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Application form “AEBR-Cross Border Award” 2013
Deadline: 20.09.2013

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URBAN AND RURAL INTEGRATED AREAS – **CROSS-BORDER CHALLENGES AND CHANCES**

1. General information

1.1 Applicant border / cross-border region:

Lower Austria – Burgenland - Bratislava

Title of the cross-border measure* [project(s), programme(s) / strategy(ies)]:

Bratislava-Umland-Management (BAUM) – Bratislava –urbanregional-cooperation

1.3 Period:

01.01.2010 – 31.12.2014

1.4 Lead Partner:

Regional Management Lower Austria-
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Contact:

Mag.a. Hajnalka Triteos Meidlik,
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1.5 Partners:

City of Bratislava – capital of Slovak Republic
Regional Management Burgenland

Contact:

Mag. Marek Dinka
Dr. Harald Ladich

1.6. Financing of the cross-border measure (e.g. INTERREG):

Remark: It should be explicated how the financing of the strategy(ies) / concept(s) / project idea(s) has been or is realised.

BAUM is funded by the European Union in the frame of ETC SK-AT 2007-2013 and cofinanced by the regional governments of Lower Austria, Burgenland and the City of Bratislava.

1.7 Links to other projects, measures and/or programmes (only if applicable):

ERRAM - Erreichbarkeitsbasiertes-Raster-Raumanalyse-Modell; **AKK** – Alpen-Karpaten-Korridor;

CENTROPE Statistics; CC INAT - Infrastructure Needs Assessment Tool - Fostering Competitive Regional Development

2. Contents

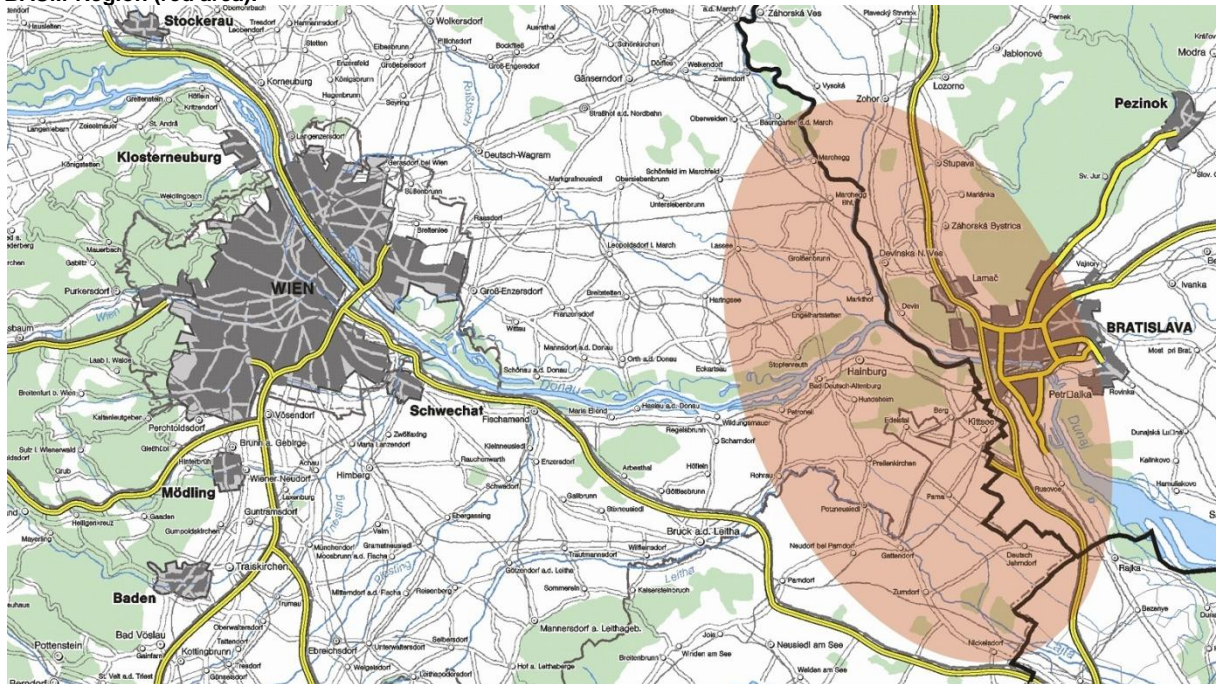
2.1 Objectives of the cross-border measure:

BAUM (Bratislava Umland management / Bratislava Urban Regional Cooperation) project is a joint initiative of the Provinces of Lower Austria and Burgenland and the City of Bratislava. Its aim is to establish a platform for the harmonisation of spatial development for all the involved actors.

