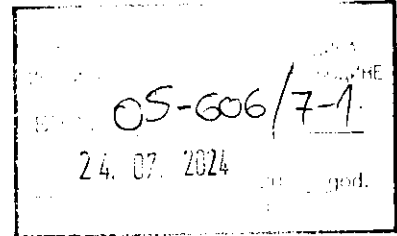


REGISTRY NUMBER: NT|2-248|2024
BUDAPEST, 12 JULY 2024

NAME OF THE LEAD PARTNER: INSTITUT ZA JAVNO ZDRAVLJE VOJVODINE

ADDRESS: Futoška 121
21102 Novi Sad, Serbia

NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON: Sanja Bijelović

E-MAIL: sanja.bijelovic@izjzv.org.rs

Project acronym: MICROPLASTICS

Project title: **Minimizing CROSSborder water contamination of microPLASTICS**Project ID: **HUSRB/23R/12/089**

Reference number of the Call for Proposals: HUSRB/23R

Subject: Subsidy Contract signed by the Managing Authority**Dear Sanja Bijelović,**

Please find enclosed the Subsidy Contract of your project selected within the framework of the First Call for Proposals - Regular scale projects of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary-Serbia Programme, signed by the Managing Authority in 3 originals.

Please ensure that the legal representative of your organization signs and stamps each Subsidy Contract, indicating the date and place of the signature.

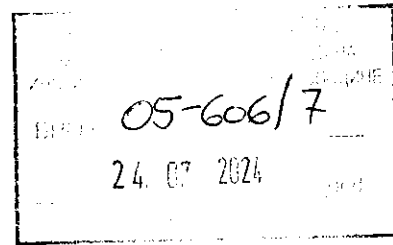
Please send **two signed originals** back to the JS (address: *HU-SRB JS, Széchenyi Programiroda Nonprofit Kft., H-1053 Budapest, Szép utca 2, 3rd floor*) as soon as possible, while one original remains for your record and for your archiving purposes.

I would like to thank you for your kind cooperation. I wish you a successful implementation of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Tanackovic Olivera
Programme Manager
Joint Secretariat**Annexes:**

- Subsidy contract (3 originals)



INTERREG VI-A IPA HUNGARY-SERBIA PROGRAMME

10001/2024/07/07

SUBSIDY CONTRACT FOR EUROPEAN UNION CONTRIBUTION

**PROJECT ID: HUSRB/23R/12/089
PROJECT ACRONYM: MICROPLASTICS
PROJECT TITLE: MINIMIZING CROSSBORDER WATER
CONTAMINATION OF MICROPLASTICS**



SUBSIDY CONTRACT

for the implementation of Project No. HUSRB/23R/12/089
with acronym MICROPLASTICS
entitled MInimizing CROSSborder water contamination of microPLASTICS

within the

Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme

The following Subsidy Contract (hereinafter referred to as the Contract) is concluded between the

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY

Address: 1027 Budapest, Bem rakpart 47, Hungary

Tax number: 15311344-1-41

on one hand,

acting as the Managing Authority of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "managing authority")

and

INSTITUT ZA JAVNO ZDRAVLJE VOJVODINE; INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF VOJVODINA

Address: 21102, Novi Sad, Futoška 121, Serbia

Tax number: 100452714

acting as the Lead Partner

on the other hand,

hereinafter jointly referred to as the Parties¹.

based on the following legal framework:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (hereinafter referred to as the CPR);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (hereinafter referred to as the ERDF Regulation);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (hereinafter referred to as the Interreg Regulation);

¹ The managing authority and the lead partner are the only Parties to this Contract.

**IPA Hungary - Serbia**

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (hereinafter referred to as the IPA III Regulation);
- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (hereinafter referred to as Financial Regulation);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid;
- Commission Decision No. 2012/21/EU of 20 December 2011 on the application of Article 106 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty;
- Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR);
- Financing Agreement signed between the European Commission and the Republic of Serbia;
- Memorandum of understanding between Hungary and the Republic of Serbia;
- Implementing acts and delegated acts adopted in accordance with the aforementioned legislation.

The following regulations, guidelines and other documents have to be also respected in the framework of the present Contract:

- the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme, approved by the European Commission on 14 October 2022 by Decision Ref No C(2022) 7444 (hereinafter referred to as the Programme);
- EU rules regarding EU horizontal policies such as the rules for competition and entry into the markets, the protection of the environment, the equal opportunities between men and women and public procurement;
- Communication from the Commission on the application of the European Union State aid rules to compensation granted for the provision of services of general economic interest (2012/C 8/02);
- national rules applicable to the lead partner and its partners and their activities;
- the relevant national legislation regarding State aid rules;
- documents of the relevant Call for Proposals of the Programme, published on the official website of the Programme;
- the Project Implementation Manual of the Programme, laying down the programme specific rules for the implementation of the projects;
- Eligibility of expenditures of the Programme;

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- the Communication and Visibility Guide for Projects, laying down the programme specific rules on information and publicity measures of the projects;
- procurement rules.

Article 1
Award of subsidy

1. In accordance with the decision of the Monitoring Committee, dated 27.02.2024, a subsidy is awarded to the partnership (represented by the lead partner) from the EU funding under the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme for the implementation of the project No. HUSRB/23R/12/089 with the acronym MICROPLASTICS, entitled MInimizing CROssborder water contamination of microPLASTICS (hereinafter referred to as the Project).

Maximum EU contribution awarded:	1 166 479,14 EUR
	say: one million, one hundred sixty-six thousand, four hundred seventy-nine euros and fourteen cents
Total project budget: (including lead partner and the other partners)	1 372 328,40 EUR
	say: one million, three hundred seventy-two thousand, three hundred twenty-eight euros and forty cents

3. As a general rule, the EU co-financing rate per partner (including the lead partner) cannot exceed 85 per cent of the total eligible expenditures. The EU contribution and the EU co-financing rates per partners (including the lead partner) are set in Annex II of the Contract (i.e. in the finalised Project Form). It is the responsibility of each partner², including the lead partner, to finance the own contribution of their respective project parts.
4. The maximum amount of EU contribution awarded for the Project and contained in Article 1.1 above cannot be exceeded without a corresponding decision of the Monitoring Committee and the modification of this Subsidy Contract.
5. Should the total eligible costs after the completion of the Project be lower than the budgeted amount, the above-mentioned EU contribution awarded under the Programme will be correspondingly reduced according to the EU co-financing rates per partners as set in Annex II.
6. For receiving the payment of EU contribution from the certifying authority and for the transfers of EU contribution to the partners, the lead partner shall open a separate EUR bank account exclusively for the Project. The EU contribution will be transferred in EUR to the following separate project bank account indicated by the lead partner:

IBAN account number	RS35 84000000 00426791 58
SWIFT code	NBSRRSBG
Name of bank	Narodna Banka Srbije (National Bank of Serbia - NBS)
Address of bank	Kralja Petra 12, Beograd, Srbija

² In case the partner receives EU contribution.

7. The lead partner has to officially notify the Joint Secretariat in written form in case of a change of the separate project bank account within 15 calendar days or with the submission of the Application for Reimbursement at the latest. With the LP's notification the bank account will be modified and the modification of this Contract is not necessary. In case the lead partner fails to properly inform the Joint Secretariat on the details of its separate bank account, all consequences, including those of financial nature, shall be borne by the lead partner.
8. Payment of the EU contribution is under the condition that the European Commission makes the funds available to the above-described extent on the Programme bank account and the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Partner Countries is in force.
9. If the European Commission fails to make the funds available on the Programme bank account or if the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Partner Countries is no longer in force, the managing authority will be entitled to withdraw from the present Contract. Any claim by the lead partner or the project partner(s) against the managing authority for whatsoever reason is excluded.
10. If the subsidy to be received for the implementation of the Project is affected by State aid, detailed rules can be found in Annex V of the present Contract.
11. Without prejudice to the provisions of this Article, Programme co-financing to Serbian partners can be made available to the Project only after the respective Financing Agreement has entered into force. By way of derogation from Article 63(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, expenditure shall be eligible for a contribution from external financing instruments of the Union if it has been incurred and paid in the preparation and implementation of Interreg operations from 1 January 2021 or from the date of the programme submission, whichever date is earlier, but may be claimed from the Programme after the date when the Financing Agreement with Serbia was concluded.

Article 2 **EU advance**

1. According to the Programme rules the managing authority ensures EU advance. The amount of the EU advance is equal to 15% of the maximum EU contribution mentioned in Article 1.1. Based on the above-mentioned description the amount of EU advance is 174 971,88 EUR (say one hundred seventy-four thousand, nine hundred seventy-one euros and eighty-eight cents).
2. Subject to availability of funds as specified in Article 5.7 of the General Terms and Conditions, the amount of the advance is transferred to the separate bank account of the lead partner within 60 calendar days from the date of signature of this Subsidy Contract.
3. The approved amount of the EU contribution will be transferred in two forms: One form is advance payment which is 15% of the EU contribution. The other form is reimbursement based on the approved Project Report(s) and Applications for Reimbursement. Once the reimbursed amount reaches the 60% of the total EU contribution of the partner receiving financial support, the Programme starts to settle the advance payment. The amount of settlement will appear on the Application(s) for Reimbursement in which the reimbursement of 60% of the total EU contribution is exceeded. Therefore, when approving these Project Report(s) and Application(s) for Reimbursement the amount of transferable EU contribution will be calculated with the consideration of the settled amount of advance payment. The total amount of a partner's advance



payment is fully settled if the EU contribution part of the eligible expenditure in the Application(s) for Reimbursement reaches the 75%.

4. In case the EU contribution part of eligible expenditure in the Applications for Reimbursement does not reach the 75% of a partner receiving financial support by the end of project implementation, the unsettled amount of the advance payment will be recovered by the managing authority with (and – if necessary – after) the approval of the Final Project Report. The lead partner is obliged to secure repayments from the partner(s) concerned, and has to repay the amount specified by the managing authority before the due date. In case of any delay in the repayment, the amount to be recovered may be subject to interest on late payment starting on the due date and ending on the date of actual payment. The rate of such interest shall be one-and-a-half percentage points above the rate applied by the European Central Bank in its main refinancing operations on the first working day of the month in which the due date falls.

Article 3 Duration of the Project

1. Project starting date: 01.07.2024
2. Project end date: 30.06.2026
3. The project activities have to be carried out and finalised within the project implementation period as specified in Point 1 and 2 above. Project expenditures have to be in line with the rules of the Project Implementation Manual / Eligibility of expenditures.

Article 4 Object of use

1. The EU contribution is awarded exclusively for the implementation of the Project as approved by the Monitoring Committee and registered in the INTERREG+ system. The lead partner accepts the EU contribution and takes responsibility for implementation of the Project as described in Annex II. The lead partner shall guarantee the sound financial management of the respective Union funds allocated to the Project, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid. The lead partner declares that it has noted and accepted the provisions of the Contract and of its Annexes in their entirety.
2. Project expenditure which qualifies for the EU contribution awarded according to Article 1.1 consists exclusively of project expenditure related to the approved project activities. The rules for the eligibility of expenditure are set in the Project Implementation Manual / Eligibility of expenditures. The relevant EU Regulations in force, in particular Articles 38 to 44 of the Interreg Regulation, as well as the rules contained in Articles 63 to 66 of the CPR, furthermore the national eligibility rules have to be respected. In case of contradiction between the above-mentioned rules, the stricter rule shall apply. The expenditure related to the Project is eligible only if it is in compliance with the applicable European and national legislation in force and if it observes the terms and conditions stipulated in the Contract. The non-compliance with the relevant rules could lead the national authority to take corrective measures and exclude ineligible expenditure.

Article 5 Reporting deadlines

1. The lead partner shall send Project Reports and Applications for Reimbursement on the basis of the following table:

	Reporting period	Deadline for submission of the Project Reports and Applications for Reimbursement
1.	01.07.2024 - 31.10.2024	29.01.2025
2.	01.11.2024 - 28.02.2025	29.05.2025
3.	01.03.2025 - 30.06.2025	28.09.2025
4.	01.07.2025 - 31.10.2025	29.01.2026
5.	01.11.2025 - 28.02.2026	29.05.2026
6.	01.03.2026 - 30.06.2026	28.09.2026

Article 6 Double funding

1. The lead partner shall ensure that expenditure contained in the Project is not double funded by any other European and/or national funds.
2. If in the process of the project implementation it becomes clear that the operation has been financed by any other source of funding, the lead partner shall inform the managing authority without delay after obtaining information about this circumstance.

Article 7 General Terms and Conditions

1. The present Contract and its Annexes are to be taken as mutually explanatory of one another. For the purposes of interpretation, the priority of the documents shall be in accordance with the following sequence:
 - a) Subsidy Contract and Annex I, General Terms and Conditions,
 - b) any subsequent amendments of the Contract or its Annexes.
2. The detailed rules governing the obligations and rights of the Parties are contained in the General Terms and Conditions, constituting Annex I which is an integral and indivisible part of the present Contract.
3. Please refer to the contractual provisions and their content as follows (references are to the related Articles of the General Terms and Conditions):
 - Article 1* – Contact details of the Parties
 - Article 2* – Representation of the project partnership, liability and obligations of the lead partner
 - Article 3* – Rights and obligations of the managing authority
 - Article 4* – Project Reports and Applications for Reimbursement



Article 5 – Payment of the EU contribution to the lead partner

Article 6 – Procurement rules

Article 7 – Information and publicity

Article 8 – Ownership/use of results

Article 9 – Audit rights

Article 10 – Irregularities

Article 11 – Right of withdrawal, cancellation, repayment and suspension of reimbursement

Article 12 – Assignment, legal succession

Article 13 – Amendments to the Contract and other project changes

Article 14 – Force majeure

Article 15 – Conflict of interests and good conduct

Article 16 – Confidentiality, data protection

4. The full list of Annexes to this Contract is the following:

Annex I – General Terms and Conditions in force as published on the official Programme website

Annex II – Finalised Project Form

Annex III – Partnership Agreement

Annex IV – List of documents to be retained

Annex V – Applicable project specific State aid rules

5. The Annexes to this Contract are binding and form an integral part of the Subsidy Contract.

Article 8 Concluding provisions

1. If any provision in this Contract should be entirely or partly ineffective, the remaining provisions remain binding for the Parties. The Parties to the Contract undertake to replace the ineffective provision by an effective one which comes as close as possible to the purpose of the ineffective provision.
2. The Parties to this Contract shall use their best efforts to amicably settle any dispute arising between them during the implementation of this Contract. To that end, they shall communicate their positions and any solution that they consider possible in writing, and meet each other at either's request. The lead partner and the managing authority shall reply to a request sent for an amicable settlement within 30 calendar days. Once this period has expired, or if the attempt to reach amicable settlement has not produced an agreement within 120 calendar days of the first request, the lead partner or the managing authority may notify the other Party that it considers the procedure to have failed.
3. The present Contract is governed by Hungarian law, Hungary being the country of the managing authority; all matters not regulated in the Contract are subject to the legal understanding laid down in the Hungarian Civil Code (Act V. of 2013). In case of differences that are not ruled by the



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present Contract, the Parties agree to find an amicable and mutually acceptable solution. If the Parties fail to do so, all disputes arising in connection with the Subsidy Contract shall be settled by the Buda Central District Court.

4. The present Contract is concluded in English language. In case of translation of the present Contract and of its Annexes into another language, the English version shall prevail.
5. The lead partner duly consents to the fact that the Data Controller (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and the Technical Data Processor (Széchenyi Programiroda Nonprofit Kft.) will manage all the personal data included in the Project and provided in the contracting or project implementation phase, in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (the GDPR).
6. By signing the present Contract the lead partner acknowledges that they have understood all conditions governing the subsidy and that they accept the rules of both the Subsidy Contract and the General Terms and Conditions.
7. Provisions on modification of the present Contract are regulated in the General Terms and Conditions.
8. The present Contract is signed in three original copies of which one remains at the lead partner and two original copies are to be returned to the Joint Secretariat (out of which one copy will be sent to the managing authority by the Joint Secretariat. The lead partner is to provide a copy of the Contract and its Annexes to all other partners.
9. The Subsidy Contract enters into force on the date of signature by the last of both Parties. The lead partner undertakes to sign the Contract within 30 calendar days from the date of its reception from the managing authority.
10. The present Contract shall remain in force until the lead partner has discharged in full its obligations arising from the Subsidy Contract towards the managing authority, i.e. as long as any duties linked to the EU funding might be claimed.

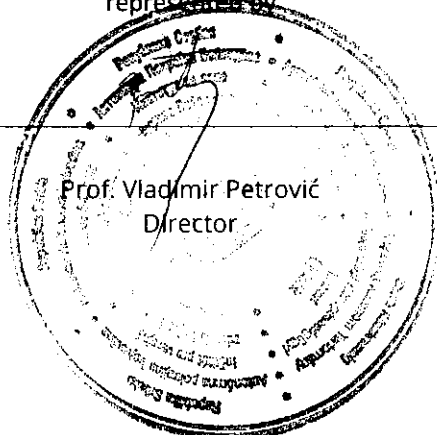
Place and date:

Novi Sad 24.07.2024.

Place and date:

Budapest, 10 July 2024

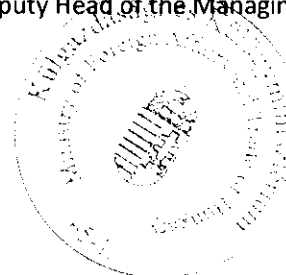
Lead Partner
represented by



Managing Authority
represented by

Ms. Nikoletta Horváth

Ms. Nikoletta Horváth
Deputy Head of the Managing Authority



interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

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**ANNEX I – GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN
FORCE AS PUBLISHED ON THE OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME WEBSITE**

interreg



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INTERREG VI-A IPA HUNGARY-SERBIA PROGRAMME

Contract No. 1

ANNEX I TO SUBSIDY CONTRACT

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Good neighbours
creating
common future

Annex I.

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
governing the use of the EU contribution
received in the frame of the
Subsidy Contract for European Union contribution**

**Article 1
General Provisions**

1. The provisions of the "General Terms and Conditions" shall, as an annex, form an integral part of the Subsidy Contract ("Contract") signed by the Managing authority of Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia ("managing authority") and a lead partner.
2. All correspondence with the managing authority / joint secretariat under the Contract must be in English language, has to indicate the ID and the acronym of the Project and has to be sent to the following address:

Hungary-Serbia Joint Secretariat
Szép u. 2, floor IV.
H-1053 Budapest
info@hungary-serbia.eu
3. All correspondence with the lead partner under the Contract must be in English language and has to indicate the ID and the acronym of the Project.
4. Any change of headquarters and of contact details shall be notified to the other Party within fifteen calendar days following the change of address/contact.

