



Dvokut ECRO d.o.o.
Trnjanska 37
HR-10000 Zagreb, Hrvatska



ZaVita, svetovanje, d.o.o.
Tomiškova 40
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija



Integra Consulting s.r.o.
Pobrezni 18/16, 186 00
Pragu 8, Republika Češka

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT of the COOPERATION PROGRAMME SLOVENIA – CROATIA 2014-2020

SEA REPORT

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Strategic environmental assessment of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia – Croatia 2014-2020

SEA REPORT

Contracting Authority: Republic of Slovenia
Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
Kotnikova 5
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Drafting of the
Cooperation Programme:** PHIN Consulting & Training d.o.o.
Lanište 11c/1
HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

K&Z, Development Consulting Ltd.
Kranjska cesta 4,
4240 Radovljica, Slovenia

**Drafting of the
Environmental Report:** ZaVita, svetovanje, d.o.o.
Tominškova 40
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Responsible person: Matjaž Harmel, Director

Dvokut–ECRO d.o.o.
Trnjanska 37
HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Responsible person: Marta Brkić, Director

Integra Consulting s.r.o.
Pobrezni 18/16, 186 00
Pragu 8, Czech Republic

Responsible person: Jiří Dusík, Director

Project team leader:
Matjaž Harmel, B. Sc. Forestry

Project team deputy team leader:
Klemen Strmšnik, B. Sc. Geography

Project team members:
Aleksandra Krajnc, B. Sc. Geography
Marta Brkić, MA Landscape art and Architecture
Jiří Dusík, M. Sc. Engineering
Jelena Fressl, B.Sc. Biology
Ivana Šarić, B.Sc. Biology,
Daniela Klaić Jančijev, B.Sc. Biology,
Konrad Kiš, MSc Forestry
Katarina Bulešić, Master of Geography
Tomislav Hriberšek, B.Sc. Geology
Ivan Juratek, B.Sc. Agronomy - Landscape Architect
Gordan Golja, MSc Chemistry

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Appendix 1: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

GLOSSARY

Term or acronym	Definition
ARSO	Slovenian Environment Agency
CB	Cross-border
CP SI-CRO 2014-2020	Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014-2020
EU	European Union
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
PA	Priority axis
SA	Situation Analysis for the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014-2020
Scoping	Determination of scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEA Directive	Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SO	Specific objective
TF	Task-force

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Cross border cooperation between Slovenia and Croatia has been so far supported under several EU instruments since 2003 - starting with PHARE/CARDS (2003), trilateral Neighbourhood Programme (2004-2006), and IPA CBC (2007-2013). Administrative and implementing arrangements introduced in each of the programming period gradually improved conditions for cooperation, such as joint calls for proposals, joint projects, lead partner principle, while eliminating some encountered obstacles. With the accession of Croatia to the EU on 1st of July 2013, the new programming period 2014-2020 opens new opportunities and challenges for cooperation between Slovenia and Croatia.

Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia – Croatia 2014 – 2020 (CP SI-CRO 2014-2020), as all plans and programmes that could potentially have an impact on the environment, is subject to a SEA procedure, according to the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, which has been transposed to national legislation of both countries: *Environmental Protection Act (Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 39/06, 49/06, 66/06, 33/07, 57/08, 70/08, 108/09, 108/09, 48/12, 57/12 and 92/13)* and *Environmental Protection Act (Off. Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, no. 80/13)*.

The purpose of this SEA procedure, for which this Report has been prepared, is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development and prevention have been taken into account in the programming process. Within the SEA procedure, potential environmental impacts of a programme implementation have to be identified and assessed. It has to take into account environmental protection requirements, nature conservation goals, protection of human health and life and protection of cultural heritage. The end goal of this SEA Report is to prevent or at least significantly reduce activities that may have a significant adverse impact on any of the above mentioned categories.

SCREENING

The Screening procedure was conducted in Slovenia, by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, since the whole programme SEA procedure was agreed to follow the Slovenian procedure since the responsible Slovenian institutions took over the role of the Managing Authority of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, in line with the bi-lateral agreement (with some additional steps required by Croatian legislation – Scoping procedure). The Ministry has issued a Decision (No. 35409-9/2015/5) stating that it is necessary to conduct the SEA procedure for the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, and that an Appropriate Assessment (Assessment on acceptability of impacts from the plan implementation on the protected nature areas) is integral part of the procedure.

SCOPING

Based on the 2nd Programme draft version (24th of September 2014), an internal scoping was carried out by the SEA Team and a Scoping Report was sent out to responsible authorities of both countries for confirmation/public scoping. In the scoping procedure potential impacts (positive and negative) of the program on individual components of the environment were identified, events that may cause effects on the environment were described, as well as consequences that may occur from the programme implementation and how these relate to the programming area characteristics. Potential impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were defined according to the eligible actions expected to be carried out through all Priority Axes. Characteristic traits of potential impacts of the action implementation were defined, and assessed for each component of the environment. According to the set criteria (regarding the size and characteristics of the impact), only those impacts that were assessed as potentially significant have been further assessed in this SEA Report.

At the point of Scoping Report preparation the CP and its accompanying documents were still in a draft form and subject to change. However, the SEA team assessed that the revised Logical Framework of the 2nd draft version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 represented the core of the CP and could be used for scoping purposes.

The SEA team was closely involved in monitoring the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 development process and actively participated in the most important phases, from the scoping phase on. In the next few months several versions of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were prepared and the programme in general adopted some changes. In order to ensure the transparency of decisions made in the SEA procedure and to allow for all-encompassing SEA, the SEA team decided to revisit the decisions made in the scoping phase based on the latest available version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (7th draft version from 25th of March 2015). The table below offers an overview of the scoping decisions and how they are affected by the latest version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020.

Conclusions of the Scoping Report

Segment of environment	Identified impacts	Argumentation for further SEA evaluation of segments of environment	Decision on further evaluation in SEA	Short description of relevant changes made to the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 between the phase of the Scoping Report and the final version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (7 th version) and their effect on scoping decisions
Climate change	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on climate change however no significant impacts on climate change were recognised. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional pollution with green-house gases due to increased traffic caused by increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay. Implementation of the CP will also bring insignificant positive impacts linked to green tourism as well as preservation of ecosystem diversity.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Climate Change". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Air	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on air quality, however no significant impacts on air quality were recognised. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional pollution due to increased traffic caused by increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay. Implementation of the CP will also bring insignificant positive impacts linked to green tourism.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Air". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Soil	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on soil quality and erosion – especially erosion was recognised as a potential negative impact from actions linked to pilot small scale investments in the area of flood risk management. However, there is only limited information available at this time about these investments and given actual legislation this impact was not recognized as significant. On the other hand we can expect positive impacts linked to reduction of erosion due to appropriate approach to sustainable river and flood risk management as well as small scale investments linked to flood prevention.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Soil". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Surface and ground waters	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect both positive and negative significant impacts on surface waters. In general the CP aims at improvement of focused river basin management with special emphasis on flood risk adaption/prevention/management, which is why significant positive impacts are to be expected. On the other hand there is one activity, linked to small scale investments in the field of flood prevention, which could have significant negative impacts on this segment of environment. Due to the fact that there is only limited information available about these investments, it is	Both positive and negative significant impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were recognised. SEA should focus on river basin management, flood risk management and interventions linked to small scale	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme. It also predicts a new indicative action " <i>Identification of operational gaps and administration burdens for sound trans boundary flood risk management, preparation of concrete solutions and if possible, their integration into national systems and daily practice</i> " that will bring additional positive impact from management point of view. It also introduces several new "guiding principles" that mitigate negative impacts of structural flood risk reduction measures. However, structural flood risk reduction measures and other small scale investments still

	impossible to carry out a full scale SEA evaluation. However, we believe that important guidelines and mitigation measures can be addressed at the strategic level of evaluation, to be implemented in further programming/planning/project development steps.	investments for flood protection and green infrastructure.		remain a part of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Negative impacts from increased “tourism sector footprint” should also be considered. Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Nature, Biodiversity, Natura 2000 and Protected areas	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect especially positive significant impacts on this segment of the environment. In general the CP aims at improvement of management, but also sustainable development based on mobilisation of natural potentials, which could also mean negative impacts. There are two activities, linked to small scale investments into flood prevention and green infrastructure set-up, which could have significant negative impacts on this segment of environment. Due to the fact that there is only limited information available at this time about these investments, it is impossible to carry out a full scale SEA evaluation. However, we believe that important guidelines and mitigation measures can be addressed at the strategic level of evaluation, to be implemented in further programming/planning/project development steps.	Both positive and negative significant impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were recognised. SEA should focus on small scale investments linked to flood protection and green infrastructure as well as all activities linked to sustainable development within natural heritage, Natura 2000 and protected areas.	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment “Nature, Biodiversity, Natura 2000 and Protected areas”. However, the 7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 plans for approx. 17% increase of tourists to cultural and natural heritage sites, which is higher than the numbers discussed in previous CP versions. Still, sustainable tourism, green infrastructure, elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage are promoted through “guiding principles”, thus slightly relieving the “tourism sector footprint”. Additional guiding principle “ <i>Structural measures implemented in Natura 2000 areas have to be based on sustainable and ecologically sound methods and consistent with the objectives of concerned Natura 2000 site</i> ” was introduced on the suggestion from the SEA team in order to avoid potential significant negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network. However, structural flood risk reduction measures and other small scale investments still remain a part of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Additionally to scoping determinations, visitor increase to natural heritage sites should be assessed. Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Cultural heritage and Landscape	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect especially positive significant impacts on this segment of the environment. In general the CP aims at restoration and improved management of cultural heritage, but also sustainable development based on mobilisation of cultural potentials, which could also mean negative impacts. There are two activities, linked to small scale investments into flood prevention and green infrastructure set-up, which could have significant negative impacts on this segment of environment (landscape). Due to the fact that there is only limited information available at this time about these investments, it is impossible to carry out a full scale SEA evaluation. However, we believe that important	Both positive and negative significant impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were recognised. SEA should focus on small scale investments linked to flood protection and green infrastructure as well as all activities linked to sustainable	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment “Cultural heritage and Landscape”. Through guiding principles it promotes contribution to the smart balance between preservation and sustainable use of cultural resources. However, structural flood risk reduction measures and other small scale investments still remain a part of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.

	guidelines and mitigation measures can be addressed at the strategic level of evaluation, to be implemented in further programming/planning/project development steps.	development within cultural heritage areas and buildings.		
Health and Quality of living conditions	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect especially positive significant impacts on this segment of the environment. In general the CP aims at improvement of quality of living conditions and sustainable socio-economic development.	Significant positive impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 on health and Quality of living were recognised for most proposed actions. However, we believe that recognised positive impacts could be further increased through further SEA evaluation.	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Health and Quality of living conditions". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Waste	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on waste (in terms of waste creation), but no significant impact on waste was recognised – mostly due to the fact that there is a system for handling communal as well as construction waste in operation on national/regional level. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional creation of waste due to increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay as well as from building of envisioned small scale investments. On the other hand we can expect improved collection of waste due to improved visitor management.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected. A system for handling communal as well as construction waste in operation on national/regional level.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Waste". As already pointed out there is a system for handling communal as well as construction waste in operation on national/regional level that is expected to handle any increase in "tourism sector footprint". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Noise	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on increased pollution with noise, but no significant impact on waste was recognised. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional creation of noise pollution due to increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay as well as from building of envisioned small scale investments. On the other hand we can expect improved visitor management and can thus expect no significant impacts.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Noise". On the contrary, sustainable tourism, green infrastructure and elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage are promoted through "guiding principles", thus contributing to reduction of "tourism sector footprint". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.

ABOUT THE SEA REPORT

In the preparation of this SEA Report, publicly available data, data provided by the client and different relevant institutions was used. Description of the Cooperation Programme was developed based on the 7th draft version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (25th of March 2015), which defined the main features of the proposed program and relationship with other relevant programs. For the environment baseline descriptions the 3rd draft of the Situation Analysis and SWOT for the CP, from 23rd of February 2015 were also used.

The SEA Report is divided into two parts. The first gives a description of the current state and includes:

- information on the CP,
- definition of program impacts and alternatives,
- current state of the environment.

The second part integrates the above within the description of:

- environmental objectives (set up for the purpose of the assessment) and indicators for monitoring whether these objectives will be obtained,
- criteria set up for the purpose of the assessment and the impact assessment itself,
- evaluation of the CP implementation impacts on the environmental objectives,
- mitigation measures, recommendations and environmental monitoring.

The Annex of the SEA Report contains the Appropriate Assessment of impact from the programme implementation on nature.

COOPERATION PROGRAMME PRIORITY AXES (PA) AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (SO)**PA 1. INTEGRATED FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS**

SO1.1. Flood risk reduction in the trans boundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins

PA 2. PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

SO 2.1. Mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development

SO 2.2. Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services

PA 3. HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE BORDER AREAS

SO 3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas

CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES

The CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is a result of a programme development process, in which several other options, measures or applicable activities have been considered, however, its current content is one on which both parties have agreed upon, deciding that in this form the programme will suit the needs of the area, as well as be effective within its available budget. Therefore, there are no alternatives of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 that should be considered within this SEA Report.

The event of not implementing the programme, which can be considered as “zero alternative” is quite unlikely. In this situation the baseline conditions of the programme area would remain the same, i.e. the positive and negative impacts expected from the programme implementation would not occur. The same area and number of inhabitants would be at flood risk. Investments into the culture and natural heritage would not occur in the amount planned by the CP, therefore protection of these sites and also the capacity of mobilizing these resources for area development would not occur to the extent this programme will enable. Planned actions to ameliorate the degree of conservation for Natura 2000 target habitat types and species would not occur. The living conditions in the area would not be as improved as they could be by the CP implementation due to the absence of direct actions in the field of public health and health-care, social care services, safety (civil protection, emergency and rescue services), cross-border public transport and sustainable mobility services, but also from the lack of flood risk management this programme plans for and because the economic conditions would lack the momentum this programme plans to create. This in turn will not decrease the depopulation of the area, making it harder to ensure traditional land use (traditional agriculture and livestock breeding) necessary for biodiversity maintenance.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE, ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND EVALUATION OF IMPACTS**WATERS**

From a total of 410 river water bodies in the programme area, 20% were rated as having “poor” and “bad” ecological status. 17 lake type water bodies do not have a satisfactory ecological condition. Significant existing pressures in the programme area on water bodies are:

- o loads of outflows from industrial installations and/or communal waste water treatment plants,
- o diffuse pollution from agriculture,
- o water abstractions,
- o hydro-morphological changes of surface water bodies due to hydropower plants, flood protection, water accumulation,
- o regulations of water flow and the physical alteration of riverbeds.

The programme area is characterized by a high vulnerability to floods. The trans boundary river basins and rivers that require CB management cover approximately 354,868 ha or approximately 11% of the programme area, of which approximately 22,960 ha area is at risk of flooding. In total, 8,328 inhabitants live within border flood risk areas. The following border river basins are identified as critical to be primarily addressed through joined approach: Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Bregana, reaches of Drava and Mura of common interest.

The selected environmental goal is: **Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods.**

Characteristics of expected impacts on environmental goal

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Transboundary
Improved management of target water basins	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Reduced flood risk and erosion	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments (Priority axis 1.)	+/-	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments (Priority axis 2.) – re-naturalisation of river beds/improve hydrologic conditions	+	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Improved quality of tourists offer resulting in increased no. of tourists visiting the Programme area with prolonged time of stay.	-	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, ✗ not an impact characteristic

NATURE, BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

Key characteristics regarding nature and biodiversity current state within the programme area:

- high (above EU average) biodiversity in the programme area, with numerous of protected and endemic species;
- 11.7% of the programme area is included in some category of protected areas;
- 31.1% of the programme area is part of the potential SAC Natura 2000 areas and 22.5% is under SPA Natura 2000 areas.

Biodiversity of the programming area is threatened by diverse human activities that exude different types of existing pressures:

- habitat loss, degradation (in last decades related mostly to abandoning traditional agricultural activities) and fragmentation,
- invasive species introduction,
- over-exploitation of natural resources, including various species
- agricultural and tourism activities not developed in a sustainable manner
- environmental pollution (water, soil, air);
- climate change is also a factor affecting biodiversity, therefore reducing other pressures is crucial for ensuring that ecosystems as a whole are less vulnerable i.e. more resilient to climate change.

The two countries share much of the biodiversity components (habitats, species), their protected areas share some of the key characteristics which opens great opportunities for developing common approaches in management and knowledge exchange. However, visitor management is not adequately developed within the programme area, and since unguided visitors pose a threat to nature protection goals, it is essential to devise visitor monitoring and management plans.

For the purpose of defining CP result indicator average degree of conservation status of Natura 2000 habitat types and species was calculated. The result was that currently both species and habitat types important for the European Community are in a good state within the programme area, however there is the need to improve the status of those that are not.

The selected environmental goal is: **Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management: Maintaining biodiversity through habitats restoration and species protection; Preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring their sustainable management.**

Characteristics of expected impacts on the environmental goal

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Transboundary
Impacts from implementation of cross-border harmonized and bilaterally agreed structural flood risk prevention measures (small scale investments in the field of flood risk management)	-	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Improved condition (state) and management of natural and cultural heritage and protected areas (eligible actions of the SO 2.1.)	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts from improvement of knowledge base and capacities (SO 2.1.)	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments in the field mobilization natural heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ small scale conservation, restoration and preservation of registered cultural and/or natural heritage including content development for smart utilization and sustainable management; ○ small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and equipment improving accessibility and visitor experience of registered cultural and/or natural heritage (e.g. visitor centres, crafts production centres and show rooms, bike trails and rentals, parking areas, adaptations to persons with special needs, connection paths to heritage sites,...) 	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts from increase of tourist visits to cultural and natural heritage sites (17% from 4.911.583 in 2013.)	-	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Improved condition (state), management and connectivity of Natura 2000 areas / Protected biodiversity (SO 2.2.)	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, ✗ not an impact characteristic

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

The programme area is rich with tangible and intangible (living) cultural heritage. Cultural heritage is well represented in towns as well as in the countryside with more than 25,000 units in the whole programme area.

Despite its rich cultural potential there are several reasons cultural heritage is threatened by degradation: lack of maintenance and care, insufficient financial means, unresolved issues of ownership and low level of awareness of the heritage value. The sustainable use of cultural heritage is recognized as one of the key guidelines to ensure greater independence and self-sustainability of cultural heritage sites.

The programme area is exceptionally rich in valuable landscape characteristics, which are results of climate and relief diversity as well as of traditional heritage. The area is characterized with three major landscape types: Pannonia plain, Dinaric Alps and the Adriatic coast with Istrian peninsula and islands in the southwest of the programme area.

The selected environmental goal is: **Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use.**

HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIVING

The Cooperation Programme includes 17 statistical regions in Slovenia and counties in Croatia. The programme area has 3.825.303 inhabitants (in 2013). In the period 2009 – 2013 the population decreased by 19.000 in the programme area. The population increased by 24.000 on the Slovene side, but in the Croatian part it decreased by 43.000 inhabitants.

In general, ageing of the population is a dominant process in the entire programme area. Due to such age structure, it is crucial to improve living conditions and quality of life for all citizens of the region (especially to improve health and social care for specific population groups such as elderly, population in rural, remote and peripheral border areas with show a significant gap in service delivery).

According to the Situation Analysis appropriateness of local health infrastructure and range of services vary.

Social situation of the population in the programme area has worsened in the last few years due to the economic crisis.

There are significant regional differences in the social situation of the population in the programme area. Rural, remote, mountain and island areas are the most affected or threatened by exclusion.

Characteristics of expected impacts on environmental goal:

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Trans boundary
Impact on quality of living, human health and safety due to: improved knowledge about flood risks and improved response/adaptation to natural disasters and climate changes, strengthened local economy and new employment opportunities, improved accessibility to public services (health, and social care and safety), improved quality of tourists offer resulting in increased no. of tourists visiting the programme area	+	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, × not an impact characteristic

The selected environmental goal is: **Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters.**

Potential impacts identified in the scoping phase were more precisely defined in the SEA Report and evaluated through the following four environmental goals that were selected based on relevant EU Directives, International Conventions and/or National Strategies:

- Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters.

A system of indicators was developed for each individual environmental goal, as well as criteria for evaluating impacts of the CP on a particular environmental goal. Impacts were assessed on the basis of changes in individual impact indicators in regard to of the state of the environment and the importance of these changes, the level at which environmental protection objectives were taken into account during the CP preparation and other evaluation criteria, in respect to:

- Baseline state of the environment or its parts,
- Protection of natural resources,
- Protection of natural and cultural values,
- Conservation of biodiversity,
- Characteristics of the population,
- Human health,
- Climate changes.

The table below summarizes the evaluation of expected impacts from the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 implementation on set environmental goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL	EVALUATION OF IMPACTS
Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods	Implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 will have a neutral, or slightly positive, impact (A) on achieving the environmental goal "Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods".
Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management - Maintaining biodiversity through habitats restoration and species protection; Preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring their sustainable management	It can be concluded that the implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 will have negligible impacts on the set environmental goal „Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management“ (B). Still, the SEA Report has proposed recommendations to ensure minimal negative impacts/enhance positive impacts from the proposed actions.
Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use	The implementation of the program will have negligible impacts (B) regarding the environmental objective Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use.
Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters	The implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014 – 2020 will have a positive impact (A) on achieving the environmental goal "Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters".

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Since the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, or better to say, its eligible actions do not have set locations, the assessment had to be done on a strategic level, and not in respect to specific species or habitat types (target species or habitat types). This signifies that the acceptability of the projects will have to be determined on the project level (for projects that are obligated to undergo acceptability assessment) in accordance with relevant national regulations. It is important to stress out that this strategic assessment of acceptability is in no way prejudicial in regards to the assessment on the project level. For projects that do not require the acceptability assessment on the project level, terms of project implementation and/or accordance with the planned project, will have to be obtained from the authorized body for nature protection.

For the purpose of the assessment the following environmental goal was set: *To maintain or improve the degree of conservation of Natura 2000 target features, Natura 2000 Network integrity, conditions in protected nature areas and nature protection network on the whole.*

The impact of the programme implementation on the set environmental goal was assessed according to the CP's Specific objectives and eligible actions. The summary of the assessment is given in the table below.

Specific objectives	Eligible actions	Impact assessment
1.1. Flood risk reduction in the transboundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins	a) Non-structural flood risk reduction measures	A
	b) Structural flood risk reduction measures in the target area (Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava and Mura river basins)	B
2.1. Mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development	1. Development of cross border products and destinations, on the basis of cultural and natural heritage following the concepts of sustainable tourism, bottom-up and integrated approach 2. Cross-border destination or product co-operation structures, management and promotion	B
	3. Improvement of knowledge base and capacities	A
2.2. Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Development of joint co-ordinated approaches, methods, tools - Implementation of monitoring surveys - Practical demonstration actions in nature aiming at improving conditions and protection of different habitat types and species - Identification, mapping, evaluation and enhancement of ecosystem services 	A
3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas	Indicative actions to be supported in the field of i) public health and health-care, ii) social care services, iii) safety (civil protection, emergency and rescue services), iv) cross-border public transport and sustainable mobility services:	A

On the whole it can be concluded that the implementation of the CP will have negligible impacts (B) on the nature protection goal mostly due to the planned structural measure from the PA 1 and the expected tourist increase (SO 2.1.). The non-structural measures of the PA 1 and the whole PA 3 will be neutral in respect to the set nature protection goal, while actions planned under SO 2.2. and also under SO 2.1. will have a positive impact on Natura 2000 areas and protected areas.

MITIGATION MEASURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since no potentially significant negative impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 implementation have been identified, no particular mitigation measures have been proposed. This minimal expected environmental impact is the result of the overall direction of the CP "Connected in Green", which implies an ecologically or environmentally oriented programme, and also of the SEA team's involvement in the programming process. This involvement ensured that potentially necessary mitigating measures got integrated into the programme as horizontal or guiding principles, such as for the SO 1.1 "Structural measures implemented in Natura 2000 areas have to be based on sustainable and ecologically sound methods and consistent with the objectives of concerned Natura 2000 site". Naturally, it is given that all legal restraints and/or obligations that relate to a particular project will be fully adhered to.

Recommendations are intended as guidelines to allow the maximization of potential positive impact that are expected to arise from the implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, and to be used during project selection for valorisation of applications that achieve the desired positive impacts. Most of the recommendations necessary, however have already been integrated in the programme itself through horizontal principle of sustainable development, SO guiding principles or through territory type financial allocations.

PRIORITY AXIS	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	RECOMMENDATION	ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT
1. Integrated flood risk management in trans boundary river basins	1.1. Flood risk reduction in the trans boundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects should include measures to prevent or mitigate flooding in a way to manage storm water from the point of runoff and in that way reduce the volume of water that flows into the river in a short period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waters
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Following the CP horizontal principle of sustainable development and the guiding principle regarding Natura 2000 areas, it is further suggested that pilot projects promote the 'room for river' approach (that allows flooding during periods of high discharge), use of natural retentions, restoration of river flood plains, changes in land use and so on as opposed to various traditional construction methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity/Nature protection
2. Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources	2.1. Mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the project selection, regarding small scale visitor infrastructure, it is recommended to give an advantage to infrastructure aimed at controlled guiding of visitors through the area – walking paths, cycling routes... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity/Nature protection
	2.2. Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the project selection, regarding small scale visitor infrastructure, it is recommended to give an advantage to infrastructure aimed at controlled guiding of visitors through the area – walking paths, cycling routes... ○ Projects of habitat restoration, re-naturalisation of river beds/improvements of hydrologic conditions (SO 2.2) should be prepared in a way that ensures the highest positive long-term impacts on the nature. It is recommended that projects should not be too invasive and that construction work should be kept to a minimum. The methodology selected has to take into account current state and the desired state of the habitat, population and distribution of the target species in the project area and potential long-term impacts from the changed state of the habitat on the target species. ○ Projects of invasive species removal (SO 2.2) have to be prepared in a way that ensures the highest positive long-term impacts on the nature, while keeping the negative short-term impacts on indigenous and target species minimal. The methodology has to take into account distribution of the target species in the project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity/Nature protection
3. Healthy, safe and accessible border areas	3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas	Already covered by the programme.	-

MONITORING

It was considered whether any of the identified impacts requires a systemic monitoring and concluded that due to the absence of any significant risks (expected impacts); there is no need for dedicated environmental monitoring system for the proposed CP SI-CRO 2014-2020.

The Ecological status of surface waters can be used to assess impacts from flood protection measures on surface waters, and the necessary data can be obtained from ARSO and Croatian Waters (Hrvatske vode) who are obliged to perform these measurements according to the Water Framework Directive.

The proposed programme indicators were evaluated for collecting any relevant environmental data that would support other needs for improved monitoring. To this end, the following programme indicators can be used:

- Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area; It has to be pointed out that this indicator has to be evaluated carefully since it can be significantly changed due to various pressures not related to the CP implementation, such as natural disasters (bad weather, floods, fires); various development activities and so on.
- Surface area of habitats supported (in order to attain a better conservation status);
- Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area;
- Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage.

If these indicators do not show the desired and expected movements in the programme mid-term evaluation, and these unexpected movements can be logically connected to the CP implementation, the Managing Authority should consult relevant authorities and conclude what can be done to change this situation, and how the continuation of the CP implementation can assist in achieving the desired indicator movements.

FURTHER STEPS

This SEA Report will be sent out to the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, as the whole programme SEA procedure was agreed to follow the Slovenian procedure since the responsible Slovenian institutions took over the role of the Managing Authority. The Ministry will evaluate the adequacy of the SEA Report and its conclusions and issue a Decree, which represents the legal basis for public consultation process. After the end of the consultation process both CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 and the SEA Report will be amended according to potential relevant comments resulting from the public consultation process and will be submitted as final documents into the adoption procedure to the responsible authorities.

POLJUDNI POVZETEK

Čezmejno sodelovanje med Slovenijo in Hrvaško je bilo od leta 2003 naprej podprto z več finančnimi instrumenti Evropske unije. Prvi je bil Program PHARE/CARDS (2003), nato trilateralni Sosedski program SLO-HR-MAD (2004-2006) in Program čezmejnega sodelovanja IPA (2007-2013). Administrativne in izvedbene ureditve, uvedene v posameznem programskem obdobju, so postopoma izboljšale pogoje za sodelovanje kot so skupni razpisi za zbiranje predlogov projektov, skupni projekti, načelo vodilnega partnerja in odpravljanje prepoznanih težav oz. preprek. S pristopom Hrvaške k Evropski uniji, 1. julija 2013, se za novo programsko obdobje 2014-2020 odpirajo nove priložnosti in izzivi za sodelovanje med Slovenijo in Hrvaško.

PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 je, kot vsi načrti in programi, ki bi lahko imeli vpliv na okolje, predmet celovite presoje vplivov na okolje (CPVO), v skladu z Direktivo CPVO 2001/42/EC, ki je bila prenesena v nacionalno zakonodajo obeh držav: Zakon o varstvu okolja (Uradni list Republike Slovenije št. 39/06, 49/06, 66/06, 33/07, 57/08, 70/08, 108/09, 108/09, 48/12, 57/12 and 92/13) in Zakon o varstvu okolja (Uradni list Republike Hrvaške št. 80/13).

Namen CPVO, za katero je pripravljeno to okoljsko poročilo, je zagotoviti, da so bila načela trajnostnega razvoja in preventive upoštevana v procesu načrtovanja. V postopku priprave okoljskega poročila morajo biti prepoznani in ocenjeni potencialni okoljski vplivi izvajanja programa. Okoljevarstvene zahteve, cilji ohranjanja narave, varstvo zdravja in življenja ljudi in varstvo kulturne dediščine, morajo biti v programu upoštevani. Končni cilj CPVO je preprečiti ali vsaj bistveno zmanjšati aktivnosti, ki bi lahko imele znatne škodljive vplive na katerokoli izmed zgoraj navedenih kategorij.

SCREENING

Tako »screening« kot celoten postopek CPVO (ob upoštevanju nekaj dodatnih zahtev hrvaške zakonodaje) je bil izveden v Sloveniji, skladno z bilateralnim sporazumom pa ga je izvedlo Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor. Navedeno je skladno z dogovorom, da vlogo vodilne institucije za izvedbo Programa sodelovanja prevzame Republika Slovenija. Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor je izdalo odločbo (št. 35409-9/2015/5), ki navaja nujnost izvedbe tako okoljskega poročila kot presoje sprejemljivosti programa na varovana območja za PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.

SCOPING (VSEBINJENJE)

Na podlagi drugega osnutka Programa sodelovanja (24. september 2014), je bilo izvedeno interno vsebinjenje v okviru delovne skupine. Poročilo o vsebinjenju je bilo posredovano odgovornim organom obeh držav v potrditev oz. javno vsebinjenje. V okviru vsebinjenja so bili določeni potencialni vplivi (pozitivni in negativni) izvedbe Programa sodelovanja na posamezne dele okolja. Podan je bil opis dogodkov, ki bi lahko povzročili vplive, katere obremenitve lahko pričakujemo, kakšne posledice lahko nastopijo in kako so vplivi povezani z značilnostmi območja. Potencialni vplivi predvidenih ukrepov so bili najprej definirani po ukrepih predvidenih za izvedbo v okviru prednostnih osi. Opredeljene so bile karakteristične značilnosti vplivov posameznih ukrepov na posamezne dele okolja.

Na tej točki so bili vsi zgoraj navedeni dokumenti še v obliki osnutkov in s tem podvrženi morebitnim spremembam. Ekipa izdelovalca CPVO je ocenila, da revidiran logični okvir PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 predstavlja jedro PS in se zato lahko uporabi v procesu vsebinjenja.

Ekipa izdelovalca CPVO je od faze vsebinjenja aktivno sodelovala v najpomembnejših fazah razvojnega procesa PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. V nekaj mesecih je bilo pripravljenih več verzij osnutkov programa, na podlagi katerih je prišlo do smiselnih sprememb samega programa. Zaradi zagotavljanja transparentnosti odločitev sprejetih tekom postopka CPVO ter omogočanja celovitosti CPVO, se je ekipa odločila za revizijo odločitev, sprejetih v fazi vsebinjenja, ki temelji na najnovejši različici osnutka PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 (sedmi osnutek, 25. marec 2015). Spodnja preglednica prikazuje pregled odločitev v fazi vsebinjenja ter vpliv odločitev glede na najnovejšo verzijo PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.

