

Cooperation potential in the wider area

The cross-border programme area is a part of a major trans-national cooperation area, which also comprises of the North-Eastern Italian regions as Veneto and Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, the entire Slovenia, the sub-regions of Croatia (Rijeka, Zagreb) and the West-Pannonian region in Hungary. This greater area includes more than 14 million people.

One of the roots of the wider cooperation is the Alpe-Adria initiative, which was established more than 20 years ago. A series of bilateral and trans-national projects have been carried out in the recent years, in particular also under the EU-CI INTERREG IIIB – CADSES. The content of these trans-national cooperations covers a wide range of key topics, such as spatial development, regional development strategies, co-ordination in location development, technology networks, science and technology park cooperation, logistic cooperation and many others.

The cooperation area along the Austrian-Slovenian border has a population of 3.2 million people, but represents the embedded geographic heart of the greater region. The links to neighbouring areas, both in infrastructure as well as in current cooperation projects, exist also in a wider geographical context. This can be regarded as a promising situation: the initiatives and activities of the Austrian-Slovenian cooperation area will be rooted in a wider market and in wider networks of key actors. In this greater area, different potential, different skills and different natural resources are given. The access to this variety of knowledge, different partners and fast growing markets can contribute to the quality of the projects and to the rate of dissemination and growth, finally to their sustainability and long-term success.

The more the core area will be able to take an active role, the more it will benefit from its embedded position in the wider area within Southern Central Europe.