**Article 2
Representation of the project partnership, liability and obligations of the Lead Partner**

1. The partnership (represented by lead partner) is awarded the subsidy based on the terms and conditions set out in the Contract which consists of the Contract text, the present General Terms and Conditions and the Annexes, which the lead partner hereby declares it has all noted and accepted. The lead partner accepts the subsidy and undertakes to carry out the Project under its own responsibility.
2. The lead partner (except EGTCs) shall act in partnership with one or more partner organisation(s) as identified in the description of the Project. Partners take part in the implementation of the Project, and their expenditures incurred are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the lead partner.
3. The lead partner guarantees that it is entitled to represent all partners participating in the Project.

4. In order to lay down the arrangements for its relations with the partners the lead partner as defined in the Preamble of the Subsidy Contract for the EU contribution (hereinafter referred to as the Contract) is responsible to conclude a Partnership Agreement with them. In line with Article 26 of the Interreg Regulation the Partnership Agreement shall comprise provisions that, *inter alia*, guarantee the sound financial management of the respective Union funds allocated to the Interreg operation, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid.

5. The lead partner represents the partnership as defined in the Partnership Agreement and is the only direct contact between the Project and the programme management bodies, mainly the managing authority, the joint secretariat, the audit authority and the certifying authority. The lead partner shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of the entire Project. To this end, the lead partner shall coordinate the implementation of the Project in due time according to the provisions of the Contract and of the national and European legislation, and shall undertake among others:
 - a) to co-ordinate the start of the Project as set in Article 3.1 of the Contract;
 - b) to co-ordinate the implementation of the Project according to the time schedule agreed upon in the Contract and in the finalised Project Form, and to monitor that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Contract;
 - c) to guarantee the sound financial management of the funds allocated to the Project, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid;
 - d) to meet the reporting requirements by using the INTERREG+ system and to ensure any other documentation as well as IT security and data protection related obligations;
 - e) to be the intermediary for all communications between the partners and the managing authority; where information from the partners is required, the lead partner shall be responsible for obtaining, verifying and consolidating this information before forwarding it to the managing authority; any information provided, as well as any request communicated by the lead partner to the managing authority shall be deemed to have been forwarded in agreement with all partners;
 - f) to ensure that the expenditure presented by all partners has been paid in implementing the Project and that it corresponds to the activities agreed between the partners and indicated in the Project as registered in the INTERREG+ system;
 - g) to collect documents and information from the partners in order to present consolidated Project Reports and Applications for Reimbursement;
 - h) to inform the joint secretariat immediately in written form if the project budget has to be changed, if the partners, the project objectives or the activity plan on which the present Contract is based on have to be changed, or if one of the reimbursement conditions cannot be fulfilled, or if circumstances arise which entitle the managing authority to reduce or recover the EU contribution (entirely or partly);
 - i) to comply with EU regulations as referred to in the preamble of the Contract, and with the relevant national legislation for the whole partnership, with special regard to procurement, State aid, publicity, furthermore rules on sustainable development and equal opportunities;
 - j) to be the sole recipient, on behalf of all partners, of the payments of the certifying authority;

- k) to transfer the EU contribution to the other partners correctly and in full, within the timeframe agreed in the Partnership Agreement; no amount shall be deducted or withheld and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce that amount for the other partners (i.e. fees of these transactions shall be paid by the lead partner); in case of a claim for repayment from the managing authority, the lead partner cannot exculpate itself with the argument of the transfer of the funds;
 - l) to maintain separate accounting for project implementation purposes in a manner ensuring the identification of each financial operation within the Project;
 - m) be responsible in the event of audits, checks, monitoring or evaluations, as described in Article 9 of this General Terms and Conditions, for providing all the necessary documents, including the invoices of the partners and copies of the relevant supporting documents;
 - n) to ensure the sustainability of the project results; and
 - o) to not delegate any of, or part of these tasks to the partners or other entities.
6. The lead partner bears responsibility for the activities of the other partners like its own activities.
 7. The lead partner is liable towards the managing authority to ensure that all partners have a legal status, that they have capacity to manage the operation, that they observe the rules for implementation of the Project. Moreover, the lead partner is liable towards the managing authority to ensure that all partners fulfil their obligations under the Contract.
 8. The lead partner takes full responsibility for the damages caused to third parties from its own fault during the implementation of the Project. The managing authority has no responsibility for the damages caused to third parties as a result of executing the Contract, therefore the managing authority cannot accept any claim for compensation or increases in payment in connection to such damages.
 9. The lead partner is liable towards the managing authority for ensuring that the partners fulfil their obligations under the Contract. It is also liable towards the managing authority for any breach of obligations under this Project by its partners, in the same way as for its own conduct.

Article 3

Rights and obligations of the Managing Authority

1. The managing authority has the obligation to support the lead partner by providing necessary information and clarifications for the implementation of the Project.
2. The managing authority has the obligation to inform the lead partner regarding the reports, conclusions and recommendations made by the European Commission which may affect the implementation of the Contract.
3. In addition and without prejudice to its right to terminate the Contract pursuant to Article 11 of the General Terms and Conditions, if the Project is implemented poorly or partially – and therefore not in accordance with the description of the Project in Annex II – or is implemented



late, the managing authority may, by a duly reasoned decision and after allowing the lead partner to submit its observations, reduce the initial amount of subsidy in line with the actual implementation of the Project and in accordance with the terms of the Contract. This applies as well with regards to the compliance with the visibility obligations set out in Article 7 of the General Terms and Conditions.

4. In case of n+3 decommitment resulting from underspending compared to the spending forecast, the managing authority is entitled to decommit the Project by reducing the original project budget and the corresponding EU contribution. In case of a decision on the decommitment of the Project, the managing authority initiates the amendment of the Contract. The modification of the Contract in case of decommitment at project level shall take the form of a decision of the managing authority, which will be notified to the lead partner, and which becomes part of the Contract. In case of a decision on the decommitment of the Project, the lead partner shall submit a revised budget and application, reflecting the decommitment, within two weeks following the receipt of the notification from the managing authority. In case of failure to respect the deadline, the decommitment shall be applied proportionally to all budgetary lines.
5. In case one of the obligations of the lead partner is not fulfilled, the managing authority may suspend the execution of the Contract.
6. In case of suspending the Contract, the managing authority shall notify the lead partner regarding this decision, the duration of the suspension period, the proposed corrective measures and the related financial measures. The managing authority shall also notify the lead partner if the suspension period is cancelled prior to the initially set deadline.
7. The managing authority may compensate the amount of reclaim of the same partner receiving financial support in different projects during reimbursement.

Article 4

Project Reports and Applications for Reimbursement

1. The lead partner receives the reimbursement based on the submitted and approved Application for Reimbursement.
2. The lead partner can only submit an Application for Reimbursement to the joint secretariat if it is accompanied by proof of progress of the Project. Therefore, the lead partner has to submit a Report (meaning Project Report or Final Project Report) alongside each Application for Reimbursement, consisting of the description of the activities carried out and their outputs and results during the reporting period, further consisting of a financial report presenting the financial progress of the Project compared to the finalised Project Form. Even if no expenditures were incurred in a reporting period, the Project Report (and the Final Project Report) shall be submitted in due time to the joint secretariat.
3. The lead partner has to submit the Project Report and the Application for Reimbursement for each four-month reporting period from the project starting date indicated in Article 3.1 of the Contract. The Reports and the Applications for Reimbursement have to be submitted to the joint secretariat within 90 calendar days from the end date of each reporting period (and 100 calendar

days from the end date of the final reporting period), as detailed in the Project Implementation Manual. The Project Report and the Application for Reimbursement together with the supporting documents shall be submitted electronically, via the INTERREG+ system.

4. The reporting periods and the actual deadlines for submission are indicated in Article 5.1 of the Subsidy Contract. In case a modification is needed in the reporting periods, it is not necessary to modify the Contract, but the lead partner shall submit a notification to the joint secretariat with justification after consultation with the project partnership. Detailed rules regarding the modification of reporting deadlines are described in the Project Implementation Manual. Additional obligatory deadlines to submit an Application for Reimbursement may be set by the managing authority in order to avoid decommitment of EU contribution at programme level.
5. As general rule, the First Project Report and Application for Reimbursement have to cover the preparation costs of the Project, as well as the first reporting period as indicated in Article 5.1 of the Subsidy Contract. As a general rule, only budget lines foreseen in the finalised Project Form and only partners involved according to the finalised Project Form¹ can be considered for Application for Reimbursement².
6. The Final Project Report and Application for Reimbursement have to be submitted to the joint secretariat within 90 calendar days after the end date of the Project as indicated in Article 2.2 of the Contract.
7. The language of each Project Report, including the Final Report, is English. The forms and tools of the Report, Application for Reimbursement and the Declaration on Verification of Expenditure are defined for the Programme and are obligatory to use. The lead partner has to complete and submit the Project Reports and the Application for Reimbursement online, through the INTERREG+ system used for the Programme. Access to the system is only permitted by means of an individual user name and password. Further rules on reporting are set in the Project Implementation Manual.
8. The Application for Reimbursement submitted by the lead partner shall contain only verified expenditure and shall be supported by the Declarations on Verification of Expenditure issued by the identified Control Bodies. Therefore, each partner receiving financial support has the obligation to ensure that its expenditures are checked and verified by a controller from the state on whose territory it is located, before the Application for Reimbursement is submitted. The lead partner shall ensure that the expenditure presented by the partners has been incurred for the purpose of implementing the Project and that it corresponds to the activities agreed between the partners as described in the finalised Project Form. Partners receiving financial support shall submit a Project Partner Report also in case there were no costs incurred in their project part in a given reporting period. Finally, partners not receiving financial support shall submit their project partner reports to the related Control Body on their activities in the given reporting period.

¹ Parties agree that certain activities will be implemented by the mayor's office as being the executive organ of the partner in accordance with Article 41 (1) and 41 (2) of Act No. CLXXXIX of 2011 on Local Governments in Hungary, as well as paragraph 1 of Article 6/C of Act No. CXCV of 2011 on Public Finance, so that the costs reimbursed by the mayor's office are eligible for support.

² Only in duly justified cases and with prior acceptance of the managing authority can additional budget lines or partners be considered for an Application for Reimbursement.

9. In case the Declarations on Verification of Expenditure are not available for each partner for a given reporting period, the lead partner shall submit the Application for Reimbursement on the basis of the Declarations on Verification of Expenditure available for the reporting deadline. The Application for Reimbursement shall contain also those Declarations on Verification of Expenditure, which have zero amount. The expenditures of the partners receiving financial support not verified for the given reporting period within the deadline can be requested only for the next two reporting deadlines following the reporting period concerned³.
10. The lead partner shall submit the Application for Reimbursement in EUR, based on the Declarations on Verification of Expenditure issued in EUR by the identified Control Bodies of the partners.
11. Partners from Partner Countries which have not adopted the EUR as their currency shall convert into EUR the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency before submission for verification to the responsible Control Body of the Partner Countries. The expenditures shall be converted into EUR using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the European Commission (INFOREURO) in force in the month in which the expenditure is submitted by the partner to the control body⁴.
12. The exchange rate risk is borne by the lead partner or partner concerned.
13. In order to monitor the progress of the Project, the lead partner has to provide an updated spending forecast of the Project when requested by the joint secretariat or by the managing authority.
14. The lead partner, upon request by the joint secretariat, shall submit Project Follow-up Reports proving the sustenance of the project outputs. Details about the content and submission of Follow-up Reports are regulated in the Project Implementation Manual.
15. The lead partner has to provide immediate information to the joint secretariat about circumstances which delay, hinder or make impossible the implementation of the Project, as well as about any circumstances which represent a change of the reimbursement conditions and frameworks as laid down in the Contract or which entitle the managing authority to reduce or recover the EU contribution entirely or in part. Immediate information shall also be provided in case the Project has not been or cannot be fully implemented by carrying out the planned activities and results moreover by achieving at least 80 per cent of the quantifiable outputs, or if the Project cannot or could not be implemented in due time. As a general rule, however, the lead partner has to adhere to the rules and procedures for requesting project changes, which are defined in the Project Implementation Manual.
16. In case the Project cannot be implemented in line with the time schedule determined in the finalised Project Form contained in Annex II of the Contract, as well as in line with the spending forecast specified in Point 13 of the present Article, the fact has to be reported immediately to

³ See exception related to preparation costs in point 5.

⁴ The monthly exchange rates of the European Commission are available at the website of the European Commission: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro>.



the joint secretariat. At the same time the underspending does not exempt the Project from possible n+3 decommitment consequences.

Article 5

Payment of the EU contribution to the Lead Partner

1. As a general rule, the payment of EU contribution to the lead partner will be initiated after the verification and acceptance of the Project Report and of its annexes, the Application for Reimbursement and the Declarations on Verification of Expenditure. An exception from the above-mentioned rule is the EU advance, which is paid according to the Subsidy Contract.
2. The lead partner may be requested a completion of the Project Report and of the Application for Reimbursement during the approval process by the joint secretariat. After the second unsuccessful request/notice for completion, the Project Report and the Application for Reimbursement may be rejected.
3. In case the Final Project Report and the Application for Reimbursement are rejected, the lead partner shall be informed about the possible/applied sanctions (e.g. suspension of the last payment, repayment of subsidy, withdrawal from the Contract).
4. If the Project Report contains ineligible expenditure, the amount of these shall be deducted from the Application for Reimbursement. In this case, as a general rule, the lead partner shall re-compile and re-submit the Application for Reimbursement to the joint secretariat. For this reason, as a general rule, the relevant Declarations on Verification of Expenditure may be modified by the relevant Control Body.
5. Following the approval of the Final Project Report and after the last payment of EU contribution the joint secretariat initiates the financial closing of the Project in the INTERREG+ system. Financial closing cannot be initiated in case other processes related to the Project are not closed, such as irregularity and recovery procedures.
6. After the final payment to the lead partner, the Project is considered closed and the lead partner is informed about the closure. While the Project is considered closed, audits might be carried out during the programme period and/or within the timeframe stipulated in Article 82 (1) of the CPR and further detailed in the Project Implementation Manual. During this period, irregularity procedures and repayments can be initiated related to the Project.
7. The payment of EU contribution will be transferred by the certifying authority in the timeframe mentioned in point 1.b of Article 74 of the CPR. In case the EU contribution balance of the programme single bank account handled by the certifying authority does not cover the amount to be paid, the payment process will be suspended until the transfer of the EU contribution from the European Commission is credited to the programme single bank account.
8. The lead partner has to officially notify the joint secretariat in written form in case of a change of the separate project bank account within 15 calendar days or with the submission of the Application for Reimbursement at the latest. In case the lead partner fails to properly inform the



joint secretariat on the details of its separate bank account, all consequences, including those of financial nature, shall be borne by the lead partner.

9. The lead partner is responsible for transferring the EU contribution to those partners which receive financial support according to the approved Application for Reimbursement, within the timeframe agreed in the signed Partnership Agreement, and without any deduction, retention or further specific charge from the EU contribution amounts due.
10. Bank statements proving the management of the separate project bank account and the transfer of funds from the lead partner to those partners which receive financial support have to be presented to the joint secretariat attached to the subsequent Project Report. Bank statements proving that the lead partner has transferred to the partners(s) the EU contribution approved in the Final Project Report must be submitted to the joint secretariat within 14 calendar days from the transfer.

Article 6

Procurement rules

1. For the award of service, supply and work contracts by the lead partner / partners which receive financial support, the procurement procedures shall follow the provisions of Chapter 3 of Title VII of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 which apply in the whole programme area, both on the Member State's and on the IPA III partner country's territory.
2. Procurement rules shall apply for procurements both in the Member State and IPA III partner country (Hungary and Republic of Serbia).
3. Documents which should be submitted to support the verification of costs related to procurements are listed in the Project Implementation Manual / Eligibility of expenditures.
4. Lead partners / partners shall also follow all procurement rules defined in detail in the Project Implementation Manual, in the Eligibility of expenditures and in the manuals relating to national level procedures.

Article 7

Information and publicity

1. With respect to Article 36 (4) of the Interreg Regulation, the lead partner undertakes to fulfil the information and publicity measures set out in the Communication and Visibility Guide for Projects, with the aim of promoting the fact that co-financing is provided from EU contribution available under the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme, furthermore it undertakes to ensure the adequate promotion of the Project.
2. The lead partner shall ensure that all project official communication (e.g. any notice, publication, website or project event, including conferences or seminars) specifies that the Project has received funding from the EU within the framework of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia



- Programme, by following the instructions detailed in the Communication and Visibility Guide for Projects.
3. The managing authority / joint secretariat shall be authorised to publish, in any kind of form and on or by any kind of medium the following pieces of information:
 - a) the title and the acronym of the Project;
 - b) the name of the lead partner and of the partners;
 - c) the total budget of the Project, the amount of subsidy and the EU co-financing rate;
 - d) the name of the fund, the specific objective concerned and the type of intervention;
 - e) the purpose of the EU contribution (i.e. the overall objective of the Project) and the expected or actual achievements;
 - f) start date and (excepted or actual) date of completion;
 - g) the geographical location of the Project and/or the location of the lead partner and the partners;
 - h) project results, evaluations and summaries;
 - i) other information about the Project, if considered relevant, and all publicity material of the Project such as photographic and video content, news announcements etc.
 4. The lead partner shall ensure the proper means of communication between the Project and the Programme, including:
 - a) participation, whenever requested, in lead partner trainings organised by the joint secretariat;
 - b) participation, whenever requested, in other events organised by the programme management bodies with the purpose of presenting / discussing / developing / sharing project results and creating synergies with other projects and relevant organisations;
 - c) providing a visible link on the Project's website (if any), on the own official website (if any) and on the partners' official websites (if any) to the official Programme website.

Article 8 **Ownership/use of results**

1. Based on Article 65 of the CPR, an operation comprising investment in infrastructure or productive investment shall repay the contribution from the funds if within five years of the final payment to the partner(s), or within the period of time set out in State aid rules where applicable, the operation is subject to any of the following:
 - a) a cessation or transfer of a productive activity outside the NUTS level 2 region in which it received support;
 - b) a change in ownership of an item of infrastructure which gives to a firm or a public body an undue advantage;

- c) a substantial change affecting its nature, objectives or implementation conditions which would result in undermining its original objectives.

In line with Article 65 of the CPR repayment due to non-compliance with this Point shall be made in proportion to the period of non-compliance.

2. The lead partner is obliged to notify the joint secretariat of any such changes described beforehand.
3. Any results or rights related to the Project, including author's rights and/or any other intellectual or industrial property rights, obtained from the implementation or as a result of the implementation of the Contract (except the cases where such rights exist before the Contract) shall represent the property of the lead partner and the partners, as the case may be.
4. The lead partner and the partners cannot mortgage or impose any other form of bank guarantee on the goods purchased from the financing throughout the implementation period of the Project and five years after the date of the final payment to the lead partner.
5. Ownership, title and industrial and intellectual property rights in the outputs of the Project and the reports and other documents relating to it shall vest in the partners. Leasing, handing over or transferring the rights of use of the outputs of the Project is only possible with the prior written consent of the managing authority and only in case if all the rights and obligations following from the Contract and connected to the subject of matter will be transferred to the new party.
6. The use of the results of the Project can be checked by the managing authority / joint secretariat. Widespread publicity of such results shall be ensured by the lead partner in order to make them available to the public.
7. Without prejudice to Point 6 above, the lead partner grants the managing authority (and the European Commission) the right to use freely and as it sees fit, and in particular, to store, modify, translate, display, reproduce by any technical procedure, publish or communicate by any medium all documents deriving from the Project whatever their form, provided it does not thereby breach existing industrial and intellectual property rights.