Zaključki poročila o scopingu

DEL OKOLJA	IDENTIFICIRANI VPLIVI	ARGUMENTACIJA OBRAVNAVE POSAMEZNIH DELOV OKOLJA V NADALJEVANJU CPVO	NADALJNJA OBRAVNAVA V CPVO	KRATKA OBRAZLOŽITEV BISTVENIH SPREMEMB PS SLO-HR 2014-2010 MED FAZO POROČILA O SCOPINGU IN KONČNO VERZIJO PS SLO-HR 2014-2010 (SEDMA VERZIJA) TER NJIHOVEGA VPLIVA NA ODLOČITVE SPREJETE V FAZI VSEBINJENJA
Klimatske spremembe	Več predlaganih ukrepov bo zelo verjetno na takšen ali drugačen način vplivalo na podnebne spremembe, vendar bistveni vplivi na klimatske spremembe niso bili prepoznani. Druge nebstvene vplive je mogoče povezati z nastankom dodatnega onesnaževanja s toplogrednimi plini zaradi povečanega turističnega obiska - povečanja prometa in podaljšanega čas bivanja turistov. Izvajanje PS bo imelo tudi pozitivne učinke v povezavi s spodbujanjem zelenega turizma in ohranjanja ekosistemske pestrosti.	Ni pričakovanega bistvenega vpliva izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.	NE	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 vsebuje rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na klimatske spremembe. Odločitev vsebinjenja ni treba spreminjati.
Zrak	Več predlaganih ukrepov bo zelo verjetno na takšen ali drugačen način vplivalo na kvaliteto zraka, vendar bistveni vplivi niso bili prepoznani. Druge nebstvene vplive je mogoče povezati z nastankom dodatnega onesnaževanja s toplogrednimi plini zaradi povečanega turističnega obiska - povečanja prometa in podaljšanega čas bivanja turistov. Izvajanje PS bo imelo tudi pozitivne učinke v povezavi s spodbujanjem zelenega turizma.	Ni pričakovanega bistvenega vpliva izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.	NE	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 vsebuje rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na zrak. Odločitev vsebinjenja ni treba spreminjati.
Tla	Več predlaganih ukrepov bo zelo verjetno na takšen ali drugačen način vplivalo na kvaliteto tal in erozijo—predvsem erozija je prepoznana kot negativen vpliv ukrepov, povezanih z manjšimi pilotnimi investicijami na področju zagotavljanja protipoplavne zaščite. Glede na zgolj omejene informacije o teh investicijah ter obstoječo zakonodajo, vplivi niso bili prepoznani kot bistveni. Po drugi strani lahko pričakujemo pozitivne učinke, povezane z zmanjševanjem erozije zaradi ustreznih pristopov do trajnostnega urejanja rek in obvladovanja poplavnih tveganj s pomočjo manjših investicij v protipoplavno zaščito.	Ni pričakovanega bistvenega vpliva izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.	NE	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 vsebuje rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na tla. Odločitev vsebinjenja ni treba spreminjati.
Površinske in podzemne vode	Glede na naravo in fokus PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 lahko pričakujemo bistvene pozitivne in negativne vplive na površinske vode. V splošnem je cilj PS osredotočen na izboljšanje upravljanja porečij, s poudarkom na prilagoditev/preprečevanje/obvladovanje tveganja pred poplavami, zato se tudi lahko pričakuje bistvene pozitivne učinke. Po drugi strani pa je prav aktivnost investiranja v preprečevanje poplav tista, od katere se pričakuje bistvene	Zaznani so tako pozitivni kot negativni bistveni vplivi izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. CPVO naj se osredotoči na upravljanje porečij, obvladovanje	DA	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 vsebuje rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa. Prav tako predvideva novo upravičeno aktivnost 'Prepoznavanje operativnih vrzeli in administrativnih bremen za učinkovito čezmejno obvladovanje poplavne ogroženosti, pripravo konkretnih rešitev in, če je mogoče, njihovo vključevanje v nacionalne sisteme in vsakodnevno prakso', kar bo prineslo dodaten pozitiven učinek z upravljalškega vidika. Uvaja več

	negativne vplive na tem delu okolja. Zaradi omejene količine dostopnih podatkov o teh investicijah, v CPVO ni možno izvesti celovitega vrednotenja, vendar smo prepričani, da lahko podamo pomembne smernice in omilitvene ukrepe na strateški ravni vrednotenja, izvedeni pa bodo v nadaljnjih korakih načrtovanja/planiranja/razvoja projekta.	poplavne ogroženosti in intervencij, povezanih z manjšimi investicijami v zeleno infrastrukturo ter varstvo pred poplavami.		novih "vodilnih načel" za blaženje negativnih vplivov infrastrukture namenjene protipoplavni zaščiti. Kljub temu ukrepi za zmanjšanje poplavne nevarnosti ter manjše investicije ostajajo del PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. Upoštevati je treba tudi negativne učinke povečanega "odtisa turističnega sektorja". Odločitev vsebinjenja ni treba spreminjati.
Biotska raznovrstnost, Natura 2000 in zavarovana območja	Glede na naravo in fokus PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 lahko pričakujemo predvsem bistvene pozitivne vplive na ta del okolja. V splošnem je cilj PS osredotočen na izboljšanje upravljanja, vendar tudi na trajnostni razvoj, ki temelji na mobilizaciji naravnih potencialov, kar bi lahko prineslo tudi negativne vplive. Obstajata dve aktivnosti, povezani z manjšimi investicijami v preprečevanje poplav in vzpostavljanjem zelene infrastrukture, kar bi lahko imelo bistvene negativne vplive na ta del okolja. Zaradi omejene količine dostopnih podatkov o teh investicijah (npr. ni podatkov o lokacijah in obsegu investicij), v CPVO ni možno izvesti celovitega vrednotenja, vendar smo prepričani, da lahko podamo pomembne smernice in omilitvene ukrepe na strateški ravni vrednotenja, izvedeni pa bodo v nadaljnjih korakih načrtovanja/planiranja/razvoja projekta.	Zaznani so tako pozitivni kot negativni bistveni vplivi izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. CPVO naj se osredotoči na upravljanje porečij, obvladovanje poplavne ogroženosti in intervencij, povezanih z manjšimi investicijami v zeleno infrastrukturo ter varstvo pred poplavami kot tudi na dejavnosti, povezane s trajnostnim razvojem v okviru naravne dediščine, območij Natura 2000 in zavarovanih območij.	DA	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 uvaja rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na naravo, biotsko raznolikost, območja Natura 2000 in na zavarovana območja. Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 predvideva približno 17% povečanje turističnega obiska kulturne in naravne dediščine, kar je višje od obravnavanih števil v prejšnjih različicah PS. Še vedno se preko "vodilnih načel" izpodbuja trajnostni turizem, zeleno infrastrukturo ter pripravo in izvajanje načrtov upravljanja naravne dediščine, kar prispeva k zmanjšanju "odtisa turističnega sektorja". Dodatno vodilno načelo "Strukturni ukrepi, ki se izvajajo na območjih Natura 2000, morajo temeljiti na trajnostnih in okolju prijaznih metodah in biti v skladu s cilji zadevnega območja Natura 2000" je bilo vključeno na predlog ekipe izdelovalca CPVO, z namenom izogibanja potencialnih negativnih vplivov, ki bi lahko imeli bistven vpliv na omrežje območij Natura 2000. Kljub temu ukrepi za zmanjšanje poplavne nevarnosti ter manjše investicije ostajajo del PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. Poleg navedenega se mora CPVO osredotočiti tudi na vplive povečanega obiska naravne dediščine. Odločitev vsebinjenja ni treba spreminjati.
Kulturna dediščina in krajina	Glede na naravo in fokus PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 lahko pričakujemo predvsem bistvene pozitivne vplive na ta del okolja. V splošnem je cilj PS osredotočen na izboljšanje upravljanja, obnavljanje kulturne dediščine, in trajnostnega razvoja ki temelji na mobilizaciji kulturnih potencialov, kar bi lahko prineslo tudi negativne vplive. Obstajata dve aktivnosti, povezani z manjšimi investicijami v preprečevanje poplav in vzpostavljanjem zelene infrastrukture, kar bi lahko imelo bistvene negativne vplive na krajino. Zaradi omejene količine dostopnih podatkov o teh investicijah, v CPVO (npr. ni podatkov o lokacijah in obsegu investicij) ni možno izvesti celovitega vrednotenja,	Zaznani so tako pozitivni kot negativni bistveni vplivi izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. CPVO se mora osredotočiti na upravljanje porečij, obvladovanje poplavne ogroženosti in intervencij, povezanih z manjšimi investicijami v zeleno	DA	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 uvaja rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na kulturno dediščino in krajino. Preko vodilnih načel spodbuja prispevanje k pametnemu razmerju med ohranjanjem in trajnostno uporabo kulturnih virov. Kljub temu ukrepi za zmanjšanje poplavne nevarnosti ter manjše investicije ostajajo del PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. Odločitev scopinga ni treba spreminjati.

	vendar smo prepričani, da lahko podamo pomembne smernice in omilitvene ukrepe na strateški ravni vrednotenja, izvedeni pa bodo v nadaljnjih korakih načrtovanja/planiranja/razvoja projekta.	infrastrukturo ter varstva pred poplavami kot tudi na dejavnosti, povezane s trajnostnim razvojem v okviru kulturne dediščine in stavb.		
Zdravje ljudi in kakovost življenja	Glede na naravo in fokus PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 lahko pričakujemo predvsem bistvene pozitivne vplive na ta del okolja. V splošnem je cilj PS izboljšanje kakovosti življenja in trajnosten družbeno- gospodarski razvoj.	Za večino predlaganih ukrepov PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 se pričakuje pozitivne učinke na zdravje in kakovost življenja. Pričakuje se povečanje pozitivnih učinkov skozi nadaljnje ocenjevanje v CPVO.	DA	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 uvaja rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na zdravje ljudi in kakovost življenja. Odločitev scopinga ni treba spreminjati.
Odpadki	Več predlaganih ukrepov bo zelo verjetno vplivalo na odpadke (v smislu povečanega nastajanja odpadkov), vendar bistven vpliv ni bil prepoznan predvsem zaradi dejstva, da je sistem za ravnanje s komunalnimi in gradbenimi odpadki vzpostavljen na nacionalni/regionalni ravni. Druge vplive je mogoče povezati s povečanim turističnim obiskom ter podaljšanim časom bivanja kot tudi z manjšimi predvidenimi investicijami. Po drugi strani pa lahko zaradi izboljšanega upravljanja z obiskovalci pričakujemo izboljšanje zbiranja odpadkov.	Ni pričakovanega bistvenega vpliva izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. Sistem za obdelavo komunalnih in gradbenih odpadkov se izvaja na nacionalni/regionalni ravni.	NE	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 uvaja rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na odpadke. Kot je bilo že omenjeno, se sistem ravnanja s komunalnimi in gradbenimi odpadki izvaja na nacionalni/regionalni ravni. Pričakuje se, da bo obvladoval kakršno koli povečanje "odtisa turističnega sektorja". Odločitev scopinga ni treba spreminjati.
Hrup	Več predlaganih ukrepov bo zelo verjetno vplivalo na povečano onesnaževanje s hrupom, vendar bistven vpliv ni bil prepoznan. Druge vplive povečanega onesnaževanja s hrupom je mogoče povezati s povečanim turističnim obiskom ter podaljšanim časom bivanja kot tudi z manjšimi predvidenimi investicijami. Po drugi strani pa lahko zaradi izboljšanega upravljanja z obiskovalci pričakujemo, da ti vplivi ne bodo bistveni.	Ni pričakovanega bistvenega vpliva izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.	NE	Sedma različica PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 uvaja rekonstruiran ter bolje opredeljen logični okvir programa, vendar ne predvideva novih ukrepov, ki bi imeli potencialne vplive na povečano onesnaževanje s hrupom. Ravno nasprotno, saj se preko "vodilnih načel" izpodbuja trajnostni turizem, zeleno infrastrukturo ter pripravo in izvajanje načrtov upravljanja naravne dediščine, kar prispeva k zmanjšanju "odtisa turističnega sektorja". Odločitev scopinga ni treba spreminjati.

O OKOLJSKEM POROČILU

Za potrebe priprave okoljskega poročila so bili uporabljeni javno dostopni podatki ter podatki posredovani s strani naročnika in pristojnih inštitucij. Opis Programa sodelovanja je narejen glede na podlagi osnutka sedme verzije PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 (25. marec 2015), kjer so opredeljene glavne značilnosti predvidenega programa in odnos do drugih ustreznih programov. Za izhodiščne okoljske opise so bili uporabljeni zaključki tretjega osnutka Situacijske analize in SWOT analize za PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 (23. februar 2015).

Okoljsko poročilo je sestavljeno iz dveh delov. Prvi del predstavlja opis stanja in zajema:

- podatke o operativnem programu,
- opredelitev vplivov programa in alternative,
- stanje okolja.

Drugi del pa te vsebine povezuje in združuje v okviru opredelitve:

- okoljskih ciljev programa in kazalcev za spremljanje doseganja teh ciljev,
- meril in metod ugotavljanja in ocenjevanja vplivov,
- vrednotenja vplivov izvedbe operativnega programa na okoljske cilje programa,
- omilitvenih ukrepov in spremljanja stanja okolja.

Kot priloga okoljskega poročila je bila pripravljena tudi Presoja sprejemljivosti izvedbe programa na varovana območja narave.

PREDNOSTNE OSI IN SPECIFIČNI CILJI PROGRAMA SODELOVANJA**1. CELOSTNO OBVLADOVANJE POPLAVNE OGROŽENOSTI V ČEZMEJNIH POREČJIH**

1.1. Zmanjševanje poplavne ogroženosti v čezmejnih porečjih Dragonje, Kolpe, Sotle, Drave, Mure in Bregane

2. OHRANJANJE IN TRAJNOSTNA RABA NARAVNIH IN KULTURNIH VIROV

2.1. Aktiviranje naravne in kulturne dediščine za razvoj trajnostnega turizma

2.2. Zaščita in obnova biotske raznovrstnosti in promocija ekosistemskih storitev

3. ZDRAVA, VARNA IN DOSTOPNA OBMEJNA OBMOČJA

3.1. Krepitev partnerstev med javnimi organi in deležniki za zdrava, varna in dostopna čezmejna območja

UPOŠTEVANE ALTERNATIVE

PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 je rezultat procesa priprave programa, v katerem je bilo upoštevanih veliko različnih možnosti, ukrepov in upravičenih aktivnosti. Trenutna vsebina PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 pa odraža predlog, ki je sprejemljiv za obe strani in za katerega sta obe strani ocenili, da ustreza potrebam območja in bo učinkovit tudi z vidika razpoložljivega finančnega okvirja. Tako PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 ne predvideva nobenih alternativ, ki bi jih bilo potrebno obravnavati znotraj okoljskega poročila.

Verjetnost, da se program ne bi izvedel oz. »ničelna alternativa« je malo verjetna. Če bi do takšne situacije vseeno prišlo se trenutno stanje okolja na območju programa ne bi spremenilo oz. se pozitivni in negativni pričakovani vplivi izvedbe programa ne bi zgodili. Velikost območja in število prebivalcev, ogroženih s strani poplav, bi ostalo enako. Do vlaganja v kulturno in naravno dediščino ne bi prišlo v takšnem obsegu, kot je predvideno v PS SLO-HR 2014-2020, torej se zaščita teh območij in tudi možnost aktiviranja teh virov za razvoj območja ne bi zgodila v takšnem obsegu, kot bo omogočil ta program. Do načrtovanih ukrepov za blaženje pritiskov na območja Naturo 2000 za ciljne habitatne tipe in vrste, nebi prišlo. Življenjski pogoji za to območje se ne bi izboljšali v tolikšni meri, kot bi se lahko z izvajanjem programa, zaradi odsotnosti neposrednih ukrepov na področju javnega zdravja in zdravstvenega varstva, socialnih storitev, varnosti (civilne zaščite, nujne pomoči in reševalnih storitev), čezmejnega javnega prevoza in trajnostne mobilnosti, kot tudi zaradi pomanjkanja obvladovanja tveganja poplav, ki ga planira ta program ter pomanjkanja zagona za izvedbo programa zaradi trenutnih gospodarskih razmer. Navedeno torej ne bi privedlo do zmanjšanja depopulacije območja, kar bo dodatno otežilo ohranjanje tradicionalne rabe zemljišč (tradicionalno poljedelstvo in živinoreja), ki je potrebna za ohranjanje biološke raznolikosti.

STANJE OKOLJA, OKOLJSKI CILJI IN VREDNOTENJE VPLIVOV

Stanje okolja, kjer so opredeljene ključne značilnosti in problemi, ki izhajajo iz navedenega (obstoječe obremenitve), je podrobneje opisano za tiste dele okolja, kjer so bili pričakovani potencialni negativni in pozitivni vplivi izvedbe programa. Narejen je pregled pravnih režimov na varovanih območjih.

VODE

Od skupno 410 rečnih vodnih teles v programskem območju jih ima 20% ocenjeno slabo in zelo slabo ekološko stanje. 17 jezer nima zadovoljivega ekološkega stanja. Pomembni obstoječi pritiski v programskem območju so:

- velika količina vtokov iz industrijskih obratov in/ali komunalnih čistilnih naprav,
- razpršeno onesnaževanje kot posledica kmetijstva,
- odvzem vode,
- hidromorfološke spremembe zaradi postavitve hidroelektrarn, objektov za varstvo pred poplavami in vodnih akumulacij,
- regulacije vodnega pretoka in fizično spreminjanje struge.

Zaradi topografije terena, hidroloških značilnosti in podnebnih značilnosti je za programsko območje značilna visoka ranljivost zaradi poplav. Čezmejna povodja in reke, ki zahtevajo prekomerno upravljanje, pokrivajo približno 354.868 ha ali približno 11% programskega območja, od česar je približno 22.960 ha območja v nevarnosti zaradi poplav. Skupno 8.328 prebivalcev živi na obmejnih poplavnih območjih

Značilnosti pričakovanih vplivov na okoljski cilj:

Vpliv	Positiven / Negativen	Neposreden	Posreden	Daljijski	Kratkoročni	Srednjeročni	Dolgoročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Čezmejni
Izboljšano upravljanje ciljnih porečij	+	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Zmanjšana nevarnost poplav in erozije	+	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Vplivi manjših investicij (Prednostna os 1.)	+/-	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Vplivi manjših investicij (Prednostna os 2.) – ponovna naturalizacija rečnih strug/izboljšanje hidroloških razmer	+	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Izboljšana kvaliteta turistične ponudbe, ki ima za posledico večje število turistov, ki se na območju zadržijo daljši čas.	-	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓

Legenda: + pozitivno, - negativno, ✓ značilnost vpliva, × ni značilnost vpliva

Izbrani okoljski cilj: **Ohranjanje in obnavljanje dobrega stanja površinskih voda in zmanjševanje učinkov poplav**

NARAVA, BIOTSKA RAZNOVRSTNOST IN ZAVAROVANA OBMOČJA

Situacijska analiza je glede na obstoječe stanje izpostavila naslednje ključne značilnosti narave in biotske pestrosti v programskem območju:

- visoka (nad EU povprečjem) biotska pestrost s številnimi zavarovanimi in endemičnimi vrstami;
- 11,7% programskega območja je vključenih v kategorije zavarovanih območij;
- 31,1% programskega območja je del potencialnih območij SPI Natura 2000 in 22,5% del območij SPA Natura 2000.

Biotska pestrost programskega območja je ogrožena zaradi različnih človekovih dejavnosti, ki predstavljajo različne tipe obstoječih pritiskov:

- izguba habitatov, degradacija (v zadnjih desetletjih se nanaša predvsem na opuščanje tradicionalne kmetijske dejavnosti) in fragmentacija,
- vnos invazivnih vrst,
- prekomerno izkoriščanje naravnih virov, vključno z različnimi vrstami,
- kmetijske in turistične dejavnosti, ki niso razvite na trajnosten način
- onesnaževanje okolja (voda, tla, zrak);
- klimatske spremembe so prav tako pomemben dejavnik za biotsko pestrost, zato je zmanjšanje drugih pritiskov ključnega pomena za zagotavljanje, da so ekosistemi kot celota manj občutljivi na klimatske spremembe

Glede na to, da si državi delita obsežno območje z veliko biotsko pestrostjo (habitati, vrste), si njuna zavarovana območja delijo nekaj ključnih značilnosti, ki odpirajo možnosti za razvijanje skupnih pristopov k upravljanju zavarovanih območij ter izmenjavo znanj. Situacijska analiza je poudarila tudi, da upravljanje z obiskom v programskem območju ni ustrezno razvito, saj ne-vodeni obiskovalci predstavljajo grožnjo ciljem varovanja narave. Treba bi bilo oblikovati načrt upravljanja in vodenja obiskovalcev po zavarovanih območjih, ki bo vključeval tudi izračun kolikšno število obiskovalcev posamezno območje še prenese, se pravi kakšna je njegova nosilnost). Za namene vrednotenja vplivov PS je bilo izračunano povprečno stanje ohranjenosti habitatnih tipov in vrst. To kaže, da so habitatni tipi in vrste, ki so pomembni na ravni EU in se nahajajo v programskem območju v dobrem stanju, kljub temu pa je poudarjeno, da je treba tiste v slabem stanju izboljšati.

Značilnosti pričakovanih vplivov na okoljski cilj:

Vpliv	Pozitiven / Negativen	Neposreden	Posreden	Daljnjski	Kratkoročni	Srednjeročni	Dolgoročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Čezmejni
Vpliv izvedbe čezmejnih ukrepov za zmanjševanje poplavne ogroženosti (manjše investicije na področju zagotavljanja poplavne varnosti)	-	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓
Izboljšano stanje in upravljanje z naravno in kulturno dediščino ter zavarovanih območij (upravičeni ukrepi za specifičen cilj 2.1.)	+	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓
Vplivi izboljšanja baz znanja in sposobnosti (specifičen cilj 2.1.)	+	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓
Vplivi manjših investicij na področju mobilizacije naravne dediščine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o manjše ohranjanje in obnavljanje registrirane kulturne in /ali naravne dediščine, vključno z razvojem vsebin za pametno izkoriščanje in trajnostno upravljanje; o manjše investicije v infrastrukturo za obiskovalce in opremo, za izboljšanje dostopnosti in doživljanja kulturne in/ali naravne dediščine (npr. centri za obiskovalce, centri proizvodnje obrti in razstavnih prostorov, kolesarske poti in izposoja koles, parkirišča, prilagoditve za ljudi s posebnimi potrebami, povezovalne poti med območji dediščine,...) 	+	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓
Vplivi povečanja obiska turistov na območjih naravne in kulturne dediščine (17% od 4.911.583 v 2013.)	-	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x
Izboljšano stanje, upravljanje in povezanost območij Nature 2000 / ohranjanje biotske raznovrstnosti (SO 2.2.)	+	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓

Legenda: + pozitivno, - negativno, ✓ značilnost vpliva, x ni značilnost vpliva

Izbrani okoljski cilj: **Zaščita narave in biotske raznovrstnosti preko trajnostnega upravljanja: Ohranjanje biotske raznolikosti z obnavljanjem habitatov in zaščito vrst; Ohranjanje območij naravne dediščine ob zagotavljanju njihovega trajnostnega upravljanja**

KULTURNA DEDIŠČINA IN KRAJINA

Glede na podatke, pridobljene iz situacijske analize je programsko območje bogato z nepremično in premično (živečo) kulturno dediščino. Kulturna dediščina je dobro zastopana tako v urbanem okolju kot na podeželju, z več kot 25.000 enotami v celotnem programskem območju.

Kljub bogatem kulturnem potencialu programskega območja je več razlogov, da se kulturna dediščina obravnava kot degradirana. Glede na Hrvaško strategijo o kulturni dediščini 2011-2015 so še posebej ranljivi materialni elementi. Glavni razlogi so: pomanjkanje vzdrževanja in nege, pomanjkanje finančnih sredstev, nerešena vprašanja glede lastništva in nizka stopnja ozaveščenosti o pomenu kulturne dediščine.

Po podatkih iz situacijske analize so v programskem območju prepoznani trije glavni krajinski tipi: panonska nižina, dinarsko gorstvo in jadranska obala z Istro in otoki na jugozahodnem delu programskega območja. Vse tri krajinske tipe določajo razlike v klimi, vrsti tal, vodnem omrežju in raba tal.

Značilnosti pričakovanih vplivov na okoljski cilj:

Vpliv	Pozitiven / Negativen	Neposreden	Posreden	Daljšinski	Kratkoročni	Srednjeročni	Dolgoročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Čezmejni
Izboljšano stanje in upravljanje z naravno in kulturnodediščino ter zaščitenimi območji skozi ohranjanje, ščitenje, promoviranje in razvijanje naravne ter kulturne dediščine (6c) in mobilizacija naravne in kulturne dediščine za trajnostni socialno-gospodarski razvoj.	+	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Vplivi manjših investicij v mobilizacijo kulturne in naravne dediščine.	+/-	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	×
Vplivi manjših investicij v zmanjševanje tvganja poplav na območjih kulturne dediščine in krajin.	-	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Zaščitene in ohranjene krajine kot rezultat obnove in zaščite biotske raznovrstnosti in prsti.	+	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓

Legenda: + pozitivna, - negativna, ✓ vpliv kazalca, × ni vpliv kazalca

Izbrani okoljski cilj: **Zaščita in ohranjanje pomembnih krajin in kulturne dediščine, hkrati z zagotavljanjem njune trajnostne rabe**

ZDRAVJE LJUDI IN KAKOVOST ŽIVLJENJA

Program sodelovanja vsebuje 17 statističnih regij v Sloveniji in županij na Hrvaškem. Programsko območje zajema 3.825.303 prebivalcev (v letu 2013). Za celotno programsko območje je značilen proces staranja prebivalstva. Zaradi takšne starostne strukture je izboljšanje življenjskih pogojev in kakovosti življenja za vse prebivalce regije ključnega pomena (predvsem izboljšanje življenjskih pogojev in socialnega varstva za specifične skupine prebivalstva kot so starejši, prebivalci ruralnih, oddaljenih ali perifernih območij, kjer se kaže pomanjkanje v zagotavljanju kakovostnih storitev).

Kljub relativno dobro strukturirani mreži institucij zdravstvene oskrbe tako obstajajo razlike v dostopnosti do zdravstvenih storitev in razlike v ekonomskem položaju.

Socialni položaj prebivalstva v programskem območju se je v zadnjih letih zaradi ekonomske krize poslabšal. V območju obstajajo regionalne razlike glede socialnega položaja prebivalcev.

Poplave so ena največjih groženj z visokim čezmejnim učinkom. Glede na situacijsko analizo je v Sloveniji 61 območij s poplavno ogroženostjo, ki lahko vpliva na zdravje ljudi. Od tega jih je 55 v programskem območju

Značilnosti pričakovanih vplivov na okoljski cilj:

Vpliv	Pozitiven / Negativen	Neposreden	Posreden	Daljšinski	Kratkoročni	Srednjeročni	Dolgoročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Čezmejni
Vpliv na kvaliteto bivanja, človeškega zdravja in varnost zaradi: večje ozaveščenosti o nevarnostih poplav in izboljšane odziva/prilagajanja na naravne nesreče in klimatske spremembe, močnejšega lokalnega gospodarstva ter novih zaposlitvenih priložnosti, lažje dostopnosti do javnih storitev (zdravstvo, socialne storitve in varnost), boljše turistične ponudbe, ki se kaže v povečanem številu turistov, ki obiščejo pšrogramsko območje.	+	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓

Legenda: + pozitiven, - negativen, ✓ značilnost vpliva, × ni značilnost vpliva

Izbrani okoljski cilj: **Izboljšanje kakovosti življenja zaradi izboljšanja dostopnosti do storitev, novih možnosti zaposlovanja, zmanjšanja tveganja poplav in izboljšane pripravljenosti na naravne in druge nesreče**

Potencialni vplivi, ugotovljeni med scopingom, so v okoljskem poročilu bolj podrobno opisani in opredeljeni glede na štiri okoljske cilje, ki so bili izbrani na osnovi ustreznih direktiv EU, mednarodnih konvencij in/ali nacionalni strategiji:

- Ohranjanje in obnavljanje dobrega stanja površinskih voda in zmanjševanje učinkov poplav.
- Zaščita narave in biotske raznovrstnosti preko trajnostnega upravljanja: Ohranjanje biotske raznolikosti z obnavljanjem habitatov in zaščito vrst; Ohranjanje območij naravne dediščine ob zagotavljanju njihovega trajnostnega upravljanja
- Zaščita in ohranjanje pomembnih krajin in kulturne dediščine, hkrati z zagotavljanjem njune trajnostne rabe.
- Izboljšanje kakovosti življenja zaradi izboljšanja dostopnosti do storitev, novih možnosti zaposlovanja, zmanjšanja tveganja poplav in izboljšane pripravljenosti na naravne in druge nesreče.

Za vsak posamezni okoljski cilj je bil razvit sistem kazalnikov, kot tudi merila za oceno vplivov PS. Vplivi so bili ocenjeni na podlagi obsega sprememb po posameznih kazalcih stanja okolja in njihovi pomembnosti, stopnje upoštevanja varstvenih ciljev oz. drugih meril vrednotenja glede na:

- stanje okolja ali njegovih delov,
- varstvo naravnih virov,
- varstvo naravnih in kulturnih vrednot,
- ohranjanje biotske raznovrstnosti,
- značilnosti prebivalstva,
- zdravje ljudi,
- klimatske spremembe.

Spodnja preglednica povzema oceno pričakovanih vplivov izvajanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 na zastavljene okoljske cilje.

OKOLJSKI CILJ	VREDNOTENJE VPLIVOV
Ohranjanje in obnavljanje dobrega stanja površinskih voda in zmanjševanje učinkov poplav	Izvedba PS SLO-HR 2014 – 2020 bo imela nevtralen ali manjši pozitiven vpliv (razred A) na doseganje okoljskega cilja "Vzdrževanje in obnavljanje dobrega stanja površinskih voda in zmanjševanja učinkov poplav".
Zaščita narave in biotske raznovrstnosti preko trajnostnega upravljanja	Izvedba PS SLO-HR 2014 – 2020 bo imela zanemarljive vplive na zastavljen okoljski cilj »Zaščita narave in biotske raznovrstnosti s trajnostnim upravljanjem« (B). Ne glede na to, okoljsko poročilo predlaga izvedbo priporočil za še dodatno zmanjševanje negativnih vplivov in krepitev pozitivnih učinkov izvedbe predlaganih ukrepov.
Zaščita in ohranjanje pomembnih krajin in kulturne dediščine, hkrati z zagotavljanjem njune trajnostne rabe	Izvedba PS SLO-HR 2014 – 2020 bo imela nebitvene vplive (B) na okoljski cilj Zaščita in ohranjanje pomembnih pokrajin in kulturne dediščine z omogočanjem njihove trajnostne rabe.
Izboljšanje kakovosti življenja zaradi izboljšanja dostopnosti do storitev, novih možnosti zaposlovanja, zmanjšanja tveganja poplav in izboljšane pripravljenosti na naravne in druge nesreče	Izvedba PS SLO-HR 2014 – 2020 bo imela pozitiven vpliv (A razred) na doseganje okoljskega cilja »Izboljšanje kakovosti življenja zaradi izboljšanja dostopnosti do storitev, novih možnosti zaposlovanja, zmanjšanja tveganja poplav in izboljšane pripravljenosti na naravne in druge nesreče«.

PRESOJA SPREJEMLJIVOSTI

Ker v PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 manjkajo podrobni podatki o značilnostih projektov in, kar je prav tako pomembno, o njegovih lokacijah, lahko ta presoja v okviru postopka CPVO poda zelo omejene in splošne ocene o sprejemljivosti načrtovanih ukrepov in programa za varovana območja. To pomeni, da se bo moralo sprejemljivost projektov ugotavljati na projektni ravni (za tiste projekte, ki so dolžni opraviti presojo sprejemljivosti) skladno z ustreznimi nacionalnimi predpisi. Pomembno je poudariti, da ta strateška presoja sprejemljivosti nikakor ne prejudicira presojo na projektni ravni. Za tiste projekte, ki ne zahtevajo presoje sprejemljivosti na ravni projekta se bodo morali pogoji izvajanja projekta in/ali skladnost z načrtovanim projektom pridobiti od pooblaščenice inštitucije za varstvo narave.

Z vidika programa je bistvenega pomena zagotoviti, da se sredstev ne dodeli projektu, ki lahko pomembno vpliva na varovana območja / Natura 2000 na način, ki ga ni mogoče omiliti na sprejemljivo raven. Za namen presoje je bil določen naslednji okoljski cilj: Ohranitev ali izboljšanje stopnje ohranjenosti ciljnih vrst in habitatnih tipov omrežja Natura 2000, celovitosti omrežja Natura 2000, varovanih območij narave ter omrežja varstva narave v celoti.

Vplivi izvajanja programa na zastavljene okoljske cilje so bili ocenjeni glede na specifične cilje in predvidene ukrepe PS. Povzetek presoje je prikazan v spodnji preglednici.

SPECIFIČNI CILJI	USTREZNI UKREPI	PRESOJA VPLIVOV
1.1. Zmanjšanje poplavne ogroženosti v čezmejnih porečjih Dragonje, Kolpe, Sotle, Drave, Mure in Bregane	a) Nestrukturni ukrepi zmanjševanja poplavne ogroženosti	A
	b) Strukturni ukrepi zmanjševanja poplavne ogroženosti v ciljnem območju (porečja Dragonje, Kolpe/Kupe, Sotle/Sutle, Drave in Mure)	B
2.1. Aktivacija naravne in kulturne dediščine za trajnostni razvoj turizma	1. Razvoj čezmejnih proizvodov in destinacij na podlagi kulturne in naravne dediščine v konceptu trajnostnega turizma z bottom-up in celostnim pristopom. 2. Strukture čezmejnega sodelovanja na področju destinacij in produktov, upravljanje in promocija.	B
	3. Izboljšanje znanja in zmogljivosti.	A
2.2. Varstvo in obnova biotske raznovrstnosti in spodbujanje ekosistemskih storitev	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Izboljšanje znanja in zmogljivosti. - Razvoj skupnih, usklajenih pristopov, metod in orodij. - Izvajanje raziskovanja za spremljanje stanja. - Praktični prikazi dejavnosti v naravi s ciljem izboljšanja pogojev in varstva različnih habitatnih tipov in vrst - Identifikacija, kartiranje, ocenjevanje in izboljšanje ekosistemskih storitev. 	A
3.1. graditev partnerstva med javnimi organi in interesnimi skupinami zdravo, varno in dostopno obmejno območje	Okvirni urepi na področju: i) javnega zdravstva in zdravstvene nege, ii) storitve sociale oskrbe, iii) varnosti (civilna zaščita, reševalne službe in pomoč v sili), iv) čezmejnega javnega prevoza in storitev trajnostne mobilnosti.	A

Na splošno lahko zaključimo, da bo imelo izvajanje SP zanemarljive učinke (B) na cilje varovanja narave, predvsem zaradi načrtovanih strukturnih ukrepov iz PO 1 in pričakovanega povečanja turističnega obiska (SC 2.1.). Nestrukturni ukrepi iz PO 1 in celotna PO 3 so glede na cilje varovanja narave nevtralni, medtem ko bodo imele dejavnosti, ki spadajo v SC 2.1. in SC 2.2. pozitiven vpliv na Naturo 200 in zavarovana območja.

OMILITVENI UKREPI IN PRIPOROČILA

Glede na to, da pri izvedbi PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 ni bilo prepoznanih bistvenih negativnih vplivov, v nadaljevanju ne predlagamo omilitvenih ukrepov. Tako majhen vpliv programa na okolje je rezultat vizije PS »Povezani v zelenem«, ki nakazuje na ekološko oz. okoljsko orientiranost programa in velike stopnje vključenosti izdelovalcev CPVO v proces načrtovanja samega programa. Ta vključenost je omogočila, da so se potrebni omilitveni ukrepi vgradili v program kot horizontalna ali vodilna načela, kot npr. v primeru Specifičnega cilja 1.1 »Izvedeni strukturni ukrepi za območje Nature 2000 morajo temeljiti na trajnostnih in okolju prijaznih metodah ter biti skladni s cilji Nature 2000«. Ob tem seveda pričakujemo, da bo ob izvedbi posameznih projektov spoštovana vsa veljavna zakonodaja.

Priporočila so oblikovana kot smernice, ki omogočajo povečanje potencialnih pozitivnih vplivov, katerih pojav je pričakovan ob izvedbi PS SLO-HR 2014-2020. Priporočila je potrebno uporabiti v času ocenjevanja in izbire projektov, ki bodo podprti s strani programa na način, da bodo podprti projekti dosegli zelene pozitivne vplive. Večina priporočil je nujnih, vendar pa so že bila vključena v sam program v obliki horizontalnih principov trajnostnega razvoja, vodilni principov posameznih specifičnih ciljev ali kot finančne alokacije.

