

## SZENTGOTTHÁRD CALL

to strengthen Hungarian-Slovene cooperation

On the invitation of the Municipality of Szentgotthárd, the Slovene Inter-Municipality Initiative, as well as the Budapest-based Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives, Hungarian and Slovene mayors, businessmen, experts of regional development and representatives of the academic sphere met on 21-22 April 2015 in order to explore the potential in developing relations between Hungary and Slovenia. Based on the results of the event, participants initiated a regular annual meeting of the same kind.

**Realising** that international cooperation offers an effective and long lasting solution to meet regional challenges and **convinced** that cross-border cooperation brings mutual advantages and facilitates further development of bilateral relations, through this paper, participants call upon the two governments to use all available resources in order to stimulate relations between Hungarian and Slovene actors, bring the cooperation to a strategic level, explore mutually advantageous development needs as well as their enforcement, and ensure all conditions necessary for the cooperation.

In favour of the above,

- cooperation between municipalities and their institutions, universities and research centres, small and medium enterprises, as well as civil society representatives;
- development of strategic plans and specific projects;
- necessary work to acquire funding to realise the above;
- collection of information aiding the cooperation and providing access for stakeholders of the cooperation and thereby
- stimulation of socio-economic relations, mutual understanding and esteem, as well as strengthening mutual tolerance towards minority culture

need to be supported in the following fields:

- science, research and development, and innovation;
- education and training;
- economic cooperation;
- infrastructural development;
- tourism and culture;
- health care and the social sector;
- nature- and environmental protection, as well as
- social cooperation.

Attendees salute events with similar content and motivation as stated in the *Inter-Municipality Initiative: Cross-border eCollaboration in the Danube region*, as well as activities of the Slovene-Hungarian Business Association and the Hungarian-Slovene Joint Chamber.

**22 April 2015, Szentgotthárd / Monošter**