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Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 13.

**Annex of public utility
2017**



Határon Átnyúló Kezdeményezések
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Short introduction of CESCO

Inspired by the French initiative of Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI) was established in 2009 with the mission to promote and strengthen the cross border cooperation along the Hungarian borders as well as in Central and Southeastern Europe.

CESCO is a private law public benefit organization that advocates cross-border cooperation through the following activities:

- it **conducts research** in border studies and in specific border regions;
- it **designs territorial integrated strategies** and **takes part in cross-border programming**;
- it supports the **development of projects and institutions** in the border regions;
- it **prepares policy materials** both on national and EU level about the developmental initiatives in the border regions as well as **takes part in the relevant consultations and policy debates**;
- it aspires to **improve the local stakeholders' competencies** by disseminating information.

CESCO's main objectives:

- to provide technical support for cross-border initiatives along the Hungarian borders as well as for other countries in Central and Southeastern Europe;
- to improve the knowledge sharing practices between the euroregions, EGTCs and the local and regional authorities taking part in cross-border cooperation;
- to disseminate the best practices from Western Europe;
- to create a strategic cooperation with the relevant decision-preparing and decision-making EU authorities as well as the Northern and Western networks designed for similar purposes;
- strengthening the cohesion, peace and mutual collaboration among the nations of Central and Southeastern Europe by nurturing mutually beneficial partnerships.

Office-holders in 2017:

Our honorary President is dr. Szilveszter E. Vizi, former President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The President of the Association is dr. Tamás Tóth, agricultural economist and Vice-rector of Szent István University.

Vice-presidents:

- dr. András Levente Gál, attorney of law, former Permanent Secretary of State (Hungary)
- Judit H. Kovács, economist, President of the Society of Christian Leaders and Businessmen (Hungary)

Members of the board in 2017:

- dr. Jože Gričar, professor emeritus of economics at the University of Maribor (Slovenia)
- dr. Péter Szegvári, lawyer, political scientist, senior municipal advisor to the mayor of Budapest (Hungary)
- Alena Vachnová, lawyer, political scientist, project manager, board member of CESCİ Carpathia (Slovakia).

Our services for the members

Our Association counts 46 members – the majority of whom are local or county-level municipalities in Hungarian border regions. Furthermore, professional organizations, EGTCs and private persons also engage in a number of CESCİ's activities.

Our Association continuously broadens the portfolio of its services targeting our members. The prime focus is on assisting the members in efficiently accessing the relevant information and knowledge. In 2017, we continued to regularly publish our bilingual newsletter apart from which we edited a separate newsletter for our members with more practical approach of informing.

All the professional events organized by CESCİ are open for our members. Furthermore, last year's general assembly was accompanied by a separate mini-conference on urban policy with the explicit aim of bringing our members closer to the most recent and up-to-date developments of the field. On the mini-conference housed by Falk 1 Event-center Rózsa Judit Törökné Head of Unit of the European Commission, Géza Salamin Head of Division of the National Bank of Hungary, Flóra Szkordilisiz Managing Director of the Hungarian Urban Knowledge Centre as well as Sándor Kulcsár and Zoltán Kunfalvi experts of the Digital Wellbeing Program spoke.

2017 was the first year when we organized a study trip for CESCİ members. The trip took place between the 18th and 21st of September at the French-Spanish border region (Biarritz, Pau, Bayonne). Together with the Oradea Metropolitan Zone's delegation three of our members participated in the trip (five had applied but two withdrew at the last moment). Upon their return they shared their numerous useful observations in the framework of a knowledge-sharing presentation event held in our office. Considering the success of this study trip we strive to create a long-lasting tradition of their organization.

Furthermore, we assessed the demand for trainings and started the development of a training course; however, due to lack of capacity we have not launched these yet. We have also started the digitalization of our ever expanding, unique and outstanding library in the field of cross-border cooperation.

In numerous cases we have assisted our members in their individual pursuits free of charge while our regular services are available for our members with a 20% discount.

Our activities with a European significance

By 2017 CESCİ became a recognized actor in the field of cross-border cooperation which is proved by the continuously growing number of invitations to international networks and professional events. Several of our activities are closely followed by the international audience and the Association's projects and publications are more and more often cited. In the following we offer an overview about those activities in 2017 that had a European significance.

Legal accessibility

The Cross-Border Review project and the Communication of the European Commission

In the recent years the elimination of the legal and administrative barriers in cross-border areas in the European Union became one of the most widely discussed topics in the relevant policy debates. The European Commission launched in August 2015 the *Cross-Border Review* project in order to identify the concrete obstacles making cross-border cooperation or daily life difficult in border regions, and elaborate on the recommendations to overcome them. CESCO as a professional partner followed the whole project which had been concluded by the presentation of the EC Communication titled *Boosting Growth and Cohesion in the EU Border Regions* in Brussels on the 20-21 of September 2017. The Communication sets out 10 actions to promote legal accessibility in the European Union. In connection with the publication of the Communication a conference was organized where CESCO had been asked to present its *Legal accessibility* initiative. We play an active role ever since in the on-line platform created according to the spirit of the Statement.

