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Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 13.

Annex of public utility

2019



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 it takes part in the relevant consultations and policy debates;
- it helps to improve the local stakeholders' preparedness by transferring of knowledge.

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.

The public benefit objectives of CESCO are the followings on the basis of the Act CLVI of 1997:

- activities related towards national and ethnic minorities in Hungary and Hungarians living beyond the borders,
- promoting Euro-Atlantic integration.

Our office-holders in 2019

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 professor of Szent István University.

Vice-presidents:

- dr. András Levente Gál, office manager attorney, former Permanent Secretary of State (Budapest)
- Zsuzsanna Fejes, Deputy Director, associate professor, University of Szeged, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Institute of International and Regional Studies

Members of the association's presidency in 2018:

- dr. Jože Gričar, professor emeritus of economics (University of Maribor, Slovenia)
- dr. Peter Kubičko, municipal and IT consultant (Slovakia)
- István Szabó, Vice President, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Assembly

Members of the Supervisory Board:

- Kálmán Nagy (President), Vice President of Zala County Assembly
- István Oláh, cluster manager, CybAir cluster
- dr. Attila Tilki, Member of Parliament, member of the Hungarian delegation of the Council of Europe

Our association has 48 members, most of them are local or county-level municipalities in Hungarian border regions. In 2019, Baranya County Municipality quit; Mura Region EGTC has become our new member. Moreover, professional organizations, EGTCs and individuals participate in the activities of CESCO.

Snippets from the life of our association

CESCI 10 – Happy Border to You!

Our association turned 10 years old in 2019, which we celebrated with a major international event held on 25-26 April, in Budapest. The conference, which attracted more than 150 participants, took place in the building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The audience was greeted by Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Committee of the Regions, by dr. Pál Völner, parliamentary state secretary of the Ministry of Justice and by dr. Tamás Tóth, president of CESCI. The plenary sessions were held by Karen Maguire, Head of Division: Local Employment, Skills and Social Innovation at OECD, by Andreas Faludi, professor of Delft University of Technology, one of the founding fathers of the European planning policy, by Jean Peyrony, Director General of our sister organization, of the French Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, by Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), and by Alfonso Zardi, former head of local and regional democracy and good governance at the Council of Europe. Within the professional programme 6 thematic panels took place mirroring CESCI's fields of activity such as researches along the borders, cross-border planning, cross-border governance, integrated cross-border development, cross-border policy making, and of cross-border knowledge sharing. During these panels, 22 outstanding experts gave lectures and took part in the debates with the actively participating audience. Several participants characterised the professional content of the two-day conference as highly meaningful and exciting. The event was concluded by dr. Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, who witnessed and supported the start-up of CESCI at the beginning of 2010 as a Minister of Public Administration and Justice.

In the evening of the first day, a banquet with a cultural programme took place in the picturesque halls of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Before the Corvinus folk dance group's astonishing performance, Levente Magyar, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade greeted the participants, then Enikő Hüse-Nyerges, co-worker of CESCI presented their folk dance group and talked about the programme.

We published several professional and scientific publications that scheduled for the date of the conference, and we summarized the past 10 years of the association in a booklet titled Happy Border to You.

The event was a worthy celebration of 10 years of work, and the high professional standard was guaranteed by those excellent lecturers with whom we managed to build a close relationship in this decade. It was a real challenge for our co-workers to organize an event of this scale, but the success indicates that the association is indeed ready for the international presence.

Mosaics from the life of the association

Our general assembly was held on 29 May, 2019, where the members accepted the annual report of the association, of the presidency, of the supervisory board and of the two sister associations (CESCI Balkans, CESCI Carpathia), also accepted the working and financial plan of 2019, and took a decision on the admission of a new member, as well as acknowledged that a member had quit. The general

assembly gave its consent for a potential research institute to use the association's abbreviated name.

The Supervisory Board held their sessions on 14 May and on 26 of November. During the former, it delivered its opinion on the proposals submitted to the general assembly and approved its own annual report; while during the latter it checked the portfolio and the accounts.

