

MINUTES

prepared at the General Assembly meeting of the **Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)**

Venue of the meeting: Naphegy restaurant, Budapest

Date and time of the meeting: 26th November, 2013, 11.30 a.m.

Present at the General Assembly meeting: see attached list of participants

Chairman Dr. Tamás Tóth welcomes those attending the meeting and apologises for the delay, then states that the number of members of the General Assembly present is 24 persons as a result the General Assembly has a quorum.

Following this he proposes Ms. Zsuzsanna Andrásy as Recorder and Ms. Gabriella Nagy as Attestor of the Minutes. Both accepted their nomination.

Voting result:

Ayes: 24

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 19/2013 (XI. 26.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects Ms. Zsuzsanna Andrásy as Recorder and Ms. Gabriella Nagy as Attestor of the Minutes.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: Chairman

Following this the proposed agenda items were introduced by the Chairman. He informed the participants that the Board proposes the approval of the agenda with two amendments: within the framework of the agenda item no. 3 the discussion on the draft budget for year 2014 would be cancelled and within the framework of the agenda item A. O. B. there would be a decision on the organizational and operational rules of the European Institute. He put the agenda to the meeting with the following amendments.

1. Report on the events of the period since the previous Board/General Assembly meeting(30st May 2013)
2. Official and membership issues
3. Financing: Amendment of the budget for the year of 2013
4. Report of the Supervisory Committee
5. Development of external relations: decision on joining the EuroGeo and the Association of Borderlands
6. Any other business: Organizational and operational rules of the European Institute (beyond others topics)

There were no further suggestions concerning the agenda items therefore the Chairman proposed the approval of the planned agenda.

Voting result:

Ayes: 24

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 20/2013 (XI. 26.)

The amended agenda is approved by the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: Chairman

Agenda Item no. 1: Report on the events of the period since the previous General Assembly meeting (30th May)

The Secretary General said in his introduction that he hold the presentation together with the Director of Planning and the Director of the European Institute. At first he told about the international role of CESCO. He highlighted that the international presence of the association had growth in 2013. Casually they participated in the Open Days of Brussels in October where the Secretary General held a presentation on cross-border ITI within the framework of the related session.

In addition the Director of Planning took part in and gave a successful lecture in the conference of EuroGeo in Rome. The European Council together with the ISIG institution organized a conference in Gorizia and Nova Gorica (located in the Slovenian border) where CESCO was also represented.

In the field of organizational diplomacy the Secretary General mentioned that the association had become the member of the CECICN (Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks), uniting 9 macro regional networks; and the AEBC (Association of European Border Regions) in the summer of 2013. Both bodies are high-prestigious and have significant lobby power. The Executive Committee of the CECICN organized two meetings during 2013, the representatives of CESCO participated in both ones and the Hungarian contributions joined the policy proposals made by CECICN for the Institutions of the European Union.

The Budapest Platform held its first significant policy event in Brussels in July. Hungary was represented by dr. Bence Rétvári State Secretary, the topic was the state assistance in cross-border cooperation.

One of the main activity fields of the association is the participation in institutionalising cross-border cooperation. Recently CESCO takes part in the foundation process of 4 EGTCs: the Sopron-based Fertő, the European Border Cities seated in Nyíregyháza, the networking EGTC aiming at developing rural areas, initiated by Bács-Kiskun County and the CETC EGTC whose goal is the establishment of the North-South transport corridor.

Moreover CESCO worked out a study on the development of the Hungarian-Slovenian border region by cross-border cooperation as well as it supported the establishment of a European level cooperation in the Hungarian-Serbian-Croatian border region.

Mr. Mátyás Jaschitz gave a short overview on those works which have been prepared or their preparations were in progress since May. As an introduction he mentioned that adopting to the orders the headcount in the Planning Department was raised therefore recently 4 full-time and 2 part-time employees work in this field.

The most important planning tasks were the Hungarian-Slovakian ETC programme for 2014-2020 made by a three-member consortium, and the Danube transnational programme. In the case of the latter one CESCO prepared a territorial analysis, while in the Hungarian-Slovakian programming besides the TA interviews and workshops were also organized by the association. Both works were extremely labour-intensive but they had significant reference values.

