MINUTES

Prepared at the 2025 Annual General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives.

• **Venue:** Ádám villa, VII. ker., Budapest, Városligeti fasor 35a.

• **Start date:** May 19, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

• **Present at the meeting:** according to the attendance sheet attached to the minutes

The participants of the meeting were identified between 10:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes, Chairperson (hereinafter: Chair), opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. welcomed the members present, the invited guests, and the representatives of the CESCI work organisation. She noted that the number of members (present in person and represented by proxy) was **34**, and **the** general meeting had a **quorum** (the minimum number of members required for a quorum is **31**).

This was followed by the usual questions and information regarding the **agenda and voting:**

• Have all members received the agenda items and proposals in advance, together with the official invitation, and are they familiar with their content?

• Are the decisions of the General Meeting adopted by open vote, by simple majority, with the exception of

- amendments to the Articles of Association and the (open) election of officers, where a three-quarters majority of the members present and entitled to vote is required.

• Information about preliminary, related meetings:

a) The Supervisory Committee (SC) meeting to review the proposals for the General Assembly took place on May 12, and the relevant SC report is available on the CESCI website among the General Assembly materials;

b) the **Presidency meeting** took place prior to the general meeting, starting at 9:30 a.m.; the Presidency's report on the past year will be presented orally at the general meeting;

• **Interpretation is provided for foreign members.**

The members were familiar with the content of the proposals and took note of the information provided.

No objections or questions were raised.

The president then proposed that CESCI's legal advisor Dr. Norbert Jankai be appointed as the minute-taker for the meeting and **Angéla Baracskayné Komonyi**, a member of the General Assembly, as the minute-authenticator.

The persons nominated accepted the nomination and there were no objections from the General Assembly.

The result of the vote (minute-taker, minute-authenticator):

Unanimous yes (33 votes, *Angéla Baracskayné Komonyi did not vote due to her involvement as a member)*.

General Assembly Resolution No. 1/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European **Service for** Cross-Border Initiatives **elects**

Dr. Norbert Jankai as minute-taker and **Angéla Baracskayné Komonyi as minute-certifier for the meeting.**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

The Chair then briefly presented the agenda. No objections or amendments were made. The Chair asked the General Assembly to vote.

The result of the vote was as follows:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 2/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives approves

the following agenda:

1. **Approval and acknowledgement of the 2024 reports**

    1.1 Annual report, public benefit report

    1.2 Report of the Presidency

    1.3 Report of the Supervisory Board

    1.4 Reports of the members of the CESCl network (CESCI Carpathia, CESCI Balkans)

    1.5 Report of the NKE-CESCI Research Group on Cross-Border Cooperation

    1.6 GEP report

2. **Membership matters**

    2.1 Admission of new members

    2.2 Approval of contracts concluded with members

3. **Office-holders matters**

    3.1 Expiration of the terms of office of the president and vice-president – election of a new president and vice-president

3.2 Expiring regular membership mandates of the Presidency – election of new regular members of the Presidency

3.3 Expansion of the Presidency – election of new regular members of the Presidency

3.4 Modification of the honorarium of the Supervisory Board President

4. **Amendment of the Statutes**

4.1 Proposed amendments to the Statutes

4.2 Adoption of the Articles of Statutes with the amendments

S. Work and financial plan for 2025

5.1 Work plan

5.2 Financial plan

6. **Rules**

6.1 Amendment of the procurement rules

7. **Other**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

Agenda item 1: Annual reports

The President indicated that six sub-items would be discussed on the agenda.

1.1 CESCI Budapest report for 2024

The President gave the floor to several speakers regarding the CESCI Budapest report for 2024.

Secretary General Gyula Ocskay emphasized that CESCI continues to meet all the requirements for public benefit status and then gave a brief presentation on last year's operating figures.

Director Kitti Dubniczki spoke about the Borderlabs project (testing three aspects in the form of "live laboratories" with the support of the Central European Transnational Program, in which CESCI is responsible for coordinating the complex system, including communication activities. Last year, the initial reports of the five pilot partners were completed under the coordination of CESCI, the kick-off conference was held, and the transnational charter will be ready in a year).

Dr. Katalin Fekete, Legal Advisor of CESCI, gave an overview of the Legal Accessibility project (#ACCESS project) along the Slovak-Hungarian border (questionnaires, interviews, reference group meetings, collection and validation of obstacles, helpdesk service, removal of obstacles: e.g. cooperation between emergency services).

