## **MINUTES**

prepared at the 2023 General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI).

- Venue of the Assembly: Thermal Hotel Balance, 8960 Lenti, Táncsics Mihály utca8.
- Date of the Assembly: 31 May 2023, 11.30 a.m.
- Participants of the Assembly: according to the list of attendees annexed to the Minutes

The identification of attendees took place between 11.30 and 11.45 a.m.

Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes, President, opened the meeting at 11.45 a.m., and stated that the number of members and their proxies was 27, so the General Assembly has a quorum.

At the same time, the President welcomed the members present, and also extended a special welcome to the non-members of the Assembly, such as Martín Guillermo-Ramírez, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions, and representatives of the CESCI work organisation.

The questions and instructions of the Chairman prior to the meeting:

- All members received the agenda items and the proposals in advance, together with the
  official invitation, and they are available on the organisation's website in both English and
  Hungarian. The President asked if everyone was familiar with the agenda and the content
  of the presentations. There were no objections in this respect.
- Decisions of the General Assembly are adopted by open ballot by simple majority, except
  for the amendment of the Statutes and the election of office-holders (2 members of the
  Board, 3 members of the Supervisory Board), in which case a three-fourth majority of the
  present and eligible members is required. The Supervisory Board members will be elected
  by secret ballot, for which, tellers will be elected during the discussion of the relevant
  agenda item.
- Votes will normally take place after the discussion of the respective agendas.
- The Supervisory Board meeting to examine the proposals of the General Assembly took place on 23 May, and the relevant Supervisory Board report was made available to members in the minutes of the General Assembly on the CESCI website.
- The Board meeting was held on 31 May, immediately before this General Assembly, and the Board report for 2022 was made available to members in the minutes of the General Assembly on the CESCI website.
- Interpretation is provided to foreign members.

The President then proposed to appoint Kitti Dubniczki, Director of CESCI, as Recorder of the Minutes, and Angela Baracskayné Komonyi, Member of the Assembly, as the Attestor of the Minutes. The nominees accepted their nomination, the Assembly members raised no objections.

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 27 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### General Assembly Resolution No. 1/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives appoints Kitti Dubniczki as Recorder of the Minutes, and Angela Baracskayné Komonyi as Attestor of the Minutes.

**Deadline:** effective immediately

Responsible: President

The President briefly introduced the agenda items, to which there were no objections or amendments. The President asked the Assembly to vote on the proposed agenda.

Result of voting:
Yes: 27
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

## General Assembly Resolution No. 2/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the following agenda:

- 1. Reports for 2022
  - 1.1 CESCI Budapest report
  - 1.2 Report from the Board
  - 1.3 Supervisory Board report
  - 1.4 Reports from CESCI network members (Carpathia, Balkans)
  - 1.5 Report of the UPS-CESCI Research Group of Cross-border Cooperation
- 2. Membership issues
  - 2.1 Admission of a new member
  - 2.2 Withdrawal from ISOCARP
- 3. Office-holder matters
  - 3.1 Election of certain Board members
  - 3.2 Election of the members of the Supervisory Board
  - 3.3 Amendments to the Statutes (Annex on office-holders)
- 4. Working plan and budget plan for 2022
  - 4.1 Working plan
  - 4.2 Budget plan
- 5. Regulations
  - 5.1 GEP report
  - 5.2 Amendment of the Investment Policy
- 6. Other

**Deadline:** effective immediately

**Responsible:** President

## Agenda item no.1: Annual reports

After the adoption of the agenda, the annual reports were discussed. The President indicated that there were 5 sub-items on the agenda for the various reports, and that the voting on each proposal should occur at the end of each agenda item. There were no objections to the proposal.

## **CESCI Budapest 2022 annual report**

The President first gave the floor to Kitti Dubniczki, Director of CESCI Budapest.

