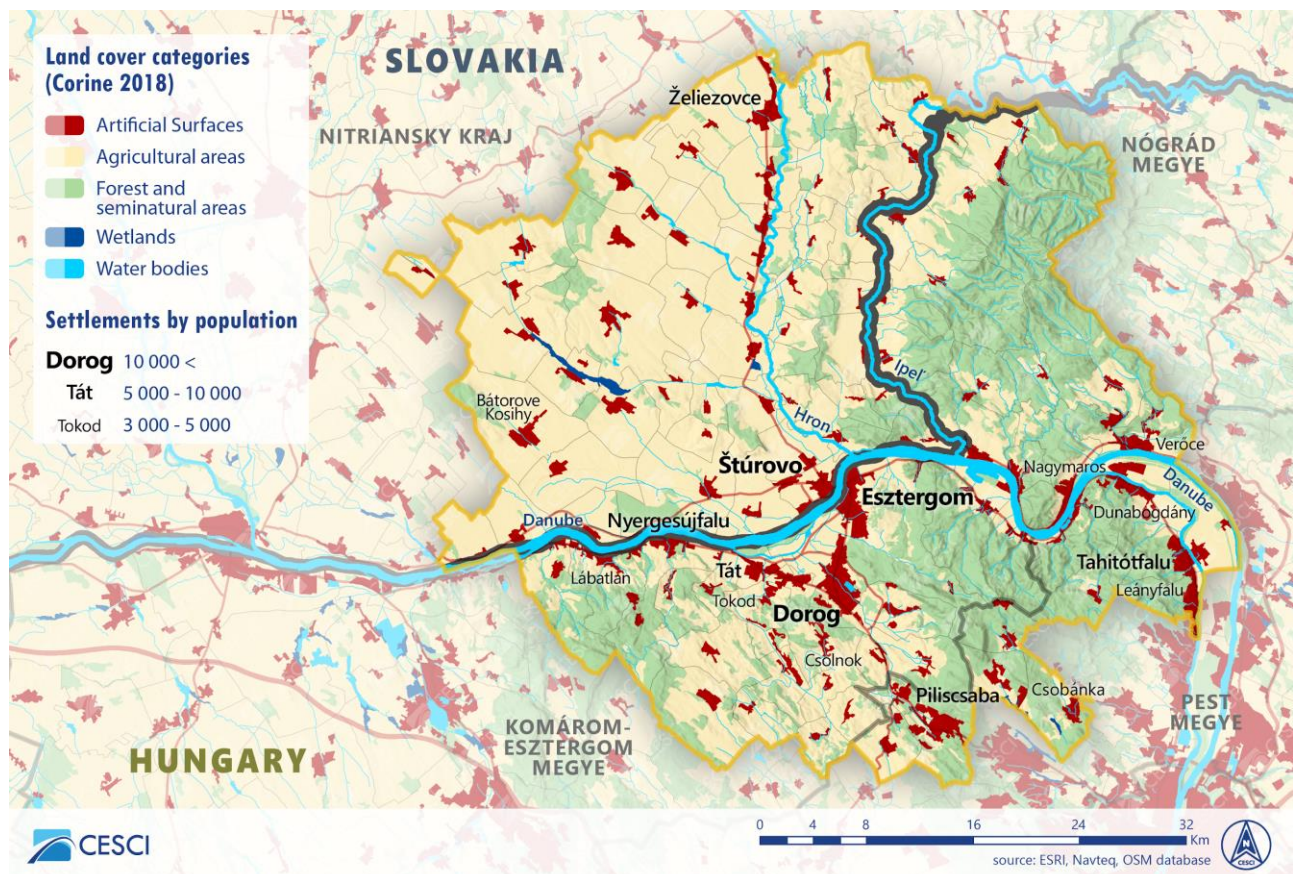
Smaller functional centres are Štúrovo and Želiezovce on the Slovak side, and Szob, Nagymaros, Visegrád, Nyergesújfalu and Piliscsaba in the Hungarian side. All these municipalities has a town status from which it becomes obvious that the degree of urbanization of the Hungarian side is much higher than the that of the rural Southern Slovakia. Even more, the southern part of the euroregion is characterised a permanently strengthening suburbanisation (urban sprawl) around Budapest.



## What are its main geographic features, especially in relation to water?

The Euroregion is the meeting point of two larger landscapes, the so-called Hungarian Small Plain / Slovak Plain and the ranges of the mountainous area containing the Börzsöny, the Pilis, the Visegrád and the Gerecse hills. This two-faceted character of the landscape has favoured for settling down (exchange place of goods) here from the age of paleolith through the antic to the middle ages when Esztergom became the first capital of the Hungarian Kingdom. The landscape is dominated by three major rivers: the Danube, the Hron and the Ipeľ/Ipoly from which two represent the state border. The three rivers meet in a narrow geographic area: the estuaries of the Hron and the Ipoly are found in a distance of 8 km from each other, to the north-east from Esztergom/Štúrovo. The three rivers have a space structuring role in the region: from a geomorphologic point of view, the core area of the euroregion constitutes a natural gravity centre that is mirrored by the road system following the run of the rivers. The boundaries of the euroregion more or less reflect the natural/geographic and functional hinterland of its twin-city centre. Thanks to the geographic endowments, many smaller creeks are found within the region falling into one of the three rivers. Some of them represent outstanding natural value (e.g. Ramsar label).

Figure 3: Land cover and surface waters of the euroregion



Danube itself represents in parallel the main water-based transport connection means of the region and a major factor of identity-building creating strong connections with the Danubian nations and countries, as well as, with the Danubian cities, especially Bratislava and Budapest, the two capitals.

To conclude, the three rivers play decisive role in the shaping of the cross-border region and in the identity-making processes of the people living in the borderland.

Due to the geomorphological and biological endowments, large territories of the euroregion are protected areas: national parks, Nature 2000 areas and the Ramsar-labelled Parížsky (or Paris / Paríz) marshes.

*Figure 4: Nature protected areas of the euroregion*



Within the framework of the WAVE project, the euroregion intends to re-design its relationship with water which is present in the daily life of the local people even if a conscious reflection is missing. For the sake of re-designing, the project will contain three PILOTs reflecting three different representations of water.

### **PILOT\_1: The Face of Water**

The projects grouped under the first PILOT refer to the humanised representation of water as a natural resource. These are urban riversides bearing the traces of time, different human generations' interventions shaping the cultural landscape, re-designing the relationship of these generations with water. These projects contain the further development of riverside promenades, esplanades. The investments do not only include urbanist construction works but reflect also on the two other PILOTs through different components of the projects.



## PILOT\_2: The Force of Water

While the first PILOT reflects water as the component of cultural landscape, the second one concentrates on the cultural representation of the forging and destroying power of water. Here, the water is considered as an energy source, while the relevant projects unfold the positive and negative role of water. In parallel, these projects have references to humanisation of cultural landscape and the spiritual heritage of the region.

## PILOT\_3: The Spirit of Water

The third PILOT focuses on the water-related spiritual products of the historic times. The central component is the unique Danube Museum in Esztergom designed to present this multifaceted heritage and to offer an encyclopedic synthesis on the region's heritage. The second dimension of this PILOT contains the heritage of way of living of the region's people related to water (fishing, reed cutting, shipping, etc.) which are presented in different parts of the euroregion (besides the Danube Museum). Finally, the third dimension is represented by those festivals and spiritual events that are connected to the water.

## If there are several sites, how are they spatially/functionally?

As a euroregional project, the WAVE, in the case of Ister-Granum includes three PILOTs covering a larger territory beyond the twin-towns. The identification of the three PILOTs was carried-out by the Local Support Group members by reducing the number of further sites and integrating them. Obviously, the major part of the sites are connected to the centres of the euroregion where the three rivers meet and the Danube is crossable through the Mária Valéria bridge. At the same time, water-based cultural heritage is present in the whole euroregion. The three identified PILOTs contain projects to be implemented in different parts of the euroregion.

### The Face of Water (P01)

P01\_1: The promenades along the Danube in Esztergom, Szob (HU) and Štúrovo (SK)

*Figure 5: The promenade in Štúrovo (SK)*



## The Face of Water (P01)



*Figure 6: The promenade in Esztergom (HU)*



## The Face of Water (P01)



## The Force of Water (P02)

P02\_1: The water mills in Nagybörzsöny (HU), Sikenička and Zalaba (SK)

*Figure 7: Water mill in Nagybörzsöny (HU)*



## The Force of Water (P02)



*Figure 8: Water mill in Sikenička (SK)*





**The Force of Water (P02)**

P02\_2: The Millers' street in Esztergom (HU)

*Figure 9: The Millers' street in Esztergom (HU)*



P02\_3: The renaissance water machine in Esztergom (HU)

*Figure 10: The renaissance water machine in Esztergom (HU)*





**The Force of Water (P02)**

P02\_4: The historic flood signs in Esztergom (HU) and Štúrovo (SK)

*Figure 11: Historic flood signs in Esztergom (HU)***The Spirit of Water (P03)**

P03\_1: The Danube Museum in Esztergom (HU)

*Figure 12: Exhibition in the Danube Museum in Esztergom (HU)*



### The Spirit of Water (P03)

P03\_2: The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény (HU)

Figure 13: The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény (HU)



P03\_3: The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo (SK)

Figure 14: Some results of the Bridge Guard project



P03\_4: The Aquaphone project in Štúrovo (SK) and Esztergom (HU)

Figure 15: AquaPhone performances





**The Spirit of Water (P03)**

P03\_5: The Dim lamp water carnival in Esztergom (HU)

*Figure 16: Dim lamp water carnival in Esztergom in 2016*



P03\_6: The Szikince festival in Kamenín, Pavlová, Sikenička and Zalaba (SK)

*Figure 17: Poster of the 'Szikince festival' in 2018*



P03\_7: The Ramsar labelled Parížsky marshes in Gbelce - reed cutting traditions (SK)

*Figure 18: Parížsky marshes in Gbelce*





## The Spirit of Water (P03)

P03\_8: Fishing traditions along the rivers (HU, SK)

Figure 19: Traditional fishing



Figure 20: The location of the selected water-based cultural heritage sites of the Ister-Granum euroregion



The selected sites cover both sides of the border and both banks of the Danube and create a cross-border multifunctional network. While in the heart of the region there are a variety of different water-related heritage, along the Hron the Szikince festival with four involved settlements and the three are the main points of references.

## What is the history of the site regarding origin/use/changes/ownership? How old is the heritage in question (from what period)?

*Table 1: The classification of the water-based cultural heritage sites of the Ister-Granum euroregion*

Identification	Origin (time)	Use	Current status (changes)	Ownership / management
<b>The Face of Water</b>				
The Small Danube promenade in Esztergom	1913 - it has been constructed as a promenade	Tourist attraction and public space	Status: medium (the utility infrastructure and the asphalt surface are in very bad shape) Changes: Partial renovation in the 1960s	Local municipality and the Regional Water Directorate
The Danubian promenade in Szob	1984	Tourist attraction and public space	Status: Good Changes: No changes	Local municipality
The Danubian promenade in Štúrovo	2007 (in its recent form)	Tourist attraction and public space	Status: Excellent Changes: No changes since 2007	Slovak State
<b>The Force of Water</b>				
The water mill in Nagyborzsöny	1847-1852	Tourist attraction (the mill wheel is out of use, the creek has been diverted)	Status: medium (the millwheel should be reanimated and some parts are needed to renovate) Changes: comprehensive renovation was made in 1980	Private entrepreneur
The water mill in Zalaba	1791	Out of use since the 1970s	Status: bad, the roof collapsed, the building is in ruins (in 2018, the walls were consolidated by a cornice made of concrete) Changes: gradual degradation	Local municipality
The water mill in Sikenička	1890	Out of use since the 1970s	Status: medium, the roof was renovated but the equipment is by and large stolen and the walls should be protected Changes: the mill was renovated twice, in 1917/18 and 1938. The roof was renovated in the 1990s in order to protect the building.	7 private owners (members of a family)



Identification	Origin (time)	Use	Current status (changes)	Ownership / management
The Millers' street in Esztergom	1898 (since then, the street is called Millers' street indicating the occupation of its residents) around 1820 (the last still existing miller's house was built then)	Public space	Status: the street is small and is not in a very good shape; the last miller's house is partly renovated and used as a tourist apartman Changes: the miller's house was renovated in the 2000s	Private owners and the local municipality
The Renaissance water machine in Esztergom	around 1490 (the original machine; the current one is a reconstruction from 2019)	Tourist attraction and knowledge sharing institution (museum)	Status: excellent (the water machine can be visited as the part of the reconstructed medieval water town) Changes: the reconstruction was completed in 2019	Private owner (Rosenberg Hungaria Ltd.)
The historic flood signs in Esztergom	1838 (this was the year of the devastating icy flood)	Signs of local memory	Status: good (the signs are protected renovated from time to time) Changes: no changes	The local municipality and private owners of the real estates where the signs are located
The historic flood signs in Štúrovo	1838 (this was the year of the devastating icy flood)	Signs of local memory	Status: 2 signs are still seen; their status is good Changes: no changes	Local municipality and private owners of the real estates where the signs are located
<b>The Spirit of Water</b>				
The Danube Museum in Esztergom	1973 (the historic building giving home to the museum was built in the 1730s; in 1838, during the icy flood, the building was used as the logistical centre of aid distribution)	Tourist attraction and knowledge sharing institution (museum)	Status: good (renovated in 2019) Changes: 1980: opening of the permanent exhibition of the museum 2001: reopening after reconstruction 2019: reopening after reconstruction	National Water Directorate of Hungary
The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény	1984 (the building of the museum was built in 1930)	Tourist attraction and knowledge sharing institution	Status: bad, the basement is degraded, cracks occurred on the walls, the building is too small for the whole collection Changes: no changes	Private person (the owner of the collection)
The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo	2004	Cultural project	Not relevant	Not relevant

Identification	Origin (time)	Use	Current status (changes)	Ownership / management
The Aquaphone project in Štúrovo and Esztergom	2006	Cultural event	Not relevant	Not relevant
The dim lamp water carnival of Esztergom	?	Cultural event	Not relevant	Not relevant
The Szikince festival in Kamenín, Pavlová, Sikenička and Zalaba (along the Szikince creek valley)	2006 (the first festival's year; 2008: construction of the outdoor stage in Sikenička and Zalaba; 2009: construction of the open stage in Pavlová)	Cultural event	Status: good Changes: no changes	Local municipalities
The Ramsar labelled Parížsky marshes in Gbelce	1966 (the largest bioreserve marshes in Slovakia, 184 hectares)	National nature reserve	Status: good (wooden observation towers) Changes: 1993 - renovation	Slovak State

## What heritage are we talking about? Infrastructure? Buildings? Landscapes? Non-tangible heritage?

In line with the heterogeneity of the three PILOTs, the heritage components are diverse. The first PILOT contains urban built heritage mostly connected to the tamed rivers (dams, flood protection constructions, public spaces, like promenades, cycle paths, ports, etc.). The second PILOT is mainly concentrating around particular buildings (mills, water machine, the miller's house) and emblems of local memory. While the third PILOT is rather about spiritual (non-tangible) heritage not without physical representation, like museums, performance sites, observation towers. Landscapes played outstanding role in the evolution of these sites and are still determining force in many cases (like the promenades, the Paris marshes and the festival).

