

**Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA CBC  
Programme ex ante and SEA  
evaluation**

**Final Evaluation Report**

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## Data control sheet

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# Executive Summary

The current report is based on the Final Draft of the Programme elaborated in August 2014 by the Managing Authority, after the first report issued by the Evaluator on June 2014. This report tackles all evaluation themes included in the ToR for the ex-ante and SEA Evaluation, considering both the completeness of the Programme and the progress of activities in relation to the ex-ante evaluation.

This report is accompanied by a separate Strategic Environmental Assessment highlighting **the environmental benefits and reducing potential risks of the actions proposed in Romania – Serbia IPA CBC Programme considered overall likely to be significant.**

The analyses performed thus far revealed the following aspects:

▶ **External Consistency**

The Final Draft of the Programme presents a good consistency with the EU 2020 Strategy, by contributing to a smart, sustainable and inclusive European strategy. Concomitantly, it presents an appropriate level of consistency with the Council Recommendations, Partnership Agreement and the National Reform Programme for Romania.

The Programme is also in line with the objective focusing on regional cooperation of the National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016) of the Republic of Serbia, as well with Serbia Strategy Paper and Multi Country Strategy Paper for 2014 – 2020.

With regards to the consistency with the Danube Strategy, the Programme presents a general good consistency with all four pillars envisaged by the Strategy.

▶ **Internal Consistency**

The Logic of Intervention is generally well structured and there is a clear link between the elements. There is a general good consistency between the proposed actions of the Programme Strategy and the result indicators provided for each Priority Axis. Furthermore, significant improvements were performed at the level of result indicators after the implementation of the evaluator's recommendations on the First Programme Draft.

▶ **Output and result indicators**

In most cases the indicators are adequate from the perspectives of "clarity", "relevance" and "coverage". For establishing baseline values for each indicator, a questionnaire has been drafted and sent to the Programme stakeholders. Regarding the data collection methodology, the same questionnaire method shall be used for future evaluation of indicators.

**Financial allocations**

The sizing of the Priority Axes in terms of financial allocations appears rational, as it can support the actions envisaged. Great care should be taken in designing the instruments used for project generation and monitoring, as to ensure a balanced evolution in terms of absorption. Experience from Programming Period 2007-13, confirmed through evidences presented by Annual Implementation Reports and results of the Programme's Interim Evaluation, showcase different levels of attractiveness from the side of applicants for the thematic Priority Axes. Initial financial allocations for the 2014-20 Programme are realistic, however the Programme Implementing Authorities should act through targeted measures should any of the PAs fail to attract a sufficient number of high-quality projects.

▶ **Horizontal aspects**

Horizontal principles are described in the Draft Programming Document in the way that they are addressed in the description of the priorities. Moreover, the Programme dedicates a special Section for each of the three horizontal

aspects by providing an overview on how the principles are going to be applied in the implementation of the programme (mainstreaming).

**The analyses performed until presently underlined that the Final Draft Programme (version as of August 2014) is adequate and mature stage, with all points already completed and requiring little or any review.**

# 1. Objectives, scope and general approach of the evaluation

## 1.1 Objectives and scope of the evaluation

### 1.1.1 Context of the evaluation

On 28 June 2013 the Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Timisoara launched the procurement for the “Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA CBC Programme ex ante and SEA evaluation”. Following the selection process, the contract was awarded to SC Ernst & Young SRL.

### 1.1.2 Objectives of the evaluation

The overall objective of the current project is represented by the implementation of an ex-ante evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Romania-Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020, as to:

- ▶ bring a real added value and to improve the quality of the programme intervention logic by supplying valuable judgement and recommendations on the draft of the programmes to be submitted to the European Commission, based on the new Regulations corresponding to the future Common Strategic Framework 2014 – 2020, taking into account the ex-ante requirements.
- ▶ provide analysis and recommendations by independent experts, separately from the planners on programming issues;
- ▶ improve and strengthen the final quality of the operational programme.

The final aim of the ex-ante evaluation is to ensure that the operational programme clearly articulates its intervention logic and can demonstrate its contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy.

It should also bring an additional benefit, by setting-up functioning monitoring systems, which meet evaluation requirements. Its recommendations should be clear, based on evidence and adapted to the particular needs of the programme.

The objective of the SEA is to describe, identify and assess the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Programme, to be taken into account in its preparation.

The SEA will provide decision-makers in the EC and in the partner countries with relevant information to assess the environmental challenges and considerations with regard to the Programme addressing Romania - Republic of Serbia cross border areas.

The formulation of clear and pragmatic recommendations is an essential element of the evaluation, in order to support decision-making on improvements of the Programme quality and intervention logic.

### 1.1.3 Scope of the evaluation

The 3 broad evaluation issues and the 8 sub-themes addressed in the ToR are presented in the table below (evaluation question per evaluation theme):

*Table 1: Evaluation themes and questions*

I. Drawing-up an ex-ante evaluation of the operational programme
1. Appraisal of the proposed Programme strategy
2. Appraisal of the chosen output and result indicators with regard to their relevance to the Programme Priority axes
3. Appraisal of the consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the Programme
4. Appraisal of the potential contribution of the programme to the Europe 2020 objectives and targets

5. Integration of the results of the SEA summarizing the SEA process and outlining how it was taken into account in the programme design
6. Examination of horizontal aspects relevant for the new OP (e.g. adequacy of the planned measures to promote equal opportunities)

## II. Conducting and completing the Strategic Environmental Assessment

7. Strategic Environmental Assessment

## III. Development of the Evaluation Plan

8. Evaluation Plan for the 2014-2020 period (including Programme monitoring arrangements)

The evaluation activities respond to all the above questions and focus on the critical issues identified during the evaluation process.

The evaluation activities make use of inputs from collected from the following types of **stakeholders**: Programme Implementation Structures and members of the Joint Working Group of the ex-ante and SEA Evaluation (Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania - Directorate General Regional Development / Directorate Regional Policies and Strategies; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Romania - IB OP Environment Timisoara, Ministry of European Funds of Romania, Serbian European Integration Office, Ministry of Regional Development and Local Self-government of Serbia, etc.), as well as subject matter experts that have been involved through the organization of an Expert Panel.

## 1.2 Work undertaken and content of the current Report

**The current report is based on the Final Draft of the Programme (made available in August 2014), and tackles all evaluation themes included in the ToR for the ex-ante and SEA Evaluation, considering both the completeness of the Programme and the progress of activities in relation to the ex-ante evaluation (e.g. SEA Process is undergoing, as of the date of issuing this report).**

The report is based mainly on Desk-based Research, input from interviews with Programme-level stakeholders, and an Expert Panel (organized following the publication of the Second Programme Draft) served as a basis for the update of the initial version of the Evaluation Report.

In this sense, the work performed, which began in October 2013, consisted of constant dialogue with the Programme Authorities – Managing Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat – and with the professionals which provided Technical Assistance to the MA during the Programming Process.

**Although the current Report represents the final iteration of the “official, written version” of the Ex-ante Evaluation (following the Interim Report and Draft Final Reports), discussions with Programme Authorities, resulted in recommendations throughout the Evaluation Exercise, and produced subtle changes in the Programming Document.**

**It is therefore noteworthy to highlight the fact that many of the below sections/chapters of analysis do not explicitly mention recommendations directed towards the improvement of the Cross-border Programme Document, but tackle recommendations in a wider sense, useful during Programme implementation. This comes as a result of the fact that the majority of recommendations given to the Programme Authorities during the Evaluation Exercise were taken into account and already (by the time the Final Programme Draft was published) implemented into the Programme.**



## 2. Evaluation Methodology

**Our methodology consists in 3 main phases:**

Phases	Completion status as of current Report
Obtaining a better understanding, through preliminary interviews and desk research, of the general context and socio-economic situation in the border area, in order to assess the proposed Programme strategy.	Completed
<p>Conducting in-depth desk research, interviews and data collection, on Programme, mainly by conducting face-to-face interviews with different stakeholders, and preparing the draft evaluation report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Validation of the Programme intervention logic by verifying the coherence, consistency and relevance of the Programme objectives with the identified challenges and needs within the Cohesion Policy framework outlined by the Europe 2020 Strategy, as well as the adequacy of the selected priority axes.</li> <li>▶ Appraisal of the chosen output and result indicators with regard to their relevance to the Programme Priority axes, additionally assessing the appropriateness and realism of the set baselines and target values.</li> <li>▶ Analysis of the potential contribution of the programme to the Europe 2020 objectives and targets, in connection with the evaluation of the Programme strategy and perform the Strategic Environmental Assessment, as the examination of other horizontal aspects (e.g. adequacy of the planned measures to promote equal opportunities, to prevent discrimination and to promote sustainable development in the border region).</li> </ul>	Completed
Analyzing, assessing and providing recommendations, and drafting the final version of the evaluation report, and its summary and presentation.	Completed

Right from the beginning of the evaluation exercise, inputs were provided and will be provided constantly until the approval of the Programme by the EC to associate closely all the stakeholders in the process, in order to provide useful analysis and recommendations, enhance their understanding and skills in evaluation and reinforce the efficiency and up taking of the Programme Evaluation results and recommendations.

The last step of the evaluation exercise will consist in assistance for drafting the multi-annual evaluation plan, by supporting identification of evaluation themes, main methods and techniques, evaluations calendar and human, financial and informational resources needed for its implementation.

## 2.1 Overall Approach

On the basis of the understanding gained from the preliminary documentary review and integrated with the information exchanged following the preliminary/kick-off meetings, the 3 evaluation themes and the set of evaluation sub-themes presented in the Terms of Reference have been further analysed in order to establish the project Evaluation Framework.

The Evaluation Framework consists of a comprehensive plan for the evaluation, which builds on the understanding of the evaluation themes and questions and defines, for each question, an **evaluation grid** consisting of: Judgment Criteria, Types of Analysis and Sources of information

The information is gathered and structured in such a manner to enable the formulation of judgments, according to the Evaluation Framework (which can be consulted in the Inception Report). The results of this analysis are feed into the Evaluation Report.

## 3. Findings of the Evaluation

### 3.1 Appraisal of the proposed Programme strategy

Under this section, in line with the provisions of the ToR, the following aspects were analysed :

- ▶ Whether the identified programme objectives and Priority Axes are in line with key strategic documents at EU and National levels (Sub-section 3.1.1 – *External Consistency*);
- ▶ Whether the Priority Axes and their specific objectives consistently reflect the challenges and needs identified and whether they are adequately reflected in the Priority Axes, together with the link between the Specific Objective(s) of the Priority Axes and between different Priority Axes of the Programme (Sub-section 3.1.2 – *Internal Consistency*).

#### 3.1.1 Evaluation of the External Consistency

This section covers the analysis of external consistency between the objectives of the OP and:

- ▶ The EU 2020 Strategy and Flagship initiatives
- ▶ EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- ▶ Council Recommendations for Romania
- ▶ Partnership Agreement for Romania
- ▶ Romanian National Reform Programme 2014
- ▶ National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire (2013-2016) of the Republic of Serbia
- ▶ Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)
- ▶ Serbia's Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014 -2020)

##### a) Consistency with EU 2020 strategy

###### *Findings*

In order to appraise the proposed Programme strategy, the coherence, consistency and relevance of the Programme Objectives with the identified challenges and needs within the framework outlined by the Europe 2020 Strategy (Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth) were analysed.

Thus, in order to ensure the contribution to a **Smart Growth**, the Programme envisages actions which may contribute to the increase of *investments in research, innovation, ICT, employment and education*. The relationship between the EU2020 priorities under this Flagship Initiative and the Specific Objectives of the Programme is the following:

EU 2020 strategy - Priorities under <b>Smart Growth</b> Flagship Initiative	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, coherent with EU2020 priorities
<p><b>Digital agenda for 2020:</b> creating a single digital market based on fast/ultrafast internet and interoperable applications</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>
<p><b>Innovation Union:</b> refocusing R&amp;D and innovation policy on major challenges for our society like climate change, energy and resource efficiency, health and demographic change; strengthening every link in the innovation chain, from 'blue sky' research to commercialisation</p>	<p><b>I</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1</b> Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1</b> Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p>
<p><b>Youth on the move:</b> helping students and trainees study abroad; equipping young people better for the job market; enhancing the performance/international attractiveness of Europe's universities; improving all levels of education and training (academic excellence, equal opportunities)</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>

With regard to the contribution to a **Sustainable Growth**, actions in the area of **environmental protection, mobility and transport infrastructures and services and employment** are envisaged by the Programme through the following Specific Objectives:

EU 2020 strategy - Priorities under <b>Sustainable Growth</b> Flagship Initiative	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, coherent with EU2020 priorities
<p><b>Resource efficient Europe:</b> to support the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy, our economic growth must be decoupled from resource and energy use by reducing CO2 emissions, promoting greater energy security, reducing the resource intensity of what we use and consume</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1</b> Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>
<p><b>An industrial policy for the globalization era:</b> the EU needs an industrial policy that will support businesses – especially small businesses – as they respond to globalisation, the economic crisis and the shift to a low-carbon economy, by supporting entrepreneurship – to make</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to</p>

EU 2020 strategy - Priorities under <b>Sustainable Growth</b> Flagship Initiative	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, coherent with EU2020 priorities
European business fitter and more competitive and covering every part of the increasingly international value chain – from access to raw materials to after-sales service	the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area

For an adequate contribution to an **Inclusive Growth**, the Programme aims to support actions focused on tackling youth unemployment, increasing social inclusion and improving access health care and social services, as showcased in the below table:

EU 2020 strategy - Priorities under <b>Inclusive Growth</b> Flagship Initiative	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, coherent with EU2020 priorities
<b>An agenda for new skills and jobs:</b> for individuals – helping people acquire new skills, adapt to a changing labour market and make successful career shifts, and collectively – modernising labour markets to raise employment levels, reduce unemployment, raise labour productivity and ensuring the sustainability of our social models	<b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area
<b>European Platform against poverty:</b> ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion, guaranteeing respect for the fundamental rights of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, and enabling them to live in dignity and take an active part in society and mobilising support to help people integrate in the communities where they live, get training and help to find a job and have access to social benefits	<b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area  <b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education  <b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas

A detailed analysis, structured per each of the abovementioned flagship initiatives, is presented under Annex 2 of the current report.

### Conclusions

The Programme presents a good consistency with EU 2020 Strategy, by contributing to a smart, sustainable and inclusive European strategy.

## b) Consistency with the Council Recommendations for Romania

### Findings

The consistency between the Specific Objectives of the Programme and the European Council Recommendations for Romania, in order to identify the way in which the latter were taken into account during the Programming phase of the IPA CBC Programme, was assessed.

The analyses showed that **Specific Objective 1.1** *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area* and **Specific Objective 1.2** *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education* are consistent with the recommendations regarding the **improvement of labour market participation**, reduction of youth unemployment and increasing the quality and efficiency of the health care sector.

**The Programme does not tackle the issues regarding the development of administrative capacity of the public institutions in the region, as the Programme does not offer the perspective for such actions**, avoiding thus overlapping with OP Administrative Capacity 2014-2020.

The Programme does not specifically and directly address the promotion of SMEs or the RDI sector; nevertheless, it is considered that the promotion and direct support of the SMEs and the development of the RDI sector can be more effectively covered by other European and National programmes.

A detailed analysis which highlights in detail the specific objectives that are consistent with one or more recommendations (both in a direct and in an indirect manner) is presented under Annex 3.

### *Conclusions*

The detailed analysis confirms the consistency between the Specific Objectives of the Programme and the Council Recommendations for Romania.

## c) Consistency with the Partnership Agreement for Romania

### *Findings*

The objective of this analysis was to evaluate the level of consistency between the Specific Objectives included in the Draft Programming Document and the Thematic Objectives, Development Needs and Proposed Funding Priorities of the Partnership Agreement for Romania. Further details are included under Annex 4 to the current report.

The analysis revealed that especially the following **Specific Objectives are consistent with the Thematic Objectives, Development Needs and Proposed Funding Priorities of the Partnership Agreement**, which were considered appropriate for the specific nature of the Programme:

- ▶ **Specific Objective 1.1** - *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area*
- ▶ **Specific Objective 1.3** - *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas*
- ▶ **Specific Objective 2.1** - *Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources*
- ▶ **Specific Objective 3.1** - *Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors*
- ▶ **Specific Objective 3.2** - *Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)*
- ▶ **Specific Objective 4.1** - *Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails*

The first section of the Draft Programming Document of the Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme **highlights the fact that investing in youth, education and skills is relevant to the area, but the scope of possible actions is very large to be effectively tackled**, and such, these aspects are integrated in the Priority Axes as horizontal issues, with a thematic focus on the topic of each Priority Axis.

### *Conclusions*

Overall, the Programme presents a good consistency with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement.

## d) Consistency with the National Reform Programme 2014

### Findings

The analysis aimed to evaluate whether the Specific Objectives set-up in the Final Draft of the Programming Document are consistent with the Objectives and Measures of the National Reform Programme 2014 of Romania. A detailed analysis is included under Annex 5 of the current report.

The following Specific Objectives are consistent with the National Reform Programme domains:

#### ► Employment:

- **Specific Objective 1.1** - *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area*

#### ► Research, Development and Innovation:

- **Specific Objective 1.1** - *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area*
- **Specific Objective 4.1** - *Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails*

#### ► Climate change and energy:

- **Specific Objective 2.1** - *Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources*
- **Specific Objective 2.2.** - *To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies*

#### ► Education, social inclusion and poverty reduction:

- **Specific Objective 1.1** - *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area*
- **Specific Objective 1.3** - *To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas*

The only initiatives which are not addressed in the Programme are those that require implementation at the national level, being related to the following aspects:

- Coordinating the national employment network,
- Creating state aid schemes to support investments in regional development and new jobs,
- Transferring the research institutes from ministries and NGOs to Ministry of Education,
- Creating a national road map regarding RDI infrastructures,
- Developing a National Action Plan on Climate Change,
- Developing a methodology for the annual mandatory quota of green certificates,
- Modernising the social care system.

### Conclusions

The results of the research have revealed a good consistency between Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme and the National Reform Programme 2014.

### *Recommendations*

*There are no specific recommendations for improvement.*

## e) Consistency with the Danube Region Strategy

### *Findings*

Overall, **most of the Specific Objectives set in the Draft Programme are contributing (partly or fully) to the four pillars of the Danube Strategy**, as it can be observed in detail under Annex 6, respectively:

EU Strategy for the Danube Region		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme
Pillars	Priority Areas	
<b>Connecting the Danube Region</b>	To improve mobility and multimodality: (a) Inland Waterways (b) Road, rail and air links	<b>Specific Objective 3.1</b>  Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors
	To encourage more sustainable energy	<b>Specific Objective 3.2</b>  Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)
	To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts	<b>Specific Objective 3.1</b>  Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors  <b>Specific Objective 4.1</b>  Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails
<b>Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region</b>	To restore and maintain the quality of waters	<b>Specific Objective 2.1</b>  Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources
	To manage environmental risks	<b>Specific Objective 2.2</b>  To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies
	To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils	<b>Specific Objective 2.1</b>  Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources
<b>Building Prosperity in the Danube</b>	To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information	<b>Specific Objective 1.1</b>  To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment



EU Strategy for the Danube Region		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme
Pillars	Priority Areas	
Region	technologies	opportunities in the programme eligible area  <b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education  <b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas  <b>Specific Objective 3.2</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)
	To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development	<b>Specific Objective 1.3</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas
	To invest in people and skills	<b>Specific Objective 1.1</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area  <b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas
Strengthening the Danube Region	To step up institutional capacity and cooperation	<b>Specific Objective 5.1</b> The promotion of an effective and efficient implementation of the Programme ensuring the effective functioning of the Programme bodies, and committees
	To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime	<b>Not applicable</b>

**Pillar three of the Danube Strategy**, Building prosperity in the Danube Region is not fully covered by the Programme; more precisely the Danube objective referring to supporting the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development is **not entirely enclosed within the specific objectives of the Programme**. One of the reasons for this is linked directly to the funding available for the CBC Programme: the limited financial allocation would not contribute significantly to actions in this area – and would overlap with National Programmes, this finding being supported by interviews with the Programme's stakeholders.

With regard to **Pillar four of the Danube Strategy**, solely the specific objective focusing on improving the institutional capacity is applicable to the context of IPA CBC Programme. Tackling organised and serious crime cannot be addressed through this Programme as it is concerning a national issue and could be better addressed through national programmes.

### Conclusions

The Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme presents a **general good consistency** with the Danube Region Strategy.

## f) Consistency with the National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire (2013-2016) of the Republic of Serbia

### Findings

As to appraise the consistency of the Strategy of the Cross-border Programme with the National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire (2013-2016) of the Republic of Serbia, we have examined the measures planned under all relevant Domains of the Serbian Plan and compared them with the Specific Objectives and proposed results of the Programme. A detailed analysis is presented in Annex 7 to the current report.

The Serbian National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016) is structured around three domains, respectively Political, Economic and the Ability to assume the obligations of EU Membership, out of which we have identified those relevant for the Programme:

- ▶ **Regional Cooperation and international obligations** applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it tackles the wider context of international cooperation.

This analysis appraised only those regional cooperations which are relevant for the Programme, namely the Danube Strategy. The consistency with other objectives of the Serbian National Plan does not fall under the scope of this evaluation.

Following the appraisal of the consistency between the Specific Objectives of the Programme and the regional cooperation objective of the Serbian National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016), it can be noted that most of the specific objectives of the Programme contribute to the Danube Strategy.

- ▶ **Human Resources objective (including its components Labour Market, Employment, Unemployment and Education)** applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme as it tackles similar actions as Priority Axis 1.

In this case, multiple target measures envisaged by the Serbian National Plan, such as *“active labour market measures targeting undeveloped regions and [...] funding (being) allocated to job-creation subsidies in such regions”* and *“(actions) to promote employment of the persons of Roma nationality and persons with disability”* are **fully consistent with the provisions and thematic priorities** of the Cross-border Programme.

### Conclusions

The Programme presents a **general good consistency** with the objective focusing on Regional Cooperation and Human Resources of the National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016) of the Republic of Serbia.

Other priorities included in the National Plan tackle legislative alignment measures or measures aimed at developing the country, as a whole, in light of future integration into the European Union and are only indirectly aligned with the Specific Objective of the Programme which focuses only on a specific and limited territory.

## g) Consistency with Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)

### Findings

As to appraise the consistency between the Strategy of the Cross-border Programme with Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020), the objectives set under all relevant pillars of Serbia Strategy Paper and compared them with the Specific Objectives of the Programme were examined. A detailed analysis is presented in Annex 8 to the current report.

The Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020) is structured around eight pillars focusing on democracy and governance, the rule of law and fundamental rights, environment, transport, energy, competitiveness and innovation, education, employment and social policies and agriculture and rural development, out of which we have identified those relevant for the Programme:

- ▶ **Democracy and governance** applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it addresses the administrative capacity which is involved in project preparation at local level, as well as civil society activities.

In this regard, the appraisal revealed that **Specific Objective 5.1** falling under Technical Assistance Priority Axis is in line with Serbia Strategy Paper, regarding the management of the administrative capacity at local level.

Furthermore, **all the SOs under Priority Axes 1 – 4** of the Romania – Serbia CBC Programme are supporting activities which aim at involving the civil society: employment and labour mobility, health and social

infrastructure, social and cultural inclusion, environmental protection, transport infrastructure and services and tourism services and activities, and thus ensuring consistency with Serbia Strategy Paper.

- ▶ **Environment** pillar applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it promotes environmental infrastructure.

The appraisal identified especially **Priority Axis 2 - Environmental protection and risk management** as being the most consistent with the latter. Furthermore, in the project selection phase it will be taken into account the manner in which the selected projects will contribute to the sustainable development theme, by making reference to efficient waste management, waste-water treatment and water reuse.

- ▶ **Transport** applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it promotes sustainable and low-carbon transport, addressed at the level of the Programme Strategy through both specific objectives of **Priority Axis 3 - Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility**.
- ▶ **Energy** also applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy sources identified in the Programme Strategy at the level of Specific Objective 2.1- **Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources** and Specific Objective 3.2 - **Public utilities infrastructure**
- ▶ **Competitiveness and innovation** applies to the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it tackles research and development and the support of SMEs.

The appraisal revealed that Specific Objective 1.2 - **Health and social infrastructures** and Specific Objective 4.1 - **Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities** are supporting research and innovation activities through partnerships, organization of knowledge transfer, exchange of good practice, networking.

Even though Specific Objective 1.1- **Employment and labour mobility** and Specific Objective 4.1- **Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities** are envisaging activities which have secondary effects on SMEs development, promotion and direct support to SMEs is not the among the priorities that can be best addressed by the IPA CBC programme.

- ▶ **Education, employment and social policies** is relevant in the context of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme, as it tackles the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. The consistency with this pillar is ensured at the level of all Specific Objectives falling under **Priority Axis 1 - Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth**.

### Conclusions

The Programme presents a **good consistency with the six relevant pillars of the Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)**. The other two pillars are not applicable for the Programme, as they are tackling reforms at national level in areas which are not subject to IPA CBC Programme.

## h) Consistency with Serbia's Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014 – 2020)

### Findings

In appraising the consistency between Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Romania –Serbia IPA CBC Programme Strategy, we have identified the MCSP objectives falling under the scope of actions envisaged by IPA CBC Programme Strategy. A detailed analysis is presented in Annex 9 to the current report.

The MCSP is structured around four axes, each of them addressing several specific objectives. As the MCSP is designed to support Serbia implement Union's acquis, **only two priority axes of MCSP were identified as being relevant for the current analysis**, respectively PA 2 – *Regional structures and networks* and PA 4 – *Territorial cooperation*.

For PA 2 – *Regional structures and networks* the appraisal revealed that **all the specific objectives of the Programme** in the field of employment, health, social inclusion, education, transport, environment, tourism and technical assistance are aimed at setting up bodies, platforms covering the needs of both Serbia and Romania.