PRIORITETNE OSI	SPECIFIČNI CILJI	PRIPOROČILO	OKOLJSKA KOMPONENTA
1. CELOSTNO OBVLADOVANJE POPLAVNE OGROŽENOSTI V ČEZMEJNIH POREČJIH	1.1. Zmanjševanje poplavne ogroženosti v čezmejnih porečjih Dragonje, Kolpe, Sotle, Drave, Mure in Bregane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Priporočljivo je, da projekti vključujejo tudi ukrepe za preprečitev ali omilititev poplavljanja s strani meteornih voda in s tem zmanjšajo volumen vode, ki teče v reko v kratkem časovnem obdobju. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vode
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Glede na horizontalni princip PS o trajnostnem upravljanju in vodilni princip v zvezi z območji Nature 2000, je v nadaljevanju predlagano, da pilotni projekti podpro pristope »puščanja prostora rekam« (ki dovoljuje poplavljanje v obdobjih velikih naliviv), uporabo naravnih retencijskih površin, obnovo rečnih poplavnih ravnin, spremembe v rabi zemlje, za razliko od pogosteje podprtih tradicionalnih gradbenih metod. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zaščita narave/biotske raznovrstnosti
2. OHRANJANJE IN TRAJNOSTNA RABA NARAVNIH IN KULTURNIH VIROV	2.1. Aktiviranje naravne in kulturne dediščine za razvoj trajnostnega turizma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pri izboru projektov, ki zadevajo manjše investicije v turistično infrastrukturo predagamo, da se da prednost infrastrukturi, ki cilja na nadzorovano vodenje obiskovalcev čez območje – sprehajalne in kolesarske poti,... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zaščita narave/biotske raznovrstnosti
	2.2. Zaščita in ohranjanje biotske raznovrstnosti in spodbujanje ekosistemskih storitev	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pri izboru projektov, ki zadevajo manjše investicije v turistično infrastrukturo predagamo, da se da prednost infrastrukturi, ki cilja na nadzorovano vodenje obiskovalcev čez območje – sprehajalne in kolesarske poti,... ○ Projekti obnavljanja habitatov, re-naturalizacije rečnih strug/izboljševanja hidroloških razmer (specifičen cilj 2.2) morajo biti pripravljene na način, ki omogoča čim večje pozitivne dolgoročne vplive na naravo. Priporočeno je, da projekti ne obsegajo večjih gradbenih posegov in da je obseg gradbenih del minimalen. Izbrana metoda mora vzeti v poštev trenutno stanje in željeno stanje habitata, populacije in širjenje ciljnih vrst na območju projekta ter morebitne dolgoročne vplive spremenjenega stanja habitata na ciljne vrste. ○ Projekti odstranjevanja invazivnih vrst (specifičen cilj 2.2) morajo biti pripravljene na način, ki omogoča najbolj pozitivne dolgoročne vplive na naravo, z ohranjanjem negativnih kratkoročnih vplivov na avtohtone in ciljne vrste pri minimumu. Izbrana metoda mora vzeti v poštev širjenje ciljnih vrst na območju programa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zaščita narave/biotske raznovrstnosti
3. ZDRAVA, VARNA IN DOSTOPNA OBMEJNA OBMOČJA	3.1. Krepitev partnerstev med javnimi organi in deležniki za zdrava, varna in dostopna čezmejna območja	Že pokrito s programom.	-

SPREMLJANJE IZVAJANJA PROGRAMA

SEA Direktiva zahteva od držav članic spremljanje večjih okoljskih učinkov izvedbe načrtov in programov, z namenom da se čim prej prepoznajo nepredvideni škodljivi učinki izvedbe programa in da se sprejmejo ustrezni omilitveni ukrepi. Navaja tudi, da se za izpolnitev teh obveznosti lahko uporabi obstoječe sisteme spremljanja okolja, z namenom, da se prepreči podvajanje spremljanja okolja.

Pretehtano je bilo ali kateri od prepoznanih vplivov zahteva sistemsko spremljanje in zaključeno, da zaradi odsotnosti kakršnih koli resnejših tveganj (pričakovanih vplivov), ni nobene potrebe po izvajanju namenskega okoljskega sistema spremljanja za PS SLO-HR 2014-2020.

Ekološko stanje površinskih voda lahko uporabimo za ocenjevanje vplivov ukrepov za poplavno zaščito pri površinskih vodah, potrebne podatke pa je mogoče pridobiti od ARSO in Hrvatskih voda, ki so dolžni izvajati te meritve glede na Okvirno direktivo o vodah.

Predlagani kazalci spremljanja uspešnosti izvajanja programa so bili ocenjeni z vidika zbiranja vseh ustreznih okoljskih podatkov za potrebe spremljanja stanja okolja. Na podlagi tega predlagamo, da se za spremljanje stanja okolja z vidika izvedbe CP uporabijo naslednji kazalci:

- Povprečna stopnja stanja ohranjenosti tipov habitata in vrst območja Natura 2000 na programskem območju (Potrebno je poudariti, da je potrebno ta kazalec vrednotiti previdno, saj se lahko znatno spremeni zaradi raznih pritiskov, ki niso povezani z izvedbo PS, kot so naravne nesreče (sabo vreme, poplave, požari,...); razne razvojne dejavnosti in tako dalje.)
- Površina habitatov, podprtih za doseganje boljšega stanja ohranjenosti;
- Obiskovalci kulturnih in naravnih območij dediščine v območju programa;
- Manjše investicije v turistično infrastrukturo za ohranjanje naravne in kulturne dediščine.

Če navedeni kazalci ne bi kazali zelenega in pričakovanega gibanja v času izvedbe sprotnega vrednotenja programa in so ta nepričakovana gibanja lahko logično povezana z izvedbo PS, se mora organ upravljanja posvetovati s pristojnimi organi in skleniti kaj je možno storiti za spremembo stanja ter kako lahko nadaljnje izvajanje PS pripomore k doseganju zelenega gibanja kazalcev.

NADALJNI KORAKI

Okoljsko poročilo bo poslano v pridobitev mnenja o ustreznosti okoljskega poročila Ministrstvu za okolje in prostor Republike Slovenije, saj so slovenske institucije prevzele vlogo organa upravljanja PS SLO-HR 2014-2020, v skladu z bilateralnim sporazumom. Ministrstvo bo ocenilo ustreznost okoljskega poročila in njegove zaključke ter izdalo mnenje o ustreznosti okoljskega poročila, ki bo predstavljalo pravno podlago za izvedbo javne razgrnitve. Po končani javni razgrnitvi bosta tako PS SLO-HR 2014-2020 kot tudi okoljsko poročilo spremenjena glede na morebitne pripombe podane v času javne razprave, nato pa bosta kot končna dokumenta poslana pristojnim organom, v zaključek postopka sprejema programa sodelovanja.

NE-TEHNIČKI SAŽETAK

Prekogranična suradnja između Slovenije i Hrvatske je do sada bila podržana putem nekoliko instrumenata EU od 2003. – počevši s PHARE / CARDS (2003.), trilateralnim Programom za susjedstvo (2004.-2006.), te IPA CBC programom (2007.-2013.). Administrativna i provedbena uređenja uvedena u svakom od programskih razdoblja postupno su poboljšavala uvjete za suradnju, npr. zajednički natječaji, zajednički projekti, načelo vodećeg partnera, dok su istovremeno eliminirane neke otkrivene prepreke. Ulaskom Hrvatske u EU 1. srpnja 2013, novo programsko razdoblje 2014.-2020. otvara nove mogućnosti i izazove za suradnju između Slovenije i Hrvatske.

Program suradnje INTERREG V-A Slovenija - Hrvatska 2014. – 2020. (CP SI-HR 2014.-2020.), kao i svi planovi i programi koji bi mogli imati utjecaj na okoliš, podliježu postupku strateške procjene utjecaja na okoliš (SPUO), u skladu s Direktivom 2001/42 SEA / EC, koja je prenesena na nacionalno zakonodavstvo objiju zemalja: Zakon o zaštiti okoliša (NN Republike Slovenije br. 39/06, 49/06, 66/06, 33/07, 57/08, 70 / 08, 108/09, 108/09, 48/12, 57/12 i 92/13) i Zakon o zaštiti okoliša (NN Republike Hrvatske, br. 80/13).

Svrha SPUO postupka, za koji je ovaj izvještaj pripremljen, je osigurati uključivanje načela održivog razvoja i prevencije u proces programiranja. U postupku SPUO, moraju se identificirati i ocijeniti potencijalni utjecaji na okoliš koji mogu nastati uslijed provedbe programa. U obzir se moraju uzeti zahtjevi zaštite okoliša, ciljevi zaštite prirode, zaštita zdravlja i života ljudi te zaštita kulturne baštine. Krajnji cilj ove studije SPUO je spriječiti ili barem značajno smanjiti aktivnosti koje mogu imati značajan negativan utjecaj na bilo koju od gore navedenih kategorija.

OCJENA O POTREBI STRATEŠKE PROCJENE

Postupak ocjene o potrebi strateške procjene je proveden u Sloveniji, od strane Ministarstva zaštite okoliša i prostornog uređenja, jer je dogovoreno da cijeli postupak SPUO programa slijedi slovenski postupak (uz neke dodatne korake koje zahtijeva hrvatsko zakonodavstvo – postupak utvrđivanja sadržaja strateške studije) jer su odgovorne institucije u Sloveniji preuzele ulogu Upravljačkog tijela CP SI-HR 2014.-2020., u skladu s Bilateralnim sporazumom. Ministarstvo je donijelo Odluku (br. 35409-9 / 2015/5) u kojoj se navodi da je potrebno provesti SPUO postupak za CP SI-HR 2014.-2020., s Glavnom ocjenom (Procjena prihvatljivosti utjecaja provedbe programa za zaštićena područja prirode) kao sastavnim dijelom studije.

UTVRĐIVANJE SADRŽAJA STRATEŠKE STUDIJE

Na temelju 2. verzije nacrtu Programa (od 24. rujna 2014.), tim izrađivača studije SPUO je proveo analizu utvrđivanja sadržaja, te je Izvješće poslano nadležnim institucijama objiju zemalja za potvrdu / javnu procjenu. U postupku utvrđivanja sadržaja identificirani su mogući utjecaji (pozitivni i negativni) programa na pojedine sastavnice okoliša, opisani su događaji koji mogu imati utjecaj na okoliš, kao i posljedice koje mogu nastati uslijed provedbe programa te njihova veza s karakteristikama programskog područja. Mogući utjecaji CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. su definirani temeljem aktivnosti pojedinih prioritetnih osi, a koje mogu biti poduprte programom. Definirane su karakteristike potencijalnih utjecaja provedbe aktivnosti, te su utjecaji procijenjeni za svaku sastavnicu okoliša. Prema postavljenim kriterijima (u pogledu veličine i karakteristike utjecaja), samo oni utjecaji koji su ocijenjeni kao potencijalno značajni su dodatno ocijenjeni u ovoj studiji SPUO.

U trenutku izrade Izvješća za utvrđivanje sadržaja strateške studije, CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. i prpratni dokumenti još su bili u nacrtima i podložni promjeni. Međutim, SPUO tim je procijenio da je revidirani Logički okvir drugog nacrtu CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. predstavljao srž programa i mogao se koristiti u svrhu utvrđivanja sadržaja.

Tim izrađivača studije SPUO bio je usko uključen u praćenje procesa razvoja CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. i aktivno je sudjelovao u najvažnijim fazama izrade, od faze utvrđivanja sadržaja studije nadalje. U sljedećih nekoliko mjeseci pripremljeno je nekoliko verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. te su u program općenito unesene neke promjene. Kako bi se osigurala transparentnost odluka donesenih u postupku SPUO i omogućio sveobuhvatnu studiju SPUO, tim izrađivača je odlučio revidirati odluke donesene u fazi utvrđivanja sadržaja strateške studije temeljem najnovijih dostupnih verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. (7. nacrt od 25. ožujka 2015). Tablica u nastavku daje pregled odluka iz postupka utvrđivanja sadržaja te kako najnovija verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. utječe na njih.

Zaključci Izvješća o utvrđivanju sadržaja studije

Sastavnica okoliša	Identificirani utjecaji	Argumentacija za daljnju SPUO segmenata okoliša	Odluka o potrebi daljnje SPUO	Kratki opis relevantnih promjena CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. između faze Izvješća o utvrđivanju sadržaja studije i konačne verzije CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. (7. verzija) i njihov utjecaj na odluke o utvrđivanju sadržaja
Klimatske promjene	Nekoliko predloženih aktivnosti će vrlo vjerojatno imati određeni utjecaj na klimatske promjene, no nisu identificirani značajni utjecaji na klimatske promjene. Ostali neznatni negativni utjecaji mogu se povezati s dodatnim onečišćenjem stakleničkim plinovima uslijed povećanog prometa uzrokovanog povećanjem broja turističkih posjeta i produljenim vremenom boravka. Provedba CP će također imati neznatne pozitivne utjecaje vezane uz zeleni turizam, kao i očuvanje raznolikosti ekosustava.	Nisu očekivani značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020.	NE	7. verzija CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi donijele nove potencijalne utjecaje na segment okoliša "Klimatske promjene". Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Zrak	Nekoliko predloženih aktivnosti će vrlo vjerojatno imati određeni utjecaj na zrak, no nisu identificirani značajni utjecaji na zrak. Ostali neznatni negativni utjecaji mogu se povezati s dodatnim onečišćenjem stakleničkim plinovima uslijed povećanog prometa uzrokovanog povećanim brojem turističkih posjeta i produljenim vremenom boravka. Provedba CP će također imati neznatne pozitivne utjecaje vezane uz zeleni turizam	Nisu očekivani značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020.	NE	7. verzija CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi donijele nove potencijalne utjecaje na sastavnicu okoliša "Zrak". Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Tlo	Nekoliko predloženih mjera će vrlo vjerojatno imati određeni utjecaj na kvalitetu tla i eroziju - erozija je prepoznata kao potencijalni negativni utjecaj aktivnosti vezanih uz manja ulaganja na području upravljanja rizicima od poplava. Međutim, u ovom trenutku dostupne su samo ograničene informacije o tim ulaganjima te uzimajući u obzir važeće zakonodavstvo taj utjecaj nije prepoznat kao značajan. S druge strane, možemo očekivati pozitivne utjecaje vezane uz smanjenje erozije zbog odgovarajućeg pristupa održivog upravljanja rizicima rijeka i poplava, kao i ulaganja manjih razmjera u zaštitu od poplava.	Nisu očekivani značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020.	NE	7. verzija CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi donijele nove potencijalne utjecaje na sastavnicu okoliša "Tlo". Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Površinske i podzemne vode	S obzirom na prirodu i fokus CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. možemo očekivati i pozitivne i negativne značajne utjecaje na površinske vode. Općenito CP nastoji poboljšati upravljanje određenim riječnim slivovima s posebnim naglaskom na adaptaciju / prevenciju / upravljanje opasnostima od poplava, zbog čega se očekuju značajni pozitivni utjecaji. S druge strane, ulaganja manjih razmjera u prevenciju od poplava, bi mogla imati značajne negativne utjecaje na tu sastavnicu okoliša. Uzimajući u obzir činjenicu da su dostupni samo ograničeni podaci o tim	Otkriveni su pozitivni i negativni značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. SPUO se treba fokusirati na upravljanje riječnim koritima, upravljanje rizicima od poplava i intervencijama	DA	7. verzija CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020 uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa. Ona također predviđa novu indikativnu aktivnost "Prepoznavanje operativnih praznina i administrativnih tereta za glatko prekogranično upravljanje rizicima od poplava, priprema konkretnih rješenja, te ukoliko je moguće, njihova integracija u nacionalne sustave i u dnevnu rutinu" koja će donijeti dodatni pozitivan utjecaj sa stajališta upravljanja. Također uvodi nekoliko novih "vodećih načela" koji ublažuju negativne utjecaje strukturnih mjera za smanjenje rizika od poplava. Međutim, strukturne mjere smanjenja rizika od poplava i

	ulaganjima, nemoguće je provesti potpunu SPUO procjenu. Ipak, vjerujemo da na strateškoj razini procjene možemo istaknuti važne smjernice i mjere ublažavanja, a koje bi se provodile u daljnjim koracima programiranja / planiranja / razvoja projekta.	vezanim za ulaganja malih razmjera za zaštitu od poplava i zelenu infrastrukturu.		druge investicije manjih razmjera i dalje su dio CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. Također treba uzeti u obzir negativne utjecaje povećanog "ekološkog otiska turističkog sektora". Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Priroda, bioraznolikost, Natura 2000 i zaštićena područja	S obzirom na prirodu i fokus CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. možemo očekivati naročito pozitivne značajne utjecaje na ovu sastavnicu okoliša. Općenito CP ima za cilj poboljšanje upravljanja, ali i održiv razvoj temeljen na mobilizaciji prirodnih potencijala, što također može imati negativan utjecaj. Dvije aktivnosti, manja ulaganja u zaštitu od poplava i izgradnja zelene infrastrukture, mogle bi imati značajne negativne utjecaje na ovu sastavnicu okoliša. Uzimajući u obzir činjenicu da su u ovom trenutku dostupni samo ograničeni podaci o tim ulaganjima, nemoguće je provesti potpunu procjenu SPUO. Ipak, vjerujemo da na strateškoj razini procjene možemo istaknuti važne smjernice i mjere ublažavanja, a koje bi se provodile u daljnjim koracima programiranja / planiranja / razvoja projekta.	Otkriveni su pozitivni i negativni značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. SPUO se treba fokusirati na upravljanje ulaganjima malih razmjera vezanim za zaštitu od poplava i zelenu infrastrukturu kao i svim aktivnostima vezanim za održivi razvoj prirodne baštine, Natura 2000 i zaštićenih područja	DA	7. verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi mogle imati nove potencijalne utjecaje na sastavnicu okoliša "Priroda, bioraznolikosti, Natura 2000 i zaštićena područja ". Međutim, 7. verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. planira porast od oko 17% posjetitelja kulturne baštine i zaštićenih područja prirode, što je više od broja koji se spominjao u prethodnim verzijama CP. Ipak, "vodeća načela" programa promoviraju održivi turizam, zelenu infrastrukturu, izradu i provedbu plana upravljanja posjetiteljima u zaštićenim područjima prirode, čime se djelomično smanjuje "ekološki otisak turističkog sektora". Dodatno vodeće načelo " Strukturne mjere provedene na područjima Natura 2000 moraju biti temeljene na održivim i ekološkim metodama i u skladu s ciljevima dotičnih Natura 2000 područja " uveden je na prijedlog SPUO tima kako bi se izbjegli potencijalni značajni negativni utjecaj na Natura 2000 područja. Međutim, strukturne mjere smanjenja rizika od poplava i druge investicije manjih razmjera i dalje su dio CP SI-HR 2014-2020. Uz utvrđeno u postupku određivanja sadržaja studije, treba se procijeniti povećanje broja posjetitelja u zaštićenim područjima. Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Kulturna baština i krajobraz	S obzirom na prirodu i fokus CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. možemo očekivati naročito pozitivne značajne utjecaje na ovu sastavnicu okoliša. Općenito CP ima za cilj obnovu i poboljšano upravljanje kulturnom baštinom, no i održivi razvoj temeljen na mobilizaciji kulturnih potencijala, koji može imati negativne utjecaje. Dvije aktivnosti, manja ulaganja u zaštitu od poplava i izgradnja zelene infrastrukture, mogle bi imati značajne negativne utjecaje na ovu sastavnicu okoliša (krajobraz). Uzimajući u obzir činjenicu da postoje samo ograničeni podaci dostupni o tim ulaganjima, nemoguće je provesti potpunu SPUO procjenu. Ipak, vjerujemo da na strateškoj razini procjene možemo istaknuti važne smjernice i mjere ublažavanja, a koje bi se provodile u daljnjim koracima	Otkriveni su pozitivni i negativni značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. SPUO se treba fokusirati na upravljanje ulaganjima malih razmjera vezanim za zaštitu od poplava i zelenu infrastrukturu kao i svim aktivnostima vezanim za održivi razvoj područja i	DA	7. verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi mogle imati nove potencijalne utjecaje na sastavnicu okoliša "Kulturna baština i krajobraz". Vodeća načela promiču doprinos pametnoj ravnoteži između očuvanja i održivog korištenja kulturnih resursa. Međutim, strukturne mjere smanjenja rizika od poplava i druge investicije manjih razmjera i dalje su dio CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. Nisu potrebne promjene odluke sc o sadržaju studije.

	programiranja / planiranja / razvoja projekta.	građevina kulturne baštine,		
Zdravlje ljudi i kvaliteta životnih uvjeta	S obzirom na prirodu i fokus CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. možemo očekivati naročito pozitivne značajne utjecaje na ovaj segment okoliša. Općenito CP ima za cilj poboljšanje uvjeta života i održivi socijalno-ekonomski razvoj.	Otkriveni su značajni pozitivni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-HR 2014-2020 na zdravlje i kvalitetu životnih uvjeta za većinu predloženih mjera. Međutim, vjerujemo da otkriveni pozitivni utjecaji mogu biti dodatno povećani daljnjom evaluacijom SPUO.	DA	7. verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi mogle imati nove potencijalne utjecaje na segment okoliša "Zdravlje i kvaliteta životnih uvjeta". Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Otpad	Neke će od predloženih mjera vrlo vjerojatno imati određeni utjecaj na otpad (u smislu stvaranja otpada), ali nije identificiran značajan utjecaj na otpad - uglavnom zbog činjenice da postoji sustav gospodarenja komunalnim kao i građevinskim otpadom na nacionalnoj / regionalnoj razini. Ostali neznajni negativni utjecaji mogu se povezati s dodatnim stvaranjem otpada zbog povećanog broja turističkih posjeta i duljeg trajanja boravka kao i uslijed izgradnje predviđenih investicija manjih razmjera. S druge strane, možemo očekivati poboljšanje skupljanja otpada zbog boljeg upravljanja posjetiteljima.	Nisu očekivani značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. Postoje sustavi gospodarenja komunalnim i građevinskim otpadom na nacionalnoj / regionalnoj razini.	NE	7. verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi mogle imati nove potencijalne utjecaje na segment okoliša "Otpad". Kao što je napomenuto, postoji sustav gospodarenja komunalnim i građevinskim otpadom na nacionalnoj / regionalnoj razini koji bi trebao podnijeti svako povećanje "ekološkog otiska turističkog sektora" Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.
Buka	Neke od predloženih mjera će vrlo vjerojatno imati određeni utjecaj na povećano onečišćenje bukom, ali nije otkriven značajan utjecaj na otpad. Ostali neznajni negativni utjecaji mogu se povezati s dodatnim emisijama buke zbog povećanog broja turističkih posjeta i duljeg trajanja boravka kao i izgradnje predviđenih investicija manjih razmjera. S druge strane, možemo očekivati bolje upravljanje posjetiteljima te shodno tome nikakve značajne utjecaje.	Nisu očekivani značajni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020.	NE	7. verzija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. uvodi obnovljeni i bolje definirani logički okvir programa, ali ne predviđa nikakve nove indikativne aktivnosti koje bi mogle imati nove potencijalne utjecaje na segment okoliša "Buka". Naprotiv, održivi turizam, zelena infrastruktura te izrada i provedba planova upravljanja posjetiteljima zaštićenih područja prirode promovirani su kroz "vodeća načela" programa, čime se pridonosi smanjenju "ekološkog otiska turističkog sektora". Nisu potrebne promjene odluke o sadržaju studije.

O STUDIJI SPUO

U pripremi ove studije SPUO korišteni su javno dostupni podaci, podaci koje su na raspolaganje dali klijent i razne relevantne institucije. Opis Programa suradnje pripremljen je na temelju 7. nacrtu CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. (25. ožujka 2015.), koji je definirao glavne značajke predloženog programa i odnosa istog s drugim relevantnim programima. Za opis postojećeg stanja okoliša je dodatno korišten 3. nacrt Analize stanja i SWOT za CP, od 23. veljače 2015.

Studije SPUO podijeljena je na dva dijela. prvi opisuje postojeće stanje i uključuje:

- informacije o CP-u,
- utvrđivanje programskih učinaka i alternativa,
- trenutno stanje okoliša.

Drugi dio integrira gore navedeno u opis:

- ciljeva zaštite okoliša (postavljenih u svrhu procjene) i pokazatelja praćenja ostvarenja ciljeva
- kriterija postavljenih u svrhu procjene te u procjenu utjecaja,
- procjene utjecaja provedbe CP-a na okolišne ciljeve zaštite okoliša,
- mjera za ublažavanje utjecaja, preporuke i praćenje stanja okoliša.

Dodatak studiji SPUO sadrži Glavnu ocjenu prihvatljivosti programa za prirodu.

PRIORITETNE OSI (PO) PROGRAMA SURADNJE I SPECIFIČNI CILJEVI (SC)***PO 1. INTEGRIRANO UPRAVLJANJE RIZICIMA OD POPLAVA U PREKOGRANIČNIM RIJEČNIM SLIVOVIMA***

SC1.1. Smanjenje rizika od poplava u prekograničnim riječnim slivovima Dragonje, Kupe, Sutle, Drave, Mure i Bregane

PO 2. OČUVANJE I ODRŽIVO KORIŠTENJE PRIRODNIH I KULTURNIH BOGATSTAVA

SC 2.1. Mobiliziranje prirodne i kulturne baštine za održivi razvoj turizma

SC 2.2. Očuvanje i obnova bioraznolikosti i promicanje usluga ekosustava

PO 3. ZDRAVA, SIGURNA I PRISTUPAČNA POGRANIČNA PODRUČJA

SC 3.1. Stvaranje partnerstva između tijela javne vlasti i interesnih skupina za zdravo, sigurno i pristupačno programsko područje

RAZMOTRENE ALTERNATIVE

CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. rezultat je procesa razvoja programa u kojem je razmotreno nekoliko drukčijih opcija, mjera ili aktivnosti, no o trenutnom sadržaju programa su se usuglasile obje strane, odlučivši da će program u ovom obliku odgovarati potrebama područja te biti efikasan unutar raspoloživog budžeta. Sukladno tome, nema alternativa za CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. koje bi trebalo razmotriti u ovoj studiji SPUO.

„Nultom alternativom“ može se smatrati ne provođenje programa, no taj slučaj nije vjerojatan. U tom slučaju osnovni uvjeti programskog područja ostali bi nepromijenjeni, odnosno izostali bi pozitivni i negativni utjecaji koji se očekuju uslijed provedbe programa. Isto područje i broj stanovnika bili bi u opasnosti od poplava. Ulaganja u kulturnu i prirodnu baštinu ne bi bila u iznosu koji je planiran CP-om, dakle ne bi došlo do zaštite tih područja niti bi baština bila mobilizirana za razvoj područja u mjeri u kojoj će to ovaj program omogućiti. Planirane aktivnosti za poboljšanje stupnja zaštite za Natura 2000 ciljna staništa i vrste ne bi se ostvarile. Uvjeti života u programskom području neće biti poboljšani kao što bi mogli biti provedbom CP-a zbog nepostojanja izravnih akcija na području javnog zdravstva i zdravstvene skrbi, usluga socijalne skrbi, sigurnosti (civilne zaštite, hitne i službe spašavanja), usluge prekograničnog javnog prijevoza i održive mobilnosti, ali i zbog nedostatka planiranog upravljanja rizikom od poplava te zato jer ekomonski uvjeti neće dobiti planiran zamah koji program planira ostvariti. Nadalje, ova situacija neće doprinijeti smanjenju depopulacije područja, čime se otežava osiguravanje tradicionalnog korištenja zemljišta (tradicionalna poljoprivreda i stočarstvo) koje je potrebn za održavanje bioraznolikosti.

POSTOJEĆE STANJE OKOLIŠA, OKOLIŠNI CILJEVI I PROCJENA UTJECAJA**VODE**

Od ukupno 410 riječnih vodnih tijela u programskom području, za 20% je ocijenjeno da su u "lošem" i "vrlo lošem" ekološkom stanju. 17 vodnih tijela jezerskog tipa nemaju zadovoljavajuće ekološke uvjete. Značajni postojeći pritisci u programskom području na vodna tijela su: opterećenja ispuštanjem voda iz industrijskih postrojenja i / ili uređaja za pročišćavanje komunalnih otpadnih voda, difuzno onečišćenje iz poljoprivrede, zahvaćanje vode, hidro-morfološke promjene tijela površinskih voda zbog hidroelektrana, zaštite od poplava, akumulacije vode te regulacija protoka i fizičke promjene korita.

Programsko područje karakterizira visoka osjetljivost na poplave. Prekogrančni riječni slivovi i rijeke koji zahtijevaju prekogranično upravljanje obuhvaćaju približno 354.868 ha ili oko 11% programskog područja, od čega je oko 22.960 ha u opasnosti od poplava. Ukupno 8.328 stanovnika živi u graničnim područjima s rizikom od poplava. Sljedeći granični riječni slivovi su identificirani kao kritični za rješavanje zajedničkim pristupom: Dragonja, Kupa, Sutla, Bregana te dijelovi Drave i Mure od zajedničkog interesa.

- Izabrani okolišni cilj je: **Održavanje i obnova dobrog stanja površinskih voda i smanjenje utjecaja poplava.**

Karakteristike očekivanog utjecaja na okolišni cilj

Utjecaj	Pozitivan / Negativan	Izravni	Neizravni	Daljinski	Kratko-ročni	Srednje-ročni	Dugo-ročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Prekogrančni
Poboljšano upravljanje ciljanim slivovima	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Smanjen rizik od poplava i erozije	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Utjecaj investicija manjih razmjera (Prioritetna os 1.)	+/-	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Utjecaj investicija manjih razmjera (Prioritetna os 2.) – restauracija riječnih korita / poboljšanje hidroloških uvjeta	+	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Poboljšana kvaliteta turističke ponude koja rezultira povećanim brojem turističkih posjeta u programskom području s produženim trajanjem boravka.	-	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓

Legenda: + pozitivan, - negativan, ✓ karakteristika je utjecaja, ✗ nije karakteristika utjecaja

Nakon detaljne procjene svakog otkrivenog potencijalnog utjecaja, koja je uzela u obzir aktivnosti podobne za financiranje, raspoloživa sredstva i horizontalna načela CP-a, zaključeno je da će provedba CP SI-HR 2014-2020 imati neutralan ili blago pozitivan, utjecaj (A) na postizanje okolišnog cilja **"Održavanje i obnavljanje dobrog stanja površinskih voda i smanjenje posljedica poplava"**.

PRIRODA, BIORAZNOLIKOST I ZAŠTIĆENA PODRUČJA

Ključne značajke trenutnog stanja prirode i bioraznolikosti u programskom području su:

- visoka (iznad prosjeka EU) bioraznolikost u programskom području, s velikim brojem zaštićenih i endemskih vrsta;
- 11.7% programskog područja uključeno je u neku kategoriju zaštite prirode;
- 31.1% programskog područja dio je potencijalnih Natura 2000 područja očuvanja značajna za vrste i stanišne tipove, a 22.5% je dio Natura 2000 područja očuvanja značajnih za ptice.

Bioraznolikost programskog područja ugrožavaju različite ljudske djelatnostima koje uzrokuju različite vrste postojećih pritisaka: gubitak, degradacija (u posljednjih nekoliko desetljeća radi se uglavnom u napuštanju tradicionalne poljoprivredne djelatnosti) i fragmentacija staništa; unos invazivnih vrsta; prekomjerno iskorištavanje prirodnih resursa, uključujući i razne

vrste; poljoprivredne i turističke djelatnosti razvijene na neodrživ način; zagađenje okoliša (voda, tlo, zrak); klimatske promjene.

Dvije zemlje imaju mnogo zajedničkih komponenti bioraznolikosti (staništa, vrste), pa i njihova zaštićena područja dijele neke od ključnih karakteristika što otvara velike mogućnosti za razvoj zajedničkih pristupa u upravljanju i razmjenu znanja.

U programskom području upravljanje posjetiteljima nije adekvatno razvijeno, a budući da neusmjereni posjetitelji predstavljaju prijetnju ciljevima zaštite prirode, bitno je osmisлити praćenje posjeta i planove upravljanja.

U svrhu definiranja indikatora rezultata CP-a, izračunan je prosječni stupanj statusa zaštite Natura 2000 staništa i vrsta. Rezultat je pokazao da su trenutno obje vrste i stanišni tipovi važni za Europsku zajednicu u dobrom stanju unutar programskog područja, no potrebno je poboljšati status onih koji nisu.

• Izabrani okolišni cilj je: **Zaštita prirode i bioraznolikosti uz održivo upravljanje: održavanje bioraznolikosti kroz obnovu staništa i zaštitu vrsta; očuvanje zaštićenih područja prirode uz istovremeno osiguranje održivog upravljanja njima.**

Karakteristike očekivanog utjecaja na okolišni cilj:

Utjecaj	Pozitivan / Negativan	Izravan	Neizravan	Daljinski	Kratko-ročni	Srednje-ročni	Dugo-ročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Prekogranični
Utjecaji provedbe prekogranično usklađenih i bilateralno dogovorenih strukturnih mjera prevencije rizika od poplava (ulaganja malih razmjera u području upravljanja rizikom od poplava)	-	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Poboljšano stanje i upravljanje prirodnom i kulturnom baštinom te zaštićenim područjima (aktivnosti podobne za financiranje SC 2.1.)	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Utjecaji poboljšanja baze znanja i mogućnosti (SC 2.1.)	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Utjecaji ulaganja malih razmjera u području mobilizacije prirodne baštine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ zaštita, restauracija i očuvanje registrirane kulturne i / ili prirodne baštine manjih razmjera, uključujući razvoj sadržaja za pametno korištenje i održivo upravljanje; ○ ulaganje manjih razmjera u posjetiteljsku infrastrukturu i opremu kojima se poboljšava dostupnost i iskustvo posjetitelja registrirane kulturne i / ili prirodne baštine (npr. centri za posjetitelje, centri rukotvorina i izložbeni prostori, biciklističke staze i iznajmljivanje bicikala, parkirališta, prilagodbe za osobe s posebnim potrebama, pristupni putevi ka lokalitetima kulturne baštine, ...) 	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Utjecaji uslijed povećanja broja posjeta turista lokalitetima kulturne i prirodne baštine (17% od 4.911.583 u 2013.)	-	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Poboljšano stanje, upravljanje i povezanost Natura 2000 područja / zaštićena bioraznolikost (SC 2.2.)	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓

Legenda: + pozitivan, - negativan, ✓ karakteristika je utjecaja, ✗ nije karakteristika utjecaja

Nakon detaljne procjene svakog otkrivenog potencijalnog utjecaja koja je u obzir uzela moguće aktivnosti podobne za financiranje, raspoloživa sredstva, usmjeravajuća i horizontalna načela CP-a, zaključeno je da će implementacija CP SI-CRO 2014.-2020. imati zanemarive utjecaje na postavljeni okolišni cilj „Zaštita prirode i bioraznolikosti uz održivo upravljanje“ (B). Studija SPUO svejedno daje preporuke kako bi se osigurali minimalni negativni utjecaji i poboljšali pozitivni utjecaji predloženih aktivnosti.