## What is the situation of ownership of the land and the buildings? What is the proportion of publicly-owned versus privately-owned land and buildings? Are there conflicts regarding ownership?

The ownership conditions are very diverse and thus the list of the key players includes the state, local municipalities, private undertakings and physical persons. This diversity will undoubtedly create difficulties during the implementation of the planned developments, however, it can also be turned into an advantage if the stakeholders realize that though their different assets they can mutually support each other's projects and thus enlarge the overall effect of the developments

## What is the present function and use of land and buildings?

Some facilities are out of use (like the ruinous ) or even vacated, others are used in a suboptimal way (e.g. the promenades without direct access or the uncapitalised flood signs), further ones are used properly but need further developments (open stages, the navigation museum in Zebegény, etc.).

## What is the management condition of the site / buildings / infrastructures / landscapes? Who manages these assets?

The management (if any) can be classified along by the ownership conditions.

## What is the maintenance condition of the site? How long has it been unused, neglected, abandoned, degraded, polluted, etc.?

There are big differences between the sites regarding their physical status. The worst conditions characterise the unused water mills in Zalaba and Sikenička which are partly in ruins. The Miller's street in Esztergom is located beside of the town's wastewater lifting plants which is planned to be closed down. This change will open brand new opportunities for the development of the street.

Some sites are in (quite) good shape but need further interventions. It is the case with the water mill in Nagybörzsöny, the promenades in Štúrovo, Szob and Esztergom, the Paris marshes in Gbelce, the navigation museum in Zebegény (whose collection has expanded so vastly that the current building cannot house it anymore), the flood signs (which are not popularised). The open stage in Sikenčka should be renovated while in the case of Zalaba and Pavlová, the social premises are missing. The Island of Love in Kamenín is currently out of the festival's range due to the lack of any infrastructure. The Paris marshes are not popularised and presented through an exhibition at the moment. There is a need for a modern visitor centre.

Finally, there are cultural heritage sites which have excellent conditions: the renaissance water machine, the Danube Museum - both reconstructed and modernized in 2019.

*Table 2: Conditions of interventions*

Identification	Designation status	Existing plans	Restrictions	Risks
<b>The Face of Water</b>				
The Small Danube promenade in Esztergom	No, except for the medieval Turkish bath	Yes	The developments presuppose the construction of the flood protecting dam along the Danube	Property rights, lack of financial resources (serious risks)
The Danubian promenade in Szob	No	No	Lack of financial resources	Flood endangered territory (moderated risk)
The Danubian	No	Yes	Lack of financial	Different interests of the



Identification	Designation status	Existing plans	Restrictions	Risks
promenade in Štúrovo			resources; the ownership conditions	owners (serious risk)
<b>The Force of Water</b>				
The water mill in Nagybörzsöny	registered monument	Yes	The ownership conditions which make complicated to start reconstruction works	The ownership conditions (serious risk)
The water mill in Zalaba	No	No	Lack of financial resources	The building can collapse before the financial assistance arrives (moderated risk)
The water mill in Sikenička	registered monument	No	The building is owned by too many persons which hinders the reconstruction	Lack of consensus of the owners (serious risk)
The Millers' street in Esztergom	No	No	The wastewater lifting plant should be closed down and the environment should be developed accordingly	The development of the wastewater system will be delayed (serious risk)
The Renaissance water machine in Esztergom	registered monument	Completed development	Completed development	No risks
The historic flood signs in Esztergom	?	No	The diverse property conditions; lack of interest	Lack of interest on behalf of the owners and the authorities (moderated risk)
The historic flood signs in Štúrovo	?	No	lack of interest	Lack of interest on behalf of the owners and the authorities (moderated risk)

Identification	Designation status	Existing plans	Restrictions	Risks
<b>The Spirit of Water</b>				
The Danube Museum in Esztergom	Registered monument	Completed development, the regional exhibition can be developed	There is a need of an inventory of the shipping, fishing, reed cutting, etc. traditions and their materialised heritage	Complicated accessibility of the spiritual heritage, lack of human resources needed for collection project (serious risk)
The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény	No	No	In its current status, the building is not suitable anymore for exhibition purposes	Lack of suitable building within the euroregion (the movement of the museum to a farther region) (moderated risk) Lack of financial means needed for the construction of the new museum (serious risk)
The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo	Not relevant	Not relevant	The lack of interest on behalf of Esztergom	Termination of financial support (small risk)
The Aquaphone project in Štúrovo and Esztergom	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	Termination of financial support (small risk)
The dim lamp water carnival of Esztergom	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	No risk
The Szikince festival in Kamenín, Pavlová, Sikenička and Zalaba	Not relevant	No	Lack of financial resources (micro-settlements)	Lack of financing (moderated risk)
The Ramsar labelled Parížsky marshes in Gbelce	Ramsar label, National natural reserve	No	Lack of financial resources	Lack of financing (serious risk)

### Is there a specific planning designation of the site? Is it listed for conservation or does it have a (national/regional/local) monument designation)

The major part of the sites do not have designation. Exceptions are: the Ramsar labelled Paris marshes which is listed among the national natural reserves of the Slovak Republic; the watermills in Nagybörzsöny (nationwide protection) and Sikenička (nationwide protection), the building of the Danube Museum in Esztergom (nationwide protection), the medieval Turkish bath by the promenade in Esztergom (nationwide protection).



### **Are there restrictions on short term changes (e.g. managers or users of (part of) the buildings with long-term lease contracts)?**

Most often, the lack of financial resources and the complicated ownership conditions can hinder the realisation of the investments (being typical reasons of no change). There are few interventions which presuppose the realisation of further projects (e.g. the reconstruction of the promenade in Esztergom necessitates the construction of the flood protection dam along the main Danube; the re-animation of the Millers' street presupposes the termination of the wastewater lifting plant; the development of the navigation museum is impossible without the identification of a new site, etc.).

Another important factor is the raise of interest towards the different components of the PILOTs without which the Bridge Guard project cannot be expanded to Esztergom; the regional water exhibition cannot be inaugurated in the Danube Museum; and the flood sings cannot be made available through and interactive way.

## STEP 2: EXPLORING THE WATER-LINKED HERITAGE VALUES

### What is the significance of the site for the identity of the city and region?

The identification power of the sites is different. On the one hand, there are sites which are widely known, others are not but at local level. On the other hand, the various sites and events have different identification power. From this perspective, the Danube and the Mária Valéria bridge are the strongest identity creating factors within the region. Every initiative which is connected to these two factors have a strong echo on behalf of the regional society.

Local awareness characterises the water mill in Sikenička, the flood signs in Esztergom and Štúrovo.

Regionally known are the promenades, the water mills in Nagybörzsöny and Zalaba, the Navigation History Museum and the Szikince festival.

National or international awareness: renaissance water machine, the Danube Museum, the Bridge Guard project and the Aquaphone event, the dim lamp carnival and the Paris marshes.

At the same time, even the vast majority of the local population has no knowledge on the Millers' street in Esztergom.

Accordingly, the identification power is diverging case by case.

### What are the specific heritage value characteristics? For whom do they matter?

One of the most important experiences of the LSG meetings is that the stakeholders who are realising their own projects separately, easily find the common ground for joint and integrated initiatives. It means that these sites and events are primarily important for those running or being affected by the particular projects. At the same time, once the different project owners are convened to sit down around a table, the joint heritage is thematized and starts to matter to everyone.

Obviously, depending on the public awareness and identity creating power of the sites, the potential "audience" for whom they matter is different by size, nationality and geographic anchors.

### What is the specific relationship between heritage and water in the site? In how much does water constitute a potential damage or enriches the value?

#### Thematic connectivity

The three PILOT represent different approach to water. The Face of Water projects re-design and re-create the historic coexistence of the urban spaces and water. In each case, the historic ages have generated a particular relationship between the city and the water through the riverside. This riverside safeguards the imprints of these historic ages which will be re-defined through the re-animation of these promenades.



The Force of Water projects reflects the water as energy source and include initiatives targeting objects referring this phenomenon. If it is “tamed” and channeled by humans, this energy can be a source of creation providing flour for people of earlier ages or maybe electricity for the modern man. However, if it is left unattended it can cause chaos and destruction about which the flood signs are eternal mementos.

The Spirit of Water PILOT contains projects which represent the spiritual interpretation of the influence that water has on the life of human beings. This again can be understood in a dual manner: it can be connected to everyday bread-earning activities (such as reed cutting, fishing or shipping) or to distinguished moments of life such as practicing traditions or celebrating at festivities.

The synergy of the three PILOTs creates a new narrative on water which has not been thematized so far at euroregional level.

### Physical connections

In the case of the Face of Water PILOT, the starting point consists of the will of protection against flood. However, this protection means humanisation of the riverside and the creation of a “peaceful” coexistence with water. This approach creates those cultural landscapes which are in the focus of the interventions. Flood is referred also in the case of the historic flood signs and the permanent exhibition of the Danube Museum.

In all other cases, water enriches cultural values.

### What is the current approach to heritage in the area by the local government and heritage related agencies (including interest groups)?

When speaking to the project owners, they have diverse motivations regarding their development plans. There are some, who consider important to safeguard the historic buildings, not to let them be ruined (TO SAVE). The majority of the stakeholders expect the development of the tourist arrivals from the re-development activities (TO ATTRACT). Finally, others intend to enlarge the functions and services of the municipality (TO OFFER). Most commonly, these three different approaches are present in the re-developments with different weight. When improving the face of water, we primarily offer new facilities to the dwellers but, at the same time, we improve the tourist attractiveness of the city and we save the historic values. When demonstrating the force of water through the reconstruction of old water mills and the animation of flood signs, in parallel, we offer new facilities to the local population and we attract tourists, and so on.

It is a common experience that the local municipalities and the interest groups hardly disconnect these three factors when starting development projects.

### **Is there awareness (and approval) towards new heritage approaches considering heritage values as a vector for development and transformation of the sites?**

The openness is not missing - rather the best practice examples from which the stakeholders can learn and gather good ideas. E.g., according to the plans, in Zalaba (which is the second smallest settlement of the euroregion), the wheel of the water mill to be renovated will be used for generating electricity. The promenade project in Esztergom will form part of a larger urban renovation program including the development of a monumental bath (including the first indoor swimming pool and one of the oldest Hotels of Hungary); investments in leisure infrastructure; the construction of a multi-functional cultural centre and the renovation of a brownfield zone where a creative industrial hub is planned to be set. The new promenade will represent the backbone of all these investments which will re-formulate the relationship of the local citizens and the Danube. In the case of Štúrovo, the bridge guard house which was ruined during the WW2 will be re-thought and re-constructed through a modern building which will ensure the gallery for the Bridge Guards' exhibitions and a café. In parallel, the tower will provide the connection between the promenade and the bridge.

To sum up, there are innovative approaches to cultural heritage in relation with the transformation of the sites. At the same time, there is a need to share more examples among the local stakeholders.

### **Is there awareness (and approval) towards innovative heritage approaches speaking to the imagination of people through art?**

These approaches are mainly present in the case of the artistic projects of the Bridge Guard and the Aquaphone. The first one attracts artists from different parts of the world who are commissioned to provide a kind of interpretation of bridges, borders and communication, during their internship. The 3 to 6 months long internships result in performances, works of fine arts or literature. The latter project refers to the historic period following the WW2 when the relatives living on two banks of the Danube could not meet each other, and therefore they went to the Danube at silent nights and spoke to each other through the water surface. Thanks to the Aquaphone project, each year there is a unique performance on the two banks of the river including a literary text written by one of the leader Hungarian / Slovak writers; and music. These two initiatives are about the postmodern re-interpretation of space and time at the border and reflects to imaginative realities related to water.

### **Is there a specific approach to water-linked heritage? Are (water-linked) heritage values recognised in planning and policies? Is it needed? If not, why? (need to emphasise those values in the vision and action plans).**

All in all, water-based cultural heritage does not represent a constituting factor when designing new developments within the euroregion. The current project could thus have the mission to bring attention and to raise awareness on the richness of the region in these terms. The references on heritage are sporadic and accidental - notwithstanding the Danube Museum which provides an encyclopedic synthesis on everything which is connected to water - but without a euroregional





territorial focus. The main shortcomings can be detected in the disconnectivity of these two factors: water-based heritage and regional scope. The three PILOTs are expected to create this missing linkage.

## STEP 3: EXPLORING THE POLICY CONTEXT

Inherently to the unique situation of the Ister-Granum euroregion incorporating two countries, the exploration of the policy context had to be carried out both in Slovakia and in Hungary simultaneously. In order to present the findings the most comprehensible and yet clear way possible, first country by country three general questions will be answered: (1) what are the main existing planning laws, regulations and policies related to a potential redevelopment of the selected sites, (2) Is there a specific place for water-linked heritage in these policies and (3) What are the main restrictions and incentives for redevelopment in the regulations, laws or policies? This will be followed by a short thematic overview of the policy situation as well as a synthesis of potential funds.