In 2019, we published on a quarterly basis the newsletter of the association in Hungarian and in English, and the member newsletter in Hungarian. We have been contributing to the English version of the sites of our members with English translation service since 2018. In 2019, we provided such support for the sites of Bács-Kiskun and Győr-Moson-Sopron County.

Our co-workers in 2019:

Melinda BENCZI: strategic planner, project manager, political scientist

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: project manager and strategic planner, economist

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

Viktória JÁNOSI: junior GIS-analyst, geographer

Mátyás JASCHITZ: director of planning, geographer

Gyula OCSKAY: secretary general, political philosopher, economist

Éva ROMÁN: administrative assistant

Annamária VAS: head of office, economist, HR manager

Our work was supported by 7 scholars during the year.

We continually try to strengthen the professionalism of the work organization. Last year we supported the doctoral studies of two of our co-workers (Melinda Benczi and Gyula Ocskay), three of our co-workers (Kitti Dubniczki, Éva Gangl and Viktória Jánosi) took courses in the field of geoinformatics. In addition, we also support the improvement of language skills of our co-workers.

In 2019, we organized „CESCI Light” nights two times, with the goal of broadening the horizon of our co-workers. István Oláh (member of our supervisory board) held a lecture on the latest improvements of digital transformation, and György Farkas, professor at ELTE, held a lecture on demographic processes. All of these events are open for our members as well.

On 22nd of May, our sister association, CESCI Carpathia held its annual general meeting, where the association was represented by the General Secretary.

We tried to strengthen our relations with the ambassadors accredited in our country. On 5th of March, the Slovenian ambassador, His Excellency Robert Kokalj, the ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia visited our office along with his co-workers, while we went to pay our respect at the reception of the ambassadors on 12th of June, on the occasion of their national holiday.

With José Osete, director of the French-Hungarian Initiative Association, we paid an introductory visit at Her Excellency Mme Pascale Andréanin, with whom we discussed about several joint events. As a result, Madame Ambassador opened our workshop organized in Debrecen in 2019 in the framework of the "Oradea process". On the occasion of the national holiday of the French Republic we were present at the reception, on 16th of July.

On 13th of June, we greeted our former president, dr. György Kocziszky professor on his 70th birthday. We contributed with a writing to the Jubilee collection of essays too.

We completed our now traditional performance trek in harsh winter conditions in the Börzsöny Mountains on 29th on January.

Social responsibility

Even though the organization completes tasks with public benefit in the fields determined in its Statues, since 2019 we have strengthened in different directions our social responsibility as well.

Starting from May, we provided tutoring for children of primary school age in a transitional house for families in the XIV. district (Befogadás Háza Zuglói Családok Átmeneti Otthona), operated by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta. Also, in the same district, we purchased furnitures and painted the public areas of another transitional house for families, which is operated by Budapest Methodological Centre of Social Policy and Its Institutions (BMSZKI).

We supported the Szép Cserehát Social Cooperative (Szép Cserehát Szociális Szövetkezet) carrying out important societal work with 800.000 HUF, which was used to buy bunk beds for their summer camps.

In the work organization we created a work group to introduce further greener procedures, and according to its suggestions we improved our waste management, we participated campaigns like plastic free July and „Ride your bike to work!” (*Bringázz a munkába!*). Within the latter program 5 of our co-workers rode more than 900 km in total.

Border research, scientific activities

Since the beginning, our association has been actively participating in conducting research along the borders and has been aspiring to strengthen the scientific grounds of its professional activity. Consequently, we take part in scientific conferences, workshops and we ourselves organize such events as well (also in the conference of the 10th birthday of CESCO we dedicated a special panel to the topic). On the other hand, we try to be present with our own publication in international scientific discussion too. Finally, we gladly join to the work of the emerging research teams in the field of border studies.

Scientific events

Apart from the anniversary event, CESCO did not organize any other scientific conference, but our co-workers participated in several similar events.

The crisis of a border free Europe – Castle Talks on Cross-Border Cooperation (Strasbourg, 18-19 March)

The University of Strasbourg with the support of the Erasmus+ program held its upcoming scientific seminar, this time about the phenomenons that hamper the cooperation along the borders. On behalf of our association, our Secretary General, Gyula Ocskay gave a lecture named 'New borders, new fences. Is it a crisis of the Schengen system?' and took part in a roundtable discussion too.