Article 9 **Audit rights**

1. The responsible auditing bodies of the EU and, within their responsibility, the auditing bodies of the Partner Countries, as well as the audit authority, the managing authority, the joint secretariat and the certifying authority of the Programme are entitled to audit the proper use of funds by the lead partner and by the partners or to arrange for such an audit to be carried out by authorised persons.
2. The lead partner shall produce all documents required for the audit, provide necessary information and give access to its business premises. The lead partner is obliged to retain for audit

purposes all files, documents and data about the Project for at least until the time as specified in Article 82 (1) of the CPR and further detailed in the Project Implementation Manual. Documents to be retained are listed in Annex IV of the Subsidy Contract.

3. The identified Control Bodies are entitled to carry out on-the-spot checks as part of their verification activities, while the joint secretariat or the managing authority are entitled to carry out monitoring visits in order to inspect the progress of the Project from a professional point of view, both at the premises of the lead partner and of the partners, and at the location of the project activities.
4. The lead partner is obliged to guarantee the fulfilment of the above stipulated duties in relation to all other partners as well.
5. Observing the recommendations received after an audit must be ensured by the lead partner and the partners, otherwise the managing authority has the right to terminate the Subsidy Contract.
6. The lead partner shall keep accurate and regular accounts of the implementation of the Project using an appropriate accounting and double-entry book-keeping system. The accounts:
 - a) may be an integrated part of or an adjunct to the organisation's regular system;
 - b) shall comply with the accounting and bookkeeping policies and rules that apply in the country concerned;
 - c) shall enable income and expenditure relating to the Project to be easily traced, identified and verified.
7. The lead partner shall ensure that the financial section of any Project Report as required in the Project Implementation Manual of the Programme can be properly and easily reconciled to the accounting and bookkeeping system and to the underlying accounting and other relevant records. For this purpose, the lead partner shall prepare and keep appropriate reconciliations, supporting schedules, analyses and breakdowns for inspection and verification.
8. The lead partner shall allow verifications/audits to be carried out by the managing authority, the national authority, the audit authority and members of the Group of Auditors, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office, the AFCOS in Member States and the anti-fraud body identified in the Financing Agreement by Serbia, the European Court of Auditors and any external auditor authorised by any of these bodies. The lead partner has to take all steps to facilitate their work.
9. The lead partner shall allow the above entities to:
 - a) access the sites and locations at which the Project is implemented;
 - b) examine its accounting and information systems, documents and databases concerning the technical and financial management of the Project;
 - c) take copies of documents;
 - d) carry out on the-spot-checks;

- e) conduct a full audit on the basis of all accounting documents and any other document relevant to the financing of the Project.
10. Additionally the European Anti-Fraud Office and the other above-mentioned anti-fraud agencies shall be allowed to carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with the procedures laid down by the European Union legislation for the protection of the financial interests of the European Union against fraud and other irregularities, as well as the Financing Agreement between the European Commission and Serbia. Where appropriate, the findings may lead to recovery by the European Commission.
 11. Access given to agents/employees/subcontractors of the above-mentioned bodies carrying out verifications/audits as provided for by this Article shall be on the basis of confidentiality with respect to third parties, without prejudice to the obligations of public law to which they are subject.
 12. Each partner receiving financial support shall keep all records, accounting and supporting documents related to the Contract for five years following 31 December of the year in which the last payment is made to the lead partner, and in any case until any on-going audit, verification, appeal, litigation or pursuit of claim has been disposed of.
 13. The records, accounting and supporting documents shall be easily accessible and filed so as to facilitate their examination.
 14. All the supporting documents shall be available either in the original form, including in electronic form, or in duly justified cases as a copy.
 15. If the managing authority or the European Commission carries out an interim or ex post evaluation or a monitoring mission, the lead partner shall undertake to provide it and/or the persons authorised by it with the documents or information necessary for the evaluation or monitoring mission.
 16. Failure to comply with the obligations set forth in this Article constitutes a case of breach of a substantial obligation under this Contract. In this case, the managing authority may in particular suspend the Contract, approval of a Project Report, payments or the time-limit for a payment, terminate the Contract and reduce the subsidy.

Article 10 **Irregularities**

1. The managing authority shall show zero tolerance to any suspected cases of fraud and shall take all necessary measures to prevent and correct such cases.
2. In case of irregularities identified during project implementation the managing authority reserves the right to claim the repayment of the EU contribution in full or in part from the lead partner, and has the right to reduce the amount of the EU contribution awarded. In case an irregularity is

committed, the managing authority shall impose on the lead partner all the necessary measures for the elimination or diminishing of the consequences on the implementation of the Project.

3. Based on the above, the lead partner is always responsible for securing the repayment of the EU contribution unduly paid to the Project, even if the irregularity was committed by one of the other partners.
4. If another partner, receiving financial support, commits an irregularity, the lead partner – after having received the notice on repayment – is obliged to request the amount unduly paid from the partner concerned and has to repay it to the managing authority within the deadline for the repayment set in Article 11.3 of the General Terms and Conditions. The lead partner shall exercise due diligence to ensure repayment.
5. If the lead partner does not succeed in securing the repayment from the partner(s), within five calendar days from the end of the provided deadline the lead partner has to notify the joint secretariat and the managing authority and has to send proof of steps taken towards the partner(s).
6. When the amount unduly paid has not been recovered by the lead partner – except the case when the lead partner makes all efforts to recover the amount from the affected partner –, the lead partner shall remain responsible for the repayment.

Article 11

Right of withdrawal, cancellation, repayment and suspension of reimbursement

1. The managing authority is entitled to withdraw from the Contract and to demand the repayment of the EU contribution in full or in part if:
 - a) the lead partner has obtained the EU contribution through false or incomplete statements to bodies/appointees of the European Commission, the managing authority or any other authorities involved in the implementation of the Programme; or if
 - b) a precondition for the approval of the Project is no longer given, in particular if the compulsory cross-border partner resigns from the Project and is not replaced in line with the provisions of Article 13 of the General Terms and Conditions; or if
 - c) the Partnership Agreement concluded between the partner organisations is no longer in force; or if
 - d) the lead partner becomes insolvent or subject to bankruptcy proceedings; or if
 - e) the lead partner is convicted of an offence concerning its professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of '*res iudicata*', further if it is guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the managing authority/national authority can justify; or if
 - f) the lead partner does not fulfil its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes in accordance with the national legal provisions; or if
 - g) the lead partner becomes the subject of a judgment which has the force of '*res iudicata*' for fraud, for corruption, for severe breach of contract in connection to obligations stemming



- from procurement rules or from rules governing the use of EU funding or national subsidies, for involvement in a criminal organisation or for any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU's financial interests; or if
- h) the lead partner becomes guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the managing authority or in failing to provide requested information; or
 - i) in case of established irregularities; or if
 - j) the lead partner fails to fulfil a condition or an obligation resulting from the Contract, in particular if
 - k) the lead partner fails to submit a Project Report and Application for Reimbursement within the reporting deadline;
 - l) the lead partner repeatedly fails to submit Project Follow-up Reports, if applicable; or if
 - m) the lead partner fails to sustain the results of the Project as defined in Article 8 of the General Terms and Conditions; or if
 - n) the Project has not been or cannot be fully implemented by carrying out the planned activities and results moreover by achieving at least 80 per cent of the quantifiable outputs, or if the Project cannot or could not be implemented in due time; or if
 - o) the lead partner fails to, within seven calendar days, provide information about circumstances that delay, hinder or make impossible the implementation of the Project, as well as about any circumstances that represent a change of the reimbursement conditions and frameworks as laid down in the present Contract or which entitle the managing authority to reduce or demand repayment of the EU contribution entirely or in part; or if
 - p) the regulations of EU- and national law (including provisions concerning procurement rules, State aid rules, publicity rules, rules on environmental protection and rules on equal opportunities) have been infringed; or if
 - q) the lead partner has impeded or prevented the auditing of the Project or failed to retain the project documentation as referred to in Article 9 of the General Terms and Conditions; or if
 - r) the EU contribution awarded has been partially or entirely misapplied for purposes other than those agreed upon; or if
 - s) it has been impossible to verify that the Final Project Report is correct and thus the eligibility of the Project for funding from the Programme cannot be verified.
2. Based on Article 36 (6) of the Interreg Regulation, The managing authority may, taking into account the principle of proportionality, cancel up to 2 per cent of the EU contribution in case a partner, including the lead partner, does not comply with its information and publicity obligations under Article 47 of the CPR or Article 36 (4) and (5) of the Interreg Regulation.
3. If the managing authority sends a request for repayment for the amount of EU contribution paid unduly, the lead partner is obliged to secure repayments from the partner(s) concerned and has to repay the amount specified by the managing authority before the due date. The repayment by the lead partner is due within 60 calendar days following the receipt date of the request for repayment. Any delay in effecting repayment may give rise to interest on late payment, starting on the due date and ending on the date of actual payment. The rate of the interest shall be one-

and-a-half percentage points above the rate applied by the European Central Bank in its main refinancing operations on the first working day of the month in which the due date falls.

4. The managing authority has the right to recover the amounts specified in the request for repayment by deducting them from the transferable amount of the approved Application for Reimbursement.
5. Bank charges incurred by the repayment of amounts due to the managing authority shall be borne entirely by the lead partner and/or the partners.
6. The lead partner is entitled to exercise the right of withdrawal if the implementation of the Project becomes impossible due to circumstances independent from the lead partner. In this case, the lead partner shall repay the whole amount of EU contribution transferred within two months from the date of notifying the managing authority on the withdrawal from the Contract. In case of late payment, interest on late payment may be charged according to Point 3 above.
7. The managing authority may decide to suspend the reimbursement of the EU contribution if the provisions laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding are not respected by the Partner States. The lead partner shall be informed on the suspension.
8. In case of observations and/or reservations raised by the European Commission regarding the Description of the Management and Control System of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme or in case of a system error detected, the managing authority has the right to temporarily withhold payments to a particular partners or the Project as a whole. Payment suspension(s) shall be lifted as soon as observations and/or reservations raised by the European Commission have been withdrawn and the managing authority has received sufficient evidence on the solution of the systemic error(s) detected. In case the European Commission takes the decision of interrupting or totally suspending the funds, the managing authority may terminate the Contract.
9. Any breach of the provisions of the Contract may result in the termination of the Contract by the managing authority.
10. The present Contract may also be terminated by written mutual agreement of the Parties.
11. The managing authority has the right to terminate the Contract, without any notice, if the European Commission withdraws the financing of the Project. In this case managing authority is not obliged to pay any compensation to lead partner.
12. If termination takes effect before the entire amount of the subsidy is paid to the lead partner, the payments will cease and the managing authority will not consider further requests from the lead partner for payment of the remaining part of the amount.
13. A contracting Party should notify the other Party fifteen calendar days after the decision on terminating the Contract is taken. The notification should be in writing and should contain the reasons and justifications for the decision.



14. In exceptional and duly justified cases, including the occurrence of force majeure, the managing authority may decide on terminating the Contract by a written notification.

Article 12 **Assignment, legal succession**

1. The managing authority is entitled at any time to assign its rights under the Contract. In case of assignment the managing authority will inform the lead partner without delay.
2. The lead partner is allowed to assign its duties and rights under the Contract only after prior decision of the Monitoring Committee and written consent of the managing authority.
3. In case of legal succession the Parties are obliged to transfer all duties under the Contract to the legal successor. The Parties shall notify each other about any change beforehand. In case of legal succession affecting the lead partner or a partner, the lead partner shall notify the joint secretariat beforehand. In case of legal succession – as all duties under the present Contract are transferred to the legal successor – the Contract shall be modified.

Article 13 **Amendments to the Contract and other project changes**

1. Deviations from any aspect of project implementation defined in the Contract and its Annexes have to be reported by the lead partner to the joint secretariat in order to seek written approval for changes. Modifications to the Project can also be initiated by the managing authority / joint secretariat, if deemed necessary.
2. Amendments to the Contract, including its Annexes, must be in written form.
3. The amendment may not have the purpose or the effect of making changes to the Contract which would call into question the subsidy award decision or be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants.
4. Any amendment to the Contract has to respect the detailed rules laid down in the Project Implementation Manual in force regarding each case of contract modification or other changes in the Project.
5. Any request for a modification of the Contract (except for the decommitment decision of the managing authority or legal succession of the managing authority) has to be justified and submitted by the lead partner to the joint secretariat in a written form, as regulated in the Project Implementation Manual. The joint secretariat will process the request for modification and will submit it for approval to the managing authority or the Monitoring Committee, according to the type of modification requested. The lead partner can be contacted if any further clarification of the submitted modification request or change in the Project is necessary.
6. The Addendum to the Subsidy Contract has to be signed by both Parties according to the approval of the managing authority / Monitoring Committee.



7. The Addendum to the Subsidy Contract enters into force on the date of signature by the last of the Parties. The date from which the changes contained in the Addendum shall be effective is to be explicitly identified in the text of the Addendum.

Article 14

Force majeure

1. Force majeure is any external event, unforeseeable, absolutely invincible and inevitable, occurred after the conclusion of present Contract, which prevents the execution of all or part of this Contract. There are considered cases of force majeure: wars, natural calamities, general strikes, insurrections, revolts, epidemics, earthquakes, floods and other similar events that cannot be attributed to any Party of the Contract. Force majeure, established under the law, exonerates the Parties in case of failure to execute totally or partially the obligations under this Contract, as long as the force majeure is in force, and only if the other Party has been duly notified.
2. It is not considered to be force majeure if there is an event similar to those listed in Point 1 above that, without creating an impossibility of execution, makes the execution of the obligations very difficult for one of the Parties.
3. The Parties shall take all measures at their disposal to limit the consequences of force majeure.
4. The execution of the Contract may be suspended, from the occurrence of force majeure during the whole period of its duration.
5. The Party stating that there is a case of force majeure has the obligation to notify the other Party in five calendar days from the date of the case of force majeure, and has to prove the existence of the reality of this situation in fifteen calendar days. In case the force majeure situation discontinues, this fact must be notified to the other Party in five calendar days. The responsible Party will take all costs if the notification procedure is not observed.
6. In case the Contract must be suspended under this reason for a period longer than three months, the managing authority has the right to decide on the continuation / modification / termination of the Contract.

Article 15

Conflict of interests and good conduct

1. The lead partner shall take all necessary measures to prevent or end any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests may arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest.
2. Any conflict of interests which may arise during the performance of the Contract must be notified in writing to the joint secretariat without delay. In the event of such conflict, the lead partner shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it. The joint secretariat reserves the right to verify that the measures taken are appropriate, and may require additional measures to be taken if necessary.



3. The lead partner shall ensure that its staff, including its management, is not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to its obligation under the Contract, the lead partner shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the managing authority, any member of its staff in such a situation.
4. The lead partner shall respect human rights and applicable environmental legislation, including multilateral environmental agreements, as well as internationally agreed core labour standards.

Article 16 **Confidentiality, data protection**

1. The managing authority and the lead partner undertake to preserve the confidentiality of any information, notwithstanding its form, disclosed in writing or orally in relation to the implementation of the Contract and identified in writing as confidential until at least the end of the timeframe mentioned in Article 82 (1) of the CPR.
2. The lead partner shall not use confidential information for any aim other than fulfilling their obligations under the Contract, unless otherwise agreed with the managing authority.
3. The European Commission shall have access to all documents communicated to the managing authority and shall maintain the same level of confidentiality.
4. Any personal data will be processed in accordance with applicable national legislation solely for the purposes of the performance, management, monitoring and control of the Contract by the managing authority and the joint secretariat, and may also be passed to the bodies charged with monitoring or inspection tasks under European Union law.
5. The lead partner declares that it has informed the contact person of the Contract and all the employees affected by the procession of their personal data required for the performance of the Contract and of their rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, prior to the transfer of their personal data to the managing authority / joint secretariat. The lead partner shall ensure that the contact persons and all affected employees of the Project partners have also been informed of the above. General information on data protection is available on the website of the Programme.
6. The lead partner shall limit access and use of personal data to that strictly necessary for the performance, management, monitoring and control of the Contract and shall adopt all appropriate technical and organisational security measures necessary to preserve the strictest confidentiality of and to limit access to this data.
7. In case natural, recognizable persons are depicted in a photograph or film produced in connection to the Project, the lead partner shall in the Final Project Report submit a statement of these persons giving their permissions for the use of their image. The above does not refer to neither photographs taken nor films shot in public places where random members of the public are identifiable only hypothetically, nor to public persons acting in their public activities.