Kitti Dubniczki started by expressing her hope that, prior to the meeting, all members had the chance to familiarise themselves with the 2022 activity report of the Association, the printed version of which was available in both English and Hungarian. The document and the public benefit report are also available in digital format on the association's website, so the Director and other colleagues who presented the activities of the past year only highlighted the most important information and some of the key activities at the meeting:

- The Director began the presentation of the Association's report by saying that the requirements for **public benefit status** were met in 2022.
- She also projected **the financial** baseline **data of** the public benefit report. Among these, she highlighted that the Association's annual income increased by more than HUF 10 million between 2021 and 2022, while total expenditure decreased to a small extent. This resulted in a net profit after taxation of HUF 16.5 million in 2022.
- From the life of the association in 2022, she highlighted the newsletters sent out during the year; the General Assembly held last year; the members' study tour to the Italian-Slovenian border region; the waste collection action in the Bodrog floodplain by the CESCI team, and the donation to Ukraine, which was made possible by the reallocation of the V4+ grant funds.
- Among the planning activities, she highlighted the evaluation of four cross-border cooperation programmes for 2014-2020 (HUSRB, SKHU, HUHR and HUSKROUA); the preparation of three programmes for 2021-2027; and the contribution to the preparation of the Hungarian-Slovenian economic and development programme. She briefly mentioned that the Association has also prepared an urban development plan (for the municipality of Pápa) in 2022.
- Among the institutional development activities, she indicated that the process of setting up the ECR EGTC, which has been ongoing for many years, was given a new momentum in 2022. During the year 2022, work continued and was completed in December to explore the establishment of a joint management organisation at the World Heritage Site Fertő/Neusiedler See. Professional support for the Hungarian EGTC Programme was provided in several forms, including two EGTC workshops. The Director highlighted the publication on the performance and achievements of the Hungarian EGTCs, which was published in an interactive format on the EGTC Monitor.
- In the context of project development activities, she mentioned the support to the Territorial Action Plans (TAPEs) under the Slovak-Hungarian Programme, which is now coming to an end, and the contribution to the preparation of the tourism action plans related to the new programme. All these activities were complemented in 2022 by the mapping of potential funding resources.

After Kitti Dubniczki, Gyula Ocskay, Secretary General, continued the presentation of the 2022 report of the association:

• The members of the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance, which is a key element of CESCI's policy activities, the AEBR, the MOT and CESCI signed the Strasbourg Declaration in 2021. In 2022, the Alliance held an online consultation with Commissioner Elisa Ferreira; participated in a strategic workshop in Eupen at the invitation of the AEBR President to prepare a roadmap; submitted a joint application to the Commission's call for tenders (promotion of good practices); and CESCI was involved in the preparation of the MOT's COVID report; and participated in the promotion of the B-Solutions initiative.

After the briefing, the Secretary General invited Martín Guillermo-Ramírez (AEBR) and Raffaele Viaggi (MOT) to welcome the members on behalf of the Alliance:

- On behalf of the **AEBR**, Martín Guillermo-Ramírez indicated that the President of the association he represents, Karl-Heinz Lambertz, is also proud of the horizontal and strategic relationship that has been established between the three organisations. This alliance is also strengthened by the fact that CESCI is itself a member of AEBR. He considers the strategic cooperation between the organisations to be of the utmost importance for European cross-border relations policy. The great strength of this alliance is that the three organisations together have a very large number of border regions behind them, and can therefore have a much stronger voice, which is something that others should also listen to. The Strasbourg Declaration has not created a new organisation, but it has made it clear that the three organisations share a common purpose. He also stressed the importance of the #CohesionAlliance: if we fail to bring attention to this issue, it will only be a matter of years before it is off the agenda of European discourse, as more and more popular fields and topics try to draw away attention. He also considered it important to channel the knowledge of older people, because the association can learn and benefit from it.
- Raffaele Viaggi welcomed the Assembly on behalf of the MOT and conveyed the greetings of Director General Jean Peyrony. He stressed that the members of the alliance can cooperate on many important issues, such as territorial planning, cross-border governance or cross-border data. During the two days of the professional programme, the participants also addressed important topics such as cross-border legal accessibility and cross-border planning. The exchange of experiences is very important, and the three organisations can share experiences from different border areas. In his welcome speech, he drew special attention to the next Borders Forum, which will take place in Paris in 2024, immediately after the Olympic Games. The fact that the event will take place during Hungary's rotating presidency of the Council of the EU will be an interesting link.

After the two speeches, Gyula Ocskay continued to present further activities of CESCI.