Legal accessibility 2.0

In the 2016 project of *Legal accessibility* we aimed to shed light on the legal-administrative barriers prevailing along the Hungarian borders as well as put forward recommendations that can help to overcome these. It was a lucky situation that at the same time we were active in the *Cross-Border Review* project as it proved to be a very fruitful strategy to use its results in the realization of the Hungarian project while channeling back the Hungarian outcomes to the EU level project. Several of the completed documents were made accessible in English and we have presented them in numerous EU level events. Thanks to these efforts our *Legal accessibility* project is one of the very few mentioned as a good example in the Commission's Communication.

In 2017 we continued to work for the reduction of the existing cross-border barriers. On the one hand, supported by expert working groups we have analyzed the possible facilitation of the trade of local products in cross-border regions as well as the legal frameworks of the cross-border movement of ambulance cars. On the other hand, with the contribution of CESCO Balkans a proposal for an EGTC legislation was drafted for Serbia. Furthermore, we have identified and analyzed all the available information on border mobility along the Hungarian borders and put forward a recommendation for the creation of a comprehensive information platform. In the pursuit of popularizing the tools of the EGTC, CESCO Balkans organized a large-scale conference (attended by nearly 200 participants) in Novi Sad to where we delegated a speaker as well as assisted the preparation of the event by suggesting and getting in touch with other presenters.

We envisaged the continuation of the initiative in the health sector so we applied for a transnational tender announced by the Human Resources Development Operational Programme (EFOP), but our application has not been selected for funding.

The three-level accessibility mechanism

Simultaneously to the above mentioned work, we started to implement the three-level accessibility mechanism proposed by the 2016 project. The first level constitute of a Hungarian inter-ministerial working group. At the request of dr. László Trócsányi, the Minister of Justice, we prepared three documents as a background support for creating this working group. These documents had been presented and debated directly with the Minister at several occasions.

The second level is embodied by the system of joint committees with neighboring countries coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In order to achieve this goal we

have conducted several successful meetings with the representatives of the Ministry following which the agenda of the Hungarian-Serbian joint committee already contained a topic that is directly linked to the *Legal accessibility* initiative.

The third level is represented by the attempt to adapt the solution of the Nordic Council and Benelux Union to the countries of the Visegrád Group. As a preparation to this aim we have successfully applied for a grant to the International Visegrad Fund in 2017. The project that is scheduled for 2018 and 2019 aims to create a permanent platform for and with the help of V4 countries that would continuously monitor the potential legal barriers that impede the mobility between these countries as well as propose the elimination of these barriers.

In order to disseminate the information on the *Legal accessibility* initiative we have created an informative, bilingual website that can be reached on this link: <http://legalaccess.cesci-net.eu/>

The European Cross-Border Convention

Following the proposal of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council the working group on innovative solutions to cross-border obstacles started its activities in the beginning of 2016 and CESCO plays an active role in this work ever since. In June 2017 the working group handed its recommendation on the implementation of a new legal tool to the European Commission. This tool, the European Cross-Border Convention (ECBC), would allow for applying the neighbouring country's legislation with temporal and territorial restrictions in the cross-border region in order to find a solution for a particular local problem. CESCO – who is apart from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the only representative of Hungary – participated in the meetings of the working group in Brussels both on the 16th of February and 30th of May. We have submitted relevant remarks concerning the prepared background materials as well as developed two case-studies.

Indicators

Documents

Legal accessibility along the Hungarian borders:

- Facilitating the institutionalized integration of the healthcare services across the borders
- Supporting the creation of a legal information background that helps the everyday life in the border regions
- Cross-border local product sales
- CESCO Balkans: Serbia's participation in the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) and Euroregional Cooperation Grouping (ECG)
- Final Report
- EFOP tender documentation

The mechanisms of legal accessibility:

- Legal accessibility among V4 countries – tender documentation
- Proposal for the creation of an inter-ministerial working group aiming to reduce the legal barriers in cross-border regions (March)
- Proposal for the creation of an inter-ministerial working group aiming to strengthen the legal competitiveness (May)

- Summary of the *Legal accessibility* project and proposal for the creation of an inter-ministerial working group (September)

ECBC:

- Case study - Cross-border retail of local products
- Case study - Cross-border regional public transport

Events

Date	Event	Location
9 th January	Meeting with dr. László Trócsányi, Minister of Justice, on the proposed inter-ministerial working group	Budapest
16 th February	Meeting of the "Luxembourg" working group	Brussels
20 th March	Meeting at the Ministry of Justice to discuss the working group on legal accessibility	Budapest
3 rd April	Visit at CESCO by a delegate of the European Commission; interview on the <i>Legal accessibility</i> project	Budapest
30 th May	Meeting of the "Luxembourg" working group	Brussels
20 th June	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on the trade of local products	Budapest
4 th July	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on the trade of local products	Budapest
6 th July	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on cross-border health services	Budapest
11 th July	Meeting with dr. László Trócsányi, Minister of Justice, on the proposed inter-ministerial working group	Budapest
16 th August	Legal accessibility – meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Interior on the cross-border information platforms	Budapest
13 th September	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on health services	Budapest
20 th and 21 st September	Participation and presentation on the <i>Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions</i> conference	Brussels
2 nd October	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on the trade of local products	Budapest
10 th October	Participation and presentation on legal accessibility at the European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels
11 th October	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on health services	Budapest
20 th November	Legal accessibility – the EGTC conference of CESCO Balkans	Novi Sad
23 rd November	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on health services	Budapest
28 th November	Legal accessibility – meeting of the working group on the trade of local products	Budapest

Our activities on cross-border studies with international significance

CESCI established a wide-range cooperation in the field of border studies with the relevant scientific entities: we participated and organized scientific events, together with our partners we created projects as well as received invitations for publications.