ANNEX II – FINALISED PROJECT FORM

	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
r:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		



Project form

Title of the project	Minimizing CROSSborder water contamination of microPLASTICS		
Priority	P1 - A greener region		
Objective	O1.2 - Biodiversity and reduced pollution		
Project type by scale	12R - Biodiversity and reduced pollution - Regular scale project		
Total budget			1 372 328,40 EUR
EU contribution			1 166 479,14 EUR
National contribution	84 374,76 EUR	Hungary	84 374,76 EUR
		Serbia	0,00 EUR
Own contribution	121 474,50 EUR	Own public contribution	121 474,50 EUR
		Own private contribution	0,00 EUR
Start date of project	01/07/2024	End date of project	30/06/2026
	Duration of the project (in month)	24	

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

1. Project partnership

Role	Official name of the organization (in original language)	Country	NUTS III region or equivalent	NUTS V - settlement(s)
LP	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine	Serbia	Južnobački upravni okrug	Novi Sad
P1	Zavod za javno zdravlje Sombor	Serbia	Zapadnobački upravni okrug	Sombor
P2	Nemzeti Községálati Egyetem	Hungary	Budapest	Budapest
P3	Fond "Evropski poslovi" Autonomne pokrajine Vojvodine	Serbia	Južnobanatski upravni okrug	Novi Sad

Project reporting periods

	From date	To date	Reporting deadline
1	01/07/2024	31/10/2024	29/01/2025
2	01/11/2024	28/02/2025	29/05/2025
3	01/03/2025	30/06/2025	28/09/2025
4	01/07/2025	31/10/2025	29/01/2026
5	01/11/2025	28/02/2026	29/05/2026
6	01/03/2026	30/06/2026	28/09/2026

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

2. Partner data

Lead Partner

General data of the partner

Official name in original language	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine		
Official name in English	Institute of public health of Vojvodina		
Abbreviated name	IZJZV		
Type of institution	Public body		
Website	http://izjzv.org.rs/		
Legal status	Public organization	Registry number	08246912
National tax number	100452714	Community tax number	/
Date of foundation	02/11/1920	Founder organisation	Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Address and contact information

Addresses of the Organization	Official address	Branch office address	Mailing address
Country	Serbia	Serbia	Serbia
NUTS III or equivalent	Južnobački upravni okrug	Južnobački upravni okrug	Južnobački upravni okrug
Postal code	21102	21102	21102
Settlement	Novi Sad	Novi Sad	Novi Sad
Street, number, PO Box	Futoška 121	Futoška 121	Futoška 121

Legal representative of the organization		Contact person	
Title	Prof.	Title	Mrs.
Name	Vladimir Petrovic	Name	Sanja Bijelović
Position	Director	Position	The Head of the Department for Hygiene and Human Ecology
Mobile phone	+381214897800	Mobile phone	+ 381641798333
Office phone		Office phone	+ 381214897
E-mail	izjzv@izjzv.org.rs	E-mail	sanja.bijelovic@izjzv.org.rs

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

Partner 1

Official name in original language	Zavod za javno zdravlje Sombor		
Official name in English	Public health institute Sombor		
Abbreviated name	ZZJZSO		
Type of institution	Public body		
Website	www.zzjzsombor.org		
Legal status	Public organization	Registry number	08333092
National tax number	101842968	Community tax number	/
Date of foundation	01/11/1925	Founder organisation	Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Address and contact information

Addresses of the Organization	Official address	Branch office address	Mailing address
Country	Serbia	Serbia	Serbia
NUTS III or equivalent	Zapadnobački upravni okrug	Zapadnobački upravni okrug	Zapadnobački upravni okrug
Postal code	25000	25000	25000
Settlement	Sombor	Sombor	Sombor
Street, number, PO Box	Vojvođanska 47	Vojvođanska 47	Vojvođanska 47

Legal representative of the organization		Contact person	
Title	Ms.	Title	Ms.
Name	Dragoslava Čubrilo	Name	Dragoslava Čubrilo
Position	Director	Position	Director
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Office phone		Office phone	
E-mail	dragoslavacubrilo@gmail.com	E-mail	dragoslavacubrilo@gmail.com

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

Partner 2

Official name in original language	Nemzeti Közszoigálati Egyetem		
Official name in English	University of Public Service		
Abbreviated name	NKE		
Type of institution	Public body – University		
Website	https://en.uni-nke.hu/		
Legal status	Public organization	Registry number	795713
National tax number	15795719242	Community tax number	HU15795719
Date of foundation	01/01/2012	Founder organisation	Parliament of Hungary

Address and contact information

Addresses of the Organization	Official address	Branch office address	Mailing address
Country	Hungary	Hungary	Hungary
NUTS III or equivalent	Budapest	Bács-Kiskun vármegye	Bács-Kiskun vármegye
Postal code	1083	6500	6500
Settlement	Budapest	Baja	Baja
Street, number, PO Box	Ludovika tér 2., 1441 Budapest Pf.: 60.	Bajcsy-Zsilinszky utca 14.	Bajcsy-Zsilinszky utca 14.

Legal representative of the organization		Contact person	
Title	Mr.	Title	Mrs.
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Position	Rector of the university	Position	Zsuzsanna Vincze
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Office phone		Office phone	
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ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

Partner 3

Official name in original language	Fond "Evropski poslovi" Autonomne pokrajine Vojvodine		
Official name in English	The European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina		
Abbreviated name	FEP		
Type of institution	Public body		
Website	https://vojvodinahouse.eu/		
Legal status	Public organization	Registry number	08917752
National tax number	106652119	Community tax number	/
Date of foundation	20/05/2010	Founder organisation	Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Address and contact information

Addresses of the Organization	Official address	Branch office address	Mailing address
Country	Serbia	Serbia	Serbia
NUTS III or equivalent	Južnobanatski upravni okrug	Južnobanatski upravni okrug	Južnobanatski upravni okrug
Postal code	21108	21108	21108
Settlement	Novi Sad	Novi Sad	Novi Sad
Street, number, PO Box	Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 16, P.O. box 2	Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 16, P.O. box 2	Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 16, P.O. box 2

Legal representative of the organization		Contact person	
Title	Mr.	Title	Mr.
Name	Ognjen Dopud	Name	Jano Puškar
Position	Director	Position	Senior Officer
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Office phone		Office phone	+381213102082
E-mail	dopudj@vojvodinahouse.eu	E-mail	puskar@vojvodinahouse.eu

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

3. Project Description

Project description

Project's overall objective: Please describe the project's overall objective in the field below (maximum 500 characters)

Project overall objective is to enhance environmental protection and reduce pollution by identifying sources and reducing microplastic pollution in the water ecosystem within the cross border area Bačka/Bács-Kiskun. This is going to be achieved through sampling and identification of pollutants as well as modeling and developing measures and tools to reduce the microplastics pollution in the water ecosystem while at the same time increasing public awareness on the problem and solutions developed.

Please describe how the project's overall objective contributes to the programme specific objective (maximum 2 000 characters)

By establishing a cooperation between the relevant project partners in the protection and preservation of nature in the cross border region, the project will directly contribute to programme specific objective in enhancing protection and preservation of Nature and reducing the microplastics pollution within the wider programme area. This will be achieved through a specific set of outcomes that will tackle the unfavorable processes in nature - microplastics pollution, that are a result of Human activities. In order to be able to determine the extent and amount of microplastics pollution it is necessary to conduct specific measurements within the water ecosystems (river, canals and wastewater treatment facilities) followed by identifying the sources of pollution in CBC region, including protected areas Gornje Podunavlje, Begečka jama, nature park Gemenc, Riha oxbow lake. Furthermore, the project is also focused on enhancing the efficiency of measures to protect nature and the environment through establishing a system for measuring and monitoring microplastics pollution within the region and developing recommendations on reducing the amount of microplastics pollution. Project pilot action goal is development of the efficient microplastics filters for wastewater treatment facilities with different parameters that will ensure the efficiency of direct measure for reducing the pollution sources is increased while the mapping of the wastewater treatment facilities in the CBC area will contribute to properly identifying and reducing pollution sources in future. Furthermore, the project will contribute to environmental awareness and reducing water and soil pollution and deterioration of natural habitats by achieving the outcome related to raising awareness and educational activities for the school and highschool children, public officials, experts and general public supported with development of recommendations for reducing the human impact in microplastics pollution.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Please enter the project summary in the below cell (maximum 3 000 characters)

Plastics have become a part of our everyday life over the past decades. The household, clothes, cosmetics and food packaging is made from plastic, and since microbes cannot break them down, their waste materials remain in the environment for centuries. As a result of human activity, Microplastics are now ubiquitous on our planet – they're found all over the place, including fresh Antarctic snow, our bodies, and pose alarming threat to the environment and public health. The main sources of microplastics in the water ecosystem are synthetic fibre materials, packaging, cosmetics, rubber and up to hundreds of thousands of microscopic plastic fibres from household appliances that go down the drain. Moreover, a good part of the microplastic dust settles in cities and along roads and is washed into the soil and sewage network with the precipitation. Creating a cross border cooperation is necessary for efficiently and effectively tackling the identified problem. Microplastics pollution is mainly allocated to the water bodies and most of them consist of a net of canals, streams and rivers finally ending up in big rivers. This makes the problem cross border, and reducing the pollution upstream of the river will reduce the pollution downstream. The MICROPLASTICS project focuses on preserving nature in the Cross border area (Bačka/Bács-Kiskun) by identifying the sources of pollution and reducing the level of the water ecosystem

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

pollution by microplastics. In order to do so, the project aims at establishing effective partnership for protection and preservation of nature. The project will directly contribute to programme objective in enhancing protection, preservation of Nature and reducing the microplastics pollution within the wider programme area. This will be achieved through a specific set of outcomes. Firstly, by determining the extent and amount of microplastics pollution within the water ecosystems (river, canals and wastewater treatment facilities) and identifying the sources of pollution within the CBC region, including protected locations Gornje Podunavlje, Begečka jama, Nature Park Gemenc, Riha Oxbow lake. After the identification a regional system for measuring and monitoring of microplastics will be established and recommendations for increasing the efficiency of measures to protect nature and the environment will be developed. Furthermore, within the pilot action project partners will be designing and testing the filtration solution for wastewater treatment facilities and identifying the waste water treatment facilities in the region for potential replication of project outcomes in the future. Finally, engaging school children, public officials, experts and the general public in educational and awareness raising activities the project will contribute to environmental awareness and therefore reduce water and soil pollution and deterioration of natural habitats.

Problems, challenges to be addressed; preparations already carried out (maximum 2 000 characters)

Most of the produced plastic serves as short life products and packaging, which after a short time becomes waste, and due to its extensive use, carelessness and improper disposal, a large part of the plastic ends up in water ecosystems (seas, rivers, lakes, oceans). Due to its small size, microplastics are difficult to remove from the environment but it is also difficult to exactly locate the source of microplastics pollution in water. While due to its size fish and other water organisms exchange them for food, thus entering the complex food chain, microplastics can also clog the digestive system of fish causing death. Furthermore, along the food chain, microplastics act as a source and depot for toxic chemicals, heavy metals and pathogenic microorganisms. Plastic crushed to micro and nano sizes has also a harmful effect by cutting off oxygen, as the microplastics settle at the bottom of the water body, preventing oxygen from reaching the organisms and destroying them, thus impacting the whole food chain within the water ecosystem. Compared to research on the presence of microplastics in oceans and seas, research data on pollution in large rivers and other surface water bodies is relatively low. Moreover there is a great lack of information about the amount, type and source of microplastics found in the water ecosystem in general and in the basins and sub-basins of the Danube River and surrounding nature parks and protected areas. Existing wastewater treatment plants within the CBC area do not use any water filtration method for microplastic nor monitoring, thus posing a significant crossborder challenge for nature preservation. Moreover, lack of information and awareness on the problem of microplastic water pollution within the expert groups and general public is also present. While the various laws prohibit the improper disposal of plastic in the environment, there is still no legal regulation that affects this kind of pollution directly in both countries.

Target groups, benefits for the target groups (maximum 2 000 characters)

Project target groups are:

- (1) Public health experts working within the partner organisation and within the sector (20 people). All project outcomes will improve cooperation between partner organisations and increase their capacities for identifying, measuring, reducing microplastic pollution.
- (2) Partner organisations participating in the project (4 org.)- Operational capacities of the organisations in sampling and measuring the pollution in the water ecosystem will be increased enabling easier observation and public monitoring of microplastics pollution.
- (3) School children - participating in the educational activities (200 pupils) , they will increase their knowledge on the negative effects of the microplastics pollution, affecting their behaviour and encouraging their positive attitude towards nature preservation for future generations.
- (4) High school Students - participating in the educational activities (150 children), they will increase their knowledge and actively contribute to solving the problem of microplastics pollution encouraging positive attitude towards nature preservation for future generations.
- (5) Water management, public health, and local authorities representatives - participating in the

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

educational activities (20 people), increasing their knowledge on the current situation in microplastic pollution and possible solutions for reducing microplastics pollution.

(6) General population - (200 people) Through activities on raising awareness the public will be informed on the project goal and problem of microplastics pollution in nature and reduction measures. Inhabitants in the CBC area (100k people) where the pilot project will be implemented will also have the benefit of reduced microplastics pollution in water.

(7) NGO active in nature preservation - By having access to data on pollution (4 NGO). Their capacity for influencing the public authorities in creating relevant policy frameworks for reducing microplastics pollution will increase.

Expected outputs, results; durability, sustainability and capitalization of results (maximum 2 000 characters)

A set of outcomes is planned for achieving the project goal. First outcome will result in an implemented project and achieved communication objective, this way ensuring long term cooperation between partners and efficient capitalization of all the project results.

Second outcome will result in enabled partner organisations/public experts to collect and process acquired samples. Acquired equipment necessary for collecting and processing of the open surface water, wastewater, and sediments samples, will result in conducted measurements finally resulting in developed protocols for future activities in monitoring of water ecosystem pollution on microplastics. Procured equipment, developed protocols and educated personnel/public health experts will ensure the sustainability of the result after the project ends while the partner organisations will use these results within their daily operations benefiting the community in the long term.

Third project outcome will result in implemented pilot action with developed adequate method on filtration of waste water and developed scalable filter for 2 wastewater treatment plants in the CBC area with the measurement on efficiency of applied solution. This will be followed by mapped wastewater treatment plants in the CBC area. Durability of result is within using the filters after the project ends benefiting the community and nature while the measurements and mapping will ensure sustainability as it will provide new research knowledge and potential for replication of the pilot action results.

Fourth outcome will result in raised awareness and educated target groups, namely school children, public officials, enviro NGOs and the general public on the scope of microplastic pollution in the CBC area, but also on the negative impact that microplastics pollution has on nature. Educated target groups will ensure the durability of results while developed educational/informational material and ICT platform will exploit results continuously.

Cross-border activities and impact (maximum 2 000 characters)

Creating a cross border consortium is necessary for efficiently and effectively tackling the identified problem. Partners from Hungary had engaged in the research related to the microplastics pollution in previous activities thus having necessary knowledge that is essential for partners from Serbia. Moreover the microplastics pollution is mainly allocated to the water bodies and most of them consist of a net of canals, streams and rivers finally ending up in big rivers. This makes the problem cross border, because reducing the pollution upstream of the river will reduce the pollution downstream. Education is a joint cross border activity where the partner from Hungary will transfer knowledge to the partner organisations/public experts in Serbia, also joint actions will be needed in order to obtain mutually usable data for further research and measuring purposes. Sampling and methods will also be jointly developed impacting the development of protocols based on the experience of both partners. Pilot project will be based on the requirements of the partners from both sides and jointly developed to provide the efficient solution for both wastewater treatment plants one in Sombor and one in Baja, while results of the efficiency will be cross checked and analysed. Mapping of the existing wastewater treatment plants in the Bačka and Baja region will enable analysis, help development of the pilot and identify possible locations for replication of the pilot project. Educational and awareness raising activities will be implemented also jointly through capitalisation of results. Moreover two joint events will be organised, one in Novi Sad in the form of a conference on the topic of microplastic pollution and the second in Baja as an Study

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

tour/roundtable having impact on the general and expert public in the CBC region. Finally ICT platform developed will include all project specific research and mapping material and crossborder data on microplastics pollution.

Compliance with the EU horizontal principles (fundamental rights; equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming; non-discrimination and sustainable development). Explain how the project contributes to the horizontal principle(s) (maximum 3 000 characters)

The project will contribute to gender equality not simply by implying the inclusion of equal number of men and women in project management, but also with regards to using knowledge and experience of both men and women. During project implementation, the project team will strive to include both sexes in equal numbers in all project activities. Activities are planned to be easily accessible for people with disabilities. Since different ethnic groups live in the region, relevant material will be made available in Hungarian and Serbian and English. Discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation will be unacceptable during the project implementation.

The project team will ensure confidentiality and protection of privacy for collected personal data gathered in all the project activities with prior written consent from participants.

The project goal is to enhance environmental protection and reduce pollution thus fully comply with the sustainable development as set out in Article 11 TFEU. Moreover project by its nature directly contribute to 3 UN Sustainable Development Goals (6, 11, 15) as the project is in line with sustainable use of water, it will have activities aimed at promoting the sustainable use of resources within cities in order to reduce the waste and improper disposal of waste and it will also through its activities directly combat pollution of rivers and protection of the nature and biodiversity loss.

When it comes to removing microplastics from water ecosystem, it directly aligns with the DNSH principle for several reasons:

Environmental protection: By removing microplastics from rivers, the project aims to prevent further harm to the environment and the organisms living within it.

Conservation of aquatic life: Rivers and water bodies are essential habitats for a wide range of species. By eliminating microplastics, we can reduce the risks posed to aquatic life, promoting biodiversity conservation.

Preventing harm to human health: Removing microplastics from rivers helps reduce this risk, aligning with the DNSH principle's focus on safeguarding public health.

Sustainable development: Cleaning up rivers and addressing the issue of microplastics contributes to the sustainable use of water resources and supports the EU's long-term environmental goals.

Policy coherence: The EU has taken various measures to combat plastic pollution, and this project goal in tackling microplastics in rivers complements those efforts, demonstrating a consistent commitment to environmental protection.

Reducing microplastics from rivers aligns with the EU Water Framework Directive by promoting good ecological and chemical status, preventing pollution, supporting monitoring and reporting requirements. Moreover, reducing microplastics from rivers aligns with the EU Birds Directive, Natura 2000 and the Habitats Directive by supporting the conservation and preservation of habitats and species.

Synergies with other policies (macro regional/(trans)national/micro regional/county level), programmes and projects (maximum 2 000 characters)

Efforts to remove microplastics from water align with the broader goals of the Danube Strategy in terms of environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the region. The project Microplastics corresponds closely with Priority Area 4 and Priority Area 6 of the EUSDR. It aligns with the goals of improving water quality, protecting the environment, preserving biodiversity and landscapes, and taking an integrated approach to address environmental issues in the Danube region.

Furthermore, the project is well-aligned to the Adrion Programme, as it contributes to environmental protection, water quality improvement, and sustainable tourism in the Adriatic-Ionian region.

Project is also related to number of strategies in Serbia, Waste Management Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Water Management Strategy, Sustainable Development Strategy and Circular Economy Strategy by directly contributing to reduction of microplastics in water ecosystem,

ct ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

targeting improper waste disposal, protecting aquatic habitats and wildlife from pollution, achieving the desired ecological and chemical status of rivers and streams, promoting responsible use of natural resources, and supporting the conservation of ecosystem through project activities. Finally project contributes to number of Hungarian policies: Waste Management and Recycling Initiatives, Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity Protection initiative, Water Quality and The Concept for Global Responsibility Education, addressing through its activities plastic waste that might not be effectively managed or recycled, safeguarding aquatic ecosystems and protecting wildlife, maintaining clean and healthy water bodies and contributing to encouraging public awareness about the detrimental effects of plastic pollution. PP3 has also conducted a number of projects related to sustainable and innovative water management systems and processes for water treatment systems that have direct synergy with the project.

Risk management (possible internal/external limitations and solutions foreseen) (maximum 2 000 characters)

The implementation of the project has certain risks and main measures for providing a solution will be an expert project team led by good managers, with regular meetings and information sharing supported by software solutions for project management and control.

Financial risks include unforeseen financial costs related to fluctuation of foreign exchange rates, if this occurs they will be covered by participating organisations in the project. There is also a risk for budget planning since all partner organisations are public and require public budget spending, tackled by good management and financial planning.

Economical risks include, that the contracted suppliers delays delivery of equipment and materials and malfunctioning equipment that requires repairs which is a high impact risk with middle to low probability. Delays in delivery can be avoided by preparing tender procedures on time and procurement activities are scheduled for the very beginning of the project and repairs will be covered by good management of procurement contracts.