- Regarding policy-related-making, he highlighted the successful conference on cross-border territorial monitoring and the V4+ project (With cross-border cooperation for the Europeanisation of Ukrainian borders), from which CESCI finally made a donation to Transcarpathia. The organisation intends to continue providing support to the region in the future.
- As for **knowledge sharing** activities, he highlighted the online course on European Territorial Cooperation (MOOC on ETC), the first international course on ETC supported by the Commission, the course material of which is currently available online. He also highlighted the Oradea Process and the Szentgotthárd Forum, which are initiatives that continued in 2022.

## **UPS-CESCI** Research Group of Cross-border Cooperation 2022 Annual Report

The Secretary General then handed the floor back to the President, who presented the 2022 report of the **Research Group of Cross-border Cooperation**, jointly established by the University of Public Service (UPS) and CESCI, in relation to the Association's activities in the field of border research:

- In the cooperation between the two organisations, UPS represents the academic sphere, while CESCI provides the practical knowledge. It is advantageous that the university has several teaching units that can link their expertise to the cooperation. The common vision is that within 5 years the research group will become a separate legal entity. As the leader of the research group, invited the members to bring their own research topics and questions, and it is expected that research group will also seek to establish links with its members in the future.
- About the research group, the President briefly explained that it was established on 2
  December 2021, and the 9 founding members have already been joined by 3 internal and
  3 external researchers. The research group held 2 meetings in 2022 and its website was
  created in 2022.
- The activities of the research group in 2022 were presented under 4 themes: applications; participation in conferences and workshops; publications; and educational activities. She concluded by summarising the future activities of the research group.

## 2022 Report of the Board

The President presented the Board's report for 2022 as follows:

- The Board met online once last year, on 23 May 2022.
- At the meeting, Dr. Tamás Tóth, President, verbally confirmed his written resignation of 2 May 2022, and at the same time recommended Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes, Vice President, to replace him as President. Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes has gratefully accepted the nomination for the office of President.
- On the basis of the presentations, reports, financial statements reviewed at the meeting and the mid-year cooperation with the management of the work organisation, the Board considered the Association's operational capacity to be effective, both financially and professionally, and the future development of the association to be well-founded.

On behalf of the Board, the President asked the Assembly to adopt the report.

## **2022 Report of the Supervisory Board**

Under the next item of the first agenda point, the President invited the Secretary General to present the Supervisory Board report in the absence of the Supervisory Board members.

- The Secretary General explained that the CESCI Supervisory Board held two online meetings in 2022 (first before the 2022 General Assembly on 18 May 2022; then at the end of the year on 14 December 2022) and one in 2023 (23 May 2023).
- The first meeting in 2022 reviewed the proposals of the 2022 General Assembly; examined CESCI's contracts for 2021; carried out a technical-financial audit of the 2021 operating grant from the MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary); and dealt with the technical-financial aspects of cooperation with CESCI Balkans and CESCI Carpathia.

- At the December 2022 meeting, the Supervisory Board carried out the following audits: audit of the 2021 decisions of the bodies of the organisation; interim technical-financial audit of the 2022 operating grant of the CCM; audit of the CESCI rules. In addition, the Supervisory Board's working plan for 2023 was discussed and adopted.
- At its first meeting in 2023, the Board considered the proposals for the 2023 General Assembly.
- Finally, the Secretary General indicated that the Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Kálmán Nagy, does not wish to stand for re-election to the Supervisory Board after 13 years of service. The Association would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to Mr Kálmán Nagy for his work.

## **CESCI Carpathia and CESCI Balkans Annual Report 2022**

The President invited Rudolf Bauer, Director of **CESCI Carpathia, to present the** organisation's report, which focused on the following themes:

- The management of the NatGate project, which started in 2021 and ended in May 2023, continued in 2022. The project was implemented in collaboration between the Košice Children's Heritage Railway and the Nagybörzsöny Forest Railway.
- The coordination and implementation of a project to support the regional development capacities of the disadvantaged district of Revúca was an important and interesting task. This project also ended in May 2023.
- Another interesting task was a training course focusing on climate education. Under the
  project, courses were held for primary and secondary school students and teachers in the
  Self-governing Region of Košice to increase their knowledge of climate change and its
  education.
- CESCI Carpathia has also developed a handbook on social entrepreneurship, which
  contains practical advice on how a municipality can establish this type of enterprise in
  Hungary and Slovakia.
- Among the project development activities, he highlighted the preparation of the #ACCESS project to be implemented jointly with CESCI Budapest.
- Among other activities of the organisation, the director mentioned participation in networking events.