At the level of PA 4 – *Territorial cooperation* it was evidenced that **Specific Objective 5.1** of the Programme addressed under the Technical Assistance Priority Axis is aimed at increasing the institutional capacity of the Programme

management through cross-border exchanges, and thus being in line with MCSP objective. The consistency is further ensured as MCSP supports neighbourly relations and people to people co-operation in border regions and the Programme focuses on developing cross-border relations and cooperation to improve the eligible areas of the Programme.

### *Conclusions*

Overall, the Programme presents a **good consistency with Serbia's Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014-2020)** in terms of regional structures and networks, and territorial cooperation.

## 3.1.2 Evaluation of the Internal Consistency

The evaluation of the internal consistency consisted in the investigation of the below aspects:

- ▶ Sub-sections (a) Assessment of the quality of the Territorial Analysis and (b) Assessment of the SWOT, as to verify the appropriateness of the qualitative and quantitative analyses performed and the correct identification of the key territorial and specific challenges of the Cross-border area;
- ▶ Sub-section (c) - Assessment of the logic of intervention, in order to assess whether the needs and challenges identified in the Territorial Analysis are correctly transposed in objectives and priorities of the Programme, by analysing the consistency between the proposed actions and expected results of the Programme and also the consistency between the Specific Objectives of the Strategy and the result indicators provided under each Programme Priority Axis.

### a) Assessment of the quality of the Territorial Analysis

#### *Comments to the initial version of the Territorial Analysis*

The first version of the Territorial Analysis was submitted to the Evaluator in February 2014 by the Managing Authority of the Programme, as a self-standing document.

As to assess the quality of the the following tasks were performed:

- ▶ Qualitative analysis, in terms of clarity of the formulation of problems and identification of specific aspects related to the cross-border area, as well as clarity in the structuring and prioritization of problems;
- ▶ Quantitative analysis, in terms of use of relevant and actualized statistics for the cross-border area;
- ▶ Analysis of key territorial challenges as regards the urban and rural landscape, industry, education, tourism and health infrastructure, as well as other specific characteristics of the cross-border area;
- ▶ Analysis of specific challenges and needs of the sub-regional or functional areas or of specific target groups;
- ▶ Analysis of specific needs of the sub-areas (County/District level) most affected by poverty or needs of the target groups with high risk of discrimination or exclusion.

While the first version of the Territorial Analysis, published in January 2014, was comprehensive and a firm basis for the development of the Programme, it lacked a clear structure, being difficult to follow, the data presented and conclusions drawn were not based in all cases on statistical evidences and lessons from the 2007-13 period were not sufficiently highlighted.

The updated version of the Territorial Analysis, published in March 2014, is much improved, adequately capturing the specificities of the Cross-border area, using a wider range and a more in-depth analyses and statistical information. The table which summarizes the recommendations provided to the Programmer and the status of their implementation in the updated document can be consulted as Annex 14 to the present report.

Moreover, even though not extensively, the Territorial Analysis now highlights and draws on lessons learnt from the previous programming period where relevant. Lastly, the structure of the Territorial Analysis has improved, with chapters and sections being more clearly and coherently delimited through the use of labels.

As the case with the Territorial Analysis of the 2007-13 Programme, the TA section provided in the Programming Document sums up the key messages of the Territorial Analysis performed for the 2014-20 Programming Period and may be misleading, as the summarization does not capture in entirety the extensive analyses performed by the Programming Team (e.g. . If not read together with a Territorial Analysis, it appears too generalised, lacking full statistical arguments and evidences for subsequent SWOT and development of the Programming Document. In this sense, when assessing the quality of the Territorial Analysis one must have in mind the full analysis, presented as a stand-alone document, and not just the summary included in the Programme itself. Reference to this extensive analysis may be made by the MA when publishing the final version of the Programme.

#### *Findings*

The Territorial Analysis (TA) covers a variety of perspectives and is structured on different dimensions, including social and demographic status, economic structure and dynamics, labour market, public infrastructure, environmental resources and infrastructure, tourism, education and research and innovation:

- ▶ **Programme eligible area:** offers a brief overview of the region in terms of areas covered, administrative structure and geographic aspects of the territory. It also sets the context for the following chapters by highlighting the main specificities of the region, through the use of statistical data;
- ▶ **Socio-demography:** the section provides a detailed and balanced overview of the territorial demographics (total population, rural and urban population, density, etc.), ethnic minorities and demographic trends, using statistical data, including a more extensive insight into the process of demographic ageing. The section also highlights the issues of unequal distribution of population on both sides of the border, high degree of rurality with few urban poles or increased outward migration flows;
- ▶ **Economic structure and dynamic:** information regarding the current macroeconomic situation of the Programme Area and its sub-regions is presented, as well as a description of the main economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, mining, industry and energy), SMEs and level of FDI by using relevant statistical data;
- ▶ **Labour market status-quo:** highlights the issues present in the cross-border region: employment rates which are lower than the national averages (with a more homogenous structure in the Serbian districts, and significant differences on the Romanian side), difficult access to the labour market for the vulnerable groups (particularly for the Roma minority) and acute poverty problems.
- ▶ **Cross-border transport infrastructure:** highlights the territorial potential, namely the proximity to two Core European Networks (including the Rhine-Danube connection) and the challenges regarding the low density and quality of the local transport network, low speed of public transport services, interconnection limitations specific to rural areas and gaps in access to broadband connections between the rural and urban areas.
- ▶ **Environmental resources and infrastructure:** highlights challenges the Programme Area faces regard the risk of floods, significant pollution from heavy industry agents, or obsolescence of the sewage and water networks, among others. When compared to the initial version of the Territorial Analysis, additional information on previous cases of flooding, availability of natural resources and water pollution has been added and this has contributed to a better understanding of the status-quo of the eligible area.
- ▶ **Tourism:** showcases a balanced overview of the various types of touristic potential, on the accommodation infrastructure and transport infrastructure in relation to tourism, both in Serbia and in Romania. The analysis takes into account the sub-regional context, highlighting the potential of the cross-border area for various types of touristic activities, generated by natural and historic resources. It is also highlighted that the tourism infrastructure is underexploited, signalling the need for soft investments to stimulate demand, on both sides of the border, as well as the fact that the secondary infrastructure and services are underdeveloped, even in the most touristic areas.
- ▶ **Education, research and innovation:** highlights the unequal distribution of higher education and research poles, in the Programme Area, which are mainly concentrated around Timiș, on the Romanian side of the border, and on the borders of the Serbian programme area (in Belgrade). In The analysis also highlights the progress recorded in obtaining targeted assistance for RDI, through smart specialization.

### *Conclusions*

Overall, **the Territorial Analysis included in the first draft of the Programme is appropriate for uncovering the needs of the Programme area, being supported through: a wider range and a more in-depth analyses** (especially in terms of policy implications) of quantitative data, complemented by qualitative data where the former was not available.

## **b) Assessment of the SWOT**

### *Findings*

In order to assess the quality of the SWOT, it was investigated whether the analysis is based on the qualitative and quantitative data provided by the socio-economic analysis and it considers its main findings. The table in which coherence of the SWOT analysis with the findings from the Territorial Analysis is presented under Annex 10 of the current report.

The SWOT analysis is based on the Territorial Analysis (more specifically on the version developed in May 2014, which was improved following the comments of the Evaluation Team) and consultations which took place among potential beneficiaries and stakeholders.

During the Programming Process extensive consultations took place with Romanian and Serbian stakeholders and eligible organizations in the border areas. Consultations allowed the Programme Authorities to achieve a large consensus on the analysis and on the strategy, and the identification of priorities and measures for the CBC programme.

In total, four consultation meetings were organized, in four different locations, for the discussion/ endorsement of the Territorial analysis, the discussion of the SWOT, the decision on the strategy and priority, and for the decision on the implementation structure. Additionally, 4 meetings of the JWG also contributed to a strong interaction with potential partners and stakeholders.

Supporting the previously mentioned meetings, the Programme Authorities made use of web-based surveys and encouraged feedback and comments during every step of the Programming Process by inviting the wider public to comment on draft Programming Documents/Strategy, which were published in a self-standing section on the Programme website. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats were identified per each of the sections of the Territorial Analysis on the basis of the most relevant outcomes and recent dynamic of the social and economic system in the area, and are considered relevant. Also, while the strengths and weaknesses are internal elements of the Programme Area and need to be adequately presented in the TA, the opportunities and the threats can be external factors, or can stem from the identified strengths and weaknesses and need not to be presented in the TA. Therefore consistency between threats and opportunities *and* TA was not analysed.

The SWOT focuses on issues relevant for the identification of the development challenges that can be addressed by the CBC programme, being clustered in accordance with the following areas (following the structure of the Territorial Analysis):

- ▶ **Social and demographic structure:** the main weaknesses identified for the Programme eligible area are caused by outbound migration, ageing of the population and natural balance, which may contribute to the materialization of the persistent trend of declining population. On the other side, the mostly rural and remote character of the area, together with poverty levels above national levels for both countries, supports the identification of the risk of poverty (as one of the most important weaknesses of the eligible area).
- ▶ **Economy, SMEs development and labour market:** the density of SMEs, in particular, materializes in a strength of the eligible area, while the level of GDP per capita (and its variation among the eligible Programme area), together with the high unemployment rate, support the identification of weaknesses, in particular the dualism in economic development.
- ▶ **Transport infrastructure, accessibility and cross-border connections:** the fact that the eligible area is of key importance for the European transport network, as defined by the recent regulation on European transport strategy, led to the one of the main strengths identified. The main weaknesses and threats are supported by the analysis of density and quality of transport infrastructures in the Programme area.
- ▶ **Environment, natural and cultural resources and tourism:** the SWOT is based on the qualitative description and quantitative indicators. The main weaknesses identified relate to obsolete environmental infrastructure, disaster protection and preparedness systems which are improving but are still weak, together with the high risk of floods in the area. Strengths and opportunities arise from natural/cultural resources for the development of tourism (national and natural parks, thermal springs, ethnic and natural diversity, etc.), while risks constitute a combination of factors, ranging from shrinkage of public budgets and lack of funds for environmental infrastructure renewal and environmental degradation due to abandonment of settlements and industrial areas.
- ▶ **Education, R&D and innovation:** the main issues highlighted in the Territorial Analysis using quantitative and qualitative indicators are those of the presence of poles of university research in the area or in close proximity, the educational attainment among the active population, the new opportunities created by the involvement in the SMART innovation strategy of the EU, while the threats generated by the marginalization of rural areas

### *Conclusions*

Overall, the quality of the SWOT analysis is appropriate, as it takes into consideration the main aspects identified and highlighted by the Territorial Analysis and the conclusions of the discussions between the different stakeholders participating in the Working Groups.

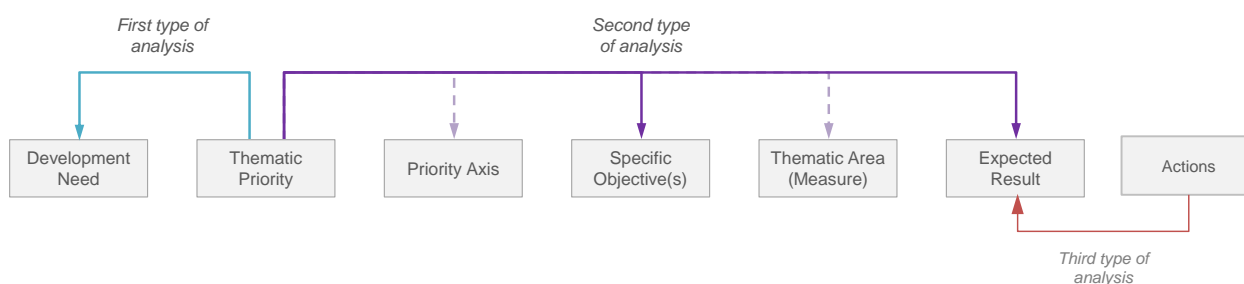
The elements of the SWOT are well substantiated in the socio-economic profile, being backed up by quantitative and qualitative data. Moreover, the clarity of the elements included in the SWOT is sufficient and no substantial changes are necessary.

### c) Programme logic of intervention

In order to evaluate the Intervention Logic of the Programme the following actions were taken :

- ▶ The first step was to verify the **consistency between Thematic Priorities of the Programme and the development needs**, as identified by the SWOT analysis;
- ▶ The second step was to rebuild the **logical link between the Thematic Priorities, Specific Objectives and Expected results**, as they are described in the Draft Programming Document, for each of the four Priority Axes of the Programme.
- ▶ The third step consisted in checking if the proposed actions contribute and are the most adequate to achieve the expected results, as stated in the Programme Strategy

A graphical representation of the analyses performed is showcased in the below graph:



#### *First Analysis: Consistency between Thematic priorities and development needs*

##### **Findings**

As pointed out in the Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 11 March 2014, establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), assistance for cross-border cooperation may, as appropriate, address multiple thematic priorities.

Following an assessment of the appropriateness of all thematic priorities listed in Annex III of the abovementioned document, the programmer has indicated the **following Thematic Priorities** as relevant for the current CBC Programme:

- (a) **Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion** across borders through, inter alia: inte-grating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility; joint local employment initiatives; information and advisory services and joint training; gender equality; equal opportunities; integration of immigrants' communities and vulnerable groups; investment in public employment services; and supporting investment in public health and social services;
- (b) **Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management** through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness;
- (c) **Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures** by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities;
- (d) **Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.**

Considering the above, in order to assess whether the needs and challenges of the cross-border area were adequately addressed, the first step performed was to verify whether the Thematic Priorities reflect the challenges and needs identified in the SWOT analysis.



The relevance of the above is confirmed by the appropriate coherence with the Thematic Priorities of the Programme, as presented in the table below:

SWOT identified challenges	Programme Thematic Priorities	Justification	Coherent (Y/N)
The SWOT analysis identifies the challenges related to the declining share of school population and high unemployment, especially among young people, together with migration out of the area and low shares of the population that has achieved tertiary education.	<b>Thematic Priority a.</b> Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border	The priority combines important conditions for the realisation of sustainable development by addressing employment opportunities, provision of health and social services and inclusive society.  Furthermore, experience from the 2007-13 Programming Period highlights the high demand for actions financed under this area (i.e. Support for local/regional economic and social infrastructure, SME Development), a trend which is likely to continue also in the 2014-20 period.  To support this claim, the Ex-post evaluation of Interreg IIIb NWE Programme, showcased a significant concentration of funding for actions supporting adaptability and flexibility of the labour market and social inclusion.	<b>YES</b>
The SWOT analysis identifies challenges regarding protection of environment due to undergoing mining and industrial activities, poor infrastructure for disaster prevention and floods.  Additionally, threats considered include the potential lack of funds for environmental infrastructure improvement, risk of pollution upstream on the Danube with negative effects on the Programme Area.	<b>Thematic Priority b.</b> Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management	Protection of the environment and the elimination and mitigation of existing environmental hotspots and hazards and the adaptation for new risks is considered an absolute prerequisite for any development plan.  Lessons learned from the 2007-13 Programming Period may contribute to a streamlined implementation of this priority, through targeted calls for proposals and focused support for eligible beneficiaries in developing and implementing their project ideas.	<b>YES</b>
With respect to infrastructure, the SWOT reveals that there is a low quality of the local and intra-regional transport infrastructure, as well as a reduced efficiency of the local public transport services and the underdevelopment of monitoring systems for the Danube River. Additionally, the SWOT also highlights that the Programme Area is facing challenges with respect to the obsolescence of the environmental infrastructure.	<b>Thematic Priority c.</b> Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures	An efficient and environmental friendly mobility and transport infrastructure as well as public utility infrastructures are absolute prerequisites for an inclusive, attractive and balanced programme area.  Lessons learned from the 2007-13 Programming Period (during which this priority proved less attractive to applicants, due to the complex nature of projects financed) may contribute to a streamlined implementation of this priority , through targeted calls for proposals and focused support for eligible beneficiaries in developing and implementing their project ideas..	<b>YES</b>

SWOT identified challenges	Programme Thematic Priorities	Justification	Coherent (Y/N)
According to the SWOT analysis, in the Programme Area there is a low productivity and lack of sustainability of tourism due to an insufficient exploitation of the existing tourism infrastructure, as well as threats associated with the potential low degree of competitiveness of the touristic destinations in the National and European contexts.	<b>Thematic Priority d.</b> Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	<p>The natural and cultural potential of the area is a specific advantage of the area and an important development asset stretching across the border. CBC projects can help achieve critical mass and demonstrate immediate effects.</p> <p>Experience from the 2007-13 Programming Period highlights the high demand for actions aimed at strengthening of the regional identity of the border region as a tourist destination.</p> <p>Also in support this claim, the Ex-post evaluation of Interreg IIIb NWE Programme, showcased a significant concentration of funding for actions supporting tourism.</p>	<b>YES</b>

At the same time, other Thematic Priorities targeting education, SME competitiveness or innovation are also relevant to the area, but the scope of possible actions is very large to be effectively tackled, and such, these aspects are integrated in the Strategy as horizontal issues.

### *Conclusions*

There is an adequate level of consistency between the Programme's chosen thematic priorities and the development needs identified by the Territorial Analysis. The Justification Section in the Draft Programming Document highlights the results of the analyses performed in order to choose the thematic priorities.

Second Analysis: Consistency between Thematic Priorities, Specific Objectives and Expected results

Priority Axis 1



	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Thematic Areas	Expected Results
<i>Description in Programming Document</i>	<b>Thematic Priority a.</b> Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border	<p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area.</p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education.</p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas.</p>	Employment and labour mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The active population will experience better access to the labour market, receiving more information on job opportunities.</li> <li>- Adult training opportunities and assistance from professional associations will be offered in coordinated cross border networks. Tailored assistance for the access to job opportunities offered to young persons completing educational cycle, young people not employed, not involved in training or educational activities.</li> <li>- Disadvantaged groups, isolated communities in marginal areas will be offered support for the access to the labour market.</li> <li>- Promotional actions for the access to the labour market among young active population, disadvantaged groups, unemployed, returning migrants will be available.</li> <li>- Cooperation across the border will be established among Public Services, NGOs, local administrations for joint actions in support of the labour market.</li> </ul>
			Health and social infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of quality and accessibility of basic services, exploiting cross-border synergies and removing bottlenecks and constraints generated by remoteness and technological gaps.</li> <li>- The resident population will have access to improved services, with more efficient structures and more accessible networks of services in the sectors of health care, and social services, including cultural and sport facilities. Vulnerable communities, due to remoteness or demographic structure will have ensured new services adapted to their specific needs.</li> <li>- Disadvantaged groups will experience improved access to social services with specific actions of information and assistance. Cross border networks and platforms will be established in order to exploit synergies, and to share strategies for common needs of social inclusion. Cross border mobility of active population will be facilitated, with shared benefits to the local economic systems.</li> </ul>
			Social and cultural inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The expected results from the actions for the creation of infrastructures and networks for social and cultural inclusion are the following:</li> <li>- Creation of infrastructures for social and cultural inclusion.</li> <li>- Establishment of Partnerships for the promotion of a lively cultural environment, integrated across the border, ensuring integration of ethnic groups and inclusion of minorities and disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>- Support to the access to tertiary education offered to young population by networks of tertiary education centres established across the border.</li> <li>- Resident population will have access to cultural and social services integrated in cross border networks, facilitating cultural integration of ethnic groups, and cross border interaction.</li> <li>- Disadvantaged groups will have opportunities to experience cultural services, with the support of innovative instruments, like social enterprises, non-profit groups. NGOs and non-profit local bodies active in cultural services on the two sides of the border will share good practices and innovative solutions for the improvement of the quality of cultural environment.</li> </ul>
<i>Findings</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The three specific objectives for this Priority address different sub-themes (from employment, to remoteness and quality of life)	The 3 thematic areas are not overlapping and defined in a clear manner as to cover the Thematic Priority chosen.	The expected results are clearly formulated, not overlapping, covering the Specific Objectives and further on the Thematic Priority chosen.
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The Specific Objectives of PA1 are reflecting the changes sought, being clear and consistent with the territorial analysis	The 3 thematic areas are consistent both with the Thematic Priority chosen.	The expected results are consistent with the Thematic Areas, Specific Objectives and Thematic Priority.

## Priority Axis 2

	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Thematic Areas	Expected Results
<i>Description in Programming Document</i>	<b>Thematic Priority b.</b> Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management	<p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources.</p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies.</p>	Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public organizations of the two sides of the border establishing permanent networks and partnerships for the monitoring and management of environmental resources.</li> <li>- Inhabitants better informed on natural resources quality and vulnerability, becoming proactive subjects of environmental protection.</li> <li>- Education on environmental protection actions and methodologies improved, with the establishment of cross-border initiatives. Knowledge on environmental resources improved with cross border partnerships.</li> <li>- Managerial and technological innovations for the environmental protection tailored to the local needs, with the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the two sides of the border and transferred to the local administrations.</li> <li>- Local and national bodies actively integrated in the strategies for the protection and promotion of environmental resources in the Danube Basin Macro Region.</li> <li>- Enhancement of the capacity of local institutions to protect and promote natural resources, through the creation or the rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment for the provision of innovative services in the field.</li> </ul>
			Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness.</li> <li>- Improvement of cross-border interoperability of organisations and bodies involved in disaster resilience and disaster management systems and emergency preparedness. Increase of the capacity of local administrations and public bodies competent for early cross-border identification and assessment of the situation in case of environmental accidents and natural disasters, and joint environmental protective actions.</li> <li>- Local and national bodies active in the area better integrated in the Danube Basin International systems and organizations for the management of environmental risks and emergencies.</li> <li>- Improvement of the capacity of local institutions to play an active and efficient role in interventions for environmental emergencies, due to natural events or industrial accidents, through the creation or rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment.</li> </ul>
<i>Findings</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The specific objectives for this Priority address issues related to environmental risks, interoperability and joint actions for environmental protection, being in line with the Thematic Priority chosen.	The 3 thematic areas are not overlapping and defined in a clear manner as to cover the Thematic Priority chosen.	The expected results are clearly formulated, not overlapping, covering the Specific Objective of this Priority
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The Specific Objectives are correctly split in order to capture the different types of actions included in the defined Thematic Areas (both promotion of natural resources and management of environmental risks and emergencies in case of environmental disasters)	The 3 thematic areas are consistent both with the Thematic Priority chosen.	The expected results are consistent with the Thematic Areas, Specific Objective and Thematic Priority.

## Priority Axis 3

	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Thematic Areas	Expected Results
<i>Description in Programming Document</i>	<b>Thematic Priority c.</b> Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures	<p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors.</p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	Mobility and transport infrastructures and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of cross border mobility, security and integration;</li> <li>- Improvement of accessibility of remote marginal areas;</li> <li>- Enhancement of integration of local transport infrastructures and services in the main European transport corridors, especially the water ways connected to the Danube corridor;</li> <li>- Production of feasibility analysis on key transport infrastructures, improving regional national and international connection to transport networks, enabling the regional and national authorities to integrate CBC strategies in National, macroregional and European transport strategies.</li> <li>- Population in the area experiencing improved accessibility to local and external destinations, through improved services and or improved infrastructure, with lower environmental impact;</li> <li>- Population commuting across the border for economic and social, cultural activities experiencing improved services for border crossing, due to improved technologies and infrastructure;</li> <li>- Tourist mobility improved and extended in the area, based on new services, and infrastructure;</li> </ul>
			Public utilities infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of the improved accessibility to state-of-the-art and efficient public utilities (access to internet, utilities: waste, water, energy) in the light of technological options, economic constraints, environmental requirements and demographic change;</li> <li>- Establishment of cross border partnerships for the implementation of innovative solutions for the access to public services, especially for remote areas and marginalized communities;</li> <li>- Population experiencing improved access to public utilities and services, based on innovative solutions shared across the border;</li> <li>- Remote areas receiving tailored assistance to facilitate removal of obstacles to the access to IT services and public utilities;</li> <li>- Disadvantaged groups enabled to easier access to utility and services, with targeted information and awareness rising actions</li> </ul>
<i>Findings</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The specific objectives for this Priority address issues related to the quality of local and intra-regional transport infrastructure and reduced efficiency of public infrastructure	The two thematic areas are not overlapping and defined in a clear manner as to cover the Thematic Priority chosen (one addresses transport infrastructures and services, while the other is focused on ICT and public utilities infrastructures and networks)	The expected results are clearly formulated, not overlapping, covering the 2 thematic areas indicated.
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The Specific Objectives capture both issues related to mobility and public infrastructures.	The two thematic areas are both distinct and consistent with the Thematic Priority chosen.	The expected results are consistent with the Thematic Areas, Specific Objective and Thematic Priority.

## Priority Axis 4

	Thematic Priority	Specific Objective	Thematic Areas	Expected Results
<i>Description in Programming Document</i>	<b>Thematic Priority d.</b> Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	<p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism</p>	Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase of the national and international demand for cross border networks of tourism clusters, attracting various tourists categories, cultural business, naturalistic, especially from and international markets;</li> <li>- Integration of local tourism attractions in the international networks of the Danube Basin.</li> <li>- Establishment of a common brand and image for the local touristic offer attracting additional</li> </ul>

	attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails.		<p>demand;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase of the occupancy rate of tourist infrastructures, in all areas and for the diversified typologies of tourism;</li> <li>- Establishment of touristic networks across the border, exploiting synergies and sharing innovative management and technological solutions.</li> </ul>
		Capacity building initiatives for the improvement of quality and innovation of tourism services and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growth of the local tourism economy based on enhancement of quality of tourism services, based on a sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage.</li> <li>- Enhancing capacities and skills for the improvement of quality and quantity of tourism services and products in common networks and partnerships on the two sided of the border.</li> <li>- Improving the quality and sustainability of tourist infrastructure, and the accessibility of the aforementioned resources</li> </ul>
<i>Findings</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The specific objectives for this Priority address aspects related to the improvement of the tourism infrastructure and quality of services, together with the promotion of a sustainable use of natural and cultural resources.	The two thematic areas are not overlapping and defined in a clear manner as to cover the Thematic Priority chosen (one dedicated to the demand side and the other dedicated to the supply side)
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>See above section</i>	The Specific Objectives are clearly and concisely formulated as to capture the main aspects of the corresponding Thematic Objective.	The expected results are consistent with the Thematic Areas, Specific Objective and Thematic Priority.