The positive impact of the formation and operation of groupings of territorial associations on economic development in the European Union and along its exterior border (Yanoshivska Silrada, 20th September)

With the support of PADEA Foundation, Tisza EGTC published a volume of studies written in Ukrainian which examines the legal conditions of the establishment of the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation with Ukrainian members. The volume's (whose first chapter was written by our colleagues, dr. Norbert Jankai and Gyula Ocskay) presentation was held during a large conference in Yanoshivska Silrada next to M. Berehove, in the presence of Hungarian and Ukrainian officers from ministries, county officers and the Council of Europe. The professional content of the volume was reviewed by the authors, apart from CESCO, also by the co-workers of the Institute of Public Administration and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and of the Faculty of Law of Uzhhorod National University. After the conference the three institutions started to develop a strategical cooperation.

EU-Ukraine Association Agreement: consequences regarding the Slovak-Ukraine cross-border cooperation. The 10 years of the Eastern: results and future plans (Eperjes [Presov], 22-23 October)

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the EU-Ukraine Partnership, the Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association and the Institute of Political Sciences of the University of Eperjes (Presov) organized a two-day international conference in the building of the Evangelical College of Presov, focusing on Ukraine's approach towards the European Union. On behalf of our association, the General Secretary presented the development of the last few years of the cooperation in the regions along the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

European, Serbian, Bulgarian and Scandinavian perspectives of the European Territorial Cooperation after 2020 (Beograd, 31 October)

With the support of the Sweden-Norway INTERREG program a three-day study tour was organized in the Serbian-Bulgarian border region by the AEBR Balkans and the CESCİ Balkans for the experts involved in the INTERREG program. During the study tour, a seminar on the future of the European territorial cooperation was held in the council-chamber of the city hall in Beograd. Within the seminar, our General Secretary presented the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation as a tool of a cross-border governance, and Ervin Erős, president of CESCİ Balkans, talked about the integrated cross-border planning.

Further professional events where we participated in 2019:

| Date | Location | Event |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6-7 February, 2019 | Flensburg (DK) | A scientific workshop called <i>National Minorities in Regional Development</i> organized by the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) |
| 20th February, 2019 | Budapest | <i>Cityregion governance and suburbanization</i> – international seminar organized by The Hungarian Society for Urban Planning |
| 27th February, 2019 | Budapest | Conference <i>Smart cities and territorial statistics</i> organized by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office |
| 19th March, 2019 | Budapest | Conference <i>AgriGo4Cities: Participatory urban agriculture for inclusive cities</i> |
| 12th June, 2019 | Miskolc | <i>Scientific meeting for the 70th birthday of György Kocziszky professor</i> |
| 27th September, 2019 | Budapest | <i>II. French-Hungarian Scientific Research Forum</i> |
| 7-8 November, 2019 | Budapest | <i>Miracle or necessary? A conference on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall</i> |
| 8th November, 2019 | Miskolc | <i>I. Interdisciplinary conference on the social and economical conditions of the Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin</i> |
| 28th November, 2019 | Budapest | <i>Different perspectives – common interests</i> (College of Visegrad+) |

Participation in scientific projects

The association did not participate in the implementation of scientific projects in 2019. Simultaneously, we actively took part in the planning and preparation of two such projects.

The submission of a scientific network project called COST was initiated by the University of Southern Denmark. Until the autumn submission we included on several times our suggestions in the tender making process.

Birte Wassenbers, professor of contemporary history at the University of Strasbourg, within the Jean Monnet subprogram of the Erasmus+ program, initiated the establishment of a network which researches the changes of the border regimes' and the people's perception related to the borders. We participated in this tender too.

At the date of the activity report it is already known that the latter tender was successful at the application, while the former did not get to be chosen.

Scientific publications

The co-workers of the association engaged in extended scientific activities in 2019 and several publications of CESCO were published, which were mainly scheduled for the 10th birthday event.