**What are the existing planning laws, regulations and policies related to a potential redevelopment of the selected site, at national, regional and local level? (e.g. those related to water resources management, flood risk mitigation, climate change adaptation, environmental protection, among others)**

**In Slovakia** it is the Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the Protection of Cultural Heritage (91/2001 Z.z. uznesenie Národnej Rady SR<sup>1</sup>) that identifies the meaning of 'cultural heritage'. According to article 1, *'Cultural heritage is an irreplaceable wealth of the state and its citizens, it is an evidence of the development of society, philosophy, religion, science, technology, art, being a document of educational and cultural level of the Slovak nation, other nations, national minorities, ethnic groups and individuals who live or lived on the territory of Slovakia.'*

Articles 1-3 express that cultural heritage involves tangible and intangible values, where the former means (especially) archival documents regardless of how information was/is recorded, historical library documents and collections, works of literature, scenography, cinematography, television and audio-visual works, museum and gallery collections, works of art, applied arts and folk art, design, architectural objects, urban sets, archaeological finds and sites, folk architecture objects, monuments, science and technology, historical gardens, parks and cultural landscape. While, the latter means (especially) linguistic and literary expressions disseminated orally, works of dramatic, musical and dance, customs and traditions, historical events, geographical, cadastral and location names.

Moreover, the National Sustainable Development Strategy<sup>2</sup> (accepted in 2001) continues the definition of cultural heritage. It underlines that cultural heritage involves issues far beyond built environment, namely history of nation, state, region, municipality. Spiritual values are fundamental prerequisites for stable, non-deformed cultural consciousness. The strategy expresses that protection of cultural heritage and natural heritage are becoming closer, hence there is a need for

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2001/91/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.minzp.sk/files/dokumenty/strategicke-dokumenty/narodna-strategia-trvalo-udrzatelneho-rozvoja.pdf>



coordination of activities between the two. Close relationship of cultural and natural heritage is also underlined in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, namely article 44 (2) and (3)<sup>3</sup> state *"Everyone shall have a duty to protect and improve the environment and to foster cultural heritage. No one shall imperil or damage the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage beyond the limits laid down by a law."*

The notion of cultural-historical heritage becomes part of the concept of territorial development of Slovakia<sup>4</sup>, article 9 (2) c) writes, *'principles of territorial development guidelines with the aim of creating equal living conditions throughout the Slovak Republic and creating territorial conditions for improving the environment, ensuring ecological stability, preserving the cultural-historical heritage and for sustainable development.'* This means a significant 'symbiosis' of two ministries (Ministry of Environment of SR Ministry of Culture SR) aiming to create appropriate legal regulations and conditions for the protection of the heritage fund and care of the environment and landscape.

Another important legal act is on protecting of monument fund – Zákon č. 49/2002 Z. z. o ochrane pamiatkového fondu<sup>5</sup> – which deals with the issue of cultural monuments, heritage areas, archaeological findings and archaeological sites in accordance with scientific knowledge and on the basis of international treaties on the field of European and world cultural heritage. However, this legal act does not enclose many details about environmental heritage.

Furthermore, the Slovak legal system identifies the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage as an important point of departure in the domain of cultural and environmental heritage, which was accepted by the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic in 1991<sup>6</sup>.

**In Hungary**, the issue of cultural heritage is similarly highlighted; its role and protection appears in the Constitution of Hungary. To be more specific, *"We commit to promoting and safeguarding our heritage, our unique language, Hungarian culture, the languages and cultures of nationalities living in Hungary, along with all man-made and natural assets of the Carpathian Basin. We bear responsibility for our descendants; therefore we shall protect the living conditions of future generations by making prudent use of our material, intellectual and natural resources."* The Constitution continues it with article P (1), *"natural resources, in particular arable land, forests and the reserves of water, biodiversity, in particular native plant and animal species, as well as cultural assets shall form the common heritage of the nation; it shall be the obligation of the State and everyone to protect and maintain them, and to preserve them for future generations."*

Moreover, two other legal acts are relevant in the domain of cultural heritage in Hungary. One is the legal act on the protection of cultural heritage – 2001. évi LXIV. törvény a kulturális örökség védelméről<sup>7</sup>, while the second one is the government decree concerning the rules of protection of cultural heritage – 68/2018. (IV. 9.) Korm. rendelet a kulturális örökség védelmével kapcsolatos szabályokról<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.prezident.sk/upload-files/46422.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2000/237/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2002-49#cast1>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/1991/159/#prilohy.priloha-1.op-skupinaElementov i definicia kulturneho a prirodneho dedicstva.op-clanok 2>

<sup>7</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0100064.tv>

<sup>8</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=A1800068.KOR>

The former legal act expresses that cultural heritage is an irreplaceable, unique and non-renewable source of Hungary's present and past, it is an integral part of national and universal culture. It aims to set up legal conditions for the exploration, research, preservation, protection, sustainable use and making available of the accumulated cultural heritage.

Article 3 expresses that public and private development, spatial and urban planning and development, environmental, nature and landscape protection and the related investment have to be implemented in accordance with the protection of the cultural heritage.

Article 4 (1) defines the basic meaning of cultural heritage, namely it involves the common spiritual values of the nation as a whole; therefore, it is the duty of everyone to protect it. Endangering, damaging, destroying or falsifying of cultural heritage is prohibited. Subsequently, the article continues (2) that the elements of cultural heritage should be explored, registered, evaluated, preserved and made them accessible to future generations. Moreover, article 5 (2) of the legal act mentions the Hungarian cultural heritage beyond the borders, specifically, in order to protect those cultural heritage beyond the current borders, there is a need for international cooperation and use of international treaties for this.

The legal act gives detailed description of the activities that relate to cultural heritage, like archaeology, protection of monuments, cultural goods and memorial sites, heritage award and procedural rules.

The latter legal act defines the roles and the relating tasks [article 1 a)] of the involved authorities and institutions within the protection of cultural heritage; b) rules for registering cultural heritage; c) rules for announcing the registered archaeological site and the monuments as protected; d) conditions of archaeological research and investments; e) requirements and the rules of exploration and protection of monuments; f) rules for protecting cultural heritage and monuments.

The legal act involves and defines (article 2) actions in the domain of cultural heritage, like aesthetic restoration, conservation, preventive conservation, archaeological excavations, restoration and other issues regarding territory of cultural heritage.

## Is there a specific place for water-linked heritage in these policies?

**In Slovakia** the water-related legal act (Zákon č. 364/2004 Z. z. Zákon o vodách a o zmene zákona Slovenskej národnej rady č. 372/1990 Zb. o priestupkoch v znení neskorších predpisov (vodný zákon) can be considered as one of the most important legal act on water issues and water management.

In this question, there are two relevant legal acts. One is the legal act on water (Zákon č. 364/2004 Z. z.<sup>9</sup>) that underlines [article 18 (5)] that the general use of water resources must not jeopardize or deteriorate quality or health integrity of water, damage the environment and its natural heritage. This legal act mainly deals with the protection, monitoring, management of water resources.

Another one is the legal act on flood protection (Zákon č. 7/2010 Z. z. o ochrane pred povodňami<sup>10</sup>) which notes in the article 3 (1) that *'flood protection activities aim to reduce flood risk*

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-364>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2010-7>



*in flood-prone areas, prevent floods caused by floods and mitigate the adverse effects of floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.'* This legal act mainly deals with the issue of flood prevention.

However, there is no explicit water-linked heritage notions in these policies, only notions on protection of water – natural heritage – and flood prevention. Subsequently, these legal act affect the given issue only through indirect way.

On the Hungarian side also several legal acts can be mentioned in this domain. One of the most important is the legal act that regulates flood protection, namely 10/1997. (VII. 17.) KHVM rendelet az árvíz- és a belvízvédkezésről<sup>11</sup>. This legal act defines the stages and plans of protection, equipment, organisation, flood preventive exercises and the levels of flood prevention readiness.

Another relevant legal act is the Government Decree on protecting surface water quality – 220/2004. (VII. 21.) Korm. rendelet a felszíni vizek minősége védelmének szabályairól<sup>12</sup>. The principal aim of this legal act is to define the protection, improvement, achievement and maintenance of surface water quality; moreover, to protect human health and environment, and to prevent and reduce pollution of water, to ensure the conditions which are necessary for the survival of terrestrial habitats and organisms.

The third relevant legal act is the law on water management – 1995. évi LVII. törvény a vízgazdálkodásról<sup>13</sup>. This legal act (article 1) involves a) groundwater and surface water, natural aquifers of groundwater and river-bed of surface water; b-c) facilities and activities which affect or may alter the quantity, quality of the river flow, moreover, affects river-bed and shores of groundwater; d) water utilization, conservation and management of water resources; e) measuring, collecting, processing, supplying and utilizing data on waters and the exploration of their status; f) protection against water damages. Water facilities are more specified in article 2 ab), namely water installations and facilities, or their products, which may cause pollution on water are also regulated by the legal act.

However, these legal acts - similar to the Slovakian case - do not directly mention the notion of cultural heritage in the realm of water resources and flood protection.

## **What are the main restrictions and incentives for redevelopment in the regulations, laws or policies?**

In Slovakia at this point, the main legal approach (if we take the issue of restriction) is the protection of the existing environment and its current condition from any environmental deterioration and to prevent serious economic exploitation.

The Constitution of the Slovak Republic writes in the article 44 (3), "No one shall imperil or damage the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage beyond the limits laid down by a law." and (4) "The State shall care for economical exploitation of natural resources, for ecological balance and

<sup>11</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99700010.khv>

<sup>12</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0400220.kor>

<sup>13</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99500057.tv>

on effective environmental policy, and shall secure protection of determined sorts of wild plants and wild animals.”

Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the Protection of Cultural Heritage (91/2001 Z.z. uznesenie Národnej Rady SR) expresses in its article 4 (1) that 'cultural heritage can only be protected, managed and utilised in accordance with its physical condition, historical and cultural qualities, including environmental values, so as to prevent, as far as possible, its physical deterioration, damage, theft or destruction.'

Legal act on nature and landscape protection (Zákon č. 543/2002 Z. z. Zákon o ochrane prírody a krajiny<sup>14</sup>) expresses in the article 3 (2) that 'important landscape element can only be used in such a way that its condition is not disturbed and its ecological stabilization function is not endangered or weakened.' The legal act continues in the same article, (3) that 'entrepreneurs and legal entities who intend to carry out an activity that may endanger or disrupt the territorial system of ecological stability shall at the same time propose measures that will contribute to its maintenance'; however, when entrepreneurs and legal entities interfere into the ecosystem (4) they are obliged, at their own expense, to take measures with the aim to prevent and reduce damage and destruction. Interference into the landscape and biodiversity should be already indicated (5) in the proposals of projects, programs, plans and other prepared documentation.

This path of protecting the existing environment is also reflected by the definition of territorial development by the National Council of the Slovak Republic, 'development that sustainably satisfies the basic living needs of people in the country, while not reducing its diversity, ensuring optimal spatial arrangement and functional land use, environmental security and resilience of buildings and facilities, creating and maintaining a territorial system of ecological stability, sparing use of natural resources, protection of the natural and cultural heritage'<sup>15</sup>.

**On the Hungarian side**, at this level, the government decree concerning the rules of protection of cultural heritage – 68/2018. (IV. 9.) Korm. rendelet a kulturális örökség védelmével kapcsolatos szabályokról – is relevant. This decree principally works with the rules of protection of cultural heritage. Article 43 of the decree expresses that in case of bigger investments, there is (2-3) a need for archaeological tasks. Furthermore, article 56 expresses that (1) the cultural heritage and its physical structure have to be preserved and in case of protection, or restauration, original materials, structure, form have to be fully respected. (2) During the restoration process, it is necessary to ensure scientific and research based (aesthetic) restoration and renovation.

Article 60 continues the conditions which are required in case of restauration of the cultural heritage, specifically, (1) the monument can be restored only by relevant restorer, (2) restoration can be done only to the extent necessary and justified, and (4) need for documentation.

The legal act on the protection of cultural heritage – 2001. évi LXIV. törvény a kulturális örökség védelméről also can be mentioned, namely article 3 that expresses that the investments have to be done in agreement with the protection of cultural heritage; article 4 defines the duty of everybody to protect and care about cultural heritage; and the article 43 (5) of the 2001. évi LXIV. törvény a kulturális örökség védelméről defines the restoration processes, namely (5a) underlines that

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/543/vyhlase-ne-znenie.html#pozn-amky.poznamka-10>

<sup>15</sup> [https://hpur.vlada.gov.sk/data/files/5636\\_narodna-strategia-trvalo-udrzatelneho-rozvoja.pdf](https://hpur.vlada.gov.sk/data/files/5636_narodna-strategia-trvalo-udrzatelneho-rozvoja.pdf)

restoration cannot cause any damage and (5c) defines the conditions of demolishing certain parts of protected monuments.

Moreover, the Constitution can be mentioned, too. Article 38 (1) says that the purpose of managing and protecting national property is to serve the public interest, to meet common needs and to conserve natural resources, and to take into account the needs of future generations.

Government Decree on the sites with European Community importance for nature conservation – 275/2004. (X. 8.) Korm. Rendelet az európai közösségi jelentőségű természetvédelmi rendeltetésű területekről<sup>16</sup> – contains restrictions from environmental point of view and it identifies the Natura 2000 sites. Specifically, article 8 (2) expresses that it is forbidden to carry out any activity or investment, which might hinder the implementation of site conservation, without permission in any Natura 2000 site that is not a protected area.

One more aspect needs to be mentioned and it is involved within the legal act on forming and protecting the built environment – 1997. évi LXXVIII. Törvény az épített környezet alakításáról és védelméről<sup>17</sup>. Article 31 (5) expresses that particular attention shall be paid during to the protection of the townscape, architectural feature and sight of the townscape, local character and the protected values of the built heritage during construction, alteration, extension, renovation and restoration of the structure that might influence the appearance of the given building, What is more, article 57 (2) underlines that it is the responsibility of the municipality to identify, declare, protect, preserve and develop the local architectural heritage. National territorial heritage protection does not affect the scope of local specific protection on some estates.

## Legal act relating to watermill

### Slovakia:

The main legal act on protecting cultural heritage is the legal act on monument fund and its protection – Zákon č. 49/2002 Z. z. o ochrane pamiatkového fondu. This legal act aims to regulate the conditions of protecting cultural monuments. Article 2 (7) says that protection is a sum of activities and measures that aim to identify, register, research, conserve, restore and use of cultural monuments and heritage sites.