### *Third Analysis: Consistency between the proposed actions and the expected results*

#### *Findings*

The desk-based research has identified a general good consistency between the proposed actions and expected results, having a relationship of either one-to-many, one-to-one or many-to-one. The findings of the desk-based research have been confirmed during interviews with the Programme stakeholders and further validated during the Expert Panel organized in July 2014.

- ▶ **Priority Axis 1. *Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth:*** The actions under the first Priority Axis are consistent with the expected results which refer mainly to the better access of the population to the labour market, improved services and more efficient structures for disadvantaged groups and cross border mobility ;
- ▶ **Priority Axis 2. *Environmental protection and risk management:*** The actions under Priority Axis 2 are consistent with the expected results, which aim towards environment protection, partnerships, technological innovations and environmental risk management ;
- ▶ **Priority Axis 3. *Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility:*** Priority Axis 3 includes actions directed towards the improvement of the transport and utilities infrastructure, which are consistent with the expected results ;
- ▶ **Priority Axis 4. *Attractiveness for sustainable tourism:*** The last priority of the Strategy that includes expected results has actions aimed towards promoting tourism and partnerships and improving the related infrastructure. These actions are consistent with the expected results which have been provided for this priority ;
- ▶ **Priority Axis 5. *Technical assistance:*** Priority axis 5 includes actions for the promotion of an effective and efficient implementation of the Programme and implementation of actions for the visibility of the programme strategy and results among target groups and stakeholders.

#### *Conclusions*

**The analysis has revealed a general good consistency between the proposed actions of the Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Strategy and the expected results**, with a detailed analysis being available under Annex 11 of the current report.

## 3.2 Appraisal of the chosen output and result indicators with regard to their relevance to the Programme Priority axes

*Methodology* Indicators were assessed from the perspective of “clarity”, “relevance”, “coverage”, existence and realism of baselines and targets set.

The criterion “The proposed indicators fit to the respective priorities and actions” (part of “Relevance”) is applied as follows: the relevance of the output indicators is assessed in relation with actions proposed, and the relevance of the result indicators is assessed in relation to specific objectives, as recommended by the European Commission 2014-2020 Logic of Intervention, as presented in the relevant guiding documents (i.e. DG Regio and DG Employment Monitoring and Evaluation Guides for the 2014-2020 programming period, last version published in June 2014). The 2014-2020 ERDF logic of intervention is followed where more applicable (i.e. in the case of PA 4) and an “intermediate” approach between ERDF and ESF is taken for the remaining PAs, due to the soft nature of the activities envisaged.

Further than analysing the relevance of individual indicators we analysed the extent to which the set of indicators set up for each PA, as a group, are “proportionally covering”<sup>1</sup> the actions envisaged and the specific objectives set, in accordance with the DG Regio guidance for the 2007-2013 programming period. This analysis was carried out in order to ensure that the programme’s system of indicator is proportional with the small available budget but still provides enough information to stakeholders (including decision-makers and evaluators) for performance monitoring and assessment.

Under “Clarity” we analysed the extent to which title/label of the indicator is clear and if the indicators have an unequivocal and easy to understand definition.

### *Findings*

#### **Clarity**

The final indicator system of the programme, revised as a result of the recommendations made by this evaluation (i.e. compare columns 2, 3 and 4 of the ) is adequate from the perspective of clarity. Only 1 out of 40 indicators still has a less clear label/title (i.e. “Number of projects controlled reimbursed”) and where needed the label was completed by a definition which clarified fully the meaning of the respective indicator.

For all indicators the measurement unit is determined.

#### **Relevance**

The revised output indicators are also relevant for the activities planned to be implemented by the programme. We reiterate here that, despite the ambitious specific objectives set, the activities envisaged are mainly soft actions aimed to stimulate the intensity of depth and cooperation (i.e. between different target groups – from population to public authorities) in the cross border area. If we take into account this soft nature of the actions envisaged and the limited funds at disposal for the programme, the result indicators set are relevant for the effects the programme will register.

#### **Coverage**

The analysis carried out on the first version of the indicators system identified cases under all 4 PAs in which the activities and the specific objectives of the programme were not covered. The revised version of the indicators is satisfactory from

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• <sup>1</sup> “[...] design indicator systems as complex as necessary and as small as possible under the specific circumstances of a specific plan/programme/project.”



the “coverage” perspective, if we take the proportionality principle into account, thus if we take into account the budget of the programme and the type of activities carried out.

PA 2 constitutes an exception in this context: while under PA 3 indicators are in place to cover the hard infrastructure investment planned, this is still not the case with PA2 (under which investments in infrastructure and equipment are still envisaged).

As the 2014-2020 EC guidance allows the setting of qualitative indicators and of qualitative targets where needed, we find the indicators adequate from this perspective. For the qualitative indicators, a questionnaire has been drafted and sent to all programme stakeholders for data collection. Following the analysis of the data received, baseline values of the indicators have been set and, also target values. Data collection is funded from the TA budget of the Programme.

### *Conclusions*

In general lines, the revised indicator system may be considered relevant, clear and covering the corresponding specific objectives and activities. The quality of the indicator system is quite advanced, if we take into consideration the limited funds at disposal and the (mainly) soft actions envisaged to be implemented between 2014 and 2020. In this context the determination of the MA to collect new data and thus explore better the effects of the programme through qualitative result indicators is appreciated.

### *Recommendations*

Recommendations regarding baseline values, data collection and target values of the indicators have been implemented.

### 3.3 Appraisal of the consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the Programme

#### *Findings*

The consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources was evaluated from the perspective of comparing the identified challenges and needs that informed the objectives as well as at the planned actions.

Our analysis was performed at the level of each Priority Axis of the Programme, taking into consideration both the justification present in the Draft Programming Document and experience of the 2007-13 Programming Period:

#### ► **Priority Axis 1**

The planned financial allocation for Priority Axis 1 is around 18m EUR, corresponding to 24% of the total allocation.

Given that the Programme Strategy proposes a mix of interventions, both regarding infrastructure (equipment and small infrastructures) and soft measures (setting up cross-border frameworks), it is indeed expected that the budget required for infrastructure investments will be higher compared to Priority Axes that focus mostly on soft interventions.

The Territorial Analysis and the resulting SWOT analysis confirm the abovementioned premis, **the allocation being consistent with the identified needs and challenges, building on strengths and taking advantage of the existing opportunities, as well as attempting to mitigate threats and address weaknesses.**

#### ► **Priority Axis 2**

The planned financial allocation for Priority Axis 2 is around 18m EUR, representing 24% of the total allocation.

Having regard to the actions proposed, the allocation appears rational, given that it represents a mix between investments in infrastructure, as well as soft interventions, such as developing networks and partnerships. The allocation also appears appropriate given that the Priority Axis is aimed at addressing current weaknesses, such as the reduced capacity to respond to natural hazards (e.g. floods), and at mitigating increased risks of extreme events.

However, the Territorial Analysis reveals that in the 2007-13 Programming Period the performance recorded for Priority 2 for Environment and Emergency Preparedness has been low, with the actions regarding waste and waste water management proving to be particularly unsuccessful.

The envisioned financial allocation for the Programming Period 2014-2020 is relatively similar to the one for 2007-13, in this sense, **particular care will have to be taken, in making sure that sufficient measures are taken right from the start of the implementation period, for ensuring absorption of funds**, as this Priority Axis proved to be the least attractive for potential beneficiaries due the increased complexity of projects financed.

#### ► **Priority Axis 3**

The planned budget allocation to Priority Axis 3 is approx. 18m EUR, corresponding to 24% of the total allocation.

The justification section in the Draft Programming Document links the lower than average allocation to the expectation for a fewer number of projects (based on experience during 2007-13 period), which would however have a larger average cost than in other areas.

As measures that would ensure funds' absorption, the Programme makes reference to a large portfolio of strategic projects ideas, **these being particularly relevant for the coordination with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.**

Since a substantial share of the priority budget shall be implemented through strategic projects, **appropriate measures should be already envisaged, as to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.**

#### ► **Priority Axis 4**

The planned budgetary allocation to Priority Axis 4 is approx. 13.5m EUR, corresponding to 18% of the total allocation.

In comparison to the expected types of projects to be financed under PAs 1, 2 and 3, the types of projects to be financed under Priority Axis 4 are soft projects of low financial value, namely actions facing the needs to support the valorisation of cultural and natural heritage and increase awareness. During the 2007-13 Programming period a high number of projects were implemented in the abovementioned fields, and the interest shown by applicants was significant and higher compared to other PAs.

**The sizing of the Priority Axis in terms of financial allocations appears rational, as it can support some actions that will be particularly relevant for the coordination with the EUSDR strategy.**

At the same time, in later stages during the 2014-20 Programming period, this PA may act as a relief valve, in the sense that unused expenditure from other PAs may be reallocated to Priority Axis 4, in order to ensure funds' absorption (in accordance with the high expected demand).

#### ► **Priority Axis 5**

The allocation for Technical Assistance corresponds to the 10% of the total funds' allocation, in compliance to the Art. 35 of IPA II Implementing Regulation.

The Draft Programming Document justifies the decision of allocating the maximum admissible budget based on two main reasons:

- ▶ The experience of the 2007-13 Programming Period, which proved that programme partners and potential beneficiaries need a strong support for the generation and implementation of projects. This being mostly due to the limited resources and skills available, especially in the marginal and remote areas.
- ▶ The strategy for the 2014-20 Programme has identified ambitious objectives, including strategic projects, together with a strong coordination with regional and international strategies (EUSDR).

#### **Conclusions**

The sizing of the Priority Axes in terms of financial allocations appears rational, as it can support the actions envisaged.

**One aspect already taken into account, which fully capitalizes the experience of the 2007-13 Programming Period was to establish the premises that the First Level Control Unit, for the Serbian Side, is eligible for covering its expenditures from the Technical Assistance funds.** This aspect is of relevance in view of the expressed difficulties and budgetary restrictions faced by the Serbian FLCU whose activity, as of 2012, was being financed through a grant made available by the EC Delegation in Serbia.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Recommendations**

Great care should be taken in designing the instruments used for project generation and monitoring, as to ensure a balanced evolution in terms of absorption (with some PAs being more attractive than others).

However, since a relevant share of the priority budget may be implemented through strategic projects, appropriate measures should be already envisaged, and included in the Programming Document as to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.

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<sup>2</sup> As described by the Interim Evaluation Report of the Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013, p. 65, June 2012

## 3.4 Appraisal of the potential contribution of the programme to the Europe 2020 objectives and targets

### *Findings*

In covering this evaluation theme, we have analysed the potential contribution of the programme to the Europe 2020 objectives and targets, having regard to the appraisal of the proposed Programme's strategy and taking into account the size of the Programme.

Following the appraisal of the consistency between the Specific Objectives of the Programme and the EU 2020 Strategy, it was revealed that the Programme is overall consistent with the EU 2020 priorities and flagship initiatives. A detailed analysis, structured per each of the EU2020 flagship initiatives, is presented under Annex 2 of the current report.

Furthermore, when assessing the consistency of the result indicators and the specific objectives of the Programme, it was noticed that the result indicators are overall consistent with Programme's specific objectives.

**Therefore the appraisal of the external and internal consistency of the Programme shows that the Strategy of the Programme is generally contributing to EU's objectives and as well to its targets, more indirectly than directly.**

However, it is difficult to predict the manner in which the actions envisaged at the level of each Specific Objectives will have a net effect on the European targets. Nevertheless, the Programme presents in its Strategy the expected contribution of the chosen priorities to the objectives of EU 2020 targets.

As expected, having regarded the external and internal consistency, the appraisal confirmed that the (financially) limited and area-constrained Programme shall not reach in a direct manner some of the targets set at European level. In this context we identified horizontal issues such as education which are treated under **Specific objective 1.1 - Employment and labour mobility** and **Specific objective 1.3 - Social and cultural inclusion**, as being supported in the array of actions focusing on increasing labour market participation and reducing the rate of exclusion of vulnerable/disadvantaged communities.

### *Conclusions*

Overall the Strategy of the Programme is appropriate, as it contributes to the European targets, either in a direct or indirect manner.

## 3.5 Integration of the results of the SEA summarizing the SEA process and outlining how it was taken into account in the programme design

### *Findings*

In covering this evaluation theme, an independent appraisal was performed in order to measure the potential impact that might have the proposed interventions of the Romania – Serbia IPA CBC Programme on the environment. This section provides a **summary of the strategic environmental assessment report**, the detailed analysis could be consulted in a separate report. The SEA report itself was **focused on maximising the environmental benefits and reducing potential risks considered overall likely to be significant**.

During the **first meeting of the SEA Working Group** which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> of July at the premises of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration it was presented and discussed the scoping report. Following the second consultation (20<sup>th</sup> of August) of the SEA Working Group minor improvements have been made to the environmental assessment, **the final version being submitted to public consultation on 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2014**.

The SEA report was prepared in accordance with the EC-endorsed "Handbook on SEA for Cohesion Policy 2007-2013" which represents a primary reference material for undertaking SEA which is still valid and remains recommended for the programming process 2014-2020.

For the SEA report a number of key strategic documents, both at EU and national level have been consulted among which **SEA Directive 2001/42/EC**, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the Partnership Agreement between Romania and EU and The National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire (2013-2016) of Republic of Serbia.

Regarding the characteristics of the environmental effects of the programme, SEA considered the following key issues of concern:

- ▶ Biodiversity
- ▶ Landscape
- ▶ Flooding and droughts
- ▶ Water quality
- ▶ Soil erosion and contamination
- ▶ Industrial pollution events and contamination

Baseline studies have been prepared by national consultants for each of the identified environmental issues. The environmental assessment consisted of four levels of analysis:

- ▶ Appraisal of the specific objectives of the proposed programme against targets defined in the environmental pillar of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- ▶ Assessment of the likely expected impacts on the environment and of environmental policy implications for each Priority Axis
- ▶ Evaluation of the proposed monitoring system and provision of recommendations for modifications of the proposed monitoring framework

The assessment process was based on available data and has not been constrained by any difficulties.

The above mentioned key issues are consistent with the 11 targets defined in the **environmental pillar of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region** covering 3 Priority Areas:

- ▶ Restore and maintain the quality of waters;
- ▶ Manage environmental risks;
- ▶ Preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil.

With regards the Programme Strategy, the appraisal revealed the following interventions under Priority Axis 3 - Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility, **Thematic Area 3.1 – Mobility and transport infrastructure and services** with a **possible adverse environmental impacts that could warrant increased attention**:

- ▶ Joint studies for the preparation of cross-border infrastructure investments with emphasis on multimodal solutions;
- ▶ Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of the cross-border crossing points and/ or the road infrastructure leading to the cross-border crossing points;
- ▶ Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of cross-border roads connecting settlements alongside the border and/or small remote villages with main road, which leads to the border
- ▶ Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of roads linking to the national/ international systems as well as to economic sites of cross-border interest
- ▶ Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of roads connecting settlements within the eligible area
- ▶ Creation or modernization of cross-border logistics facilities/ centres
- ▶ Development of transport on the Danube and on other rivers within the eligible area, including investments in infrastructure and purchase of equipment for ports and water related mobility
- ▶ Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of the road infrastructure and cross-border crossing points

SEA identified that **the proposed CBC programme includes solely one thematic area where possibly significant environmental risks might occur**, respectively **Thematic Area 3.1. Mobility and transport infrastructures and services**. Such impacts can be however managed through a rigorous application of environmental assessments (EIAs, SEAs, and transboundary consultations when needed) and assessments of impacts on Natura 2000 network (where relevant). This IPA CBP programme is ideally positioned to deliver good example of transboundary EIAs or SEAs.

However, the Programme **envisages interventions likely to have a positive impact on the environment and dedicated to:**

- ▶ Health and social infrastructures – **Thematic Area 1.2**
- ▶ Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources – **Thematic Area 2.1**
- ▶ Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness – **Thematic Area 2.2**
- ▶ Public utilities infrastructure - **Thematic Area 3.2**

All the other interventions which are not mentioned in the above section **are not subject to the strategic environmental assessment**, respectively actions under **Priority Axis 4 – Attractiveness for sustainable tourism** and **Priority Axis 5 – Technical Assistance**.

The report contains as well a list of all protected areas, like NATURA 2000 sites and a further environmental evaluation will be carried out at the level of each project.

Regarding the monitoring SEA appraised whether any of the identified impacts required systemic monitoring on the level of the proposed programme and evaluated applicability of the proposed programme indicators for collecting any relevant environmental data.

### *Conclusions*

The appraisal revealed that overall the Programme Strategy is not expected to cause any negative impacts on the environment.

### *Recommendations*

*All the recommendations provided either by SEA experts or during SEA Working Groups were embedded in the final SEA Report.*

## 3.6 Examination of horizontal aspects relevant for the IPA Programme (e.g. adequacy of the planned measures to promote equal opportunities)

### *Findings*

In covering this evaluation theme, we have appraised the manner in which the Programme describes its contribution to the promotion of the three horizontal aspects, namely sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as equality between men and women, and how these principles are mainstreamed and measured in the Programme.

However, at the time of writing this report, it is not possible to analyze the treatment of horizontal issues during the designing and implementation phases of the Programme or within the monitoring arrangements.

The Programme presents in a self-standing section, namely Section 6, the contribution to the three horizontal aspects envisaged. **According to the Final Draft of the Programming Document, although these themes are taken into account during the programming process, the detailed way in which they will be put in practice shall take place during the implementation phase of the Programme, with regard to project selection, monitoring and evaluation arrangements.**

As such, the Programme specifies the following aspects regarding equal opportunities and gender equality:

*“During programme implementation the Programme emphasizes on the principle of equal access to information of the possibilities offered by the Programme. This includes targeting different social groups adequately; removing barriers in the communication of the Programme (e.g. media, language etc.), promoting barrier free approaches etc.”*

and with regard to sustainable development:

*“The contribution of each project to these principles will be addressed in a qualitative manner in the frame of project selection and programme monitoring and evaluation.”*

In order to appraise the contribution of the Programme to the sustainable development principle, we first had to clarify the definition of it in the EU context. Taking into account the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS), seven key challenges are to be addressed:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ▶ <i>Climate change and clean energy</i>                  | ▶ <i>Public health</i>                              |
| ▶ <i>Sustainable transport</i>                            | ▶ <i>Social inclusion, demography and migration</i> |
| ▶ <i>Sustainable consumption and production</i>           | ▶ <i>Global poverty and sustainable development</i> |
| ▶ <i>Conservation and management of natural resources</i> |   |

### ***Horizontal principles and the needs assessment***

In order to justify the selection of specific actions embedding the three horizontal principles, Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme presents in Section 1 the specific challenges to be addressed in relation to:

### 1. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Regarding this principle, the Programme Strategy identifies the main challenges of disadvantaged and/or vulnerable groups as being related to limited access to health care services, limited access to education, low employment rate and high poverty rates influenced by social exclusion.

Moreover, Section 6.2 of the Programme states that:

*“In the course of programme preparation, the Programme has observed non-discrimination and addressed relevant issues related to the socio-demographic developments in the Programme area (mainly related to ethnic composition, access to services and opportunities, migration and ageing) in the SWOT analysis. The strategy of the Programme puts emphasis in the availability of programme benefits to everyone through knowledge diffusion and dissemination, equality in the quality and access to social and public services, promotion of resources efficiency and availability of public environmental goods and services.”*

### 2. Equality between men and women

The Programme Strategy identified small differences between women and men unemployment rate as being the solely need to be addressed at the level of the proposed actions regarding this principle.

### 3. Sustainable development

According to the section dedicated to sustainable development (Section 6.1) and in accordance with the justification for the selection of thematic priorities (Table 3), the Programme will mainly tackle this principle from the perspectives of **climate change and clean energy, sustainable transport, conservation and management of natural resources, public health, social inclusion, demography and migration, global poverty and sustainable development.**

Furthermore, Section 6.1 identifies as **biggest challenges** being related to *environmental and biodiversity protection, sustainable use of natural resources and the addressing of climate change, environmental risks management and emergency preparedness.*

#### ***Horizontal principles and the Programme Strategy***

In order to mainstream the horizontal aspects, the Programme envisages a number of actions under each specific objective. Most of the actions promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination and gender equality are addressed under **Priority Axis 1 - Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth** and supporting sustainable development under **Priority Axis 2 - Environmental protection and risk management** and **Priority Axis 3 - Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility.**

Nevertheless most of the actions are not exclusively targeting particular disadvantaged groups, but rather address vulnerable/disadvantaged groups as a whole. In one case women are targeted in a specific action which is addressed under the employment and labour mobility Specific objective.

Furthermore, the target groups identified in the actions revealed by the appraisal as supporting horizontal principles are as well reflected at the level of output and result indicators (e.g. *Disadvantaged persons involved in projects activities* as output indicator, *Population accessing sustainable and efficient public utilities networks (energy, water, ICT)* as result indicator).



The actions envisaged by the Programme addressing the three horizontal principles are presented below:

Actions envisaged by the Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Equal opportunities and non- discrimination	Equality between men and women	Sustainable development	Target groups identified in the action
<b>Priority Axis 1 - Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</b>				
<b>Specific objective 1.1 - Employment and labour mobility</b>				
1.1.1. Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including <b>disadvantaged groups</b>	√			Disadvantaged groups
1.1.4. Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, <b>women, disadvantaged groups</b>	√	√		Young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups
1.1.5. Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning <b>emigrants</b> for the re-integration in the local labour market	√			Emigrants
<b>Specific objective 1.2 - Health and social infrastructures</b>				
1.2.1. Set up of cross-border platforms and networks for planning and provision of health and social services, targeting also remote communities and <b>disadvantaged groups</b> .	√			Disadvantaged groups
<b>Specific objective 1.3 - Social and cultural inclusion</b>				
1.3.5. Joint actions for a better participation of <b>all social groups</b> , actors and users in the design and delivery of cultural services, educational services, childhood education, and services of general interest	√			All social groups
1.3.6. Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among <b>disadvantaged groups</b> .	√			Disadvantaged groups
<b>Priority Axis 2 - Environmental protection and risk management</b>				
<b>Specific objective 2.1 - Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b>				
2.1.1. Set up of cross-border frameworks, platforms and networks for the exchange of experience and the identification of needs for entities involved or interested in <b>environmental protection</b>			√	N.A.
2.1.2. Development of joint training and actions, including awareness programmes for relevant organisations and the general public, including educational institutions in the field of <b>environmental protection and use of natural resources</b>			√	N.A.
2.1.3. Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of <b>natural resources, biodiversity, technologies for environmental protection</b> , for the identification and transfer of innovations tailored to the local needs			√	N.A.
2.1.4. Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of <b>energy efficiency, renewable energy</b> , such as usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power for producing electric energy, including investments in infrastructure and equipment based			√	N.A.

Actions envisaged by the Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Equal opportunities and non- discrimination	Equality between men and women	Sustainable development	Target groups identified in the action
on common and tailored technical solutions				
2.1.5. Investment in infrastructure and equipment for <b>environmental protection and use of natural resources</b>			√	N.A.
2.1.6. Establishment of networks and partnerships for joint training actions for public entities and local communities in the field of <b>environmental protection, enhancement of pollution control strategies and systems</b> ; conduction of joint trainings and maintenance of interoperability including the purchase of compatible equipment			√	N.A.
2.1.7. Joint initiatives and investments in infrastructure and equipment for the implementation of technologies for the <b>control of pollution and rehabilitation of rivers and brown fields</b> and industrial areas with common problems on the two sides of the border			√	N.A.
2.1.8. <b>Restoration of natural areas</b> (e.g. woods and river banks) to prevent floods and land slides			√	N.A.
2.1.9. Joint activities for the <b>protection of endangered species</b>			√	N.A.
<b>Specific objective 2.2 - Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.2.1. Development of joint structures and partnerships for the integration of the involved entities on <b>Initiatives in relation to the Danube Strategy</b> (Danube River Basin Management, ICPDR initiatives, European Floods Alert System etc.), including the investments in infrastructure and equipment			√	N.A.
2.2.2. Establishment and enhancement of cross border liaison in the <b>environmental planning</b> of the involved entities including joint risk mapping of accident risk spots, risk assessment and evaluation exercises			√	N.A.
2.2.3. Ensuring and promotion of data availability and the <b>integration of management approaches</b> in national and international networks			√	N.A.
2.2.4. Establishment of networks and partnerships for joint training actions for public entities and local communities in the field of <b>management of environmental emergencies</b> ; joint trainings and <b>maintenance of interoperability</b> including the purchase of compatible equipment			√	N.A.
2.2.5. Establishment of joint services for the <b>management and control of risks</b> generated by <b>hot spots of industrial pollution</b>			√	N.A.
2.2.6. Joint actions dedicated to preparing <b>children/youth</b> to respond to emergency situations, including i.a school camps, trainings	√		√	Children Youth
2.2.7. Investments in infrastructure and equipment for <b>risk management and emergency preparedness</b>			√	N.A.
<b>Priority Axis 3 - Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility</b>				
<b>Specific objective 3.2 - Public utilities infrastructure</b>				

Actions envisaged by the Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Equal opportunities and non-discrimination	Equality between men and women	Sustainable development	Target groups identified in the action
3.2.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Development and implementation of locally adapted solutions for investments in public utilities infrastructure (e.g. <b>small-scale water treatment</b> , access to ICT, <b>renewable energy</b> ) within the areas facing similar challenges on both sides of the border			√	N.A.

### ***Mainstreaming horizontal principles into the Programme's lifecycle***

The Programme provides in Section 6, an overview of the manner in which the horizontal principles will be mainstreamed during the implementation phase, project selection, monitoring and evaluation stages. However, no mention is made regarding launching of calls, management and partnership process.