The "BAUM region" covers 14 municipalities in the Austrian hinterland of Bratislava, in two Austrian provinces and all the districts of the Slovak capital. With a series of projects and joint initiatives these actors have entered into a process of intense cross-border co-operation to harmonise the development in the greater region and to limit unwelcome activities there. The following activities are foreseen in the framework of the project:

- **Information-, cooperation-, and coordination meetings** for the Slovak and Austrian villages and the city of Bratislava
- **Elaboration of a common strategy for the spatial development of the border region**
- **Elaboration of an Urban Masterplan for Bratislava**, integrating the interests of urban regional and local stakeholders on both sides of the border
- **Elaboration of a common Regional Development Concept for the Austrian villages** (Lower Austria and Burgenland) integrating the inputs from the Urban Masterplan
- **During the project the first cross-border urban-regional-cooperation management structure at the former iron curtain shall be established.**

BAUM-Region (red area):



The goal of the BAUM project is to build on a solid cooperation and the ability to mediate controversial cross-border issues which has been developed since 2003 within the KOBRA (Cooperation Bratislava) project.

One of the primary goals of the project BAUM is also to limit unwelcome activities in the border region (uncontrolled expansion etc.) as well as defining the future use of agricultural zones. These goals have been met in the last years. As the cooperation will be intensified we enter into a new stage of cooperation and are intensively working on following actions:

- The establishment of a **multilateral expert platform (MEP)** as a basis for the implementation of the collective vision for the region's development through the commissioning and execution of an **urban & regional planning concept (URPC) – meetings 2-4 times per year**
- The **elaboration of a collective URPC** that unifies the interests of all affected stakeholders

- The **implementation** of the outcomes of the collective URPC **in accordance with the relevant spatial planning tools**
- **The establishment of the first cross-border urban-regional-cooperation management structure at the former iron curtain**

View from an Austrian village to the large neighbour city of Bratislava:



2.2 Organisational structure and activities to implement the objectives (e.g. joint secretariat, contract, etc.):

BAUM is based on the project partnership between Regional Management Lower Austria, Regional Management Burgenland und the city of Bratislava. Strategic Partners are the provinces of Lower Austria, Burgenland and the-Region of Bratislava. All 14 municipalities on the Austrian side and border districts of Bratislava are involved in all developments and discussions in order to insure .blishing a common cross-border management organisation the so called „Bratislava-Umland-Management“.

2.3 How far has the measure been implemented?

- We started working on the **Urban Masterplan for Bratislava**, integrating the interests of urban regional and local stakeholders on both sides of the border
- We already have a **bus connection** between **Bratislava - Wolfsthal** (partner of BAUM)- **Hainburg** (partner of BAUM)- the connection is planned to be extended.
- The Austrian villages benefit from **the municipal infrastructure** of the city of Bratislava such as the sewage water system, purification plant etc.
- Many inhabitants of Bratislava, over all young families, moved to the Austrian BAUM-region – because of the quality of life and also lower price of land. Their children go to schools and kindergardens on the Austrian side.
- Since Sept. 2012 there was a **bicycle bridge between Bratislava and Schloss Hof** (belongs to the municipality of Engelhartstetten, partner of BAUM) realized and **cross-border bicycle roads**.
- The **common cross border management organisation** should be clear at the beginning of 2014 – we are still in intensive discussions and development stages. The Austrian and Slovak project managers are in every day contact and meet the relevant stakeholders regularly.

2.4 Special framework conditions (a. geographical, political, etc. / b. only rural area (no regional metropolis))

Being a region between the two capitals, which are the closest located in Europe to each other, they span a region intertwined across national borders. The potential to develop as an integrated metropolitan area has increased especially since the accession to the European Union

and membership of the Schengen area. Already now, the strong dynamics of Bratislava are affecting the rural Austrian towns.

Bicycle bridge between Bratislava and Schloss Hof



Everybody is convinced of the beneficial effects of BAUM, due to following reasons:

- **Low accessibility decreases economic profit:** The municipalities north of the Danube are less affected by urban sprawl than the ones south of the Danube, but the benefit they gain from Bratislava's economic power is smaller.
- **You get on better together:** Each decision for investment on one side of the border has effects on the other side. An individual municipality cannot represent its interest effectively, therefore the cooperative performance of all municipalities is essential to influence decisions on infrastructure projects (road, railway, urban development) or debate about future residential, industrial and commercial areas.
- **Think and act beyond the borders:** The cooperative urban-regional process coordinates different interests for the common benefit of everyone. For maintaining a high quality of life projects concerning road construction, residential building, settlements of companies, nature conservation and transport have to be coordinated. A spatial development concept should be the basis for the urban-regional cooperation.
- **First cross-border urban-regional-cooperation management structure at the former iron curtain:** very important for the day by day communication and coordinating of activities between the City of Bratislava and the surrounding municipalities on the Austrian side of the border
- The first positive effects of the cooperation can already be experienced. Meanwhile the sleepy little villages near the Slovak border have blossomed into attractive places of residence.

3. Contribution of the measure (added value) to the development of the border/cross-border region:

(not more than half a page)

The BAUM area is viewed as a single entity without country borders. Creating the common platform will define the conditions for further regional development. By doing this, we are able to harness a previously unattainable capacity for coordinated development within the region. Cooperative studies arising from the consensus of all stakeholders will establish clear foundations for systematic development. Through the combination of regulations and investment activities on both sides of the border, the management structure for the city and surroundings will significantly mitigate the emergence of negative effects due to the expansion of the City of Bratislava. By formulating common perceptions about the image of the region, the project ensures sustainable conditions for the future development of this cross-border region e.g. mobili-