According to the article 28 (1) a), owner of cultural monument can ask the authority (The Monument Board of the Slovak Republic), for free of charge, to provide professional and methodical assistance in matters of cultural heritage protection; while point b) writes that the owner of the cultural monument (site) can apply for a financial contribution from the municipality or from the Ministry in order to grant state aid and to preserve the heritage value of the monument. Applying for state grant is noticed in the legal act of state aid – 231/1999 Z.z. ZÁKON o štátnej pomoci<sup>18</sup> – in article 4 (1) c) expressing that state aid can be approved for supporting

<sup>16</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0400275.kor>

<sup>17</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99700078.tv>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.noveaspi.sk/products/lawText/1/48165/1/2/zakon-c-231-1999-zz-o-statnej-pomoci>



culture and protecting of cultural heritage, and if this support does not affect the conditions of trade in an extent that it could be in disagreement with the interests of the common market.

State aid can be given [article 4 (2)] for a) development of regions; e) environment; f) for small or medium-sized enterprise; or n) other type of support if the Council decides in that way.

The legal act on protecting monument fund describes the possibilities of the owner of specific cultural heritage/monument [article 28 (2)], for example b) using the cultural monument in accordance with its heritage value.

Moreover, the legal act differentiates between renewal (article 32) and restoration (article 33). The former notes (2) that the owner can do the restoration only on the basis of a previous decision of the given authority; need to (3) submit the intent for renewal. The latter expresses that restoration (1) is a special type of renewal that can be prepared (2) only on the basis of the existing agreement of the authority. The two articles (32 and 33) express further detailed information and requirements on renewal and restoration, which are not presented here.

The article 34 contains the notions of state and municipality aid. It expresses that if the owner (1) is unable to pay for the renewal or restoration, there is a possibility to apply for municipality and state aid. For support (2) there is a need for decision of the authority of monumental fund, opinion of the municipality and the reason why the municipality denied financial support to it. Moreover, (5) state can provide indirect assistance to the owner of a cultural monument under special regulations, like selling of real estate/property of state or municipality at a price below the market price, and providing consultation services free of charge or for partial payment [referring to the legal act of 231/1999 Z. z., article 5 (2) c) and d)].

### Hungary:

Legal issues relating to water mills are linked with the question of renovation and restoration. Both legal acts write about the processes of restoration and contain the necessary measures to be taken. Specific measures of renovation are enumerated in the second article of 68/2018. (IV. 9.) Korm. rendelet a kulturális örökség védelmével kapcsolatos szabályokról. Measures involve actions, like aesthetic restoration, conservation, preventive conservation, archaeological excavations, restoration and other issues regarding territory of cultural heritage. Moreover, article 43 (5) of the 2001. évi LXIV. törvény a kulturális örökség védelméről defines the restoration of protected monuments, specifically, (5a) restoration cannot cause any damage, (5c) defines the conditions of demolishing certain parts of protected monuments.

### Legal act relating to the aquaphone project and Szikince festival

#### Slovakia:

Public cultural events are regulated by the legal act of 96/1991 Zb. o verejných kultúrnych podujatiach<sup>19</sup>. The article 1 (1) identifies those public cultural events which are regulated by it, namely a) theatrical, film and other audio-visual performances; b) concerts, music and dance productions; c) exhibitions of art works; d) festivals and shows in the field of culture and art; e)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/1991/96/20140101>

dance and other social entertainment events. Moreover, the legal act identifies the obligations of the organizers (article 3), like the need to inform the municipality about the event, and the legal measures of the municipality (article 5), like supervision or the right to ban the event.

### Hungary:

Public cultural events are regulated by the legal act on dance and music events – 23/2011. (III. 8.) Korm. rendelet a zenés, táncos rendezvények működésének biztonságosabbá tételéről<sup>[1]</sup>. This legal act [article 1 (1) b)] regulates occasional and regular music and dance (public – and not private) events if the number of visitors of the outdoor event goes above 1000 participants. It says that these events need an event permission, and the further related requirements of the permission are presented in articles 3-7. Furthermore, the legal act regulates issues, like questions and obligations related to security measures, obligations of the organizers and control mechanisms related to public events.

## Legal act relating to fishing and shipping traditions

### Slovakia:

Economic approach of fishing, its protection and sustainability are regulated by several legislative acts in the Slovak Republic. The most important ones are the followings, the legal act of 139/2002 Z. z. o rybárstve<sup>20</sup> and the 216/2018 Z. z. o rybárstve a o doplnení zákona č. 455/1991 Zb. o živnostenskom podnikaní (živnostenský zákon) v znení neskorších predpisov<sup>21</sup>. They regulate [139/2002 Z. z., article 1 (1) and 216/2018 Z. z., article 1] the conditions of activities of fishing, like protection, breeding and hunting of fish stock and other aquatic organisms, and they aim to protect the aquatic ecosystem of the country. Moreover, they regulate the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities who use water sources for fishing. One of differences is that the former legal act is not applied for water areas which are smaller than 25m<sup>2</sup>, while the latter legal act is not applied for water areas which are smaller than 100m<sup>2</sup>.

Moreover, the legal act on museums, galleries and on the protection of cultural objects – 206/2009 Z. z. o múzeách a o galériách a o ochrane predmetov kultúrnej hodnoty a o zmene zákona Slovenskej národnej rady č. 372/1990 Zb. o priestupkoch v znení neskorších predpisov<sup>22</sup> – can appear also as an important one in case of preserving and presenting fishing traditions. This legal act [article 1 (1)] mainly regulates the tasks of museums and galleries, their establishment and abolition, the conditions for performing basic professional activities in the museum and the gallery, protection and presentation of cultural objects as part of the cultural heritage.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2002/139/20180901>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2018/216/20190101>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2009/206/20190211#poznanky.poznamka-1>

Another relevant legal act might be on registration conditions, distribution and preservation of audio-visual works, multimedia works and sound recordings of artistic performances – 343/2007 Z. z. o podmienkach evidencie, verejného šírenia a uchovávaní audiovizuálnych diel, multimediálnych diel a zvukových záznamov umeleckých výkonov a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov (audiovizuálny zákon)<sup>23</sup>. It describes the obligations and possibilities which are related to the production, distribution and registration of audio-visual works (if fishing traditions are processed through audio-visual methods).

### Hungary:

The matter of fishing in Hungary is regulated by the legal act on fish farming and fish protection – 2013. évi CII. törvény a halgazdálkodásról és a hal védelméről<sup>24</sup> – specifically, article 1 (1) says that it regulates the conditions of fishing, protection of the habitat, aquaculture, fish farms; moreover, it defines the rights and obligations of fish farms and the conditions of trade in fish and fish products.

Another legal act relating to fishing is the regulation that establishes certain rules on fish management and protection of fish – 133/2013. (XII. 29.) VM rendelet a halgazdálkodás és a halvédelem egyes szabályainak megállapításáról<sup>25</sup>. It regulates (article 1) the conditions and accessories of fishing, like the use of nets, size of the fish, conditions of being a fisherman, ecological selective fishing and many other issues that relate to fishing activity. Furthermore, it regulates the living environment and protection of fish stock, conditions for registering the fish farms and the necessary documents that are needed for the fishing activity.

Shipping is regulated by the regulation of 2000. évi XLII. törvény a víziközlekedésről<sup>26</sup>. It describes [article 1 (1)] the activities of shipping [a) – b)], boating [c)] and it regulates [article 1 (2)] shipping with Hungarian flag outside of the Hungarian borders and shipping with non-Hungarian flag in Hungary. This law specifies the issues on the role of state, shipping management, role and activity of the experts, boat/ship registration, state affiliation and state flag.

These legal acts regulate fishing and shipping issues; nevertheless, they do not explicitly work with the issue of cultural heritage and its linkage with fishing and shipping.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2007/343/20150101>

<sup>24</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a1300102.tv>

<sup>25</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a1300133.vm>

<sup>26</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0000042.tv>



## What is the availability of public funding for the preparation and implementation of development projects?

Due to the lack of information regarding the next programming period's operational programmes, we had to concentrate on those funds targeted the relevant thematic fields during the current period. These possibilities are summarised in the table below.

Programme	Priority area	Specific objective	Eligible activities	Eligible applicants
LIFE Programme 2014-2020	Environment and resource efficiency sub-programme	Water, including the marine environment	Implementation of flood and/or drought risk management actions Projects addressing hydro morphological pressures Implementation of water saving measures	public body operating under a national government's authority; private commercial organisation private non-commercial organisation (NGOs)
Interreg V-A Slovakia - Hungary Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020	PA1 Nature and culture	SO11 To increase the attractiveness of the border area.	Maintaining and promoting natural heritage in the programme area (e.g. such as floodplain restoration, wetlands, renaturalising rivers and river banks; Design cross border action plans, set up models and test pilot actions; Developing small scale quality tourism linked to local environmental or cultural features for SMEs; Joint development of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross border infrastructure for eco-tourism.	Public institutions; Private institutions serving public interests; State owned companies; Churches; EGTC; NGOs; Development agencies; Municipalities, county municipalities; Universities and research institutes; Chambers; Organizations set up by special law, providing public services ; SMEs.
	PA4 Institutional and people to people cooperation	SO41 Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens	organization of cultural events, performances, festivals; launching of exchange programmes in the field of culture, education, professional life, research; organization of trainings, summer schools, summer academies, competitions; creation of common artworks, movies, theatrical performances; publishing brochures, books, booklets, DVDs; launching of TV or radio	Public institutions; Private institutions serving public interests; State owned companies; Churches; EGTC; NGOs; Development agencies; Municipalities, county municipalities; Universities and research institutes; Chambers; Organizations set up by special law, providing public services ; SMEs.



Programme	Priority area	Specific objective	Eligible activities	Eligible applicants
			programmes;	

Programme	Priority area	Specific objective	Eligible activities	Eligible applicants
Hungary				
Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme 2014-2020 (STDOP)	1. Creating local conditions to boost economic growth and increase employment	1.B Unlocking the endogenous territorial potential of tourism for employment	sustainable development and networking of regional and local cultural and natural heritage sites improvement of the accessibility of the cultural and natural heritage sites	local authorities and their enterprises, NGOs, churches
Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme 2014-2020 (STDOP)	2. Enterprise friendly and population preserving urban development	2. Enhancement of business activities and population retention capacity through settlement development measures	climate friendly and liveable cities: increase and development of green areas and the related infrastructure youth and family friendly cities: development of recreational and community sites and infrastructure	local authorities and their enterprises, operators of water bodies and infrastructures, water management organizations, NGOs, churches
Competitive Central-Hungary Operational Programme 2014-2020 (CCHOP)	4. Tourism and environmental developments	4.1 Increasing the spending of tourists at cultural and natural sites	sustainable tourism network developments genuinely presenting cultural and natural values	public authorities and their institutions, NGOs, churches, enterprises
Competitive Central-Hungary Operational Programme 2014-2020 (CCHOP)	4. Tourism and environmental developments	4.2 Development of protected natural values and sites of community interest in order to create the conditions for their long-term conservation	green infrastructure development in the territorially relevant Natura2000 network	national parks, water management bodies, NGOs, local authorities
Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme 2014-2020 (EEOP)	1. Adapting to the effects of climate change	1. Improve the conditions of protection against flood damage	development of flood protection infrastructure	water management bodies, local authorities
Bethlen Gábor Fund	-	-	cultural and training programs infrastructure and real estate investments for supporting the community	NGOs, local authorities, public institutions, minority self-governments and their institutions, SMEs, churches seated in Slovakia



Programme	Priority area	Specific objective	Eligible activities	Eligible applicants
<b>Slovakia</b>				
Integrated Regional Operational Program 2014-2020 (IROP)	Mobilization of creative potentials in regions	Promoting employment-friendly growth by developing internal potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancing accessibility and development of specific natural and cultural resources	conversion of not used or improperly used cultural heritage or cultural infrastructure with the aim of utilizing endogenous resources; digitalisation of cultural heritage; protection and development of cultural and natural heritage and maintenance of biodiversity; awareness of cultural heritage and protection of natural resources; making urban and rural settlements more attractive; building an ecosystem of creative economy; achieving cooperation within local production systems	citizens (mainly with creative orientation and education), students, small and medium enterprises, NGOs, state and public institutions, municipalities
Quality of the Environment Operational Program 2014-2020 (QEOP)	Adaptation to the adverse consequences of climate change with focus on flood protection	Reducing the risk of floods and the negative effects of climate change; promoting investment in adapting to climate change, including ecosystem approaches	Increased level of adaptation to climate change with a focus on flood protection: integrated and comprehensive flood protection - reduction of the negative consequences for human health, environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.	central administration institutions, state-public institutions implementing water management, lessee of small watercourses, associations, NGOs, natural and/or legal persons (conducting business and/or promoting environmental protection), Slovak Environment Agency, foundations in the field of environmental creation and protection
Integrated Infrastructure Operational Program 2014-2020 (IIOP)	Information society	Increasing cyber security within the society	Implementation of high-value-added services, including activities to promote the creative industry and making accessible cultural heritage through digitalisation	juridical person (e.g. state and public institutions, legal entities of state, municipalities or higher territorial units), joint-stock companies, associations (e.g. unions, clubs, guilds)

## Resource map

The table below summarises different funding opportunities by each of the PILOT projects.

	LIFE	SK-HU		HU STDOP		HU CCHOP		HU EEOP	Bethlen Gábor Fund	SK IROP	SK QEOP	SK IIOP
		PA1	PA4	1	2	4.1	4.2					
The Face of Water												
The Small Danube promenade in Esztergom	x	x		x	x			x				
The Danubian promenade in Szob	x	x		x	x		x	x				
The Danubian promenade in Štúrovo	x	x									x	
The force of the water												
The water mill in Nagyborzsöny		x		x		x						
The water mill in Zalaba		x								x		
The water mill in Sikenička		x								x		
The Millers’ street in Esztergom		x		x		x						
The renaissance water machine in Esztergom	x			x								
The historic flood signs in Esztergom		x	x									
The historic flood signs in Štúrovo		x	x						x			
The Spirit of Water												
The Danube Museum in Esztergom		x		x								
The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény		x		x		x						
The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo			x	x								
The Aquaphone			x						x			

	LIFE	SK-HU	HU STDOP	HU CCHOP	HU	Bethlen	SK	SK	SK
project in Štúrovo and Esztergom									
The dim lamp water carnival of Esztergom			x						
Szikince festival			x						
The Ramsar labelled Parížsky marshes in Gbelce			x			x			x

### Do the policies allow to use value capture or other instruments to fund redevelopment projects?

Usually, the European funds do not prefer the profit making from their subsidies. The cultural nature of the heritage sites limit the involvement of private funding due to the weak profitability of cultural investments. When planning the implementation of the three PILOTs one should limit on public funding and calls.