In addition during the summer and autumn the strategy of the Banat-Triplex-Confinuim EGTC was

finalized (by completing with Vojvodina, accommodating to the comments); the department also took part in the preparation of the territorial development conception of Győr-Moson-Sopron County (by writing its chapters dealing with cross-border development), worked out a study for managing the integrated territorial development in the Hungarian-Slovenian border region, launched the development strategy of the Gate to Europe EGTC (and we plan to finish it by December); finalized the planning documents of the cross-border integrated territorial investment of the Ister-Granum EGTC as well as CESCO – as a subcontractor - prepared a study on the effects of the cross-border programmes for 2007-2013.

Besides the planning tasks we submitted our professional opinion on the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme and the rural Development Programme as well as the two documents worked out by CECICN.

Dr Zsolt Bottlik Director had a short brief on the European Institution's activity. He highlighted that their main aim had been the launch of the organization since its foundation on 30th May. The institution provides scientific background for achieving the CESCO's goals on the one hand and manages the international scientific cooperation of the association on the other.

The institution has 4 colleagues; two full-time workers and two with work assignment contract. All of them are geographers and one of the scientific assistant has a degree in sociology too.

Their main research fields are the followings: borders, border regions and cross-border cooperation.

Accordingly during the last half a year they dealt with the launch of the professional work: the website of the institution is under planning, they started the preparation of the first annual (which is planned to be developed to a periodical) with the participation of external experts (it will be published in February) as well as the description and methodology of the research project aiming at examining cross-border cooperation in the Danube region, it may be implemented in 2014. They looked for and found Norwegian partner to the expected call of the Norwegian Fund. They also started to build up the international relations of the institute: they were on a study tour at the Euro-Institut in Kehl which is the first institution of this kind and also took part in the 20th anniversary of it. In addition they visited the European Academy of Bolzano too. Their goal is the dynamic expansion of the European Institute's relations.

There were no comments or questions therefore the approval of the report is proposed by the Chairman.

Voting result:

Ayes: 24
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 21/2013 (XI. 26.)

The report on the period since the previous General Assembly meeting is approved by the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Deadline: effective immediately
Responsible: Chairman

Agenda Item no. 2: Matters concerning membership and office bearers of CESCO

The Secretary General informed those present that one organization, the Ister-Granum EGTC have applied for membership in the association since the previous General Assembly meeting whose representatives are in place. The member candidate submitted the required documents necessary for the membership hereby there is no further hindrance in this field.

The representative of the member candidate introduced the activity of the organization.

Another progress which concerns the organization is the fact that the Board member mandate of Iosif Matula Romanian member of the EP was expired in November. He does not wish to re-nominate himself since he will finish his work in Brussels in May and after his homecoming he will work in an utterly different field. There was no recommendation for other nominee hereby the headcount of the Board are going to decrease with one person in the future. Regarding that the Board operates with flexible frame (minimum 4 and maximum 7 members), the remaining 6 members are still going to ensure the quorum. He mentioned that the Board, before the General Assembly meeting, proposed to replace the Romanian member and they welcome the recommendations of the GA members.

Since no further remarks and comments were made concerning this agenda item the membership issue was put up by the Chairman for vote.

Voting result:

Ayes: 24
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 22/2013 (XI. 26.)

The „Ister Granum” European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability is admitted to become member of the association by the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: Chairman

The chairman indicated that the number of those with voting rights present had increased to 25.

Agenda Item no. 3: Financing

The most important change about the budget for year 2013 was caused by that two bigger professional events out of the planned ones were cancelled. As continue of the conference in Oradea last year an international health care conference would have been organised but because of the lack of the contribution of the French Embassies of Budapest and Bucharest the event was postponed to 2014. On the other hand the international Fertő conference could not be realized because the coordinator of the EGTC Platform Herwing van Staa did not reply to any of our invitations. These sums meant reduction in the organizations' travel and accommodation rows. The costs planned for these programmes were rearranged to software and hardware purchase.

In addition the item finding on the website development row would significantly increase: an utterly new website must be prepared for the European Institute, the one of CESCO would be developed and a new border portal, offering information on the neighbouring countries in Hungarian and on Hungary in the language of our neighbourhoods, also would be prepared. The basic structure of this portal will be worked out in December from the rearranged sum.