The President then gave the floor to Ervin Erős, Director of **CESCI Balkans**, to present the activities of his organisation in 2022:

- The Director first highlighted the second round evaluation of the 2014-2020 Interreg- IPA HUSRB Programme. The evaluation process, coordinated by CESCI Budapest, was supported by CESCI Balkans with activities such as conducting interviews, collecting data, preparing questionnaires, carrying out research work.
- In cooperation with the Council of Europe's Centre of Expertise on Good Governance, the Leadership Academy for Cross-border Cooperation focusing on the Balkans continued, with several activities taking place in 2022 at the Bulgarian-Serbian border.
- The study, entitled "The concept of the Pannon EGTC's expansion to the Western Balkans", examined, among other things, the benefits of opening up the EGTC to the Western Balkans and assessed the regulatory environment for the involvement of the institutions.

After the presentation of the reports, the President indicated that the Supervisory Board and the Board supported the adoption and acknowledgement of the respective reports. At the end of the

agenda, the President noted that the General Assembly would vote on the reports one by one in open voting. Then the members were asked to vote.

In connection with the agenda, the General Assembly first voted on the Association's annual report for 2022 and the public benefit annex.

(The representative of Pannon EGTC was not present at the place of voting, so the number of voters was reduced to 26.)

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### General Assembly Resolution No. 3/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the Association's annual report and the public benefit annex for the year 2022.

Deadline: effective immediately, or in accordance with the publication deadline Responsible: President

The General Assembly then voted on the report of the Board of the Association for the year 2022.

## Result of voting:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### **General Assembly Resolution No. 4/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the report of the Board for the year 2022.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

The General Assembly then voted on the report of the Supervisory Board for 2022.

(The representative of the Pannon EGTC returned to the place of voting, bringing the total number of voters to 27.)

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 27 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

## **General Assembly Resolution No. 5/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the report of the Supervisory Board for the year 2022.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

The Assembly then voted on the CESCI Carpathia 2022 annual report.

## Result of voting:

Yes: 27 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

**General Assembly Resolution No. 6/2023 (31.V.)** 

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives takes note of the CESCI Carpathia 2022 Annual Report.

Deadline: effective immediately

**Responsible: President** 

The Assembly then voted on the CESCI Balkans 2022 annual report.

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 27 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

**General Assembly Resolution No. 7/2023 (31.V.)** 

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives takes note of the CESCI Balkans 2022 Annual Report.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

Finally, on the agenda, the Assembly voted on the 2022 annual report of the UPS-CESCI Research Group of Cross-border Cooperation.

## Result of voting:

Yes: 27 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

**General Assembly Resolution No. 8/2023 (31.V.)** 

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the 2022 Annual Report of the UPS-CESCI Research Group on Cross-border Cooperation.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

## Agenda item no. 2: Membership issues

The President invited the Secretary General to present the second item of the agenda.

The Secretary General gave a brief presentation on the **MURABA EGTC** along the Slovenian-Hungarian border, which has applied for membership of CESCI. As he pointed out, this EGTC is unique, as it was founded jointly by Hungarians living in Slovenia and Slovenes living in Hungary and it is expected to be the manager of the joint economic development fund that the two governments plan to launch jointly in the border region. The Secretary General indicated that the documents related to the membership procedure were received in due time and that there were no formal obstacles to membership.

On the other item of the agenda point (withdrawal from **ISOCARP**), the Secretary General apologised to the General Assembly and asked for its support. ISOCARP is a global, prestigious network of planners that could have significantly expanded CESCI's network of contacts. However, CESCI representatives have attended two General Assemblies of the organisation in the past year and, on the basis of their experience, have deemed it necessary to withdraw from the organisation. Only seventeen of the more than 600 members attended the first (online) General Assembly, and only twenty-three attended the second, re-convened General Assembly. Both meetings were marked by heated and personal debates between members, which made it clear that the benefits expected from joining could not be secured. Withdrawal is possible from 31 December 2023, so this year's membership fee still has to be paid.

Under the agenda, the Assembly first voted on the inclusion of MURABA EGTC.

(The representative of the Municipality of Püspökladány left the place of voting permanently due to other official duties, so the number of voters was reduced to 26.)

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### General Assembly Resolution No. 9/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives admits MURABA EGTC as a full member.