## STEP 4: IDENTIFYING EXISTING STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SITE

### What are the main reasons for redevelopment?

*Table 3: The reasons and motivation of the re-development projects*

Identification	Reasons for development
The Small Danube promenade in Esztergom	Since the last decades, the downtown of Esztergom has undergone remarkable degradation. At the same time, the renovation of the Small Danube promenade was hindered by the lack of the flood protection dam. As a consequence, the flood regularly overflows the island and endangers the promenade. With the financial assistance of the European Union, the dam is planned to be constructed during the next programming period which enables the local municipality to comprehensively renovate the downtown, including the promenade. The planned investments offer the opportunity to re-design the town's relationship with the Danube.
The Danubian promenade in Szob	Szob is one of the smallest towns in Hungary which keeps trying to attract new dwellers, and, for this purpose, to improve the attractiveness of the settlement. This attractiveness cannot be improved without the re-formulation of the relation between the town and the Danube.
The Danubian promenade in Štúrovo	Štúrovo has a picturesque riverside from where the panorama of Esztergom is wonderful. However, the promenade is divided into two parts by the Mária Valéria bridge connecting the twin-towns. The completion of the promenade necessitates the construction of the new bridge-guard tower and the renovation of the western part of the promenade.
The water mill in Nagybörzsöny	The water mill is one of the several tourist attractions (medieval churches, museum of gold miners, narrow gauge railway, etc.) of the municipality which is frequented by families. At the same time, the museum would be much more attractive and lively if the wheel was movable. For this purpose, the creek should be redirected to the mill. This way, the municipality would increase the number of the visitors.
The water mill in Zalaba	The Szikince valley was previously characterised by many water mills. As of today, the majority of these mills either disappeared or changed function. In Zalaba, during the last decade, the environment of the old water mill has been re-newed (the church has been renovated and an open-air cultural centre with a stage was built). The municipality bought the ruinous mill building in order to re-animate it and to complete the settlement development project along the creek.
The water mill in Sikenička	20 years ago the water mill in Sikenička was in the best shape from among the still remained mills along by the Szikince creek: its complete equipment was safeguarded in its integrity. What is more, the roof has been repaired from state subsidies. Unfortunately, for the time being,

Identification	Reasons for development
	almost every piece was stolen and the building is being further degraded. Now, there is a serious risk of its irreversible disappearance. Before it is entirely lost, it should be protected.
The Millers' street in Esztergom	200 years ago, several water mills and shipmills were functioning in Esztergom and a whole street was inhabited by millers. Today, the millers' houses disappeared from the cities, except for the last one which is used as a tourist accommodation. This is the last moment to save the memory of the millers in the city.
The renaissance water machine in Esztergom	The machine has a unique structure by which in the middle ages the drinkable water was lifted from Watertown to the Citadelle of Esztergom. The reconstruction of the machine was completed in 2019 and it is possible to visit ever since.
The historic flood signs in Esztergom	One of the city's special features are the historic flood signs showing the flood level reached in 1838 in different districts of Esztergom. Regardless of that they are visible everywhere, they are not built into the identity of the local population.
The historic flood signs in Štúrovo	From the same age, two flood signs have been safeguarded in Štúrovo which are hardly known by the dwellers. By creating a joint project on the topic, the integration between the two towns can be strengthened.
The Danube Museum in Esztergom	The Danube Museum is the water-related knowledge centre of the euroregion (and beyond). The new exhibition called VÍZEUM ("víz" = water in Hungarian) offers a comprehensive picture on the relations between human beings and water (including climate issues, fishery, river ice breaking, water energy, ect.). The cross-border regional aspect is missing from the exhibition despite of the rich water-based cultural heritage of the euroregion. There is a need for documenting this heritage in an attractive way.
The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény	The museum is the only private-owned navigation museum in Hungary which was established by a captain (Vincze Farkas) and is managed by her daughter and granddaughter. The collections contains several thousands objects documenting the Hungarian river and sea shipping traditions. The family house containing the museum is in bad shape and the collection has developed too big compared to the frames of the house. A new building is needed for keeping the exhibition.
The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo	The Bridge-guard project has a more than 15-year tradition in Štúrovo with more than 40 artists participating therein. Despite of this, the project owners could not attract the municipality of Esztergom to take part in the initiative and to offer similar internship for bridge-guard artist in Hungary. There is an endeavour to enlarge the scope of the project.
The Aquaphone project in Štúrovo and Esztergom	The Aquaphone project will turn 15 years in 2021 when the WAVE project partners will meet in the euroregion. However, it is not known by the region's population, it has no identity creating power yet.
The dim lamp water	The carnival is one of the most popular events of the euroregion with

Identification	Reasons for development
carnival of Esztergom	several thousands of visitors. The carnival could be developed further to become a regional event.
The Szikince festival in Kamenín, Pavlová, Sikenička and Zalaba	The Szikince festival has a tradition of 14 years. The biggest event of the small settlements requires developed infrastructure which is only partly available.
The Ramsar labelled Parížsky marshes in Gbelce	The values of the national nature reserve area are hardly known within the region, especially on the Hungarian side. There is a need to create a visitor centre. The former 'Ardea youth camp' would be a suitable facility for this purpose. Some 15 years ago, a development concept was drafted on the development of the camp but so far nothing happened.

Table 4: (Re)-development plans of the heritage sites

Identification	Current plans (type)	Current plans (maturity)	Time horizon	Urgency level (from 1 to 5) and justification EN = environmental, EC = economic, SC = Socio-cultural
<b>The Face of Water</b>				
The Small Danube promenade in Esztergom	Development concept, feasibility study	2 - planning phase	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 5 EC = 4 SC = 4 Hierarchy of the interventions: 1) Flood protection; 2) Improvement of basic infrastructure; 3) Construction of the new promenade
The Danubian promenade in Szob	No plans	1 - idea	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 5 EC = 5 SC = 5 The construction of the missing cycle path has an eminent importance.
The Danubian promenade in Štúrovo	Technical plans	3 - ready to invest	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 3 EC = 3 SC = 3 The bottleneck is created by the Mária Valéria bridge cutting the promenade into two parts without connection
<b>The Force of Water</b>				
The water mill in Nagybörzsöny	Technical plans	2 - planning phase	Medium term (4-6 years)	EN = 4 EC = 5 SC = 5 The environment of the museum is not attractive at the moment.



Identification	Current plans (type)	Current plans (maturity)	Time horizon	Urgency level (from 1 to 5) and justification EN = environmental, EC = economic, SC = Socio-cultural
The water mill in Zalaba	No plans	1 - idea	Medium term (4-6 years)	EN = 5 EC = 3 SC = 3 The most urgent is to repair the roof
The water mill in Sikenička	No plans	1 - idea	Long term (over 6 years)	EN = 3 EC = 2 SC = 2 The most urgent intervention would be to set the gutters.
The Millers' street in Esztergom	No plans (concept on the termination of the wastewater lifting plant)	1 - idea	Long term (over 6 years)	EN = 3 EC = 3 SC = 2
The renaissance water machine in Esztergom	Completed development	4 - completed investment	Not relevant	Not relevant
The historic flood signs in Esztergom	No plans	1 - idea	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 3 EC = 3 SC = 3
The historic flood signs in Štúrovo	No plans	1 - idea	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 3 EC = 3 SC = 3
<b>The Spirit of Water</b>				
The Danube Museum in Esztergom	Completed investment; no plans for the regional exhibition	1 - idea	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 2 EC = 4 SC = 4
The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény	No plans	1 - idea	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 5 EC = 5 SC = 5 A new building is sought to settle the collection.
The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo	Technical plans (the same as at the promenade of Štúrovo)	3 - ready to invest	Short term (1-3 years)	EN = 3 EC = 3 SC = 3
The Aquaphone project in Štúrovo and Esztergom	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
The dim lamp water	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant

Identification	Current plans (type)	Current plans (maturity)	Time horizon	Urgency level (from 1 to 5) and justification EN = environmental, EC = economic, SC = Socio-cultural
carnival of Esztergom				
The Szikince festival in Kamenín, Pavlová, Sikenička and Zalaba	No plans	1 - idea	Medium term (4-6 years)	EN = 4 EC = 3 SC = 4
The Ramsar labelled Parížský marshes in Gbelce	No plans	2 - previous concept on the utilisation of the Ardea centre	Long term (over 6 years)	EN = 5 EC = 4 SC = 5

## What are the current general proposals for the site in terms of functions and redevelopment? What status do they have?

### PILOT\_1 The Face of Water

The development of the three promenades envisages the creation of modern and friendly environment along the riverside. In the case of Szob, the interventions include the completion of a sport hall, the construction of a beach, a port for pleasure boats and the extension of the narrow gauge railway until the port. This way, the municipality intends to create a cultivated urban space attracting dwellers and tourists. However, there are no ready official plans, it is still in the idea formation phase regardless of the intention to complete the realization on the short run (1-3 years).

In Esztergom's case the main emphasis is put on creating a recreational area where local, small communities can meet and interact and thus the area would be planned to serve these functions with providing space for recreational events. The interventions are in the planning phase, the development concept and the feasibility study being ready, it is expected to be realized in short term (1-3 years).

The third promenade, the one in Štúrovo is in a better state as it was redeveloped in 2007, however, following the interventions its function would be extended with the cultural aspects as it would be more closely linked to the Bridge Guard project. This would also mean infrastructural improvements as well since the building of the bridge guard's house would also mean the creation of a leading pathway down to the river accessible for cyclists, wheelchair users or families with small children in prams. The state of the intervention is ready to invest as the technical plans are ready, thus the time frame is also set to be short term (1-3 years).

## PILOT\_2 The Force of Water

The development and showcasing of the power of the water in the form of a thematic touristic route of the redesigned water mills, water machine and innovatively presented flood signs aims at revitalizing these abandoned, but important sites in order to simultaneously tighten the micro-communities and their relation with the water as well as to attract tourists.

For the renovation of the water mill in Nagyörzsöny technical plans are already available that could be carried out in 4-6 years. If the original stone wheel could be set into motion again (for which the creek also needs to be adjusted) it would serve as a unique, interactive exhibition room where visitors can follow the whole grinding process from the start to the end with taking a small portion of flour with them as a souvenir at the end.

The watermill in Zalaba will be utilised as an exhibition and event centre with the potential modernisation through which the mill would generate its own electricity. The watermill in Sikenička would serve the needs of rural tourism and cultural events. The historic usage of the building will be presented through a permanent exhibition. In either case, the plans are still missing.

There are ideas - albeit no plans - according to which the Miller's street in Esztergom could be turned into a point of interest for both the locals and the tourists by exhibiting information posters about the street's past as well as organising "Open Gates" events. Since the idea so far lacks an official and institutional coordinator, its realisation is more likely on the long run (over 6 years).

The renaissance water machine in Esztergom in some sense is an odd-one-out since it is an already completed development. Nevertheless its inclusion to the present narrative and thematic route is still something that needs to be outlined.

The presentation of the historic flood signs in Esztergom and Štúrovo is still in an early, idea formation phase and thus has no official plans yet. However, due to the nature of this heritage its redesign could be completed already on short term by establishing a walking tour around them making it more attractive through a treasure hunt-style mobile application and audio-visual stops informing the visitors on a wide range of related topics.

## PILOT\_3 The Spirit of Water

The projects of PILOT\_3 are of non-tangible nature and their future function is rather spiritual and targets the revitalisation of the euroregion's cultural heritage. At the same time, some of them require construction works. The Navigation History Museum should be moved from the current building to a new one which is suitable for the constantly broadening collection and enables the realisation of a more interactive exhibition and related programs. As it was mentioned, the further development of the Bridge-guard project will include the construction of a postmodern bridge-guard house in Štúrovo and makes necessary the involvement of the Hungarian side.

Concerning the Szikince festival, the open stage in Sikenička needs to be improved, while in Pavlová and Zalaba, the social facilities are missing. Finally, the Island of Love in Kamenín should be equipped with basic infrastructure (water and waste water drainage, electricity) and open stages.

Accordingly, the attractivity and awareness of the Paris marshes should be improved by constructing a visitor centre in the plot of the former Ardea youth camp.



When taking into account the schedule for implementation, we have to conclude that notwithstanding the new bridge-guard house in Štúrovo, all these developments are in a very initial phase: these are not but project ideas.

As part of the strategy-making process, at the second LSG meeting the stakeholders were asked to compile the SWOT and TOWS analyses for each of the three pilots. The results have been structured into the following tables as well as interpreted below.

## SWOT analysis of the pilots

### PILOT\_1 The Face of Water

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Esztergom: the dam is currently being planned thus new ideas can be channelled into it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shortage of installed ships in Esztergom</li> <li>Štúrovo: it is difficult to get/to access to the water</li> <li>lack of permissions</li> <li>lack of bicycle infrastructure (stops and repairs)</li> <li>inadequate construction of flood defenses</li> <li>shortage in financial resources</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing bicycle routes along the rivers and Börzsöny hills</li> <li>existing rowing, kayaking routes</li> <li>tourist attractions such as Ipolydamásd castle</li> <li>Szob: two castles could be turned into hotels</li> <li>Letskés: potential for ecotourism, water tourism</li> <li>Roman Limes in Szob, Verőce</li> <li>Szob: establishment of a water stage</li> <li>Štúrovo: concert boat</li> <li>Geocaching</li> <li>Turkish bath in Esztergom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Danube promenades are state owned</li> <li>lack of political cooperation</li> <li>different rules and regulations in the two countries</li> <li>ownerships: some of them are privately owned</li> <li>danger of floods</li> </ul>

The first pilot's SWOT analysis shows that the external factors dominate over the internal factors. There are several external circumstances that are helping the realisation and expansion of the pilot such as the abundance of touristic and recreational attractions around the affected heritage sites (for instance the existing bicycle and kayaking routes, castles, Turkish bath etc.). However, at the same time, there are harmful circumstances too that need to be taken into account at the strategy development such as the ownership status (in some cases the state being the owner, in other cases

private entities), but also the fact that on the two sides of the border the laws and regulations are not always harmonious which can seriously threaten the realisation of a cross-border project (in the case of a euroregion, it is an extra factor compared to other project partners' development conditions). The danger of floods had been classified as a threat since above a certain point it is outside of the pilot's agency but also as a weakness as some measures can be taken against it. There are also further negative factors that could be changed, such as the lack of bicycle infrastructure or installed ships, as well as acquiring the now lacking permissions and funds. The main strength of the pilot is that the momentum is now right for its realisation: since in Esztergom the dam is currently being planned and constructed, there is a window of opportunity to integrate several elements of the pilot.