Cross-Border Review 2019

The yearbook of the association is published on an annual basis and is compiled by noted, international authors and contains publications from all over the world. In the publication of 2019, whose editor-in-chief was James W. Scott (Karelian Institute), the writings of several noted authors, such as Victor Konrad, Jussi Laine and Anna Casaglia can be found.

Changes in the Representation of a Borderscape. The Case of the Mária Valéria Bridge

The experts requested by CESCO conducted a comprehensive research on the impacts of the Mária Valéria bridge that connects Esztergom and Štúrovo. The publication that was previously published online, at the beginning of 2019 was published in a revised, printed version. The studies of the volume analyze from different point of views the impact of the bridge's 2001 inauguration on the life, mental map, spatial behaviour of the people living in the border regions. Apart from guest writer's work, we can read the studies of Teodor Gyelník and Mátyás Jaschitz as well, the prologue was written by Gyula Ocskay.

Lectures on Cross-Border Governance

With the support of KÖFOP and VEKOP programs, our association organized a series of workshop in 2017-2018 on cross-border governance where international experts of the topic gave lectures: Katy Hayward, professor of Queen's University (Belfast), Olivier Kramsch, professor of Radboud University (Nijmegen), David Newman, professor of Ben-Gurion University, Anssi Paasi, professor of the University of Oulu, Jean Peyrony, director general of MOT, James W. Scott, researcher of the Finnish Karelian Institute. We started editing the lectures in 2018. The volume was published at the beginning of 2019, edited by our colleague, Teodor Gyelník, senior research fellow, who also wrote the prologue.

Overview of the EGTCs around Hungary

Also for the anniversary event, we reprinted the Hungarian volume of studies on the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation which was published in 2016 and was edited by Gyula Ocskay along with Sara Svensson, guest lecturer of CEU. Certain chapters were written by our co-workers, Roland Hesz, Norbert Jankai and Mátyás Jaschitz.

Publications of the co-workers of CESCO (2019)

Gyelník, T. (2019a) Introduction. The parallax of borders. In Gyelník, T. et al: *Lectures on Cross-Border Governance*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 1–10.

Gyelník, T. (2019b) The Poverty of Territorialism: a Neo-Medieval View of Europe and European Planning (book review). In Scott, W. J. (ed.) *Cross-Border Review 2019*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 171-178.

Gyelník, T. [2019] Opening of borders, reconstruction of a Bridge: positive aspects and polymorph multivalent phantom limitations in the region of Štúrovo and Esztergom. In Bottlik, Zs., Gyelník, T., Ocskay, Gy. (eds) *Changes in the representation of a borderscape. The case of the Mária Valéria Bridge*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 43–63. [printed version]

Balogh P., Gyelník T. [2019] Hungarian and Slovak national narratives with a focus on the shared boundary. In Bottlik, Zs., Gyelník, T., Ocskay, Gy. (eds) *Changes in the representation of a borderscape. The case of the Mária Valéria Bridge*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 65–86. [printed version]

Hesz, R., Jozskin, B. (2019) The Emergence of Twin Cities in the De-Bordering European Urban Space. Potentials and Obstacles to Functional Integration in the Case of Komárom–Komárno. In Jarosław Jańczak (ed.) *Old Borders – New Challenges, New Borders – Old Challenges. De-Bordering and Re-Bordering in Contemporary Europe*. Logos Verlag. Berlin, 125-153.

Jaschitz, M. [2019] (Re)birth of a twin city. Hinterland analysis in the region of Esztergom–Štúrovo. In Bottlik, Zs., Gyelník, T., Ocskay, Gy. (eds) *Changes in the representation of a borderscape. The case of the Mária Valéria Bridge*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 109–128. [printed version]

Ocskay, Gy. (2019a) A határok reneszánsza – avagy válságban a schengeni rendszer? In Sebestyén Szép, T., Nagy Z. (szerk.) *Ember – tér – idő. Tanulmányok Kocziszky György tiszteletére. A Miskolci Egyetem Gazdaságtudományi Karának jubileumi tanulmánykötete*. Miskolci Egyetem. Miskolc, 171–177.