Our publications

Our most important scientific publication is the *Cross-Border Review* which since 2014 is published yearly in English. Its chief editor is James W. Scott the world famous professor of border studies who invited to the editorial board the most eminent scientists and researchers of the field.

At the end of the year we published (so far on-line) the results of the research that was conducted during several years and aimed to understand the mental maps and special behaviour of people living in the cross-border region of Esztergom and Štúrovo around the Mária Valéria bridge. The volume contains 10 chapters written in English and presents several groundbreaking methodological approaches to the cross-border development initiatives' impact assessments.

We have been also invited to participate in the work of compiling a critical dictionary on cross-border cooperation. For the Euroclio publication our colleagues proposed 17 articles which are currently being reviewed.

CESCI also published online the study on Carpathian Convention written by Rudolf Bauer, director of CESCI Carpathia, drafted in 2016 and finalized in 2017.

We are regular contributors to the *Village, City, Region (Falu, Város, Régió)* national policy journal; in 2017 two of our articles were published.

Our scientific events

The National University of Public Service with the support of the Public Administration and Services Operational Programme is undertaking a large-scale project on good governance. Our Association joined one of the working groups of this project (*Public Service Development Establishing Good Governance*) and in this framework it committed to several activities. In the autumn of 2017 we have launched a series of professional workshops to which we have invited the most prominent European experts on cross-border governance. In 2017 the French Jean Peyrony, director of the MOT, the Berlin-based American James W. Scott, researcher of Karelian Institute and the Finnish Anssi Paasi, professor of the University of Oulu were our presenters.

Furthermore, within the framework of the same project we organized an international conference with the involvement of experts of cross-border planning and governance such as Andreas Faludi, Anouk Bollen, Martin Klatt and Alexander Prosser.

Project and institution development

Two years after the unsuccessful application to the H2020 *Twinning* call, based on the evaluation at that time, in 2017 we applied again. The content of the tender had been created in 28-29 September during a two-day project development workshop with the cooperation of the Finnish Karelian Institute, the Italian EURAC and the Northern-Irish Centre for Cross-Border Studies Institute. The tender was submitted on 15th of November with the aim of improving CESCI's scientific capacity.

Together with the Association of European Border Regions, the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia, the MOT, the Euro-Institute of Kehl and three universities (Liberec, Salamanca, Szeged) we have applied for the strategic cooperation priority of the Erasmus+

programme for developing standardized learning materials for the training of cross-border development managers. The tender (that had been mainly written by our team) came short only with two scores.

Since the summer of 2015 we have been providing expertise to the EGTC establishment process of the Euro-Contrôle Route network. The organization that encompasses the road inspection authorities of 14 EU countries is hoped to be established according to the Dutch legislation. In 2017 we have prepared the two necessary documents (the Statutes and the Convention) as well as discussed them in detail with the founders.

Indicators

Documents

- Cross-Border Review. Yearbook 2017 (ed.: James W. Scott)
- Zs. Bottlik - T. Gyelnik - Gy. Ocskay (eds): Changes in the representation of a borderscape. The case of the Mária Valéria bridge
- Critical Dictionary of Cross-Border Cooperation (17 articles)
- R. Bauer: The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
- M. Jaschitz: Territorial processes here and there – Overview of the cooperation along the Hungarian borders. Village, City, Region 2017/1.
- É. Gangl – M. Jaschitz: Specifics of the territorial cross-border impact assessment along the Hungarian borders. Village, City, Region 2017/1.
- PERIPATEIN. Twinning for Systematic Capacity-Building in Border Studies. H2020 tender documentation
- CB ManGo. Bridging a gap: Development of management and governance skills at cross-border level. Erasmus+ tender documentation
- The Statutes and the Convention of ECR EGTC

Events

Date	Event	Location
12th January	Meeting with Frank Schouwaert, the coordinator of the ECR cooperation, on the necessary steps of the establishment of the EGTC	Budapest
15th February	Meeting of the ECR EGTC Task Force	Brussels
5th April	Meeting of the ECR network's steering committee	Brussels
29th and 30th June	Regional Economic and Policy History workshop	Budapest
17th August	Meeting of the ECR EGTC Task Force	Brussels
14th September	Jean Peyrony's presentation in the series of the workshops organized within the Public Service Development Operational Program project of the National University of Public Service (NKE-KÖFOP)	Budapest

28th and 29th September	Twining: project development workshop	Budapest
17th October	James W. Scott's presentation in the series of the workshops organized within the Public Service Development Operational Program project of the National University of Public Service (NKE-KÖFOP)	Budapest
from 1st to 3rd November	10 th European Forum for Geography and Statistics	Dublin
9th and 10th November	The yearly conference of the Institute of Transnational and Euregional Cross-Border Cooperation (Maastricht University)	Düsseldorf
16th November	Anssi Paasi's presentation in the series of the workshops organized within the Public Service Development Operational Program project of the National University of Public Service (NKE-KÖFOP)	Budapest
23rd November	Macro-regional policy challenges and good practices with the aim of cross-border planning, governance and interoperability	Budapest
7th December	Meeting of the ECR EGTC Task Force	Paris

Participation on the professional international scene

Networking

Ever since its foundation, our Association is the member of the European Committee of the Regions' EGTC Platform and since 2014 we are a member of the Association of European Border Regions. Our strategic partners are the French Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), the Italian Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia and the Finnish Karelian Institute. We play an active part in the EU discourse on cross-border issues by regularly accepting invitations for presenting on the topics as well as merely participating for studying and networking purposes. It is an important aspect that in these activities CESC I Carpathia (Košice) and CESC I Balkans (Novi Sad) are also taking a more and more active part further strengthening the Central-European representation of the network.