Consequently, based on the SWOT analysis, the participants of the LSG decided that the best development strategy (according to the TOWS analysis) is to change directions by combining the opportunities with the weaknesses and thus building the necessary bicycle infrastructure that will allow direct access to the affected locations.

## PILOT\_2 The Force of Water

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Political factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strong political support</li> <li>• integrated region</li> <li>• local population supports the initiative</li> </ul> <p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is space and opportunity for creating experience-oriented, diverse functions (for ex. bicycle stops, distillery etc.)</li> <li>• the necessary technology is available</li> <li>• a team of qualified professionals is available</li> <li>• there are visible, signposted watermarks, which can be visited and explored</li> </ul> <p>Environmental factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rich natural environment</li> </ul>	<p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the tools and furniture are not in a good condition</li> <li>• lack of ready plans</li> <li>• lack of infrastructure, bridges</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Economic factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capitalising on the thematic routes of the available attractions + cycling trails</li> <li>• linking the existing organisations</li> <li>• availability of county, state and EU tenders</li> </ul> <p>Social factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• availability of educational institutions</li> </ul>	<p>Political factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clash of interests</li> </ul> <p>Economic factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of resources</li> </ul> <p>Legal factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of permissions</li> <li>• legal framework being too rigid</li> </ul>

<p>that could be involved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there are festivals in the regions that could be organised also at these venues</li> </ul> <p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the modernization of flood signs: mobile application, geocaching, audio-visual exhibition elements</li> </ul> <p>Legal factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>monument status offering certain funds</li> </ul>	<p>(especially National Public Health Service regulations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the flood signs are on private property</li> <li>due to the monument status certain interventions are prohibited</li> </ul>
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The second pilot's SWOT shows that the project has many strengths and opportunities that can be used to balance the damaging inner and external factors. The pilot has strong political and social support, it could be realized in an integrated, environmentally rich region with the availability of a team of qualified professionals and technology. It seems that the majority of the opportunities are based on institutional cooperation: since there are several entities (such as educational institutions, a festival, tourism agencies etc.) active in related fields in the region, a closer cooperation could be fruitful for the pilot. The main threats include potential clash of interests as well as lack of resources and permissions.

Based on this analysis, the participants of the LSG when discussing the TOWS analysis opted for an expansion strategy combining strengths with opportunities. The aim here is not to merely preserve the state of the water mills and to prevent them from further decay but to use the identified strengths (e.g. team of professionals) to redevelop the state and function of these buildings, machine and signs.

### PILOT\_3 The Spirit of Water

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Political factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>municipal support</li> <li>independence (Zebegény, navigation museum)</li> <li>OVF (National Water Directorate) providing security</li> </ul> <p>Economic factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>touristic attractiveness resulting in externalities and territorial spillover effects</li> <li>international private funding</li> </ul> <p>Social factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>its usefulness is widespread</li> <li>Danubian identity</li> <li>providing livelihoods</li> </ul>	<p>Political factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lack of political support (Zebegény, Esztergom)</li> <li>OVF (National Water Directorate): slow decision making</li> <li>political conflicts</li> </ul> <p>Economic factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lack of resources, less profitable activities</li> <li>disorganisation</li> <li>lack of marketing</li> </ul> <p>Social factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resistance against mass tourism</li> <li>lack of cooperation</li> <li>low level of interest</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthening cohesion</li> <li>new recreational opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IT background</li> <li>professionalism</li> <li>managerial experiences</li> </ul> <p>Environmental factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>emphasizing environmental consciousness</li> <li>no negative environmental externalities</li> </ul> <p>Legal factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>independent entity (EGTC)</li> <li>varied framework</li> </ul>	<p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deficiencies in exhibition infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Environmental factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lesser effect</li> </ul> <p>Legal factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stricter framework</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Political factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting background on both sides</li> <li>EU CBC</li> <li>Euroregion</li> <li>synergy with international policy</li> </ul> <p>Economic factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a major tourist region</li> <li>the possibility of involving funds dedicated for environmental protection</li> </ul> <p>Social factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the positive image of the region</li> <li>wider effect on the broader region</li> <li>a new attraction for the young generation (through interactive tools)</li> </ul> <p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>linking to other artistic projects, institutions</li> </ul> <p>Environmental factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Danube and the water are good topics</li> </ul> <p>Legal factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU legal harmonization</li> </ul>	<p>Political factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>governmental cyclicity</li> </ul> <p>Environmental factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>competition for resources</li> <li>competition between touristic regions</li> </ul> <p>Technological factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>professional rivalry</li> </ul> <p>Environmental factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>floods, extreme weather</li> <li>regulating the Danube</li> </ul> <p>Legal factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>different rules and regulation in the two countries</li> </ul>

The third pilot's SWOT analysis resulted in identifying a relatively large number of strengths, especially from social and technological point of view. The pilot can build on a strong Danubian identity and the fact that it simultaneously provides livelihood and recreational activities to the locals as well as on high level of professionalism and already established managerial experiences. At the same time, on the weaknesses side there is a lack of cooperation, shared organisational techniques and proper marketing which is further aggravated by the external threats of professional rivalry, competitions for resources and competition between touristic regions. Even

though governmental cyclicity and political conflicts are posing a threat and exposing a weakness, the overall supporting political background as well as the international policy trends and the European Union's cross-border policy provides opportunities for the pilot also in the forms of funds.

Based on this analysis the member of the LSG group has discussed and considered all the four different types of TOWS strategies. At the end, however, they decided to choose the expansive strategy building on the strengths and opportunities. The strategy would aim for realising developments exploring the intellectual and spiritual heritage which defines the region's identity. For this purpose a mentor team is needed representing the sectors of tourism marketing, policy making and regional management.

### **Is the approach of the redevelopment strategy according to a strict master plan; a flexible open-end step-by-step approach, anticipating market developments; or other type of approach?**

The integration of the three PILOTs needs a joint strategy. At the current phase, this strategy cannot be exactly elaborated. Other strategy does not exist which concentrates on water-based cultural heritage of the euroregion.

The implementation of the particular projects rather follows a restricted approach not going beyond the project life cycle.

The overall strategy should be built on the integration of the three PILOTs under one single narrative whose general objective is to re-design the relationship of the regional population to water. On the one hand, it is necessary due to the phenomena produced by climate change: fundamentally new approaches are needed in the new situation. On the other hand, this re-formulation requires the enumeration and classification of the knowledge connected to historic coexistence of human being and water, from fishing, through shipping, to production of water energy. By protecting and safeguarding this cultural heritage, the joint project can promote the development of shared (cross-border) responsibility for the watered resources and encourage the local stakeholders to thematize and utilize this heritage for the sake of their joint future.

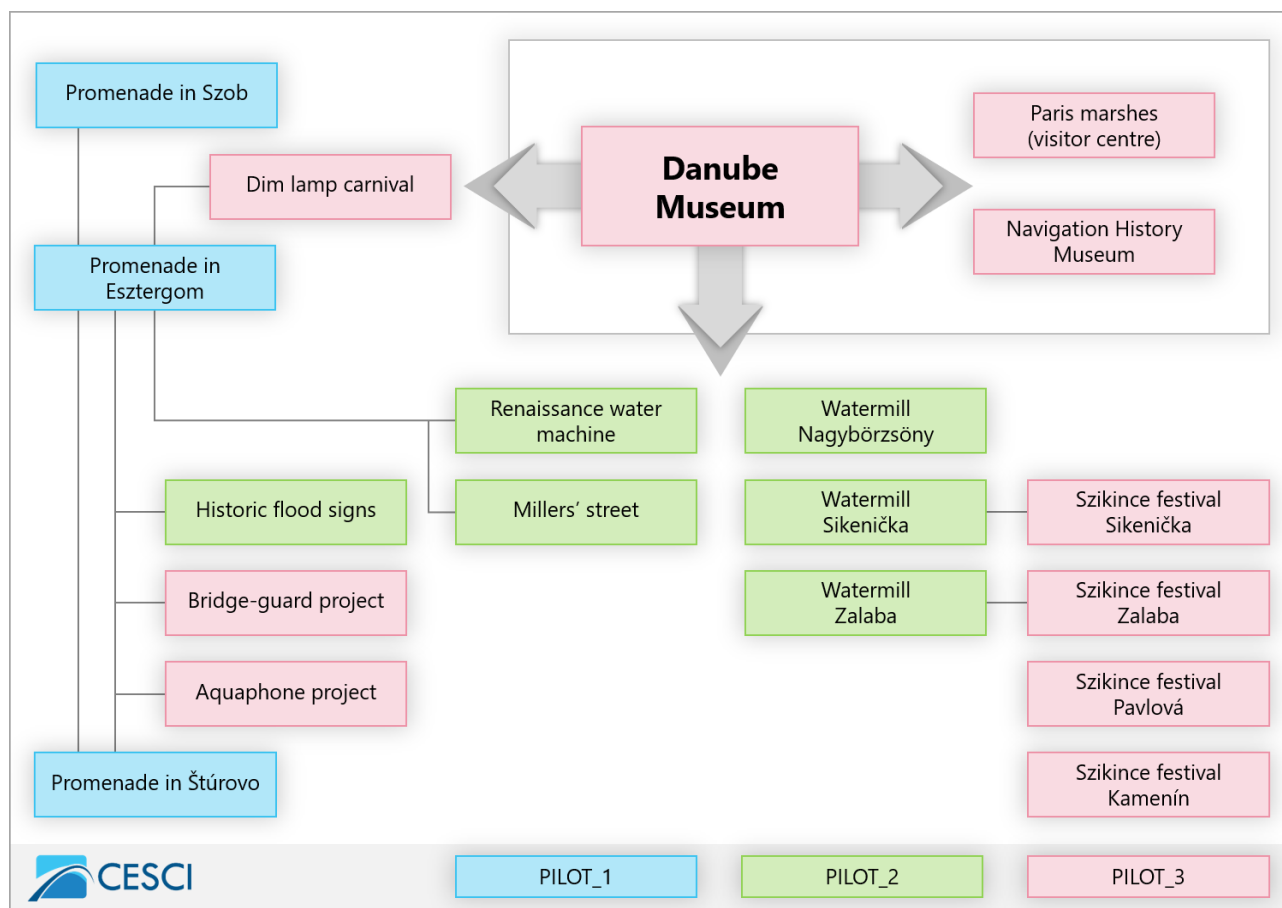
The re-designing should address the three aspects of the three PILOTs in an integrated way. On the one hand, it means that the interventions are to be realised in parallel and in a harmonised way: in parallel with the development of the recreational spaces, the cultural heritage sites will also be renewed representing the non-tangible assets, too.

On the other hand, there is a complex mutual interdependence between the interventions ensuring the coherence between them and creating thus a coherent narrative.

The synergies between the projects are presented by the figure below.

The Danube Museum is in the centre of the narrative since the museum gives a comprehensive picture on everything which is connected to water within the euroregion. The three PILOTs create a coherent small narrative uniting the relevant projects.

Figure 21: Synergies between the projects



Cross-cutting synergies are observed in the following cases:

- the two promenades of Esztergom and Štúrovo are interconnected through the thematic route including the historic flood signs, the Bridge-Guard and the Aquaphone projects;
- the promenade in Esztergom has a close connection to those facilities situating in its nearest neighbourhood (the renaissance water machine and the Millers' street) and the dim lamp carnival which is used to be organised on the Small Danube, every 30 April;
- the promenade in Štúrovo has a direct link to the Bridge-guard project through the planned new Bridge-guard house (exhibition site and café equipped with an elevator);
- the watermills of Zalaba and Sikenička are connected to the Szikince festival not only because of the presence of the Szikince creek but also due to the future utilisation of the mills to be renovated as cultural event sites;
- the Navigation History Museum has a connection with the dim lamp festival which is the opening day of the shipping season in Esztergom; and it could be moved to Esztergom, to the Millers' street into a new museum building - this way, its connection to the water-based heritage sites in Esztergom can be created.

Table 5: Synergies between the projects

	Prom_E	Prom_Sz	Prom_Š	WM_Nb	WM_Z	WM_S	Mill_str	RenWM	Flood_E	Flood_Š	DanMus	NavM	BridgeG	Aquaph	Dimlamp	SzikFest	ParisM
Prom_E		+	+				+	+	+	+	+	(+)	+	+	+		
Prom_Sz	+		+								+						
Prom_Š	+	+							+	+	+		+	+			
WM_Nb					+	+	+	+	+	+	+						
WM_Z				+		+	+	+	+	+	+					+	
WM_S				+	+		+	+	+	+	+					+	
Mill_str	+			+	+	+		+	+	+	+	(+)					
RenWM	+			+	+	+	+		+	+	+						
Flood_E	+		+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+						
Flood_Š	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+						
DanMus	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+
NavM	(+)						(+)				+						+
BridgeG	+		+								+			+	+		
Aquaph	+		+								+		+				
Dimlamp	+										+	+					
SzikFest					+	+					+						
ParisM											+	+					

These synergies can lay the basis for a comprehensive regional strategy.



## What is the planning horizon (the timescale for implementing and achieving the goals) of the strategy?

Regarding the timing of the projects, and according to the maturity of the project idea, one can differentiate between short term (1 to 3 years), medium (4 to 6 years) term and long term (more than 6 years) realisation. These differences make possible to define the hierarchy and succession of the initiatives in an integrated way.

## Has the strategy already started? If so, at what stage is the work on the strategy at present?

The strategy is not started yet.

## If already implemented, how does the strategy perform?

Not relevant.

## Which (part of the) project is the most urgent from an environmental and economic point of view?

Heritage elements	Environ- mental	Economic	Socio- cultural	Total
The Danubian promenade in Szob	5	5	5	15
The watermill in Nagyörzsöny	4	5	5	14
The Navigation History Museum of Zebegény	5	5	5	15
The Ramsar labelled Parížsky marshes in Gbelce	5	4	5	14
The Small Danube promenade in Esztergom	5	4	4	13
The Danube Museum in Esztergom	2	4	4	10
The Szikince festival in Kamenín, Pavlová, Sikenička and Zalaba	4	3	4	11
The Danubian promenade in Štúrovo	3	3	3	9
The watermill in Zalaba	5	3	3	11
The historic flood signs in Esztergom	3	3	3	9
The historic flood signs in Štúrovo	3	3	3	9
The Bridge Guard project in Štúrovo	3	3	3	9
The watermill in Sikenička	3	2	2	7
The Millers' street in Esztergom	3	3	2	8

According to the self-evaluation of the LSG stakeholders the most urgent part of the pilots are the Danubian promenade in Szob and the Navigation History Museum of Zebegény: the ones which ranked high in all criteria. Furthermore, specifically from environmental and economic point of view the Ramsar labelled Párizský marshes in Gbelce and the watermill in Nagybörzsöny were positioned as the most urgent ones for development.