KULTURNA BAŠTINA I KRAJBRAZ

Programsko područje obiluje materijalnom i nematerijalnom kulturnom baštinom. Kulturna baština je dobro zastupljena u gradovima, kao i u seoskom području s više od 25.000 lokaliteta u cijelom programskom području.

Usprkos svom bogatom kulturnom potencijalu postoji nekoliko razloga zbog kojih kulturnoj baštini prijete degradacija: nedostatak održavanja i brige, nedostatna financijska sredstva, neriješena pitanja vlasništva i niska razina svijesti o vrijednosti kulturne baštine. Održivo korištenje kulturne baštine je priznato kao jedna od ključnih smjernica za osiguranje veće neovisnosti i samoodrživosti lokaliteta kulturne baštine.

Programsko područje iznimno je bogato vrijednim krajobraznim karakteristikama, koje su rezultat klime i raznolikosti reljefa, kao i tradicijske baštine. Područje karakteriziraju tri glavne vrste krajobraza: panonska ravnica, Dinaridi i jadranska obala s poluotokom Istrom i otocima u jugozapadnom dijelu programskog područja.

Izabrani okolišni cilj je: **Zaštita i očuvanje vrijednih krajobraza i kulturne baštine, uz istovremeno osiguravanje njihovog održivog korištenja.**

Karakteristike očekivanog utjecaja na okolišni cilj

Utjecaj	Pozitivan / Negativan	Izravan	Neizravan	Daljinski	Kratko-ročni	Srednje-ročni	Dugo-ročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Prekogranični
Poboljšano stanje i upravljanje prirodnom i kulturnom baštinom te zaštićenim područjima nakon očuvanja, zaštite, promicanja i razvoja prirodne i kulturne baštine (6c) i mobiliziranja prirodne i kulturne baštine za održivi socioekonomski razvoj.	+	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Utjecaji ulaganja malih razmjera na mobilizaciju kulturne i prirodne baštine	+/-	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	×
Utjecaji ulaganja malih razmjera u smanjenje rizika od poplava na kulturnu baštinu, a naročito na krajobraz.	-	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Zaštićen i održavan krajobraz kao rezultat zaštite i obnove bioraznolikosti i tla.	+	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓

Legenda: + pozitivan, - negativan, ✓ karakteristika je utjecaja, × nije karakteristika utjecaja

Nakon detaljne procjene svakog otkrivenog potencijalnog utjecaja koja je u obzir uzela moguće aktivnosti podobne za financiranje, raspoloživa sredstva, usmjeravajuća i horizontalna načela CP-a, zaključeno je da će implementacija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. imati zanemarive utjecaje na postavljeni okolišni cilj „Zaštita i očuvanje vrijednih krajobraza i kulturne baštine, uz istovremeno osiguravanje njihovog održivog korištenja“.

ZDRAVLJE LJUDI I KVALITETA ŽIVOTNIH UVJETA

Starenje stanovništva je dominantan proces u cijelom programskom području. Zbog takve dobne strukture, iznimno je bitno poboljšati životne uvjete i kvalitetu života svih građana u regiji (posebno poboljšati zdravstvenu i socijalnu skrb za određene populacijske skupine kao što su starije osobe, stanovništvo u ruralnim, udaljenim i perifernim graničnim područjima u kojima je utvrđen značajan jaz u pružanju usluga).

Mreža primarne zdravstvene zaštite i njihovih jedinica u programskom području je relativno dobro raspoređena. Međutim, postoje i regionalne razlike te urbano-ruralni jaz u pogledu dostupnosti usluga od javnog interesa koje su najvažnije za vitalnost pograničnog područja. Nedostatak zdravstvenih radnika je strukturni problem koji ograničava dostupnost zdravstvene zaštite, osobito u ruralnim područjima i na otocima, ali i u manjim gradovima. Mreža općih bolnica je relativno pristupačna, a postoji i niz specijaliziranih bolnica. Pristup ljekarnama je problematičan, jer često nije ekonomski korisno raditi u udaljenim i slabo naseljenim zemljopisnim područjima.

Socijalna situacija stanovništva u programskom području se u posljednjih nekoliko godina pogoršala zbog ekonomske krize. 29,9% stanovništva u Hrvatskoj i 20,4% u Sloveniji bilo je u riziku od siromaštva ili socijalne isključenosti u 2013. Postoje značajne regionalne razlike u socijalnoj situaciji stanovništva programskog područja. Ruralna, daleka, planinska područja i otoci najviše su pogođena ili su u opasnosti od socijalne isključenosti. Kvaliteta, opseg i mehanizmi isporuke socijalnih usluga korisnicima koji su najviše pogođeni siromaštvom i socijalnom isključenosti nisu dobro prilagođeni njihovim potrebama i raznovrsnom i promjenjivom okruženju, poput starenja stanovništva, povećanja broja korisnika, te raznih profila korisnika.

Razina razvoja programskog područja pokazuje značajne razlike između NUTS 3 regija, ali i između zemalja. Nezaposlenost je značajan problem u programskom području – u 2014. bilo je više od 215.000 nezaposlenih. Iako se neke od najnaprednijih turističkih destinacija u obje zemlje nalaze u programskom području, mogućnosti koje nudi baština, tradicionalno znanje, parkovi prirode i krajobraz ruralnog zaleđa te manji povijesni gradovi nisu toliko vidljivi i iskorišteni. Povećana posjećenost lokaliteta prirodne i kulturne baštine, veća kvaliteta iskustva posjetitelja i povećana sposobnost postojećih i potencijalnih malih tvrtki i upravljanja baštinom, mogle bi smanjiti stopu nezaposlenosti pružanjem mogućnosti zapošljavanja u raznim popratnim uslugama.

Granični teritorij karakterizira visoka ranjivost uslijed raznih prirodnih katastrofa i ekstremnih događaja. Poplave su jedna od najvećih prijetnji s najvišim prekograničnim utjecajem. Ukupno 8.328 stanovnika živi u graničnom području s rizikom od poplava.

- Izabrani okolišni cilj je: **Poboljšana kvaliteta života uslijed poboljšanog pristupa uslugama, novih mogućnosti zaposlenja, smanjenog rizika od poplava i poboljšane spremnosti za prirodne i druge katastrofe.**

Karakteristike očekivanog utjecaja na okolišni cilj

Utjecaj	Pozitivan / Negativan	Izravan	Neizravan	Daljinski	Kratko-ročni	Srednje-ročni	Dugo-ročni	Kumulativni	Sinergijski	Prekogranični
Utjecaj na kvalitetu života, zdravlje i sigurnost uslijed: unaprijeđenog znanja o rizicima od poplava i poboljšanog odgovora / adaptacije na prirodne katastrofe i klimatske promjene, ojačane lokalne ekonomije i novih mogućnosti za zapošljavanje, poboljšane dostupnosti javnih usluga (zdravstvo i socijalna skrb i sigurnost), poboljšane kvalitete ponude za turiste koja rezultira povećanim brojem turista koji posjećuju programsko područje	+	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓

Legenda: + pozitivan, - negativan, ✓ karakteristika je utjecaja, × nije karakteristika utjecaja

Nakon detaljne procjene svakog otkrivenog potencijalnog utjecaja, zaključeno je da će implementacija CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. imati pozitivan utjecaj (A) na predloženi okolišni cilj „Poboljšana kvaliteta života uslijed poboljšanog pristupa uslugama, novih mogućnosti zaposlenja, smanjenog rizika od poplava i poboljšane spremnosti za prirodne i druge katastrofe“.

GLAVNA OCJENA PRIHVATLJIVOSTI

Budući da CP SI-HR 2014.-2020., ili bolje reći, predviđene aktivnosti podobne za financiranje nemaju određene lokacije, procjena je morala biti izvedena na strateškoj razini, a ne u odnosu na određene vrste ili stanišne tipove (vrste i stanišne tipove ciljeve očuvanja). To znači da će se prihvatljivost projekata morati odrediti na razini projekta (za projekte koji su dužni proći ocjenu prihvatljivosti), u skladu s relevantnim nacionalnim propisima. Važno je naglasiti da ova strateška procjena prihvatljivosti ne prejudicira rezultate ocjene na razini projekta. Za projekte koji ne zahtijevaju ocjenu prihvatljivosti na razini projekta, uvjeti provedbe i / ili suglasnost s planiranim projektom, morat će se dobiti od nadležnog tijela za zaštitu prirode.

31,1% programskog područja dio je potencijalnih **Natura 2000** područja očuvanja značajnih za vrste i stanišne tipove, a 22,5% je dio Natura 2000 područja očuvanja značajnih za ptice. U programskom području u Sloveniji zaštićeno je 212 vrsta ciljeva očuvanja i 57 stanišnih tipova ciljeva očuvanja, dok je u Hrvatskoj zaštićeno 159 vrsta i 60 stanišnih tipova. Indikator stupnja

očuvanosti vrsta i stanišnih tipova Natura 2000 pokazuje da su trenutno i vrste i stanišni tipovi važni za Europsku zajednicu u dobrom stanju unutar programskog područja, no također naglašava potrebu da se poboljša stanje onih ciljeva očuvanja koji nisu. **Zaštićena područja prirode** imaju veliku vrijednost zaštite prirode i nude široku paletu usluga ekosustava. Zaštićena područja obiju država ugrožavaju razne ljudske aktivnosti iako režimi zaštite smanjuju neke od pritisaka koji ugrožavaju bioraznolikosti.

Za potrebe ocjene prihvatljivosti izabrani ekološki cilj je: *Održati ili poboljšati stupanj očuvanosti ciljeva očuvanja Natura 2000 mreže, integritet Natura 2000 mreže, stanje u zaštićenim područjima prirode i mrežu zaštićenih područja prirode kao cjeline.*

Utjecaj provedbe programa na zadani okolišni cilj ocijenjen je u skladu sa specifičnim ciljevima i aktivnostima podobnim za financiranje CP-a. Sažetak ocjene prikazan je u donjoj tablici.

Specifični ciljevi	Aktivnosti podobne za financiranje	Ocjena utjecaja
1.1. Smanjenje rizika od poplava u graničnom području riječnih slivova rijeka Dragonja, Kupa, Sutla, Drava, Mura i Bregana	a) Nestrukturane mjere smanjenja rizika od poplava	A
	b) Strukturne mjere smanjenja rizika od poplava (riječni slivovi Dragonja, Kupa, Sutla, Drava i Mura)	B
2.1. Mobiliziranje kulturne i prirodne baštine za održivi turistički razvoj	1. Razvoj prekograničnih proizvoda i odredišta na bazi kulturne i prirodne baštine slijedeći koncept održivog turizma, bottom-up te integriranog pristupa. 2. Strukture suradnje za prekogranična odredišta ili proizvode, upravljanje i promocija.	B
	3. Poboljšanje baze znanja i kapaciteta	A
2.2. Zaštita i obnova bioraznolikosti i promoviranje usluga ekosustava	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Izgradnja kapaciteta - Razvoj zajedničkih koordiniranih pristupa, metoda i alata - Implementacija istraživanja za praćenje stanja - Praktične demonstracijske aktivnosti u prirodi koje za cilj imaju poboljšanje uvjeta i zaštitu različitih stanišnih tipova i vrsta. - identifikacija, označavanje, evaluacija i poboljšanje usluga ekosustava 	A
3.1. Izgradnja partnerstva između tijela javne vlasti i interesnih skupina za zdrava, sigurna i dostupna pogranična područja	Aktivnosti podobne za financiranje u području i) javnog zdravstva i zdravstvene zaštite, ii) usluga socijalne zaštite, iii) sigurnosti (civilne zaštite, hitne i spašavanja), iv) prekogranični javni prijevoz i usluge održive mobilnosti:	A

U cjelini, nakon detaljne procjene svakog potencijalnog utjecaja, a uzevši u obzir aktivnosti podobne za financiranje, raspoloživa sredstva, usmjeravajuća i horizontalna načela CP, zaključeno je da će **provedba CP imati zanemariv utjecaj (B)** na cilj zaštite prirode uglavnom zbog planiranih strukturnih mjera prioritetne osi 1. i očekivanog povećanja broja turista (SC 2.1.). Nekonstruktivne mjere PO 1 i cijela PO 3 biti će neutralni u odnosu na zadani cilj zaštite prirode, dok će mjere planirane u SC 2.2. i SC 2.1. imati pozitivan utjecaj na Natura 2000 područja i zaštićena područja prirode.

MJERE UBLAŽAVANJA I PREPORUKE

Kako nisu otkriveni nikakvi potencijalno značajni negativni utjecaji provedbe CP SI-HR 2014.-2020., nisu predložene posebne mjere ublažavanja. Ovaj minimalni očekivani utjecaj na okoliš rezultat je cjelokupnog usmjerenja CP-a „Povezani kroz zeleno“ (eng. "Connected in Green"), što podrazumijeva ekološki i okolišno orijentiran program, ali i uključivanje SPUO tima u proces programiranja. Ovaj angažman tima osigurao je da se potencijalno potrebne mjere ublažavanja integriraju u program kao i horizontalna ili usmjeravajuća načela, kao što su za SC 1.1 "Strukturne mjere u Natura 2000 područjima moraju se temeljiti na održivim i ekološki utemeljenim metodama i u skladu s ciljevima očuvanja dotičnog Natura 2000 područja". Naravno, podrazumijeva se da će se svi pravni sustavi zaštite i / ili obveze koje se odnose na određeni projekt u potpunosti provoditi.

Preporuke su namijenjene kao smjernice koje bi omogućile maksimizacija potencijalnih pozitivnih utjecaja koji se očekuju od provedbe CP SI-HR 2014.-2020., a koje će se primijenjivati tijekom odabira projekata za valorizaciju aplikacija koje postižu željene pozitivne učinke. Većina nužnih preporuka, već su integrirane u samom programu kroz horizontalna načela održivog razvoja, usmjeravajuća načela SC-a ili kroz alociranje financijskih sredstva prema teritorijalnom tipu.

PRIORITETNA OS	SPECIFIČNI CILJEVI	PREPORUKE	SASTAVNICA OKOLIŠA
1. Integrirano upravljanje rizikom od poplava u prekograničnim riječnim slivovima	1.1. Smanjenje rizika od poplava u graničnom području riječnih slivova rijeka Dragonja, Kupa, Sutla, Drava, Mura i Bregana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projekti trebaju uključivati mjere za sprječavanje ili ublažavanje poplava koje uključuju upravljanje oborinskim vodama na mjestu nastanka i na taj način smanjuju količinu vode koja se ulijeva u rijeke u kratkom vremenskom razdoblju. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vode
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slijedeći CP horizontalno načelo održivog razvoja i usmjeravajuće načelo koje se odnosi na Natura 2000 područja, sugerira se da pilot projekti promoviraju 'prostor za rijeku' pristup (koji dozvoljava poplave tijekom razdoblja visokog pražnjenja), korištenje prirodnih retencija, obnovu riječnih poplavnih nizina, promjene u korištenju zemljišta i slično za razliku od raznih tradicionalnih građevinskih metoda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioraznolikost / zaštita prirode
2. Očuvanje i održivo korištenje prirodnih i kulturnih resursa	2.1. Mobiliziranje kulturne i prirodne baštine za održivi turistički razvoj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pri izboru projekata, vezano za posjetiteljsku infrastrukturu manjih razmjera, preporučljivo je dati prednost infrastrukturi koja kontrolirano usmjerava posjetitelje kroz područje - pješačke staze, biciklističke staze ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioraznolikost / zaštita prirode
	2.2. Zaštita i obnova bioraznolikosti i promoviranje usluga ekosustava	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pri izboru projekata, vezano za posjetiteljsku infrastrukturu manjih razmjera, preporučljivo je dati prednost infrastrukturi koja kontrolirano usmjerava posjetitelje kroz područje - pješačke staze, biciklističke staze ... Projekti obnove staništa, restauracije riječnih korita / poboljšanja hidroloških uvjeta (SC 2.2) trebaju biti pripremljeni na način koji osigurava najpozitivnije dugoročne utjecaje na prirodu. Preporučuje se da projekti ne budu previše invazivni i da građevinski radovi budu svedeni na minimum. Odabrana metodologija mora uzeti u obzir sadašnje stanje i željeno stanje staništa, populaciju i distribuciju vrsta - ciljeva očuvanja unutar obuhvata projekta i potencijalne dugoročne utjecaje izmijenjenog stanja staništa na ciljne vrste. Projekti uklanjanja invazivnih vrsta (SC 2.2) moraju se pripremiti na način koji osigurava najpozitivnije dugoročne utjecaje na prirodu, uz minimaliziranje kratkoročnih negativnih utjecaja na autohtone vrste te ciljeve očuvanja. Metodologija mora uzeti u obzir distribuciju vrsta, ciljeva očuvanja, unutar obuhvata projekta. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioraznolikost / zaštita prirode
3. Zdrava, sigurna i pristupačna granična područja	3.1. Izgradnja partnerstva između tijela javne vlasti i interesnih skupina za zdrava, sigurna i dostupna pogranična područja	Već pokriveno programom	-

PRAĆENJE STANJA OKOLIŠA

Razmatrano je zahtijevaju li utvrđeni utjecaji sistematično praćenja stanja okoliša te je zaključeno kako u izostanku značajnih rizika (očekivanih utjecaja) nema niti potrebe za poseban sustav praćenja stanja okoliša za predloženi CP SI-HR 2014.-2020.

Podaci o ekološkom stanju površinskih voda mogu se koristiti za procjenu utjecaja mjera obrane od poplava na površinske vode, a potrebni podaci mogu se dobiti od ARSO-a i Hrvatskih voda, koji su dužni utvrđivati ekološko stanje voda u skladu s Okvirnom direktivom o vodama. Programom predloženi indikatori su ocijenjeni koliko su pogodni za prikupljanje relevantnih okolišnih podataka koji bi podržali potrebe za unapređenje sustava praćenja stanja okoliša. Mogu se koristiti sljedeći indikatori programa:

- Prosječni stupanj stanja očuvanosti stanišnih tipova i vrsta NATURA 2000 u programskom području; Bitno je istaknuti da ovaj pokazatelj mora biti pažljivo procijenjen, jer se može značajno promijeniti i uslijed raznih pritisaka koji nisu povezani s provedbom CP-a, kao što su prirodne katastrofe (nevremena, poplave, požari); različite razvojne aktivnosti i tako dalje.
- Površina staništa podržanih iz programa (s ciljem postizanja boljeg stanja očuvanosti);
- Broj posjetitelja kulturne i prirodne baštine u programskom području;
- Ulaganja manjih razmjera u posjetiteljsku infrastrukturu i očuvanje prirodne i kulturne baštine.

Ukoliko navedeni pokazatelji u srednjoročnoj evaluaciji programa ne pokažu željena i očekivana kretanja, a te neočekivane promjene mogu biti logično povezane s provedbom CP-a, Upravljačko tijelo treba konzultirati nadležna tijela i zaključiti što se može učiniti da se promijeni situacija te kako nastavak provedbe CP-a može pomoći u postizanju željenih kretanja indikatora.

DALJNI KORACI

Ova studija SPUO će biti poslana u Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i prostornog uređenja Republike Slovenije, jer je dogovoreno da cijeli postupak SPUO slijedi slovensku proceduru zato što su nadležne institucije Slovenije preuzele ulogu Upravljačkog tijela programa. Ministarstvo će ocijeniti primjerenost studije i donesenih zaključaka te donijeti Odluku, koja predstavlja pravnu osnovu za proces javnog uvida. Nakon završetka javnog uvida CP SI-HR 2014.-2020. i studija SPUO bit će izmijenjeni i dopunjeni u skladu s mogućim primjedbama zaprimljenim tijekom javnog uvida te podneseni kao završni dokumenti u proceduru donošenja pri nadležnim tijelima.

2 INTRODUCTION

Cross-border cooperation programmes aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly by neighbouring countries in the border region in order to exploit the untapped potentials of the area, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purpose of the overall harmonious development of the European Union.

Cross border cooperation between Slovenia and Croatia has been so far supported under several EU instruments since 2003 - starting with PHARE/CARDS (2003), trilateral Neighbourhood Programme (2004-2006), and IPA CBC (2007-2013). Administrative and implementing arrangements introduced in each of the programming period gradually improved conditions for cooperation, such as joint calls for proposals, joint projects, lead partner principle, while eliminating some encountered obstacles. With the accession of Croatia to the EU on 1st of July 2013, the new programming period 2014-2020 opens new opportunities and challenges for cooperation between Slovenia and Croatia.

CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, as all plans and programmes that could potentially have an impact on the environment, is subject to a SEA procedure, according to the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, which has been transposed to national legislation of both countries: Environmental Protection Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 39/06, 49/06, 66/06, 33/07, 57/08, 70/08, 108/09, 108/09, 48/12, 57/12 and 92/13*) and Environmental Protection Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 80/13*)

The purpose of this SEA procedure, for which this Report has been prepared, is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development and prevention have been taken into account in the programming process. Within the SEA procedure, potential environmental impacts of a programme implementation have to be identified and assessed. It has to take into account environmental protection requirements, nature conservation goals, protection of human health and life and protection of cultural heritage. The end goal of this SEA Report is to prevent or at least significantly reduce activities that may have a significant adverse impact on any of the above mentioned categories.

2.1. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED

The SEA procedure was carried out in line with the Slovene Ordinance since the responsible Slovenian institutions took over the role of the Managing Authority of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 in line with the bi-lateral agreement. The SEA procedure also respected all specifics of the Croatian regulation in order to fulfil all requirements.

In the preparation of this SEA Report, publicly available data, data provided by the client and different relevant institutions was used. Description of the Cooperation Programme was developed based on the 7th draft version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (25th of March 2015), which defined the main features of the proposed program and relationship with other relevant programs. For the environment baseline descriptions the 3rd draft of the Situation Analysis and SWOT for the CP, from 23rd of February 2015 were also used.

Based on the 2nd Programme draft version (24th of September 2014), an internal scoping was carried out by the SEA Team and a Scoping Report was sent out to responsible authorities of both countries for confirmation/public scoping. In the scoping procedure potential impacts (positive and negative) of the program on individual components of the environment were identified, events that may cause effects on the environment were described, as well as consequences that may occur from the programme implementation and how these relate to the programming area characteristics. Potential impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were defined according to the eligible actions expected to be carried out through all Priority Axes. Characteristic traits of potential impacts of the action implementation were defined, and assessed for each component of the environment, using the following markings:

++	significant positive impact
+	minor (indirect) positive impact
0	no impact
-	minor (indirect) negative impact
--	significant negative impact

According to the set criteria (regarding the size and characteristics of the impact), only those impacts that were assessed as potentially significant have been further assessed in this SEA Report. Potential impacts identified in the scoping phase were more precisely defined in the SEA Report according to the following table.

Table 1: Type and significance of potential impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 on the environment

TYPE AND SIGNIFICANCE	DESCRIPTION
Direct impact	Is detected if the programme plans actions/interventions that could have direct impacts on the selected indicators.
Remote impact	Is detected if the programme plans actions/interventions that could have impacts detectable further away from the planned locations.
Cumulative impact	Is detected if the programme plans actions/interventions that could have negligible impacts on the selected indicators, however could have a significant impact on the selected indicators when assessed cumulatively with existing interventions, planned interventions and those that are envisioned by other plans, or when several negligible impacts of one action/intervention add up to a significant impact on the selected indicators.
Synergic impact	Is detected if the programme plans actions/interventions that could have impacts greater than a mere sum of individual impacts.
Impact persistence	Temporary impact: impact of a passing nature. Short-term impact: impact that ceases to affect the selected indicators within five (5) years. Mid-term impact: impact that ceases to affect the selected indicators in the period of five (5) to ten (10) years. Long-term impact: impact that ceases to affect the selected indicators after ten (10) years. Permanent impact: impact that has permanent consequences.

Developed according to the Ordinance on SEA Report and detailed SEA procedure (Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 73/05).

Impacts were assessed on the basis of changes in individual impact indicators in regard to the state of the environment and the importance of these changes, the level at which environmental protection objectives were taken into account during the CP preparation and other evaluation criteria, in respect to:

- Baseline state of the environment or its parts,
- Protection of natural resources,
- Protection of natural and cultural values,
- Conservation of biodiversity,
- Characteristics of the population,
- Human health
- Climate changes.

The current state of the environment, key characteristics and existing problems were described for those components of the environment on which the program could potentially have an impact (both positive and negative). Also, an overview of legal regimes for various protected areas was given.

Programme impacts on obtaining set environmental goals were categorized according to the Ordinance SEA Reports and detailed SEA procedure (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 73/05) and given tags from A to E and X, when the impact cannot be assessed.

Table 2: Scale of potential programme impacts on obtaining set environmental goals

IMPACT CLASS	DESCRIPTION
A	no impact or positive impact
B	negligible impact
C	negligible impact due to implementation of mitigation measures
D	significant impact
E	devastating impact
X	impact assessment is not possible

Developed according to the Ordinance on SEA Report and detailed SEA procedure (Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 73/05).

Given the above methodology we can conclude that:

- If all of the impacts from the programme implementation are assessed as A or B, the programme itself is acceptable.
- If any of the impacts is assessed as C, impacts from programme implementation and the programme itself are acceptable providing mitigation measures are implemented.
- If any of the impacts is assessed as D or E, impacts from programme implementation and the programme itself are not acceptable for the environment.

In the event of programme having impacts that should be assessed with a D, but it is determined that they can be minimized (made negligible) with the implementation of mitigating measures not included in the programme, still impact was assessed

with a C (negligible impact due to mitigation measures implementation). According to Article 12 of the Ordinance on SEA Report and detailed SEA procedure (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 73/05*), whenever an impact is assessed as significant or detrimental (D or E) it must be prevented or, with the application of mitigation measures, made negligible. All proposed mitigation measures have to be explained, their implementation locations and timeframe set and executors specified. In the event of non-compliance with the proposed measures, i.e. if the measures are not implemented, it is considered that the impact is still significant, and that the grade applicable is still D.

A system for monitoring programme impacts and state of the environment will be defined, if deemed necessary. It should contain indicators that have to be monitored, monitoring timeframe (including seasonality and frequency) and methodology, executors and source of the data.

2.2. STRUCTURE OF THE SEA REPORT

The SEA Report is divided into two parts. The first gives a description of the current state and includes:

- information on the CP,
- definition of program impacts and alternatives
- current state of the environment.

The second part integrates the above within the description of:

- environmental objectives (set up for the purpose of the assessment) and indicators for monitoring whether these objectives will be obtained,
- criteria set up for the purpose of the assessment and the impact assessment itself,
- evaluation of the CP implementation impacts on the environmental objectives,
- mitigation measures, recommendations and environmental monitoring.

The Annex of the SEA Report contains the Appropriate Assessment of impact from the programme implementation on nature.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME INTERREG V-A SLOVENIA-CROATIA 2014-2020

Title:	The Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014-2020 (CP SI-CRO 2014-2020)
Contracting Authority:	Republic of Slovenia Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy Kotnikova 5, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Prepared by:	PHIN Consulting & Training d.o.o. Lanište 11c/1 HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia K&Z, Development Consulting Ltd. Kranjska cesta 4, 4240 Radovljica, Slovenia
Field of interest:	Cross-border cooperation
Short description:	CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 focuses on enhancing quality of living in the programme (wider border) area, through flood risk reduction on trans boundary river basins, mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development, protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services and through building partnership among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas.

3.1. OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME

The Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014-2020 covers 17 NUTS 3 regions - statistical regions in Slovenia and counties in Croatia:

- Slovenija: Pomurska region, Podravska region, Savinjska region, Zasavska region, Posavska region, Jugovzhodna Slovenija region, Osrednjeslovenska region, Primorsko-notranjska region, Obalno-kraška region;
- Croatia: Primorsko-goranska County, Istarska County, City of Zagreb, Zagrebačka County, Krapinsko-zagorska County, Varaždinska County, Međimurska County and Karlovačka County.

On the basis of the situation and SWOT analyses, the main needs and challenges of the programme area were identified:

- *Substantial regional disparities and the rural-urban divide* - using the economic strengths of the most developed regions to create synergies and activate the potential of less dynamic regions is the programme area challenge.
- *Tackling unemployment and improving conditions for smart growth* - potentials lay in the diversity of natural and cultural values whose mobilisation and valorisation can open up new opportunities for creation of sustainable jobs in tourism and related sectors. Unfavourable social situation and population ageing also provides opportunities for job creation in social services and expansion of social economy.
- *Maintaining the programme area's environmental quality, diversity and identity and adapting to climate change* - protected areas represent valuable asset that must be maintained for future generations and at the same time provide potential for sustainable use and sustained economic development. It is anticipated that climate change will only increase the risk of floods.
- *Ensuring equal access to social, health, rescue services for populations in the programme area and making the area safe and attractive to live in* - Population ageing, health inequalities, poverty and exclusion of certain social groups represent major challenges that can be jointly addressed by institutional cooperation focusing on the increase of institutional capacities, development of new governance models to increase efficiency and effectiveness of services. Efficient coordination and cooperation of rescue services from both sides of the border is required.

Eligible actions set by the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 are given in the table below.