In 2017 we have participated again in two of our most important partners' – MOT and AEBR – general assembly as well as the yearly meeting of the EGTC Platform.

International professional projects, tenders

Following AEBR's invitation we participated as observers in the targeted analysis project called *Cross-Border Public Services* launched by ESPON, however, we have also collected examples for the first report from along the Hungarian borders.

Similarly, following the invitation from AEBR we joined the healthcare related *Mexchange* project consortium which was submitted to the Horizon 2020's call. This application was not successful.

Together with SYSTRA (UK) and the MOT we offered a bid for DG Region's tender for the analysis of missing train connections; here we came second.

Ana Nikolov, the AEBR Balkans' and CESCIBalkans' associate submitted a number of ERASMUS+ applications, in three of which we were partners too. Among these one was awarded with financial support, the *Entrepreneurship – Just do it* tender geared towards supporting partner visits.

Events

Date	Event	Location
15 th and 16 th March	MOT's yearly General Assembly	Belval
from 8 th to 10 th May	AEBR's External Borders workshop	Neuhausen am Rheinfall
9 th October	EGTC Platform's annual meeting	Brussels
from 25 th to 27 th October	AEBR's annual conference and General Assembly	Badajoz
from 30 th November to 1 st December	MOT's 20 year anniversary conference (participation in the roundtable discussion)	Brussels

During 2017 we have participated as speakers in the following international professional events.

Date	Event	Location
from 11 th to 15 th July	The 30 year anniversary conference of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)	Lisbon
from 9 th to 11 th October	European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels
25 th October	The Hungarian-French heritage management conference organized by TÖOSZ at the French Institute	Budapest
21 st November	The workshop run by the European Committee of the Regions on the cross-border programmes' people-to-people projects	Brussels

European level professional events that we attended (without presenting) during 2017.

Date	Event	Location
5 th and 6 th June	Conference on cross-border cooperation to enhance renewable energy in the EU	Brussels
20 th and 21 st November	CapaCity Workshop "Open Data from the Perspective of Data Protection"	Bucharest

22nd November	Workshop on simplification of European Territorial Cooperation	Brussels
from 5th to 7th December	ESPON seminar on digitalization	Tallinn

Our activities with a Central European perspective

In Central Europe the CESCO network is the most prominent theoretical and practical actor in cross-border cooperation. Thanks to the cooperation of our partner associations – CESCO Carpathia and CESCO Balkans established in 2015 – our activities cover an evergrowing area of the region. The Danube Strategy and the Visegrád Cooperation signpost the territorial framework of our endeavor.

Project development

In 2011, at the launching of the Danube Strategy, we actively participated in the drafting of the Road Map of the priority area 'PA10 Institutional Capacity' of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Thanks to these efforts we successfully incorporated the issue of cross-border cooperation by the SECCo (*Sharing Expertise on Cross-border Cooperation*) initiative. In connection to this, as a first step, between 2014 and 2016 we implemented the *Crossing the Borders* project resulting in a comprehensive survey and database on the macroregion's cross-border cooperation initiatives.

The second milestone of the initiative consists of the SECCo2 proposal which was submitted to the Danube Strategy's START call for proposals aiming at creating an on-line platform and an e-learning application to help cross-border stakeholders as well as promoting the involvement of youth in cross-border cooperation in the region of the Danubian and Adriatic-Ionian Strategy. After the successful application, currently we work closely together with CESCO Balkans, AEBR and ISIG on the realization of the commitments.

At the same time we have applied with a proposal on cross-border cities for the Danube Transnational Programme's Seed Money Facility call. Our partners in this project are iSpace Institute (Salzburg) and the Technical University of Liberec. The decision on this application is to be announced during the summer of 2018.

At the request of our member, the municipality of Mórahalom, we prepared a tender on energy policy also within the Danube Transnational Programme but at the end it was not submitted. As partners, we have joined another consortium on food industry innovation. Furthermore, at the request of the Center for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, we drafted a transnational project aimed at developing the depopulating areas through social innovation tools within the Danube Region.

Central European network cooperation

The projects themselves provide an appropriate framework for building networks in Central Europe since the thus forming international partnerships are not strictly limited to the period of project development. Our networking efforts are also helped by the fact that the other two CESCO organizations are also quickly building their own networks.

We put a huge emphasis on presenting at as many professional events as possible within the field of cross-border cooperation in the Visegrad and Danube regions. We are also

assisting the creation of the Via Carpatia transport corridor along the eastern borders of the Union by producing professional background materials, holding presentations and building networks.