The risk of bad weather conditions can have a significant impact on project implementation since the sampling is conducted outdoors. The probability for this risk to occur is high but if the month of sampling has unfavourable weather, the activity can be delayed by a number of days or even weeks and schedule can be modified according to weather conditions. If a similar pandemic situation occurs as in 2019, presenting high risk with middle probability, hindering live meetings, workshops and conferences. It is possible that some activities could be delayed in implementation while events will be held online, through webinars and online meetings.

Social risk may potentially hinder the implementation of activities regarding participation in educational events, conferences and study tours. Presenting middle risk with middle probability and it is tackled by a strong promotional campaign with high online and media presence.

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

4. Outcomes

Outcome ID	Activities	Description of activity	Location of activity	Outcome name
0	0.2 - Communication	<p>The beginning of the project will be marked by the Opening conference to take place in the City of Novi Sad as the administrative center of the South Bačka district. The Opening conference will present the project objectives and activities to media representatives, representatives of public government (local regional etc.), to the representatives of the non governmental organisations active in the nature protection and preservation in the cross-border region both from Serbia and Hungary as well as to the general public. FEP will be responsible for the organisation of the event. The event will be organised in the Hybrid form where representatives and partner organisations will be invited to take participation. Simple basic ecological promotional material will be produced by branding promotional items: eco bottles, eco hats and recycled cotton t-shirts and recycled bags for participants of the school competition/ecological workshops and study tours participants, FEP will be responsible for procuring all the required promotional materials for the project consortium. In addition to enlisted promotional material, roll-ups will be produced bearing project and programme information in line with the communication and visibility requirements of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Co-operation programme Hungary-Serbia. Each partner will have two roll-ups at its disposal. The promotional items will be distributed on selected project events while roll-ups will be used to ensure the visibility of EU funding in the programme area. At the end of the project the Closing conference will be organised which will take place in Hungary in Baja, the organisation of the closing conference will be the responsibility of PP3 NKE. The Closing conference will present project results and conclusions to relevant stakeholders, media representatives and the general public of the cross-border region and underline the importance of the public in the Microplastics pollution reduction while at the same time ensuring that the efficiency of the Pilot action results are widely distributed. The project results will be summarised in a PR film in form of storytelling where we are going to forward following communication - problem –solution –how it worked –proof it works which will be used as an</p>	Novi Sad, Sombor, Baja	Managed project with completed communication activities

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

promotional tool to stress the importance of reducing the plastic waste and the necessity of taking care of nature especially the water and its flora and fauna and the need to reduce the pollutants from waters. The management of the contract for the PR film is the responsibility of PP2 FEP.

In order to ensure that project information will reach a wider audience in the cross-border region, media coverage of the project will be subcontracted covering the presence of project info, visibility and PR material in local and regional online media, printed media, on radio and TV. This activity will be the responsibility of PP4 FEP for the overall project activities taking place in Serbia while certain obligatory media coverage of activities will be coordinated by all PP with the support of PP4 FEP. Within the project

every project partner will have a dedicated mandatory communication package while FEP as a communication lead will have an Advanced mandatory package for communication while other project partners will have a basic package for covering the communication objective. Developed web platform for monitoring Microplastics pollution will also serve as an additional promotional tool ensuring project visibility and also include the dissemination of all project information, outputs and deliverables shared and made public for the use of interested parties. Moreover, to get closer to the younger generation of the cross-border region, the project will ensure its presence on social media networks, Facebook and Instagram. The online presence of the project will also be supported by all PPs by posting project information on already developed websites/ web platforms and social media accounts managed by PPs individually according to the requirements of the obligatory packages.

Project management activities will include all PPs with the coordination from LP IZJZV as the partner responsible for the overall project coordination. The Microplastics project has incorporated all joint cooperation criteria in the project design – joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing. The following activities will be conducted by all PPs in joint collaboration: (1) Establishment of project team; (2) Participation in project coordination meetings held online and on-site; (3) Reporting in Interreg+ system for the activities and expenditures incurred in reporting periods envisaged by the Programme rules; (4) Management of contract award procedures through public procurement activities; (5) Visibility activities following the rules and regulations of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme

0.1 - Project management

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

Hungary - Serbia; (6) Implementation of planned project activities, Monitoring of the project activities implementation. Also joint financing since the partner will jointly finance certain activities between themselves, development of pilot solution and others. A joint project team will be formed with various project positions divided among all PPs. The Project manager will be delegated by LP IZJZV while other project positions such as Procurement manager, PR manager, Financial manager, Project assistant, Administrative assistant will be delegated by LP and other PPs. The project team will be formed upon signing the Subsidy contract and Partnership agreement, consisting of the persons who were defined when writing the application where applicable. The project team will hold joint coordination meetings periodically, one in each reporting period, on-site and online. The project coordination meetings will be organised with the aim to exchange ideas, resolve potential issues and map out future activities. Each PP will report on its expenditures and activities in Interreg+ following the schedule imposed by the Programme while LP will create a joint project report for each reporting period comprising information from certified and approved partner reports. Each PP will work towards obtaining a certificate on project expenditures from its national body appointed to perform financial control of projects in implementation. Before starting with preparation of tender dossiers and the implementation of contract award procedures, a joint Procurement plan will be prepared outlining the responsible PPs. The project time plan will be consulted when preparing the plan. In addition, a joint Communication plan will be prepared outlining the responsibilities of each PP in ensuring visibility of EU funding and that of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Romania-Serbia 2021-2027. The Programme visibility requirements will be followed in preparing all promotional material as well as promotional tools to be used. In order to efficiently monitor the project implementation and to organise the management of the project an external software for project management Basecamp/Hive/google or similar will be used.

Education and sharing the knowledge of the best practices and protocols for monitoring plans, sampling, sample preparation methods, and laboratory analyses of microplastics in open surface water, wastewater, and sediments samples that will be provided by project partner 3 NKE to Serbian partners and other public health experts.

Education is needed in order to achieve the best possible knowledge and skills in the field of examinations of microplastics. Based on their previous experience and work in the field of sampling and analysis of microplastics

1

1.1 - Education of the Public health experts

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja

Joint interventions to increase capacities for mapping pollution sources

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

in water samples, the partners from Hungary will contribute to the more effective training of the partners from Serbia. The activity will provide the Serbian partners and health representatives required knowledge and opportunity to adopt new techniques and methodology in the field of microplastic testing.

The goals of activity are improvement of better cross-border cooperation and communication between Serbian and Hungarian partners as representative institutions dealing with environmental protection and public health. Education will enable qualifying of partners from Serbia to deal with microplastics determination in order to assess and properly identify the pollution sources.

Education will help bring about faster and easier harmonisation of sampling methods and methods for determination of microplastics in water samples between partner countries.

Education will enable the realisation of other project activities. It is necessary as a first step in assessing the level of information and knowledge of the partners, moreover as stated it will enable easier implementation of future joint activities following the same methodology and processes. The result of education will be the levelling of knowledge and skills between partners in order to access other activities.

1. Introduction and familiarisation with possible methods of sampling of surface, wastewater and sediment samples for microplastics determination;
2. Presentation of equipment for surface water and sediment sampling in the order to microplastics determination and training for use of the selected equipment;
3. Learning about validation of surface, wastewater and sediment sampling method in the way to obtain represent sample and sampling reproducibility;
4. Recognition of the necessary conditions that must be met in order to obtain useful and representative samples, as well as parameters that must be measured during sampling;
5. Introduction and familiarisation with possible instruments methods for microplastics determination;
6. Presentation of equipment which can be used for microplastics determination in surface, wastewater and sediment sampling and the advantages of the chosen equipment;
7. Presentation of sample preparation methods in an equipped laboratory with description of all necessary steps in sample preparation in

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

- order to obtain an adequate sample for microplastics analysis;
8. Sharing knowledge about FTIR with microscope instrumentation for determination of microplastics and the procedures of method validation;
 9. Information about the legislation of the European Union in the field of microplastics in the environment;
 10. Indicating the necessary procedures steps for the creating a protocol for the sampling and analysis of microplastics in the water samples.

This activity will also include the following tasks

- Making brochures:
 1. Surface, wastewater and sediment sampling for MPs determination
 2. Determination of MPs in surface, wastewater and sediment
- Power Point Presentation for education
- Field demonstration of the process

The education will be attended by health experts working within the project partner institution from Novi Sad and Sombor 10 persons and other public health experts 10 persons. First two educations will be attended by 20 persons while the third education will be attended by 10 experts from partner organisations.

RP1 2024: 30 persons, location Novi Sad, RP2 2024: 30 Persons, location Sombor, RP3 2024: 20 members, Baja

1.2 - Procurement of equipment for determination and sampling of wastewater

The procurement of equipment is needed for the implementation of the Project, i.e., for taking samples of open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments to define the ecological status (physical, chemical, and biological), and presence of microplastics; for increasing technical capacities of laboratories necessary for microplastics identification and characterization in water and river sediments samples; for analysing the physical and chemical quality, and biological status of open surface water and wastewater; for introducing the sampling method for assessing the microplastics presence in taken samples; for implementing the analytical process to identify and characterise the quality of open surface water and wastewater and presence of microplastics; for developing the protocol for professionals.

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja

The goals are to provide conditions for the following:

- taking the samples,

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

- Analyses of the open surface water, wastewater and river sediments,
 - assessing the presence, identification and characterization of microplastics in open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments,
 - Implementing the pilot Project to remove the microplastics from wastewater, open surface water, and river sediments.
- developing the protocol for professionals and educative material for stakeholders and interested parties

Procuring equipment is a condition for assessing the pilot Project and defining the model for minimising the microplastics from water and river sediments.

The needed laboratory equipment is:

- for sampling: manta trawl net with digital flow meter, unique samplers for water surfaces with different mesh sizes, and stainless-steel sieves with mesh sizes of 0.3 mm, 1 mm, and 5.6 mm mesh.
 - for preparing and storing the samples of open surface water and wastewater for further analyses: evaporation system, automated SPE System, ultrasonic bath, basic laboratory equipment and dishes, washing machine for laboratory dishes, laboratory fridge, Lab Water Purification System with a system for pretreatment of inlet water, microwave digestion system.
- for analyses of the physical, chemical, and biological status and identification and characterization of microplastics in open surface water and wastewater: sartorius membrane vacuum filtration system with a vacuum pump, ion chromatograph for simultaneous analysis of anions and cations, reference materials, chemicals, device for measuring dissolved oxygen concentration, theSoftware for FTIR Spectrometer, Microscopic FFT-IR Spectroscope, and Microscope - For the data processing, communication, and using the application (IT equipment): desktop computers, laptop computers, printers, information boards.

Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, the Institute of Public Health in Sombor, and Baja University will participate in procuring the laboratory and IT equipment

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

Samples collection is the essential condition for further analyses. Selecting a representative sample to draw valid conclusions from the analyses is necessary. In the Project, three types of samples will be sampled: open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments.

The goals are:

- to collect the representative samples of open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments for the determination of the physical, chemical and biological parameters
- to collect the the representative samples of open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments for the identification and characterization of microplastics in water and sediments
- to identify the focal points of the contamination of water and river sediments in the Project area

Samples collection is a condition for assessing the microplastic identification and characterization analyses for further implementation of the pilot project to minimise the microplastics from wastewater, further influencing the open surface water and river sediments.

1.3 - Samples collection

The sampling of the open surface water will be done by three partners (Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, Institute of Public Health in Sombor, and Baja University) once in the Project (1st, 2nd and 3rd period). At the river or lake banks where wastewater is discharging, samples will be taken in two places – upstream and downstream to discharge wastewater. Novi Sad, Sombor, Baja, Mohacs on various locations on the Danube river before and after the inlet and outlet of sewage waters and In nature parks Gornje podunavlje, Nature park Begečka jama, nature park Gemenc, Riha oxbow lake, Ferenc-Chanel, Baja Bezdán canal, Kígyós Canal System -Csávoly -Mélykút.

The sampling of the wastewater will be done by three partners (the Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, the Institute of Public Health in Sombor, and the Baja University) with different frequencies: once in Novi Sad and Bačka Palanka and twice or three times in Sombor and Baja. The sampling will be done in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th periods of the Project. Wastewater will be sampled in Sombor, Serbia, and Baja, Hungary, before and after the implementation of the filter system for testing its efficiency within the Pilot project.

The sampling of the river sediment will be done by Baja University in Serbia in Novi Sad, Sombor and in Baja.

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja,
Protected areas,
nature parks
and other
locations

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

In total around 80 samples will be collected from various locations.

Different sub activities which planned within this field are

1. Simultaneous collection of the data that are prescribed by standard sampling methods
2. Storage of sample
3. Transport of samples
4. Adequate handling and maintenance of equipment
5. Verification of analytical instruments

Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, the Institute of Public Health in Sombor, and Baja University will participate in sample collections.

Method validation is a process used to demonstrate an analytical method's suitability for an intended purpose. The objective of validation of an analytical method is to ensure that it achieves its role of reproducibility, accuracy, and convenience for microplastics determination. As there is no standardised method for microplastic analysis, this activity aims to validate a toolset and the related operating procedure for enhanced sampling, sample preparation, and analysis of microplastics in water and sediment samples. Analysing physical, chemical, and biological parameters in open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments is a condition for determining ecological status with the contribution of wastewater inflow and distribution of pollutants between water and sediment.

1.4 - Validation of methods
and determination

This activity aims to create a system that can be a basis for a future standardised method for sampling, sample preparation, and analysis of microplastics in open surface water, wastewater, and river sediment samples. Cross-border cooperation and communication between Serbian and Hungarian partners will enable the exchange of experiences and contribute to a clearer understanding and solving of problems usually encountered while developing and validating new methodologies. Determining the ecological status of open surface water and the quality of wastewater and river sediments is essential for correlating an estimated amount of microplastics.

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja

This activity is a condition for accurate and precise measurements of microplastics in water and river sediments, applied after building knowledge capacities. The results of this activity will be the basic and necessary input data for developing the Protocol.

The specifics steps and timeframe of the activities are:

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

1. Determination of physical, chemical, and biological parameters in open surface water, river sediments
2. Determination of factors that influence on validation of sampling method and sampling procedure: sampling area, volume of water, sampled depth, amount of sediment, blank analyses and replicates
3. Validation of sample preparation and analytical method for determination of microplastics (Microscopy and FTIR analysis): contamination controls, recovery tests and accuracy, quality assurance and quality control
6. Comparing results and data analysis between partner laboratories, followed by forming and writing validation studies.
7. Sample pretreatment for microplastics analysis: washing, filtration, digestion, separation according to previously validated procedures.
8. Determination of microplastic: particle mass, number, shape, size distribution ranges, and chemical composition in surface water, wastewater and sediments according to previously validated procedures.
9. Applying appropriate programs and statistical tests for data collection and processing.

Different sub activities which are planned within this field are:
 Simultaneous sampling at the same location by different partner laboratories
 Storage of samples
 Transport of samples
 Adequate handling and maintenance of equipment
 Verification of analytical instruments

Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, the Institute of Public Health in Sombor, and Baja University will participate in methods validation and determination of proposed parameters.

As there are no standardised methods for sampling, sample preparation, and analyses of microplastics in open surface water, wastewater, and sediment, the development of a protocol is highly needed to fill the procedure gaps for the mentioned microplastics analyses.

1.5 - Protocols development

The goal is to develop an efficient and reproducible protocol for the sampling, sample preparation, and analyses of microplastic in open surface water, wastewater, and river sediments, which will be used

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

among partners in the Project instead of up to no defined standards or protocols. It also can be used by other professionals outside the Project area, and it can represent valuable material for determining the methods for microplastic identification and characterization in national by-laws or international standards.

The development of the Protocol is a condition for harmonising methods among the Project partners. It also provides the reproducibility and further implementation of the methods for sampling, sample preparation, and analyses of microplastics in water and river sediments in the everyday activities of laboratories interested in microplastic identification and characterization. It is also a way to share knowledge and the best practice among interested parties.

The Protocol is going to be developed by matrix (surface water, wastewater, and sediment), by activities (sampling, sample preparation, determination of microplastics dependent on matrix composition), by validation of the methods, and by representation of the results.

The Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, the Institute of Public Health in Sombor, and Baja University will participate in developing the Protocol together with all partners. At the same time, the Fund for European Affairs of AP of Vojvodina will provide its visibility.

In order to be able to identify the existing wastewater treatment facilities in APV and Bács-Kiskun County with the purpose of obtaining relevant information on current wastewater treatment locations and sewage outlets. The purpose of this mapping is to conduct a comprehensive mapping of wastewater facilities within the designated area. This project aims to create an up-to-date and accurate inventory of wastewater treatment plants (wwtp), pumping stations, municipal waste water outlets without the treatment and related infrastructure. The resulting data will serve as a crucial resource for environmental management and as a future reference for multiplying the effects of newly developed pilot solutions within the project microplastics.

Within the activity a comprehensive collection, processing and analysis of data will be done, as well as the creation of a document containing a comprehensive analysis of the current state of WWT plants and potential of the cross-border region, according to the set parameters within the region of Bács-Kiskun County and AP Vojvodina. The document will also

2
2.4 - Mapping of the existing wastewater treatment facilities and development of recommendations for reducing the microplastics

Autonomous province of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Bács-Kiskun County

Pilot projects establishing cooperation initiatives aiming at reducing pollution of water

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

include the developed recommendations for reducing the microplastics within the identified region and most plausible solutions for reduction of pollution on microplastics

By identifying the operational capacity and outflow of the WWT plant it would be easier to identify the plant for future monitoring and it will also be easier to assess the potential WWT for pilot project solution multiplication as it will identify required modification that is required for the application of the developed solution. This data will be presented on the developed ICT platform and will be used to show the data on the pollution of the water ecosystem.

Research over the past decade has shown that the main sources of microplastics pollution of surface waters are the outfalls of municipal wastewater treatment plants. Baja and Backa are on very sensitive water areas in south-Hungary and north-Serbia. This area is rich in natural wetlands, so it is vital to reduce pollution of surface waters. The aim of the pilot project is to reduce micro-plastic pollution of surface water around Baja and Bačka, so filtering the outfalls of the surrounding wastewater treatment plants (wwtp) is expected to yield the best results. We would like to monitor the effluents of two larger wwtp's (Baja and Sombor) to measure particle distribution functions of particulate matter to be able to design special filters. These filters designed for the plants would be installed on the wwtp plant in the effluent channel after the monitoring process, evaluation, planning and manufacturing of the filters (first 12 months of the project), so that their impact can be assessed by measurements in the second half of the project. Directly after the installation we want to take samples from the effluents to verify the effectiveness of the filters and see the cutoff in the particle distribution functions. In the following months of the project, we would monitor the extent to which the installation of the filters has reduced plastic pollution in natural waters by sampling the surrounding surface water. If necessary, we may even be able to modify the filters in this way, based on the results of measurements taken 6 months after the filters have been installed. The goal of this activity is to decrease the plastic pollution and the concentration of hormone-like micropollutants stemig from additives of plastic materials in the surface waters of this sensitive wetland area. This activity is essential even to test and evaluate our designed monitoring system for microplastic. From the Hungarian side researchers of the University of public Services, Faculty of Water Science and workers of the WWTP Baja will be involved into the project. The design of filters will be carried out by researchers of the university, the manufacturing would be

2.1 - Development of filtration method

Sombor, Baja,
Novi Sad

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

done by a company specialised to stainless steel works and filters. Each PP with pilot testbed will be responsible for the installation and operation of the filters. Sampling, laboratory work evaluation of data, publications.