Obviously, the marshes represent the highest **environmental** value among the projects and it is the most sensitive area from this point of view. At the same time, the reconstruction of the watermills, the re-animation of the promenades and further smaller interventions result in improved natural environment.

**Economically**, the promenade developments have a stronger effect by creating an investment promoting environment. Indirectly, every intervention will have a positive economic impact through the increase in number of visitors.

### **Which (part of the) project is the most significant from a social and cultural perspective?**

It is perhaps not surprising that from social and cultural perspective the four most urgent pilot-elements were also the same as above, these interventions being versatile. But also the redevelopment of the Small Danube promenade in Esztergom and the Szikince Festival were deemed as needing urgent support as they are especially significant from a social and cultural perspective.

### **Which (part of the) project is the most feasible to initiate transformation, gain momentum and galvanise the interest of stakeholders?**

From this point of view, each project has potential but in different terms.

Obviously, the three largest investment targeting the re-construction of the three promenades may attract the strongest attraction both during the realisation and beyond. This way, the galvanising power of these projects is the strongest. Consequently, during their implementation the momentum of attraction should be exploited in order to promote other projects of the PILOTs and the responsibility for protection of water reserves. The best solution is to include interactive solutions referring to the above two topics.

The Museums and exhibition sites have a different mission: by visiting one of them, the visitor gains an overall picture on the water-based cultural heritage of the euroregion which has also a motivating power. The current exhibition of the Danube Museum contains pedagogic components which draws the attention to the values represented by water surfaces to be protected. The euroregional aspects should also be highlighted: this is the direction where the exhibitions are planned to develop. Similar impacts can be achieved by the Navigation History Museum, the planned visitor centre of the Paris marshes, the water mills, the water machine and the thematic walk of flood signs.

Finally, the performances and cultural events may involve larger audience and art can easily deliver multi-faceted messages. Within the framework of the integrated WAVE-interventions, these events should be completed with the representation of the water-based cultural heritage of the euroregion and with the thematization of the values that water created for us.

## STEP 5: COST-BENEFIT CONSIDERATIONS

### Who will get what from the proposed redevelopment strategy?

The main beneficiaries of the developments will be the local citizens who will be given a re-newed environment equipped with new and renovated cultural sites and events and knowledge sharing facilities.

In addition, the visitors of the euroregion will enjoy the cultural services developed within the three PILOTs.

It is expected that the number of tourist arrivals will remarkably increase which will give the opportunity to develop new tourist attractions and to increase the incomes of the existing ones. This way, the entrepreneurs will also have beneficial impacts.

### What are the short- and long-term economic (financial and commercial) benefits expected from the redevelopment?

First and foremost, we have to stipulate that the majority of the projects are in an embryonic phase, without financial estimation and forecast. Further difficulty is made by the fact that the projects by and large are of cultural-spiritual nature where economic benefit and returns cannot be calculated (or if can, the profitability cannot be ensured).

Financial calculations are available in the case of the following projects:

- the Small Danube promenade in Esztergom and the flood protection dam (42,8 M EUR)
- the promenade in Szob (4M EUR)
- the promenade in Štúrovo (600k EU)
- the watermill in Nagybörzsöny (85,7k EUR)
- the watermill in Zalaba (250k EUR)
- the euroregional exhibition of the Danube Museum (8,5k EUR)
- the new Navigation History Museum (1,4 M EUR).

Concerning the returns, the promenades will improve the turnover of the entertainment and hospitality enterprises located at the new promenades. Indirectly the tourist arrivals will increase in the three towns and surroundings which will result in higher incomes at hotels and pensions. As a long term impact, the attractiveness of the municipalities will improve, the population will increase and the standard of the services will develop. Thanks to these phenomena, the incomes of the local municipality will be higher, enabling the decision makers to improve the business environment.

Thanks to the renovation and re-construction of the exhibition sites, the number of visitors will increase generating higher incomes from the entrance fees. The Danube Museum expects 5M HUF (14k EUR) surplus after the regional exhibition is open. The Navigation History Museum can attract 30k visitors per year which produces net 25M HUF (60k EUR) to the owners. Once the renovation in Nagybörzsöny is ready, the local municipality forecasts 10M HUF income (28,5k EUR), on a yearly basis.

The Bridge-guard house in Štúrovo will offer place to a small café with 32 seats which may produce remarkable consumer traffic since it will be situated in the most picturesque place of the town. At the moment, no calculations are available on its profitability.

In other cases, either the maturity of the project or the nature thereof do not make possible to carry out a CBA.

### **What are the expected non-material benefits? (e.g. social, public, identity-based, cultural heritage values...)**

The main mission of the current project is to thematize and make visible the water-based cultural heritage of the euroregion; as well as to sensitize the local population towards all those values inherited from the past and created (directly or indirectly) by water. Consequently, the greatest social benefit will be the fact that this heritage will be placed to the people sights in an integrated way. This is an important step toward a more conscious handling of water reserves.

The projects will offer hints to the regional identity-building process where the administrative borders' separating effects are diminishing and the neighbouring societies can create cultural values in common.

By itself, even the renovation of the cultural heritage sites (instead of further degradation) represents social and environmental benefit. Even more, the local identity can be enhanced by these renovation works.

### **What economic, environmental and cultural/social impact on the surroundings of the city and region are desired and expected?**

These impacts are explained above.

### **What positive effects on water management (on the site, in the city, in the region) can the redevelopment strategy have?**

By creating an integrated and multi-faceted development where the Danube Museum is in the centre, both the local people and the visitor will be provided with a clear message on the cultural power of water influencing the design of the human settlements (Face), facilitating the so-called demiurgic (creative) activities of the human beings (Force) and enabling the realisation of many different human activities, including artistic creatures (Spirit).

This message may create new attitudes in terms of the following questions:

- How to handle water as a resource of our life and our richness?
- How to manage the water-based natural reserves and their flora and fauna?
- How to manage ground and surface water reserves in order to protect them from pollution?
- How to safeguard the built and non-tangible heritage created by our predecessors' work with water?

The LSG involving the stakeholders of both cultural tourism and water management can create a platform of exchange of different views.



### **What are the positions and interests of the stakeholders on the strategy? (bringing in and discussing/deepening with the stakeholders the insights from the stakeholder identification)**

The strategy itself does not exist yet. It has to be drafted during the implementation of the current project with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders.

### **Is the strategy aiming for commercial or non-commercial functions? What is the proportion among them?**

Commercial functions are poorly represented: the planned functions are rather culture-based with no or modest profitability.

### **How much public funding is needed for the public space redevelopment of the site? How much is needed for the non-profitable part of the investment in the buildings, both existing and new ones?**

Due to the above mentioned reasons, no exact calculation is available regarding the financing needs of the projects. In the case of the identified planned budgets (amounting to 50M EUR), the beneficiaries are expecting public funding. On the one hand, the stakeholders are very weak in financial terms. They have no satisfactory own resources as liability base. On the other hand (due partly to the EU subsidies, partly to legal provisions and the fear of corruption), the local actors don't used to involve private investors in their projects.

### **Is there political consensus to legitimize decision-making about the needed public investment?**

There are projects, where the political consensus is just not needed (e.g. the regional exhibition of the Danube Museum, the organisation of the dim lamp carnival or the Aquaphone performances). In other cases, the consensus is reached (e.g. the reconstruction of the watermill in Zalaba, the development of the promenades in Szob and Štúrovo, etc.). While there are some projects where the consensus is still to be created (e.g. the promenade in Esztergom, the movement of the Navigation History Museum, the construction of the open stage at the Island of Love).

The current project and the region-wide integration of the initiatives can create a favourable environment for these decisions.

## STEP 6: ASSESSING THE POLICY INSTRUMENT

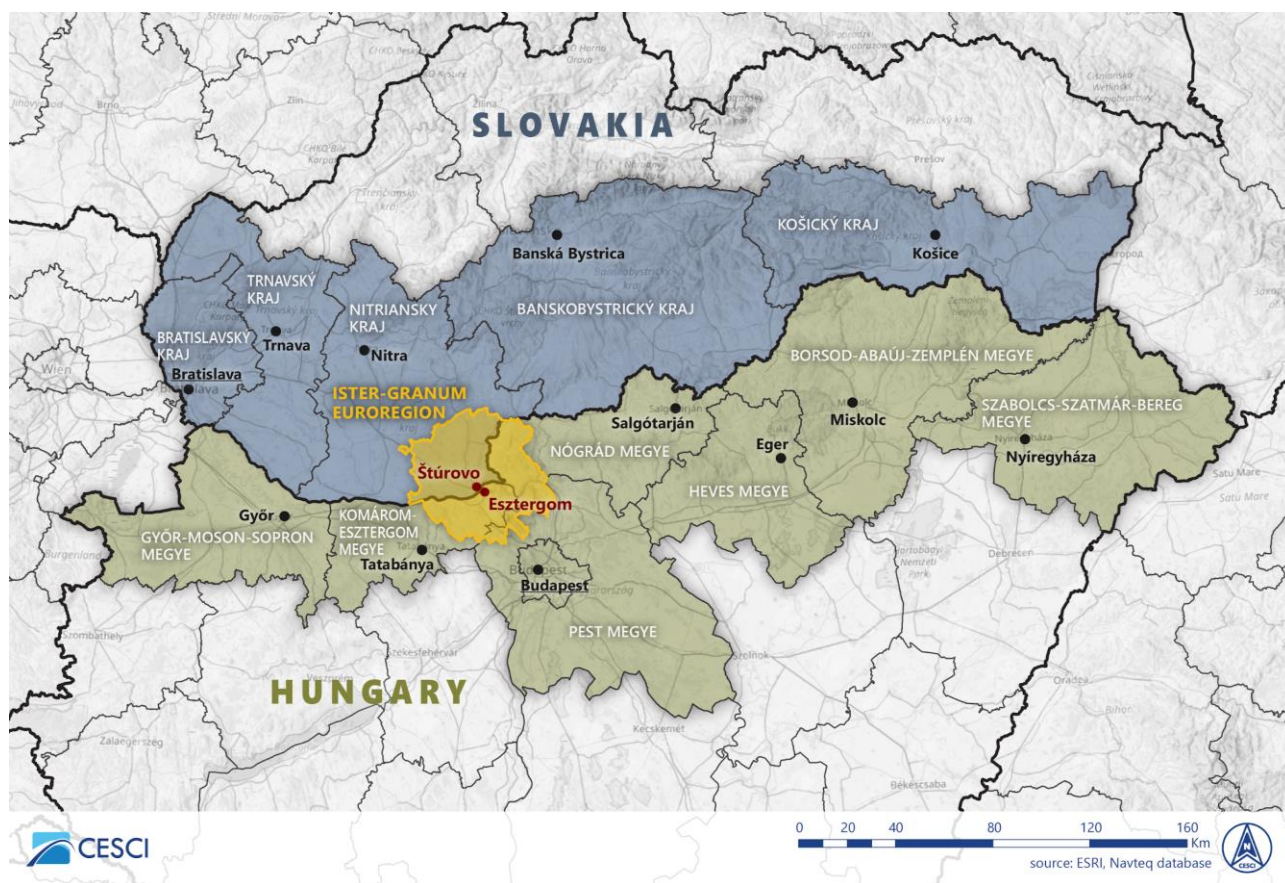
### What is the policy instrument in question and what are its main features?

The addressed policy instrument is the INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme which is listed among the 60 cross-border European Territorial Cooperation programmes of the EU's Cohesion Policy. Similarly to other CBC programmes, the INTERREG V-A SKHU provides the frames for cross-border cooperation and has two main strategic objectives:

- to contribute to the achievement of the EU2020 targets, and
- to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion of the programme area and the EU.

The programme area covers the adjacent NUTS III level territorial units of the two neighbouring countries including the entire territory of the Ister-Granum Euroregion.

*Figure 22: The programme area of the INTERREG V-A SKHU Programme*



The Managing Authority of the programme is operating at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Authority is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. The Monitoring Committee includes the representatives of the relevant NUTS III level municipalities and ministries affected by the priorities of the CP. The role of the bilingual Joint Secretariat is played by the Hungarian Széchenyi Programme Office Ltd. which is in charge of the smooth implementation of the programme. The management structure also includes the

institutions responsible for the First Level Control, the Info Points and two EGTCs which are managing the Small Project Fund.

The Programme has 5 Priority Axes:

*Table 6: Priority axes of the Cooperation Programme*

Priority Axis No	Title of the Priority Axis	Relevant investment priority
PA 1	Nature and culture	<b>6c</b> - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
PA 2	Enhancing cross-border mobility	<b>7b</b> - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes <b>7c</b> - Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility
PA 3	Promoting sustainable and quality employment, and supporting labour mobility	<b>8e</b> - Integrating cross-border labour markets, including crossborder mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC-CB)
PA4	Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area	<b>11b</b> - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
PA 5	Technical Assistance	Not relevant

The total ERDF budget amounts to EUR 155,808,987 which is completed by the national co-financing and the own contribution of the beneficiaries. Thus the estimated total amount of the programme drops to approx. EUR 200 M.

The programme is realised by joint projects of Slovak and Hungarian beneficiaries who have to create project partnerships, to name the Lead Beneficiary of the project, and to implement it in a joint (integrated) way. The proposals are evaluated by external experts, the representatives of the regional municipalities and the experts of the JS. The programme's specific feature is its cross-border character what means that the interventions have to have a clear cross-border character:

- the projects should not be implemented as separated measures: the interventions of one side of the borders should be impossible to realise without the implementation of the interventions on the other side;
- the projects have to be designed, realised, staffed and financed jointly by the partners coming from different sides of the border;

- the results of the projects should have a real cross-border character (i.e. one joint cross-border cycle path instead of two cycle paths in the neighbouring countries; integrated cross-border services instead of the development of parallel services along the border, etc.).