Table 3: Eligible actions of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020

PRIORITY AXIS	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	ELIGIBLE ACTIONS
1. INTEGRATED FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS	1.1. Flood risk reduction in the trans boundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins	<p>Indicative flood risk management activities in the trans boundary river basins to be supported:</p> <p>a) Non-structural flood risk reduction measures in the target area (Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of the key natural water retention areas in the river basins of the target area; ○ Implementation of the natural water retention measures; ○ Development of the flood forecasting models and flood alert systems; ○ Improvement of flood hazard and flood risk mapping; ○ Awareness rising and capacity building activities for citizens, businesses, farmers, land owners and public institutions to understand flood risk prevention measures and water management processes and to learn how to react during flood events; ○ Capacity building of institutions responsible for flood risk management and river basin management (e.g. water management authorities, bilateral commission for water management, hydro-meteorology services, civil protection, ...); ○ Collection, management and exchange of the flood risk management related data; ○ Identification of operational gaps and administration burdens for sound trans boundary flood risk management, preparation of concrete solutions and if possible, their integration into national systems and daily practice; ○ Preparation of cross-border harmonized plans, studies and documentation for the implementation of the structural flood prevention measures (SEA, EIA, hydrological studies, feasibility studies, etc.); <p>b) Structural flood risk reduction measures in the target area (Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava and Mura river basins):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of cross-border harmonized and bilaterally agreed pilot structural flood risk prevention measures;
		<p>Guiding principles for the selection of operations</p> <p>During the assessment, besides the criteria applied for project assessment, the following will be required under this specific objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complementarity, co-ordination and synergies with mainstream programmes of Slovenia and Croatia under ESI Funds, particularly with the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development and Cohesion Fund. ○ Only "ready to go" structural measures shall be approved (e.g. building permits obtained when necessary). ○ Structural measures implemented in Natura 2000 areas have to be based on sustainable and ecologically sound methods and consistent with the objectives of concerned Natura 2000 site. ○ Integration of at least one of three CP cross-cutting issues (R&D, Capacity Building or ICT) as an added value to the project within non-structural flood risk reduction measures.
2. PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES	2.1. Mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development	<p>1. Development of cross border products and destinations, on the basis of cultural and natural heritage following the concepts of sustainable tourism, bottom-up and integrated approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small-scale conservation, restoration and preservation of registered cultural and/or natural heritage including obligatory content development for smart utilization and sustainable management (e.g. restoration of ethnographic traditional buildings for the purpose of local museums, nature interpretation trails, archaeological parks, etc.); – Small-scale investments in visitor infrastructure and equipment improving accessibility and visitor experience of registered cultural and/or natural heritage (e.g. visitor centres, crafts production centres and show rooms, bike trails and rentals, parking areas, adaptations to persons with special needs, connection paths to heritage sites, etc.); – Development of new contents and interpretation concepts (e.g. storytelling) of natural and/or cultural heritage considering new audience development and trends (e.g. innovative exhibitions, cross-border events, etc.); – Development of new or improved joint sustainable tourism or related products and services in the form of thematic tours, packages, itineraries, routes or tourism offer by connecting natural and cultural resources with crafts and arts, local suppliers, SMEs, tourism operators, and exploiting

		<p>RTI potential, ICT tools, e-services and/or market trends.</p> <p>2. Cross-border destination or product co-operation structures, management and promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up, positioning and promoting CB destinations by linking operators of cultural and natural heritage sites, businesses, destination managements organisations and/or other partners with common interest and products into common organisational structure (e.g. clusters, value-chain or similar structure that partners find most suitable for following commonly set objectives); - Support to internationalisation and market access of cross-border tourism destinations and products (e.g. market entry support, joint development and piloting of marketing concepts and plans, participation at international events and fairs in the third markets, etc.); - Design and implementation of innovative promotion of the cross-border destinations and products, including use of ICT, smart technologies, social media, etc. <p>3. Improvement of knowledge base and capacities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training, mentoring, awareness raising, exchange of good practices, practical guidelines and expertise and similar activities supporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All stages necessary for preservation, conservation and maintenance of heritage and traditional skills and strengthening the area's cultural identity (e.g. info points and guidelines for practical restoration of heritage, transfer of traditional knowledge, etc.); o All stages of mobilising the heritage for economic development and job creation in sustainable tourism and related businesses (e.g. start-up handy-craft centres, training programmes for new skills and competences development for actors involved in sustainable tourism and culture, interpretation skills, thematic tour guides, etc.) - Developing and testing new business models for management of cultural and/or natural heritage (e.g. management and marketing of small historic towns, ...) - Development and introduction of environmental or other quality standards - Elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans (e.g. visitor counting, visitor survey, audience development concepts...) <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Natural and cultural heritage under specific objective 6c is to be understood in a broader sense; besides registered tangible and intangible heritage one should consider other cultural values and habits, natural resources, traditional knowledge, etc. that create the programme area identity. However, small-scale conservation and infrastructural type of activities are only eligible for registered natural and cultural heritage.</i>
		<p>Guiding principles for the selection of operations</p> <p>During the selection procedure, besides the criteria applied for project assessment, the following will be required under this specific objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any heritage site or small-scale investment action receiving programme support should be publicly accessible after project is completed. - The private profit lead partner shall be asked to provide, before the signature of the subsidy contract, proof that the financial guarantee is in force. <p>Higher relevance in regard to the achievement of specific objectives will be given to projects which demonstrate for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution to the smart balance between preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources; - Integration of cultural and natural heritage with relevant tourism stakeholders (businesses, tourism management organisations, etc.) into market driven cross-border tourism products or destinations. - Concepts of sustainable tourism, bottom-up and integrated approach. - Positive increase on the number of visitors of a cultural or natural heritage that is subject of support. - Enhancement, networking and upgrading of the existing initiatives to achieve better market performance and visibility - Integration of at least one of three CP cross-cutting issues (R&D, Capacity Building or ICT) as an added value to the project. - Elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage.
	<p>2.2. Protecting and restoring biodiversity</p>	<p>Indicative actions to be supported are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building actions for increasing the participation, awareness, knowledge and acceptance among target groups on nature protection

	<p>and promoting ecosystem services</p>	<p>and ecosystem services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of joint co-ordinated approaches, methods, tools and new solutions in planning, monitoring and management of Natura 2000 and other species and habitat types relevant for CB area (e.g. data exchange, integration of planning and monitoring methods, introduction of new monitoring tools and technologies, co-ordination of management approaches, etc.); - Implementation of monitoring surveys of Natura 2000 habitat types or species as well as other habitats and species relevant for CB area. <p>Each project should among its activities implement at least one of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical demonstration actions in nature aiming at improving conditions and protection of different habitat types and species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Establish the needed small-scale infrastructure to improve/guide accessibility so as to bring direct positive impact on Nature 2000 and other species and habitat types relevant for CB area; o Guide tourism and recreation flows (traffic/visitors) in order to ensure nature protection (e.g. elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans, visitor monitoring and channelling) and establish quiet zones; o Restore habitats, re-naturalisation of river beds/improve hydrologic conditions o Ensure non-fragmentation of habitats; o Establish green infrastructure 1 supporting the protection and conservation of habitat types and species and reducing the risks of biodiversity loss; o Remove and prevent the spread of invasive alien species; o Implement measures to prevent overgrowth (in abandoned areas not addressed by Rural Development Plan). <p>Identification, mapping, evaluation and enhancement of ecosystem services with joint pilot studies of ecosystem values and development of methodologies for regional green accounting or other PES2 systems.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Guiding principles for the selection of operations</p> <p>During the selection procedure, higher relevance in regard to the achievement of specific objectives will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects focusing on preservation of biodiversity that have a positive effect on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Degree of conservation status of Natura 2000 species and habitat types which can be found on both sides of the programme area or o Natura 2000 sites which border to each other such as border rivers Mura, Drava, Sotla/Sutla, Kolpa/Kupa, Dragonja, etc.; CB forest areas of Gorjanci/Žumberak, Kočevsko/Snežnik/Snježnik/Gorski Kotar, etc. ; or cross-border karst areas (e.g. Kras/Čičarija). <p>Projects, which apply at least one of three CP cross-cutting issues (R&D, Capacity Building or ICT) as an added value to the project.</p>
<p>3. HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE BORDER AREAS</p>	<p>3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas</p>	<p>Indicative actions to be supported in the field of i) public health and health-care, ii) social care services, iii) safety (civil protection, emergency and rescue services), iv) cross-border public transport and sustainable mobility services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up new or strengthening existing cross-border cooperation structures of public institutions, civil society and other stakeholders in order to provide integrated territory-based solutions for provision of services in the selected field (e.g. joint thematic events and workshops; know how, information and data base development and exchange, familiarization with partner legal framework and administrative systems, bilateral agreements in order to identify common development issues and structures for long term operation); - Co-ordination, elaboration and improvement of joint plans, procedures and exchange of governance models for provision of cross-border services and/or services in border areas with service gap (e.g. elaboration of joint cross-border plans, strategies and programmes, optimising processes of service delivery, reduction of administrative barriers, harmonisation of protocols and intervention procedures, transfer of best

¹ **Green infrastructure** is to be understood as "a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas but also other environmental features designed and/or managed so as to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. (Source: Draft thematic guidance fiche for desk officers Biodiversity, green infrastructure, ecosystem services and Natura 2000, version 2 - 20/02/2014)

² **PES** Payment for Ecosystem Service

		<p>practices);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing skills and competences for provision of selected public services (e.g. joint training programmes, technical trainings and capacities for cross-border interventions, language and cross-cultural skills, mentoring, cross-border exchanges and placements of staff, etc.); - Joint development and delivery (demonstration) of new or improved services within the cooperation structures (e.g. innovative organisation models for service provision, organisational structures for provision of mobile services, diversification of the channels for service delivery, strengthening organisational and technical capacities for specific service delivery, adjustment of time tables and integration of public transports across the border, etc.); - Promotion of active involvement of different groups of citizens in cross-border cooperation and use of new services (e.g. specialised events, awareness and promotion campaigns, etc.); <p>Promotion of co-operations structures, their joint services and programmes.</p>
		<p>Guiding principles for the selection of operations</p> <p>During the selection procedure, beside the criteria applied for project assessment, the following will be required under this specific objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects shall clearly aim at developing a sustainable cross-border cooperation structure. - Each cross-border cooperation structure shall address at least one of the priority fields: i) public health and health-care, ii) social care services, iii) safety (civil protection, emergency and rescue services), iv) cross-border public transport and sustainable mobility services. - Each cross-border cooperation structures shall enhance either i) provision of cross-border service or ii) provision of service targeted to peripheral/rural areas. Peripheral/ rural areas under this co-operation programme are considered all areas outside the urban centers of city municipalities.³ - Any service, structure or model developed shall be accompanied by a demonstration action, which allows-transfer of best practices and/or testing of new solutions in real life context. <p>Higher relevance in regard to the achievement of specific objectives will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects that will be able to demonstrate vertical integration of institutions and larger territorial coverage of cooperation structure. Participation of relevant line ministries as associate partners in the project will reflect the strategic relevance of the project. - Projects that apply of at least one of three CP cross-cutting issues (R&D, Capacity Building or ICT) as an added value to the project. - Projects focusing the provision of services towards vulnerable target groups such as isolated elderly, women and youth at risk, the migrants, disabled people and other groups that are at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the programme area.
4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	4.1. Provide the efficient and frictionless enforcement of the CP	<p>Indicative actions to be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplification of the application, reporting procedures to reduce bureaucracy/administrative barriers by using the Harmonized Implementation Tools (HIT) and e-MS; - Trainings for the beneficiaries, programme Authorities and Bodies on the use of the e-MS and Harmonized Implementation Tools (HIT); - Setting-up of the Joint Secretariat with the appropriate categorisation of the staff taking into account demanding JS tasks to be performed and working in the international environment - Organization of the Monitoring Committee meetings; - Organisation of bilateral technical meetings to contribute to effective and qualitative programme implementation (e.g. to improve immediate response on the challenges in the programme...); - Exchange of information and good practices between the other relevant cross-border programmes in the regions (e.g. SI/AT, SI/HU, AT/HU,

³ Urban centre is considered a settlement in which the seat of city municipality (in case of SI) or city (in case of HR) is located.

		HU/CRO); - Reinforcement of capacities of project applicants and beneficiaries to submit project proposals that have high potential to contribute to the programme objectives; - Preparation of annual reports also with the aim of better visibility of the programme and its results; - Development, maintenance and the adaptation of the e-MS to the needs of programme; - Introduction and use of E-Cohesion; - Establishment and developing cooperation with the National Coordinators/National Contact Points for Macro-region strategies; - Specific activities of first level control; - Audit activities and activities of the Certifying Authority; - Programme level communication events and actions; - Elaboration of the Evaluation Plan of the programme – Article 114.1 CPR Regulation; - Preparation of the future Cooperation Programme, activities related to the closure of the previous programme (Article 59 of CPR).
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Outputs and results of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 depend on the availability of funds. The same also applies to expected impacts, which is why it is important to present the financial allocations of the programme that was also taken into account during the SEA assessment.

Table 4: Allocation of funds of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020

PRIORITY AXIS	TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THE PA (EUR)	CODE	AMOUNT (EUR)
1	10,026,557 (21.7% of ERDF funds for this CP)	87 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures	10,026,557
2	28,074,358 (60.9% of ERDF funds for this CP)	075 Development and promotion of commercial tourism services in or for SMEs	1,204,461
		85 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	3,200,000
		86 Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	4,800,000
		90 Cycle track and footpaths	1,605,949
		91 Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas	3,011,154
		92 Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets	2,007,436
		93 Development and promotion of public tourism services	2,007,436
		94 Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	8,230,487
3	5,013,278 (10.9% of ERDF funds for this CP)	112 Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest – 0%	1,503,983
		119 Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance – 0%	1,503,983
		120 Capacity building for stakeholders delivering employment, education and social policies and sectorial and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level	2,005,311
4	3,000,000 (6.5% of ERDF funds for this CP)		3,000,000

3.2. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

This chapter will cover plans and programmes, and their Priority axes or Specific objectives with which the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 can have cumulative impacts (both positive and negative), if projects/plans got implemented in the same region and/or within the same timeframe (2014-2020). The cumulative impacts themselves will be further elaborated and assessed within the chapter 8. *Evaluation of impacts.*

Table 5: Relationship of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 with other programmes

PRIORITY AXIS	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	TYPE OF THE PROGRAMME	PROGRAMME 2014-2020	PRIORITY AXIS/SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON:
1. Integrated flood risk management in trans boundary river basins	1.1. Flood risk reduction in the trans boundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins	National - Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 	5 Climate change adaptations / Lower flood risk for inhabitants, cultural heritage, economy and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> waters biodiversity and nature cultural heritage and landscape inhabitants
		National - Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 	05 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management 5a – Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches 5a1 – Establishment of the system for climate change monitoring, forecasting and planning of climate change adaptation measures 5b – Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems 5b1 – Increasing capacities and equipping for risk management on the national and regional level	
		Macro-regional strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR 	PA 5: Environmental risks (coherence among risk assessments - SEERISK project tests and adapts the guidelines in six selected pilot areas, focusing on two main activities: risk assessment and enhancement of joint preparedness and efficiency of action in emergencies caused by climate change)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALPS (Slovenia) 	3.3 Alpine risk management including risk dialogue, to tackle potential threats, such as those of climate change	
		Transnational / Interregional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danube programme 	2.3 Transnational water management and risk prevention; 2.4 Preparedness for disaster risk management	
2. Preservation and sustainable use of natural	2.1. Mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for	National - Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 	6c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage: 6c1 Enhancing protection and management of cultural heritage for development of tourism and other economic activities 6c2 Increasing attractiveness and sustainable usage of natural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> biodiversity and nature cultural heritage and landscape inhabitants
		Cross-border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP Slovenia-Austria 	6c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage	

and cultural resources	sustainable tourism development	(draft)			
			o CP Italy-Slovenia (draft)	Priority 1 Strengthening of the territory, the local resources and the preservation of the natural environment Measure 1 - Development of the natural parks in the border area Measure 2 - Development of theme-oriented tourism Measure 3 - Development of a pilot centre for the wine sector Measure 4 - Support of the production and commercial trade of local products Measure 5 - Interventions for the preservation of water resources	
			o CP Slovenia-Hungary (draft)	6c: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.	
			o CP Croatia-Hungary (draft)	PA 2 –Sustainable use of natural and cultural resources	
			o CP Italy-Croatia	Investment priority 6c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	
			o IPA Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro	TP4 – tourism, protecting natural and cultural heritage	
		Macro-regional strategies	o EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR	PA 3 – Culture and tourism	
			o EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR	4.1 Diversified tourism offer 4.2 Sustainable and responsible tourism management	o cultural heritage and landscape o inhabitants
			o EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALPS (Slovenia)	3.1. Reinforcing Alpine natural and cultural resources as assets of a high quality living area	o biodiversity and nature o cultural heritage and landscape o inhabitants
		Transnational / Interregional	o Central Europe	Priority axis 3 – 'Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE SO 3.1 To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources SO 3.2 To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources	o biodiversity and nature o cultural heritage and landscape o inhabitants
			o MED Programme	PA 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources Specific Objective 3.1: To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area Specific Objective 3.2: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas	
			o Danube programme	2: Environment and culture responsible Danube region 6c: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage 6d: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	

2.2: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services		○ Adriatic-Ionian Programme	Sustainable region <i>Specific objective:</i> promote the sustainable valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the Adriatic-Ionian area;	
		○ Alpine Space (Slovenia only)	Priority Axis 3 "Liveable Alpine Space" 6c.1 Sustainably valorise Alpine Space cultural and natural heritage	
		○ INTERREG EUROPE	6c - conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	
	National - Slovenia	○ OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy	6c Biodiversity and soil protection and restoration, as well as promotion of ecosystem services, including Natura 2000 network and green infrastructure	○ biodiversity and nature
		○ Operational Programme for Maritime and Fisheries Fund	SO3 – protection and restoring water biodiversity and ecosystems	○ waters ○ biodiversity and nature
	National - Croatia	○ Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion	6iii Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	
	Cross-border	○ CP Italy-Croatia	Investment priority 6d Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	○ biodiversity and nature
		○ IPA Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro	Priority Axis 2 –"To protect the environment, improve risk prevention and sustainable energy production"	
	Macro-regional strategies	○ EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR	PA 6 - Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils	○ biodiversity and nature ○ landscape
		○ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR	3.1 The marine environment 3.2 Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity	
	Transnational / Interregional	○ MED Programme	PA 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources Specific Objective 3.2: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the management and networking of protected areas	○ biodiversity and nature
		○ Danube programme	6d: Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	
○ Adriatic-Ionian Programme		Sustainable region <i>Specific objective:</i> enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area;		

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alpine Space (Slovenia only) 	Priority Axis 3 "Liveable Alpine Space" 6d.1 Enhance the protection, the conservation and the ecological connectivity of Alpine Space ecosystems	
3. Healthy, safe and accessible border areas	3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas	National - Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 	9 – Affordable, sustainable and quality services, health and social infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ inhabitants
		National - Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 	9a Health and social infrastructure	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Programme Efficient Human Resources for Croatia 	9(4) Affordable, sustainable and quality services	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural development programme of the Republic of Croatia 	P6: Social inclusion	
		Cross-border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CP Slovenia-Austria (draft) 	11 Health, risk management	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CP Slovenia-Hungary (draft) 	11 Social services, healthcare, civil protection	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CP Croatia-Hungary (draft) 	PA 3 – Cooperation – Enhancing institutional cooperation and an efficient public admin.	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IPA Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 	TP 1 – quality of social and health care services	
		Macro-regional strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU Strategy for the Danube Region EUSDR 	PA 10 Institutional capacity and coordination	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR 	2.2 Intermodal connections to the hinterland	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALPS (Slovenia) 	2.2 Improve sustainable accessibility for all Alpine areas 2.3 A better connected society in the region	
		Transnational / Interregional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Danube programme 	4.1 increase institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges	

All the above identified cumulative impacts with other relevant plans and programmes are taken into account and evaluated in chapter "8 EVALUATION OF IMPACTS".

3.3. EXPECTED CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 will result in consumption of natural resources such as use of space, mineral resources and other construction materials, water, energy and exploitation of preserved natural heritage. Since actual locations and extent of investments are unknown it is not possible to provide actual expected quantities or their availability within specific parts of the programme area.

For any new construction or any investment in infrastructure (*e.g. small scale investments in the field of flood risk management, development of products and services on the basis of cultural and natural heritage, supporting other capacity building activities for provision of services*) use of space is required, which might currently be intended for other purposes. This can lead to changes in land use and loss of land as a natural resource. Since exact locations or the extent of such investments are not yet known, the consumption of space as a natural resource cannot be quantified for the environmental report. However, such changes in land use are dealt with through spatial planning and are subject to the SEA procedure in the context of spatial plans adoption as well as EIA process in the context of building permit adoption.

Due to the development of products and services in the tourism sector an increase in number of tourists (for approx. 17%) in the area is expected, which will lead to an increase in consumption of natural resources such as energy and water. This means that development of tourism itself may require further investments (which are not part of this programme) such as construction of additional infrastructure and accommodation capacities. However, such changes in land use are dealt with through spatial planning and are subject to the SEA process in the context of spatial plans adoption as well as EIA process in the context of building permit adoption.

Various eligible actions will indirectly contribute to an increase in consumption of energy, water and space and, by promoting tourism and "use" of natural heritage. Given the size of the programme area, amount of allocated funds for implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 and the expected change (*an increase in number of tourists for approx. 17%*), we can conclude that implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 will not result in a significant increase of consumption of natural resources.

3.4. EXPECTED EMISSIONS, WASTE AND WASTEWATERS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Implementation of the programme will lead to an increase in gas emissions, waste and wastewater production indirectly through achieving a desired increase of tourist visits within the programme area. The potential increase in the number of visitors in programme area is approx. 17%.

According to Situational Analysis approximately 50% of Slovenian households were connected to sewage system, while 78% of all wastewater released were cleaned in 2013. Highest proportions exceeding 95% are achieved in most environments sensitive and densely populated areas (Obalno-kraška and Osrednjeslovenska regions) and the lowest in Zasavska region (61%). However, Slovenia has still not reached the targets set by the EU water utility directive for the target year 2015 for agglomerations above 2,000 PE and 2017 for smaller agglomerations. In Croatia 43,65% of population is connected to sewage network while only 27% of population is covered by wastewater treatment. In Croatia, significant spatial differences exist in sewerage systems in terms of connection rates linked to the size of the settlements with an average 74% connection rate in the agglomerations above 150,000 inhabitants and around 4% in the settlements with below 2,000 inhabitants. Croatia's deadline for compliance with the Water Utility Directive is set at 2023. Reaching targets of Water Utility Directive through implementation of national programmes is expected to bring significant improvements to the state of surface water bodies.

According to the Situation Analysis both countries are witnessing a downward trend in waste generation. Although, the generation of waste per capita varies considerably between regions, from the lowest 181 kg/inhabitant in County of Međimurje, 235 kg/inhabitant in City of Zagreb and Krapinsko-Zagorska county on Croatian side and 360 kg/inhabitant in Jugovzhodna Slovenija region on Slovene side to the highest 460 kg/inhabitant in Osrednjeslovenska region, 478 kg/inhabitant in Obalno-kraška region and 495 kg/inhabitant in County of Istria. The rate of recycling is growing while the depositing of solid waste is decreasing. Around 83% of the municipal waste in Croatia is still being deposited on landfills, in Slovenia 34% (2013), whereas the EU average is around 40%. Most of the Slovenian border regions have already established regional waste management centres or such centres are under construction. On the Croatian side, the only regional waste management centre is under establishment in Piškorica for NW Croatia (Međimurje, Varaždin, Krapinsko-Zagorska and Koprivnica-Križevci Counties). A number of County WM centers comprising modern waste management and

landfilling infrastructure are envisaged to be established/constructed by 2018, with three of them currently being in the process of establishment.

Since waste and waste water management systems are subject of specific sectorial national legislation and are already established or in the process of establishing, any new tourist destinations, which might result from the implementation of the programme, will be connected to the existing systems.

Due to the programme and the development of green tourism and implementation of capacity building, greater environmental awareness among the people is expected (service providers, tourists and locals), thereby potentially reducing environmental pollution in the areas they live, work and travel.

3.5. PROTECTED AND DEGRADED AREAS

Protected areas/areas with special regimes relating to the CP within the programme area are:

- Drinking water protection areas,
- Areas at risk of flooding,
- Natura 2000 sites,
- Ecologically Important Areas - in Slovenia only – are areas set up according to the Nature Conservation Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 96/04, 61/06, 8/10 and 46/14*), which contain a habitat type, part of a habitat type or of a larger ecosystem unit that are important for biodiversity preservation; even though there is much overlap with the Natura 2000 Network, this is treated as a separate network. In Croatia, the Nature Protection Act gives the possibility of establishing Ecologically Important Areas, however thus far they have not been identified nor designated.
- Protected areas,
- Natural values in Slovenia are areas or locations of national or local importance for protecting natural values (these can be rare, valuable or famous natural phenomena or some other valuable phenomena, some part of animate or inanimate nature, nature area or part of it, ecosystem, landscape or shaped nature)⁴ also set up pursuant to the Nature Conservation Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 96/04, 61/06, 8/10 and 46/14*). According to the Nature Protection Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 80/13*), natural values are considered to be protected parts of the nature (protected areas, protected species or protected minerals and fossils).
- Objects and areas of cultural heritage (will be graphically presented only for Slovenia, since cultural heritage GIS information for Croatia is currently unavailable).

Degraded areas within the programme area are:

- abandoned and/or not sanitized landfills,
- abandoned industrial zones,
- abandoned urban zones,
- abandoned and not sanitized quarries, sand-pits, gravel-pits, etc.

⁴http://www.arso.gov.si/varstvo%20okolja/poro%C4%8Dila/poro%C4%8Dila%20o%20stanju%20okolja%20v%20Sloveniji/biotska_raznovrstnost.pdf

Table 6: Summary of applicable legal regimes in protected areas

Segment of the environment	Protected area and Act of conservation	Summary of main protection measures
Surface and ground waters	<p>Surface and ground waters <i>Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (the EU Water Framework Directive)</i></p>	<p>Based on the Directive Member States shall implement the necessary measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent deterioration of the status of all bodies of surface water, • prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and • prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.
	<p>Groundwater <i>Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration (the Groundwater Directive)</i></p>	<p>Directive establishes specific measures in order to prevent and control groundwater pollution. In order to achieve the objective of preventing or limiting inputs of pollutants into groundwater, Member States shall ensure that the programme of measures includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all measures necessary to prevent inputs into groundwater of any hazardous substances; • for pollutants which are not considered hazardous considered by Member States to present an existing or potential risk of pollution, all measures necessary to limit inputs into groundwater so as to ensure that such inputs do not cause deterioration or significant and sustained upward trends in the concentrations of pollutants in groundwater.
	<p>Flood areas <i>Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment and management of flood risks (the Floods Directive)</i></p>	<p>Based on the Directive Member States establish appropriate objectives for the management of flood risks focusing on the reduction of potential adverse consequences of flooding for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, and, if considered appropriate, on non-structural initiatives and/or on the reduction of the likelihood of flooding. Taking into account aspects of flood risk management focusing on prevention, protection, preparedness, including flood forecasts and early warning systems and the characteristics of the particular river basin or sub-basin. Including the promotion of sustainable land use practices, improvement of water retention as well as the controlled flooding of certain areas in the case of a flood event.</p>
	<p>Marine environment <i>Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (the Marine Strategy Framework Directive)</i></p>	<p>Directive establishes a framework within which Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and preserve the marine environment, prevent its deterioration or restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected; • prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment to ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea. <p>Marine strategies shall apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, ensuring that the collective pressure of such activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes is not compromised, while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations.</p>

Segment of the environment	Protected area and Act of conservation	Summary of main protection measures
Nature, biodiversity and protected areas	<p>Conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species <i>Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive)</i></p>	<p>The aim of this Directive shall be to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States. Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest and shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics. Based on Directive a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000.</p>
	<p>Conservation of species of naturally occurring birds <i>Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive)</i></p>	<p>Directive relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States. It covers the protection, management and control of these species and lays down rules for their exploitation. Member States shall take the requisite measures to maintain the population of the species at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level. Member States shall take the requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for the species of birds through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creation of protected areas; • upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones; • re-establishment of destroyed biotopes; • creation of biotopes.
	<p>Wildlife and natural habitats <i>Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern, 1979)</i></p>	<p>The aims of Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation. Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species. The Contracting Parties shall take requisite measures to maintain the population of wild flora and fauna at, or adapt it to, a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements and the needs of sub-species, varieties or forms at risk locally. Each Contracting Party therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shall take steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention; • undertakes, in its planning and development policies and in its measures against pollution, to have regard to the conservation of wild flora and fauna; • shall promote education and disseminate general information on the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats.

Segment of the environment	Protected area and Act of conservation	Summary of main protection measures
Cultural heritage and landscape	<p align="center">Cultural heritage <i>The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)</i></p>	<p>The Parties of the Convention agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life; to recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage; to emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal; to take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society, and in the processes of sustainable development and the promotion of cultural diversity; greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.
	<p align="center">Architectural Heritage <i>Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985)</i></p>	<p>Each Party undertakes to take statutory measures to protect the architectural heritage (monuments, groups of buildings and sites) and to prevent the disfigurement, dilapidation or demolition of protected properties.</p>
	<p align="center">Archaeological heritage <i>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage - Revised (Valetta, 1992)</i></p>	<p>Each Party undertakes to implement measures for the physical protection of the archaeological heritage, making provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the acquisition or protection by other appropriate means by the authorities of areas intended to constitute archaeological reserves; for the conservation and maintenance of the archaeological heritage, preferably in situ; for appropriate storage places for archaeological remains which have been removed from their original location. <p>Also parties are obliged to ensure that the opening of archaeological sites to the public, especially any structural arrangements necessary for the reception of large numbers of visitors, does not adversely affect the archaeological and scientific character of such sites and their surroundings.</p>
	<p align="center">Landscape <i>The European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</i></p>	<p>Signatory parties agreed to undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity; to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures; to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies; to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

Protected areas with special legal regime in the interest of environmental protection, nature conservation and protection of natural resources and cultural heritage in the programme area are presented in the following figures.

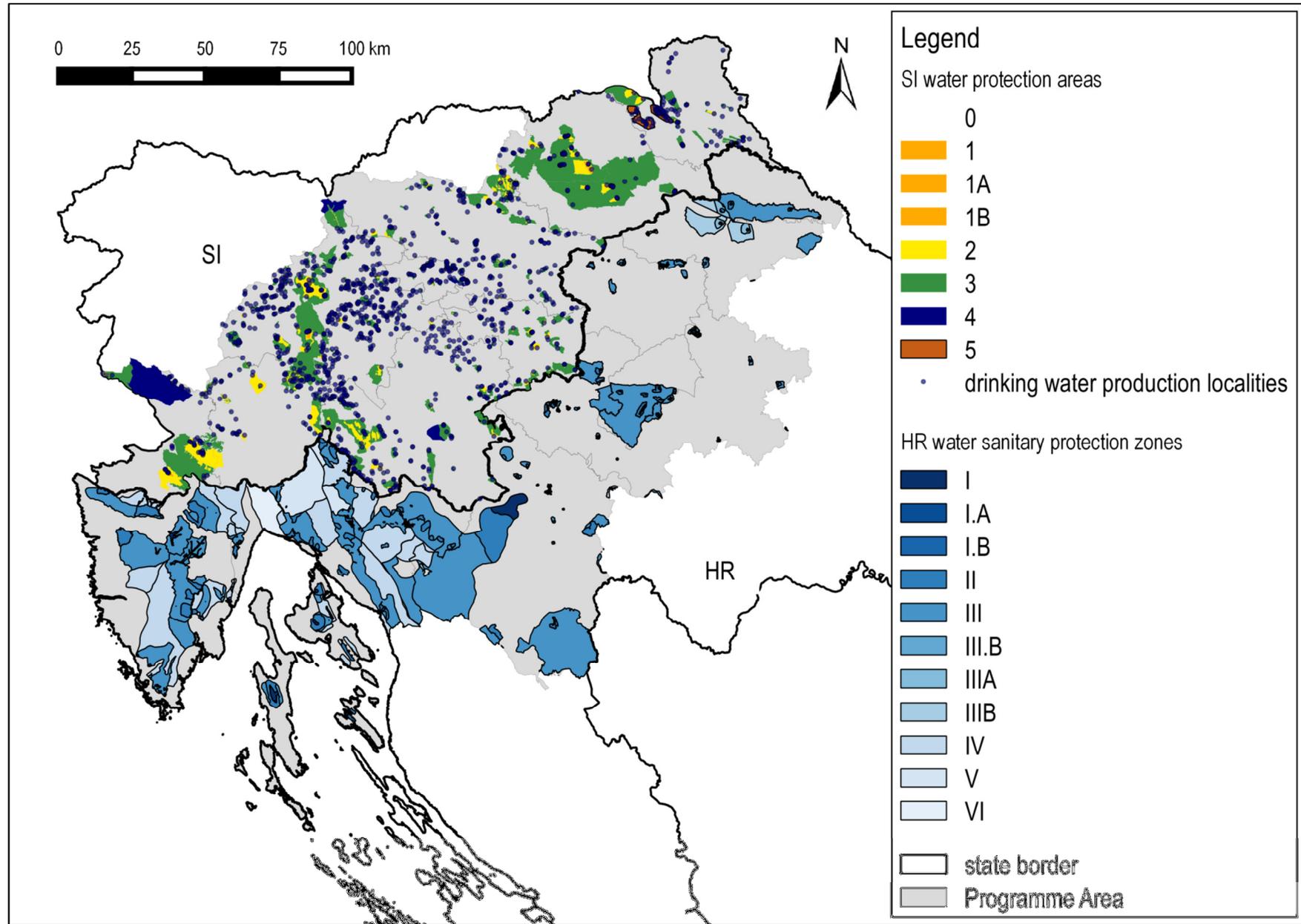


Figure 1: Drinking water protection areas (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas); CRO – Croatian Waters)

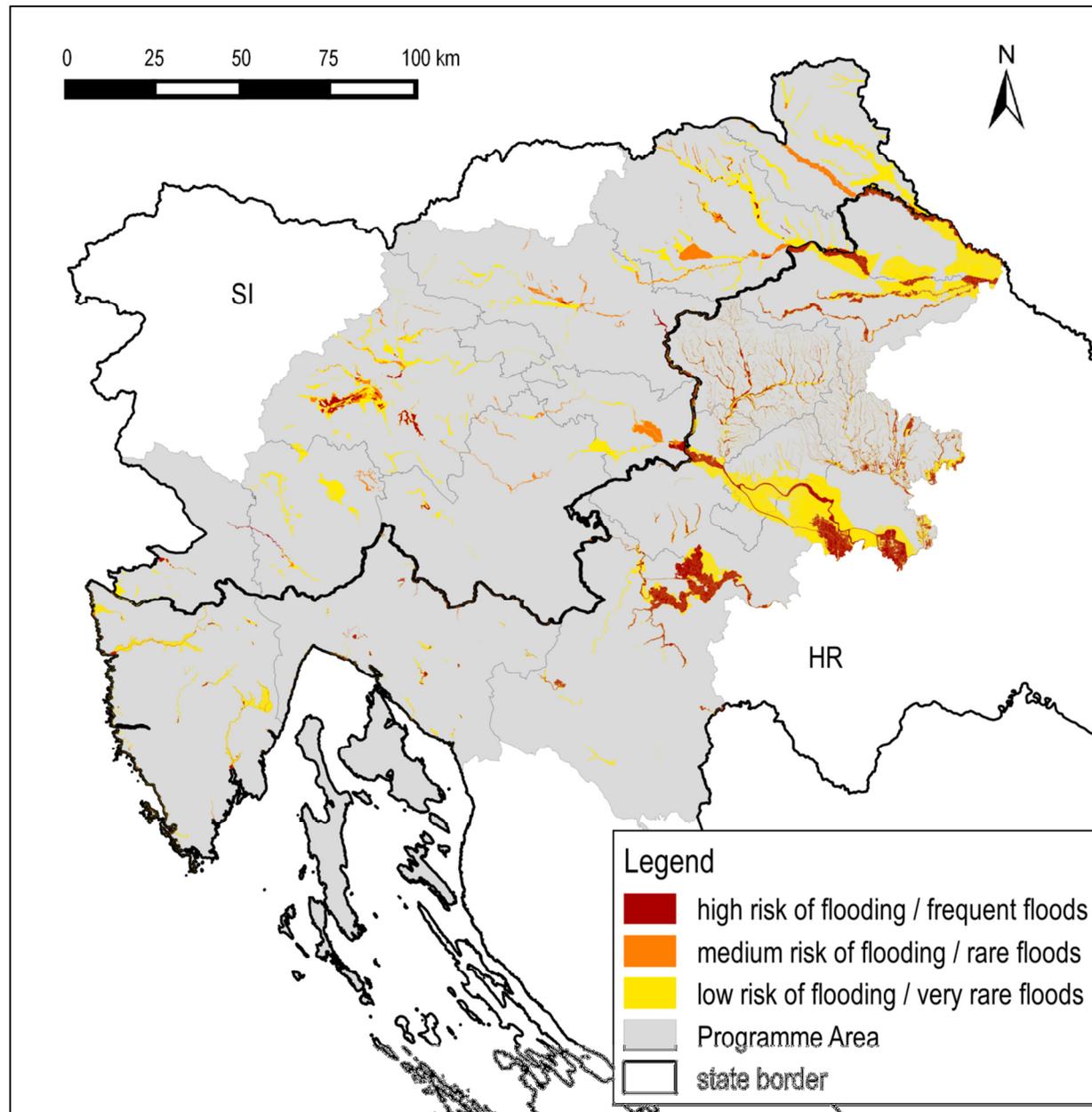


Figure 2: Areas at risk of flooding (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas); CRO – Croatian Waters)

