

MA 27 – 175/07

Joint Cross-Border Programme
Slovakia – Austria 2007-2013;
Priority 3 – Technical Assistance;
Rate of national co-financing



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Vienna, 06 April 2007

Ministry of Construction and Regional
Development of the Slovak Republic
Regional Development Support Agency
Director General
Mr Igor Štefanov
Prievozská 2/B
825 25 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

Dear Director General,

The Municipal Department 27 for EU Strategy and Economic Development of the City of Vienna, representing the designated Managing Authority of the programme Slovakia – Austria 2007-2013, is writing to you with regard to the national contribution to Priority 3 – Technical Assistance of our joint cross-border Programme.

The City of Vienna is supported in this concern by the Austrian partner regions of Burgenland and Lower Austria.

During the last meetings of the Programming Group Slovakia – Austria all partners agreed on the common understanding that the programme's implementation must be based on solid Technical Assistance resources.

The partners of the programming group asked the designated Managing Authority to calculate the necessary financial frame for Technical Assistance. Accordingly, the resources for Technical Assistance covering a cofinancing rate of 85 : 15 (85% ERDF, 15% national budget) are not sufficient to guarantee the future core management of the programme.

Furthermore, calculations prove that only increased national contribution up to 50% can safeguard a sound programme management.

However, the Programming Group was informed by your ministry at the last meeting that the Slovak national means may not exceed 15% of the total Slovak contribution for Technical Assistance.

The necessity for sound financial support of the core management is due to increased future administrative duties, e.g.

- The Lead Partner Principle will result in both complicated and costly administrative procedures on both sides of the border.
- The demand for bilateral co-ordination (with different administrative structures) will be more costly than in the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness programmes. Additionally, the different languages and national rules within the programme area have a great financial impact on the management of the programme.
- Projects will have to be in line with very strict quality standards and clearly prove European added value. This will require sufficient technical resources to both set up and monitor the projects.
- The regulations to implement the current programme are more detailed than in the period 2006-2006 and emphasize the need to comply with communication, publicity and control requirements. Training courses for lead partners and project partners will have to be organised to enable the project holders to fulfil these goals.
- Extended audit controls are a key request of the European Commission. This will demand additional efforts in the first level control and more financial engagement of the control bodies.
- To conclude with, targets like increased project quality, visibility and added value depend on sound implementation of the programme. This is highly recommended by the European Commission.

In order to meet the relevant targets the Austrian partner regions Burgenland, Lower Austria and Vienna are committed so far to contribute to the Technical Assistance of the programme by earmarking national means up to a co financing rate of 50%. This commitment is also expected from the Slovak partner to the same extent.

Only by this the sound implementation of the joint cross-border programme Slovakia – Austria 2007-2013 will be feasible.

The designated Managing Authority and region of Vienna together with the Austrian partner regions of Burgenland and Lower Austria therefore kindly ask the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development to take the above stated arguments into consideration and to focus on safeguarding the necessary core management of the programme by sufficient Slovak national means.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon and would be delighted to meet you personally at an occasion of the programme in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

Designated Managing Authority
Martin Hutter



Martin Pospischill
Head of Office

In copy to:

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