Director Mátyás Jaschitz, spoke about the ESPON CROSSGOV project (which aims to provide data and methods for the management of cross-border functional areas; CESCI is responsible

for task package 3: examination and coordination of European good practices, within which CESCI is developing a case study for the Komárom region).

Gyula Ocskay, Secretary General, added to the previous presentations that the activities of the #ACCESS project are being implemented in cooperation with CESCI Carpathia which is a joint success.

It is important to emphasize that, apart from # ACCESS, there is no other program within the Interreg framework (among the approximately 40 programs) that would last for six years. In the field of emergency services cooperation, a government decision has already been made to sign a Hungarian-Slovak emergency services agreement.

Gyula Ocskay then gave an overview of CESCI's international network connections. He highlighted the European Cross-Border Platform, which aims to coordinate policies and create a professional network with actors in the border region.

CESCI also participates in the events of the Committee of the Regions' Cross-Border Intergroup, and we have been invited to the Committee of the Regions Presidency meeting in 2024. Together with ESPON EGTC last year, they organized two panels and are participating in two working groups of the EUREGHA network, which brings together actors involved in health cooperation

Tamás Németh, Director (Arrabona), reviewed the cooperation between Arrabona EGTC and CESCI (organisation of study trips, creation of a map related to the establishment of energy communities, arrangement of DEEPL translations, loan of interpreting equipment, newsletter).

Péter Nagy, Director (Ister Granum EGTC) also praised the member services: with the support of CESCI, the EGTC participated in three study trips, from which they returned with good practices and project ideas, which they incorporated into their tourism action plans.

The Chair indicated that the report had been approved by the Supervisory Board and the Presidency. As there were no questions nor comments, the president asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 3/2025 (V. 19.)

General Assembly of the Central European **Service for** Cross-Border Initiatives

accepts the Association's report for 2024 and its public benefit annex.

Deadline: **Immediately, or by the deadline for publication/submission of the report**

Responsible: **President**

1.2 Report of the Presidency for 2024

The president presented the report of the Presidency for 2024.

No questions or comments were received on the report, so the president asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Result of the vote:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

Voting results:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 4/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the 2024 report of the Presidency.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **President**

1.3 Report of the Supervisory Board for 2024

The President informed the members that the Chair of the Supervisory Board was unable to attend the General Assembly due to a previously announced impediment.

He therefore asked the Secretary General to summarize the Supervisory Board's report.

There were no questions or comments on the report. The President indicated that the report

had been approved by the Presidency and then asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 5/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives **accepts the** Supervisory **Committee's report for 2024.**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

1.4 CESCI Carpathia and CESCI Balkans report for 2024

The Chair asked Rudolf Bauer, director of CESCI Carpathia, to present the report, and then gave the floor to Ervin Erős, Director of CESCI Balkans. The former also highlighted the #ACCESS project, which formed the backbone of the association's activities in 2024. He also spoke about CESCI Carpathia's project development work and networking activities.

During its 10 years of activity, CESCI Balkans has successfully participated in several transnational projects for the first time, and following the withdrawal of another Serbian partner, it had to take over the activities of the withdrawing partner. At the same time, the financing of the four winning projects will pose serious challenges for the organis

ation.

The president indicated that the reports had been approved by the Supervisory Board and the Presidency.

As there were no questions or comments, the president asked the members of the General Assembly to vote separately on the approval of the reports.

Voting results (Carpathia):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 6/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives takes note of the 2024 report of CESCI Carpathia.

Deadline: Immediately

Responsible: **President**

Voting results (Balkans):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 7/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives takes note of the 2024 report of CESCI Balkans.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **President**

1.5 NKE-CESCI Research Group on Cross-Border Cooperation's (HEK) 2024 report

The President reported on the results. Main activities and directions for development:

a) Next year, the **Research Group on Cross-Border Cooperation** would like to become a research institute within the university, which would enable broader professional operation;

b) the first issue of the HEK journal (editor-in-chief: James Scott) was launched last year as a pilot issue, and two issues are planned for this year;

c) two online introductory presentations were given by members of the research workshop, one of the speakers was Melinda Istenes-Benczi, CESCI staff member;

d) the TEIN network participated in two events:

a) TEIN's strategic workshop in Belgium (which was followed this year by a conference in Budapest with, among others, two Canadian guest speakers),

b) TEIN's annual general meeting and conference in Brussels;

e) eight publications were published last year as part of scientific activities.