Documents

- SECCo 2 – Youth for cross-border partnership and cohesion of EUSDR and EUSAIR – tender documentation (Danube Strategic Project Fund)
- SUFAB – Sharing Urban Functions Across the Borders – tender documentation (Danube Transnational Programme, Seed Money Facility)
- SIDRAD - With Social Innovation against Depopulation of Rural Areas in the Danube Region – tender documentation (Danube Transnational Programme)

Events

Date	Event	Location
8 th February	Seminar of the Danube Transnational Programme	Budapest
15 th February	Opening conference of the DANURB transnational project dealing with the macro-regions' urban cooperation	Budapest
4 th May	CEEE Gov conference	Budapest
12 th May	Presentation at the European Economic Congress	Katowice
27 th and 28 th September	Presentation at the 4 th Eastern Economic Congress	Białystok
17 th October	Danube Participation Day	Budapest
18 th October	EUSDR PA10 D-LAP (Danube Local Action Platform) meeting	Budapest
18 th and 19 th October	Danube annual forum	Budapest
21 st November	The V4 workshop of the Terra Studio	Budapest

Presence on the international stage

Cross-border integrated development

The main mission of our association is to help reduce the separating effects of the Central European borders and to contribute to the implementation of cross-border integrated developmental projects. In recent years, we have developed our own methodology for the foundation of these integrated developments, and we have also contributed considerably to the application of an EGTC policy capable of coordinating these developments.

Territorial action plans for employment

Under the coordination of the Prime Minister's Office as Managing Authority and within the framework of the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A Programme, it became possible to

implement territorial integrated employment action plans (TAPes) within the priority axis 3. The new tool that raised great interest in EU level was developed by the programming consortium founded in 2014 included CESCO. The essence of this solution is that the actors of the two sides of the border jointly work out an integrated plan with a maximum of 8 projects with the aim of supporting the employment situation and cross-border labour mobility. The tool – which is identified as a good practice by the Interact Secretariat – makes possible that instead of one-off, random developments, the cross-border regions work together in the long run along well-defined strategic goals.

In 2017 we assisted the work of the Slovakian-Hungarian Joint Secretariat in the preparation of the relevant tender (background documents, evaluation guide etc.); as well as provided expertise for 6 action plans at the request of local actors (including design-workshops and fieldwork). We provided guidance for three further action plans, but we did not take part in the elaboration process itself. The call received a total of 16 action plans, nearly 100 projects.

At the beginning of the year, we have developed a comprehensive action plan for Via Carpatia EGTC based on which the projects to be submitted for PA3 were later selected.

Indicators

Documents

- Partly or fully developed action plans by CESCO (6 pieces)
- SKHU PA 3 Draft for evaluation guide
- Beautiful Cserehát action plan

Events

Date	Event	Location
11 th January	Meeting with the representatives of the Arrabona EGTC about the designed action plan	Budapest
17 th January	Beautiful Cserehát action plan – planning meeting	Encs
25 th and 26 th January	Beautiful Cserehát action plan – planning workshops	Košice, Encs
7 th February	Meeting with the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta to coordinate the TAPE at Ipoly valley	Budapest
3 rd March	Meeting with the representatives of the lower Ipoly action plan	Esztergom
28 th March	Lower Ipoly TAPE workshop	Ipolydamásd
10 th April	Meeting of the RDV EGTC on the action plan	Tata
11 th April	Meeting with the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta to coordinate the TAPE at Ipoly valley	Budapest
19 th April	Beautiful Cserehát action plan – the presentation of the finished plan	Košice
16 th May	Pons Danubii EGTC – TAPE workshop	Komárno
12 th June	Meetings about the planned action plan at Nógrád / Novohrad region	Filakovo and Lucenes
26 th June	Presentation on the action plan at the general assembly of Pons Danubii EGTC	Oroszlány
19 th July	Via Carpatia EGTC – TAPE workshop	Košice
26 th September	Ister-Granum EGTC - TAPE workshop	Esztergom
27 th September	Arrabona EGTC – TAPE workshop	Győr
5 th October	Coordinative meeting about the lower Ipoly action plan	Esztergom
12 th October	Ipoly valley EGTC - TAPE workshop	Ludányhalászi
16 th October	Ister-Granum EGTC - TAPE workshop	Esztergom
19 th October	Workshop about the planned TAPES in Nógrád county	Salgótarján
24 th October	Aircraft mechanics' training action plan designing meeting	Esztergom

31st October	TAPE workshop at Bodroghöz	Sátoraljaújhely
7th November	Arrabona EGTC - TAPE fieldwork	Győr, Lehnice, Povoda
8th November	Aircraft mechanics' training action plan TAPE workshop	Budapest
9th November	TAPE at Drégelypalánk: fieldwork at Nógrád	Nagyoroszi, Kováčovce, Velký Krtíš
10th November	Ister-Granum EGTC - TAPE workshop	Esztergom
13th November	TAPE workshop at Bodroghöz	Budapest
21st November	TAPE workshop of Nógrád	Hatvan
27th November	Ister-Granum EGTC – TAPE workshop	Esztergom

Supporting EGTCs

Our association assists in a number of forms the Hungarian participation in the creation and development of the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

Starting from 2016 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has taken over the organization of the quarterly EGTC workshops from CESCO, nevertheless, our association continues to actively participate in the professional preparation of these workshops (identification of topics and speakers) and their documentation (preparing summaries and other follow-up documents). On each occasion we hold presentations on EGTC relevant topics. Last year four workshops were organized; CESCO was represented at each event and assisted the preparation and implementation of the workshops in the as it was mentioned above.