Ocskay, Gy. (2019b) Introduction: How to assess territorial impacts through the representation of a borderscape. In Bottlik, Zs., Gyelník, T., Ocskay, Gy. (eds) *Changes in the representation of a borderscape. The case of the Mária Valéria Bridge*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 5–15. [printed version]

Ocskay, Gy. (2019c) 25 Years of European Territorial Cooperation. A Panorama. Eduardo Medeiros (ed) (2018): *European Territorial Cooperation. Theoretical and Empirical Approaches to the Process and Impacts of Cross-Border and Transnational Cooperation in Europe*. Springer. Cham (book review). In Scott, W. J. (ed.) *Cross-Border Review 2019*. Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives. Budapest, 179–186.

Ocskay, Gy., Jankai, N., Usztyimenko, B.A., Lazur, J.V., Szancsenko, A.E., Fetyko, J.I., Jacenko, Sz. Sz. (2019) *Insztitucijno-pravovij ucsasztyi Ukrajni v evropejszkih ob’ednannjah teritorialnoho szpivrobisztnyisztva*. Tisza Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai területi Társulás. Ungvár.

Enikő Hüse-Nyerges and Éva Gangl submitted a study *A mentés határon átnyúló integrációjában rejlő potenciálok Magyarországon* for *Tér és Társadalom*. The most prestigious domestic regional scientific journal accepted it. The study is expected to be published in 2020.

The works of the first critical dictionary related to cross-border cooperation edited by Birte Wassenberg, Bernard Reitel and Jean Peyrony proceeded in 2019. The co-workers of CESCOI compiled 17 articles, these went through several rounds of editing in 2019, and we also evaluated articles made by other authors. The volume is expected to be published in 2020.

Cross-border planning

Since the foundation of CESCO it conducts extended planning activity and uses its results during the preparation of European Union programs. Comparing to the previous planning portfolios, in 2019 our work was even more diversified.

Preparation of plans on settlement level

Development concept of Esztergom

This is the third time we prepared a development concept for Esztergom. The concept of 2019 is carried out as one of our public tasks. The proposed interventions were based on extended interviewing, a survey that reached nearly 1500 high school students, and on a compiled comprehensive project-database.

Concepts of medium town

At the invitation of Hétfa Research Institute, at the end of the year we joined the elaboration of the development concept of two Hungarian towns along the border. The two documents got completed at the end of 2019, beginning of 2020 as a PILOT of a program that targets the development of Hungarian medium towns.

Development concepts of towns beyond borders where Hungarians live

In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, we have elaborated concepts for developments to be implemented in cross-border cities with Hungarian support, in which a significant Hungarian community lives. The elaboration of the concept started in 2017. In 2019, we had to reshape and update the concept of the Slovak Komárno, of the Slovenian Lendava, of the Romanian Salonta and of the Ukrainian M. Berehove. Such document on the Romanian Satu Mare and Targu Mures has been made recently and we have started the summary of the development ideas regarding the Romanian Oradea. We made a similar document regarding four Transylvanian settlements too, also for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Plans on regional level

Planning that helps the enlargement of the V/c helsinki corridor

According to the plans of the Hungarian and the Croatian government, the construction of the section in the two countries, between Mohács and Esijek, will be completed in the near future. In order for the proposed infrastructural investment to achieve visible economical and social impacts on the demographically decreasing area, CESCO was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to conduct a comprehensive examination. We elaborated the strategic document with the help of the experts of both countries.

Economic development plan of North-Partium

Since 2017 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been providing support on a regional basis for entrepreneurs beyond the borders. For the orientation of the support, regional strategies are made which are in accordance with the given country's developmental documents and objectives. In 2019, CESCO was commissioned by the Romanian based Pro Economica Foundation to write the North-Partium economic development plan that would help the economic development in three Romanian counties (Satu Mare, Bihor, Sălaj).

Updating of the development strategy of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC

Our association was commissioned by the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC to update the development strategy elaborated by CESCO in 2014-2015, before the upcoming new budget cycle of the EU.