The President indicated that the report had been approved by the Supervisory Board and the Presidency. As there were no questions nor comments, the president asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 8/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives **accepts the NKE-CESCI Research Group on Cross-Border Cooperation's 2024 report.**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

1.6 CESCI Gender Equality Plan **report**

The President asked Director Kitti Dubniczki to present the report.

The President indicated that the report had been approved by the Supervisory Board and the Presidency. As there were no questions nor comments, the President asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results:

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 9/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives

approves the report on the implementation of the association's Gender Equality **Plan**

for 2024.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

Agenda item 2: Membership matters

The Chair asked the Secretary General to present the proposals on the agenda.

2.1 Admission of new members

Introduction and presentation of the two new members:

a) Dr. Myroslava Lendel: Vice-Rector of the University of Uzhhorod, historian and doctor of political science, who has been working on cross-border issues since the 1990s and assists in shaping Ukrainian regional policy as an advisor.

b) Pontibus EGTC (represented by Dr. Gábor Fehér): established in 2015 has developed two major action plans in recent years. RESTART aimed to develop social infrastructure and elderly care along the Hungarian-Slovak border, while the action plan for tourism was drawn up jointly with the Ister-Granum EGTC, with the support of CESCI. This is still awaiting a decision by the sponsors. They would like to deepen the relationship established with CESCI, due to its decisive role in cross-border activities.

Voting results (admission of two new members):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 10/2025 (V. 19.)

The Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives General Assembly **admits Dr. Myroslava Lendelt as a regular member.**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

General Assembly Resolution No. 11/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives

admits PONTIBUS EGTC as a regular member.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

From this point *on, the two new members were also able to vote. As Ferenc Románvik*

left the General Assembly, the number of persons entitled to vote changed to 35.

2.2 Consent to a contract concluded with a member

One of CESCI's recurring tasks is to support the activities of CESCI Balkans (registered office: Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 15a 1, Novi Sad, Serbia), whose intention to provide support was confirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution No. 6/2017 (IV. 25.).

In order to develop this support, the association appointed one of the members of the General Assembly, Miklós Kószó, who worked for many years as a project manager for the Hungarian-Romanian-Serbian BTC EGTC based in Mórahalom, to provide reliable financial and professional management for the four transnational projects launched by CESCI Balkans, which is struggling with capacity constraints due to the financial and professional management of its four transnational projects, with immediate effect from 1 May, until the end of 2025., assisting the Serbian organisation in its work.

The work organisation requests the approval of the General Assembly for the subsequent ratification of this appointment.

The President indicated that the approval was also supported by the Supervisory Board and the Presidency. As there were no questions nor comments, the President asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results

(Miklós Kószó, member of the General Assembly, did not vote due to conflict of interest):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 12/2025 (V. 19.)

1. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for **Cross-Border Initiatives hereby approves, retroactively, the professional and financial support provided by Miklós Kószó** (member of the General Assembly) **to CESCI Balkans** for the period between May 1 and December 31, 2025

2. The General Assembly **calls on the** Secretary General to publish a report on the implementation of the mandate **in the association's annual report for 2025.**

Deadline: **for approval,** the date of **signing the contract, for the report, by the date of publication of the association's 2025 report**

Responsible: **the association's** Secretary General

3. Agenda item: Office-holders matters

As the President was involved in both decisions relating to this agenda item, the entire agenda was chaired by Vice-President Zoltán Szögi. The transfer of the chairmanship was carried out in an orderly manner.

The vice-president asked the secretary general to present the proposals relating to the agenda.

3.1 Expiring terms of office of the president and vice-president – election of a new president and vice-president

The terms of office of the president and one of the vice-presidents (Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes and Dr. Tamás Tóth) expire on May 25 this year. Both stated that they would stand for re-election for the vacant positions of president and vice-president. Both have stated that they will run again for the vacant positions of president and vice-president (the Statutes do not prohibit the re-election of officers whose terms of office are expiring). Necessary candidate statements were also submitted in writing to the CESCI work organisation. No other new candidates were proposed by the time this agenda item was discussed, nor were any proposed in response to the question posed by the acting president. The Supervisory Board and the Presidency supported the re-election of the two candidates. The Chair asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results (Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes, member of the General Assembly, did not vote due to a conflict of interest):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 13/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes **as president of the association for a three-year term beginning on May 26, 2025.**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

Voting results (on the re-election of Dr. Tamás Tóth):

Unanimous yes (35 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 14/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives elects Dr. Tamás Tóth as vice-president for a three-year term starting on May 26, **2025**.