The key findings for each of the phase of the Programme's lifecycle are:

- ▶ **Implementation phase:** the Programming document stipulates that during this phase different social groups will be targeted adequately and communication barriers will be removed.
- ▶ **Launching of calls:** the Programme does not mention if it will have dedicated calls to specific disadvantaged groups
- ▶ **Project selection:** according to the Programme, the projects will have to respond to a set of quality criteria which will be common to all Priority Axes and Specific objectives. Indicative criteria are detailed for each horizontal principle.
- ▶ **Management:** the Programme does not mention the authorities responsible with the implementation, evaluation or monitoring the horizontal principle.
- ▶ **Monitoring:** the system of output and result indicators captures the participation of vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and the promotion of sustainable development in the operations co-financed by the Programme.
- ▶ **Evaluation:** the Programme will assess the manner in which potentially discriminated groups will be involved during the programme implementation and how much support it is needed for projects supporting gender equality. Moreover, a technical tool for assessors has been detailed for all three horizontal principles.
- ▶ **Partnership principle:** the Programme does not mention the stakeholders involved in the consultation process or monitoring process.

### ***Conclusions***

In conclusion, horizontal principles are addressed in a dedicated section in the Programme, and as well in the needs analysis and Programme Strategy. Even though the principles will be mainstreamed throughout the Programme lifecycle, it remains unclear which stakeholders are involved in the programming phase or in the monitoring process.

### ***Recommendations***

In order to respect the partnership principle, Section 6.1 focusing on sustainable development could make reference to the **stakeholders involved in SEA Working Group** and Sections 6.2 and 6.3 could make reference to other actors which were involved or will be involved in the following phases like **NGOs in the field of equal opportunities and gender equality** or the **National Council for Combating Discrimination**.

## 3.7 Appraisal of the management capacity

### *Findings*

Under this section, the manner in which the Programme sets out the implementing and management provisions the extent to which these comply with the relevant European regulations was assessed.

Section 5 of the Final Draft of the Programming Document describes the arrangements for the implementation and management of the Programme during the next programming period. With respect to the programme authorities, the Programme respects the provisions of Reg. 1299/2013, Art 21 (1), according to which a single managing authority (MA), a single certifying authority (CA) and a single audit authority (AA) are to be designated. Moreover, according to the same regulation and to Reg. 447/2014 Art 36 (1), both the MA and the AA are located in the same country, namely in Romania. Also the MA shall fulfil the functions of the Certifying Authority.

Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of Reg. 447/2014 Art 38, a Joint Monitoring Committee will also be set up and it will be composed of representatives of the European and national institutions, having advisory, decision, consultative and independent observer roles.

With respect to the management and control system, Section 5.4 of the Programme briefly describes the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) and the functions of the Audit Authority. Regarding the JTS, its role will be ensured by the same entity as in the 2007-2013 programming period. The designated Audit Authority is Audit Authority of the Romanian Court of Accounts and its role, as described in this section, is in accordance with the provisions of Reg. 1303/2013 Art. 127 and of Reg. 1299/2013 Art. 25.

The assessment of the capacity of the Programme Authorities to successfully contribute to the implementation of the Cross-border Programme, from the point of view of experience, staff number and turnover, is based on conclusions of the mid-term Evaluation of the 2007-13 Programme and interviews with Programme stakeholders.

In this sense, relatively low turnover rate of the staff working in the MA, JTS and NA contributes to the capitalization of experience and lessons learned during the 2007-13 Programming Period.

Going through an entire Programme lifecycle; the persons involved in the management of the 2014-20 Programme are expected to ensure a smooth implementation of Programme, capitalize on opportunities and timely take action, before any threats materialize.

In terms of number of resources planned to be engaged in the implementation of the Programme, all authorities involved exhibit relatively similar staff sizing as during the 2007-13 period. As no backlogs or mishaps occurred during 2007-13 period, which could be directly linked with the lack of sufficient resources, or with insufficient levels of technical skills, it is expected that the human resources used to implement the 2014-20 Programme are adequate.

With regard to monitoring arrangements, the system to be set-up is aimed at keeping track of how the projects progress in terms of expenditure, resource use, implementation of activities, delivery of results and management of risks. The key structure that would be involved in project lifecycle monitoring is the JTS, performing both desk based verifications and on the spot visits. In addition, the Managing Authority is going to perform site visits on sample of projects, this practice exhibiting good results during the 2007-13 Programming Period.

The financial verification process is characterized by the existence of three levels of control performed respectively by the First Level Control (100% expenditure verification), JTS (Administrative and on-site verifications) and MA (administrative and sample checks).

### *Conclusions*

Overall, the implementing provisions of the Programme are adequate and in accordance with the European regulations regarding ETC and IPA II.

## 3.8 Summary of risks and mitigation actions relevant for the implementation of the Programme

In order for the Programme to achieve its proposed outcomes and benefits of strategic relevance, it is important to identify some of the risks that are likely to appear during the programme's lifecycle. Therefore the following summary presents the **risks** identified as a result of the lessons learned from the previous programming period 2007-2013 and **proposes mitigation measures** taking into account the Interim Evaluation of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013 and the logic of intervention for 2014-2020.

Nr. crt	Risk description	Proposed mitigation action
<b>Risks related to Programme implementation</b>		
1.	Risk of late contracting due to the high number of responsibilities carried by a limited number of staff or the long procedures of contracting external assessors.	Ensure the availability of an adequate number of assessors prior to the submission deadline or procure global TA services in the start-up phase of the Programme
2.	Risk of over/under application on different Priority Axes.	Targeted calls and specific information activities can be used to increase demand for the Programme in under-represented Specific objectives.
3.	Due to general delays in the implementation of the programme, the setting up of the monitoring system is delayed.	Setting-up monitoring scheduling with visits and monitoring information system.
4.	Risk of delays in the contracting procedure due to the communications between JTS and MA concerning the contracting templates.	The assessment and selection process should better prepare projects for contracting, avoiding the postponing of project revisions to contracting Laura: more effective communication between the two parts
5.	Risk of under-application at regional/county level.	Targeted calls can be used to increase demand for the Programme in certain counties/regions.
<b>Risks related to the achievement of Programme expected results</b>		
6.	Potential risk of decommitment and not reaching the programme's expected results due to the lack of expenditure at the level of the beneficiary.	Consider introducing rules on decommitment in the initial contracting templates and raise awareness among beneficiaries about the issues already in the start-up phase of the Programme. Support beneficiaries in implementation to carry out their activities and spend the funds as planned.
7.	Risk of automatic decommitment	Introduction of simplified cost options, e.g. flat rate.
8.	Difficulties in collecting data on the result indicators and especially the impact on the long term.	Introduce elaborate explanations in the programme guidelines and manuals and provide training for grant beneficiaries in terms of assessing and ensuring sustainability from the beginning of the projects. Carry out the surveys for data collection for monitoring purposes at least three times during the programme lifetime. Carry out impact evaluation.
9.	Risk of not achieving the effects described in the application forms.	Application forms should contain a section in which applicants should detail the cooperation process, whether partners are involved in the application process and how the project can have an impact on the cross-border region after the end of the project.
<b>Risks related to sustainability of results</b>		
10.	Risk of unsustainable partnerships, outside project	Encourage cooperation between different partner types to ensure that inexperienced partners are included in the future and can learn from

Nr. crt	Risk description	Proposed mitigation action
	lifecycle.	<p>the process.</p> <p>In parallel, encourage financing of repetitive partnerships (e.g. Applicants that implemented successful projects under the 2007-13 Programme), or of partners that worked together on other occasions, as results of these partnerships are more likely to be sustainable, in part due to partnership extending outside project lifecycle.</p>

## 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2014-20 is well developed and coherent, while being consistent with key strategic directions and regulatory provisions of the EC. The identified needs and challenges of the area targeted by the Cross-border Programme are reflected in the selected Specific objectives and foreseen measures, maximizing the way in which the limited funding envelope available for such a Programme can be used. Horizontal principles are addressed throughout the Programme Strategy and developed in a separate section.

In order to measure the potential impact that might have the proposed interventions of the Romania – Serbia IPA CBC Programme on the environment an independent strategic environmental assessment report is provided focused on maximising the environmental benefits and reducing potential risks.

Considering the specificities of the programme, the appraisals performed through the ex-ante evaluation revealed the areas of improvement during the Programming Phase, under each major theme. These recommendations were implemented by the Programme Authorities, during subsequent versions of the Programming Document. In addition, the ex-ante evaluation has identified various topics which should be addressed by the Programme Authorities during the implementation of the Programme.

The status of final recommendations is presented below:

Recommendations	Status of implementation
<b>Appraisal of the chosen output and result indicators with regard to their relevance to the Programme Priority axes</b>	
R1. Improve the system of indicators as recommended in Annex 12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R2. It is strongly recommended to have "indicator fiches" developed for each indicator, in line with the ones used for national programmes in Romania, to have clear information on data collection methodology needed for these indicators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R3. If the hard investments envisaged under PA 2 have a significant budget, a related output indicator should be developed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R4. It should be clear in which framework the needed surveys for data collection will be carried out and adequate funding should be made available for these activities (at least three rounds of surveying).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Appraisal of the consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the Programme</b>	
R5. Since a substantial share of the priority budget shall be implemented through strategic projects, appropriate measures should be already envisaged, and included in the Programming Document as to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Integration of the results of the SEA summarizing the SEA process and outlining how it was taken into account in the programme design</b>	
R6. Consider adding a new output indicator for PA 1: <i>Joint cross border actions targeting smart (green) growth opportunities</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R7. Consider inclusion of new specific output indicator for PA 3: <i>Joint initiatives on improvements of public transport and intermodal connections</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

R8.	Ensure that result Indicator PA4.RI1 covers also eco/agro tourism since it is an emerging sector within tourism industry that should be monitored for possible future support in the post 2020 programming period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Examination of horizontal aspects relevant for the IPA Programme (e.g. adequacy of the planned measures to promote equal opportunities)</b>		
R9.	The Programmer may clarify what additional provisions are planned to mainstream the principles in implementation (if any) despite those already indicated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R10.	Having regards the scope of the Programme it is recommended not to launch calls for a specific disadvantaged groups. However, <b>an explanation of not launching targeted calls should be provided in Section 6.2 and 6.3.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R11.	An overview of the management structure involved in the Programme's lifecycle should be provide by making reference to the tasks and composition of the involved bodies (e.g. Working groups on disadvantaged groups or sustainable development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R12.	In order to respect the partnership principle, Section 6.1 focusing on sustainable development could make reference to the <b>stakeholders involved in SEA Working Group</b> and Sections 6.2 and 6.3 could make reference to other actors which were involved or will be involved in the following phases like <b>NGOs in the field of equal opportunities and gender equality</b> or the <b>National Council for Combating Discrimination</b> .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Appraisal of the management capacity</b>		
R13.	The Programme should assign a Certifying Authority, or to further detail the relevant provisions if its functions will be fulfilled by the Managing Authority. Additionally, more information regarding the functions of the JTS and the MA should be included in Section 5.4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# Annexes

## Annex 1. Treatment table

Recommendations	Status of implementation (Yes/No)
<b>Appraisal of the proposed Programme strategy</b>	
<b>Evaluation of the External Consistency</b>	
R14. In order to increase consistency with the Council Recommendations, the Programmer may analyse the relevance of including additional actions tackling alignment of the tertiary education with the needs of the labour market” under Priority Axis 1.	Yes
R15. In order to increase consistency with the Partnership Agreement for Romania, the Programmer may include additional actions, under Priority Axis 1, Specific objective 3 “Social and cultural inclusion” with the scope of targeting education, and in particular childhood education and prevention of Early School Leaving.	Yes
<b>Evaluation of the Internal Consistency</b>	
R16. The Specific Objective of PA 1 might be split into 3 different objectives, that would fit the selected Thematic Priority, on one side, and the 3 Specific objectives on the other side.  For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the Programme area</li> <li>▶ Increasing access of the population to modern and efficient health care and social services;</li> <li>▶ Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area</li> </ul>	Yes
R17. We recommend splitting the Specific Objective of PA 2 into two distinct objectives that would cover the different points identified above.  For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ For Specific objective 2.2 - Contribute to the sustainable development of the border region, through actions contributing to environmental protection, awareness and innovation</li> </ul>	Yes
R18. For Specific Objective of PA 3, we recommend removing of the paragraph “To promote innovation and the preparation of feasibility studies in coordination with other EU and National Programmes” and concomitantly splitting the Specific Objective into two distinct objectives that would cover the different points identified above.  For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve sustainable transport and mobility infrastructure both within the Cross-border area and the area’s integration in the main EU transport corridors</li> <li>▶ Improve access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. internet)</li> </ul>	Yes
R19. We recommend inserting an additional Specific Objective under PA4, especially for tackling the topic of ‘protecting the cultural and natural heritage of the area’ (e.g. Improved conservations and protection actions/strategies, with regard to the cultural and natural heritage of the area).	Yes
R20. In addition we suggest reformulating the two Specific objectives for PA4, as to highlight differences between the two and increase their clarity.	Yes
R21. Reformulate Expected Results, in accordance with reviewed Specific objectives (see above) as to increase their clarity and specificity (i.e. do not mix Networks, Infrastructure and Occupancy Rate).	Yes
<b>Appraisal of the chosen output and result indicators with regard to their relevance to the Programme Priority axes</b>	

R22. Improve the system of indicators as recommended in Annex 9.	Yes
<b>Appraisal of the consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the Programme</b>	
R23. Great care should be taken in designing the instruments used for project generation and monitoring, as to ensure a balanced evolution in terms of absorption (with some PAs being more attractive than others)..	Yes
<b>Appraisal of the potential contribution of the programme to the Europe 2020 objectives and targets</b>	
R24. The <b>Programmer should analyze the relevance of integrating actions aimed at increasing the access and participation to a good quality tertiary system within the Specific Objective 1.1 <i>Promotion of an efficient and inclusive labour market</i></b> , which can thus contribute in achieving the EU target regarding an increased percentage of the 30-34 year-olds completing tertiary education.	Yes
<b>Examination of horizontal aspects relevant for the IPA Programme (e.g. adequacy of the planned measures to promote equal opportunities)</b>	
R25. The Programmer may introduce a short description of the collecting procedure of indicators addressing horizontal principles.	Yes
R26. The Programmer should define output and result indicators adequate to capture the objectives of the Programme in relation to the three horizontal aspects envisaged.	Yes

## Annex 2. EU 2020 strategy compliance analysis table

EU 2020 strategy	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC 2014-20	Consistency
Priorities and Flagship Initiatives	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	
<b>Smart growth</b>		
<p>▶ <b>Digital agenda for 2020:</b> creating a single digital market based on fast/ultrafast internet and interoperable applications</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2. <i>Public utilities infrastructure</i></b> is aimed at decreasing the access obstacles to IT services.</p>
<p>▶ <b>Innovation Union:</b> refocusing R&amp;D and innovation policy on major challenges for our society like climate change, energy and resource efficiency, health and demographic change; strengthening every link in the innovation chain, from 'blue sky' research to commercialisation</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1</b></p> <p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1. <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i></b> is aimed at developing cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power, as well as supporting technological innovations which protect the environment and are tailored to the local needs.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1. <i>Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</i></b> is aimed at supporting activities which develop innovations for protection of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism.</p>

EU 2020 strategy	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC 2014-20	Consistency
Priorities and Flagship Initiatives	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	
<p>▶ <b>Youth on the move:</b> helping students and trainees study abroad; equipping young people better for the job market; enhancing the performance/international attractiveness of Europe's universities; improving all levels of education and training (academic excellence, equal opportunities)</p>	<p>services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b> <i>Employment and labour mobility</i> is aimed at removing barriers to access education, training and the labour market. Moreover, this thematic area focuses as well on disadvantaged groups, women and young unemployed in order to promote the principle of equal opportunities and gender equality.</p> <p>However, the Strategy of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme <b>does not make any reference to activities which support students and trainees to study abroad or initiatives which increase the attractiveness of regional universities</b> which could prepare young people for the labour market and provide adult trainings. Nevertheless, the Programme supports the facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour market.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3</b> <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i> is aimed at increasing access to tertiary education and supporting investments in educational infrastructure and equipment, thus promoting as well social inclusion.</p>
<b>Sustainable growth</b>		
<p>▶ <b>Resource efficient Europe:</b> to support the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy, our economic growth must be decoupled from resource and energy use by reducing CO2 emissions, promoting greater energy security, reducing the resource intensity of what we use and consume</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1</b> Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b> <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i> is aimed at developing cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power, as well as supporting technological innovations which protect the environment and are tailored to the local needs.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1.</b> <i>Mobility and transport Infrastructures and services</i> is aimed at supporting cross-border partnerships between state authorities to plan the physical infrastructure, and as well at developing integrated and environmentally friendly cross-border transport connections.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2</b> <i>Public utilities infrastructure</i> is aimed at developing and implementing locally adapted solutions for investments in public utilities infrastructure (e.g. small-scale water treatment, access to ICT, renewable energy).</p>

EU 2020 strategy	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC 2014-20	Consistency
Priorities and Flagship Initiatives	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	
	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	
<p>► <b>An industrial policy for the globalization era:</b> the EU needs an industrial policy that will support businesses – especially small businesses – as they respond to globalisation, the economic crisis and the shift to a low-carbon economy, by supporting entrepreneurship – to make European business fitter and more competitive and covering every part of the increasingly international value chain – from access to raw materials to after-sales service</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is aimed at supporting joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives.</p>
<b>Inclusive growth</b>		
<p>► <b>An agenda for new skills and jobs:</b> for individuals – helping people acquire new skills, adapt to a changing labour market and make successful career shifts, and collectively – modernising labour markets to raise employment levels, reduce unemployment, raise labour productivity and ensuring the sustainability of our social models</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is aimed at increasing and promoting the access to the labour market by setting up joint initiatives targeting young active people, cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility; developing cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market and identifying potentials of employment and removing obstacles for accessing the labour market, targeting disadvantaged groups.</p>

EU 2020 strategy	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC 2014-20	Consistency
Priorities and Flagship Initiatives	Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	
<p>► <b>European Platform against poverty:</b> ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion, guaranteeing respect for the fundamental rights of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, and enabling them to live in dignity and take an active part in society and mobilising support to help people integrate in the communities where they live, get training and help to find a job and have access to social benefits</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>All three Specific Objectives falling under Priority Axis 1 <i>Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</i>, respectively <b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i>, Specific objective 1.2. <i>Health and social infrastructures</i> and Specific objective 1.3 <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i> are aimed at supporting measures addressing the specific circumstances of groups at particular risk.</b></b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1</b> foresees actions which will support disadvantaged groups to better access the labour market and the entrepreneurial activities.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.2</b> envisages actions which increase the access to health and social services by setting up cross-border platforms and networks.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3</b> supports activities aimed at designing cross-border actions for social and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups.</p>

### Annex 3. Council Recommendations for Romania compliance analysis table

Council Recommendations	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Employment	Specific Objectives	Consistency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve labour market participation, as well as employability and productivity of the labour force, by reviewing and strengthening active labour market policies, to provide training and individualized services and promoting lifelong learning.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is aimed at improving both the access to the labour market for the different categories of workers, as well as to enhance employability, by improving their level of skills and competences (through training) and by increasing the mobility of the workforce. Actions foreseen will encourage the development of cross-border initiatives in order to foster employment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enhance the capacity of the National Employment Agency to increase the quality and coverage of its services.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To fight youth unemployment, implement rapidly the National Plan for Youth Employment, including for example through a Youth Guarantee</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is aimed at generally increasing employment, including that of the young population.</p>
Research, development, Innovation	Specific Objectives	Consistency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ease and diversify access to finance for SMEs. Ensure closer links between research, innovation and industry, in particular by prioritizing research and development activities that have the potential to attract private investment. Strengthen the intellectual property rights framework with a view to increasing the commercialization of research results.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Indirect – consistency is indirectly identified</b></p> <p>The programme does not address the diversification of SMEs or the RDI sector. Nevertheless, it is considered that the promotion and direct support of the SMEs and the development of the RDI sector can be better addressed through other European and National programmes.</p>



Council Recommendations		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Climate change and energy	Specific Objectives	Consistency	
▶ Continue to remove regulated gas and electricity prices and improve energy efficiency. Improve the cross-border integration of energy networks and speed up implementation of the gas interconnection projects.	N/A	N/A	
▶ The energy efficiency in buildings, district heating, industry and transport should be increased	N/A	N/A	
Education	Specific Objectives	Consistency	
▶ Speed up the education reform including the building up of administrative capacity at both central and local level and evaluate the impact of the reforms.	N/A	N/A	
▶ Step up reforms in vocational education and training.	N/A	N/A	
▶ Further align tertiary education with the needs of the labour market and improve access for disadvantaged people.	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is aimed at removing barriers to access education, training and the labour market, especially for disadvantaged groups.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3 <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> is aimed at promoting access to tertiary education, through information, mentoring and tutoring services offered specially to students completing secondary education.</p>	
▶ Implement a national strategy on early school leaving focusing on better access to quality early childhood education, including for Roma children.	N/A	N/A	
▶ Speed up transition from institutional to alternative care for children deprived of parental care.		<p><b>NO – consistency is not identified</b></p> <p>The programme does not address the transition from institutional to alternative care for children deprived of parental care. Nevertheless, the TA does not reveal that the PA faces challenges in this respect.</p>	
Social Inclusion/poverty reduction	Specific Objectives	Consistency	

Council Recommendations	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
<p>▶ To alleviate poverty, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social transfers with a particular focus on children. Complete the social assistance reform by adopting the relevant legislation and strengthening its link with activation measures.</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>▶ Ensure concrete delivery of the National Roma integration strategy.</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>▶ Pursue health sector reforms to increase its efficiency, quality and accessibility, in particular for disadvantaged people and remote and isolated communities. Reduce the excessive use of hospital care including by strengthening outpatient care</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.2. Health and social infrastructures</b> is aimed at creating cross-border platforms and networks for provision of health services, including for the remote and disadvantages groups or equipping the health care infrastructure in order to provide adequate health care services, among others.</p>
Public administration	Specific Objectives	
<p>▶ Strengthen governance and the quality of institutions and the public administration, in particular by improving the capacity for strategic and budgetary planning, by increasing the professionalism of the public service through improved human resource management and by strengthening the mechanisms for coordination between the different levels of government.</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy) To improve efficiency of secondary transport networks and basic utilities</p>	<p><b>Indirect – consistency is indirectly identified</b></p> <p>The programme does not tackle the issues regarding public administration. Nevertheless, the justification provided for not dealing with this reflects that the administrative structure of the area does not offer the prospective for such actions. Yet, developing the administrative capacity in planning is tackled by Priority Axes 2 and 3.</p>

Council Recommendations	Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Significantly improve the quality of regulations through the use of impact assessments, and systematic evaluations.</li> </ul>	N/A	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Step up efforts to accelerate the absorption of EU funds in particular by strengthening management and control systems and improving public procurement.</li> </ul>	N/A	