2.3 - Testing of the developed solution

To test the effectiveness of the filters installed, measurements will be taken both in the outfall branches of the treatment plants and in surface water bodies in direct contact with the outfall branches in the months following installation. First sampling and measurements will be carried out directly after the installation of the filters to verify the prompt efficiency and enable minor corrections of the structure, installation or operation of the filters. After the installation of the filter for the next 6 months Project partners involved directly in the pilot testing are going to monitor surrounding surface waters being connected to the effluents to verify the effectivity (a desired decrease of microplastic concentration) of the filters. The sampling, preparation of samples, measurements and evaluation will be carried out by the researcher of the university and colleagues from Sombor PP2 responsible for the technical tasks of the testing. The goal of this activity is to check the efficiency of the built-in filters and perform correction as necessary.

Sombor, Baja

2.2 - Procurement of the equipment for filtration

Since the university and the Serbian partners do not have the necessary technical and metalworking experience and equipment to produce the filters, the filters will be produced by a company that will be procured which has necessary experience and that has already carried out similar work and has the necessary production equipment for metalworking. The filters will be designed with the assistance of researchers from the University of Hungary. As described above the goal of this activity is the decreasing of microplastic-pollution and concentration of hormone-disruptor materials (like Tetra-bromo-bisphenols, Dietyl-hexyl Phtalates...etc.) which are common additives of plastic and in a given chemical environment can be solved out from microplastic particles damaging the hormonal system of wetland species. Location of the installation of the filters are WWT in Baja and WWT in Sombor, and the pilot filters will be developed according to the needs of those WWT while at the same time we will take into consideration the replication potential of the developed solution for other locations. Microplastic particles have been shown to enter the food chain and the additives released from them can accumulate in organisms at the top of the food chain, causing serious genetic and hormonal anomalies in populations. The goal of this activity is

Baja, Sombor

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

to decrease the microplastic pollution of the wetland area around Baja and Bácska via filtering some main pollution sources.

3	3.4 - Cross border conference and study tour	<p>Crossborder conference In Novi Sad, Water Workshop has been organised for the past 25 years. It is a three day event with topics that are related with environmental protection, including water and soil. In previous years, this event recognized microplastics as a problem in everyday life and already presented problems (microplastics in cities waste waters). It is a great opportunity for the project „Minimizing CROSSborder water contamination of microPLASTICS – MICROPLASTICS“ to participate and present their activities and knowledge. Project partners from Baja will present knowledge on microplastics in their waters, creating and implementing filters as an example of good practice. Partners from Novi Sad and Sombor will present their activities on the project, benefiting from participating in educational activities from experts from Hungary. One of the aims of this conference is to promote and inform the target group and to raise awareness on microplastics in surface and waste waters. Project partners from Novi Sad, Sombor and Baja will participate as supporting organisations through the project Microplastics for one day on this event, therefore ensuring excellent visibility and potential for presentation of the project to wider audiences, project partners from hungary will organise students from the faculty to participate on this event 15 students from hungary will participate to the event and stay in Novi Sad one night. Study tour is a two day activity where 10 students from Serbia and 10 students from Hungary will have the opportunity to visit the wastewater treatment plant both in Sombor and in Baja, also they will have the opportunity to see the equipment and sampling methods that are used when sampling the water and sediments. Beside this it is planned to see the developed pilot solution in practice and the development process of such both in Sombor and Baja how the filter was created, what his benefits are due to reduction of microplastics pollution and its efficiency. The goal is to educate students and motivate them to recognize this problem that is present in our everyday life. Students will have the opportunity also to discuss this on a roundtable. Roundtable will be held in Baja during which they will have a chance to meet experts from University of Baja in this topic, to exchange information, data, ideas and potential solutions for this problem faced by, not just only cross-border</p>	Novi Sad, Baja, Sombor	<p>Raised awareness and educated general and experts public on the negative effects of Microplastics in environment</p>
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Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

countries, but also in many other countries.

	<p>Within this activity we will organise 2 round tables, one in Novi Sad – Serbia and one in Baja – Hungary with the goal to raise awareness on the negative effect of microplastic in nature and reduction of micropalstic in the water ecosystem. External experts and experts from each Institute (Sombor, Novi Sad, Baja) will join the discussion and prepare presentations.</p>	
<p>3.3 - Education of water management, public health, and local authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The round tables will be organised for water management, public health and local authorities where the experiences gained from the project, protocols and recommendations of negative effects of microplastics will be presented. - The number of people per round table will be 20 plus members of the project team – all together about 30 people. - An expert lecturer, moderator and catering will be provided -The round table will take place during the 5th period of the project; It will be one day education - The topic of the round table will be – recommendations for reducing microplastics in water; experiences of partners from Hungary on sampling microplastics from water; presentation of what was done on the project; as well as introduction of the best applicable methods of sampling and analysis of microplastics in surface and waste water. - The material, that will be presented to the participants, will be available in electronic fom <p>European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina as partner will provide catering, educators, moderator in Serbia University of Public Service (branch office Baja) will provide catering, moderator and educators in Hungary</p>	<p>Baja, Novi Sad, Sombor</p>
<p>3.5 - Development of the software solution for monitoring the water ecosystem microplastic pollution</p>	<p>Project partner organisations are committed to addressing environmental challenges, particularly concerning water pollution and microplastic contamination in the region of the Baja and AP Vojvodina. To support these efforts, the organisation will develop an informative and user-friendly web platform that provides accessible information about existing</p>	<p>Novi Sad</p>

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

wastewater treatment facilities, sewage systems without treatment and microplastic pollution data with relevant information about microplastics levels and distribution in water bodies and treatment facilities. In order to develop the comprehensive website measuring microplastics pollution and mapping of wastewater treatment facilities and sewage drains in the CBC region will be used. This will enable spatial distribution of data on open surface water (Danube River, channel D-T-D, Baja-Bezdan channel and other identified locations) and wastewater quality (to determine the contribution of existing water treatments in reduction of MPs) focused on microplastic presence. The web platform will also include educational material to raise awareness about microplastics pollution and its impact on the environment and human health, articles, infographics, and videos, to promote sustainable practices to combat. An interactive map with visualisation featuring the geographical distribution of these treatment plants, water outlets will be also contained.

Workshops including education and art competition will be organised in 6 elementary schools with approximately 40 children in each school. Workshop will be organised in 6 cities/settlements 3 in Hungary (planned cities are Baja and its surrounding)) and 3 in Serbia (planned cities to be covered are Novi Sad, Sombor, Bačka Palanka)) including school children (from third to fourth class) in order to educate them about negative effects of microplastic in nature. Children who participate in the workshop will get small presents (eco cup, eco pencil) and special prizes will be awarded for the first places (first, second and third place) for participants (eco thermos bottles, eco food set).

3.1 - Educational activities in elementary schools

The target groups for workshops are:

- School children from third to fourth class – to enable them to learn something new that will benefit their understanding of nature preservation and within the subject art and knowledge of nature and society.
- Teacher—who will learn or improve knowledge in areas of Microplastics .

Novi Sad,
Sombor, Baja

-The workshops will take place during the fourth period of project (approximately in September – October 2025);

-Workshop will be organised in each school as a one-day block of classes by educators (environmental protection experts) where the harmful impact of microplastics on nature will be shown to children through a lecture and video presentation. After the lecture, an art workshop will be organised

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

where children in groups will offer, through various art techniques, an idea and a slogan for reducing the use of microplastics in everyday life. Children will have at their disposal different types of materials from which they will be able to make their own works.

- After that, the three best works will be selected at the school level. Prizes will be awarded both for all participants and for the first three places at the school level.

European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina as partner will provide refreshment, educators and gifts in Serbia and Hungary. University of Public Service (branch office Baja) will provide refreshment, educators in Hungary.

Workshops including education and competition about best ideas for reduction of microplastic in nature, will be organised in 6 gymnasium/high schools with approximately 25 children in each school. Workshop will be organised in 6 cities/ settlements, 3 in Hungary (planned cities to be covered are Baja and its surrounding) and 3 in Serbia (planned cities to be covered are Novi Sad, Sombor, Bačka Palanka)), for students within biology/ chemistry classes in order to educate them about negative effects of microplastic in nature. Students who participate in competition will get promotional material (eco t-shirts, eco cup) and special prizes for schools in Serbia and Hungary will be awarded for the first three places (voucher for equipment for school laboratory or similar, for first place in amount about 1000 eur, for second place in amount of 500 eur and for the third place in amount of 300 eur).

3.2 - Educational activities in high schools with a competition on innovative solutions for reducing microplastics

The target groups for attending workshops are:

- Students– biology or chemistry classes
- Teachers – who will learn or improve knowledge in areas of Microplastics

Baja, Novi Sad,
Sombor

-The workshops will take place during the third period of project (approximately in May-June 2025 or September – October 2025);

Workshop will be organised in each school, planned as a one day activity (maximum 2 school classes) by an educator, where the harmful impact of microplastic on nature will be shown to students through a lecture and video presentation. The topic of the lecture will be raising people's awareness of the harmful effects of microplastics in everyday life, raising awareness of the harmfulness and possible alternatives, and calling for a

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

change in consumer behaviour patterns.

After the lecture, a competition will be organised, where registered pupils in groups of about 5 members (about 5 groups) will create a conceptual solution for the fight against microplastics in nature, while the presentations will be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, with the support of educators (maximum 2 school hours).

Each school, with the help of educators, professors and pupils, will choose the best work (team) that will represent their school in the further competition. After that, the evaluation team will evaluate the works from all 3 schools (evaluation team) and accordingly nominate them for first, second and third place in the competitions.

The prizes for the competition will be provided for first 3 places in Serbia and Hungary in the form of vouchers.

European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina as partner will provide refreshment, experts and vouchers.

University of Public Service (branch office Baja) will provide refreshments and experts in Hungary.

5. Indicators

Programme specific

Indicator ID	Type	Name of indicator	Unit	Base value	Target value	Description	Sources of validation
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Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

RCO115	Output	Public events across borders jointly organised	event	0,00	2,00	Report on cross border conference and study tour Including the topics, agenda, additional materials, list of attendances and photos providing insight on topic of the events and also the number of attendees and persons participated	Report on cross border conference and study tour
RCO84	Output	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects - 1.2	pilot actions	0,00	1,00	Report on developed and implemented pilot project Report will be created describing the development of the filtration method covering all the required analysis and methods that were used for its development. Also production capacities and technical drawings used will be provided within the document while at the same time efficiency of the implemented pilot solution will be also recorded and provided within the report. Report will include findings on possible replication possibility Mapped Wastewater plant treatment facilities and other sources of pollution Document containing all the relevant data on the mapping of the WWT plants and water and sewage outlets and other potential sources of pollution and recommendations on reducing the negative impact of the pollution.	Report on the implementation of the pilot action will be provided together Mapped Wastewater plant treatment facilities
RCO87	Output	Organisations cooperating across borders	organizations	0,00	4,00	Name: Minutes from Joint coordination meetings The project team will have 6 meetings on-site or online. After each meeting Minutes will be prepared in order to summarise the tasks and responsibilities of all PPs. Each Minutes will be accompanied by a participant list and	Project implemented with Partner project reports and project management documents

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

photographs from the on-site/ online event.

Name: Project reports

Project reports encompassing both narrative and financial information will be prepared in line with the Programme reporting requirements. In total 6 joint project reports will be submitted after all PPs have prepared and submitted their individual partner reports. After the submission of each partner report, certification of project expenditures will be performed by relevant national bodies in Serbia and Hungary. All PPs will ensure that they receive the certification for project costs reported in each reporting period. While the LP will prepare the project progress report covering the overall project implementation.

Name: Communication plan

Description: A joint Communication plan will be prepared in order to involve all PPs in visibility activities so as to ensure EU funding and the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Romania-Serbia visibility. The plan will include templates respecting the Programme visibility requirements.

Memorandum of understanding

Between partner organisations on a joint efforts for reducing the negative effects of the microplastics will be signed by all project partners. Memorandum will be serving as a base step joint efforts in the future for improving the efforts on preservation of nature from microplastics pollution and raising awareness of various target groups for the problem identified. The possibility to joint the initiative will be open to all interested parties and will be used within wider

RCR84	Result	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organizat ions	0,00	4,00
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Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

crossborder area

1121	Output	Number of actions contributing to the elimination of pollution sources	action	0,00	1,00	<p>Description: Report will be prepared after the implementation of education. After the activity is finalised all deliverables will be available on the Programme platform and uploaded to the platform for easy access and for future reference or education purposes. Report consisting of collecting samples and sample analysis will be made while identifying potential pollutants in the area affected by the project.</p> <p>Electronic document containing developed protocols will be made covering all the relevant topics and requirements defined during the validation.</p>	<p>Report from Education and knowledge sharing sessions</p> <p>Report from Samples collection and identification of pollutants</p> <p>Protocols developed</p>
1124	Output	Number of educated persons on environmental and nature protection topics	person	0,00	300,00	<p>Report from workshop in elementary schools</p> <p>Source of verification: Report will be drafted in order to present the scope of educational work, containing pictures, attendance lists and art that was created. 200 pupils</p> <p>Report from highschool workshop</p> <p>Source of verification: Report will be drafted in order to present the scope of educational work, containing pictures, attendance lists and best solutions developed within the competition. 110 children</p>	<p>Report from workshop in elementary schools</p> <p>Report from high school workshop</p> <p>Report from roundtable</p> <p>Developed ICT solution</p>
						<p>Report from roundtable</p> <p>Minutes will be prepared after the event where the description of the event will be made together with pictures and attendance lists. 40 persons</p>	

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

After the activity is finalised all deliverables will be available on the Programme platform and uploaded to the platform for easy access and for future reference or education purposes

Developed ICT solution
The developed solution will enable measuring of the site visits and the number of data query from users

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

6. Activity plan

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

All	No.	Outcome	Activity name	Partner	RP1	RP2	RP3	RP4	RP5	RP6
✓	0	Managed project with completed communication activities			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.1		Project management		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.1			LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.1			P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.1			P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.1			P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.2		Communication		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.2			LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.2			P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.2			P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	0.2			P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	1	Joint interventions to increase capacities for mapping pollution sources			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	1.1		Education of the Public health experts		✓	✓	✓			
	1.1			LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓	✓			
	1.1			P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓			
	1.1			P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓			

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS		
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina				

1.1		P3 - RS - FEP	✓		✓			
1.2	Procurement of equipment for determination and sampling of wastewater		✓	✓	✓			
1.2		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓	✓			
1.2		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓			
1.2		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓			
1.2		P3 - RS - FEP						
1.3	Samples collection		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3		P3 - RS - FEP						
1.4	Validation of methods and determination		✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.4		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.4		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.4		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓	✓		
1.4		P3 - RS - FEP						

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS	
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina			

1.5	Protocols development		✓	✓		
1.5		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓		
1.5		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓		
1.5		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓		
1.5		P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓		
2	Pilot projects establishing cooperation initiatives aiming at reducing pollution of water		✓	✓	✓	✓
2.1	Development of filtration method		✓	✓		
2.1		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓			
2.1		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓		
2.1		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓		
2.1		P3 - RS - FEP				
2.2	Procurement of the equipment for filtration		✓	✓	✓	
2.2		LP - RS - IZJZV				
2.2		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓	✓	
2.2		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓	✓	
2.2		P3 - RS - FEP				
2.3	Testing of the developed solution				✓	✓

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS		
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina				

2.3		LP - RS - IZJZV				
2.3		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO		✓	✓	
2.3		P2 - HU - NKE		✓	✓	
2.3		P3 - RS - FEP				
2.4	Mapping of the existing wastewater treatment facilities and development of recommendations for reducing the microplastics		✓	✓		
2.4		LP - RS - IZJZV				
2.4		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO				
2.4		P2 - HU - NKE				
2.4		P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓		
3	Raised awareness and educated general and experts public on the negative effects of Microplastics in environment		✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1	Educational activities in elementary schools				✓	
3.1		LP - RS - IZJZV			✓	
3.1		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO			✓	

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

3.1		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	
3.1		P3 - RS - FEP	✓	
3.2	Educational activities in high schools with a competition on innovative solutions for reducing microplastics		✓	✓
3.2		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓
3.2		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓
3.2		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓
3.2		P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓
3.3	Education of water management, public health, and local authorities			✓
3.3		LP - RS - IZJZV		✓
3.3		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO		✓
3.3		P2 - HU - NKE		✓
3.3		P3 - RS - FEP		✓
3.4	Cross border conference and study tour		✓	✓
3.4		LP - RS - IZJZV	✓	✓
3.4		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	✓	✓

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

3.4		P2 - HU - NKE	✓	✓
3.4		P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓
3.5	Development of the software solution for monitoring the water ecosystem microplastic pollution		✓	✓
3.5		LP - RS - IZJZV		
3.5		P1 - RS - ZZJZSO		
3.5		P2 - HU - NKE		
3.5		P3 - RS - FEP	✓	✓

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

7. Communication and Visibility

Obligatory communication tools

Project partner	Communication package	Package description
P3 - RS - FEP	Advanced package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updating of the social network profile(s) At least 5 (timely separated) press releases At least 2 roll-up banners (1xHU, 1xRS) At least 4 local TV or radio reports or spots At least 3 sponsored printed articles in local online news media National level radio or TV appearance (covering at least the Programme area) Use of permanent and durable stickers (equipment) as per the guidelines
LP - RS - IZJZV	Basic/Obligatory package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updating of the social network profile(s) At least 1 press release At least 2 roll-up banners (1xHU, 1xRS) At least 1 sponsored article in online news media Use of permanent and durable stickers (equipment) as per the guidelines
P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	Basic/Obligatory package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updating of the social network profile(s) At least 1 press release At least 2 roll-up banners (1xHU, 1xRS) At least 1 sponsored article in online news media Use of permanent and durable stickers (equipment) as per the guidelines
P2 - HU - NKE	Basic/Obligatory package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updating of the social network profile(s) At least 1 press release At least 2 roll-up banners (1xHU, 1xRS) At least 1 sponsored article in online news media Use of permanent and durable stickers (equipment) as per the guidelines