Ister-Granum EGTC – The project that targets the valorization of water related cultural heritage

Ister-Granum EGTC together with 6 partners, with the support of the INTERREG EUROPE program, implements the project that prepares developments regarding the protection of the ecosystem to utilize the water related cultural heritage. Within the project *WAVE*, firstly every partner has to carry out a status analysis on the topic for which CESCO was subcontracted. We started the work in December with the compilation of a planning template.

Professional tasks related to planning

Regarding the 2021-2027 planning period the National Development and Territorial Development Concept was revisioned and commented by our colleagues too, with special emphasis on border issues. Regarding the settlement plans on country level we delivered our opinion also on the professional proposal made by Team Pannon engineering office.

We digitalized the settlement system of Serbia and the Bosnian Serb Republic which is a unique database. The former one we also successfully marketed to a German client.

Tasks related to programming

Mid-term evaluation of cross-border programs

We started the mid-term evaluation of four cross-border programs directed by Hungary as a public benefit service, in the second part of 2018. We completed the evaluation of the Slovak-Hungary INTERREG V-A cooperation program in April 2019. Subsequently we managed to conclude the evaluation of Hungary-Croatia INTERREG V-A in May and the evaluation of Hungary-Serbia INTERREG-IPA CBC program in June. The Hungary-Slovak-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC program was launched with a significant delay, consequently, comparing to the other evaluations, we were able to provide a sketchy evaluation later, in August, as a result the work concluded only in 2020.

We elaborated the four documents with the same methodology, analyzing the program's efficiency, effectiveness and its already identified and forecasted impacts. We also evaluated with a separate method the cross-border nature of the supported projects.

Regional analysis of cross-border programs 2021-2027

In the second part of the year, we started the preparation of three cross-border programs (Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG, Hungarian-Serbian INTERREG IPA CBC, NDICI that includes four countries, latter called NEXT, a neighbouring countries program) as our public benefit service. In all three cases our duty was to elaborate the territorial analysis (regional analysis) that prepares the program strategy: collecting and analysing statistical data, geoinformatically processing them, organizing workshops with the involvement of local and regional stakeholders, doing extended surveys.

In the case of the Hungarian-Slovak program, a short background analysis was made in which we put emphasis on the thematic preferences of the participants of the surveys and workshops. From the topics suggested by them, the Programming Committee chose 3+2 topics in November, and we made a detailed analysis on them.

In the case of the Hungarian-Serbian program we started the work with similar methodology, but its results were not accepted by the Programming Committee during the meeting in Beograd in November, and it ordered the restart of the planning process.

The analyzing work of the four-country-program starts with a delay, at the beginning of 2020.

Regional analysis of Danube transnational program

Within our public benefit tasks, in February we started the elaboration of the regional analysis of the transnational program that covers the Danube Region and involves 14 countries. The task required significant resources and started with the development of a comprehensive statistical database, using the available national statistical data, the literature related to certain topics and the information gathered from member states. The richly illustrated chapters were made with the help of this database. We validated these chapters in more rounds, with the involvement of the experts of the member states. We also participated in several professional events as invited lecturers and we supported the lectures of the Managing Authority by preparing background materials. We played an active role in the planning workshops too.

Development program of border cities

We made a proposal for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and for the experts of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology who prepare the Partnership Agreement and the operational programs of the next union budgeting period, so that they deal with the development of more than 30 of our border cities as a separate priority. The proposal was made in accordance with the mentality of the documents and the proposed regulations of the EU urban policy and with the suggestions of the country reports of 2019, also by considering the unfavourable impacts of the administrative borders on the Hungarian urban network. Our proposal had a favourable reception and we got invited to be part of the working group that prepares territorial interventions, and we prepared in several versions the document that helps the professional establishment of the proposal.

Digital village program

In 2018, during the elaboration of the strategic concept that targets the cross-border extension of the Digital Welfare Program 2.0, we gained experience on the digital underdevelopment of the rural areas in the border region. In order to avoid the advancement of the digital divide, we prepared our proposal on the development of small settlements, whose literary property was bought by the Governmental Agency for IT Development, with the objective of further utilization.