## Annex 4. Partnership Agreement compliance analysis table

Partnership Agreement			Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Thematic Objectives	Development Needs	Proposed Funding Priorities	Consistent Specific Objective	Consistency with the Specific Objective
<p><b>Thematic objective no. 1</b></p> <p>Strengthening research, technological development and innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The creation of a more compact and modern R&amp;D environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supporting private RDI investments and research partnerships between enterprises and research organisations</li> <li>▶ Promoting financial instruments aimed to support the risk of private investment in research and innovation and to stimulate innovative start-ups and spin-offs</li> <li>▶ Developing the public and private research infrastructure, both as part of existing/emerging clusters, centres of excellence and other types of research structures (national / regional / EU), and in specific areas identified as priorities, based on existing potential and/or competitive advantage, such as health</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.2. <i>Health and social Infrastructures</i> includes the following actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint studies and researches for the identification of innovative technological solutions for the organization of effective networks for basic services provision</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural Inclusion</i> includes the following actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Design cross-border actions for social and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups etc.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The promotion of an enterprise and innovation culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Unlocking the potential for excellence in research and innovation by creating synergies with the RDI actions of the programme Horizon 2020</li> <li>▶ Creation and developing of innovation and technology-transfer support infrastructure in the public and private sectors, particularly in Romania's less developed regions, informed by the principles of smart specialization</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Adapting research activities to the needs of farmers and facilitating their access to research and innovation results and quality advisory services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Advisory services to farmers, in order to improve the economic and environmental performance</li> <li>▶ Encouraging the cooperation between farming /agri-business, forestry and food sectors, education, advisory and research in order to use the results in relation to pilot projects, development of new products, practices, processes and technologies, as applied solutions of research and innovation</li> <li>▶ Adapting research activities to the needs of farmers and facilitating their access to research, innovation results and quality advisory services.</li> <li>▶ Setting up operational groups (farmers, researchers, advisors), which will form part of the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability</li> <li>▶ The establishment and use of advisory services for the fisheries sector</li> <li>▶ Collaboration between fisherman/aquaculture farmers and scientists</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural Inclusion</i></b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Design cross-border actions for social, educational and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups etc.</li> <li>▶ Joint actions for a better participation of all social groups, actors and users in the design and delivery of cultural services, educational services, childhood education, and services of general interest.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Thematic objective no. 2</b></p> <p>Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthening the digital business environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to promote ICT adoption by business, including e-commerce applications and innovation</li> <li>▶ Actions to develop e-government instruments for business and citizens (e-government 2.0)</li> <li>▶ Actions to develop cloud computing and social media collaboration technologies</li> <li>▶ Actions to provide modern online public services which ensure interoperability of different non-integrated systems, across sectors, regions and at national level, (increased coordination and efficiency of public resources to be promoted) and access to open standards for increasing transparency and administrative efficiency</li> <li>▶ Actions to ensure secure networks and systems</li> <li>▶ Actions to modernise the customs through improvement of IT systems and equipment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 3.2. Public utilities infrastructure</b> includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development and implementation of locally adapted solutions for investments in public utilities infrastructure (e.g. small-scale water treatment, access to ICT, renewable energy) within the areas facing similar challenges on both sides of the border</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thematic objective no. 3</b></p> <p>Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector and the fisheries and aquaculture sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The continued expansion and growth of manufacturing and high value added services sectors, in particular, automotives; ICT products and services; food and drink processing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to improve the productivity of SMEs and to provide to growth opportunities and innovation</li> <li>▶ Actions to improve access to finance, including through the provision of an appropriate range of financial instruments;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The transformation of Romania's traditional sectors, - health/pharmaceuticals; tourism; textiles/leather; wood/furniture; creative industries; energy/environmental management and in agriculture, forestry and fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to network businesses, to enhance knowledge spillovers and to facilitate their participation in supply chains, including those of international scale;</li> <li>▶ Integrated actions - sites, skills, investment support - to attract investment into Romania's less developed regions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 3.2. Public utilities infrastructure</b> includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up cross-border frameworks, platforms and networks for the exchange of experience and the identification of needs for public services organizations/service providers</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The restructuring, consolidation and on farm diversification in order to improve competitiveness and viability of agricultural holdings; renewal of the age structure in farming and the adoption of modern and innovative production and marketing practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to improve economic performance of farms (including orchards), facilitate farm restructuring and modernization, increase market participation and orientation as well as diversification within agricultural sector, with particular focus on innovation and higher value-added (e.g. on farm renewable energy);</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Attracting young people with the appropriate training in the agricultural sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to facilitate inter-generational change including encouraging the establishment of skilled young farmers</li> <li>▶ Actions to improve and adapt the agricultural and forestry infrastructure such as access roads for agricultural and forestry holdings;</li> <li>▶ Actions to improve access of young people with the appropriate training in the agricultural sector;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The radical improvement to the business environment in terms of the availability of investment finance, the transparency and predictability of policy, the proportionality of administration and regulation, including through improvement to government use of ICTs.</li> <li>▶ Increasing the value added generated by the fruit sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to increase the value added generated by the fruit-growing sector through an integrated approach across the value chain;</li> <li>▶ Actions to improve the economic performance of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain and short supply circuits;;</li> <li>▶ Actions to support growth and modernization of the agri-food industry, enhancing its capacity in adding value to agricultural products, and in meeting European standards and consumer expectations;</li> <li>▶ Actions supporting local processing and marketing of agricultural products</li> <li>▶ Actions to facilitate the access to finance through an appropriate range of financial instruments;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 4.1.</b> Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.2.</b> Growth of the local tourism economy based on enhancement of quality of tourism services, based on a sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage. Enhancing capacities and skills for the improvement of quality and quantity of tourism services and products in common networks and partnerships on the two sided of the border. Improving the quality and sustainability of tourist infrastructure, and the accessibility of the aforementioned resources</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 4.1. <i>Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</i></b> supports the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of a cross-border regional image and brand and joint marketing initiatives</li> <li>▶ Development of distinct tourism products (e.g. monasteries, Roman heritage, wine routes, etc.) and integrated tourism services</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 4.2. <i>Capacity building Initiatives for the Improvement of quality and Innovation of tourism services and products</i></b> includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Support of the creation of common brand and the improvement of quality standards of the services offered</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to support farm risk prevention and management, including through mutual funds</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 2.2. <i>Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</i></b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border liaison in the environmental planning of the involved entities including joint risk mapping of accident risk spots, risk assessment and evaluation exercises</li> <li>▶ Ensuring and promotion of data availability and the integration of management approaches in national and international networks</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The need to focus on creation of employment and growth by the blue economy</li> <li>▶ The improvement to the competitiveness and entrepreneurship in the fisheries and aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Investments in aquaculture: new units, modernization of existing units, diversification of species with demonstrated market potential, improvement of the potential of aquaculture sites;</li> <li>▶ Promotion of new sources of income complementary to the fisheries sector (environment, tourism, education activities);</li> <li>▶ Investment in fishing ports, shelters, landing sites and first sale sites;</li> <li>▶ Improvement of working conditions related to health and safety on board inland and marine fishing vessels;</li> <li>▶ Support for the establishment, organization and functioning of producers processing-marketing chain;</li> <li>▶ Capacity building activities for the implementation of Marine Strategy Framework, Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning in the particular context of sustainable exploitation of marine waters and coastal zones in the Black Sea.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>

<p><b>Thematic objective no. 4</b></p> <p>Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promoting the production and distribution of energy from RES</li> <li>▶ Promoting the use of high-efficiency cogeneration based on useful heat demand</li> <li>▶ Improving energy efficiency by developing smart distribution systems</li> <li>▶ Assuring the sustainability of municipal district heating systems by reducing heat losses on the network</li> <li>▶ Enhancing energy efficiency in the residential and public building stock and the public realm, including in public lighting</li> <li>▶ Improving the energy efficiency of transport, including urban transport systems and the fishing vessels and processing units</li> <li>▶ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural and forestry sectors</li> <li>▶ Enhancing carbon sequestration particularly in agriculture and forestry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promoting the production and distribution of electricity and thermal energy from renewable energy resources (biomass, geothermal, micro hydro);</li> <li>▶ Improving energy efficiency in enterprises by high efficiency low power cogeneration systems rated less than 8MW;</li> <li>▶ Implementation of smart energy distribution low and medium voltage systems;</li> <li>▶ Developing electricity and thermal energy monitoring systems in industrial sites, in order to increase energy efficiency;</li> <li>▶ Improving energy efficiency of residential stock, and to public buildings (building envelope, heat supply/network, lightning, smart metering etc.) to be prioritised on the basis of systematic appraisal taking into account the cost efficient reduction of GHG emissions and societal benefits including addressing energy poverty, financed, where appropriate, through financial instruments and/or energy performance contracting;</li> <li>▶ Promoting investments for public transportation systems for the main municipalities from Romania within the framework of sustainable urban mobility plans, contributing to air quality and energy efficiency;</li> <li>▶ Replacing/improving lighting systems in the public realm, particularly in urban areas financed, where appropriate;</li> <li>▶ Improve the sustainability of municipal district heating systems where these are demonstrably financially sustainable correlated to the renovation thermal insulation of the corresponding buildings;</li> <li>▶ Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy in the agricultural and forestry sectors (by-products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material);</li> <li>▶ Increasing energy efficiency by reduction the primary energy consumption in agriculture, forestry and food processing;</li> <li>▶ Enhancing carbon sequestration through: afforestation, climate-friendly forestry management, agri-environmental practices;</li> <li>▶ Reducing gas emissions in agriculture through: agri-environmental practices and organic farming (by lower use of nitrogen fertilisers, climate-friendly crop rotation, practices, etc.), improved livestock management and treatment of animal wastes;</li> <li>▶ Promoting investment in climate change mitigation/ improving energy efficiency of the fishing vessels and processing units.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 2.1. Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of cross-border frameworks, platforms and networks for the exchange of experience and the identification of needs for entities involved or interested in environmental protection</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of joint training and actions, including awareness programmes for relevant organisations and the general public, including educational institutions in the field of environmental protection and use of natural resources</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of natural resources, biodiversity, technologies for environmental protection, for the identification and transfer of innovations tailored to the local needs</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy, such as usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power for producing electric energy, including investments in infrastructure and equipment based on common and tailored technical solutions</li> <li>▶ Investment in infrastructure and equipment for environmental protection and use of natural resources</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Thematic objective no. 5</b></p> <p>Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving Romania's capacity to anticipate, to prevent and to respond to extreme natural and man-made emergencies</li> <li>▶ Improving Romania's adaptation and resilience to the negative consequences of climate change and, in particular, the increased incidence of extreme heat, drought and flooding events in the Framework of the National Climate Change Strategy.</li> <li>▶ Improving Romania's adaptation and resilience to other natural and man-made risks.</li> <li>▶ Adoption of farming practices to improve resilience to climate change.</li> <li>▶ Increasing efficiency of water use in agriculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Structural and non-structural measures in order to reduce risks and damage based on the risk assessment and in particular from flooding, drought and erosion (including coastal erosion);</li> <li>▶ Set-up and improve the risk monitoring and prevention systems in relation to identified risks;</li> <li>▶ Transnational cooperation in the framework of the Danube macro-regional Strategy and population awareness measures</li> <li>▶ Strengthen technical capacity of GIES;</li> <li>▶ Complete the national system of risk identification and management in the framework of the National Risk Assessment;</li> <li>▶ Agricultural practices to combat climate change through on-farm water storage zones, water-efficient cropping patterns and forest protection belts against erosion;</li> <li>▶ Promoting efficiency in water use in agriculture through investment in more efficient irrigation systems;</li> <li>▶ Conservation of soil and its carbon stock through land management practices such as low tillage, winter crops and afforestation;</li> <li>▶ Maintaining genetic diversity by supporting local crop varieties and livestock breeds which have potential for adaptation to climate change.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 2.2. <i>Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</i></b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of joint structures and partnerships for the integration of the involved entities on initiatives in relation to the Danube Strategy (Danube River Basin Management, ICPDR initiatives, European Floods Alert System etc.), including the investments in infrastructure and equipment</li> <li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border liaison in the environmental planning of the involved entities including joint risk mapping of accident risk spots, risk assessment and evaluation exercises</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring and promotion of data availability and the integration of management approaches in national and international networks</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of networks and partnerships for joint training actions for public entities and local communities in the field of management of environmental emergencies; joint trainings and maintenance of interoperability including the purchase of compatible equipment</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of joint services for the management and control of risks generated by hot spots of industrial pollution</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint actions dedicated to preparing children/ youth to respond to emergency situations, including i.a school camps, trainings</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of joint services for the management and control of risks generated by hot spots of industrial pollution (e.g. ICP Prahovo; industrial poles in Mehedinți County)</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Thematic objective no. 6</b></p> <p>Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The attraction of investment into Romania's less developed regions and into its rural areas through an integrated approach spanning infrastructure, sites, skills, and investment support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Restoration and valorisation of natural and cultural heritage and tourism natural resources including valorisation of the local specific tourism potential, the rehabilitation of historical (urban) areas, sustainable capitalization of the cultural patrimony, measures for urban environment (including rehabilitation of unused and/or degraded public spaces and buildings, sport infrastructure/multifunctional cultural centres);</li> <li>▶ Actions to enhance local development, based upon local cultural products and services, including through e-cultural tools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 4.1.</b> Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 4.1. <i>Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</i></b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Organization of knowledge transfer, exchange of good practice examples, networking and development of innovations for protection of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of a cross-border regional image and brand and joint marketing initiatives,</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of distinct tourism products (e.g. monasteries, Roman heritage, wine routes, etc.) and integrated tourism services</li> <li>▶ Joint implementation of actions recording and promoting shared traditional features (music, language, folklore) including joint cultural events (festivals conferences, etc) in relation to the aforementioned indicative actions.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Thematic objective no. 7</b></p> <p>Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving the accessibility of Romania and its regions and their connectivity with markets thereby significantly reducing the obstacles to their development and diversification in the context of the GTMP</li> <li>▶ Improving the sustainability of Romania's transport mix and the attractiveness alternatives to road-based transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of road infrastructure on core and comprehensive TEN-T network;</li> <li>▶ Development of rail infrastructure on core and comprehensive TEN-T network, including ERTMS equipment and rolling stock acquisition, especially through the completion on TEN-T corridors;</li> <li>▶ Supporting sustainable transport development through traffic safety and security improvement on TEN-T network, for all transport modes;</li> <li>▶ Modernization and development of inter-modal transport, having in view fluidization of freight flows that transit Romania and reducing carbon emissions in urban areas;</li> <li>▶ Modernization and development of maritime and waterway infrastructure on the Danube River and navigable canals, having in view the promotion of an environmental friendly transport system and the potential of inland waterway transport as a blue growth sector. Romania will consider measures to strengthen the role of inland water transport within the TEN-T network;</li> <li>▶ Development of airports where this is justified, for improving connectivity and supporting regional mobility;</li> <li>▶ Modernization of the customs, where justified, through improvement of customs infrastructure, including IT systems and equipment, in order to remove bottlenecks and transit waiting time</li> <li>▶ Increasing accessibility of areas located in proximity of TEN-T network, through construction, rehabilitation and modernization of secondary and tertiary connections to the network, including by-passes, having in view bottlenecks removing and traffic fluidization.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.1.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 3.1. <i>Mobility and transport Infrastructures and services</i></b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships of the involved state authorities for the planning physical infrastructure</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint studies for the preparation of cross-border infrastructure investments with emphasis on multimodal solutions</li> <li>▶ Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of the cross-border crossing points and/ or the road infrastructure leading to the cross-border crossing points</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement/ acceleration of procedures linked to mobility of persons and goods within the eligible area;</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 2.1. <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i></b> includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives and investments in infrastructure and equipment for the implementation of technologies for the control of pollution and rehabilitation of rivers and brown fields and industrial areas with common problems on the two sides of the border</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Thematic objective no. 8</b></p> <p>Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increasing employment opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Setting up active and preventive labour market measures by taking into account specific regional and territorial disparities.</li> <li>▶ Supporting employability actions like individual counselling, work-based training, and encouraging entrepreneurship, taking into account the distinctive structure of employment in Romania.</li> <li>▶ Supporting self-employment actions, entrepreneurship and business creation, including through financial instruments.</li> <li>▶ Creation of new processing units and marketing of agricultural products</li> <li>▶ Creation of new small enterprises through business start-up aid for non-agricultural micro and small enterprises and development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas</li> <li>▶ Promotion of new sources of income outside the sector (environment, tourism, education activities)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is consistent with Thematic Objective no. 8 of the Partnership Agreement, through the following proposed actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETS).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing a multi-dimensional approach (i.e.: designing carrier path, counselling, delivering personalized services, trainings, apprentices/traineeships, job search mechanism, job matching profile etc.) to support re-integration of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) with education, training and employment opportunities.</li> <li>▶ Actions to boost youth employment, prioritizing regions with particularly high youth unemployment, including mobility bonus, financial incentives, careers guidance and enterprise counselling.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> proposes actions aimed at unemployed youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, focusing on women, youth and older workers over 45 years old, Roma, disabled and other vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> A combination of targeted and mainstreaming actions to improve access to the labour market of long term unemployed, inactive, women, older workers, Roma people, disabled people and people with low levels of education and qualification, including those from rural areas.</li> <li>▶ Support for active aging measures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> includes actions aimed at promoting employment and improving access to the labour market for disadvantaged groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/ experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including disadvantaged groups</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reduce regional and territorial disparities and enhance labour mobility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Actions to boost youth employment, prioritizing regions with particularly high youth unemployment, including mobility bonus, financial incentives, careers guidance and enterprise counselling.</li> <li>▶ A combination of targeted and mainstreaming actions to improve access to the labour market of long term unemployed, inactive, women, older workers, Roma people, disabled people and people with low levels of education and qualification, including those from rural areas.</li> <li>▶ Setting up active and preventive labour market measures by taking into account specific regional and territorial disparities.</li> <li>▶ Actions to enhance the adaptability and mobility of labour.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1 <i>Promotion of an efficient and Inclusive labour market</i></b> includes actions aimed at improving labour mobility and the access to the labour market:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment and the removal of obstacles to the access to the labour market by disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives targeting young active people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve alignment of employment and workforce development services with the changing needs of the labour market.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Delivering employment and workforce development services based on the changing needs of the labour market, with a particular focus on growth competitive sectors and/ or the traditional sectors with potential to grow, but also on regional/ local growth potentials (emphasized under the Regional Development Plans).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.1 <i>Promotion of an efficient and Inclusive labour market</i></b> includes the following actions which are consistent with Thematic Objective 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment and the removal of obstacles to the access to the labour market by disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labor markets.</li> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Diversifying the fisheries and aquaculture economy in order to attract employment and business creation in the field.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Support for job-search mechanism and a frame for employability of people affected by industrial restructuring and, in particular, those from agricultural and fishing communities affected by the reduction in employment that is likely to accompany increased competitiveness.</li> <li>▶ Diversification of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, by supporting the creation of new small enterprises and job creation in the field</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Modernizing the PES system and strengthening its administrative capacity to deliver active and preventive employment measures as well as quality services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthening the capacity of PES</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b></p>
<p><b>Thematic objective no. 9</b> Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reducing the incidence of poverty and social exclusion experienced by the identified vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Integrated actions to address the needs of vulnerable persons, groups and communities, including actions to improve their educational participation, their integration in the labour market, their access to housing, social, health care and cultural services, and actions to combat discrimination.</li> <li>▶ Developing a pro-active, volunteer oriented and participative culture within general public and social assisted persons and encouraging partnership-based approaches in tackling poverty.</li> <li>▶ Enhancing public awareness, information and education on health and social issues, including discrimination against Roma, prevention of domestic violence, substance abuse and human trafficking.</li> <li>▶ Promoting social responsibility by enhancing public awareness, dissemination of information and good practices.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.3</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b> The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.3. Social and cultural inclusion</b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of cross-border frameworks, and networks for the strengthening of the cross-border cultural exchange</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Design cross-border actions for social, educational and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups etc.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving the accessibility and quality of social services, particularly in rural areas and in deprived urban areas, and enhancing their contribution to combating poverty, social exclusion and social problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing an equitable, sustainable, affordable and high quality social assistance system, benefits and social services for all vulnerable groups, including preventive, integrated and innovative types of services in order to address poverty and social inclusion issues, spanning technical development and improving the skills and competences of professionals and practitioners in local government, in other public agencies and NGOs</li> <li>▶ Strengthen the capacity of public and private service providers to deliver quality community-based care services for children, persons with disabilities, people with mental problems and elderly (especially in lagging areas)..</li> <li>▶ Exploiting innovative potential of social economy models (including sheltered employment for vulnerable persons) to address societal challenges and/ or to support labour market integration of vulnerable groups and their transition to the business models, the development of local services where market models fail to deliver, thereby creating employment and social inclusion.</li> <li>▶ Development of social services infrastructure, focusing on community based infrastructure</li> <li>▶ Supporting the transition from institutional to community-based care services, delivered by public and private social services providers including targeted support for infrastructure needed for integrated community care centres (e.g. protected houses)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.3</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of cross-border frameworks, and networks for the strengthening of the cross-border cultural exchange</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Design cross-border actions for social, educational and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups etc.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving the basic infrastructure &amp; access to services in order to promote economic development and reduce poverty in rural settlements, including fisheries areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Fostering local development in rural areas through investments in small-scale infrastructure, and in setting up/improving local basic services for the rural population (eg. social and educational infrastructure including those in the agricultural field and investments associated with the cultural heritage preservation)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following action under <b>Specific objective 1.2. Health and social Infrastructures</b> is consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <p>Set up of cross-border platforms and networks for planning and provision of health and social services, targeting also remote communities and disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 3.2. Public utilities infrastructure</b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up cross-border frameworks, platforms and networks for the exchange of experience and the identification of needs for public services organizations/service providers</li> </ul> <p>Specific objective 3.1. <i>Mobility and transport infrastructures and services</i> includes the actions such as <i>Improvement/ acceleration of procedures linked to mobility of persons and goods within the eligible area;</i></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving social inclusion of people living in rural areas or urban pockets facing high level of deprivation by using targeted approaches through applying LEADER or Community-led local development models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban areas, including in the framework of Community-led Local Development, including support for social economy</li> <li>▶ Promoting LEADER community-led local development strategies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.1</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 3.1. <i>Mobility and transport Infrastructures and services</i></b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships of the involved state authorities for the planning physical infrastructure;</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Creation, rehabilitation/ modernization of information/promotion centres on cross-border economic cooperation;</li> <li>▶ Improvement/ acceleration of procedures linked to mobility of persons and goods within the eligible area;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving health outcomes, particularly in relation to maternal and neonatal health and the five pathologies which account for the majority of adult morbidity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enhancing access to quality health care and treatments, including emergency care, primary care, development of integrated medical and social care services, including at community level, with focus on the services provided in ambulatory settings and developing integrated primary health care specialist with telemedicine support.</li> <li>▶ Providing screening programmes for the main five pathologies (e.g.: cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, mental illness, rare diseases).</li> <li>▶ Enhancing knowledge and skills within health professionals as a prerequisite to increase the quality of services</li> <li>▶ Investments in hospitals and other public health infrastructure (e.g. ambulatory/outpatient services, multifunctional centers)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.2. <i>Health and social Infrastructures</i></b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of cross-border platforms and networks for planning and provision of health and social services, targeting also remote communities and disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint studies and researches for the identification of innovative technological solutions for the organization of effective networks for basic services provision</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of monitoring services for the identification of needs and the quantification of demands for new social and health services generated by demographic and social dynamics, like aging, and migration</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Construction, rehabilitation, modernization (including procurement of equipment) of health centres, hospitals and health services improvement</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving the system efficiency through the use of information and communication (IT&amp;C) technology instruments in the framework of e-health, e-social assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing an equitable, sustainable, affordable and high quality social assistance system, benefits and social services for all vulnerable groups, including preventive, <b>integrated and innovative types of services in order to address poverty and social inclusion issues</b>, spanning technical development and improving the skills and competences of professionals and practitioners in local government, in other public agencies and NGOs</li> <li>▶ Enhancing access to quality health care and treatments, including emergency care, primary care, development of <b>integrated medical and social care services, including at community level</b>, with focus on the services provided in ambulatory settings and developing integrated primary health care specialist with telemedicine support.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.2. Health and social Infrastructures</b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of cross-border platforms and networks for planning and provision of health and social services, targeting also remote communities and disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint studies and researches for the identification of innovative technological solutions for the organization of effective networks for basic services provision</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of monitoring services for the identification of needs and the quantification of demands for new social and health services generated by demographic and social dynamics, like aging, and migration</li> <li>▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction, rehabilitation, modernization (including procurement of equipment) of health centres, hospitals and health services improvement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thematic objective no. 10</b> - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving the access, participation and good quality of ECEC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increase participation, affordability and quality of early childhood education and care (0-6 years old), particularly in the age group 0-3 years old, especially for groups at increased risk of ESL, focusing on rural areas and Roma.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No Specific Objective was Identified</b></p>	<p><b>NO – consistency is not identified</b></p> <p>There are no actions aiming specifically at the education improvement of 0-6 year olds.</p>

lifelong learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strengthening accessibility, quality and learning achievements in compulsory education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Implementing preventive, intervention and compensation measures to reduce ESL, including individualized support for pupils at risk of ESL; integration of equal opportunities and inclusion measures, incorporating wrap-around support (mentoring, financial, etc.) to ensure its effectiveness;</li> <li>▶ Supporting the educational infrastructure and resources development in ECEC, primary and secondary education, particularly those from disadvantaged areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> supports activities in the field of ESL, respectively <i>Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among disadvantaged groups</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increasing the attractiveness of primary and secondary education, including IVET</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Offering alternative education pathways, such as “second chance” education and training, focusing on rural areas and Roma; supporting intervention measures to address individual educational needs of groups at increased risk of ESL;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> supports activities in the field of reducing ESL, respectively <i>Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among disadvantaged groups</i></p>