In the summer of 2017, we successfully registered MURABA EGTC which is a special case due to the fact that in addition to the local governments (Szentgotthárd, Lendava), the interest representing organization of the Hungarian minority in Slovenia and that of the Slovenian minority in Hungary also participated in the establishment. Our association prepared the founding documents as well as coordinated the founding, the approval and the registration processes including the organization of the inaugural meeting on the 5th of July at Szentgotthárd.

In the beginning of 2017, we edited a small publication about the development strategy we had prepared for Tisza EGTC in 2016; we drafted the Hungarian and English versions (the Ukrainian version was prepared by the EGTC itself), as well as, edited the publication in all three languages. The strategy was first presented at the annual general assembly of the EGTC on the 10th of May in Nyíregyháza and then at two promotional events: 27th of May in Uzhgorod and 27th of October in Kisvárd.

We helped the Gate to Europe EGTC through the provision of professional consultations, the dissemination of tender information and the fulfillment of different duties necessary for the amendment of the Statutes in order to open their Romanian office.

The Via Carpatia EGTC in cooperation with the Greek-Catholic parish of Encs began to implement a comprehensive program to develop the extremely disadvantaged region of Cserehát. Our Association last year not only helped to develop this comprehensive cross-border action plan, but also put together a decision-making document that could contribute to

the planning of government-level engagement. We have prepared a resource map, and we have also organized the first consultative meeting of the regional actors on the 22nd of March at Homrogd.

In cooperation with CESCO Carpathia, we also prepared a strategic document as a preparation for cross-border tourism developments at the request of Via Carpatia EGTC.

Following the Mura Region EGTC request, we prepared an EGTC map that can be printed out in poster size.

The different EGTCs often invite us to participate (either as audience or as speakers) at their professional events; we always strive to answer their invitations.

Indicators

Documents

- Tisza EGTC: Cohesion Analysis and Integrated Development Strategy. Summary (in Hungarian, Ukrainian and English)
- MURABA EGTC's convention and statutes; documents relating to the approval, registration and EU-level publication
- The Beautiful Cserehát initiative (decision-making document)
- CESCO / CESCO Carpathia: Study on the cross-border tourism routes and border regions within the Via Carpatia EGTC

Events

Date	Event	Location
28 th February	The opening conference of the Pons Danubii EGTC's transnational project	Tata
2 nd March	Presentation at the Vág-Duna-Ipoly euroregion's seminar	Komárno
7 th March	The founding meeting of the MURABA EGTC	Lendava
7 th and 8 th March	EGTC workshop	Esztergom
22 nd March	Planning workshop at Cserehát	Honrogd
10 th May	The general assembly of Tisza EGTC, presentation of the strategy	Nyíregyháza
27 th May	Conference on the Tisza EGTC strategy	Uzhgorod
7 th June	EGTC workshop	Budapest
5 th July	The founding meeting of the MURABA EGTC	Szentgotthárd
19 th September	Initiation meeting on the tasks related to the start of the MURABA EGTC's functioning	Szentgotthárd
4 th and 5 th October	EGTC workshop	Győr
27 th October	Presentation of EGTC strategy at the second presentation forum of Tisza EGTC	Kisvárdá

Territorial planning

Urban development concept of Esztergom

At the request of dr. Pál Völner, Permanent State Secretary for Justice, we have started to work on the development concept including its cross-border perspectives in Esztergom back in 2016. The first version was completed by the end of the year. This served as a starting point for several discussions which took place during the year based on which we finalized the concept in early 2017. At the same time, we have assisted the National Tourism Development Agency – which was preparing the government decision on the Dunakanyar tourist zone – by revising and updating the interventions incorporated by the concept.

Urban development concept of Komárno

On the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, we have compiled a city development concept for Komárno based on the results of the consultations with the local actors and the results of the fieldwork. The cooperation of the two neighbouring twin cities lies in the heart of the concept.

Border crossings between Hungary and Slovakia

At the end of the year we joined the activities of the Hungarian working group aiming to coordinate the Hungarian-Slovak cross-border road constructions. The goal of the working group is to provide professional materials for the consultations with the Slovakian counterpart for the development of road infrastructure projects supported by the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A program.

Indicators

Documents

- The City of the cities. Modern Cities Program. Esztergom concept
- The urban development concept of Komárno

Events

Date	Event	Location
17th March	Meeting with the city administration to discuss the <i>City of the cities</i> concept	Esztergom
20th April	Meeting with the leading architect to discuss the <i>City of the cities</i> concept	Esztergom
17th May	Meeting with the leading architect to discuss the <i>City of the cities</i> concept	Esztergom
15th November	Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about the Hungarian-Slovak border crossings	Budapest
22nd November	Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about the Hungarian-Slovakian border crossings	Budapest
6th December	Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about the Hungarian-Slovakian border crossings	Budapest

Our professional events

Szentgotthárd Forum

In 2017 we organized the Hungarian-Slovenian Cross-Border Cooperation Forum for the third time in Szentgotthárd in partnership with the local government and the embassies of the two countries. The event, held on May 22-23, covered a number of topics (such as multilingual education, tourism, and digitization) and attracted about 100 participants. The event was opened by László Kövér, Speaker of the House of Hungary, and presenters were Boris Koprivnikar, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovenian Government and László Palkovics, State Secretary for the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary.