Planning, programming related events

| Date | Location | Event |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4th April, 2019 | Wien (AT) | ESPON seminar dedicated to the challenges of the Danube Region |
| 17th April, 2019 | Dudince (SK) | Meeting of the Monitoring Board of the Slovak-Hungarian INTERREG program, approval of the mid-term evaluation |
| 6th May, 2019 | Budapest | Workshop for interventions based on territory (preparation of TOP – Territorial development operational program) |
| 7-8 May, 2019 | Beuron (DE) | Workshop of the planning working group of Danube Transnational Program (2021-2027) |

| Date | Location | Event |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21st May, 2019 | Noskovci (HR) | Meeting of the Monitoring Board of Hungary-Croatia INTERREG V-A program |
| 3rd June, 2019 | Budapest | Professional meeting of the programming working group of the Hungarian territorial operational program after 2021 |
| 18-20 June, 2019 | Iași (RO) | ESPON seminar on the policy application of the concept of functional areas |
| 27-28 June, 2019 | București (RO) | Presentation of the territorial analysis of Danube Transnational Program on the 8-year-old EUSDR Forum |
| 13-14 August, 2019 | Oradea (RO) | Professional workshop of the economic development plan of North-Partium |
| 3rd September, 2019 | Novi Sad (SR) | Hungarian-Serbian INTERREG IPA CBC programming stakeholder workshop |
| 4th September, 2019 | Mórahalom | Hungarian-Serbian INTERREG IPA CBC programming stakeholder workshop |
| 4th September, 2019 | Budapest | Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG programming stakeholder workshop |
| 5th September, 2019 | Banská Štiavnica (SK) | Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG programming stakeholder workshop |
| 4th October, 2019 | Budapest | ESRI conference |
| 5-6 November, 2019 | Budapest | Workshop of the planning working group of Danube Transnational Program (2021-2027) |
| 6th November, 2019 | Budapest | Meeting of Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG Programming Commission |
| 7th November, 2019 | Beograd (SR) | Meeting of Hungarian-Serbian IPA CBC Programming Commission |
| 7th November, 2019 | Komarno (SK) | Planning workshop on the revision of the strategy of RDV EGTC |
| 13th November, 2019 | Wien (AT) | Stakeholder workshop of Central Europe transnational program |

Cross-border project development

Since the beginning, we have been supporting the preparation and development of cross-border projects, so that the scientifically valid, cross-border integrated strategies get implemented. In 2019, this activity included the professional support of a new tool called territorial action plans for cross-border employment.

Territorial action plans for employment (TAPE) on the Hungarian-Slovak border

The Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A program uses several innovative solutions, partially thanks to the programming carried out with the help of CESCO. Consequently, in a unique way, two European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) manage the small project basis, the Hungarian based Ister-Granum EGTC takes part in the infrastructural project as a Slovak partner, and the representative of the EGTCs can participate with observer status in the meetings of the Monitoring Board.

Within action plans (TAPes), the program provides support for the development of employment of some areas to strengthen the labour mobility in the border regions and to develop the border regions that are disadvantaged from economic and social point of views. Certain action plans can include even 7 employment development plans too, which include both countries and deal with economic and labour challenges of a given area in a complex way. In 2019, we provided help for the launch of 3 TAPes out of 9 that were chosen to be supported: for the action plans coordinated by Via Carpatia EGTC, Ister-Granum EGTC, Ipoly-Táj Regional Development Association. As a public benefit service we provided possibilities of consultation, we took care of the deficiencies of several tenders (including the partial or complete elaboration of the necessary background documents), prepared the presentation of certain TAPes, and in the case of Via Carpatia EGTC we held lectures at the opening conference.

Project development activities

Elaboration of tenders for the Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG program

Regarding the Hungarian-Slovak program in 2019, we prepared three tenders. We compiled a tender for Ipoly-Völgye EGTC that gives an adequate answer to the demographical processes of the area and promotes the cross-border integrity of services that provide healthcare for elderly people. This tender will help the development of kitchen services and healthcare in a sparsely populated area that is lack of functions.

Dr. Kenessey Albert Hospital of Balassagyarmat in partnership with the National Healthcare Service Center and with the hospital of Veľký Krtíš (Slovakia) applied for dealing the sanitary challenges related to the mobility of Hungarian cities, in order to develop the cross-border cooperation.