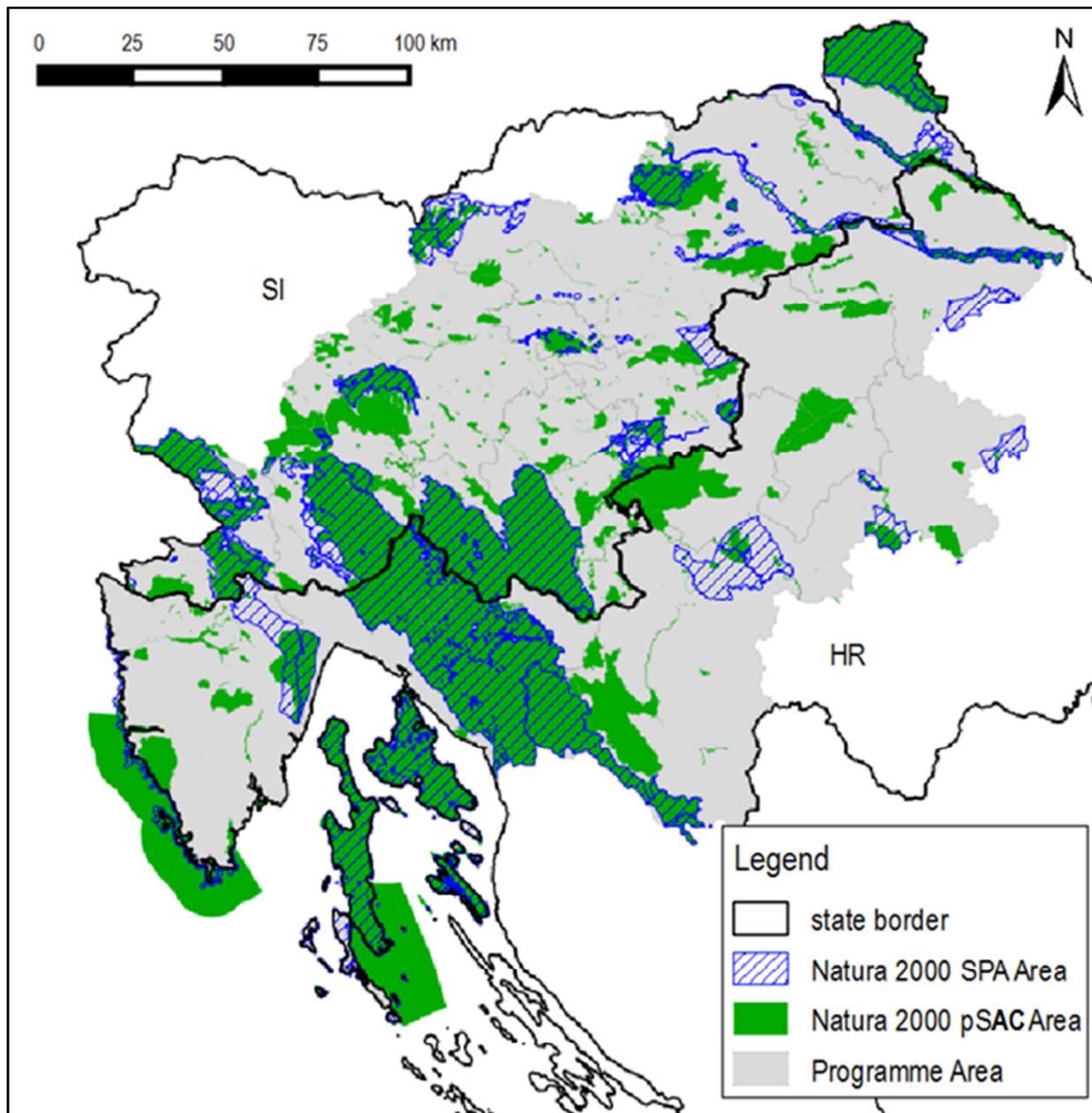
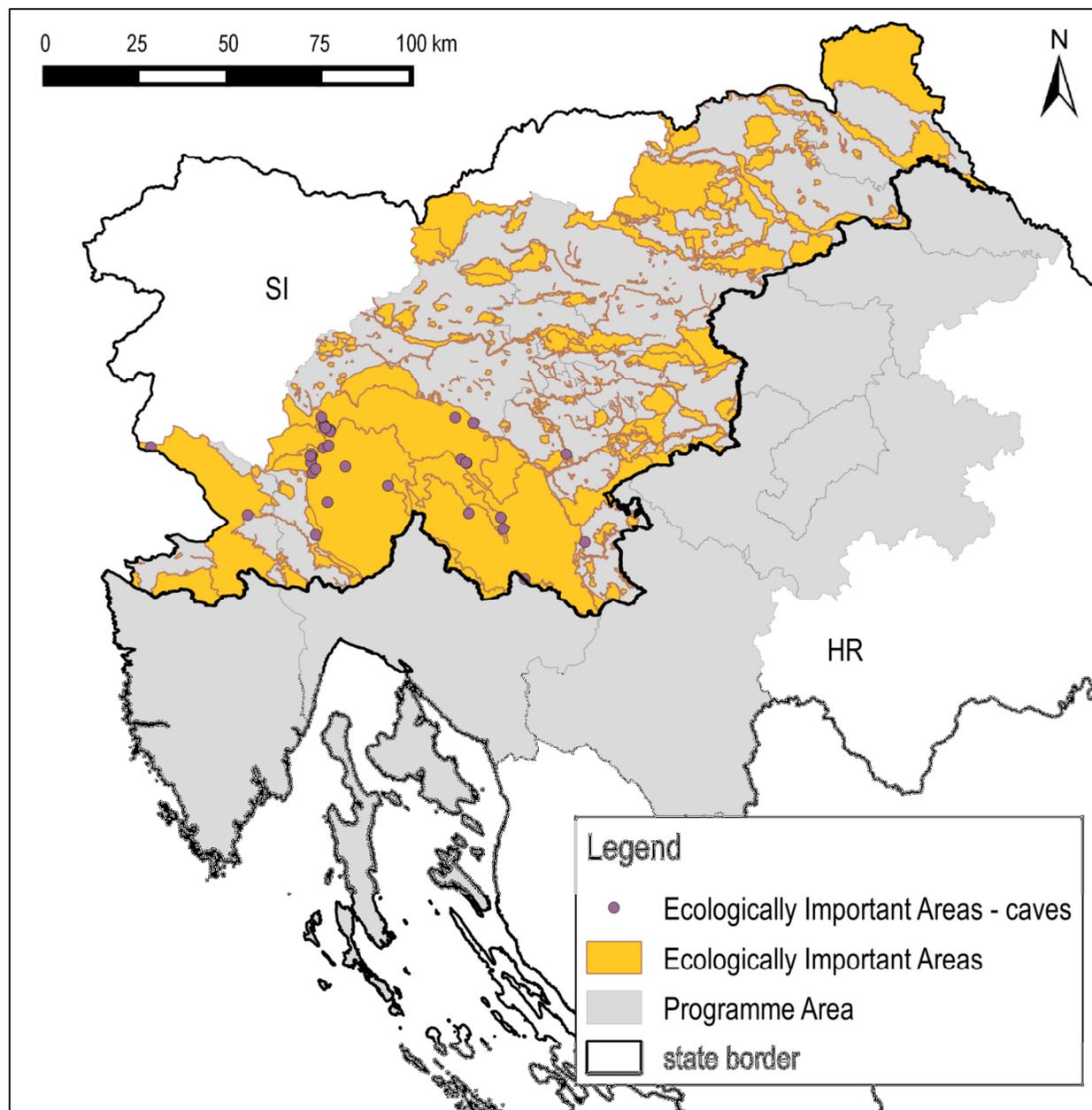


Figure 3: Natura 2000 areas (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas); CRO – State Institute for Nature Protection)



Ecologically Important Areas – shown for Slovenia only – are areas set up according to the Nature Conservation Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 96/04, 61/06, 8/10 and 46/14*), which contain a habitat type, part of a habitat type or of a larger ecosystem unit that are important for biodiversity preservation; even though there is much overlap with the Natura 2000 Network, this is treated as a separate network.

In Croatia, the Nature Protection Act gives the possibility of establishing Ecologically Important Areas, however thus far they have not been identified nor designated.

Figure 4: Ecologically important areas (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas))

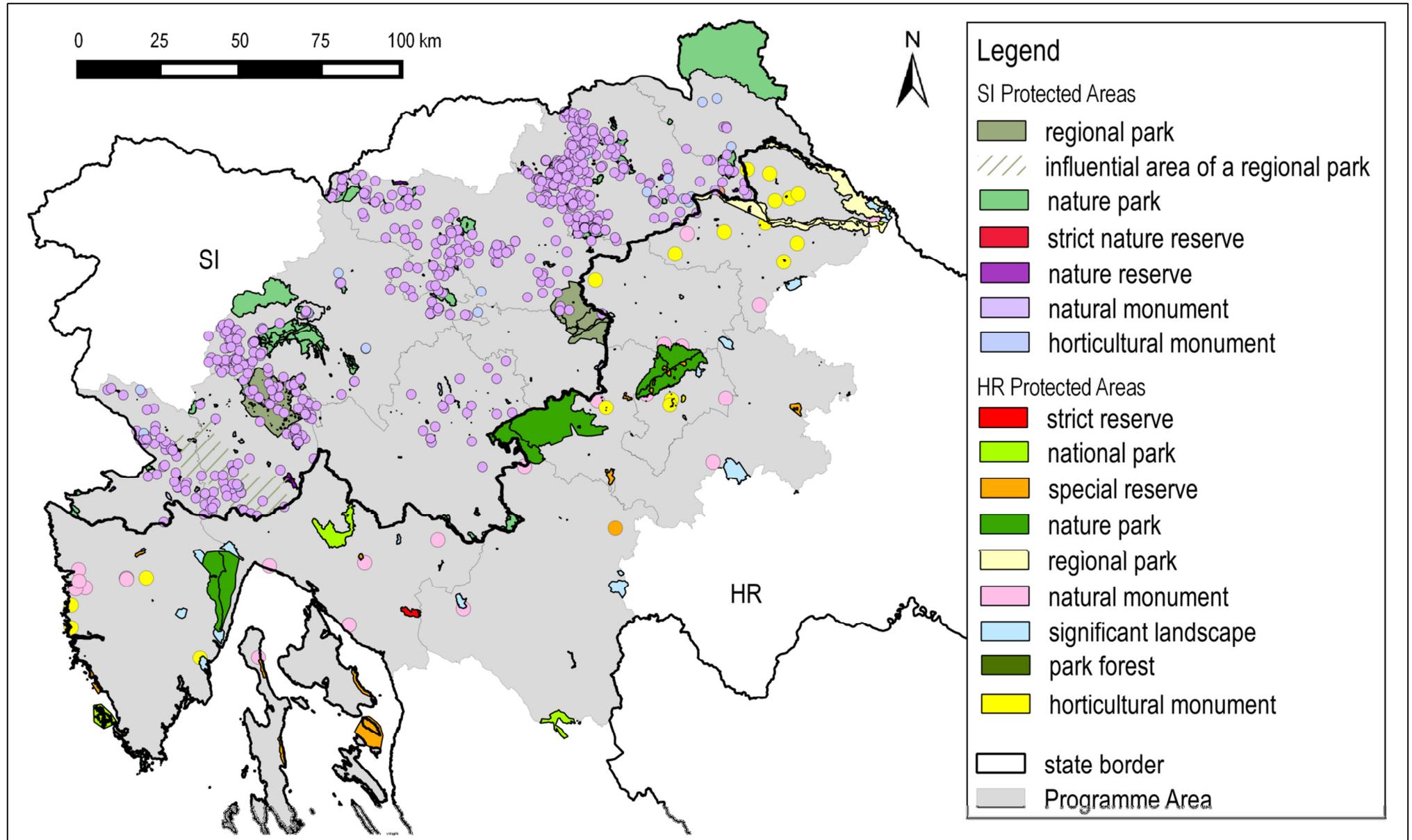
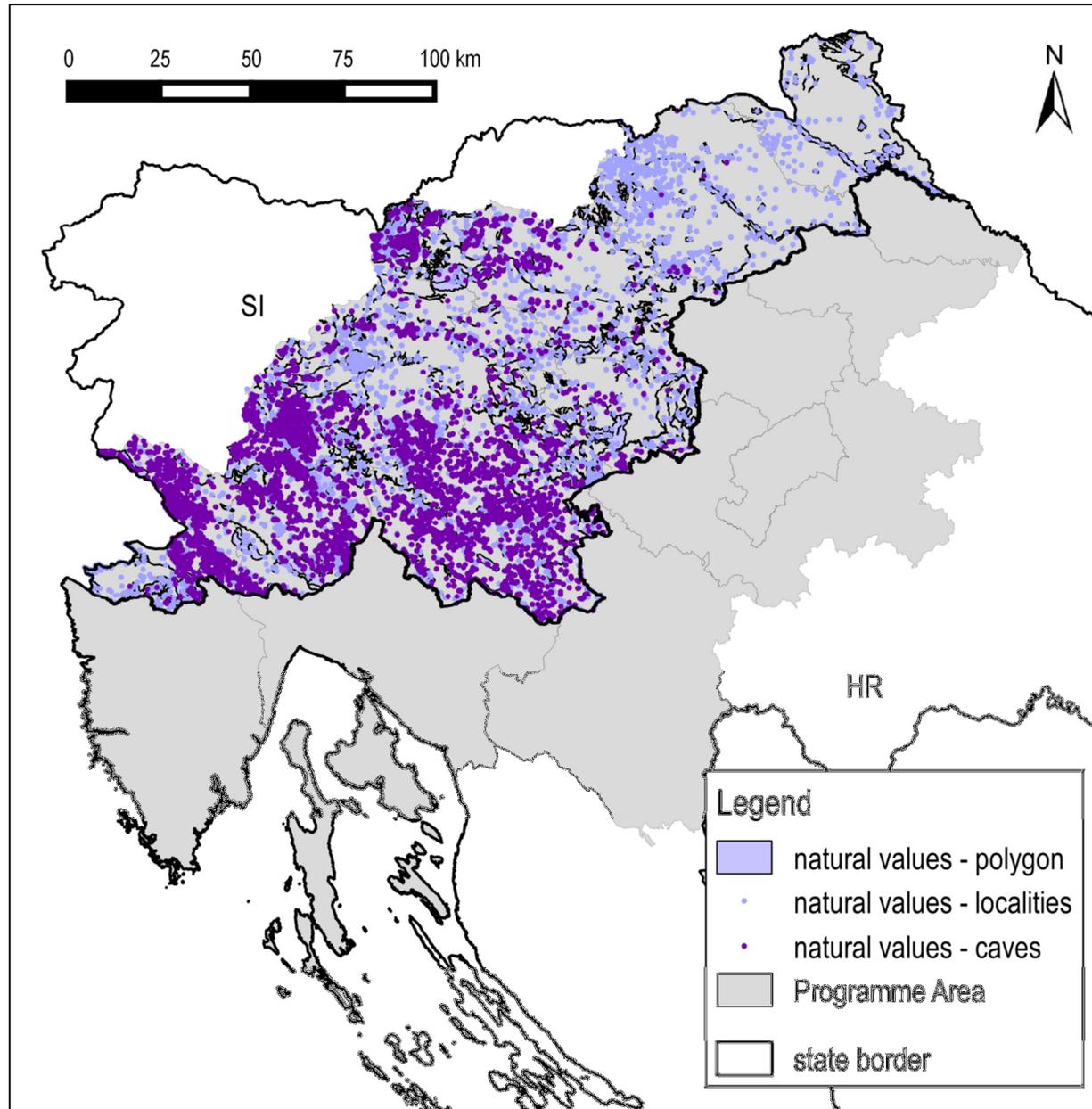


Figure 5: Nature protection areas (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas); CRO – State Institute for Nature Protection)



Natural values - shown for Slovenia only - are areas or locations of national or local importance for protecting natural values (these can be rare, valuable or famous natural phenomena or some other valuable phenomena, some part of animate or inanimate nature, nature area or part of it, ecosystem, landscape or shaped nature)¹ also set up pursuant to the Nature Conservation Act (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 96/04, 61/06, 8/10 and 46/14*).

According to the Nature Protection Act (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 80/13*), natural values are considered to be protected parts of the nature (protected areas, protected species or protected minerals and fossils), and a graphical depiction is not available.

Figure 6: Natural values (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas))

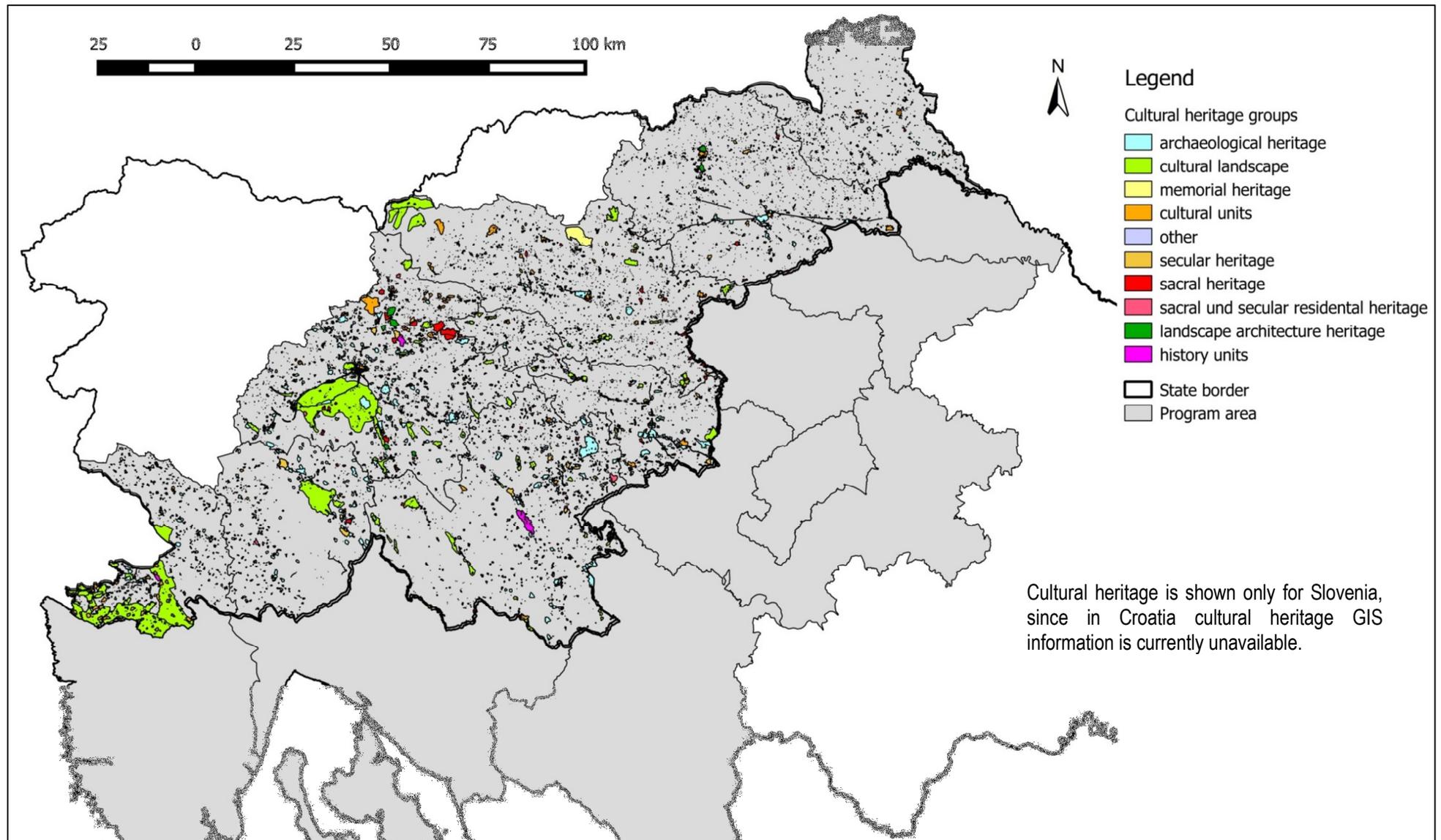


Figure 7: Cultural heritage (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas))

4 SCOPE OF THE SEA REPORT

The **Screening procedure** was conducted in Slovenia, by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, since the whole programme SEA procedure was agreed to follow the Slovenian procedure since the responsible Slovenian institutions took over the role of the Managing Authority of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, in line with the bi-lateral agreement (with some additional steps required by Croatian legislation – Scoping procedure). The Ministry has issued a Decision (No. 35409-9/2015/5) stating that **it is necessary to conduct the SEA procedure** for the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, and that **an Appropriate Assessment** (Assessment on acceptability of impacts from the plan implementation on the protected nature areas) is integral part of the procedure.

Based on the 2nd programme draft version, an internal scoping was carried out by the SEA Team and a Scoping Report was sent out to responsible authorities of both countries for confirmation/public. The Scoping Report outlined key characteristics of the proposed CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 and provided environmental information necessary for obtaining advice/opinions from relevant environmental authorities in Slovenia and Croatia on the scope of this SEA Report.

The Scoping Report was based on the following documents that were prepared by the programming team:

- Second Draft Situation Analysis and Preliminary SWOT Analysis for the drafting of the Cooperation Programme Slovenia – Croatia 2014-2020 (2nd draft version), prepared by PHIN Consulting & Training d.o.o.
- Cooperation Programme Slovenia – Croatia 2014-2020 (2nd draft version), prepared by PHIN Consulting & Training d.o.o.
- Revised Logical Framework of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020.
- Results and conclusions of 10th TF meeting.

At that point all of the above documents were still in a draft form and subject to change. However, the SEA team assessed that the revised Logical Framework of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 represented the core of the CP and could be used for scoping purposes.

The SEA team was closely involved in monitoring the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 development process and actively participated in the most important phases, from the scoping phase on. In the next few months several versions of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were prepared and the programme in general adopted some changes. In order to ensure the transparency of decisions made in the SEA procedure and to allow for all-encompassing SEA, the SEA team decided to revisit the decisions made in the scoping phase based on the latest available version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (7th draft version from 25th of March 2015). The table below offers an overview of the scoping decisions and how they are affected by the latest version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020.

Table 7: Conclusions of the Scoping Report

Segment of environment	Identified impacts	Argumentation for further SEA evaluation of segments of environment	Decision on further evaluation in SEA	Short description of relevant changes made to the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 between the phase of the Scoping Report and the final version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (7 th version) and their effect on scoping decisions
Climate change	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on climate change however no significant impacts on climate change were recognised. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional pollution with green-house gases due to increased traffic caused by increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay. Implementation of the CP will also bring insignificant positive impacts linked to green tourism as well as preservation of ecosystem diversity.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Climate Change". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Air	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on air quality, however no significant impacts on air quality were recognised. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional pollution due to increased traffic caused by increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay. Implementation of the CP will also bring insignificant positive impacts linked to green tourism.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Air". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Soil	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on soil quality and erosion – especially erosion was recognised as a potential negative impact from actions linked to pilot small scale investments in the area of flood risk management. However, there is only limited information available at this time about these investments and given actual legislation this impact was not recognized as significant. On the other hand we can expect positive impacts linked to reduction of erosion due to appropriate approach to sustainable river and flood risk management as well as small scale investments linked to flood prevention.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Soil". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Surface and ground waters	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect both positive and negative significant impacts on surface waters. In general the CP aims at improvement of focused river basin management with special emphasis on flood risk adaption/prevention/management, which is why significant positive impacts are to be expected. On the other hand there is one activity, linked to small scale investments in the field of flood prevention, which could have significant negative impacts on this segment of environment. Due to the fact that there is only limited information available about these investments (e.g. no locations or extent of	Both positive and negative significant impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were recognised. SEA should focus on river basin management, flood risk management and interventions linked to small scale investments	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme. It also predicts a new indicative action " <i>Identification of operational gaps and administration burdens for sound trans boundary flood risk management, preparation of concrete solutions and if possible, their integration into national systems and daily practice</i> " that will bring additional positive impact from management point of view. It also introduces several new "guiding principles" that mitigate negative impacts of structural flood risk reduction measures. However, structural flood risk reduction measures and other small scale investments still remain a part of

	interventions), it is impossible to carry out a full scale SEA evaluation. However, we believe that important guidelines and mitigation measures can be addressed at the strategic level of evaluation, to be implemented in further programming/planning/project development steps.	for flood protection and green infrastructure.		the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Negative impacts from increased “tourism sector footprint” should also be considered. Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Nature, Biodiversity, Natura 2000 and Protected areas	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect especially positive significant impacts on this segment of the environment. In general the CP aims at improvement of management, but also sustainable development based on mobilisation of natural potentials, which could also mean negative impacts. There are two activities, linked to small scale investments into flood prevention and green infrastructure set-up, which could have significant negative impacts on this segment of environment. Due to the fact that there is only limited information available at this time about these investments (e.g. no locations or extent of interventions), it is impossible to carry out a full scale SEA evaluation. However, we believe that important guidelines and mitigation measures can be addressed at the strategic level of evaluation, to be implemented in further programming/planning/project development steps.	Both positive and negative significant impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were recognised. SEA should focus on small scale investments linked to flood protection and green infrastructure as well as all activities linked to sustainable development within natural heritage, Natura 2000 and protected areas.	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment “Nature, Biodiversity, Natura 2000 and Protected areas”. However, the 7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 plans for approx. 17% increase of tourists to cultural and natural heritage sites, which is higher than the numbers discussed in previous CP versions. Still, sustainable tourism, green infrastructure, elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage are promoted through “guiding principles”, thus slightly relieving the “tourism sector footprint”. Additional guiding principle “ <i>Structural measures implemented in Natura 2000 areas have to be based on sustainable and ecologically sound methods and consistent with the objectives of concerned Natura 2000 site</i> ” was introduced on the suggestion from the SEA team in order to avoid potential significant negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network. However, structural flood risk reduction measures and other small scale investments still remain a part of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Additionally to scoping determinations, visitor increase to natural heritage sites should be assessed. Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Cultural heritage and Landscape	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect especially positive significant impacts on this segment of the environment. In general the CP aims at restoration and improved management of cultural heritage, but also sustainable development based on mobilisation of cultural potentials, which could also mean negative impacts. There are two activities, linked to small scale investments into flood prevention and green infrastructure set-up, which could have significant negative impacts on this segment of environment (landscape). Due to the fact that there is only limited information available at this time about these investments (e.g. no locations or extent of interventions), it	Both positive and negative significant impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 were recognised. SEA should focus on small scale investments linked to flood protection and green infrastructure as well as all activities linked to sustainable	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment “Cultural heritage and Landscape”. Through guiding principles it promotes contribution to the smart balance between preservation and sustainable use of cultural resources. However, structural flood risk reduction measures and other small scale investments still remain a part of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.

	is impossible to carry out a full scale SEA evaluation. However, we believe that important guidelines and mitigation measures can be addressed at the strategic level of evaluation, to be implemented in further programming/planning/project development steps.	development within cultural heritage areas and buildings.		
Health and Quality of living conditions	Given the nature and focus of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 we can expect especially positive significant impacts on this segment of the environment. In general the CP aims at improvement of quality of living conditions and sustainable socio-economic development.	Significant positive impacts of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 on health and Quality of living were recognised for most proposed actions. However, we believe that recognised positive impacts could be further increased through further SEA evaluation.	YES	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Health and Quality of living conditions". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Waste	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on waste (in terms of waste creation), but no significant impact on waste was recognised – mostly due to the fact that there is a system for handling communal as well as construction waste in operation on national/regional level. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional creation of waste due to increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay as well as from building of envisioned small scale investments. On the other hand we can expect improved collection of waste due to improved visitor management.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected. A system for handling communal as well as construction waste in operation on national/regional level.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Waste". As already pointed out there is a system for handling communal as well as construction waste in operation on national/regional level that is expected to handle any increase in "tourism sector footprint". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.
Noise	Several proposed actions will very likely have some impact on increased pollution with noise, but no significant impact on waste was recognised. Other insignificant negative impacts can be linked to additional creation of noise pollution due to increased tourist visit and prolonged time of stay as well as from building of envisioned small scale investments. On the other hand we can expect improved visitor management and can thus expect no significant impacts.	No significant impact of implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is expected.	NO	7 th version of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 introduces somewhat reconstructed and better defined logical framework of the programme, but does not predict any new indicative actions that would bring new potential impacts on the segment of environment "Noise". On the contrary, sustainable tourism, green infrastructure and elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage are promoted through "guiding principles", thus contributing to reduction of "tourism sector footprint". Changes to the scoping decision are not needed.

The Scoping procedure began on 27th of January 2015, as is required by Croatian SEA legislation, and the Scoping report was made public on the internet pages of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds. The following table presents obtained opinions and their key requests (given in short), as well as the SEA team's comments on these requests.

Table 8: Opinions obtained in the Scoping Process

Authority	Key requests	Comments
Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, Republic of Croatia	- to add Natura 2000 as an additional part of the environment	The Scoping report included Natura 2000 as part of the <i>Nature, Biodiversity and Protected Areas</i> . The following table, taken from the Scoping report, was amended by changing the title to: <i>Nature, Biodiversity, Natura 2000 and Protected Areas</i>
Ministry of Culture, Republic of Croatia	- cultural heritage chapter should contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - methodological approach, - baseline analysis, - assessment of international cultural heritage goals implementation (when Croatia is a signatory party), - cultural heritage protection measures, - proposal of the most acceptable variant of the programme, - monitoring measures, - add graphical depictions in relation to the Programme. 	The requests will be contained in the SEA Report through adequate chapters. Since the Programme does not entail specific project locations it will not be possible to give a graphical depiction.
Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Republic of Croatia	- no additional requests to those proscribed by the Croatian Ordinance on strategic assessment - add public road infrastructure	Since public infrastructure is not part of the CP (not an eligible investment) this request will not be incorporated into the SEA Study
Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Croatia	- assess coherence of the CP with the goals of water management, - analyse negative impacts on ground and surface waters, - promote sustainable use of water resources, - analyse climate change in terms of mitigating flood risks, - take into account water management goals	The requests will be contained in the SEA Study through adequate chapters dealing with surface and ground water.

As was already mentioned, following the Scoping procedure, some changes were made to the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 as it evolved into the form of 7th draft version. These changes were constantly monitored by the SEA team that also proactively responded to potential negative impacts and promoted enhancement of positive ones. Based on the 7th draft version the Scoping Report conclusions were re-examined (as shown in Table 7: Conclusions of the Scoping Report) and it was concluded that significant changes to the Scoping report are not required and that given conclusions remain unchanged.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE CONDITIONS

This chapter will highlight only those environmental components that were identified in the Scoping procedure as potentially significantly impacted (either positively or negatively).

5.1. WATERS

The programme area has an abundance of river networks and underground water systems. The whole programme area belongs to two river basins: Adriatic (Dragonja, Mirna, Raša, Boljunčica, Rječina tributaries) and Black Sea with Sava river basin (major tributaries Kolpa/Kupa, Ljubljanica, Kamniška Bistrica, Savinja, Sotla/Sutla, and Krapina), Drava river Basin (major tributary Dravinja and Mura river basin). In the programme area groundwater is predominantly a source of drinking water, which is abstracted from shallow, unconfined alluvial and fractured or karstic porosity aquifers. Groundwater bodies are recharged mainly from precipitation and by infiltration of water from rivers and streams.

Significant existing pressures in the programme area on water bodies are:

- loads of outflows from industrial installations and/or communal waste water treatment plants,
- diffuse pollution from agriculture,
- water abstractions,
- hydro-morphological changes of surface water bodies due to hydropower plants, flood protection, water accumulation,
- regulations of water flow and the physical alteration of riverbeds.

As the Scoping Report concluded that the implementation of planned activities of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 could have impacts on ecological status of surface water bodies (especially those linked to structural pilot actions in PA1 and increase of visitors from PA2) the table below offers an overview of the ecological status of surface water bodies within the programme area. According to the Water Framework Directive, the ecological status of surface water bodies, combines within it four quality elements, which have to be considered for each surface water category; they are as follows: biological quality elements, general characteristics (physical- chemical), specific relevant pollutants and hydro-morphological elements (water flows, physical characteristics, etc.). The general physical-chemical status (which is one of the components of the ecological status) is based on measurements of four basic physical-chemical quality variables: BOD₅ and COD as indicators of organic pollution and total nitrogen and phosphorous as indicators of nutrient pollution. All four of these values would show if a water body is being polluted from communal waste water discharges, since they contribute heavily to organic and nutrient enrichment.

Table 9: Ecological status of water bodies in the programme area

WATER BODIES				
ECOLOGICAL STATUS	Rivers	Transitional waters ⁵	Lakes	Coastal waters
Excellent	75	0	3	6
Good	122	3	10	10
Moderate	131	3	31	2
Poor	42	0	13	0
Bad	40	0	4	0
Total no. of water bodies:	410	6	61	18

From a total of 410 river water bodies in the programme area, 20% were rated as having “poor” and “bad” ecological status. 17 lake type water bodies do not have a satisfactory ecological condition. Given the above results we can conclude that there is a high number of water bodies with an unsatisfactory status which can be linked to contamination by other pollutants (from industry facilities) and habitats altered as a result of hydro-morphological modifications, but also to existing pressures of organic (measured by BOD₅ and COD) and nutrients enrichment (total nitrogen and total phosphorus) from agriculture and sanitary waste waters. Namely, Slovenia has still not reached the targets for the year 2015 set by the EU Water Utility Directive for agglomerations above 2,000 PE and targets for the year 2017 for smaller agglomerations. While Croatia’s deadline for compliance with Water Utility Directive is set for 2023. Reaching targets of the Water Utility Directive through implementation of national programmes is expected to bring significant improvements to the state of surface water bodies.

⁵ There are three surface water categories in Slovenia established: rivers, lakes and coastal waters, while in Croatia there is additional category – transitional waters

Due to the terrain topography, hydrologic characteristics and climate zones, the programme area is characterized by a high vulnerability to floods. The trans boundary river basins and rivers that require CB management cover approximately 354,868 ha or approximately 11% of the programme area, of which approximately 22,960 ha area is at risk of flooding. In total, 8,328 inhabitants live within border flood risk areas. (Figure 2: Areas at risk of flooding). Recent floods indicate that flooding occurs also in areas where they are not considered to be highly probable, with recorded water levels and discharges of extremely long return periods. According to the Situation Analysis the following border river basins are identified as critical to be primarily addressed through joined approach: Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Bregana, reaches of Drava and Mura of common interest. While the entire trans boundary basin of Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Bregana and Sotla/Sutla is considered as target area, only short reaches of Drava and Mura are defined as area of joint interest, as both rivers (with their flood areas) are already covered by other national programmes, thus focusing funds on actual cross-border issues.

5.2. NATURE, BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

The Situation Analysis has pointed out key characteristics regarding nature and biodiversity current state within the programme area:

- high (above EU average) biodiversity in the programme area, with numerous of protected and endemic species;
- 11.7% of the programme area is included in some category of protected areas;
- 31.1% of the programme area is part of the potential SAC Natura 2000 areas and 22.5% is under SPA Natura 2000 areas.

Exceptionally rich biodiversity was created because the programming area extends over three biogeographical regions: Mediterranean, Alpine and Continental, each with particular ecological, geomorphological and climate conditions that have created valuable and diverse habitats. Especially significant for the area are all types of karst ecosystems (surface, subterranean and aquatic), often characterized by endemic fauna.

A number of species is particularly interesting given the trans boundary nature of the programme and this assessment, such as:

- large carnivores: brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)⁶, wolf (*Canis lupus*)⁷ and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*)⁸, whose populations have a trans boundary distribution (so called Dinaric populations), and there is a strong need for establishing good cooperation between all countries that share these populations, in this case Slovenia and Croatia, in order to protect and preserve them;
- and Dinaric karst subterranean endemic species, such as olm (*Proteus anguinus*).