Deadline: Immediately

Responsible: president

3.2 Expiring regular membership terms of the Presidency – election of new regular members of the Presidency

The terms of two regular members of the Presidency, Dana-Bianca Mitrica (RO) and Hynek Böhm (CZ), will expire on May 25 this year. Both regular members concerned have stated that they will run again as candidates for the vacant positions (the Statutes do not prohibit the re-election of officers whose terms of office are expiring). The necessary candidate statements have been submitted in writing to the CESCI work organisation. No other new candidates were proposed by the time the agenda item was discussed, nor were any proposed in response to the question posed by the acting chair. The Supervisory Board and the Presidency supported the re-election of the two candidates. The Chair called on the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results (Dana-Bianca Mitrica, member of the General Assembly, did not vote due to a conflict of interest):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 15/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European **Service for Cross-Border Initiatives** elects Dana-Bianca **Mitrica as a regular member of the Presidency for a three-year term starting on May 26, 2025.**

Deadline: Immediately

Responsible: **Chair**

Voting results (Hynek Böhm, member of the General Assembly, did not vote due to conflict of interest):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 16/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives **elects** Hynek Böhm as a regular member of the Presidium for a three-year term starting on May 26, 2025.

Deadline: Immediately

Responsible: **President**

3.3 Expansion of the number of members of the Presidency - election of a new regular member of the Presidency

The Statutes allow for a maximum of nine members of the Presidency, of whom the number of regular members may vary between three and six. Currently, one regular member position is still vacant. Based on previous cooperation experience, the association's leadership has asked Dr. Myroslava Lendel, who is a new member of the association's General Assembly, to become a regular member of the association's Presidency. Dr. Myroslava Lendel accepted the invitation in writing and accepted the nomination for the position. She also confirmed this verbally at the General Assembly. No other new candidates were proposed before the agenda item was discussed, nor were any objections raised to the candidate at the request of the Chair.

The Supervisory Board and the Presidency supported the election of the candidate. The Chair asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

Voting results (Dr. Myroslava Lendel, member of the general meeting, did not vote due to a conflict of interest):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 17/2025 (V. 19.)

General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives **elects Dr. Myroslava Lendel as a new regular member of the Presidency for a term of three years.**

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **President**

3.4 Amendment to the honorarium of the Supervisory Board President

In recent years, the association's domestic and international activities have grown so much, both professionally and financially, that the participation of the association's President and the Chair of the Supervisory Board has become more important, a shift that is not currently reflected in their annual honorarium. The current honorarium of the chair of the Supervisory Board was set in 2018 (HUF 240,000 gross). The current honorarium of the Supervisory Board Chair was determined in 2018 (HUF 240,000 gross),and that of the Chairman in 2020 (HUF 480,000 gross). The honorarium of the chairman is calculated on the basis of General Meeting Resolution No. 18/2020 (IX.14.). According to this, the annual honorarium of the President is twice that of the President of the Supervisory Board at any given time.

Looking ahead, it is proposed that the above General Assembly Resolution be repealed and that the remuneration of the two officers be determined independently so that their remuneration more accurately reflects the tasks they have undertaken and the extent of their responsibilities arising therefrom.

The proposed honorarium of the two officers be set at the following amounts from 2025:

• Proposed honorarium for the President from 2025: HUF 600,000 gross

• Proposed honorarium for the President of the Supervisory Board from 2025: HUF 300,000 gross

Voting results *(Dr.* Zsuzsanna Fejes, chair, did not vote due to conflict of interest):

Unanimous yes (34 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 18/2025 (V. 19.)

1. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives shall **decide separately on the honorarium of the President of the association and the President** of the Supervisory **Board** in the future. **At the same time**, **the Resolution on the determination of the President's honorarium 18/2020 (IX. 14.)** shall cease to be effective.

2. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives shall determine **the annual honorarium of the president of the association from 2025** to **600,000 HUF, while the** annual honorarium of the President of the Supervisory **Board from 2025** to **300,000 HUF**.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **President**

Following the vote, *the* position of chair was formally returned to Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes,

President.

Agenda item 4: Amendment of the Articles of Statutes

The President asked the Secretary General to present the proposals related to the agenda item.

4.1 Proposed amendments to the Articles of Statutes

The Secretary General indicated that the main text of the Articles of Statutes would be amended and then presented the reasons contained in the proposal. He indicated that the amendments would require a three-quarters majority of the members present to be adopted.

4.2 Adoption of the Articles of Statutes with the amendments

In addition to the amendments, the details of the new officers must also be transferred to the new Articles of Adoption of with the new structure. In this case, too, a three-quarters majority of the members present is required.

The President indicated that the Supervisory Board and the Presidium supported the adoption of the amendments. She proposed to the General Assembly to adopt a resolution on points 4.1-4.2. No questions, comments or objections were received.

Voting results:

Unanimous yes (35 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 19/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives adopts the proposed amendments to the Statutes and the new consolidated text of the Statutes with the amendments.

Deadline: Immediately

Responsible: President

Agenda item 5: Work plan and financial plan

The Chair asked Mátyás Jaschitz, Director, to present the proposals related to the agenda item.

He suggested that the two sub-items be presented together but voted on separately. No objections were raised.

5.1 Work plan

5.2 Financial plan

The director first presented the association's **work plan** for 2025, with the content as proposed.

Some highlights from the presentation:

a) work plan:

- 2025 will essentially be a continuation of the previous year's activities;

-border research will mainly take place in the HEK research group;

- the goal is for CESCI to become an increasingly recognizable player in the field of supporting policy making;

- continuous organisational development is essential for knowledge sharing;

b) finances:

-main sources of income: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade support, also Borderlabs and #ACCESS projects;

- membership fees are minimal, and the association spends many times more on member services;

- investments will continue, without jeopardizing liquidity; last year, HUF 30 million was invested in government securities, and this year

EUR 25 million will be invested, with the aim of keeping pace with inflation and creating a security reserve.

Ferenc Ivanics: Two EGTCs reported on the high-quality study trips. It seems that the trips will now simply be financial support, and those who would like to travel in the second half of the year will not receive any funds. He feels that this format lacks cohesion in terms of cooperation and recommends that the annual General Assembly meetings be held outside the capital.

Gyula Ocskay thanked everyone for their suggestions, which will be discussed within the working group, but noted that in the past, CESCI had rented accommodation and buses for study trip participants, some of whom returned home early, resulting in unnecessary expenditure by CESCI, which could have been spent on other projects that were actually implemented.

Mátyás Jaschitz also thanked those who made suggestions and pointed out that the travel budget for this year had not yet been exhausted and that, to a limited extent, could still be used in the second half of the year.

There were no other questions or comments, so the chair asked the members of the General Assembly to vote separately.

Voting results (work plan):

Unanimous yes (35 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 20/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives

approves the association's work plan for 2025.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **Chair**

Voting results (financial plan):

Unanimous yes (35 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 21/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives **adopts** the association's financial plan for 2025.

Deadline: **Immediately**

Responsible: **President**

Agenda item 6: Rules

The President asked Director Kitti Dubniczki to present the proposal related to this agenda item.

6.1 Amendment to the procurement rules

The Director said that with the development of CESCI's activities, the previous rules had become inflexible. The overly strict regulations made procurement difficult. The work organisation has now developed a clearer procedural system. The details can be found in the regulations attached to the proposal.

No questions or comments were received, and the president asked the members of the general assembly to vote separately.

Voting results (amendment to the regulations):

Unanimous yes (35 votes)

General Assembly Resolution No. 22/2025 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives **accepts the amendments to the association's procurement regulations and it's new unified wording.**

Deadline: Immediately

Responsible: President

Agenda item 7: Other

No other comments, questions or suggestions were received from the members in response to the President's question.

In view of the above, the President thanked the participants for their contribution and **at 1:23 p.m.** closed the meeting and invited the participants to a buffet lunch at the venue.

Note: The attendance sheet of the General Assembly shall be considered as an **appendix to** the minutes. The powers of attorney relating to the General Assembly have been kept by the work organisation.