Deadline: effective immediately

**Responsible: President** 

The Assembly then voted on the proposal to withdraw from ISOCARP.

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### **General Assembly Resolution No. 10/2023 (31.V.)**

1. CESCI will withdraw from ISOCARP as of 31 December 2023, following the decision of the General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

2. The General Assembly authorises the President and the Secretary General to carry out the procedures related to the withdrawal and to fulfil the obligations of the members resulting from the withdrawal.

Deadline: to be communicated by ISOCARP; at the latest one month before the exit Responsible: President

(The MURABA EGTC did not take part in the following votes on the agenda, as its representative was not present at the Assembly due to a pre-announced engagement.)

## Agenda item no. 3: Office-holder matters

After the vote, the President invited the Secretary General to present the proposal for Agenda item 3.

The mandate of **two board members**, Zoltán Szögi and Dr Jože Gričar, expires on 14 September 2023. As CESCI will not hold any more General Assemblies this year, their re-election will have to be decided at this General Assembly. The two Board Members resigned their seats following the Board meeting on 31 May, and at the same time they have indicated in writing that they will stand as candidates for re-election to their former Board positions.

The Secretary General then indicated that the mandate of **all three Supervisory Board members will** also expire on 14 September 2023. István Oláh and Dr Attila Tilki have indicated in writing that they will stand as candidates for their former positions. After the President of the Supervisory Board, Kálmán Nagy, indicated that he did not wish to stand for re-election, a new candidate was invited; the former President of CESCI, Dr György Kocziszky, who accepted the candidature. The Secretary General briefly outlined the professional career of the new candidate, who is currently Senior Advisor to the President of the Hungarian National Bank (Magyar Nemzeti Bank).

The Secretary General concluded his presentation by indicating that the amendment of the list of office-holders also required the **amendment of the Annex to the Statutes**, which also had to be voted on by the General Assembly.

Before the voting, the President indicated that no **other** written proposals for **new candidates** had been received, and asked the Assembly if anyone wished to make a verbal statement to that effect. No new nominations were presented to the Assembly.

The first item on the agenda was the election of Zoltán Szögi.

## Result of voting:

Yes: 25 No: 0 Abstentions: 1

General Assembly Resolution No. 11/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives elects Zoltan Szögi as Vice President for a three-year term.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

Responsible: President

The Assembly then voted on the election of Dr Jože Gričar.

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 26 (after President's correction: 25, see below for reasons)

No: 0 Abstentions: 0

(Note: the President noticed that Dr Jože Gričar had also voted on his own matter, but as this is not allowed by the CESCI Statutes IV. 1.5. f), the President cancelled the vote.)

## **General Assembly Resolution No. 12/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects Dr Jože Gričar as a full member of the Board for a three-year term.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: President

After the election of the members of the Board, the General Assembly elected tellers for the secret ballot by open voting. The President invited two representatives of Assembly members (Péter Nagy, Director of Ister-Granum EGTC and Tamás Németh, Director of Arrabona EGTC) to act as tellers, who accepted the invitation. The Assembly voted on the two tellers simultaneously (the two representatives of the two organisations concerned did not vote).

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 24 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

## General Assembly Resolution No. 13/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service of Cross-border Initiatives elects Péter Nagy and Tamás Németh as tellers for the duration of the secret ballot for the election of the new Supervisory Board members.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

The two tellers then distributed the ballot papers to the members present and their representatives. A secret ballot was taken (the voting rights of the tellers as members were not suspended by the Association's Constitution - not including voting on their own business - so tellers could vote themselves), and the completed ballot papers were collected and counted. The President presented the results of the vote to the Assembly.

Result of voting (identical for all three candidates, as follows):

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### General Assembly Resolution No. 14/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects Dr György Kocziszky as a member of the Supervisory Board for a three-year term.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

## **General Assembly Resolution No. 15/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects István Oláh as a member of the Supervisory Board for a three-year term.

Deadline: effective immediately

**Responsible: President** 

## **General Assembly Resolution No. 16/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects Dr Attila Tilki as a member of the Supervisory Board for a three-year term.

Deadline: effective immediately

**Responsible: President** 

After the vote, the President expressed gratitude to the tellers for their work, marking the conclusion of their mandate.

After the results of the secret ballot were presented, the President asked the Assembly to vote by open voting on the amendment of the Annex to the Statutes.