Biodiversity of the programming area is threatened by diverse human activities that exude different types of existing pressures:

- habitat loss, degradation (in last decades related mostly to abandoning traditional agricultural activities) and fragmentation,
- invasive species introduction,
- over-exploitation of natural resources, including various species
- agricultural and tourism activities not developed in a sustainable manner
- environmental pollution (water, soil, air);
- climate change is also a factor affecting biodiversity, therefore reducing other pressures is crucial for ensuring that ecosystems as a whole are less vulnerable i.e. more resilient to climate change.⁹

Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation are in general considered to be the greatest threats to biodiversity. Prevention is the best measure, however when changes in habitats have already occurred, various methods are applied in attempts to restore valuable habitats. Habitat changes can also be caused by natural processes such as habitat succession, which occurs after human interference ceases (e.g. abandoning of traditional agriculture and livestock

⁶ Priprema prijedloga za uspostavljanje prekogranične suradnje između Slovenije i Hrvatske pri gospodarenju smeđim medvjedom; Izvješće radionice i preporuke za prekograničnu suradnju pri gospodarenju smeđim medvjedom, Stojdraga, 29.2.2012 (<http://fp7hunt.net/Portals/HUNT/Reports/Izvjescje%20s%20radionice%20u%20Stojdragi%20veljaca%202012%20koncno.pdf>)

⁷ Izvješće o stanju populacije vuka u Hrvatskoj u 2013. godini (http://www.dzpp.hr/dokumenti_upload/20140205/dzpp201402050953590.pdf)

⁸ Izvješće o stanju populacije risa u Hrvatskoj za razdoblje 2011. i 2012. godine (http://www.dzpp.hr/dokumenti_upload/20130724/dzpp201307240953030.pdf)

⁹ https://www.iucn.org/iyb/about/biodiversity_crisis/

breeding). The importance of habitat protection, maintenance and restoration is clear also from various actions that have been undertaken thus far within the programme area. It is important to stress out that given the nature of habitat succession, restoration measures usually have to be repeated periodically to ensure good habitat status.

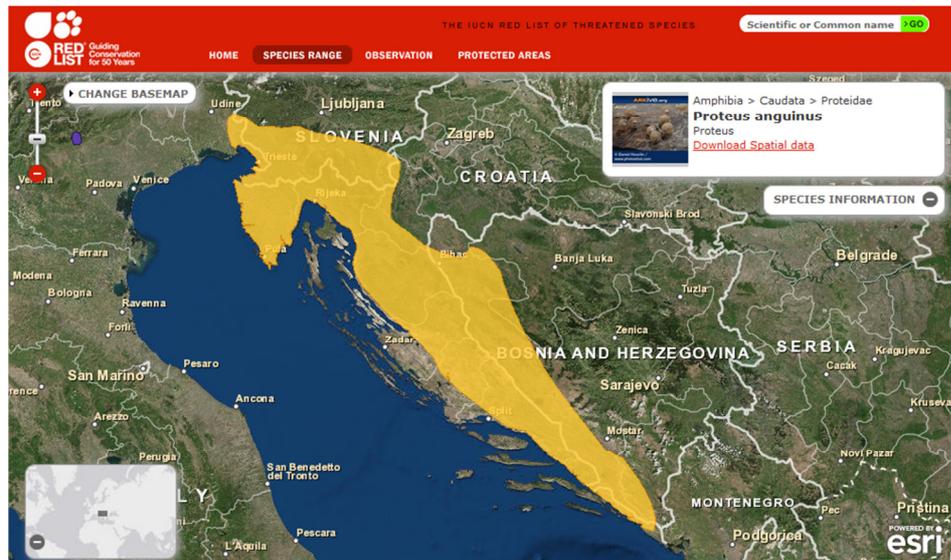


Figure 8: Olm (*Proteus anguinus*) distribution

One of the methods for biodiversity preservation is *in situ* protection of valuable natural values and nature areas. After a protected area is established, some of the pressures affecting biodiversity on the whole (mentioned earlier), because of the protection regime, are relieved, however these areas then need to be efficiently (sustainably) governed in order to achieve their purpose. According to IUCN Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas¹⁰, many protected areas, in addition to conserving biology and cultural diversity, also have important social and economic functions, such as protecting ecosystem services (watershed, soil, and coastline), providing natural resources for sustainable use, supporting tourism and recreation. This has led to a shift in the perception of protected natural areas by the local communities, as not being of national interest and solely restrictive, toward viewing them as local assets. Additionally, good governance practice for the 21st century means that areas are run by various stakeholders (often including the local communities), not the central government, and includes people of various skills, not only scientists and nature experts. Management has to be conceived adaptively in long-term perspective, and take into account financial stability since funding methods are becoming more diverse.

As the SA has demonstrated, a high percentage of the programme area is under some nature protection regime (Figure 3: Natura 2000 areas; Figure 4: Ecologically important areas (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas)); Figure 5: Nature protection areas; Figure 6: Natural values (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas))

¹⁰ <http://dlist-asclme.org/sites/default/files/doclib/PAG-010.pdf>

Figure 7: Cultural heritage (Source: SI - IRSNC, 2013–2014, Natural History Atlas (Naravovarstveni Atlas))

, which offers various opportunities for the development of sustainable activities such as agriculture and forestry, tourism, recreation, education and small businesses that could help not only the local communities, but ensure financial sustainability of protected areas, which in turn allows their efficient management. Since the two countries share much of the biodiversity components (habitats, species), their protected areas share some of the key characteristics which opens great opportunities for developing common approaches in management and knowledge exchange. The SA also pointed out that visitor management is not adequately developed within the programme area, and since unguided visitors pose a threat to nature protection goals, it is essential to devise visitor monitoring and management plans (which would include calculating visitor carrying capacity of an area).

On the European Union level, the most valuable and endangered species and habitat types are protected within EU wide Natura 2000 network. Being part of the EU, both Slovenia and Croatia have set up Natura 2000 areas (Figure 3: Natura 2000 areas), and determined protection targets, thus assisting in protecting the biodiversity of a wider area. Slovenian side of the programme area has 537.636,2 ha (which amounts to 36.4% of the Slovenian programme area) covered by Natura 2000 network. 471.828,5 ha are designated as potential SAC areas, while 381.519,7 ha are SPA areas (potential SAC and SPA areas are largely overlapping). In Croatia, within the programming area Natura 2000 network covers 719.695,57 ha. 42.44%. SPA areas cover 439.986,85 ha, while potential SAC areas cover 668.765,66 ha of land and sea, again two types of areas are largely overlapping.

Degree of conservation of species and habitat types for every Natura 2000 area is assessed and listed in Standard Data Forms. They assess the degree of conservation of each target feature in each of Natura 2000 areas separately. Currently, within the programme area are 2001 targets (1407 species and 594 habitat types) in excellent conservation (A), 4438 targets (3354 species and 1084 habitat types) in good conservation (B) and 439 targets (345 species and 94 habitat types) in average or reduced conservation (C). For the purpose of defining CP result indicator average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species was calculated. The methodology chosen was to give 3 points for conservation status A, 2 for status B and 1 for C and the average was calculated. The result was mean value of 2.07 points for habitat types and 2.05 points for species. This shows that currently both species and habitat types important for the European Community are in a good state within the programme area, however it also stresses out the need to improve the status of those that are not.

5.3. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

According to data from the Situational Analysis the programme area is rich with tangible and intangible (living) cultural heritage. Cultural heritage is well represented in towns as well as in the countryside with more than 25,000 units in the whole programme area. Apart from the numerous registered, protected and unregistered cultural elements of national and local importance there are elements protected as UNESCO elements of cultural heritage; two sites protected as World Cultural Heritage and seven UNESCO protected intangible cultural heritage elements. The programme area is

exceptionally rich in valuable landscape characteristics, which are results of climate and relief diversity as well as of traditional heritage.

Despite its rich cultural potential there are several reasons cultural heritage is threatened by degradation in the programme area; according to the Croatian strategy of cultural heritage 2011-2015 especially vulnerable are material elements. Main reasons are: lack of maintenance and care, insufficient financial means, unresolved issues of ownership and low level of awareness of the heritage value. The situation is critical in rural areas and small historical towns where some buildings do not have actual use. One of the reasons intangible cultural heritage is vulnerable is the globalization processes that leads to the abandonment of traditional customs and skills.

The sustainable use of cultural heritage is recognized as one of the key guidelines to ensure greater independence and self-sustainability of cultural heritage sites. In 2013, the registered number of visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites was **4,911,583**. Currently, the information on the number of visitors to solely cultural heritage sites is not obtainable. Closer alignment with the tourism and marketing processes would allow greater financial benefits that can be applied to the restoration and maintenance of cultural heritage sites.

According to data from the Situational Analysis the programme area is characterized with three major landscape types: Pannonia plain, Dinaric Alps and the Adriatic coast with Istrian peninsula and islands in the southwest of the programme area. All three landscape types are determined by differences in climate conditions, soil types, vegetation, water network as well as the land use.

Along with hilly and mountain relief forests, water flows and agricultural land areas dominate the whole programme area. The utilised agricultural area (JAA) in the programme area amounts to 19% of the territory, with the predominant shares in Zagrebačka county, Pomurska and Podravska region. As a landscape type and cultural category the most significant are traditional, extensive, agricultural areas which combined with natural landscape elements define a valuable mosaic and cultural landscapes. In the Croatian part of the programme area traditional cultural landscape is preserved in particular in central Istria, Dinarid karst field, Gorski kotar, while the largest landscapes in the Slovenian register of cultural heritage include Ljubljansko barje, Podpeč pri Črnem kotu, Cerknica, Sečovelje, Boršt and Dragonjo, and others. Forests are the most important natural and semi natural-landscape elements and cover around 49 % of the programme area. The largest forest areas are located in the central Dinarid mountains and sub-Alpine areas which are characterized by the natural character of the landscape. Another natural component of the landscape is water, i.e. water flows and especially rivers, which are the most numerous in Panonia plain landscape where they are one of the key landscape features, mostly degraded by channelling water courses.

5.4. HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

General demography

The Cooperation Programme includes 17 statistical regions in Slovenia and counties in Croatia. The programme area has 3.825.303 inhabitants (in 2013). In the period 2009 – 2013 the population decreased by 19.000 in the programme area. The population increased by 24.000 on the Slovene side, but in the Croatian part it decreased by 43.000 inhabitants.

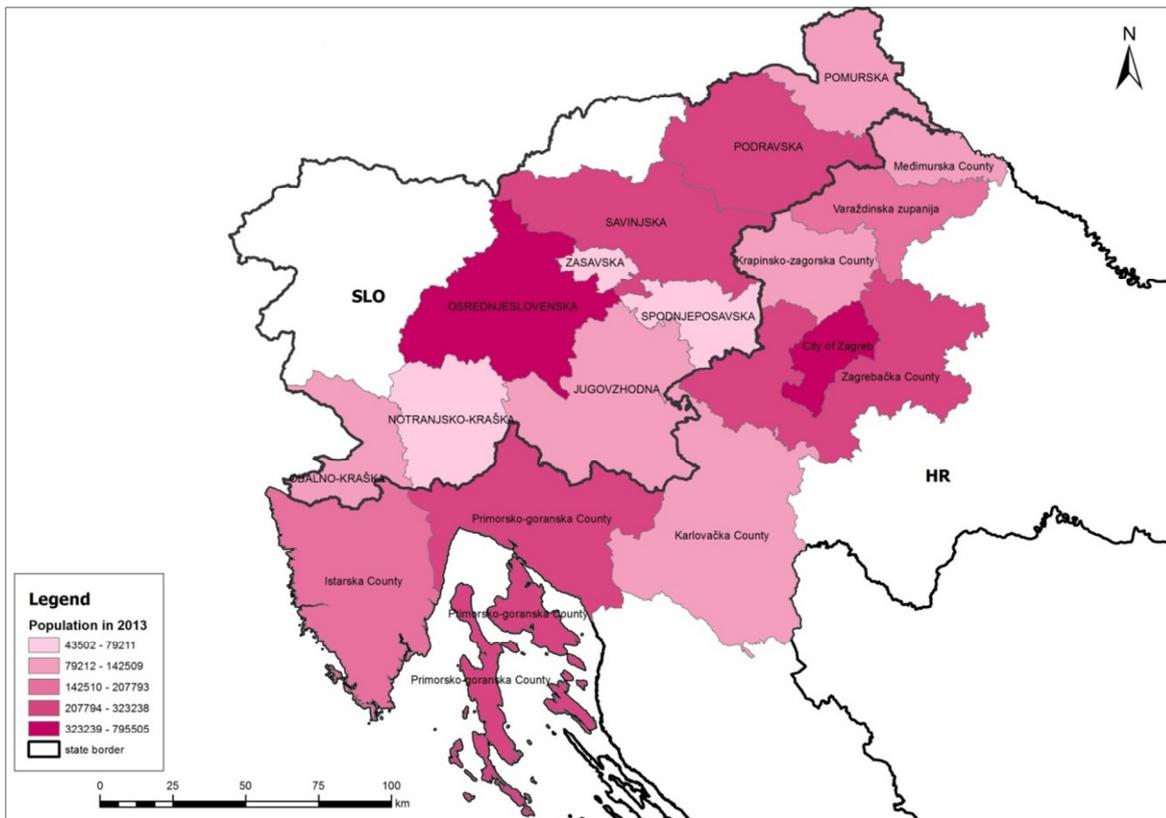


Figure 9: Population numbers within the programme area

Age structure

In general, ageing of the population is a dominant process in the entire programme area. Due to such age structure, it is crucial to improve living conditions and quality of life for all citizens of the region (especially to improve health and social care for specific population groups such as elderly, population in rural, remote and peripheral border areas with show a significant gap in service delivery).

Social Services

Health care system

The network of primary care health centres and their units is relatively well distributed in the programme area. Health centres are owned by local self-governments and counties. However, the Situation Analysis has emphasised regional disparities and an urban–rural divide in regard to citizens' accessibility to the services of the public interest that are most important for the vitality of the border area. With population ageing this issue is very important for the programme area. Despite of a relatively well structured network of primary health care institutions, there are differences in the access to the health services and differences in economic situation within the programme area.

According to the Situation Analysis appropriateness of local health infrastructure and range of services vary. Lack of health care workers is a structural problem restricting availability of health care. Access to high quality community-based social support and health care services is limited especially in rural areas, on islands, and in small towns, due to the structural lack of health care workers and other barriers to access such as expense, distance or waiting lists.

Access to pharmacies is also problematic as it often does not economically beneficial to work in remote and poorly populated geographical areas.

Network of general hospitals is relatively well accessible. The programme area also has a range of specialised hospitals, mainly for orthopaedics, psychiatry, children, chronic diseases, medical rehabilitation, lung diseases, and oncology. Distribution of hospitals in Croatia, in general, is quite uneven with the largest number located in the programme area, mainly in the City of Zagreb and Primorsko-goranska County.

Although the network of health centres in Slovenia is quite well distributed, many municipalities lack doctors. Distant rural areas are the most affected as the primary health care services may not always be accessible (e.g. only a few times a week) and there is a danger that, due to economic reasons, this could be further reduced. In Croatia, the health care

system in general is characterized by inefficient and ineffective network of health care institutions, inappropriate distribution and mobilisation of capacities at different levels of care, insufficient focus on quality standards, resulting in reduced financial sustainability of the system and in reduced access to services for the patients and unsatisfactory quality of health care provided. Access to the health care services is also a problem in Croatian rural areas, islands and mountain areas.

Social care

Social situation of the population in the programme area has worsened in the last few years due to the economic crisis. 29.9% of the population in Croatia and 20.4 % in Slovenia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2013. High unemployment and low labour market participation, coupled with raising costs of living, have increased the share of population living at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Croatia. In Slovenia decreasing this number is one of the key targets. Recent economic crisis has further increased the number of people in need.

Population ageing and poor economic situation of the elderly, call for increased availability of social and health care services and programmes for the elderly (it is expected that the number of elderly needing long-term care will increase in the future).

There are significant regional differences in the social situation of the population in the programme area. Rural, remote, mountain and island areas are the most affected or threatened by exclusion.

According to the Situation Analysis, other target groups in the programme area threatened by exclusion need attention, such as long-term unemployed or unemployed youth, low-income families, single parent families, disabled persons, and others. In Croatia, due to the depopulation, the impacts from the war and the long-term economic crisis, there has been negligence in the provision and maintenance of local infrastructure and social and cultural facilities, resulting in poor availability of basic services in rural areas. Such trends can be linked to a lack of economic and social opportunities in rural areas. The quality, scope and delivery mechanism of social services provided to users most affected by poverty and social exclusion are not well adapted to their diversified needs and the changing environment, such as ageing of the population, increased number of users, and different user profiles. The programme area has potentials to activate relevant social capital in related sector to increase access and quality of services especially in rural, border, mountain, island and remote areas.

Cultural and natural heritage

According to the Situation Analysis City of Zagreb and Osrednjeslovenska generated half of the programme area GDP; the highest regional GDP per capita exceeds the lowest one by 4 times. The level of development in the programme area shows significant disparities between the NUTS 3 regions, but also between the countries. Unemployment is a significant issue in the programme area – there were over 215,000 unemployed in 2014. The economic and financial crisis contributed to the loss of 92,500 jobs and increased the number of unemployed by 50% compared to 2007. Since 2007, the number of unemployed in 2013 has more than doubled in some regions. The highest unemployment rates (percentages) were recorded in Karlovačka County on Croatian and Pomurska region on Slovene side, while within five regions/counties (City of Zagreb, Osrednjeslovenska and Podravska regions, Zagrebačka County and Savinjska region) lives 55% of all unemployed people of the programme area (data from 2013).

Although some of the most advanced tourist destinations of both countries (e.g. Istria, spa resorts, capital cities) are located in the programme area, the opportunities offered by heritage, traditional knowledge, nature parks and landscapes of rural hinterlands and smaller historic towns are not so visible or exploited (there are exceptions such as Pula, Varaždin, Ptuj ...). There is an obvious lack of integration among museums, castles, nature sites, traditional events, etc., where the local economy could develop joint cross-border products/services or destinations that could compete on international markets. The level of innovation and involvement of cultural and creative industries in the development of cultural heritage-based tourism products remains low.

Development of cross border products and destinations, on the basis of cultural and natural heritage, advancing a level of valorisation through tourism and integration of cultural and natural heritage potential (especially in rural, remote and mountain areas) could improve the existing situation. In other words, increased visits of the natural and cultural heritage sites, higher quality of visitor experience and increased capacities of existing and potential small businesses and heritage management, could decrease the unemployment rate by providing employment opportunities in various accompanying services.

Risk of natural disaster prevention

Due to the terrain topography, diverse ecosystems and climate zones, the border territory is characterized by high a vulnerability to various natural disasters and extreme events. Floods are one of the greatest threats with highest cross-border effect. According to the Situation Analysis there are 61 areas of significant flood risk on population health in Slovenia. 55 of them are located in the programing area. Recent floods indicated that flooding events occur also in areas where they are not considered to be highly probable, with recorded water levels and discharges of extremely long return periods. The total target area which requires cross border management covers 354,868 ha or 11% of the programme area, out of which 20,940 ha is at risk of flooding (approx. 7.5% of the programme area). In total, 8,328 residents live within border flood risk areas.

6 CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES

The CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 is a result of a programme development process, in which several other options, measures or applicable activities have been considered, however, its current content is one on which both parties have agreed upon, deciding that in this for the programme will suit the needs of the area, as well as be effective within its available budget. Therefore, there are no alternatives of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 that should be considered within this SEA Report.

The event of not implementing the programme, which can be considered as “zero alternative” is quite unlikely. In this situation the baseline conditions of the programme area would remain the same, i.e. the positive and negative expected from the programme implementation impacts would not occur. The same area and number of inhabitants would be at flood risk. Investments into the culture and natural heritage would not occur in the amount planned by the CP, therefore protection of these sites and also the capacity of mobilizing these resources for area development would not occur to the extent this programme will enable. Planned actions to ameliorate the degree of conservation for Natura 2000 target habitat types and species would not occur. The living conditions in the area would not be as improved as they could be by the CP implementation due to the absence of direct actions in the field of public health and health-care, social care services, safety (civil protection, emergency and rescue services), cross-border public transport and sustainable mobility services, but also from the lack of flood risk management this programme plans for and because the economic conditions would lack the momentum this programme plans to create. This in turn will not decrease the depopulation of the area, making it harder to ensure traditional land use (traditional agriculture and livestock breeding) necessary for biodiversity maintenance.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

Table 10: Chosen environmental goals and indicators

Environmental goals	Documents that define the environmental goals	Short explanation for selection of the environmental goals	Impact indicators	Short explanation for selection of the impact indicator
<p>Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods</p>	<p><i>Directive 2000/60/EC (the EU Water Framework Directive)</i></p> <p><i>Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (Floods Directive)</i></p>	<p>The main objective of the EU Water Framework Directive is to bring all natural waters to a “good condition”, that is to ensure good hydrological, chemical and ecological status of waters.</p> <p>Both EU directives highlight the importance of reducing and managing risks since floods pose a threat to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecological status of surface waters ○ Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed ○ Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented ○ Share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk 	<p>Ecological status of surface waters was chosen as an indicator because it can show potential significant changes to waters caused by the implementation CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020. The increased number of visitors will result in a proportional increase in sanitary wastewater production, which can be monitored by changes in the ecological status of waste water recipients. Possible alterations of hydro morphological features of rivers/streams can also be monitored through this indicator. However, it has to be pointed out that this indicator is under various pressures (industry, flooding events...), which cannot all be connected to the implementation of the CP.</p> <p>The number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and the number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented were chosen as indicators since the CP itself has set them for the specific objective 1.1. Flood risk reduction in the trans boundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins, which will have the greatest impact on the chosen environmental goal.</p> <p>Share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk is chosen as indicator because it will be used to assess whether the implementation of the CP will lead to the desired improvements in reducing flood risks.</p>

Environmental goals		Documents that define the environmental goals	Short explanation for selection of the environmental goals	Impact indicators	Short explanation for selection of the impact indicator
Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management	Maintaining biodiversity through habitats restoration and species protection	<p><i>EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</i></p> <p><i>Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive)</i></p> <p><i>Directive 2009/147/EC (The Birds Directive)</i></p> <p><i>Directive 2000/60/EC (EU Water Framework Directive)</i></p> <p><i>Directive 2008/56/EC (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)</i></p>	<p>EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive are all aimed at halting the loss of biodiversity, and restoring them as far as feasible, through habitat and species protection.</p> <p>WFD and Marine Strategy Framework Directive set maintaining the biodiversity as one of the key goals of the water and sea management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area 	<p>The indicator was chosen because Natura 2000 target features (species and habitat types) are part of the programme area biodiversity that is significant and endangered on the EU level. Changes in conservation status of targets can therefore be used to measure effects on the programme on the selected environmental sub-goal (Maintaining biodiversity through habitats restoration and species protection). However, it has to be stressed out that this indicator has to be taken with some reserve since it is under various pressures not related to the CP itself: natural disasters (bad weather, floods, fires); various development activities and so on.</p>
	Preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring their sustainable management	<p><i>Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia (Ministry of environmental and spatial development, 2001)</i></p> <p><i>Strategy and Action plan for the protection of biological and landscape diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG of RH, No. 143/08)</i></p>	<p>Both national strategies stress out the importance of protecting natural heritage sites, and of efficient site management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of projects supported by the programme (SO 2.1. - <i>Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage</i>) that will be aimed at preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring its sustainable management 	<p>Within the programming area are situated numerous protected areas that have much potential for sustainable development that would benefit financial sustainability of areas and thus allow their efficient management (which includes nature protection objectives of an area) and therefore actions directed at nature heritage sites can be a good indicator for programme impact on the set sub-goal.</p>

Environmental goals	Documents that define the environmental goals	Short explanation for selection of the environmental goals	Impact indicators	Short explanation for selection of the impact indicator
Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use	<p><i>Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985)</i></p> <p><i>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valetta, 1992)</i></p> <p><i>The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)</i></p> <p><i>The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention, 2000)</i></p> <p><i>Florence declaration on the links between biological and cultural diversity (Florence, 2014)</i></p>	National strategies and European conventions stress out the importance of preserving and sustainable use of cultural heritage. Sustainable use and management of natural and cultural landscapes is also recognised as a crucial element of spatial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area ○ Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage 	Impact indicators are based on the amount of use of cultural heritage and landscape and therefore will be useful in assessing the impact of the programme on the selected environmental goal.
Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters.	<p><i>Directive 2007/60/EC (Floods Directive)</i></p> <p><i>Resolution on national health care plan 2008-2013 (OG of RS, No. 72/08)</i></p> <p><i>National health care strategy 2012.-2020. (OG of RH, No. 116/12)</i></p>	National strategies and plans have recognized the importance of improving the quality of living, improving accessibility to health and social services due to existence of health and social inequalities between the regions. Also, importance of removing differences in the access to services in remote and rural areas is recognized. Also, Directive 2007/60/EC (Floods Directive) highlights the importance of reducing and managing risks that floods pose to human health and safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The number of residents who live within border flood risk area ○ Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area ○ Number of persons representing institutions and stakeholders from the programme area with improved skills and competences in CB service delivery 	Defined indicators will be used to assess whether the implementation of the CP will lead to the desired improvements of quality of living human health and safety through protection from floods, improvements of local economic opportunities (tourism services), enhancing the level of public services.

8 EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

8.1. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF THE CP IMPLEMENTATION IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

Table 11: Criteria for evaluating impacts of the CP on a particular environmental goal

Environmental goal	Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
		Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecological status of surface waters ○ Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed ○ Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented ○ Share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk 	Indicators will be created based on the data obtained from ARSO and Croatian Waters (Hrvatske vode) and by using data on projects from the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020. Based on these information and assessments they will help to evaluate whether the implementation of CP will have an impact on ecological status of surface waters and surface of flood areas.	A	<p><u>There is no impact, or it will be a positive one:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to the implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 there will be no impact or a positive impact will occur in terms of improvement of the ecological status of water bodies (the indicator remains the same, or shows positive movements). ○ Implementation of the CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will have no impact or positive impact will occur on flood risk reduction in selected trans boundary river basins (for Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented). ○ Programme reduces the share of area under flood risk for targeted trans boundary river basins or has no impact on it .
			B	<p><u>Negligible impacts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Despite of interventions that will result in local deterioration of the ecological conditions of specific water bodies implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will not change the ecological status of water bodies. ○ Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 maintains flood risks in selected trans boundary river basins at existing level (for Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented). ○ Programme maintains the share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk at existing level.

Environmental goal	Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
		Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
			C	<p><u>Negligible impacts due to the implementation of mitigation measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 deteriorates the ecological status of surface water bodies. ○ Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 increases the risk of floods in targeted river basins (for Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented). ○ Programme increases share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk. ○ Implementation of mitigation measures will reduce impacts to acceptable levels.
			D	<p><u>Significant impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 deteriorates the ecological status of surface water bodies. ○ Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 increases the risk of floods in targeted river basins (for Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented). ○ Programme increases share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk. Implementation of mitigation measures is not possible.
			E	<p><u>Devastating impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 ecological status of surface water bodies will be significantly degraded. ○ Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will seriously increase the risk of floods in the whole programme area (for Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented). ○ Programme significantly increases share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk.
			X	<p><u>Impact assessment is not possible:</u></p> <p>Impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 on ecological status of water bodies, flood risks and share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk are unknown and cannot be assessed with certainty.</p>

Environmental goal		Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
			Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management	Maintaining biodiversity through habitats restoration and species protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area Surface area of habitats supported (in order to attain a better conservation status) 	Indicators will be created based on the data obtained from Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms, data on accepted projects in the Operational on-going evaluation of the OP IPA SI-CRO 2007-2013, data on accepted projects in this programming period and planned targets for CP SI-CRO 2014-2020.	A	There is no impact, or it will be a positive one: As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, Natura 2000 species and habitat types' conservation status will be upgraded or there will be no change. The area of habitats supported in order to attain a good conservation status will increase or stay the same. The number of natural heritage sites with an active management, expressed through small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural heritage sites will increase due to the financing obtained from the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, or stay the same.
	Preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring their sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects supported by the programme (SO 2.1. - <i>Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and</i> 	Expected movement of selected indicators will help evaluate whether measures of this CP and planned actions within them will		B
				C	<u>Negligible impacts due to the implementation of mitigation measures:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, both indicator components for Natura 2000: species' conservation status and habitat types' conservation status will be degraded (by 0,002-0,01 point ¹¹). The area of habitats supported in order to attain a good conservation status will not change. The number of natural heritage sites with an active management approach expressed as small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural heritage sites remains the same It is possible to apply mitigation measures to change the values of the indicators.

¹¹ For habitat types' average, change of 0,01 means that 9 habitat features experience a decrease in the degree of conservation from A→B or B→C.

For species' average average, change of 0,01 means that 24 targets experience a decrease in the degree of conservation from A→B or B→C.

This criteria was set based on the expert evaluation. This indicator has to be taken with some reserve since it is under various pressures not related to the CP itself: natural disasters (bad weather, floods, fires); transition from assessed degrees of conservations to actual ones based on field research; various development activities and so on.

Environmental goal		Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
			Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
	management	<i>cultural heritage</i>) that will be aimed at preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring its sustainable management	have an impact on nature and biodiversity protection and sustainable use.	D	<u>Significant impact:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures Natura 2000 species and habitat types' conservation status will be degraded (by 0,002-0,01 point). The area of habitats supported in order to attain a good conservation status will not change. The number of natural heritage sites with an active management approach expressed as small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural heritage sites remains the same. Implementation of mitigation measures is not possible.
				E	<u>Devastating impact:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures Natura 2000 species and habitat types' will be seriously damaged, and their conservation status will be significantly degraded (by more than 0.01 points). The area of habitats supported in order to attain a good conservation status will not change. The number of natural heritage sites with an active management approach expressed as small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural heritage sites remains the same.
				X	<u>Impact assessment is not possible:</u> Impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 on nature and biodiversity are unknown and cannot be assessed with certainty.
Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area ○ Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage 	Indicators will be created based on the data obtained from SURS (SI) and Muzejski dokumentacijski centar (CRO), public institutions for management of protected areas and planned targets for CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 indicators.	A	<u>There will be no impacts, or it will be a positive one:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, current status of cultural heritage and landscapes will not change or will be improved. The changes in cultural heritage will be visible in the form of increased sustainable use and, as a consequence, lower level of state supports dependence, or the current situation will not change. There will be no changes related to landscapes, or positive impacts be manifested as an increase in value and/or uniqueness of the landscape.	
			B	<u>Negligible impacts:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, status of cultural heritage will not be change in significant manner. There may be minor changes to the cultural context of area which surrounds cultural heritage elements. Negligible and moderate changes in landscapes are noticeable at the local level. However, their significance in a regional context or on the level of the whole programming area is insignificant.	

Environmental goal	Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
		Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
			C	<u>Negligible impacts due to the implementation of mitigation measures:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, cultural heritage elements will be influenced in a moderately negative manner. There may be moderate or major changes to the cultural context of the area which surrounds cultural heritage elements or negligible direct impacts to cultural elements. Moderate to major changes in landscapes are noticeable at the local level. However, their significance in a regional context or on the level of the whole programming area is negligible due to the application of mitigation measures.
			D	<u>Significant impact:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, cultural heritage elements and landscapes will be influenced in significant manner. There may be significant changes to the cultural context of the area which surrounds cultural heritage elements or moderate impacts to cultural elements. Moderate to major changes in landscapes are noticeable at the local and regional level. There is also a possibility of indirect impacts which will cause abandonment of the valuable landscapes and cultural heritage elements and this will permanently change their original state. No mitigation measures can be applied.
			E	<u>Devastating impact:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 measures, tangible or intangible impacts will occur which will degrade the fundamental characteristics of cultural heritage elements and landscapes.
			X	<u>Impact assessment is not possible:</u> Impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 on cultural heritage and landscape are unknown and cannot be assessed with certainty.