Additional communication tools

Project ID:	HUSRB/23R/12/089	Project acronym:	MICROPLASTICS
Lead Partner:	Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine, Institute of public health of Vojvodina		

Project partner Communication tool Language Description Justification Target group(s)

Infrastructure communication tools

Project partner Communication package Package description

8. Infrastructure information

ID Partner Related infra element Permit Permit status Owner Description

8.1 Location

Infra ID Location ID Partner Lot number Owner Proof of property ownership Description

9. Project Team

No. Partner Budget line Position Name of team member Job description Est. share of working time (%) Month in project Monthly salary in project (EUR) Total (EUR)

10. Partner without budget

ID Official name in original language Country NUTS III Settlement Activity

BUDGET OF THE PROJECT

HUSRB/23R/12/089 LP: IZJZV
 MICROPLASTICS

Sources of funding name	Amount (EUR)	Share (%)	LP - RS - IZJZV (EUR)	LP - RS - IZJZV (%)	P1 - RS - ZZJZSO (EUR)	P1 - RS - ZZJZSO (%)	P2 - HU - NKE (EUR)	P2 - HU - NKE (%)	P3 - RS - FEP (EUR)	P3 - RS - FEP (%)
EU contribution	1166,479.34	85.00	583,239.67	85.00	254,122.78	85.00	479,125.89	85.00	119,574.60	85.00
National contribution	84,374.76	6.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,374.76	15.00	0.00	0.00
Own contribution	121,474.50	8.85	50,233.80	15.00	50,139.30	15.00	0.00	0.00	21,101.40	15.00
Own public contribution	121,474.50	8.85	50,233.80	15.00	50,139.30	15.00	0.00	0.00	21,101.40	15.00
Own private contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1,372,328.40	100.00	334,892.00	100.00	334,262.00	100.00	562,498.40	100.00	140,676.00	100.00

BUDGET OF THE PROJECT

**HUSRB/23R/12/089
MICROPLASTICS**

LP: IZJV

No.	Budget lines	LP - RS - IZJV	P1 - RS - ZZJZSO	P2 - HU - NKE	P3 - RS - FEP	Costs (in EUR)	Share %
1	Staff costs	21,608.00	52,740.00	88,968.00	21,520.00	216,068.00	15.74%
1.1	Salary of staff - direct project management (Budget type B)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.2	Salary of staff - professional team members (Budget type B)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.3	Staff- Flat rate (Budget type A)	52,840.00	52,740.00	88,968.00	21,520.00	216,068.00	
2	Office and administrative expenditure	7,911.00	7,911.00	13,345.20	3,225.00	22,410.20	2.36%
3	Travel and accommodation	7,911.00	7,911.00	13,345.20	3,225.00	22,410.20	2.36%
4	External expertise and services costs	5,000.00	5,500.00	81,340.00	12,700.00	104,540.00	14.90%
4.1	Technical plans	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4.2	Studies, statistics, databases and researches	0.00	0.00	32,250.00	36,000.00	68,250.00	
4.3	Conferences, seminars, project meetings	0.00	0.00	6,590.00	2,000.00	8,590.00	
4.4	Services related to procurement procedures	3,000.00	3,500.00	8,000.00	0.00	14,500.00	
4.5	Costs of supervisor of engineering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4.6	Costs related to publicity, promotion and communication	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	5,100.00	11,100.00	
4.7	Other	0.00	0.00	32,500.00	69,600.00	102,100.00	
5	Equipment expenditure	261,200.00	260,200.00	365,500.00	0.00	886,900.00	64.63%
5.1	Purchase of equipment	261,200.00	260,200.00	365,500.00	0.00	886,900.00	
5.2	Rent of equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Infrastructure and works	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
6.1	Construction of buildings, works, infrastructure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6.2	Reconstruction, renovation of buildings, works, infrastructure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6.3	Purchase of land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Other costs (Budget type B - 40% flat rate)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total eligible costs (1+2+3+4+5+6+7)		334,892.00	334,262.00	562,498.40	140,676.00	1,372,328.40	100,00%
Share by partners		24,40%	24,36%	40,99%	10,25%	100,00%	

Project title:	Minimizing CROSSborder water contamination of microPLASTICS				
Priority:	P1 - A greener region				
Objective:	1.26. Biodiversity and reduced pollution: Regular public information in the water ecosystem within the cross border area Bačka/Bács-Kiskun.				
Project's overall objective:	Project overall objective is to enhance environmental protection and reduce pollution, identifying sources and reducing pollution in the water ecosystem while at the same time increasing public awareness on the problem and solutions developed.				
Specific project objectives; outcomes	Name of outcome	Indicators	Indicator	Name of activity	Relevant partner and budget line
Predefined 0	Managed project with completed communication activities	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Communication	LP - BL 4.6; P1 - BL 4.6; P2 - BL 4.6; P3 - BL 4.6; P3 - BL 4.6; P3 - BL 4.7
				Project management	P2 - BL 4.3; LP - BL 4.4; P1 - BL 4.4; P3 - BL 4.7; P3 - BL 4.3; P2 - BL 4.4
Outcome 1	Joint interventions to increase capacities for mapping pollution sources	Number of actions contributing to the elimination of pollution sources		Education of the Public health experts	P2 - BL 5.1; P3 - BL 4.7
				Procurement of equipment for determination and sampling of wastewater	5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1; P1 - BL 5.1
				Samples collection	
				Validation of methods and determination	
				Protocols development	
Outcome 2	Pilot projects establishing cooperation initiatives aiming at reducing pollution of water	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects - 1.2		Mapping of the existing wastewater treatment facilities and development of recommendations for reducing the microplastics	P3 - BL 4.2
				Development of filtration method	P2 - BL 4.2
				Testing of the developed solution	P2 - BL 4.7; P2 - BL 4.7; P3 - BL 4.7; P3 - BL 4.7
				Procurement of the equipment for filtration	P2 - BL 4.7; P2 - BL 5.1
Outcome 3	Raised awareness and educated general and experts public on the negative effects of Microplastics in environment	Public events across borders jointly organised		Cross border conference and study tour	P2 - BL 4.3; P3 - BL 4.7; P3 - BL 4.7
				Education of water management, public health, and local businesses	P3 - BL 4.7
				Development of innovative solution for monitoring the water ecosystem microplastic pollution	P3 - BL 4.2
				Educational activities in elementary schools	P2 - BL 4.3; P3 - BL 4.7; P3 - BL 4.7; P3 - BL 4.6
				Educational activities in high schools with a competition on innovative solutions for reducing microplastics	P3 - BL 4.7

ANNEX III – PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

IPA Hungary - Serbia

INTERREG VI-A IPA HUNGARY-SERBIA PROGRAMME

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

PROJECT ID: HUSRB/23R/12/089

PROJECT ACRONYM: MICROPLASTICS

**PROJECT TITLE: MINIMIZING CROSSBORDER WATER
CONTAMINATION OF MICROPLASTICS**



Note: Present template of the Partnership Agreement contains the minimum requirements requested by the programme implementing bodies. Project partnerships are invited to complete and complement the suggested provisions, without contradicting the programme rules and the Subsidy Contract or the rules set in the prepared paragraphs of the document.

Partnership Agreement

for the implementation of the Project

MICROPLASTICS

Minimizing CROSSborder water contamination of microPLASTICS within the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme

between

the Lead Partner **Institut za javno zdravlje Vojvodine/ Institute of public health of Vojvodina, Futoška 121, Novi Sad, Serbia**
and

Partner 1 **Zavod za javno zdravlje Sombor/ Public health institute Sombor, Vojvođanska 47, Sombor, Serbia**

Partner 2 **Nemzeti Közszolgálati Egyetem/ Ludovika University of Public Service, Ludovika tér 2., 1083, Budapest , Hungary. P.O. box 60 1441**

Partner 3 **Fond "Evropski poslovi" Autonomne pokrajine Vojvodine/ The European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 16, P.O. box 2, Novi Sad, Serbia**

(hereinafter jointly referred to as the Parties).

on the basis of:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (hereinafter referred to as the CPR);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (hereinafter referred to as the ERDF Regulation);
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (hereinafter referred to as the Interreg Regulation);
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (hereinafter referred to as the IPA III Regulation);

- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012;
- the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia approved by the European Commission on 14 October 2022 by Decision Ref No C(2022) 7444 (hereinafter referred to as the Programme);
- the Guidelines for Applicants of the first Call for Proposals (HUSRB/2301) of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia, approved by Monitoring Committee Decision No 2/2023 (22.03), laying down the programme specific rules for the implementation of Hungarian-Serbian projects (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines for Applicants);
- the Project Implementation Manual for the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia, laying down specific rules for the implementation of projects financed under the Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Project Implementation Manual);
- Communication and Visibility Guide for Projects co-financed by the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia, laying down the programme specific rules on information and publicity measures of the projects (hereinafter referred to as the Communication and Visibility Guide);
- Project MICROPLASTICS as drafted in the application and approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Programme;
- Subsidy Contract concluded for the implementation of the Project between the lead partner and the managing authority;
- National rules to be applied by the lead partner and its Partners;
- Implementing acts and delegated acts adopted in accordance with the aforementioned legislation and the aforementioned documents as corrected or amended.

Article 1

Definitions

1. **Lead partner:** The lead partner is designated by the partners and has full financial and administrative responsibility for the EU contribution for the entire duration of the Subsidy Contract stipulated with the managing authority for the implementation of the Project. The lead partner has functional (co-ordination of the project activities) and financial responsibilities related to the EU contribution, i.e. it has to guarantee the sound financial management of the EU funds allocated to the Project. The lead partner is also responsible for the proper reporting of progress during project implementation to the joint secretariat.
2. **Partner:** An organisation that commits itself to functionally and/or financially implement a project part of the Project as referred to in Article 23 (1)-(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 and according to the application as approved by the Monitoring Committee. From the point of view of implementing its own activities, also the lead partner is a partner.



3. **Partner not receiving financial support:** There can be partner organisations which do not receive EU contribution for their activities performed in the framework of the Project. Thus, in their case the defined budget is zero.
4. **Project part:** A set of activities within the Project as a whole, undertaken by the lead partner or another Partner in a defined timeframe and with a defined budget, presented in the application and approved by the Monitoring Committee. In case when a Partner does not receive financial support, the defined budget is zero.
5. **Managing authority:** the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, signing the Subsidy Contract with the lead partner.
6. **Joint secretariat:** set up within Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit Llc, a joint organisation of the Partner Countries participating in the Programme, in charge of the direct monitoring of project implementation.

Article 2

Scope of the Partnership Agreement

1. The Parties, through the present Partnership Agreement, lay down the rules of procedures for the activities to be carried out and the relations that shall govern the partnership set up in order to successfully and efficiently implement the above-mentioned cross-border Project. This Agreement shall also define their mutual responsibilities concerning the administrative and financial management of the Project.
2. The application as approved by the Monitoring Committee and the signed Subsidy Contract (with all its provisions) are to be regarded as integral parts of this Agreement, therefore their content and the obligations set by the above-mentioned documents have to be fully respected by the Parties.
3. The Parties are aware of the legal framework and the other relevant norms affecting the project. In case the Subsidy Contract is amended, it may affect the Partnership Agreement, it shall be adjusted accordingly.

Article 3

Duration of the Agreement

1. The Partnership Agreement is valid from the date of signature by all Parties and enters into force from the day the Subsidy Contract between the managing authority and the lead partner enters into force. It shall remain in force until the lead partner has discharged in full its obligations arising from the Subsidy Contract towards the managing authority, including the period of availability of documents for financial controls.
2. This Agreement shall also remain in force if there is any non-resolved dispute among the Parties at an out-of-court arbitration body.

The breach of the obligations of the Partnership Agreement by the lead partner or one of the partners may lead to an early termination of its participation in the Project. This termination has to be decided



by consensus by all the other partners in a documented manner, provided that the eligibility rules of the Call for Proposals are kept with the remaining or newly entered partners, and that the consequently initiated amendment of the Subsidy Contract is successful at the managing authority. However, the partner leaving the partnership will be obliged by the present Agreement for its whole duration with regard to the activities carried out and expenditure incurred until that moment. In case the Subsidy Contract terminates, the present partnership Agreement is terminated as well.

Article 4

Activities of the Partners in the Project

1. The activities of the partners as well as the role of the lead partner and of each partner are described in the application approved by the Monitoring Committee.
2. The partners take into account all rules and obligations as set out in the Subsidy Contract and its Annexes.
3. The partners commit themselves to undertake everything in their power to foster the successful and efficient implementation of the Project.

Article 5

Specific obligations of the Lead Partner

1. The lead partner is responsible for the overall co-ordination and effective implementation of the Project and shall take all the steps needed to correctly manage the Project in accordance with the application approved by the Monitoring Committee and in line with the Subsidy Contract and the Partnership Agreement.
2. In addition as a general obligation the lead partner shall:
 - a) represent the partners towards the managing authority / joint secretariat / other programme management bodies;
 - b) sign the Subsidy Contract (and its possible amendments), inform all partners on the signature of the Subsidy Contract and provide all partners with a copy thereof;
 - c) appoint a project manager who has the operational responsibility for the co-ordination and documentation of the overall Project;
 - d) react promptly to any request made by the managing authority and the joint secretariat;
 - e) keep the partners informed on a regular basis about all relevant communication between the lead partner and the joint secretariat, furthermore between the lead partner and the managing authority;
 - f) inform all partners on the progress of the overall Project, in particular with reference to its objectives and results as set in the Subsidy Contract or any later amendments;
 - g) without any delay inform the partners about all essential issues connected to project implementation (e.g. about any variation of the conditions at the basis of the present Agreement or about any modification that could influence the performance of the Project, the information activity or the payment of financing);

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- h) notify the partners and the joint secretariat / managing authority immediately of any event that could lead to a temporary or final discontinuation of the Project or any other deviation of the implementation of the Project;
- i) guarantee the sound financial management of the funds allocated for the implementation of the Project, including the separate set-up of the project accounting and the supporting documents storage system at lead partner and at the partners as well, and including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid;
- j) ensure that the expenditure presented by all partners receiving financial support has been paid in implementing the Project and that it corresponds to the activities agreed between the partners and indicated in the approved application;
- k) prepare and submit the Application for Reimbursement together with the Project Reports, the Final Project Report and the Project Follow-up Reports (if relevant) to the joint secretariat, keeping the deadlines indicated in the Subsidy Contract;
- l) receive, on behalf of all partners receiving financial support the payments of the EU contribution from the Certifying Authority;
- m) transfer the EU contribution to the partners receiving financial support, according to the Application for Reimbursement approved by the joint secretariat, **within 15 calendar days** and in full – no amount shall be deducted or withheld and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce that amount for the other partners;
- n) ensure that all partners are involved in the decision making regarding to the Project, and especially agree with the partners before submitting any request for reallocation between budget lines and for an amendment of the Subsidy Contract to the joint secretariat / managing authority;
- o) support the partners in implementing their obligations by giving them the correct information, indications and clarifications on the procedures;
- p) make sure that all partners comply with EU and national legislation including rules on public procurement, State aid, publicity, furthermore rules on environmental protection and equal opportunities;
- q) report in accordance with the existing legislation and national / regional guidelines if the project activities contain elements of State aid;
- r) implement its individual part of the Project accordingly;
- s) enable the responsible bodies to carry out their audit and monitoring / evaluation / activities;
- t) guarantee the systematic collection and the safe storage of all the documentation regarding project expenditure and activities at the lead partner and at partners;
- u) keep a copy of all project documents prepared by the partners or other organisations;
- v) carry out project level accounting;
- w) ensure that no double funding or double reporting of expenditure takes place;
- x) review the appropriate spending of the EU contribution by the partners receiving financial support, the condition of the partners' project part and the preparation of the required documents and records for project closure.

Article 6



Obligations of the Partners

1. In particular, each partner shall
 - a) support the lead partner in fulfilling its tasks as stipulated in the Subsidy Contract and its Annexes;
 - b) without any delay provide the lead partner with any information needed to draw up the Project Reports, the Final Project Report and the Project Follow-up Reports (if relevant), react on any request by the managing authority or the joint secretariat, or provide any further information needed by the lead partner;
 - c) assure the smooth implementation of the part of the Project they are responsible for in accordance with the Subsidy Contract and its Annexes;
 - d) to finance the own contribution of their respective project part;
 - e) inform the lead partner immediately about any circumstances that could lead to a temporary or final discontinuation of the project part or any other deviation of the implementation of the project part, including any variations to its part of project budget or work plan;
 - f) appoint a contact person for the implementation of the part of the Project under their responsibility;
 - g) contribute to overall project aims according to their part undertaken with due care and motivation, completing their activities foreseen for each reporting period of the project implementation;
 - h) maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for transactions related to the project part according to the rules of Eligibility of expenditures;
 - i) inform the lead partner on the details of the bank account to which the EU contribution of the partner receiving financial support shall be transferred, furthermore the lead partner must be informed about any changes concerning the bank account;
 - j) co-operate with the lead partner for the effective implementation of the Project, actively take part in decision-making during the Project;
 - k) to manage the procurement of services, supplies / goods / equipment and works in accordance with national public procurement rules in force, depending on the seat and operational area of the given organisation;
 - l) for the award of service, supply and work contracts follow the procurement provisions of Chapter 3 of Title VII of Part Two of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 which apply in the whole programme area;
 - m) to meet the reporting requirements using the INTERREG+ electronic monitoring system of the Programme and to ensure any other documentation as well as IT security and data protection related obligations;
 - n) have its expenditures incurred and paid (with the exemption of simplified costs) in the given reporting period and have them verified – if relevant – by the identified controller. The reimbursement of expenditure of the partners receiving financial support not covered by Declarations on Verification of Expenditure in the given reporting period can be requested until the second reporting deadline following the reporting period concerned, except for preparation costs reimbursed on a real cost basis – as a general rule these can be verified and requested only in the first reporting period;

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- o) comply with EU- and national rules, including rules on eligibility of costs, public procurement, State aid, publicity, further rules on environmental protection and equal opportunities as contained in the Project Implementation Manual, , Communication and Visibility Guide;
- p) report in accordance with the existing legislation and national/regional guidelines if the Project activities contain elements of State aid;
- q) guarantee the systematic and safe collection of all the documentation regarding its part of project expenditure and its transmission to the lead partner, as well as to guarantee the access to documents and to the project results to all the representatives of the institutions in charge of verifications and to the bodies authorised to monitor or audit the Project;
- r) not subcontract 100% of the activities from their part of the Project;
- s) be responsible for the sound financial management of the funding allocated to its project part, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid (EU contribution, state contribution, if relevant, and other public contribution).