In reality, the last criterion is met very rarely.

### **To what extent are the redevelopment strategies identified in the previous steps in line with, or against, that policy instrument?**

The realisation of the above described projects - both in their triple-integrity but also parts of them - are entirely in line with the INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme policy instrument mostly as they place a huge emphasis on cross-border development and cooperation. The realization of the pilots would create an integrated cross-border narrative built around the water and water-related cultural and natural heritage sites, which in turn then could be used as a basis for closer cooperation, the main aim of the Programme.

### **Are there contradictions between the proposed strategies/modifications and the objectives of existing policies or regulations identified in step 3?**

No considerable contradictions can be identified as all the planned pilots respect the INTERREG Programme's dedication to equal opportunities and environmental sustainability.

### **Are there any synergies with other policies (e.g. related to water resources management, flood risk mitigation, climate change adaptation, or environmental protection)?**

No such synergies are detected.

### **What measures for redevelopment of water-based heritage sites does the policy consider? Which of them are expected to be used for the redevelopment of the site?**

Water-based heritage management is addressed by the PA1 (Nature and culture), within the framework of the Specific Objective (SO) 11: *"To increase the attractiveness of the border area"*. The expected results of the planned interventions are (see page 34 of the CP):

- Better utilization of the regions endogenous natural and cultural potential in supporting the sustainable development of local economies;
- Increase in social, economic and territorial cohesion by supporting joint cultural activities and activities concerning to nature preserving and protection;
- Improving social, economic and territorial cohesion by supporting joint cultural and nature conservation activities;
- Increase in the number of visitors in the programme area.



Types of the supported interventions (see pages 34 and 35 of the CP):

- Supporting the cooperation and development of cultural heritage sites (e.g. heritage renewal strategies, studies and plans, reconstruction, building of small complementary infrastructure to site signage, visitor centres, etc.)
- Maintaining and promoting natural heritage in the programme area (e.g. such as floodplain restoration, wetlands, renaturalising rivers and river banks, projects aimed at non-productive functions of forests - ecological, environmental and public functions, integrated cross-border strategic plans for the restoration and conservation of green infrastructure, environmental awareness raising activities, landscape and species protection activities, etc.)
- Design cross border action plans, set up models and test pilot actions to better capitalize the regions cultural and natural heritage and to combine tourism with the promotion and protection of the regions natural and cultural heritage by performing creative and artistic actions (e.g. destination management, joint marketing strategies, exchange of experiences, mutual learning, pilot activities);
- Developing small scale quality tourism linked to local environmental or cultural features for SMEs (product and service innovation, applying innovative solutions and ICT uptake, developing high value added tourism in niche markets - cultural and environmentally friendly tourism, gastronomy tourism, sports tourism, etc. clustering activities involving tourism industries)
- Design and construction of local access roads linked to sites of cultural and natural heritage, preparation and construction of cross-border road infrastructure which on the one hand decrease the travelling time between the towns of the regions, thus decrease the GHG emission (environment); on the other hand these new connections increase the number of visitors (culture and tourism). As the planned roads and bridges will be constructed with weight limit, heavy traffic will not be allowed, the pollution will decrease;
- Joint development of environmentally friendly tourism products and offers and development of cross border infrastructure for eco-tourism (e.g. support for planning and building safe and sustainable small vessel cross-border water trails and infrastructure like watercourse access and egress facilities, parking, and craft loading and unloading spaces, route and hazard signage on the watercourse, etc. and support for planning and building safe and sustainable cross border shared 'green ways' and infrastructure like pre-development of green-ways including feasibility and planning studies, trail service facilities like car parking, toilets, showers, bike wash, shelters, information centres, etc.

*Table 7: Projects selected for funding related to water-based cultural heritage (INTERREG V-A Slovakia-Hungary)*

Title of the project	Water-based cultural heritage valorisation relevance	Geographic scope	Lessons to learn
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Title of the project	Water-based cultural heritage valorisation relevance	Geographic scope	Lessons to learn
Rowing in one river - Increasing the attractiveness of Ipeľ/Ipoly valley with making the best of regional natural and cultural values' potential	The project builds on the natural values of the Ipoly Valley while creating a new tourism product: water tourism. In a timeframe of 16 months 11 municipalities connect to a network of paddling ports along the common SK-HU section of the Ipoly to the Danube, setting-up a 100 km-long „navigable” river-section.	Directly affected territory: Litke, Szécsény, Bušince, Balassagyarmat, Ipeľské Predmostie, Veľká Čalomija, Vyškovce nad Ipľom, Šahy, Téša, Ipolytölgyes, Szob Indirectly affected territory: Ipoly valley	By connecting land and water tourism the creation of a complex service package is possible. By involving local experts the common values of the Ipoly valley can be presented by hiking and bicycle trails, connecting to the ports.
Discover the Small & Moson Danube by bike and boat	The project is focused on the use of rich natural and cultural heritage of the border area and on creating a unique, attractive and competitive European tourism destination "Danube inland delta", which will contribute to increasing the attractiveness and number of visitors to the Danube border region.	Directly affected territory: Abda, Ásványráró, Dunakiliti, Dunaszeg, Dunaszentpál, Dunasziget, Gönyű, Győrújfalú, Győrzámoly, Halászi, Kimle, Kisbodak, Kunsziget, Lipót, Máriakálnok, Mecsér, Mosonmagyaróvár, Vének, Bratislava, Zálesie, Obec Jelka, Kolárovo Indirectly affected territory: area between and along the Small and Moson Danube rivers	Successful projects integrate different projects. This one for instance includes among others the renovation of an open-air museum with a water mill in Jelka, the building of a water ecotourism youth centre in Šamorín, an established promenade in Zálesie and a development strategy for the cross-border destination as well as the creation of a new common marketing brand.
Creation of a water amusement trail on the river Bodrog and its tributaries	This project aims at the development of a comprehensive attraction package built on active eco-tourism performed on the 80 km cross-border section of river Bodrog and its tributaries between Tokaj and Oborín. The direct goal of the project is to increase the attractiveness and make the tourism attractions at the river Bodrog and its tributaries available to the public by establishing waterways, bicycle trails, horse riding trails and by creating the natural, architectural and IT infrastructure necessary for all of this.	Directly affected territory: Oborín, Alsóberecki, Bodrogkeresztúr, Bodrogkiszalud, Bodrogolaszi, Felsőberecki, Olaszliszka, Sáradsadány, Sárospatak, Sátorajújhegy, Szegi, Tarcál, Tokaj, Vajdácská, Viss, Zalkod, Indirectly affected territory: territory along the Bodrog river and its tributaries between Tokaj and Oborín	Comprehensive attraction packages are more advantageous than stand-alone investments.

Title of the project	Water-based cultural heritage valorisation relevance	Geographic scope	Lessons to learn
Sustainable and virtual tourism development in the Nógrád-Hont cross-border region	With the combination of classical - visitor centre construction, spa areal revitalization, freshwater protection - and virtual tourism development the project will lay the foundation for a new tourism development methodology.	Directly affected territory: Bánk, Dudince, Indirectly affected territory: Nógrád-Hont region	The traditional function development could be broadened with the implementation of new technological solutions.
Preservation of traditions in Martovce - Neszmély	'Preservation of traditions in Martovce - Neszmély' will contribute to better social, economic and territorial cohesion by organising joint cultural activities and activities concerning infrastructure building in the beautiful Danubeland villages Martovce (SK) and Neszmély (HU). Project will increase the attractiveness of this part of the HUSK border area through development of cross-border infrastructure for eco-tourism and this way contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the villages and their surroundings.	Directly affected territory: Martovce, Neszmély Indirectly affected territory: Gerecse and Danube	Tourism activities could be completed with events organised for strengthening the local identity and the relationship with the water and borders such as the "Bridge Building Days" in this project.

Title of the project	Water-based cultural heritage valorisation relevance	Geographic scope	Lessons to learn
Taste of Danubian Nature	The overall objective of the project is to cooperate on both sides of the river Danube and maintain their ecological character. The main outputs among others will be 40,00 new native trees, bushes, cleaned canals and marshes, authentic water wells placed in nature, informative and recreational elements of small infrastructure for birds of prey and humans, built educational nature trails, built infrastructure for two eco-educational and 1 fishing tourist center, public education and Taste of Danubian Nature Fest.	Directly affected territory: Zemianska Olča, Zlatná na Ostrove, Gönyű, Klížska Nemá Indirectly affected territory: Komárno/Győr/Tata surroundings	Tourism-related projects can put nature protection in their focus too

Taking into account that the programming period approaches to its end, new calls will not be published. Consequently, the content and the criteria of the call cannot be modified. At the same time, the ex-post evaluation of the CP which has an influence on the next programme can still be impacted. The current project can best be applied for the sake of the improvement of the evaluation of those projects targeting water-based cultural heritage valorisation.

### Does the policy instrument in question require adaptation of existing practices and/or adoption of new ones?

The cross-border programmes are realised among quite strictly designed frames. The Common Provision Regulation (CPR), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Regulations define the room for maneuvering therefor. Within these frames, the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A programme represents one of the most innovative cooperation programmes by applying solutions considered as models (like the territorial action plans integrating several synergic projects; or the management of the small project fund through two EGTCs; and the involvement of the EGTCs in the work of the Monitoring Committee).

Still, there is an opportunity to involve private funding but at the moment, there is no cross-border programme in Europe which apply this solution. Another opportunity is the application of the ITI tool which makes possible the absorption of different funds for the sake of territorially integrated investments. At the same time, the complexity of the utilisation of the instrument does not make possible its application. During the current programming period, the Italy-Slovenia INTERREG V-A programme is the only one which included the ITI but without the involvement of further



operational programmes. The GO EGTC implements two ITIs by using the subsidies of the INTERREG V-A programme, exceptionally.

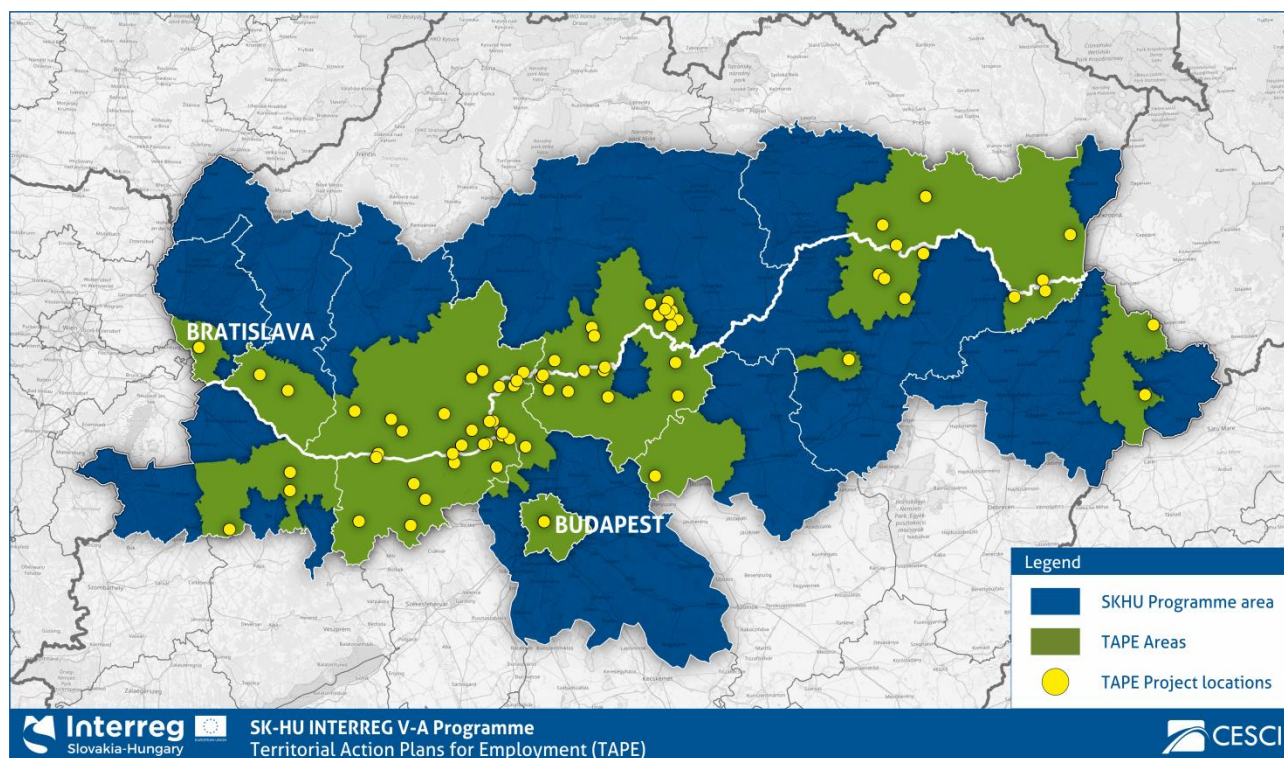
The Territorial Action Plan for Employment (TAPE) applied by the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A programme is a solution similar to ITI free from the bureaucratic burdens the ITI is accompanied with. According to the model, the stakeholders of a limited border area can implement in parallel 2 to 7 projects aiming to improve the level of employment and to develop cross-border labour mobility. These projects can tackle the challenges by

- creating new job opportunities (SMEs' investments, new factories, starting new services, etc.),
- improving investment opportunities (revitalisation of brown-field zones to attract investors, development of business services through IT solutions and marketing, construction of market places targeting the local producers, etc.)
- developing training opportunities (renovation and development of training workshops, implementation of innovative training solutions targeting marginalised people, etc.).

Further one project is dedicated to the coordination and communication tasks of the TAPE in order to ensure the unified appearance and the respect of the deadlines which can be endangered in a project including 15 partners.

In 2018, the Monitoring Committee selected 9 TAPEs for funding whose implementation started in 2019. The action plans cover a large part of the programming region but are implemented separately.

*Figure 233: The TAPEs selected for funding*



The first experiences with the tool are mixed since this PILOT has several brand new components not applied before along the border. However, the members of the Monitoring Committee support the TAPE tool and during the planning workshops of the new Hungary-Slovakia programme, numerous participants recommended to apply the tool for other priority areas (e.g. tourism) too.

It means that if the Programming Committee agrees, the next INTERREG programme will enable different local stakeholders involved in water heritage management and tourism to act together under the umbrella of an integrated territorial action plan in a synergic way.