#### Result of voting:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

## **General Assembly Resolution No. 17/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the amendment of the Annex to the Statutes, listing the office-holders of the Association, and the new consolidated text of the Statutes.

**Deadline: effective immediately** 

**Responsible: President** 

# Agenda item no. 4: Working plan and Budget plan

The President invited the Director, Mátyás Jaschitz, and the Secretary General, Gyula Ocskay, to present the proposal related to Agenda item 4.

First, Mátyás Jaschitz presented **the working plan** of the association for 2023, as presented in the annex to the proposal. Among the tasks, he highlighted the case of the Hungarian-Slovenian development programme, where MURABA EGTC is expected to be entrusted with the

management of the cross-border development programme. This will allow the EGTC, as an instrument, to perform a task that best fits its mission.

In connection with the working plan, Gyula Ocskay mentioned that the destination of the members' study tour planned for 2023 will be the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion in the Czech-Polish-German border region. The number of participants will be limited due to the financial resources available; applications will be selected based on the order in which they are received.

The Secretary General then spoke about the #ACCESS project, a project of strategic importance supported by the Hungarian-Slovak Cooperation Programme 2021-2027. He stressed that, due to its size and complexity, it is a project of particular importance in the life of the association. The aim of the project is to identify and remove as many cross-border legal obstacles as possible in the 6 years period. In the coming years, it is expected that more association members from the Slovak-Hungarian border region will be involved in the work of the regional reference groups.

Mátyás Jaschitz then presented the main items of the **budget plan** as presented. In his brief presentation he highlighted that personnel costs remain the main cost item. In terms of revenue, the operating subsidy from the KKM continues to play a significant role. As for the coming years, he reminded the Assembly that, as much as the implementation of the #ACCESS project is a beautiful task, it will also be a challenge, as in addition to the self-financing, liquidity will have to be ensured over the years.

After a brief presentation, the President first asked the Assembly to adopt the work plan.

## The result of the vote:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### **General Assembly Resolution No. 18/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the Association's work plan for 2023.

Deadline: immediately Responsible: president

The Assembly then voted on the budget plan.

#### The result of the vote:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

#### **General Assembly Resolution No. 19/2023 (31.V.)**

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the Association's budget plan for 2023.

Deadline: immediately Responsible: president

## Agenda item no. 5: Internal rules

The President invited the Directors Kitti Dubniczki and Mátyás Jaschitz to present the proposal related to the agenda.

In relation to the **Gender Equality Plan (GEP) 2022 report**, Kitti Dubniczki indicated that the GEP, which is the object of the report, was adopted by the General Assembly at the annual meeting in 2022. Kitti Dubniczki briefly outlined the 5 main areas in which the plan aims to promote gender equality within the association. Regarding the 2022 report, it was mentioned that the Gender Equality Officer, indicated in the plan, has been appointed, the intended guidelines have been drafted and most of the indicators have already been fulfilled in 2022. Gender discrimination cannot be identified within the association. In addition, it was mentioned that the organisation of events is organised in a more conscious way, thus aiming a gender-balanced selection of speakers.

Mátyás Jaschitz briefly presented the proposal to amend the **Investment Rules**. As he pointed out, the association already had investment rules, but it was not really useful in practice. Therefore, amendments have been proposed with the primary objective of increasing the operating reserves of the association in a safe way when it is possible. The Director underlined that investments under the proposed amendment would continue to be possible only with the support of the Board and the Supervisory Board.

As there were no questions from the Assembly on the internal rules, the President first asked the Assembly for an open vote on the adoption of the GEP report.

#### The result of the vote:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

## General Assembly Resolution No. 20/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives approves the report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Plan 2022.

Deadline: immediately Responsible: president

The General Assembly then voted on the amendment of the investment rules.

## The result of the vote:

Yes: 26 No: 0 Abstentions: 0

## General Assembly Resolution No. 21/2023 (31.V.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives approves the amendment of the Investment Rules.

Deadline: immediately Responsible: president

## Agenda item no. 5: Other

There were no other comments from the members regarding the Chair's question.

On the basis of the above, the President thanked the participants for their contribution and closed the meeting at 13:28.

Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes President

Kitti Dubniczki recorder of the minutes

Baracskayné Komonyi Angéla authenticator of the minutes