<p>▶ Intensive interventions to address the educational needs of groups at risk of exclusion (children from social and economic disadvantaged backgrounds, Roma, SEN, etc.)</p>	<p>▶ Improving competences of teaching staff in relation to quality assurance, innovative and personalized teaching methods.</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market.</li> </ul>
	<p>▶ Supporting non-traditional students particularly those from rural areas, Roma and other disadvantaged groups, as well as adults presently aged between 23 and 27 to access, participate and succeed in tertiary education</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> supports activities in order to increase access to tertiary education, respectively <i>Creation of partnerships for joint actions for the promotion of access to tertiary education, through information, mentoring and tutoring services offered specially to students completing secondary education.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving quality and relevance of VET (both IVET and CVT) and tertiary education to labour market needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Better matching initial and continuing VET with LM needs, ensuring relevance of the training offer, including through work based learning, giving priority to growth competitive sectors and/or the traditional sectors with potential to grow, but also on the regional/ local growth potentials (emphasised under the Regional Development Plans), promoting partnerships among relevant stakeholders for ensuring a better transition from school to work;</li> <li>▶ Supporting the educational infrastructure and resources development of IVET, focusing mainly on the growth competitive sectors and/or the traditional sectors with potential to grow, but also on the regional/ local growth potentials (emphasised under the Regional Development Plans).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1 Employment and labour mobility</b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. Social and cultural inclusion</b> supports activities in order to increase access to tertiary education, respectively <i>Creation of partnerships for joint actions for the promotion of access to tertiary education, through information, mentoring and tutoring services offered specially to students completing secondary education.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enhancing access to and supporting participation in tertiary education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve governance and management of higher education institutions to improve the quality of teaching and research; increasing relevance of higher education programmes for the LM needs and strengthening the partnerships between universities, business and research;</li> <li>▶ Modernizing tertiary education through development of post-graduate studies and supporting internationalization of higher education, including advanced research and mobility;</li> <li>▶ Supporting the educational infrastructure and resources development of tertiary education, particularly those which will assure a better linkage with research and/ or cooperation with the business sector</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. Social and cultural inclusion</b> supports activities in order to increase access to tertiary education, respectively <i>Creation of partnerships for joint actions for the promotion of access to tertiary education, through information, mentoring and tutoring services offered specially to students completing secondary education.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enhancing access and quality of learning provision for adults, with focus on relevant basic and transversal skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developing human resources in public and Higher Education-based R&amp;D institutions; supporting higher level skills development in SMEs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1 Employment and labour mobility</b> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training (short term/initial training) in the agriculture, and food sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supporting measures to promote quality and accessibility of VET, strengthening the capacity of IVT and CVT providers to deliver VET programs correlated with the LM demands.</li> <li>▶ Encouraging and facilitating the participation of employers in workforce development, including by involving them in the organization, implementation and assessment of practical stages /trainings for students</li> <li>▶ Development of LLL services, providing training and education in basic and transversal competences including digital skills, counselling and validation of prior learning, focusing on low skills and rural areas, including through the validation of non-formal and informal learning;</li> <li>▶ Support for information, vocational training (short term/initial training) and skills acquisitions for farmers and for those involved in food sector;</li> <li>▶ Support for demonstration activities to transfer knowledge about new practices in the agri-food sector</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>The following actions under Specific objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Exploiting ICT in education as a force for modernization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Enhancing curricula and better integration of ICTs to make learning attractive in schools and IVET, providing opportunities for young people enrolled in compulsory education to get acquainted with the future jobs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>The following actions under Specific objective 1.1 <i>Employment and labour mobility</i> are consistent with Thematic Objective 10:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Thematic objective no. 11</b></p> <p>Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improving decision-making process and the efficiency of public expenditures at all levels</li> <li>▶ Reforming the human resources management in public institutions</li> <li>▶ Reducing bureaucracy for businesses and citizens</li> <li>▶ Opening the administration - enhanced transparency, integrity, accessibility and accountability of government and public services;</li> <li>▶ Enhancing capacity at all levels for increasing quality and accessibility of public services throughout the territory of Romania</li> <li>▶ Enhancing administrative and financial capacity at national, regional and local level to implement actions in pursuit of Romania's development goals;</li> <li>▶ Developing coordination mechanisms among public institutions for better coordination of reform actions both horizontally and vertically</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Support the development and implementation of systems and procedures for strategic documents and policy coordination, with a particular focus on strategies and national policies;</li> <li>▶ Increasing the capacity of local administration to formulate and support local public policies;</li> <li>▶ Support the development for monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implemented strategies and policies;</li> <li>▶ Developing skills in the areas of strategic planning and budgetary programming, impact assessment and monitoring and evaluation (e.g. Training and methodologies, data-bases for indicators);</li> <li>▶ Strengthening participatory dimension, development of consultation and participation mechanisms in decision-making;</li> <li>▶ Developing, introducing and supporting the use of management, monitoring and evaluation systems and tools for an improved institutional and public services performance and change of organizational culture;</li> <li>▶ Training for improving skills in public policy process provided by public and private providers;</li> <li>▶ Create and implement an integrated strategic framework for human resources management in public sector and raise the professionalism and attractiveness of the public administration;</li> <li>▶ Support for measuring administrative burden, transfer of know-how and best practices;</li> <li>▶ Actions to rationalize, increase the quality of regulations and to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on businesses and citizens;</li> <li>▶ Increase capacity of public administration to introduce performance management, monitoring and evaluation systems and mechanisms for public services delivery including for those sub-contracted;</li> <li>▶ Promoting good practice related to the delivery of public services and encouraging exchange of experience/networking site between public and private entities providing public services, including stakeholders</li> <li>▶ Strengthen the participation mechanisms to deliver efficient public services at local level (e.g. diversification of service delivery through – co-operation with non-governmental bodies, inter-communitary cooperation mechanisms for citizens scrutinizing public service delivery performance );</li> <li>▶ Developing modern management systems and tools for increasing performance in public institutions at all levels (e.g. Develop and implement quality management in public institutions;</li> <li>▶ Ensuring a performing strategic management of the judicial system;</li> </ul> <p>Support innovative measures for further facilitating access to justice and improving the quality of justice, including measuring of public trust;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Investments in the physical and IT infrastructure of the justice system</li> <li>▶ Support to improve the capacity of anti-corruption administrative national system and independent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;</li> <li>▶ Support for enhancing integrity within judiciary through risk based analyses and tailor made preventive programs;</li> <li>▶ Strengthening the overall efficiency of the national system for tracing, managing and recovering assets originating from crime;</li> <li>▶ Developing and use of IT tools and applications to enhance institutional capacity and efficiency at all levels of public administration.</li> <li>▶ Developing a national cadastral system to provide certainty of title, promotion of land reform and effective land consolidation in support of Romania's development goals</li> </ul>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
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## Annex 5. National Reform Programme for Romania - 2014 compliance analysis table

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
Employment	<p><b>Improving the participation to the labour market:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) subsidising employers</li> <li>b) providing mobility grants, including for the long term unemployed</li> <li>c) evaluation and certification of competences acquired in informal, non-formal education and training for early school leavers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a)The Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme includes actions aimed at improving the access to the labour market. However, subsidising employers is not specifically mentioned.</p> <p>b) <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul> <p>c)The same Specific objective 1.1 includes the following action which is consistent with the measures of the NRP:</p>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul>
	<b>Reforming EURES network</b> a) Coordinating the national employment network	N/A	<b>N/A</b> a) Not applicable at regional level
	<b>Increasing the adaptability and permanent development of the labour force correlated with the structural changes of the labour market:</b> a) Creating analysis/studies/ regular forecasts regarding LM's evolutions	N/A	<b>N/A</b> a) Not applicable at regional level
	<b>Enhance the capacity of the National Employment Agency to increase the efficiency and effectiveness, including the outreach services provided to beneficiaries:</b> a) adapting the National PES' IT system to include a database of registered NEETs b) outsourcing employment services provided by National PES to private suppliers	N/A	<b>N/A</b> a) Not applicable at regional level b) Not applicable at regional level
	<b>Reducing regional economic disparities and creating new jobs:</b> a) Creating state aid schemes to support investments promoting regional development and new jobs	N/A	<b>N/A</b> a) Not applicable at regional level
Research, development, innovation	<b>Promoting RDI activities from economic sectors with growth potential and public relevance:</b> a) Developing RDI activities in the private sector through stimulating innovative start-ups and spin-offs b) Developing human resources from potential growth sectors by attracting highly skilled foreign researchers and creating the <i>Romanian Researchers Register</i> c) Training of researchers and engineers in the area of industrial and intellectual property rights to improve the technological transfer	<b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth  <b>Specific Objective 1.1</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area	<b>Partially – The consistency is partially identified</b> a) The Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme does not include actions aimed at RDI development b) <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> includes the following actions: <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/ experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> c) The same <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> includes the following action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job</li> </ul>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
			<p>seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</p> <p>However, the trainings for engineers and researchers are not specifically mentioned.</p>
	<p><b>Increasing the efficiency of RDI investments</b></p> <p>a) Transferring the research institutes from ministries and NGOs to Ministry of Education</p> <p>b) Creating a national road map regarding RDI infrastructures</p> <p>c) Creating the guideline for establishing a standardize structure of research units' annual reports</p> <p>d) Promoting access to scientific literature for all research organizations</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 4.</b> Attractiveness for sustainable tourism</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1</b></p> <p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>c) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>d) The following action under <b>Specific objective 4.1 Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</b> is consistent with the measure of the NRP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Organization of knowledge transfer, exchange of good practice examples, networking and development of innovations for protection of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism</li> </ul>
Climate change and energy	<p><b>Improving the protection system against the risk of flooding</b></p> <p>a) Improving hydrological forecasts</p> <p>b) Increasing the awareness and information level of population</p> <p>c) Expanding and modernising the specific infrastructure works</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 2.</b> Environmental protection and risk management</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on</p>	<p><b>YES- consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a) The following actions under <b>Specific objective 2.2. Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</b> are consistent with the measures provided in the NRP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of joint structures and partnerships for the integration of the involved entities on initiatives in relation to the Danube Strategy (Danube River Basin Management, ICPDR initiatives, European Floods Alert System etc.), including the investments in infrastructure and equipment</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment and enhancement of cross border liaison in the environmental planning of the involved entities including joint risk mapping of accident risk spots, risk assessment and evaluation exercises</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of networks and partnerships for joint training actions for</li> </ul>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
		<p>environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p>	<p>public entities and local communities in the field of management of environmental emergencies; joint trainings and maintenance of interoperability including the purchase of compatible equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of joint services for the management and control of risks generated by hot spots of industrial pollution</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint actions dedicated to preparing children/ youth to respond to emergency situations, including i.a school camps, trainings</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Investments in infrastructure and equipment for risk management and emergency preparedness</li> </ul> <p>b) The actions under <b>Specific objective 2.1. Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b> are consistent with the measures provided in the NRP, among which the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of natural resources, biodiversity, technologies for environmental protection, for the identification and transfer of innovations tailored to the local needs</li> <li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy, such as usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power for producing electric energy, including investments in infrastructure and equipment based on common and tailored technical solutions</li> </ul> <p>c) The actions applying to <b>Specific objective 2.1. Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b> described at point b) are consistent with the measures envisaged by NRP.</p>
	<p><b>Starting operationalization of the National Strategy on Climate Change 2013-2020</b></p> <p>a) Develop National Action Plan on Climate Change</p> <p>b) Conduct a study to create the institutional framework on the application of the provisions of Decision NO. 406/2009/EC (Effort Sharing decision – reducing GES emissions)</p>	N/A	<p>N/A</p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) Not applicable at regional level</p>
	<b>Reduction of GHG emissions in aviation</b>	N/A	N/A



National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
	a) Accreditation of Henri Coanda International Airport according to CO2 emissions management certification standards set out in the Accreditation Programme of CO2 levels for Airports		a) Not applicable
	<b>Improving the efficiency of support systems for renewable energy</b> a) Develop methodology for the annual mandatory quota of green certificates b) Periodic assessment (annual) of specific indicators for the analysis of the over-compensation system to promote green certificates	N/A	N/A a) Not applicable at regional level b) Not applicable at regional level
	<b>Renewable energy sources' capitalization</b> a) Implement a funding mechanism on realising initial investments and upgrading hydropower plants b) Implement a funding mechanism on realising initial investments and upgrading thermal energy plants that use geothermal energy	<b>Priority Axis 2.</b> Environmental protection and risk management  <b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b>  Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources	<b>YES – consistency is identified</b> a) The implementation of a funding mechanism and upgrading power plants is not specifically mentioned. However, the following action under <b>Specific objective 2.1. Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b> is consistent with the measure of the NRP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power for producing electric energy, including investments in infrastructure based on common and tailored technical solutions</li></ul> b) The funding mechanism implementation is not specifically mentioned in the Strategy. However the following action under <b>Specific objective 2.1. Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b> is consistent with the NRP measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power for producing electric energy, including investments in infrastructure based on common and tailored technical solutions</li></ul>
	<b>Improving energy efficiency</b> a) Improving energy efficiency in transport b) Develop sale pricing methodology and takeover conditions for electricity	<b>Priority Axis 2.</b> Environmental protection and risk management	<b>YES – consistency is identified</b> a) Not applicable at regional level b) Not applicable at regional level

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
	<p>produced in high efficiency cogeneration and delivered from low power CHP plants and microcogeneration plants</p> <p>c) Completing the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency III</p> <p>d) Developing the Annual Progress Report on the national energy efficiency goals</p>	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p>	<p>c) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>d)The following action under <b>Specific objective 2.2. Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</b> is consistent with the NRP measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ensuring and promotion of data availability and the integration of management approaches in national and international networks</li> </ul>
Education	<p><b>Continuing reforms in education and training to ensure an education adapted to the labour market needs and centered on personal and social development</b></p> <p>a) Developing ECEC by clarifying from a legal perspective the structure and responsibilities of ECEC integrated services to gradually become universal services</p> <p>b) Modernising school curriculum and improving pupils' evaluation system, as well as TVET competences</p> <p>c) Strengthening access to digital resources and instruments in compulsory education</p> <p>d) Strengthening TVET</p> <p>e) Creating an impact assessment mechanism of reforms, including by increasing the capacity of Ministry of Education to collect and process data from systems.</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>c)The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> are consistent with the NRP measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. Social and cultural inclusion</b> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of cross-border frameworks, and networks for the strengthening of the cross-border cultural exchange;</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.2. Health and social Infrastructures</b> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint studies and researches for the identification of innovative technological solutions for the organization of effective networks for basic services provision</li> </ul> <p>c) Not applicable at regional level</p>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
		an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas	d) Not applicable at regional level
	<p><b>Ensuring openness of education and training system to all youngsters and equal access to education, especially for groups with particular risks</b></p> <p>a) Finalising, approving and implementing the national Strategy to reduce ESL</p> <p>b) Implementing ESL prevention and intervention measures (SAS programmes)</p> <p>c) Implementing compensation measures for disadvantaged groups (SC programmes)</p> <p>d) Consolidating social package for education targeting pupils belonging to groups high particular risks</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> are consistent with the NRP measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> <p>c)The following actions under <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> are consistent with the NRP measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market</li> </ul> <p>However, compensations are not specifically mentioned.</p> <p>d) Not applicable at regional level</p>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
	<p><b>Ensuring an open, qualitative, competitive higher education adapted to the labour market</b></p> <p>a) Finalising, approving and implementing the national Strategy for Tertiary Education</p> <p>b) Supporting students from rural areas, disadvantaged groups and non-traditional students to participate in higher education through grants, scholarships, grants to Erasmus students from rural areas etc</p> <p>c) Consolidating monitoring instruments of inserting graduates on the labour market in order to create forecasting studies and to disseminate them</p> <p>d) Consolidating an IT strategic system for higher education to fundament educational policies</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) <b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market</li> <li>▶ Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labour markets.</li> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> <li>▶ Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>▶ Design cross-border actions for social, educational and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups etc.</li> </ul> <p>c) <b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> supports the insertion of graduates on the labour market.</p> <p>d) The Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme does not expressly mention the consolidation of the IT system for higher education</p>
	<p><b>Creating and developing an open and accessible LLL framework</b></p> <p>a) Finalising the LLL National Strategy</p> <p>b) Developing the qualification system in Romania</p> <p>c) Enhancing students' mobility education and training systems</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</p>	<p><b>YES– consistency is identified</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) Not applicable at regional level</p>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
	d) Creating the institutional framework for LLL	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p>c) <b>Specific objective 1.1. Employment and labour mobility</b> includes the following action which is consistent with the NRP measure, students being targeted in an indirect manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> <p>c) Not applicable at regional level</p>
Social Inclusion/ poverty reduction	<p><b>Modernising the social care system</b></p> <p>a) Managing financial management processes, funding and monitoring using only the SAFIR programme</p> <p>b) Implementing the National electronic register for people with disabilities (RENPH)</p> <p>c) Modernising the assessment system of persons with disabilities</p>	N/A	<p>N/A</p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>c) Not applicable at regional level</p>
	<p><b>Improving efficiency and financial sustainability of the health system</b></p> <p>a) Completion of centralized public procurement system for ten main groups of drugs</p> <p>b) Develop costs' benchmark for providing services in hospitals</p> <p>c) Develop the assessment capacity of health technology</p>	N/A	<p>N/A</p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>b) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>c) Not applicable at regional level</p>
	<p><b>Managing health and medical infrastructure at regional level</b></p> <p>a) Modernisation of health services' infrastructure</p>	<p><b>Priority Axis 1.</b> Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.2</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to</p>	<p><b>YES - consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1.2. Health and social infrastructures</b> includes the following actions which are aimed towards the modernisation of the health services' infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Set up of cross-border platforms and networks for planning and provision of health and social services, targeting also remote communities and disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul>

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
		modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education	
<b>Priority reforms</b>			
	<p><b>Increasing the efficiency and transparency of the public administration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continuing decentralization</li> <li>b) Redefinition of the strategic, institutional and legislative framework in the area of public management, according to the national programmatic and strategic approved documents</li> <li>c) Organizing specialized training programs</li> <li>d) Defining regulations for quality control mechanisms</li> </ul> <p><b>Improving national housing conditions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Develop National Strategy Habitation.</li> <li>b) Develop the legal framework for the establishment, organization and functioning of homeowners associations and condominiums' management</li> <li>c) Develop a housing law</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Not applicable at regional level</li> <li>b) Not applicable at regional level</li> <li>c) Not applicable at regional level</li> <li>d) Not applicable at regional level</li> </ul> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Not applicable at regional level</li> <li>b) Not applicable at regional level</li> <li>c) Not applicable at regional level</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Improving the management of EU funds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Review and implementation of The priority measures' plan to strengthen the absorption capacity of structural and cohesion funds</li> </ul> <p><b>Continue the reform of the public procurement system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Adopting the national strategy on public procurement for the period 2014-2020</li> <li>b) Implementing measures of the 2014 Action Plan of the National Strategy on public procurement</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Not applicable at regional level</li> </ul> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Not applicable at regional level</li> <li>b) Not applicable at regional level</li> </ul>
	<b>Improving the business environment</b>	N/A	N/A

National Reform Programme		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives and Measures	Priorities	Consistency
	<p><b>Diversification of financial instruments to support SMEs capable of rapid development</b></p> <p>a) Creating a network of business angels b) Implementation of Program for Romanian –Swiss SMEs</p> <p><b>Strengthening the guarantee and counter-guarantee instruments to stimulate investments in strategic sectors</b></p> <p>a) The launch and implementation of the JEREMIE instrument to guarantee the interest subsidy and credit risk taking</p> <p><b>Developing mentoring to support SMEs in accessing financial instruments</b></p> <p>a) Launching and implementing the SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT b) Establishing the “credit” mediator institution</p> <p><b>Increase the technological capacity of firms</b></p> <p>a) Tax exemption on reinvested profits to purchase high-tech equipment</p> <p><b>Simplifying administrative procedure and cutting red tape for entrepreneurs</b></p> <p>a) Restructuring stop shop and PCU b) Simplification of formalities for setting up businesses / operating licenses c) The development of online services offered by NTC businesses, citizens and public institutions</p> <p><b>Improve the promotion and development of exports by SMEs (as contained in the RST 7 and the MoU signed with COM)</b></p> <p>a) Adoption and implementation of the National Export Strategy 2014-2020</p>	N/A	<p>a) Not applicable at regional level b) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level b) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level b) Not applicable at regional level c) Not applicable at regional level</p> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <p>a) Not applicable at regional level</p>

## Annex 6. EU Strategy for the Danube Region compliance analysis table

EU Strategy for the Danube Region		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Priority Areas		
Connecting the Danube Region	To improve mobility and multimodality: (a) Inland Waterways (b) Road, rail and air links	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.1</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1. <i>Mobility and transport infrastructures and services</i></b> is aimed at enhancing the integration of local transport infrastructures and services in the main European transport corridors, especially the waterways connected to the Danube corridor.</p> <p><b>However, the rail and air links are not specifically mentioned.</b></p>
	To encourage more sustainable energy	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2. <i>Public utilities infrastructure</i></b> is aimed at improving the accessibility to a modern and efficient public utilities, including energy.</p>
	To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.1</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1</b></p> <p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1. <i>Mobility and transport infrastructures and services</i></b> is aimed at improving the tourist mobility through developing new services and infrastructure and supporting the population's mobility for economic, social and cultural activities by improving technologies and infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1. <i>Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</i></b> and <b>4.2. <i>Capacity building initiatives for the improvement of quality and innovation of tourism services and products</i></b> is aimed at promoting tourism and cultural activities, touristic networks across the border, as well improving the information and knowledge on natural and cultural resources</p>
Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region	To restore and maintain the quality of waters	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1. <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i></b> is aimed at promoting investments in small infrastructures and equipment which will contribute to the rehabilitation of</p>



EU Strategy for the Danube Region		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Priority Areas		
		and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources	rivers and at preventing floods and landslides by restoring natural areas, including river banks.
	To manage environmental risks	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.2</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.2. <i>Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</i></b> is aimed at supporting activities which manage environmental risks and prepare public authorities and volunteer organizations for emergency situations.</p>
	To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1. <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i></b> is aimed at promoting partnerships and networks of research institutions in the field of natural resources, biodiversity, technologies for environmental protection and restoring natural areas to prevent floods and landslides.</p>
<b>Building Prosperity in the Danube Region</b>	To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>All three Specific Objectives</b> under Priority Axis 1, respectively <b>Specific objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b>, <b>Specific objective 1.2 <i>Health and social Infrastructures</i></b> and <b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural Inclusion</i></b> are aimed at providing tailored assistance to young persons completing an educational cycle in order to better access the labour market and promoting joint studies and researches for the identification of innovative technological solutions for the organization of effective networks for basic services provision.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2. <i>Public utilities Infrastructure</i></b> is aimed at decreasing the access obstacles to IT services.</p>

EU Strategy for the Danube Region		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Priority Areas		
		standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)	
	To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.3</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>PARTIALLY – consistency is partially identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> is aimed at supporting social enterprises which focus on social and cultural inclusion</p> <p><b>However, the Strategy focuses on particular types of enterprises and does not envisage activities aimed at supporting cluster development or links between centres of excellence.</b></p>
	To invest in people and skills	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.1. <i>Employment and labour mobility</i></b> is aimed at increasing and promoting the access to the labour market, the assistance provided by professional associations, at providing tailored assistance to young persons completing an educational cycle in order to better access the labour market.</p> <p>Moreover, the <b>Specific objective 1.3. <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i></b> is aimed at supporting initiatives for social and cultural inclusion and strengthening cross-border cultural exchange.</p>
<b>Strengthening the Danube Region</b>	To step up institutional capacity and cooperation	<p><b>Specific Objective 5.1</b></p> <p>The promotion of an effective and efficient implementation of the Programme ensuring the effective functioning of the Programme bodies, and committees</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 5.1</b> is aimed at supporting the cooperation and coordination between Programme bodies and Partner States, as well as with bodies and representatives of other relevant EU-co-funded programmes, and supporting the programme management of the Managing Authority.</p>
	To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

## Annex 7. National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016) of the Republic of Serbia compliance analysis table

National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016)		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Domain	Objectives	Specific Objective	Consistency
Political	1.1 Democracy and the rule of law	Not applicable	Not applicable
	1.2 Human Rights and the Protection of Minorities	Not applicable	Not applicable
	1.3 Regional Cooperation and International obligations	Specific Objective 1.1	<p>▶ <b>Regional Cooperation - YES</b></p> <p>The Specific Objectives of <b>Romania-Serbia IPA CBC programme are overall consistent with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.</b></p> <p>▶ <b>International obligations – N/A</b></p>
	▶ Regional Cooperation	Specific Objective 1.2	
	▶ International obligations	Specific Objective 1.3	
		Specific Objective 2.1	
		Specific Objective 2.2	
		Specific Objective 3.1	
		Specific Objective 3.2	
		Specific Objective 4.1	
	Specific Objective 4.2		
	Specific Objective 5.1		
Economic	2.1 The existence of a functioning market economy	Not applicable	Not applicable
	2.2 Ability to face competitive pressure and open-market forces within EU	Specific Objective 1.1	<p>▶ <b>Human Resources – YES</b></p> <p>Specific Objectives 1.1 and 1.3 of <b>Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme is overall consistent provisions of the Serbian National Plan, in terms of measures directed at Labour Market, Employment, Unemployment and Education</b></p>
▶ Human Resources	Specific Objective 1.3		

National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (2013-2016)		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Ability to assume the obligations of EU Membership	3.1 Free movement of goods	Not applicable	Not applicable
	3.2 Freedom of movement for workers		
	3.3 Right of establishment and freedom to provide services		
	(...)		
	3.33 Financial and budget provisions		

## Annex 8. Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020) compliance analysis table

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
<b>1. Democracy and governance</b>	1.1 Support Serbia's ongoing public administration reform efforts	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	1.2 Support Serbia becoming a functioning market economy by enhancing Serbia's economic policy and its governance	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	1.3 Support Serbia with a comprehensive public finance management reform	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	1.4 Support Serbia meeting the EU requirements on budgetary frameworks, public procurement and internal control and external audit	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
	1.5 Support both normalisation of the relations with Kosovo and legislative alignment and institution-building in political and administrative areas	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	1.6 Enhance administrative capacity for the EU funds management and investment project preparation both at the central and local level.	<p><b>Specific Objective 5.1.</b></p> <p>The promotion of an effective and efficient implementation of the Programme ensuring the effective functioning of the Programme bodies, and committees</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 5.1</b> is aimed at strengthening the management capacity of the Managing Authority along with the Joint Technical Secretariat and establishing co-operation and co-ordination networks and contacts among Programme bodies and Partner States, as well as with bodies and representatives of other relevant EU-co-funded programmes by MA, JTS, FLC.</p>
	1.7 Promote an environment that is conducive to civil society activities	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>All the Specific Objectives under Priority Axis 1 - Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth, Priority Axis 2 - Environmental protection and risk management, Priority Axis 3 - Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility and Priority Axis 4 - Attractiveness for sustainable tourism</b> are supporting activities which aim at involving the civil society in the following Specific objectives: employment and labour mobility, health and social infrastructure, social and cultural inclusion, environmental protection, transport infrastructure and services and tourism services and activities.</p>

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
		<p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1.</b></p> <p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.2.</b></p> <p>Growth of the local tourism economy based on enhancement of quality of tourism services, based on a sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage. Enhancing capacities and skills for the improvement of quality and quantity of tourism services and products in common networks and partnerships on the two sided of the border. Improving the quality and</p>	

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
		sustainability of tourist infrastructure, and the accessibility of the aforementioned resources	
	1.8 Build the capacity of civil society organisations to be effective and accountable independent actors	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>2. Rule of law and fundamental rights</b>	2.1. In the judiciary and fundamental rights sub-sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Harmonise Serbia's legislation with the acquis and the EU standards</li> <li>▶ Build capacity for implementation and enforcement</li> <li>▶ Improve democratisation of media and freedom of expression.</li> </ul>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	2.2. In the Home affairs sub-sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Harmonise Serbia's legislation with the acquis</li> <li>▶ Build capacity for implementation and enforcement, especially by supporting implementation of the action plan</li> </ul>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>3. Environment</b>	3.1. Align Serbian legislation with the EU environmental and climate	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>



Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
	change acquis		
	3.2. Strengthen institutional capacities for implementation and enforcement	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	3.3. Develop and improve environmental infrastructure, especially in the areas of waste management, water management and urban wastewater treatment	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>Specific Objective 2.1 - Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</b> and <b>Specific Objective 2.2 - Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness</b> are aimed at improving the environmental infrastructure, especially in the field of <b>water management</b>.</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2 - Public utilities infrastructure</b> is aimed at supporting activities focusing on <b>waste management</b>. Moreover in the project selection phase, the promotion of the sustainable development will represent a selection criterion (e.g contribution to an efficient waste management, waste-water treatment and water reuse).</p>
<b>4. Transport</b>	4.1.Align the Serbian transport legislation with the acquis	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	4.2.Improve implementation and enforcement capacity	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
	4.3.Enhance regional cooperation in line with the South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) priorities	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	4.4.Promote sustainable and low-carbon transport	<p><b>Specific Objective 3.1.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>Specific Objectives 3.1 and 3.2 - <i>Promoting sustainable transport</i> and <i>Improving public infrastructures</i> are aimed at promoting activities which will contribute to a sustainable and low-carbon transport.</p>
	4.5.Contribute to the rail reform process.	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>5. Energy</b>	5.1. Increase energy efficiency and competitiveness of the Serbian energy market	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>Specific Objective 2.1 - <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i> and Specific Objective 3. - <i>Public utilities infrastructure</i> are aimed at supporting activities <b>focusing on energy efficiency</b>. The impact on the Serbian energy market through these types of projects will be indirect and will thus lead to an increased economic competitiveness at national level.</p>
	5.2. Improve security of supply (also in the regional	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
	context)		
	5.3.Develop renewable energy sources	<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b></p> <p>Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>Specific Objective 2.1 - <i>Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources</i> and Specific Objective 3.2- <i>Public utilities Infrastructure</i> are aimed at supporting cross-border partnerships and networks in the field of renewable energy, including investments in infrastructure and equipment based on common and tailored technical solutions.</p>
<b>6. Competitiveness and Innovation</b>	6.1.Improve the overall business environment through simplification of the regulatory framework and through harmonisation of legislation with the <i>acquis</i>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	6.2.Support the ongoing structural reform process	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	6.3.Develop research and innovation	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>Specific Objective 1.2 - <i>Health and social Infrastructures</i> and Specific Objective 4.1 - <i>Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</i> are supporting research and innovation activities through partnerships, organization of knowledge transfer, exchange of good practice, networking.</p>

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
		<p><b>Specific Objective 4.1.</b></p> <p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p>	
	6.4. Support SMEs	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 4.1.</b></p> <p>Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>The Programme mentions that the actions addressed by Specific Objective 1.1- <i>Employment and labour mobility</i> and Specific Objective 4.1- <i>Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</i> have secondary effects on SMEs development.</p> <p>Moreover promotion and direct support to SMEs is not the among the priorities that can be best addressed by the IPA CBC programme, because of the heterogeneity of the potential demand, the complexity of the procedural and legal implications related to State Aid.</p>
<b>7. Education, employment and social policies</b>	7.1. Support the ongoing education and training reform in line with the needs of the labour market	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	7.2. Support the reforms of employment and social protection policies	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	7.3. Improve social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups	<p><b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area</p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p><b>All the specific objectives under Priority Axis 1 - Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth are supporting the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups especially in the area of employment and health in a direct or indirect manner. Specific Objective 1.3 - <i>Social and cultural inclusion</i> includes activities</b></p>

Serbia Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Objectives of Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme	Consistency
Pillars	Objectives		
		<p><b>Specific Objective 1.2.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 1.3.</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas</p>	<b>dedicated especially to the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups.</b>
	7.4. Support the consumer and health protection in line with the EU acquis requirements	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>8. Agriculture and rural development</b>	8.1.Support alignment of the Serbian agricultural policy with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	8.2. Contribute to a competitive, sustainable and efficient agriculture sector while maintaining vibrant rural communities	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	8.3. Improve food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies as well as plant and animal health	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>



## Annex 9. Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014-2020) compliance analysis table

Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
Axis	Objectives	Specific Objective	Consistency
<b>1. Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms</b>	1.1 Democracy and governance	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	1.2 Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>2. Regional structures and networks</b>	2.1 Supporting the functioning of existing regional organisations, bodies and platforms through a contribution to their administrative and operational costs	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	2.2 Supporting specialised networks through contribution agreements, grants and technical assistance.	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	2.3 Setting up of additional, specialised organisations, bodies and platforms covering the needs of several beneficiary countries	<b>All specific objectives under Priority Axes 1-5</b>	<b>YES – consistency is identified</b>  All the specific objectives in the field of employment, health, social inclusion, education, transport, environment, tourism and technical assistance identified under Priority Axes 1-5 are aimed at setting up platforms covering the needs of Serbia and Romania.
<b>3. Regional investment support</b>	3.1 Developing grants, loans and expertise , joint preparation of technical viable and bankable priority projects and new innovative financial instruments	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>4. Territorial cooperation</b>	4.1 Increase in the number of CBC programmes	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
	4.2 Institutional capacity enhanced to improve the overall management of the CBC programme, allowing multiple cross-border contacts and exchanges	<b>Specific Objective 5.1.</b>  The promotion of an effective and efficient implementation of the Programme ensuring the effective functioning of the Programme bodies, and committees	<b>YES – consistency is identified</b>  Specific Objective 5.1 is aimed at increasing the institutional capacity of the Programme management through cross-border exchanges.

Multi Country Strategy Paper (2014-2020)		Romania-Serbia IPA CBC	
	<p>4.3 Improved neighbourly relations and people to people co-operation in border regions improved.</p>	<p><b>All specific objectives under Priority Axes 1-5</b></p>	<p><b>YES – consistency is identified</b></p> <p>All the specific objectives through their thematic areas in the field of employment, health, social inclusion, education, transport, environment, tourism and technical assistance identified under Priority Axes 1-5 are aimed at improving and developing cross-border relations and cooperation to contribute at the development of the eligible areas of the Programme.</p>



## Annex 10. Assessment of the SWOT analysis

S/W/O/T	Description	Findings
<b>Social and Demographic Structure</b>		
<b>Strengths</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presence of urban poles accessible to a significant part of the population</li> <li>2. Equal number of population on the two sides of the border in the PA, facilitating balanced partnership</li> <li>3. Long history of Romanian-Serbian cooperation</li> <li>4. Tradition of respect and coexistence among ethnic groups</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Even though the TA reveals that there is only one urban pole in the PA, it also reveals that other urban poles are situated in the vicinity of the PA and are easily accessible by the population.</li> <li>2. The TA reveals the total number of the population that lives in the PA and the shares that correspond to Romania and Serbia respectively.</li> <li>3. There is evidence to support the claim that there has been a long history of Romanian-Serbian cooperation in the TA.</li> <li>4. The TA presents that there are several ethnic minorities in the PA, but no evidence for the tradition of respect and coexistence among them is presented.</li> </ol>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Large part of population living in small settlements scattered in remote rural areas, which not being able to compete with the larger urban poles</li> <li>2. Lose population</li> <li>3. High share of population at risk of poverty</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The TA presents evidence according to which the largest share of the population is living in small settlements.</li> <li>2. According to the TA, indeed the population has decreased by more than 10% in the last ten years.</li> <li>3. The high share of the population living at risk of poverty is mentioned in the TA as a serious challenge for the PA.</li> </ol>
<b>Economy, SME's development, Labor Market</b>		
<b>Strengths</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presence of dynamic economic poles in the area</li> <li>2. Traditional industrial presence with local "ecosystems" operating</li> <li>3. Attractiveness and capacity for FDIs, continuing after global crisis</li> <li>4. Large availability of local resources, in agricultural land, mineral reserves, renewable energy fonts</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The TA states that in the PA there are two important economic poles, one in Timis County and the other in the Vojvodina Province.</li> <li>2. This element is rather unclear and the SWOT or the TA should explain what "ecosystems" refer to. Nevertheless, according to the TA, mining industries have been present in the PA for a long time.</li> <li>3. The TA analysis presents an increasing trend of inward FDI, even in the light of the recent global financial and economic crisis.</li> <li>4. The availability of renewable energy sources, agricultural land and mineral waters is mentioned in the TA.</li> </ol>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strong dualism in economic development , between more advanced districts (Timiș , Banat ) and others, in industrial sectors, SMEs development, services</li> <li>2. Low access to basic services in rural and remote areas</li> <li>3. High level of unemployment in lagging behind districts and counties</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The TA contains referenced to the fact that there is a strong dualism in economic development between the two sides of the border.</li> <li>2. The TA reveals that there is a low access to basic services in the rural and remote areas in the PA.</li> <li>3. The TA contains quantitative data that reveal that high levels of unemployment are recorded in the districts and counties lagging behind.</li> </ol>
<b>Transport, Infrastructures, Accessibility, CBC connection</b>		
<b>Strengths</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic location in the European Corridors Network</li> <li>2. Good accessibility from larger centers to national and international destinations, due to adjacent national road, rail and airport connections</li> <li>3. Good availability of Border crossings</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The TA states that the PA is in a central position relative to the Rhine-Danube European Network, as well as in the close vicinity of a number of TEN-T road networks, ensuring good accessibility.</li> <li>2. The TA states that the PA is in a central position relative to the Rhine-Danube European Network, as well as in the close vicinity of a number of TEN-T road networks, ensuring good accessibility.</li> <li>3. The TA reveals that there is sufficient availability of border crossing points, though some of them are only seasonally in use.</li> <li>4. The TA highlights that the multimodal transport infrastructures</li> </ol>

S/W/O/T	Description	Findings
	4. Multimodal transport infrastructures easily accessible to most of the programme area	are easily accessible by the PA, with the exception of the South-East part.
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<p>1. Poor quality of local and intraregional transport infrastructures for moving within the Programme Area</p> <p>2. Severe limitations to accessibility in rural and mountainous areas</p> <p>3. Heterogeneous Service level of Border Crossing points</p> <p>4. Poor efficiency of local transport services</p> <p>5. Poor development of common transport monitoring systems on the Danube</p>	<p>1. The poor quality of the local and intraregional transport infrastructure is mentioned in the TA.</p> <p>2. The TA reveals that the mountainous and rural areas face limitations in terms of accessibility.</p> <p>3. The Heterogeneous Service level of border crossing points is mentioned in the TA, as some border crossing points are only seasonally in use.</p> <p>4. The TA highlights that the speed of the local transport services is below the national average levels.</p>
<b>Environment, Natural and Cultural resources, Tourism</b>		
<b>Strengths</b>	<p>1. Low levels of pollution in peripheral areas of scenic beauty</p> <p>2. Major natural resources for tourism development: national and natural parks, thermal springs, forests and areas of outstanding natural beauty</p> <p>3. Striking cultural, ethnic and natural diversity, generating attractiveness for business and tourism</p> <p>4. Low population density and low pressure in naturally attractive and remote areas</p>	<p>1. As presented by the TA, the data reveals a relatively decreasing trend in air pollution.</p> <p>2. The TA documents the wide range of natural resources that confer the PA potential for the development of different types of tourism.</p> <p>3. The cultural, ethnic and natural diversity are presented as generators for both tourism and business in the TA.</p> <p>4. The TA reveals that in the PA there is a low density of population.</p>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<p>1. Environmental hotspots and risks, especially due to past and present mining and industrial activity</p> <p>2. Obsolete environmental infrastructure</p> <p>3. Disaster protection and preparedness systems improving but are still weak especially at the local level</p> <p>4. Flood risks (fluvial and flash floods) in various parts of the Programme Area</p> <p>5. Dispersion of tourism attractors in small poles in a large territory, limiting the capacity to attract international demand</p> <p>6. Insufficient exploitation of existing tourism infrastructures, leading to low productivity and non-sustainability of private investments</p>	<p>1. The TA presents the environmental hotspots, as well as an overview of the environmental risks that the PA is facing.</p> <p>2. The TA documents the fact that the environmental infrastructure is obsolete and that it requires improvements.</p> <p>3. The TA evidences the fact that the systems for disaster protection, as well as the administrative capacity to respond to such events are poor and need improvement.</p> <p>4. The TA reveals that the region is constantly facing threats of floods.</p> <p>5. The TA specifies that the natural and historical patrimony is extended over a large territory and that there are a few places that can attract international visitors.</p> <p>6. The TA reveals that the accommodation infrastructure is underexploited.</p>
<b>Education, R&amp;D, Innovation</b>		
<b>Strengths</b>	<p>1. Poles of advanced research institutes and Universities in the PA and at the edge of the eligible area (e.g. Timis, Belgrade)</p> <p>2. Existence of poles of excellence and success stories, (e.g. Timiș, Vrșac) in area of RTD</p>	<p>1. The TA highlights that even though higher education institutions are present inside the eligible area, they are unequally distributed. It is also mentioned that the population has easy access to higher education institutions in the near vicinity of the eligible area.</p> <p>2. The TA presents information according to which the most important research pole is located in Timisoara and on the Serbian side Vrsac is the most important research centre.</p>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<p>1. Low rates of university education attainments among adult population in some districts</p> <p>2. Weak performance of primary and secondary educational systems which impacts on the quality of education.</p>	<p>1. The TA provides quantitative information according to which disparities exist between counties/districts in terms of educational attainment.</p> <p>2. The TA states that the primary and secondary institutions are sufficient in number, with differences in terms of the number of students per teacher between Serbia and Romania.</p> <p>3. The TA reveals that the eligible area is faced with problems</p>

S/W/O/T	Description	Findings
	<p>3. Unequal access to ICT, digital divide in remote rural areas</p> <p>4. Poor availability of educational services, especially in remote areas</p>	<p>regarding the digital divide and that access to ICT is unevenly distributed.</p> <p>4. The TA evidences that the disadvantaged groups have poor access to education,.</p>
<b>Local institutions and civil society</b>		
<b>Strengths</b>	<p>1. Strong involvement of civil society groups in Cross border Partnerships</p> <p>2. Existing private and public networks, offering the possibility of cooperation for several Specific objectives, education and culture, etc.)</p> <p>3. Tradition of cross border exchanges in the past</p>	<p>1. The TA highlights that the beneficiaries of the projects come from different backgrounds, including NGOs or other cultural organizations.</p> <p>2. The TA generally highlights the possibilities for cooperation, also based on the existing partnerships, created in the current programming period.</p> <p>3. The TA presents information according to which cross border exchange programmes have occurred in the past.</p>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<p>1. Administrative burdens and limited capacities in public institutions limiting cross border interactions</p> <p>2. Difficulties and delays in implementation of projects under the current programming period, creating obstacles for new partnerships and project generation</p>	<p>1. As evidenced by the TA, the programme stakeholders have highlighted the need for increased cooperation with the central administrative level of each country and with the MAs of other IPA programmes in order to increase the cross border interactions.</p> <p>2. The problems encountered in the implementation of projects in the current programming period have been evidenced by the TA.</p>

## Annex 11. Consistency between actions and expected results

Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
<b>Specific Objective 1.1.</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, improving availability of employment opportunities, access to the labour market and employment opportunities in the programme eligible area	<b>Specific objective 1.1.:</b> Employment and labour mobility	Action 1.1.1. Set up of joint initiatives and smart growth mechanisms including cross border networks for the identification of potentials of employment, including in the innovative sectors and the removal of obstacles to the access to adequate education, training and ultimately to the labor market by the target group including disadvantaged groups  Action 1.1.2. Set up of joint initiatives, including integrated services targeting young people, to promote their access to the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The active population will experience better access to the labour market, receiving more information on job opportunities, adult training opportunities and assistance from professional associations.</li> <li>Tailored assistance for the access to job opportunities will be offered to young persons completing educational cycle, young people not employed, not involved in training or educational activities, disadvantaged groups, isolated communities in marginal areas.</li> </ul>	The expected results are consistent with action 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.
		Action 1.1.3. Set up of cross border initiatives for the capitalization of potentials and facilitation of cross border mobility in the local labor markets.  Action 1.1.4. Joint initiatives, cooperation, exchange of information/experience, coordination of activities and services among professional associations for the promotion of employment, vocational training and entrepreneurial initiatives, especially among young unemployed, women, disadvantaged groups  Action 1.1.5. Development of cross-border services for adult trainings, assistance to job seekers, assistance to returning emigrants for the re-integration in the local labour market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional actions for the access to the labour market among young active population, disadvantaged groups, unemployed, returning migrants will be available</li> <li>Cooperation across the border established among Public Services, NGOs, local administrations for joint actions in the labour market.</li> <li>Disadvantaged groups, isolated communities in marginal areas will be offered support for the access to the labour market</li> <li>Adult training opportunities and assistance from professional associations will be offered in coordinated cross border networks</li> </ul>	The expected results are consistent with actions 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and 1.1.5.
<b>Specific objective 1.2</b> To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, based on the improvement of quality of life to all residents on the two sides of the border through joint actions, especially for the improvement of the access of	<b>Specific objective 1.2.:</b> Health and social infrastructures	Action 1.2.1. Set up of cross-border platforms and networks for planning and provision of health and social services, targeting also remote communities and disadvantaged groups  Action 1.2.2. Joint studies and researches for the identification of innovative technological solutions for the organization of effective networks for basic services provision  Action 1.2.3. Set up of monitoring services for the identification of needs and the quantification of demands for new social and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The resident population will have access to improved services, with more efficient structures and more accessible networks of services in the sectors of health care, and social services.</li> <li>Vulnerable communities, due to remoteness or demographic structure will have ensured new services adapted to the specific needs.</li> <li>Disadvantaged groups will experience improved access to social services with specific actions of information and assistance.</li> <li>Cross border networks and platforms will be established in order to exploit synergies, and to share strategies for common needs</li> </ul>	The expected results are consistent with actions 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4 and 1.2.5

Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
the population to modern and efficient health care services, social services, services supporting the access to primary education		<p>services generated by demographic and social dynamics, like aging, and migration</p> <p>Action 1.2.4. Development and modernization (including procurement of equipment) of public social services and centres</p> <p>Action 1.2.5. Construction, rehabilitation, modernization (including procurement of equipment) of health centres, hospitals and health services improvement</p>	<p>of social inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross border mobility of active population will be facilitated, with shared benefits to the local economic systems.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Specific objective 1.3</b></p> <p>To enhance the potential of the programme area for an inclusive growth, Increasing cultural and social integration in the cross-border area promoting innovative services and networks, reducing the impact of constraints due to remoteness and marginalisation of border areas.</p>	<b>Thematic objective 1.3.:</b> Social and cultural inclusion	<p>Action 1.3.1. Set up of cross-border frameworks, and networks for the strengthening of the cross-border cultural exchange.</p> <p>Action 1.3.2. Design cross-border actions for social, educational and cultural inclusion through innovative solutions such as social enterprises, voluntary organisations, special interest groups etc.</p> <p>Action 1.3.3. Creation of partnerships for joint actions for the promotion of access to tertiary education, through information, mentoring and tutoring services offered specially to students completing secondary education.</p> <p>Action 1.3.4. Investments in infrastructure and equipment for cross-border actions for sport, education and cultural activities, to facilitate and promote social inclusion.</p> <p>Action 1.3.5. Joint actions for a better participation of all social groups, actors and users in the design and delivery of cultural services, educational services, childhood education, and services of general interest.</p> <p>Action 1.3.6. Set up models and test pilot actions for the prevention of early school leaving, including among disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Action 1.3.7. Set-up of joint planning groups for cooperation between public services organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident population will have access to cultural and social services integrated in cross border networks, facilitating cultural integration of ethnic groups, and cross border interaction.</li> <li>• Disadvantaged groups will have opportunities to experience cultural services, with the support of innovative instruments, like social enterprises, non profit groups. NGOs and local bodies active in cultural services on the two sides of the border will share good practices and innovative solution</li> <li>• Creation of infrastructures for social and cultural inclusion</li> <li>• Establishment of Partnerships for the promotion of a lively cultural environment, integrated across the border, ensuring integration of ethnic groups and inclusion of minorities and disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>• Support to the access to tertiary education offered to young population by networks of tertiary education centres established across the border.</li> </ul>	The expected results are consistent with the indicative actions of this specific objective
<p><b>Specific Objective 2.1.</b></p> <p>Enhancing protection and sustainable use of natural</p>	<b>Specific objective 2.1.:</b> Environmental protection and sustainable use of	<p>Action 2.1.1. Set up of cross-border frameworks, platforms and networks for the exchange of experience and the identification of needs for entities involved or interested in environmental protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public organizations of the two sides of the border establishing permanent networks and partnerships for the monitoring and management of environmental resources.</li> </ul>	The expected result is consistent with actions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.

Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
resources, the improvement of capacity and the extension of actions of organisations and bodies involved in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Promoting cross border networks for education and studies on environmental resources	natural resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Action 2.1.2. Development of joint training and actions, including awareness programmes for relevant organisations and the general public, including educational institutions in the field of environmental protection and use of natural resources		The expected results are consistent with actions 2.1.3, 2.1.4.
		Action 2.1.3. Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of natural resources, biodiversity, technologies for environmental protection, for the identification and transfer of innovations tailored to the local needs  <input type="checkbox"/> Action 2.1.4. Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships and networks in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy, , such as usage of geothermal hot springs, water, sun and wind power for producing electric energy, including investments in infrastructure and equipment based on common and tailored technical solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inhabitants better informed on natural resources quality and vulnerability.</li> <li>• Education on environmental protection actions and methodologies improved with cross border initiatives.</li> <li>• Knowledge on environmental resources improved with cross border partnerships.</li> </ul>	
		Action 2.1.5. Investment in infrastructure and equipment for environmental protection and use of natural resources Action 2.1.6. Establishment of networks and partnerships for joint training actions for public entities and local communities in the field of environmental protection, enhancement of pollution control strategies and systems; conduction of joint trainings and maintenance of interoperability including the purchase of compatible equipment Action 2.1.7. Joint initiatives and investments in infrastructure and equipment for the implementation of technologies for the control of pollution and rehabilitation of rivers and brown fields and industrial areas with common problems on the two sides of the border Action 2.1.8. Restoration of natural areas (e.g. woods and river banks) to prevent floods and land slides Action 2.1.9. Joint activities for the protection of endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managerial and technological innovations for the environmental protection tailored to the local needs and transferred to the local administrations.</li> <li>• Local and national bodies actively integrated in the strategies for the protection and promotion of environmental resources in the Danube Basin Macro Region.</li> <li>• Enhancement of the capacity of local institutions to protect and promote natural resources, through the creation or the rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment for the provision of innovative services in the field.</li> </ul>	
<b>Specific Objective 2.2.</b> To enhance capacity to face environmental risks, enabling cross-border interoperability and joint actions for innovative systems of environmental protection, mitigation and prevention of environmental accidents and	<b>Specific objective 2.2.:</b> Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness.	Action 2.2.1. Development of joint structures and partnerships for the integration of the involved entities on initiatives in relation to the Danube Strategy (Danube River Basin Management, ICPDR initiatives, European Floods Alert System etc.), including the investments in infrastructure and equipment Action 2.2.2. Establishment and enhancement of cross border liaison in the environmental planning of the involved entities including joint risk mapping of accident risk spots, risk assessment and evaluation exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local and national bodies active in the area better integrated in the Danube Basin International systems and organizations for the management of environmental risks and emergencies.</li> <li>• Improvement of the capacity of local institutions to play and active and efficient role in interventions for environmental emergencies, due to natural events or industrial accidents, through the creation or rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment.</li> <li>• Increase of the capacity of local administrations and public bodies competent for early cross-border identification and</li> </ul>	The expected results are consistent with the indicative actions as they all aim towards the improvement of risk management.

Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
disasters, emergency reaction, preparedness and awareness in case of environmental emergencies		Action 2.2.3. Ensuring and promotion of data availability and the integration of management approaches in national and international networks <input type="checkbox"/> Action 2.2.4. Establishment of networks and partnerships for joint training actions for public entities and local communities in the field of management of environmental emergencies; joint trainings and maintenance of interoperability including the purchase of compatible equipment Action <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2.5. Establishment of joint services for the management and control of risks generated by hot spots of industrial pollution <input type="checkbox"/> Action 2.2.6. Joint actions dedicated to preparing children/ youth to respond to emergency situations, including i.a school camps, trainings Action 2.2.7. Investments in infrastructure and equipment for risk management and emergency preparedness	assessment of the situation in case of environmental accidents and natural disasters, and joint environmental protective actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental risks management and emergency preparedness.</li> <li>• Improvement of cross-border interoperability of organisations and bodies involved in disaster resilience and disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.</li> </ul>	
<b>Specific Objective 3.1.</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public transport, especially in remote areas through improved sustainability and efficiency of transport infrastructure and mobility services within the cross-border area and the area's integration in the main EU transport corridors	<b>Specific objective 3.1.:</b> Mobility and transport infrastructures and services	<input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.1.1. Establishment and enhancement of cross border partnerships of the involved state authorities for the planning physical infrastructures; <input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.1.2. Joint studies for the preparation of cross-border infrastructure investments with emphasis on multimodal solutions; <input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.1.3. • Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of the cross-border crossing points and/ or the road infrastructure leading to the cross-border crossing points; <input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.1.4. Improvement/ acceleration of procedures linked to mobility of persons and goods within the eligible area; <input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.1.5. Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of cross-border roads connecting settlements alongside the border and/or small remote villages with main road, which leads to the border. Action 3.1.6. Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of roads linking to the national/ international systems as well as to economic sites of cross-border interest Action 3.1.7. Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening Rehabilitation/ widening of roads connecting settlements within the eligible area Action 3.1.8. Creation, rehabilitation/ modernization of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of cross border mobility, security and integration</li> <li>• Improvement of accessibility of remote marginal areas</li> <li>• Enhancement of integration of local transport infrastructures and services in the main European transport corridors, especially the water ways connected to the Danube corridor</li> <li>• Production of feasibility analysis on key transport infrastructures, improving regional national and international connection to transport networks, enabling the regional and national authorities to integrate CBC strategies in National, macroregional and European transport strategies</li> <li>• Population in the area experiencing improved accessibility to local and external destinations, through improved services and or improved infrastructure, with lower environmental impact;</li> <li>• Population commuting across the border for economic and social, cultural activities experiencing improved services for border crossing, due to improved technologies and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Tourist mobility improved and extended in the area, based on new services, and infrastructure;</li> </ul>	The expected results are consistent with the indicative actions as they all aim towards infrastructure improvement.

Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
		<p>information/promotion centres on cross-border economic cooperation</p> <p>Action 3.1.9. Development and implementation of an integrated and environmentally friendly cross-border transport connections;</p> <p>Action 3.1.10. Creation of public cross-border cooperation networks;</p> <p>Action 3.1.11. Creation or modernization of cross-border logistics facilities/ centres;</p> <p>Action 3.1.12. Development of inter-modal transport services within the eligible area;</p> <p>Action 3.1.13. Development of transport on the Danube and on other rivers within the eligible area, including investments in infrastructure and purchase of equipment for ports and water related mobility</p> <p>Action 3.1.14. Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of the road infrastructure and cross-border crossing points</p>		
<p><b>Specific Objective 3.2.</b> Promote the achievement of improved and homogenous quality standard in public infrastructures for basic services, especially in remote areas through improved and enlarged access to modern and efficient public utilities services (incl. Internet, energy)</p>	<p><b>Specific objective 3.2.:</b> Public utilities infrastructure</p>	<p>Action 3.2.1. Set up cross-border frameworks, platforms and networks for the exchange of experience and the identification of needs for public services organizations/service providers Development and implementation of locally adapted solutions for investments in public utilities infrastructure (e.g. small-scale water treatment, access to ICT, renewable energy) within the areas facing similar challenges on both sides of the border;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.2.2. Creation of necessary internet infrastructure for cross-border cooperation networks.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Action 3.2.3. Studies for cooperation with the scope of better resources usage for improving public services/utility delivering</p> <p>Action 3.2.4. Development and implementation of locally adapted solutions for investments in public utilities infrastructure (e.g. small-scale water treatment, access to ICT, renewable energy) within the areas facing similar challenges on both sides of the border</p> <p>Action 3.2.5. Support cooperation among public services organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of the improved accessibility to state-of-the-art and efficient public utilities (access to internet, utilities: waste, water, energy) in the light of technological options, economic constraints, environmental requirements and demographic change;</li> <li>• Establishment of cross border partnerships for the implementation of innovative solutions for the access to public services, especially for remote areas and marginalized communities;</li> <li>• Population experiencing improved access to public utilities and services, based on innovative solutions shared across the border;</li> <li>• Remote areas receiving tailored assistance to facilitate removal of obstacles to the access to IT services and public utilities;</li> <li>• Disadvantaged groups enabled to easier access to utility and services, with targeted information and awareness rising actions;</li> </ul>	<p>The expected results are consistent with the indicative actions as they all aim towards utilities infrastructure improvement.</p>



Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
<p><b>Specific Objective 4.1.</b> Developing the local tourism economy, based on the promotion of a sustainable cultural and recreational use of the natural and cultural heritage. Promoting growth of national and international demands for the tourism services and attractions in the eligible area, creating innovative cultural and leisure tourism attractions based on the common natural and cultural resources, improving attractiveness of networks and cross border tourism trails.</p>	<p><b>Specific objective 4.1.:</b> Investments for the growth of the demand of local tourism networks and promotion of innovative tourism activities</p>	<p>Action 4.1.1. Organise knowledge transfer, exchange of good practice examples, networking and development of innovations for protection of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism;</p> <p>Action 4.1.2. Development of a cross-border regional image and brand and joint marketing initiatives</p> <p>Action 4.1.3. Development of distinct tourism products such as thematic tourism clusters and routes (e.g. monasteries, Roman heritage, wine routes, etc.) and integrated tourism services</p> <p>Action 4.1.4. Joint implementation of actions recording and promoting shared traditional features (music, language, folklore) including joint cultural events (festivals conferences, etc) in relation to the aforementioned indicative actions.Action 4.1.5. Investments in cross-border infrastructure for tourism services (tourist centres, welcome centres, info-points, service centres in the touristic sector)</p> <p>Action 4.1.6. Investments in the touristic sector for the provision of innovative services, including infrastructure, for specific forms of tourism, like cultural tourism, thematic tourism, etc.</p> <p>Action 4.1.7. Promotion of tourism infrastructure and touristic objectives;</p> <p>Action 4.1.8. Development and rehabilitation of specific tourism routes, including installation of road signs and bilingual tourist information signs;</p> <p>Action 4.1.9. Construction/ rehabilitation/ widening of access infrastructure to tourism attractions e.g. tourist roads within tourism areas, roads providing access to these areas, walking and cycle paths, facilities for adventure tourism;</p> <p>Action 4.1.10. Investments in upgrading and rehabilitation of natural and cultural sites (e.g: religious monuments, traditional buildings and settlements, historical and archaeological sites, etc).</p> <p>Action 4.1.11. Development, modernization of infrastructure of tourism attractions/ objectives;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of the national and international demand for cross border networks of tourism clusters, attracting various tourists categories, cultural business, naturalistic, especially from and international markets;</li> <li>• Integration of local tourism attractions in the international networks of the Danube Basin.</li> <li>• Establishment of a common brand and image for the local touristic offer attracting additional demand;</li> <li>• Increase of the occupancy rate of tourist infrastructures, in all areas and for the diversified typologies of tourism;</li> <li>• Establishment of touristic networks across the border, exploiting synergies and sharing innovative management and technological solutions.</li> <li>• The growth of visitors and tourism services, based on the establishment of a common brand and image for the local touristic offer attracting additional demand</li> <li>• The growth of cross border networks of tourism clusters, attracting visitors from the national and international markets</li> <li>• The investment for the creation of small infrastructures for the provision of innovative services in the touristic sector, for specific forms of tourism, like cultural tourism, naturalistic tourism, thematic tourism</li> <li>• Integration of local tourism attractions in the international networks of the Danube Basin.</li> <li>• The increase in the occupancy rate of tourist infrastructures, in all areas and for the diversified typologies of tourism</li> </ul>	<p>The expected results are consistent with the indicative actions.</p>

Specific Objective	Specific objective	Actions	Expected results	Findings
<p><b>Specific Objective 4.2</b> Growth of the local tourism economy based on enhancement of quality of tourism services, based on a sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage. Enhancing capacities and skills for the improvement of quality and quantity of tourism services and products in common networks and partnerships on the two sided of the border. Improving the quality and sustainability of tourist infrastructure, and the accessibility of the aforementioned resources</p>	<p><b>Specific objective 4.2.:</b> Capacity building initiatives for the improvement of quality and innovation of tourism services and products</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Action 4.2.1. Establishment of partnership for research and studies on natural and cultural heritage in the area</p> <p>Action 4.2.2. Support of the creation of common brand and the improvement of quality standards of the services offered</p> <p>Action 4.2.3. Support for the development of cross-border tourist offers</p> <p>Action 4.2.4. Trainings for the improvement of tourism services</p> <p>Action 4.2.5. Strategies, exchange of experience in touristic sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of capacities among entrepreneurs and workers of the tourist sector, for the improvement of the quality of tourists services, and the diversification of tourist products;</li> <li>• Improvement of the information and knowledge on local natural and cultural resources for the creation of innovative products and the establishment of conservation strategies.</li> <li>• The improvement of the quality of tourist services offered in joint networks;</li> <li>• The improvement of conservation and protection strategies, based on researches and studies carried out by partnerships of research institutions and specialized agencies.</li> <li>• Preservation of natural and cultural heritage, through targeted investments in rehabilitation and restoration.</li> </ul>	<p>The expected results are consistent with the indicative actions.</p>

## Annex 12. Appraisal of the System of Indicators

Priority	Ref	Indicator	New Label of indicator	Indicator - draft March 2015	Type	Clarity		Relevance		Coverage	Baseline	Targets	Summary	Findings	Recommendations	Response TA
						Clear	Measured	Appropriate	Representative							
PA1	1	Active Population experiencing improved access to the labour market	Active Population in the programme area, urban, rural remote territories, having the possibility of improved access to labour market.	Active population experiencing more satisfied of the improved access to labour market. (Innovative services assisting job seekers permanently established, information on job opportunities available in marginal areas, disadvantaged groups receiving assistance and information about job opportunities through information points and dedicated tutors.)	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES		3.4	YES				
PA1	2	Population accessing to improved basic services in health care, culture, education.	Population having access to improved basic services in health care, culture, education.	Population experiencing access to improved basic services in health care and education. Innovative, high quality services permanently created and available in marginal areas, preventive care, cultural activities and services, sport activities.	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	3.3	YES		The three result indicators cover the results expected in terms of social and cultural inclusion and the change expected.	Questionnaires for data collection have been drafted and used.	
PA1	3	Population experiencing a more lively and integrated cultural and social environment	Population having access to a larger set of opportunities of cultural and social activities and services, offered by common initiatives across the border.	Population experiencing lively cultural life. Population, specially in marginal areas, accessing various opportunities for cultural and social activities, permanently offered in joint initiatives across the border.	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES		4.5	YES				
PA1	4	Number of residents involved in projects activities	Citizens involved in projects activities	Citizens involved in projects activities in cultural, social health care services.	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES		It is not clear in the programme how data are broken down to disadvantaged categories, youngsters and women, only that out of 3000 participants 2000 will be from disadvantaged categories.		Accepted, Indicator no.4 will consider the aspects in its breakdown.
PA1	5	Number of cross border networks/partnerships created	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of....	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of labour market	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES				
PA1	6	Number of innovative services in health care and social services established/extended with investments	Innovations in health care and social services established/extended with investments	Investments in health care and social services infrastructures.	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES				
PA1	7	Number of disadvantaged persons involved in projects activities	Disadvantaged persons involved in projects activities	Disadvantaged persons involved in projects activities	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES				

PA1	8	Number of studies, surveys, researches produced	Joint, cross border actions targeting vulnerable groups (youth, women) established for the prevention of early school leaving, cultural inclusion	Joint actions targeting vulnerable groups (youth, women, disableds, ethnic minorities) established for the prevention of early school leaving, for cultural inclusion	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA1	9			Joint actions targeting smart (green) growth opportunities	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES						
PA1	10			Population covered by improved health services	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA1	11			Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Output	YES	YES - units	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA2	12	Inhabitants awareness on environmental resources and protection actions	Awareness on the potential of environmental resources and the benefit of CBC protection actions in the cross border area	Awareness on the potential of environmental resources and the benefits of environmental protection (Resident population informed on quality and quantity of environmental resources in the eligible area, and on the benefits of protection actions)	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	4.2	YES			
PA2	13	Increase of the capacity for emergency identification and management	Capacity for emergency interventions and management in case of natural disasters and environmental accidents	Capacity for emergency interventions and management in case of natural disasters and environmental accidents	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	3.9	YES			Set of result indicators is adequate
PA2	14	Increase of the potential for cross-border interoperability	Potential for cross-border interoperability, based on shared procedures and technologies for environmental protection and emergency interventions	Potential for cross-border interoperability for environmental protection and emergency interventions, based on shared procedures and technologies	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	3.9	YES			
PA2	15	Number of cross border cooperation partnerships and networks established	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of environmental protection	Infrastructure, equipment built/ installed/ modernized in the field of cross border services for environmental protection	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA2	14	Participants to project initiatives and events for information and awareness rising	Participants to project initiatives and events for information and awareness rising	Participants to project initiatives and events for information and awareness rising	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			Set of result indicators is adequate.
PA2	15	Number of studies, surveys, researches produced	Studies related to the direct implementation of selected projects or the realisation of derived follow-up actions produced in the field of environmental protection and emergency management	Studies in the field of environmental protection and emergency management. (technical and scientific studies, researches in the relevant fields)	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES			
PA2	16	Participants to capacity building initiatives	Participants to capacity building initiatives	Participants to capacity building initiatives	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			

PA2	17	Data bases and monitoring systems established /extended in the eligible area	Monitoring systems and databases established /extended in the eligible area in the field of environmental protection and emergency management.	Monitoring systems (with databases) established /extended/modernized in the eligible area in the field of environmental protection and emergency management.	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA2				Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA3	18	Increase of options available for efficient and environmental friendly mobility and transport	Increase of options available for the access to, sustainable and efficient public mobility and transport services, in the eligible area marginal and remote territories.	Population having access sustainable and efficient public mobility and transport services. (Population having access to improved local transport infrastructures, faster connections to main corridors, efficient border crossing services, transport services using innovative technologies.)	Result	YES	YES		YES	YES	3.9	YES			"Having access" and "accessing" are two different things. I would keep the indicators to the first option, as the programme will offer access but leave accessing to final beneficiaries
PA3	19	Increase of the awareness of needs and options for efficient public utilities.	Increase of options available for the access to sustainable and efficient public utilities (energy, ICT) in the eligible area marginal and remote territories	Vehicles crossing the border. (Traffic across the border for social, commercial and touristic activities and exchanges)	Result	YES	YES				YES	YES			
PA3	20			Population accessing sustainable and efficient public utilities networks (energy, water, ICT). (Access to improved utility services based on innovative technologies, access to efficient and sustainable energy sources, especially in marginal and remote territories.)	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	57%	YES			
PA3	21	Cross border cooperation frameworks (frameworks, platforms and networks etc.)	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of transport and public utilities	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of transport and public utilities	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA3	22	Feasibility studies, preparatory studies elaborated in the field of transport and mobility infrastructures,	Studies related to the direct implementation of selected projects or the realisation of derived follow-up actions produced in the field of transport and mobility infrastructures	Studies related to the implementation of selected projects or the realisation of actions in the field of transport and mobility infrastructure	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES			
PA3	23	Designs of models and pilot actions for provision of utilities and transport infrastructures	Designs of models and pilot actions in the field of utilities and transport infrastructures	Investments in transport and utilities infrastructure, including improvement, enhancement of existing infrastructure	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			
PA3	24	Participants to information / training / awareness raising initiatives	Participants to information / training / awareness raising initiatives in the field of transport and public utilities	Participants to information / training / awareness raising initiatives in the field of transport and public utilities.	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES			

PA 3	25			Joint initiatives on improvements of public transport and intermodal connections	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES				
PA4	26	Increase of number of tourists arrivals and stays	Increase of number of tourists arrivals in the eligible area	Number of tourists arrivals in the eligible area (Flows of visitors in the area for all forms of tourism activities and cross border networks.)	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				
PA4	27	Occupancy rate of Tourism Infrastructures	Increase of nights spent by tourists in the eligible area	Nights spent by tourists in the eligible area (Time spent by tourists in the cross- border area, for all types of touristic activities)	Result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				
PA4																
PA4				New “touristic products” (new destinations) created as a result of programme actions in the field of promotion and information on integrated touristic networks in the CBC area.	result	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				
PA4	29	Number of cross border cooperation frameworks (frameworks, platforms and networks etc.)	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of tourism	Cross border cooperation structures/ initiatives supported in the field of tourism	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES				
PA4	30	Number of studies and researches related to natural and cultural resources....	Studies related to the direct implementation of selected projects or the realisation of derived follow-up actions produced in the field of natural and cultural resources	Studies related to the implementation of selected projects or research and studies in the field of natural and cultural resources	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES				
PA4	31	Number partnerships, for the provision of services, established	Partnerships for the exchange of good practices established	Partnerships for the exchange of good practices and the promotion of joint initiatives established	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES				
PA4	32	Number of participants attending training initiatives	Number of participants attending training initiatives	Number of participants attending training initiatives	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES		0	YES				
PA 4	33		Joint brands and communication instruments created, covering the whole eligible areas	Joint actions and communication instruments created	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES				
PA5	34	Involvement of all eligible areas in programme strategy and activities; Number of Projects implemented / 10.000 of inhabitants	Population in the eligible area involved in cooperation strategy, with higher awareness on CBC objectives	Removed												
PA5	35	Effective absorption of funds. Certified expenditures on planned allocation by the deadlines established	Effective absorption of funds Certified expenditures on planned allocation by the deadlines established	Effective absorption of funds (Certified expenditures on planned allocation by the deadlines established)	Result		YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES				

PA5	36	Awareness of local population on programme activities and results	Awareness of local population on CBC programme objectives and results	Removed														
PA5	37	Number of meetings of programme bodies	Number of meetings of programme bodies	Number of meetings of programme bodies	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES						
PA5	38	Number of projects calls implemented	Number of projects calls implemented	Number of projects calls implemented	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES						
PA5	39	Number of project contracts signed	Number projects contracts signed	Removed														
PA5	40	Number of projects controlled reimbursed	Number of projects controlled reimbursed	Removed														
PA5	41	Number of programme evaluation implemented	Number of programme evaluations implemented	Number of interim programme evaluations implemented	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES						
PA5				Number of events for information and promotion	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES						
PA5				Number of employees (full time equivalent) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Output	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	0	YES						
PA5	42	Number of participants attending information and training initiatives	Number of participants attending training initiatives	Removed														
PA5	43	Number of persons reached by information and promotion initiatives	Number of persons attending information and promotion initiatives	Removed														

**Legend:**

Clarity		Relevance		Coverage	Baseline	Targets
Clear formulation without ambiguity	The presence of a measurement unit	The proposed indicators fit to the respective priorities and actions.	The indicators clearly represent the output and results of the actions considered.	There is a good coverage of the respective priorities and actions by the several indicators.	The indicators which are linked with targets have clear baseline	The target values of indicators are realistic, having a solid baseline, based on relevant analyses and background statistical data

## Annex 13. Status of comments to the First Version of the Territorial Analysis

Recommendation	Status	Page no. in V1	Page no. in V2
R1. In order to better identify the territorial potential, more details should be given with respect to the development opportunities that the Danube Macro Region offers and those stemming from the geographical diversity.	R1: IMPLEMENTED  Additional, sufficient and accurate information has been added into the analysis, referring to the development opportunities that the Danube Macro Region offers	p. 4	p. 7
R2. In order to improve the structure of the section, Table 3.1 <i>Eligible areas</i> should be placed at the beginning of the chapter, after the description of the administrative units. Also, a summary box may be inserted at the beginning of the chapter, similarly to the other chapters.	R2: IMPLEMENTED  A summary box has been introduced at the beginning of Section 2 Eligible Area, as per recommendation. The table regarding eligible areas has been placed at the beginning of the chapter, after the description of the administrative units, as suggested – as to ensure consistency.	p. 5	p. 4 and p. 5
R3. The chapter (on Social and demographic structure and Dynamics) may be completed with an analysis of the age and gender structure of the eligible area and its policy implications (i.e. strategy and actions undertaken)	R3: IMPLEMENTED  Information regarding age and gender structure of the eligible area and its policy implications have been added	p. 7	p. 15-18
R4. The information presented in this chapter (on Social and demographic structure and Dynamics) may be restructured, centralizing information regarding (1) urban/rural environment, (2) minorities and (3) demographic trends, into distinct subchapters.	R4: IMPLEMENTED  Information regarding urban/rural development, minorities and demographic trends has been separated into different subsections.	p. 6	p.11
R5. The summary box of section 4.2 <i>Demographic trends</i> should be merged with the summary box of the chapter (page 6).	R5: IMPLEMENTED  "Social and demographic structure and dynamics" has only one summary now, ensuring consistency with the rest of the sections, as suggested.	p. 6	p. 9
R6. Additional statistical data may be provided in terms of Gross Value Added for each economic sector (5. <i>Economic structure</i> ), volumes of crops (5.1 <i>Agriculture</i> ), quantities and ranks, and number of employees (5.3 <i>Industrial Sectors</i> ) and number and types of SMEs (5.6 <i>SMEs</i> ). Moreover, evolution in time of these data should be provided.	R6: IMPLEMENTED  Additional statistical data has been added with respect to crops p. 26) and SMEs (p.30),  However, statistical data referring to crops is from 2001 and either newer data should be used (if available), or information on its reliability should be provided, if conditions haven't changed ever since. Reliability of usefulness of statistical data is approached in R23.	p. 17, p. 19 and p. 21	p. 26, p. 30,
R7. For a more balanced analysis, data on the breakdown of FDI by industry in Romania and on FDI at NUTS 2 in Serbia should be added, if available, and information on the industrial sector in Romania should be added for other counties apart from Timiș .	R7: IMPLEMENTED  Data on the breakdown of FDI by industry in Romania has been added (p. 34) and data on FDI at NUTS 2 in Serbia has been added (p. 33)	p. 22	p. 33 and p. 34
R8. In respect to the summary box of the chapter (5. <i>Economic structure and dynamic</i> ), the second bullet point should clarify what the "average level" refers to. Moreover, the second paragraph in section 5.3 should be included in section 5.2 <i>Mining</i> , as it refers to mining.	R8: IMPLEMENTED	p. 15	p. 20
R9. In the Energy section, the current status of the projects should be mentioned (Constanta - Pancevo pipeline and Pancevo 2 - Resica).	R9: NOT IMPLEMENTED  Data is not available	p. 21	p. 29
R10. The structure of the chapter may be reconsidered, and one possible structure, that would improve readability, is: 5. <i>Economic structure and dynamic</i> a. 5.1 <i>Macroeconomic condition</i> b. 5.2 <i>Economic sectors</i>	R10: IMPLEMENTED  The structure of the section has been redefined so that its readability has been improved.	p. 15	p. 20



Recommendation	Status	Page no. in V1	Page no. in V2
5.2.1 Agriculture 5.2.2 Mining 5.2.3 Industrial Sectors 5.2.4 Energy c. 5.3 Business infrastructure d. SMEs e. FDI			
R11. In order to offer a more comprehensive overview of the labour market, more statistical data may be provided on the following: - population educational attainment - unemployment and employment by gender and by age structure - urban/rural differentiation on active population and unemployed - employment by industry - unemployment rate expressed in percentages - employment among the vulnerable groups (e.g. people with disabilities) This also contributes to further elaborating on the challenges and potential in the labour market and to presenting the situation of the vulnerable groups	R11: IMPLEMENTED  Additional quantitative information has been added in the Labour Market section, offering a more comprehensive overview of the labour market, as suggested.	p. 24	p. 35
R12. In terms of structure, the chapter may include a summary box, for consistency with other chapters. Moreover, Graphs 6.1 (p. 24) and 6.2 (p. 25) should contain the year that they refer to and Graph 6.1 could be split into two separate ones that show the evolution of unemployment and employment respectively.	R12: IMPLEMENTED  A summary box has been added at the beginning of the section.  Years of reference have been added to the graphs in the section, and the graph related to employment and unemployment rate has been split into two graphs, one employment and one on unemployment.	p. 24	p. 35 and p. 37
R13. The chapter could be complemented by an analysis of other types of public infrastructure, such as the healthcare and e-society infrastructure.	R13: IMPLEMENTED  New information has been added into the analysis regarding healthcare services. New information has been added into the analysis regarding Public Transport and ICT Infrastructure	p. 29	p. 51
R14. For consistency, the summary box should present the main ideas of the entire chapter, not only those corresponding to section 7.1 Environmental resources and infrastructures.	R14: IMPLEMENTED  One summary box includes relevant information about section 8 - Environmental resources and infrastructures.	p. 36	p. 63
R15. The chapter may be complemented with more concrete statistical data for sections 8.1 (natural resources), 8.3 (previous cases of floods, soil and water pollution).	R15: IMPLEMENTED  Additional information has been added in the section with respect to natural resources, offering a more detailed image of the available natural resources in the eligible area.  Additional information has been added with respect to water pollution, offering a better understanding of the situation in the eligible area.	p. 36 and p. 40	p. 65 and p. 70
R16. Specific information on previous cases of floods could be provided, in order to support the allegation that they represent a constant challenge for the region. Such information may refer to examples of previous floods, their number and variation across several years to observe their frequency and the challenges they pose, number of households affected, regions affected, number of families damaged or evacuated because of floods.	R16: PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED  Additional information regarding floods was added.	p. 41	p. 78
R17. Graphs 8.1 and 8.2 and Map 8.2 should be moved in section 8.2 Public utilities infrastructure as they all refer to the access to water and sewerage networks.	R17: IMPLEMENTED  Graph 8.1 and 8.2 and Map 8.3 are correctly placed in subsection 8.3 Environmental protection, water and water and waste management, public utilities	p. 42	p. 73

Recommendation	Status	Page no. in V1	Page no. in V2
R18. Additional information could be provided on the physical conditions of touristic attractions and accommodation facilities.	<p><b>R18: IMPLEMENTED</b></p> <p>Additional information has been added regarding conditions of accommodation facilities in the eligible area.</p>	p. 38	p. 82
R19. The chapter could be complemented with statistical data regarding the percentage of GDP spent on R&D activities, given the importance of this indicator established by the Europe 2020 strategy	<p><b>R19: NOT IMPLEMENTED</b></p> <p>Data is not available.</p>	p. 50	p. 93
R20. The structure of the chapter (10. Education, research and innovation) could be improved by having separate section on education, research and smart specialization	<p><b>R20: IMPLEMENTED</b></p> <p>The structure of the chapter has been improved by adding separate sections for education, research, and smart specialization.</p>	p. 48	p. 88
<p>R21. As to increase the usability of the section analyzing other CBC and Interreg programmes in relation to Cross-Border Cooperation Operational Programme Romania-Serbia, more information should be provided on the meaning of the indicators “relevance” and “competition for funds”.</p> <p>Moreover, areas of intersection between each of the programmes and CBC OP RO-SE should be highlighted, in order to help programmers to properly consider those operations that are eligible under other programmes and to avoid overlapping while encouraging synergies.</p>	<p><b>R21: IMPLEMENTED</b></p> <p>A better understanding of how CBC Romania - Serbia 2007-2013 is obtained through this section.</p> <p>A definition for "competition for funds" has been provided, and "relevance" indicator is no longer mentioned.</p>	p. 53	p. 95 and p. 103

## Annex 14. List of abbreviations

AA	Audit Authority
CA	Certifying Authority
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
EC	European Commission
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
ESC	Evaluation Steering Committee
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
JPD	Joint Programming Document
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
MA	Managing Authority
MCSP	Multi Country Strategy Paper
MRDPA	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member States
NA	National Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OP	Operational Programme
Programme	Romania – Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2014-2020
TA	Technical Assistance