The change in the gross sum of the budget was caused by the planned project which is on reserve list on the one hand and a reduce in the business revenues row which is caused by that the supplying deadline of more works in progress were postponed to 2014.

Since no further remarks and comments were made concerning this agenda item the amended budget for year 2013 was put up by the Chairman for vote.

Voting result:

Ayes: 25
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 23/2013 (XI. 26.)

The amended budget concerning the year 2013 of the association is approved by the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Deadline: effective immediately
Responsible: Chairman

Agenda Item no. 4: The audit report of the Supervisory Board

The Chairman asked Mr. Kálmán Nagy Chairman of the Supervisory Board to hold his presentation. The Chairman said the Supervisory Board continued its activity in this year too which focused on the control of the implementation of the resolutions for year 2012/2013 of the Board, the General Assembly and the Supervisory Board. According to the audit everything is all right however there were differences from the original resolutions and plans (e.g. the necessity of the amendments of budget for year 2013) but all of them were unexpected and caused by external circumstances. The Chairman of the Supervisory Board indicated that the mandate of the SB members will expire next year hereby new members will have to be elected at the GA meeting in May 2014 at latest. Since no remarks and comments were made concerning it the report was put up by the Chairman for vote.

Voting result:

Ayes: 25
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 24/2013 (XI. 26.)

The audit report of the Supervisory Board of the association is approved by the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Deadline: effective immediately
Responsible: Chairman

Agenda Item no. 5: Development of external relations: decision on joining the EuroGeo and the Association of Borderland Studies

The Secretary General informed the Board that the association has significantly broadened its international relations. Since one of the main aims of CESCO is to take the lead in the topic of cross-border cooperation in CE Europe, it is necessary to be represented in as many relevant international organizations as possible.

The EuroGeo asked CESCO to organize and moderate a CBC session on the next annual conference after the presentation of the Director of Planning in Rome. On the other hand we contacted the ABS by a colleague of the association who works in Hungary. The membership fees together are less than 250 000 Ft.

Since there were no remarks or comments, the resolution proposals attached to this item are put up by the Chairman for vote in separate voting procedures.

Voting result:

Ayes: 25
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 25/2013 (XI. 26.)

Joining the EuroGeo is approved by the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Further, the General Assembly authorises the Chairman to sign the relevant documents and instructs the Secretary General to carry out the tasks necessary for the joining

procedure.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible:

- **For signing the official documents: Chairman Dr. Tamás Tóth**
- **For managing the joining process: Secretary General Gyula Ocskay**

Voting results:

Ayes: 25
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 26/2013 (XI. 26.)

Joining the Association of Borderland Studies is approved by the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

Further, the General Assembly authorises the Chairman to sign the relevant documents and instructs the Secretary General to carry out the tasks necessary for the joining procedure.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible:

- **For signing the official documents: Chairman Dr. Tamás Tóth**
- **For managing the joining process: Secretary General Gyula Ocskay**

Agenda Item no. 6: A. O. B.

The Secretary General said that decision had been made in the former meeting on that the General Assembly did approve the organizational and operational rules of the European Institute opened in the end of May. The sent invitation letter had not contained the topic therefore according to the Board's proposal he asked the General Assembly to discuss the draft organizational and operational rules within the framework of the agenda item A. O. B..

He highlighted from the draft that the institution is professionally independent but financially not, the operation is supervised by the Secretary General.

There were no remarks, comments made concerning the organizational and operational rules therefore the Chairman invited the members to vote.

Voting results:

Ayes: 25
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Resolution no. 27/2013 (XI. 26.)

The organizational and operational rules of the CESCO European Institute are approved by the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: Chairman

There were no further proposals to the agenda item A.O.B.

Since there were no further remarks or motions made the Chairman thanked the members and other participants for their presence and closed the General Assembly meeting at 1.00 p.m.

Dated as above

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dr. Tamás Tóth
Chairman

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Ms. Zsuzsanna Andrásy
Recorder of the Minutes

.....
Nagy Gabriella
Attestor of the Minutes