Civil workshop at Câmpie in Transylvania

Since 2009 we have been actively supporting the activities and the cooperation of local organizations that assist the survival of the depopulating Transylvanian Câmpie region. Between 23rd and 25th of June 2017 we organized the next development workshop, this time at Mădăraş in Mureş county. The event provided a good opportunity to disseminate information on the economic development program of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's dedicated to the region. At the workshop, together with the participants we discussed the strategic principles of the development concept of the region. On the basis of this consultation, in the second half of the year we finalized the document which was embraced by the Secretariat of the Hungarian Parliament. Another opportunity for further consultations arised at the handover ceremony of the new building of the Kallós Museum, at which we were also represented.

Leadership training for the youth from Câmpie

Our other significant event related to Câmpie was a Youth Leadership Training Camp which was held at the end of summer 2017 at Magyarhertelend in the Hello Camp. 23 young people from Câmpie were invited to the camp near Pécs where for 10 days professional trainers guided them in local community development work with the a number of other optional programs. The camp proved to be a success where within two weeks young people from different parts of the region had managed to form a cohesive community. With our support they organized their next gathering in Papiu Ilarian in October where nearly 100 young people from the region got involved.

Seminar at Oradea

In 2012 we organized our first seminar in Oradea in order to strengthen the Hungarian-Romanian cooperation. In 2017 the heritage management stood at the heart of the event which took place at the Oradea castle. The French, Hungarian and Romanian speakers talked about the role the local government can play in the preservation of the local heritage. The event had about 60 participants.

Indicators

Document

- Action plan of Câmpie region

Events

Date	Event	Location
22 nd and 23 rd	Forum at Szentgotthárd	Szentgotthárd

May		
2nd June	Inauguration of Zoltán Kallós Museum	Răscruți
from 23rd to 25th June	Workshop at Câmpie region	Mădăraș
from 22nd to 31st August	Leadership training of the youth from Câmpie	Magyarhertelend
25th October	Seminar on heritage management at Oradea	Oradea

About the Association

Our co-workers in 2017:

Kitti DUBNICZKI: strategic planner, landscape architect

Éva GANGL: strategic planner, geographer, GIS-analyst

Teodor GYELNÍK: senior research fellow, political scientist

Roland HESZ: strategic planner, geographer

Enikő HÜSE-NYERGES: strategic planner, project manager, economist

Tamás ILLÉS: assistant research fellow, geographer

Dr. Norbert JANKAI: senior legal adviser, lawyer, MBA

Mátyás JASCHITZ: director of planning, geographer

Gyula OCSKAY: secretary general, political philosopher, economist

Márton PETE: assistant research fellow, geographer

Éva ROMÁN: administrative assistant

Annamária VAS: head of office, economist, HR manager

During the year Tamás Illés and Márton Pete left the Association.

In 2017 eight trainees helped our work among whom two – Sara Andjelković and Petar Jeremić – came from Serbia.

Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI)

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Basic data needed for defining a public utility status

1) Contribution to fulfilling common social and individual needs

According to the data of the Public Utility Annex of the year 2017 related to target groups, the association's services are equally available to persons other than the association's board members, employees or volunteers.

2) Proper resources at disposal in respect of the former two closed business years (2014, 2015)

The following alternative conditions apply:

- a) the annual average budget surpasses HUF 1 million (de facto in 2016-2017: 102.423 thousand Ft)
- b) overall taxed outcome of the two years (baseline year) is not negative: 22.022 thousand Ft
- c) personal charges (expenses), without taking into consideration officials' allowances, are at least a quarter of all charges (expenses) (de facto in 2016-2017: 57,98 %)

3) Account of appropriate social support after the two previously closed business years

The following alternative condition applies:

- b) all expenses related to public utility activities make up at least half of all expenses on a two-year average (de facto in 2016-2017: 72,3 %)

Account of allocations by objectives

Our association has donated an amount of 9.665 EUR in 2017 to the CESCO Balkans.

Allocation to senior officers

No allocations were provided for senior officers in 2017.

Account of assets used for public utility activities

Equity: HUF 21.906 thousand Ft
activities

Aim of utilization: public utility

Resource supply and social support indicators

Resource supply indicators	Fulfilment of indicator	value
Ectv.32.par.(4) a) $(B1+B2)/2 > 1.000.000$ Ft	Yes	106.745 th. HUF

Ectv.32.par.(4) b) $K1+K2 \geq 0$	Yes	22.021 th. HUF
Ectv.32.par.(4) c) $(I1+I2-A1-A2)/(H1+H2) \geq 0,25$	Yes	0,31459
Social support indicators	Fulfilment of indicator	Value
Ectv.32.par.(5) a) $(C1+C2)/(G1+G2) \geq 0,02$	No	0,00
Ectv.32.par.(5) b) $(J1+J2)/(H1+H2) \geq 0,5$	Yes	0,7483
Ectv.32.par.(5) c) $(L1+L2)/2 \geq 10$ ps	No	3 ps

Basic data needed for defining a public utility status

	Previous year	Base year
B. Total annual income:	105.250 th. HUF	108.240 th. HUF
D. Public utility income:	96.606 th. HUF	81.474 th. HUF
E. Normative grant:	0 th. HUF	0 th. HUF
F. Support from EU structural funds and CF	0 th. HUF	0 th. HUF
G. Adjusted turnover	0 eFt	0 eFt
H. Total expenditure	97.188 th. HUF	94.280 th. HUF
I. Personal charges	59.996 th. HUF	60.234 th. HUF
J. Public utility expenditure	75.112 th. HUF	68.168 th. HUF
K. Profit/Loss after taxation	8.062 th. HUF	13.959 th. HUF
L. Number of volunteers assisting the association's operation (in accordance with regulation LXXXVIII/2005 on public utility volunteer activity) (persons)	5	1