Environmental goal	Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
		Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The number of residents who live within border flood risk areas ○ Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area ○ Number of persons representing institutions and stakeholders from the programme area with improved skills and competences in CB service delivery 	Indicators will be based on the data obtained from accepted projects in this programming period and planned targets for CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 (qualitative or quantitative). Expected movement of selected indicators will help evaluate whether measures of this CP and planned actions within them will have an impact on quality of living conditions and health.	A	<p><u>There is no impact, or it will be a positive one:</u> Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will lead to improvements in human safety and quality of living in the programme area. As a positive effect of reducing surface of flood area the number of residents who live within border flood risk areas will decrease. Increasing quality, sustainability and attractiveness of cultural and natural heritage sites will lead to increased visits of the heritage sites and a higher quality of visitor experience. Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will increase the number of persons representing institutions with the improved skills and competences. This could lead to improved quality, diversity and accessibility of public services in programme area. Also, it could improve access to such services in peripheral border areas, islands and rural areas with significant gap in service delivery. As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 the quality of living, human health and safety will not be changed in the whole programming area. Programme maintains the number of residents who live within border flood risk areas. Programme maintains number of visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area. Programme maintains the number of persons included in representing institutions with improved skills and competences. As a consequence the improved access to such services could stay on the same level.</p>
			B	<p><u>Negligible impacts:</u> Implementation of CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will not lead to improvements in human safety and quality of living in the whole programme area. The number of residents who live within border flood risk areas will slightly increase. The number of visitors to cultural and natural heritages will decrease in some parts of the programme area. As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 the number of persons included in representing institutions with improved skills and competences will stay on the same level in some parts of the programme area.</p>

Environmental goal	Impact indicator	Evaluation method		
		Method of indicator movement evaluation	Evaluation grade	Description of the evaluation grade
			C	<p><u>Negligible impacts due to the implementation of mitigation measures:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 the quality of living, human health and safety will be degraded. The number of residents who will live within border flood risk areas will increase due to small investment in reducing surface of flood areas. The number of visitors to cultural and natural heritages will decrease and their quality, sustainability and attractiveness will decrease as well. As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 the number of persons included in representing institutions with improved skills and competences will decrease and the improved access to such services could get worse. It is possible to apply concrete measures to reduce negative impacts to acceptable levels.</p>
			D	<p><u>Significant impact:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 the quality of living, human health and safety will be degraded in the whole programme area. No financing is given to decrease the number of residents who will live within border flood risk areas by reducing surface flood areas. Also, no financing is given to increase the number of visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area and their quality, sustainability and attractiveness will decrease. Implementation of mitigation measures is not possible.</p>
			E	<p><u>Devastating impact:</u> As a consequence of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 the quality of living, human health and safety will be seriously damaged and significantly degraded in the whole programme area.</p>
			X	<p><u>Impact assessment is not possible:</u> Impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014–2020 on the quality of living, human health and safety are unknown and cannot be assessed with assessed with certainty.</p>

8.2 EVALUATION OF CP IMPLEMENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL – MAINTAINING AND RESTORING GOOD STATE OF SURFACE WATERS AND REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF FLOODS

Table 12: Indicator analysis for environmental goal Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods

Impact indicator	Impact indicator baseline	Evaluation of impact indicator movement								
Ecological status of surface waters	<p>Ecological status of surface waters:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Rivers</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> High: 75 Good: 122 Moderate: 131 Poor: 42 Bad: 40 (410 Water bodies) </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Transitional waters</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> High: 0 Good: 3 Moderate: 3 Poor: 0 Bad: 0 (6 Water bodies) </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Lakes</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> High: 3 Good: 10 Moderate: 31 Poor: 13 Bad: 4 (61 Water bodies) </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Coastal waters</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> High: 6 Good: 10 Moderate: 2 Poor: 0 Bad: 0 (18 Water bodies) </td> </tr> </table>	Rivers	High: 75 Good: 122 Moderate: 131 Poor: 42 Bad: 40 (410 Water bodies)	Transitional waters	High: 0 Good: 3 Moderate: 3 Poor: 0 Bad: 0 (6 Water bodies)	Lakes	High: 3 Good: 10 Moderate: 31 Poor: 13 Bad: 4 (61 Water bodies)	Coastal waters	High: 6 Good: 10 Moderate: 2 Poor: 0 Bad: 0 (18 Water bodies)	<p>The indicator change cannot be quantified because of relatively low expected level of the impact as well as the fact that indicator can be affected by other activities that are not subject to the implementation of this CP.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↔</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(no significant change in value)</p> <p>First and second priority axes could potentially contribute to change of this indicator since several types of actions might have local negative or positive impacts on ecological status of surface waters.</p> <p>It is considered that the implementation of the CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will not change the ecological status of water bodies.</p>
Rivers	High: 75 Good: 122 Moderate: 131 Poor: 42 Bad: 40 (410 Water bodies)									
Transitional waters	High: 0 Good: 3 Moderate: 3 Poor: 0 Bad: 0 (6 Water bodies)									
Lakes	High: 3 Good: 10 Moderate: 31 Poor: 13 Bad: 4 (61 Water bodies)									
Coastal waters	High: 6 Good: 10 Moderate: 2 Poor: 0 Bad: 0 (18 Water bodies)									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed • Number of trans boundary river basins with pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented 	<p>According to SA for the CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 there is neglected flood protection and flood risk management on border river basins. There is evident absence of observation and prevention measures for flood risk management on micro level in CP target area so value of both indicators is set to 0.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(value increase)</p> <p>Implementation of the CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will increase the number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed/pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented.</p>								
Share of targeted trans boundary river basins area under flood risk	<p>According to CP SI-CRO 2014 – 2020 baseline area under flood risk in targeted trans boundary river basins is 6.47%.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(value decrease)</p> <p>It is considered that the implementation of the CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 will decrease the area under flood risk in targeted trans boundary river basins.</p>								

Legend: ↑ value increase; ↓ value decrease; ↔ no significant change in value

Characteristics of expected impacts on environmental goal: Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Transboundary
Improved management of target water basins	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Reduced flood risk and erosion	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments (Priority axis 1.)	+/-	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments (Priority axis 2.) - - re-naturalisation of river beds/improve hydrologic conditions	+	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Improved quality of tourists offer resulting in increased no. of tourists visiting the Programme area with prolonged time of stay.	-	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, ✗ not an impact characteristic

Evaluation of impacts:

Activities planned with CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 Priority axis 1 will have positive impact in term of integrated flood risk management. Priority axis 1 plans to implement activities such as:

- 1) Non-structural flood risk reduction measures, such as identification and implementation of natural retention areas and development of flood forecasting and alerting measures as well as improved flood hazard/risk mapping, collection, management and exchange of related data.
- 2) CP focuses structural flood risk reduction measures on Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava and Mura trans boundary river basins. These measures will include implementation of pilot structural flood risk prevention measures.

Implementation of the CP will increase the number of trans boundary river basins with joint tools, models and maps for flood risk management developed and the number of pilot structural flood risk reduction measures implemented, which will eventually reduce flood risk and erosion in CP target area. The CP plans to reduce share of the area under the risk of floods in targeted trans boundary river basins by 1,47%. These activities are considered as improvements of focused river basin management in terms of flood risk management, therefore implementation of the CP will certainly have a positive cross-border impact. Due to limited information provided (e.g. locations and scale of potential interventions) in the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 about implementation of structural flood risk prevention measures impacts cannot be fully assessed. It has to be stated at this point that all such interventions will be, in line with national legislations, subject to SEA in the spatial planning phase or subject to EIA in the phase of acquiring of the building permit, which is one of fundamental criteria for implementation of such projects. Despite pointed argumentation we can predict potential negative impacts if small scale investment degrade hydro-morphological conditions of rivers by changing quantity and dynamics of the river flow, connections with ground waters, river continuity, width and depth of the river, structure of the river substrate and river banks, however given the budget available for structural measures, this scenario is unlikely. Additionally, the CP has set sustainable development as its primary horizontal principle, which includes avoiding investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact, and supporting actions to mitigate any remaining impacts, or in the case of SO 1.1 that flood prevention structural measures have to be environmentally sustainable and ecosystem-based solutions. In addition national legislation linked to building permit approval demands adequate solutions that should prevent such negative impacts to occur. Positive impacts can occur if natural floodplains are used as retentions and there are no additional morphologic changes. There are other Programmes such as: OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy, Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion, Danube programme that contains flood prevention and protection measures and they overlap with subject Programme which will contribute in reducing flood risk in general (positive cumulative effect).

Activities planned with CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 Priority axis 2 will have both positive and negative impacts. Improved quality of the tourist offer, resulting in an increased number of tourists visiting the programme area and prolonging their time of stay will result in increased pressure on surface waters and drinking water resources. The CP plans for an increase of approx. 17% visitors until year 2023 for the whole programme area. This gradual and, likely, seasonal increase in the number of people will result in a proportional increase of sanitary wastewater production and water consumption, which could lead to a deterioration of the ecological status of sanitary wastewater recipients. However, systems for municipal wastewater collection and purification are in the process of being established throughout the programme area, so it is considered that programme area can handle this increase in the number of tourists, namely the added pressure, so no changes in the indicator ecological status of surface waters is expected. Additionally, collection and treatment of communal waste water is not subject of this CP, but other Programmes (*such as Slovenian Operational programme for collection and treatment of sanitary wastewater and Croatian Multiannual Programme of municipal water projects construction*) that are dealing with this topic and will certainly contribute to the reduction of water pollution caused by sanitary wastewaters. National Cohesion policy OPs, both Slovenian and Croatian, will give this problem a significant funding assistance. Given that the number of visitors will increase gradually, and that their presence is of seasonal character, as well as the fact that wastewater treatment system is being progressively built up, it is considered this potential negative impact will not influence the ecological status of the surface water bodies. The positive impact on this indicator is expected from the implementation of the priority axis 2, i.e. from re-naturalization of river beds and improvements of hydrologic conditions of water courses, which will represents a significant positive impact on hydro-morphological features of the area.

There is potential for positive cumulative impacts of different actions planned within the SO 1.1. on flood risk reduction in the targeted trans boundary river basins. Additionally, there are other Programmes such as: OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy, Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion, Danube programme that contain flood prevention and protection measures, and can cumulatively with the CP contribute in reducing flood risks (positive cumulative

impact). Positive cumulative effect on the ecological status of surface waters can be expected from the implementation of planned re-naturalisation of river beds/improvement of hydrologic conditions within SO 2.2., strength of this positive impact will depend on the number of such projects funded from the CP.

Synergic impacts, positive or negative, are not expected.

All potential impacts have been assessed as trans boundary, given the nature of the programme itself. Implementation of the Programme will have a positive impact on the integrated flood risk management. Structural flood risk reduction measures are planned in target trans boundary river basins which will have a positive cross-border impact.

In general, implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 will have a neutral, or slightly positive, impact (grade A) on achieving the environmental goal "Maintaining and restoring good state of surface waters and reducing the effects of floods".

8.3 EVALUATION OF CP IMPLEMENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL – NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION WITH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Table 13: Indicator analysis for environmental goal: Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management

Impact indicator	Impact indicator baseline	Evaluation of impact indicator movement
Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area	<p>Mean values were calculated for conservation status of habitat types and species obtained from Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms. The methodology chosen was to give 3 points for conservation status A, 2 for status B and 1 for C.</p> <p>Mean values for habitat types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatian programme area – 2,12 Slovenian programme area – 2,02 whole programme area – 2,07 <p>Mean values for species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatian programme area – 2,22 Slovenian programme area – 1,94 whole programme area – 2,05 	<p style="text-align: center;">↑ (expected increase is 0,002 points for each component)</p> <p>First priority axis could potentially have a slightly negative impact on the movement of the selected indicator, while the second priority axis could potentially have a positive impact on the movement of this indicator since several types of eligible actions might have impacts on Natura 2000 species and habitat types. For habitat types, the planned increase of 0,002 points means that 2 habitat targets had their degrees improved (C→B or B→A). For species, 0,002 points means that 6 target species got a grade improvement (C→B or B→A).</p> <p>It has to be pointed out that this indicator has to be taken with some reserve since it is under various pressures not related to the CP itself: natural disasters (bad weather, floods, fires); various development activities and so on.</p>
Surface area of habitats supported (in order to attain a better conservation status)	<p>This CP indicator does not relate only to habitats that are themselves conservation targets, but also to surface of restored or created areas aimed at improving the conservation status of threatened species. The operations can be carried out both in or outside of Natura 2000 areas, capable of improving the conservation status of targeted species, habitats or ecosystems for biodiversity and the provisioning of ecosystem-services.</p> <p>The starting value for this indicator is set at 0 ha (to measure the impact of the programme itself), despite the fact that there have been various actions with the aim of habitat restoration.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↑ (value increase by 31.000 ha)</p> <p>Since habitat loss, changes and fragmentation are key factors in reducing/ending biodiversity, even though this area presents only 2.5% of the programme area, increase of this indicator will show a positive impact of the CP on the environment</p>
Number of projects supported by the programme (SO 2.1.- Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage) that will be aimed at preservation of natural heritage sites while ensuring its sustainable use	<p>According to the Operational on-going evaluation of the OP IPA SI-CRO 2007-2013, the OP Priority 2 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources contained Measure 2.2. Preservation of Protected Areas. Under this measure, in the first two calls for proposals, 7 trans boundary projects were accepted for funding. (This indicator must be observed cumulative through time.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↑ (value increase by 1-15 projects)</p> <p>Since this CP has a measure that includes both natural and cultural heritage sites, it is reasonable to expect that at least some of the planned small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage will be aimed at natural heritage sites. This increase may vary (from 1 to 15, which is the total number of such projects expected to be supported by the year 2023) depending on the projects that apply, as well as, on the selection of projects.</p>

Legend: ↑ value increase; ↓ value decrease; ↔ no significant change in value

Characteristics of expected impacts on the environmental goal Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management:

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Transboundary
Impacts from implementation of cross-border harmonized and bilaterally agreed structural flood risk prevention measures (small scale investments in the field of flood risk management)	-	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Improved condition (state) and management of natural and cultural heritage and protected areas (eligible actions of the SO 2.1.)	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts from improvement of knowledge base and capacities (SO 2.1.)	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments in the field mobilization natural heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ small scale conservation, restoration and preservation of registered cultural and/or natural heritage including content development for smart utilization and sustainable management; ○ small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and equipment improving accessibility and visitor experience of registered cultural and/or natural heritage (e.g. visitor centres, crafts production centres and show rooms, bike trails and rentals, parking areas, adaptations to persons with special needs, connection paths to heritage sites,...) 	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts from increase of tourist visits to cultural and natural heritage sites (17% from 4.911.583 in 2013.)	-	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Improved condition (state), management and connectivity of Natura 2000 areas / Protected biodiversity (SO 2.2.)	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, ✗ not an impact characteristic

Evaluation of impacts:

Specific objective 1.1 that deals with flood risk reduction in the trans boundary river basins plans for not only non-structural actions, but also structural pilot projects that are to be implemented on Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava and Mura river basins. And while the programme plans for tailor-made, sustainable and locally based river actions, specificities of actual projects are still unknown. A variety of construction structural measures (such as levees, dams, riverbank stabilisation, accumulation lake construction and others) can have different negative impacts on biodiversity. They can cause long-term negative impacts on aquatic habitats and species living in riverine ecosystems due to river morphology changes, as well as on flood-dependant habitats and their species, which is a direct negative impact on achieving the set environmental goal. They can have a remote impact on the biodiversity since changes in hydrological conditions can affect habitats at some distance from the location itself. However, given the funds available for SO 1.1 and the fact only pilot projects are planned, the fact that the CP's primary horizontal principle is sustainable development, which includes avoiding investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact, and supporting actions to mitigate any remaining impacts, or in the case of SO 1.1. that flood prevention structural measures have to be environmentally sustainable and ecosystem-based solutions and since one of the SO1.1 guiding principles is that structural measures implemented in Natura 2000 areas have to be based on sustainable and ecologically sound methods and consistent with the objectives of concerned Natura 2000 site, potential impacts from pilot projects are assessed as negligible. Still, the SEA will give additional recommendations regarding project planning and selection so that the impacts on the project level are reduced to a minimum.

Actions under SO 2.1 will help improve management of natural heritage sites which will have a direct positive impact on biodiversity and nature protection. Small scale projects within this SO will have a positive impact on the biodiversity and nature protection, given that they are implemented respecting nature protection goals. Conservation, restoration and preservation are at the core of protected areas' goals, and as was discussed in the baseline, visitor management is essential for ensuring the attainment of area's nature protection goals. Depending on the types of projects that will be funded and later management, this impact has potential of being long-term. Projects that will include improvement of the knowledge base and enhancing capacities will enable dissemination of past experiences (good and bad) in nature management between nature protection practitioners and thus strengthen the network of protected areas of both countries. The SO 2.1 plans for an increase of visitors (17%) to both natural and cultural heritage sites, which means there will be greater pressures on the areas that protect the most valuable natural features. These pressures can have indirect negative impacts on the selected goal, such as:

- increased waste and wastewater production,
- uncontrolled movements of visitors pose a threat to valuable habitats and species within protected areas,
- and in extreme situations, there is a possibility of exceeding the carrying capacity of a protected area (particularly smaller ones).

However, the programme itself is quite oriented in mitigating these potential impacts through planned actions of small scale visitor infrastructure and elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans. Additionally, this increase of tourists can assist rural development (through new employment opportunities), by halting depopulation trends the programme area is experiencing, and thus assisting with continuation or reintroduction of traditional agriculture and livestock rearing, which is crucial for habitat restoration and protection (stopping overgrowth). When assessing the impacts it is important to take into account the guiding principles for selection of projects which state that higher relevance in regard to the achievement of specific objectives will be given to projects that demonstrate, among other things: a contribution to the smart balance between preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources; concepts of sustainable tourism, bottom-up and integrated approach and to those projects that include elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage sites. Given these principles, impacts from the increase of tourist visits are assessed as negligible.

Specific objective 2.2 will have a positive impact on biodiversity, especially within Natura 2000 areas. This positive impact will be the greatest from eligible actions of habitat restoration, re-naturalisation of river beds/improvements of hydrologic conditions, actions against habitat fragmentation, removal or expansion prevention of alien species if conducted in a manner that will not threaten biodiversity (it is necessary that all actions are planned in cooperation with institutions of all levels responsible for nature and biodiversity protection, or Natura 2000 area management). The CP plans for an increase of the indicator *average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area* by 0,002 points for the whole programme area, for species (6 targets with their degree of conservation upgraded C→B or B→A) and habitat types (2 targets with their degree of conservation upgraded C→B or B→A), which given the extent of the programme area and Natura 2000 network within it, while necessary and commendable, cannot be considered significant. Since habitat protection and restoration is eligible outside Natura 2000 areas, positive impacts are expected to be remote at least to some extent.

Possible negative impacts from pilot flood risk reduction projects can be potentially cumulative with interventions that are not subject of this CP, such as interventions from national plans for flood risk reduction, actions funded from Slovenian OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy, Croatian OPs for Competitiveness and Cohesion (OPCC), or hydropower plants development. However, due to the CP's horizontal and guiding principles for flood risk management mentioned above these cumulative impacts will be negligible. An approx. 17% increase of visitors to natural and cultural heritage sites that is targeted by this CP, can be considered cumulatively, with the current pressures that existing visitors exert on the natural heritage sites (i.e. negative cumulative impacts). However, given the CP orientation to mitigate such potential impacts through small scale visitor infrastructure and elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans, as well as the set guiding principles of giving preference to projects that demonstrate a contribution to the smart balance between preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources; concepts of sustainable tourism and that include elaboration and implementation of visitor management plans for natural heritage sites these potential cumulative impacts can be assessed as negligible.

There is potential for positive cumulative impacts of different actions planned in the SO 2.1. and SO 2.2 on maintaining biodiversity and nature in the wider sense, and also with projects funded from different programmes, such as Slovenian OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy, Croatian OPs for Competitiveness and Cohesion (OPCC), regional and other cross-border programmes since these also have measures aimed at biodiversity protection (see chapter 3.3 Relationship to other relevant plans and programmes).

Synergic impacts of any kind are not expected.

All potential impacts have been assessed as trans boundary, given the nature of the programme itself. Flood reduction is planned along the border, and this negative impact is assessed as negligible, while positive impacts will be detectable for habitats types and species that are common for both countries (as was described in the baseline analysis much of the habitats and species populations are shared between the two countries).

Despite the expected indicator movements (due to the CP implementation all indicator values are expected to increase) that would suggest the assessment of the CP implementation impacts as positive or neutral, the overall assessment of the programme impacts on the nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management, due to the flood risk management pilot projects' negligible impacts and potential negligible cumulative negative impacts with other programmes, as well as negligible negative impacts from the expected tourist increase (all described above), will be that of a negligible impact. However, this assessment does not take away from the CP's quite positive impacts on this particular environmental goal.

Given the above mentioned, it can be concluded that the implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 will have **negligible impacts on the set environmental goal „Nature and biodiversity protection with sustainable management“ (grade B)**. Still, the SEA Report has proposed recommendations to ensure minimal negative impacts/enhance positive impacts from the proposed actions.

8.4 EVALUATION OF CP IMPLEMENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL – PROTECTING AND PRESERVING VALUABLE LANDSCAPES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE WHILE ENSURING ITS SUSTAINABLE USE

Table 14: Indicator analysis for environmental goal protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use

Impact indicator	Impact indicator baseline	Evaluation of impact indicator movement
Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area	Baseline value has been taken from the CP SI-CRO 2014 2020. Baseline number was 4,911,583 in 2013.	↑ (CP plans for approx. 17% increase of visitors until 2023) Out of the planned increase only some of the visitors, a number that is currently not possible to extract, will visit cultural heritage sites and landscapes, as indicator encompasses both cultural and natural heritage. This increase may vary from 0.1 to approx. 17%. In any case increasing number of visitors will cause positive changes.
Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage	Indicator was taken from the CP SI-CRO 2014 2020 and there is no baseline year or number. Therefore, for the purposes of this evaluation, the baseline for this indicator is set at 0 .	↑ (value increase by 1-15 projects) Since this CP has a measure that includes both natural and cultural heritage sites, it is reasonable to expect that at least some of the planned small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage will be aimed at cultural heritage sites. This increase may vary (from 1 to 15, which is the total number of such projects expected to be supported by the year 2023) depending on the projects that apply, as well as, on the selection of projects.

Legend: ↑ value increase; ↓ value decrease; ↔ no significant change in value

Characteristics of expected impacts on the environmental goal: Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Transboundary
Improved condition (state) and management of natural and cultural heritage and protected areas after conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage (6c) and mobilising natural and cultural heritage for sustainable socio-economic development.	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Impacts of small scale investments in cultural and natural heritage mobilization.	+/-	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Impacts of small scale investments in flood risk reduction on cultural heritage and especially on landscapes.	-	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Protected and maintained landscape as a result of protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil	+	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, ✗ not an impact characteristic

Evaluation of impacts:

It is estimated that the Priority axis 1 (TO5): Integrated flood risk management in trans boundary river basins and Priority axis 2 (TO6): Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources will have a measurable impact on the cultural heritage and landscape, i.e. the environmental goal – Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use. Actions related to Priority axis 3 (TO11): Healthy, safe and accessible border areas are focused on measures that will not cause direct or indirect measurable changes of the cultural heritage and landscapes.

Selected indicators for this environmental goal show positive changes. The expected increase of the number of visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites means more financial benefits for cultural heritage sites and, as a consequence a positive impact. Indicator the number of small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage is also expected increase, or in other words, shows potential benefits and positive impacts in respect to cultural heritage preservation and sustainable use. Based on the defined indicators and identified potential impacts, it can be concluded that the CP will generally have a positive impact on cultural heritage and landscape, primarily in the form of positive changes that will facilitate the sustainable use and efficient management. However, there may be small scale negative impacts that can be further mitigated respecting measures of protection and applicable laws.

Priority axis 1 (TO5): Integrated flood risk management in trans boundary river basins will cause potential impacts from small scale investments in flood risk reduction on cultural heritage and especially on landscapes. Impacts are identified as possible changes of landscapes or cultural heritage context, which will depend on the project type. Since the planned financial resources for pilot projects are relatively small, it is predicted that only small-scale, pilot, spatial interventions will be feasible. For this reason, the impact is expected to be long term and moderate to significant locally, and less significant or insignificant on the level of the entire program area. Due to limited information provided (e.g. locations and scale of potential interventions) in the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 about implementation of structural flood risk prevention measures impacts cannot be fully assessed. It has to be stated at this point that all such interventions will be, in line with national legislations, subject to SEA in the spatial planning phase or subject to EIA in the phase of acquiring of the building permit, which is one of fundamental criteria for implementation of such projects. Possible damages can be reduced by following standardized mitigation practises, which are in fact legal obligations of the investors. Due to the general locations of structural projects there is a possibility of insignificant trans boundary impacts. When considering other relevant national and cross-border programs, e.g. national Cohesion programmes, and an unknown but presumably small number of potential structural flood risk reduction pilot projects significant cumulative impacts are not possible.

Priority axis 2 (TO6): Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources is largely related to environmental goal.

Application of the planned measures will lead to improvements of the condition and management of cultural heritage. Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage and mobilising cultural heritage for sustainable socio-economic development will cause direct positive impacts. Number of visitors and users of cultural heritage and landscapes will be increased depending on the number of projects related to cultural heritage or landscapes. The result of which will be preservation and an increasing in the quality, sustainability and attractiveness of project sites. Cumulative positive impacts can be achieved by linking various projects in virtual and spatial conglomerations. Considering on-going national and regional programmes, that have priority axes related to cultural heritage positive cumulative impacts are possible. With regard to the spatial distribution and connectivity, trans boundary positive impacts are possible.

The positive impacts of small scale investments in cultural and natural heritage mobilization will be caused by heritage restoration and all other small scale projects. Such projects will become essential and integral part of a tourism product and will cause positive impacts in the form of increased possibilities for site sustainability. Considering the maximum number of 15 projects in the field of natural and cultural heritage significant cumulative and synergistic effects are not anticipated.

Protected and maintained landscape can be a result of a series of actions defined by the CP – Priority axis 2. Impact will be manifested as direct and long-term changes in the landscape. Character of this impact will potentially be locally significant. In the eventuality of projects set on the border, there is a strong possibility of positive trans boundary impacts.

The CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 predicts an increase of visitors to cultural and natural sites by 838,417 visits in the period 2013-2023, which represents an increase of approx. 17%. Such an increase of visitors, except the positive impacts (site sustainability – explained earlier) will inevitably lead to stronger pressures and possible negative impacts. Since these

impacts are in the domain of 'normal use', it is not possible to predict their type or size. However, it is considered that, given the legal protection and good management practice, these impacts will not be significant.

Negative cumulative impacts are possible from the implementation of pilot structural projects for flood risk reduction and similar projects planned by other programmes, such as relevant national and cross-border programmes, e.g. Cohesion programmes. The synergy of significant negative impacts is not expected from the implementation of any of the priority axes or the programme on the whole. Implementation of the program will certainly have a positive cross-border impact in the form of strengthening and connecting cultural heritage projects and valuable landscape areas.

Based on the foregoing, we can conclude that the implementation of the program will have negligible impacts **(B)** regarding the environmental objective **Protecting and preserving valuable landscapes and cultural heritage while ensuring its sustainable use.**

8.5 EVALUATION OF CP IMPLEMENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL – IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIVING DUE TO IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY TO SERVICES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT, REDUCED FLOOD RISK AND IMPROVED PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS.

Table 15: Indicator analysis for environmental goal improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters

Impact indicator	Impact indicator baseline	Evaluation of impact indicator movement
The number of residents who live within border flood risk areas	8,328 residents who live within border flood risk areas	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(value decrease by 1500)</p> <p>General assumption is that the implementation of CP Priority axis 1 will decrease areas affected by floods. The CP provides for a decrease of number of residents who live within border flood risk area by 1500 until year 2023 for the whole programme area. This will improve their living conditions and safety. Positive impacts are to be expected.</p>
Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area	4,911,583 visitors in year 2013	<p style="text-align: center;">↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(value increase by approx. 17%)</p> <p>The CP provides for an increase of approx. 17% visitors till year 2023 for the whole programme area. Second priority axes and its actions will have an impact on this indicator. Improved quality of tourists offer is expected to result in an increased no. of tourists visiting the programme area with prolonged time of stay. Improved living conditions due to strengthened local economy and new employment opportunities (in direct and indirect activities-tourism, catering, logistics, etc.) Positive impacts are to be expected.</p>
Number of persons representing institutions and stakeholders from the programme area with improved skills and competences in CB service delivery	The starting value for this indicator is set at 0 people with improved skills and competences in CB delivery	<p style="text-align: center;">↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(value increase by 300)</p> <p>The CP provides for an increase of number of people in representing institutions with improved skills and competences. This shall improve living condition for local population, with focus on peripheral border areas (also in rural, islands and mountain areas). Improved living conditions due to strengthened local government, economy and new employment opportunities are expected. Improved accessibility to high-quality health and social services for residents is expected. In global, positive impacts are to be expected.</p>

Legend: ↑ value increase; ↓ value decrease; ↔ no significant change in value

Characteristics of expected impacts on environmental goal: Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters

Impact	Positive / Negative	Direct	Indirect	Remote	Short-term	Mid-term	Long-term (persistent)	Cumulative	Synergic	Transboundary
Impact on quality of living, human health and safety due to: improved knowledge about flood risks and improved response/adaptation to natural disasters and climate changes, strengthened local economy and new employment opportunities, improved accessibility to public services (health, and social care and safety), improved quality of tourists offer resulting in increased no. of tourists visiting the programme area	+	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓

Legend: + positive, - negative, ✓ impact characteristic, ✗ not an impact characteristic

Evaluation of impacts:

Implementation of the CP Slovenia – Croatia 2014 – 2020 will have a positive impact in terms of integrated flood risk management. Since floods are one of the major natural hazards it is essential to reduce risk of flooding in the programme area. Priority axis 1 plans to implement activities such as non-structural and structural flood risk reduction measures. These activities are considered positive and they will decrease the number of residents who live within border flood risk area, by approx. 1500 from the current number of 8,328 people. This will improve their living condition and safety. Concrete flood risk reduction measures will lead to improvements of the human health, economy, cultural heritage and the environment situated in the programme area. Indicator measuring the number of residents who live with border flood risk area is essential for assessing impacts of the CP.

Activities planned with CP –SI-CRO 2014-2020 Priority axis 2 will have a positive impact on the development of cultural and heritage sites, local economy and new employment opportunities. Improved quality of tourist offer is expected to result in an increased number of visitors/tourists visiting the programme area with prolonged time of stay. The CP plans for an increase of approx. 17% visitors till year 2023 for the whole programme area. Rich natural and cultural heritage in the programme rural and urban areas are essential for implementing activities planned with the CP. Emphasis on the development of small towns, hinterland areas, rural and remote areas with poor condition of cultural and natural heritage, low level of valorisation will increase their socio-economic development. Also, implementation of the CP will improve their accessibility to visitors. Since development of cultural and heritage sites, local economy and new employment depend on visitors, an indicator measuring the number of visitors is essential for assessing impacts of the CP.

Indicator measuring the number of persons representing institutions and stakeholders from the programme area with improved skills and competences in CB service delivery will be used to see the improvement of quality, diversity and accessibility of health and social services in programme area. As a consequence it should improve access to such services in peripheral, border areas, islands and rural areas with a significant gap in service delivery. Also, it will put the quality of tourist offer on the higher level for visitors who will have the possibility to use improved public services.

Implementation of the CP will certainly have a positive cross-border impact on human health, quality of living and safety, and improved quality of tourist offer and higher quality of visitor experience. Eventually it will increase the number of visitors/tourists. In global, it will lead to improvements of the local economy, new employment opportunities, etc.

All expected impacts have been assessed as remote (impacting a larger area than the project implementation location itself) and long-term on the quality of living conditions.

It is assessed that the implementation of activities planned with the CP will have a positive cumulative impact on the quality of human life due to the improved knowledge about flood risks and improved response/adaptation to natural disasters and climate changes, strengthened local economy and new employment opportunities, improved accessibility to public services (health and social care and safety). Additionally the CP can have a positive cumulative, trans boundary impact, with projects planned by other programmes; national ones (e.g. OPs for Cohesion Policy), cross-border programmes that have overlapping programme areas with this CP (CP SI-AU, CP SI-HU, CP CRO-HU and IPA CBC CRO-BiH-MN), and regional programmes and strategies (e.g. EUSDR, EUSAIR), which also strive to ameliorate the living conditions of residents in their respective programme area.

Given the various approaches of the CP towards improving the living conditions in the area (every priority axis has its benefits for the residents), there is some hint of a possibility for a synergic impact, however, due to the limited financial resources it cannot be detected with certainty.

No negative cumulative, synergic or trans boundary impacts are expected.

Based on the above presented it is concluded that the implementation of the Programme will have a positive impact on achieving the environmental goal. Defined indicators will be used to see the improvement of quality of living due to all the activities that will affect quality of living, human health and safety.

The implementation of CP SI-CRO 2014 – 2020 will have a positive impact (grade A) on achieving the environmental goal “Improved quality of living due to improved accessibility to services, new opportunities for employment, reduced flood risk and improved preparedness for natural and other disasters”.

9 PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Since no potentially significant negative impacts of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020 implementation have been identified, no particular mitigation measures have been proposed. This minimal expected environmental impact is the result of the overall direction of the CP “*Connected in Green*”, which implies an ecologically or environmentally oriented programme, and also of the SEA team’s involvement in the programming process. This involvement ensured that potentially necessary mitigating measures got integrated into the programme as horizontal or guiding principles, such as for the SO 1.1 “Structural measures implemented in Natura 2000 areas have to be based on sustainable and ecologically sound methods and consistent with the objectives of concerned Natura 2000 site”. Naturally, it is given that all legal restraints and/or obligations that relate to a particular project will be fully adhered to.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are intended as guidelines to allow the maximization of potential positive impact that are expected to arise from the implementation of the CP SI-CRO 2014-2020, and to be used during project selection for valorisation of applications that achieve the desired positive impacts. Most of the recommendations necessary, however have already been integrated in the programme itself through horizontal principle of sustainable development, SO guiding principles or through territory type financial allocations.

Priority axis	Specific objectives	Recommendation	Environmental component
1. Integrated flood risk management in trans boundary river basins	1.1. Flood risk reduction in the trans boundary Dragonja, Kolpa/Kupa, Sotla/Sutla, Drava, Mura and Bregana river basins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects should include measures to prevent or mitigate flooding in a way to manage storm water from the point of runoff and in that way reduce the volume of water that flows into the river in a short period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waters
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the CP horizontal principle of sustainable development and the guiding principle regarding Natura 2000 areas, it is further suggested that pilot projects promote the 'room for river' approach (that allows flooding during periods of high discharge), use of natural retentions, restoration of river flood plains, changes in land use and so on as opposed to various traditional construction methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity/Nature protection
2. Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources	2.1. Mobilizing natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the project selection, regarding small scale visitor infrastructure, it is recommended to give an advantage to infrastructure aimed at controlled guiding of visitors through the area – walking paths, cycling routes... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity/Nature protection
	2.2. Protecting and restoring biodiversity and promoting ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the project selection, regarding small scale visitor infrastructure, it is recommended to give an advantage to infrastructure aimed at controlled guiding of visitors through the area – walking paths, cycling routes... Projects of habitat restoration, re-naturalisation of river beds/improvements of hydrologic conditions (SO 2.2) should be prepared in a way that ensures the highest positive long-term impacts on the nature. It is recommended that projects should not be too invasive and that construction work should be kept to a minimum. The methodology selected has to take into account current state and the desired state of the habitat, population and distribution of the target species in the project area and potential long-term impacts from the changed state of the habitat on the target species. Projects of invasive species removal (SO 2.2) have to be prepared in a way that ensures the highest positive long-term impacts on the nature, while keeping the negative short-term impacts on indigenous and target species minimal. The methodology has to take into account distribution of the target species in the project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity/Nature protection
3. Healthy, safe and accessible border areas	3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas	Already covered by the programme.	-

11 MONITORING

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires Member States to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes in order to, inter alia, identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to undertake appropriate remedial action. It also states that in order to comply with this obligation, existing monitoring arrangements may be used if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.

It was considered whether any of the identified impacts requires a systemic monitoring and concluded that due to the absence of any significant risks (expected impacts); there is no need for dedicated environmental monitoring system for the proposed CP SI-CRO 2014-2020.

The **Ecological status of surface waters** can be used to assess impacts from flood protection measures on surface waters, and the necessary data can be obtained from ARSO and Croatian Waters (Hrvatske vode) who are obliged to perform these measurements according to the Water Framework Directive.

The proposed programme indicators were evaluated for collecting any relevant environmental data that would support other needs for improved monitoring. To this end, the following programme indicators can be used:

- **Average degree of conservation status of habitat types and species of Natura 2000 sites in programme area;**
 - It has to be pointed out that this indicator has to be evaluated carefully since it can be significantly changed due to various pressures not related to the CP implementation, such as natural disasters (bad weather, floods, fires); various development activities and so on.
- **Surface area of habitats supported (in order to attain a better conservation status);**
- **Visitors to cultural and natural heritage sites in the programme area;**
- **Small scale investments in visitor infrastructure and preservation of natural and cultural heritage.**

If these indicators do not show the desired and expected movements in the programme mid-term evaluation, and these unexpected movements can be logically connected to the CP implementation, the Managing Authority should consult relevant authorities and conclude what can be done to change this situation, and how the continuation of the CP implementation can assist in achieving the desired indicator movements.

12 CONCLUSIONS

Given all above facts and evaluations we can conclude that the implementation of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Slovenia-Croatia 2014-2020 will have overall negligible impact on environment, human health and cultural heritage and is thus acceptable from the environmental point of view.