Article 7**Responsibilities of the Lead Partner and of the Partners**

1. The lead partner solely assumes responsibility for the entire Project towards the managing authority as defined in the Subsidy Contract.
2. The lead partner is the intermediary for all communications between the partners and the joint secretariat and the managing authority; where information from the partners is required, the lead partner shall be responsible for obtaining, verifying and consolidating this information before passing it on to the managing authority; any information provided, as well as any request communicated by the lead partner to the managing authority shall be deemed to have been forwarded in agreement with all partners.
3. Each partner is directly and exclusively responsible to the lead partner for the due implementation of its respective project part and for the proper fulfilment of its obligations as set out in the Partnership Agreement and in the application. Should a partner not fulfil its obligations under this Agreement in due time, the lead partner shall admonish the partner to fulfil them within a reasonable period of time. The partners undertake to find a rapid and efficient solution. Should the non-fulfilment continue, the lead partner may decide to debar the partner concerned from the Project with approval of the other partners. The joint secretariat and the managing authority shall be promptly informed of such an intended decision by the lead partner, and the change in the partnership has to be approved according to the provisions set out in the Project Implementation Manual.
4. The lead partner and each partner receiving financial support shall take the financial responsibility for the EU contribution and, if relevant, the related state contribution it has received for its project part.
5. In case of irregularities the lead partner bears the overall responsibility towards the managing authority for the repayment of the EU contribution amounts unduly paid, also with interest charged on late payment, if relevant. By way of the derogation from this principle, if the irregularity is committed by a partner receiving financial support, the concerned organisation shall repay to the lead partner the amounts unduly paid. When amounts unduly paid to a partner



cannot be recovered due to negligence of the lead partner, the lead partner shall remain responsible for the repayment.

Article 8 **Reporting obligations of the Partners**

1. The lead partner can only submit an Application for Reimbursement to the joint secretariat by providing proof of progress of the Project. Therefore, in order to provide adequate information on the progress of the Project, each partner receiving financial support has to submit a Project Partner Report in INTERREG+ system, consisting of an activity part describing the activities carried out with their outputs and results during the reporting period, and of a financial part presenting the financial progress of the project part compared to the finalised Project Form. partners not receiving financial support shall submit their project partner reports to the related Control Body on their activities in the given reporting period.
2. The partners have to respect the reporting deadlines of the Subsidy Contract and have to submit their Project Partner Report in due time through the INTERREG+ system. Project Partner Reports and Declarations on Verification of Expenditure not available to the lead partner in the system within the set deadline will not be included in the Project Report (or any other report) and Application for Reimbursement of the lead partner, to be submitted to the joint secretariat.
3. The Project Partner Reports should be drawn up in Euro. Partners from Partner Countries which have not adopted the Euro as their currency shall convert into Euro the amounts of expenditure incurred in national currency before submission for verification to the responsible controller. The expenditures shall be converted as described in the Subsidy Contract. The exchange rate risk is borne by the partner concerned.

Article 9 **Audits**

1. For audit purposes each partner shall
 - a) retain all files, documents, receipts and data about the Project at least within the timeframe stipulated in Article 82(1) of the CPR and further detailed in the Project Implementation Manual, either in original or in copies on commonly used data media safely and orderly;
 - b) enable the managing authority, joint secretariat, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, the responsible auditing bodies of the European Union and the auditing bodies of the partner Country it is based in to audit the proper use of funds;
 - c) provide these authorities with any information about the Project they request;
 - d) provide them access to the databases, the accounting books and accounting documents and other documentation related to the Project, whereby the auditing bodies decide on this relation, within the timeframe stipulated in Article 82(1) of the CPR and further detailed in the Project Implementation Manual;
 - e) provide them access to the place where the Project has been implemented and their business premises during the ordinary business hours and also beyond these hours by arrangement, and allow them to carry out on-the-spot-checks related to the Project within the timeframe

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stipulated in Article 82(1) of the CPR and further detailed in the Project Implementation Manual;

- f) without any delay provide the lead partner with any information needed in connection to such an audit;
- g) observe the recommendations received after an audit.

Article 10
Information and publicity

1. Any publicity measure undertaken by any of the partner shall be conducted in accordance with the rules on information and publicity laid down in the Communication and Visibility Guide for the Projects in the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia.
2. Information and publicity measures shall be co-ordinated among the partners. Each partner is equally responsible for promoting the fact that co-financing for the Project is provided from EU contribution within the framework of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia, and is responsible for ensuring the adequate promotion of the Project.
3. The partners take note of the fact that the results of the Project as well as any study or analysis produced in the course of the Project can be made available to the public and they agree that the results of the Project shall be available for all partners and for the public free of charge.
4. The partners agree that the lead partner may provide the joint secretariat / managing authority or other programme management bodies to publish, in whatever form, unrestricted as far as data protection is concerned, and on or by whatever medium, with the following information:
 - title and acronym of the Project;
 - the name of the lead partner and of the partners;
 - the total cost of the Project, the amount of subsidy and the EU co-financing rate;
 - the name of the fund, the specific objective concerned and the type of intervention;
 - the purpose of the EU contribution (i.e. the overall objective of the Project) and the expected or actual achievements;
 - start date and (expected or actual) date of completion;
 - the geographical location of the Project and/or the location of the lead partner and the partners;
 - project results, evaluations and summaries;
 - any other information about the Project, if considered relevant, and all publicity material of the Project such as photographic and video content, news announcements etc.



Article 11 Ownership, use of results

1. The Parties undertake to enforce the applicable law on intellectual property rights, regarding any outcome that might be produced during the implementation of the Project.
2. Ownership of the results of the Project, including industrial and intellectual property rights, and of the reports and other documents relating to it, shall be vested in the lead partner and the partners, the details of which shall be agreed upon in a separate agreement.
3. Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, the partners grant the joint secretariat and the managing authority the right to make free use of the results of the Project, provided it does not thereby breach its confidentiality obligations or existing industrial and intellectual property rights. The partners shall find individual arrangements in those cases where intellectual property rights (such as for data acquired for the Project which do not belong to public domain) already exist.
4. The partners agree that owners of the investments are the following:

N/A as there are no investments within the project

5. The Project partners agree that owners of the Project outputs/deliverables are the following:
 - **Institute of public health of Vojvodina is the owner of the following equipment:**
 - Microscope upgrade to the FTIR Spectrometer 5.1.1
 - The Thermo Scientific Software for FTIR Spectrometer 5.1.2
 - Manta trawl net with digital flow meter 5.1.3
 - Stainless steel sieves 5.1.4
 - Evaporation system 5.1.5
 - Automated SPE System 5.1.6
 - Lab Water Purification System with with a system for pretreatment of inlet water 5.1.7
 - Ultrasonic bath with inner basket 5.1.8
 - Device for measuring dissolved oxygen concentration 5.1.9
 - Chemicals 5.1.10
 - Reference materials 5.1.11
 - Basic laboratory equipment and dishes 5.1.12
 - Ion chromatograph for Simultaneous Analysis of Anions and Cations 5.1.13
 - Laptop computers 5.1.14
 - **Public health institute Sombor is the owner of the following equipment:**
 - FTIR-ATR microscope 5.1.1
 - Sampling device for open surfaces 5.1.2
 - Stainless steel sieves 5.1.3
 - Laboratory fridge 5.1.4
 - Manta trawl net with digital flow meter 5.1.5
 - Portable cooled wastewater sampler 5.1.6
 - Evaporation system 5.1.7
 - Automated SPE System 5.1.8
 - Microwave digestion system 5.1.9
 - Ultrasonic bath 5.1.10



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- Membrane vacuum filtration system with vacuum pump 5.1.11
 - Device for measuring dissolved oxygen concentration 5.1.12
 - CONSUMABLES 5.1.13
 - IT equipment (4 desk top computers, 2 printers) 5.1.14
- **Ludovika University of Public Service is the owner of the following equipment:**
- Laptop for professional engineering work 5.1.1
 - Laptop for professional fieldwork and measurement 5.1.2
 - Microscope FFT-IRS 5.1.3
 - Filter 5.1.4
 - Semi-automatic sampling device for surface water(built-in pump) 5.1.5
 - High-resolution screen for analysis of monitored values 5.1.6
 - Interactive display for data analysis (classboard) 86" 5.1.7
 - Measuring boat with engine (egret hull aluminium 20 HP engine) with boat trailer 5.1.8
 - Chemicals and consumables 5.1.9
 - Infrared spectroscope evaluation software 5.1.10
- **The European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is the owner of the following:**
- Outcomes related to the organization of events for experts, students from elementary and high school and organization of awareness raising public events
 - Outcomes related to mapping of wastewater treatment facilities and sewage drains in the CBC region 4.2.1
 - Outcomes related to development of the software solution for monitoring the water ecosystem microplastic pollution 4.2.2
 - Promotional materials 4.6.3
 - Promotional movie 4.6.4
 - Outcomes related to installation of an advanced special filter for a microplastic at the pilot site (installation service) 4.7.5
 - Outcomes related to cost of operating a microplastic filter for one year 4.7.6
6. The lead partner and the partners commit themselves to establish and maintain an inventory of all fixed assets acquired, built or improved within the Project.
7. As to the sustainability of project results after the end of the implementation period, further as to the steps to be taken after project closure, the partners agree on the following activities and designate the following rights and duties within the project partnership:
- a) Partners will adopt Sustainability Plan, which will elaborate on activities related to sustainability of project results.**
8. The lead partner and the partners cannot mortgage or impose any other form of bank guarantee on the goods purchased from the financing throughout the implementation period of the Project and, as a general rule, five years after the date of the final payment to the lead partner. In case of state aid relevance, state aid rules apply.
9. In case of purchase costs co-financed, the owners shall not substantially modify their respective project parts affecting its nature or its implementation conditions or giving to a firm or a public body an undue advantage; and resulting either from a change in the nature of ownership of an



item of infrastructure or the cessation or relocation of a productive activity outside the NUTS 2 region in which it received support at least within five years from the final payment to the partner, except where State aid rules provide for a different period.

10. In connection to net revenues generated by the project either during the period of its implementation or after project closure, the partners undertake to follow the detailed rules laid down in the Project Implementation Manual in force.

Article 12

Changes in the project partnership

1. Being aware of the fact that all changes in the project partnership – with the exception of legal succession – need an approval of the Monitoring Committee and that the managing authority is entitled to withdraw from the Subsidy Contract if the number of partners falls below the minimum number of participants, the partners agree not to back out of the Project unless there are unavoidable reasons for it.
2. In case a partner withdraws from the Project or is debarred from it, the remaining partners shall undertake to find a rapid and efficient solution to ensure further proper project implementation without any delay. Consequently, the partners shall endeavour to cover the contribution of the withdrawing partner, either by assuming its tasks by one or more of the remaining partners or by asking a new partner to join the project partnership, respecting the relevant programme provisions.
3. The lead partner shall inform the joint secretariat and the managing authority as soon as changes in the project partnership are foreseeable. The changes in the partnership enter into force only after approval by the Monitoring Committee.
4. The provisions set for audits in Article 9 remain applicable to the partner that backed out of the Project or was debarred from the Project.

Article 13

Irregularities and the repayment of funds

1. If the managing authority should – based on the provisions of the Subsidy Contract – request the repayment of EU contribution from the lead partner, the latter shall call upon the partner that had caused the irregularity resulting in the repayment of the EU contribution unduly paid according to the request of the managing authority.
2. The partner in question has to repay the requested EU contribution together with the interest on late payment (if relevant) to the lead partner.
3. The partner has to respect the deadline given by the managing authority to the lead partner for the repayment of the EU contribution. The partner has to transfer the requested EU contribution together with the interest on late payment (if relevant) to the lead partner **15 calendar days** before the deadline set for the lead partner. Partner concerned shall be notified about the transfer at least **30 days** before the deadline that is set for the lead partner. **Article 14**



Cooperation with third parties, assignment

1. In case of co-operation with third parties (e.g. concluding sub-contracts) the given partner shall remain the sole responsible toward the lead partner concerning the compliance with its obligations as set out in the present Agreement. Any contracts with third parties will have to be concluded in accordance with EU and national legislation. No partner shall have the right to transfer its rights and obligations to third parties. The lead partner shall be informed by the partner about the subject and party of any contract concluded with a third party.
2. In case of legal succession, e.g. when the partner changes its legal form, the partner is obliged to transfer all duties under this Agreement to the legal successor. The partner shall notify the lead partner in written form within **7 calendar days** from the date of the legal succession being effected. The lead partner shall notify the joint secretariat according to the provisions set out in the Subsidy Contract.

Article 15

Language

1. The working language of the partnership shall be **English**. Any official internal document of the Project shall be made available in English.
2. Present Agreement is concluded in English. In case of translation of this Agreement and its annexes into another language the English version shall prevail.

Article 16

Applicable law, liability and force majeure

1. Present Agreement is governed by the Serbian law. Each partner shall be liable to the other partners and shall indemnify for any damages or costs resulting from the non-compliance of its contractual duties as set forth in this Agreement.
2. No Party shall be held liable for not complying with the obligations ensuring from this Agreement should the non-compliance be caused by force majeure. In such a case, the partner involved must announce this immediately in writing to the other partners.
3. Each Partner is liable only to the extent of the received financial support.

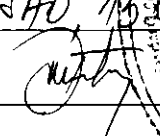

Article 17

Concluding provisions

1. Any amendments to this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be signed by all Parties.
2. In case of collision between the Subsidy Contract and this Partnership Agreement, the Subsidy Contract shall prevail.
3. Amendments and supplements to the present agreement and any waiver of the requirement of the written form must be in written form and have to be indicated as such. The lead partner shall

notify the joint secretariat and the managing authority of any amendment or supplement to the present Agreement.

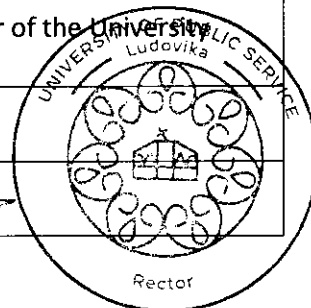
4. If any provision in this Agreement should be wholly or partly ineffective, the rest of the provisions remain binding for the Parties. In such cases the Parties undertake to replace the ineffective provision by an effective one which comes as close as possible to the purpose of the ineffective one.
5. The Parties commit themselves to take measures in order to ensure that all staff members carrying out work within the Project respect the confidential nature of information regarded as such, and do not disseminate it, pass it on to third parties or use it without prior written consent of the lead partner and the partner that provided the information.
6. The Parties will make efforts to settle any disputes arising from this Agreement out of court. In case an agreement cannot be made in due time, the Parties herewith agree that **Basic Court in Novi Sad** shall have jurisdiction to rule in all legal disputes arising from this Agreement.
7. 7 original copies will be made of this Agreement of which each Party keeps one original, while three originals are attached to the Subsidy Contracts.
8. The Parties signing the Partnership Agreement have fully understood and accepted the contents of the Subsidy Contract and undertake the activities and responsibilities in the meaning as included therein.

Name of Lead Partner:	Institute of public health of Vojvodina
Name and title of legally authorised representative:	Vladimir Petrovic, Acting Director
Place, date and stamp:	NOVI SAD, 13.05. 2024
Signature:	
Name of Partner 1:	Public health institute Sombor
Name and title of legally authorised representative:	Dragoslava Čubrilo, Acting Director
Place, date and stamp:	NOVI SAD, 13.05. 2024
Signature:	

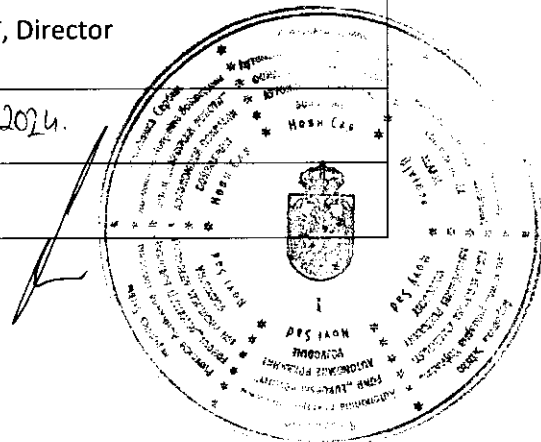


* Tables are to be copied according to the number of Parties. A given copy of the Partnership Agreement is only valid if all Parties have signed it.

Name of Partner 2:	Ludovika University of Public Service
Name and title of legally authorised representative:	Dr. Gergely Deli, Rector of the University of Public Service
Place, date and stamp:	Budapest, 27.05.2024
Signature:	



Name of Partner 3:	The European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
Name and title of legally authorised representative:	Ognjen Dopud, Director
Place, date and stamp:	NOVI SAD, 15.05.2024.
Signature:	



Pénzügyileg ellenjegyzem:

2024 MÁJ. 27

Illés Zoltán
gazdasági főigazgató


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Annex 1 to the Partnership Agreement:

Details of the bank accounts to which the EU contribution of the Partners receiving financial support shall be transferred, data (name and address of bank, IBAN number and SWIFT code of the account) per Partner

Institute of public health of Vojvodina	
Name of bank	NARODNA BANKA SRBIJE (NATIONAL BANK OF SERBIA)
Address of bank	Kralja Petra 12, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
SWIFT code	NBSRRSBGXXX
IBAN of the account	RS3584000000042679158

Public health institute Sombor	
Name of bank	NARODNA BANKA SRBIJE (NATIONAL BANK OF SERBIA)
Address of bank	Kralja Petra 12, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
SWIFT code	NBSRRSBGXXX
IBAN of the account	RS3584000000013979186

Ludovika University of Public Service	
Name of bank	Magyar Államkincstár
Address of bank	Hold utca 4., Budapest, 1054, Hungary
SWIFT code	HUSTHUHB
IBAN of the account	HU84 1000 4885 1000 8016 0600 0936

The European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina	
Name of bank	NLB KOMERCIJALNA BANKA AD BEOGRAD
Address of bank	Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 165v, 11070 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
SWIFT code	KOBBRSBG
IBAN of the account	RS35205007080007221093



ANNEX IV – LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE RETAINED

No.	Description
1.	Submitted Application Form
2.	Notification letter from the Managing Authority awarding subsidy
3.	Subsidy Contract (and its amendments)
4.	Partnership Agreement (and its amendments)
5.	Project Partner Reports
6.	Declarations of Verification of Expenditure
7.	Project Reports and Project Follow-up Reports
8.	Applications for Reimbursement
9.	Each invoice and accounting document of equivalent probative value related to project expenditure (originals to be retained at the premises of the Project Partner concerned)
10.	All supporting documents related to project expenditure (e.g. payslips, bank statements, public procurement documents etc.) to be retained at the premises of the Project Partner concerned
11.	All project deliverables (all material produced during the project period)
12.	If relevant, documentation related to on the spot checks of the Control Bodies (to be retained at the premises of the Project Partner concerned)
13.	If relevant, documentation of monitoring visits of the Joint Secretariat / Managing Authority
14.	If relevant, documentation related to audits
15.	If relevant, the Lead Partner's / Partners' Subsidy contracts on state contribution and the related documents

ANNEX V – APPLICABLE PROJECT SPECIFIC STATE AID RULE

NOT RELEVANT