Personal expenses

		1000 HUF	Previou s year	Base year
A.	Personal charges		68 051	60 233
A.1.	Wage charges		39 709	44 134
A. 1	out of it: commissions		680	0
.A.				
A. 1	out of it: honorarium		0	0
.B.				
A.2.	Other personal charges		5 026	5 557
A.3.	Wage contributions		11 781	10 542
B.	Allocations by the association		0	0

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42
Tribunal: Fővárosi Törvényszék
Register Number: 01/01/10819

CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES
1067 BUDAPEST, TERÉZ KRT. 13.

**Balance sheet for the simplified annual report of
other organisations keeping double-entry books**

Accounting date: 31 December 2017
Type of balance sheet: Simplified annual report

Budapest, 17 May 2018



Határán Átnyúló Kezdeményezések
Közép-európai Segítő Szolgálat
HUN 1067 Budapest, Teréz krt. 13.
adószám: 18188071-2-42
bankszámlaszám: 120100740-01374052-00100001

Stamp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. K. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

Managing Director

The published information has not been audited.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42

Register Number: 01/01/10819

Balance sheet for the simplified annual report of other organisations keeping double-entry books

Accounting date: 31 December 2017

	Data in Th HUF	31/12/2016	31/12/2016 modif.	31/12/2017
01.	A. Fixed Assets	1 663		1 180
02.	I. Intangible assets	564		311
03.	II. Tangible assets	1 099		869
04.	III. Financial investments	0		0
05.	B. Current Assets	16 450		33 644
06.	I. Inventories	0		0
07.	II. Receivables	10 350		22 357
08.	III. Marketable securities	0		0
09.	IV. Liquid assets	6 100		11 287
10.	C. Prepaid Expenses and Accrued Income	0		6
11.	TOTAL ASSETS	18 113		34 830
12.	D. Shareholders' Equity	7 946		21 906
13.	I. Subscribed/issued capital	0		0
14.	II. Retained profit	-1 490		6 727
15.	III. Limited reserve	1 374		1 220
16.	IV. Evaluation reserve	0		0
17.	V. Profit/loss from basic (public) activity	21 494		13 328
18.	VI. Profit/loss from business activity	-13 432		631
19.	E. Provisions	0		0
20.	F. Liabilities	10 081	0	12 808
21.	I. Subordinated liabilities	0		0
22.	II. Long-term liabilities	0		0
23.	III. Short-term liabilities	10 081		12 808
24.	G. Accrued Expenses and Deferred Income	86		116
25.	TOTAL LIABILITIES	18 113	0	34 830

The published information has not been audited.

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42
Tribunal: Fővárosi Törvényszék
Register Number: 01/01/10819

CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES
1067 BUDAPEST, TEREZ KRT. 13.

**Profit and loss account
for public benefit organisations keeping double-entry books**

Reporting period: 1 January 2017–31 December 2017

Budapest, 17 May 2018



Határon Átnyúló Kezdeményezések
Közép-európai Segítő Szolgálat
HUN 1067 Budapest, Terez krt. 13.
adószám: 18188071-2-42
bankszámlaszám: 12010240-01374052-00100001

Stamp

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Managing Director

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CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42

Register Number: 01/01/10819

Profit and loss account for public benefit organisations keeping double-entry books

Reporting period: 1 January 2016–31 December 2016

	1000 HUF	31/12/2016	31/12/2017
A.	Total revenues of public activity	96 606	81 496
A.1.	Subsidy for public activity	94 952	79 908
A.1.A.	subsidy from founder	0	0
A.1.B.	subsidy from central budget	94 952	79 908
A.1.C.	subsidy from local budget	0	0
A.1.D.	other	0	0
A.2.	Amount of contracted grants	0	0
A.3.	Revenues of public activity	0	0
A.4.	Members' subscriptions	1 502	1 549
A.5.	Other revenues	152	39
B.	Revenues of business activity	8 644	26 743
C.	Total revenues (A+B)	105 250	108 239
D.	Costs of public activity	75 112	68 168
D.1.	Material type expenditures	27 015	20 026
D.2.	Payments to personnel	44 509	45 356
D.3.	Depreciation	1 541	427
D.4.	Other expenditures	1 766	1 997
D.5.	Expenditures of financial transactions	281	362
D.6.	Extraordinary expenditures	0	0
E.	Costs of business activity	22 076	26 112
E.1.	Material type expenditures	6 589	9 863
E.2.	Payments to personnel	15 487	14 877
E.3.	Depreciation	0	210
E.4.	Other expenditures	0	984
E.5.	Expenditures of financial transactions	0	178
E.6.	Extraordinary expenditures	0	0
F.	Total costs (D+E)	97 188	94 280
G.	Pre-tax profit/loss (B–E or C–F)	-13 432	631
H.	Tax liability	0	0
I.	After tax profit/loss from business activity (G–H)	-13 432	631
J.	After tax profit/loss from public activity (A–D)	21 494	13 328

The published information has not been audited.