Arrabona EGTC submitted an application for the Builcogreen tender, for the cross-border development of the municipal operation tasks.

We prepared these last two tenders as a public benefit service.

Project development related to CESCO's professional program

Apart from the tenders prepared for external stakeholders, CESCO compiles projects also for the implementation of its professional program. In 2019, we worked on two such projects, together with our partners.

For the implementation of the professional program of Kosice Platform, which was founded in April, we submitted a tender, which supports the cross-border confidence-building among the countries of Eastern Partnership, for the Black Sea Trust, together with the Slovak Foreign Policy Association's Research Centre, with the Association of European Border Regions, with CESCO Carpathia and with the association of IARDI (Uzhhorod).

The relations between the intense labour flow in the Austrian-Hungarian border regions and the sanitary capacities forced the experts of the area to cooperate, and they would like to systematically establish this cooperation within a project (Heal Now). Our association also took part in the compilation of the tender and we can help the implementation (if the project gets chosen) as a professional partner.

Project Development related events

| Date | Location | Event |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14th May, 2019 | Wien (AT) | Heal Now, project development meeting |
| 19th June, 2019 | Budapest | Kick-off meeting of the action plan coordinated by the Ister-Granum EGTC in the Széchenyi Programme Office |
| 2nd July, 2019 | Budapest | Kick-off meeting of the action plan coordinated by Via Carpatia EGTC in the Széchenyi Programme Office |
| 3rd July, 2019 | Budapest | Kick-off meeting of the action plan coordinated by the Ipoly-Táj Regional Development Association in the Széchenyi Programme Office |
| 9th July, 2019 | Sopron | Heal Now, project development meeting |
| 27th November, 2019 | Košice (SK) | Lecture at the opening conference of Via Carpatia's action plan |

Cross-border institutional development

The durability of the cross-border developments can be ensured if there is some kind of institutional guarantee regarding the sustainability of the results. Therefore, beside the planning and project development work, CESCO is actively involved in shaping the cross-border institutional cooperation too, which primarily means professional help for the foundation and operation of EGTCs.

Support for the foundation of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperations

Support of the foundation of Euro-Contrôle Route (ECR) EGTC

CESCI was commissioned back in 2015 by the Brussels based ECR professional network to provide professional support for the foundation of a network EGTC. Over the last years, the process progressed quite slowly, since 14 member states' transport authorities showed interest in the cooperation, therefore the founding document of the Dutch based association had to be adjusted to 14 countries' legislation.

The foundation process reached the phase of approval of the member states in 2019, so our association's legal expert had to consult with the authorities concerned (mainly with Polish, Romanian, French, Irish and Hungarian authorities). Based on the consultations, several parts had to be modified in the charts and in the agreement. Besides, we offered our help for the support of the accession process of the future Hungarian member, but we failed at the end.

Formation of a macroregion-level hydrological EGTC

The Hungarian, Serbian, Slovenian, Croatian and Romanian regional hydrological authorities have been cooperating closely and successfully for a long time. In 2019, they initiated the foundation of an EGTC, and by winning a tender they got support for the preparation of the foundation process. Also, our co-workers were present in their annual meeting, on 28th November in Szeged where they discussed about the conditions of the new institute's formation. Within the project we delivered our opinion on the founding documents too. The process of setting up the EGTC could start in 2020.

Support for the foundation of EGTCs along the Hungarian border region

Our association received a request from four local municipalities in Bodrogköz, who decided to found an EGTC. Our co-workers prepared the necessary founding documents and helped the approval process.

Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC, after its promising launch, got into a critical situation in 2016, therefore its termination process began. At the same time, the founders consider this tool the most appropriate one for managing the development of the first cross-border UNESCO prize winner geopark. For the stakeholders concerned we provided professional consultation regarding the previous EGTC's termination and a new one's foundation.

EGTC program

EGTC workshops

CESCI constantly provides professional help for already operating, Hungarian EGTCs. In 2012, we created the EGTC workshop as a forum of networking and exchange of experience. It is held 3-4 times in a year and in 2018 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade took over its organization. Even

though organizing and financing the workshop is not CESCO's duty anymore, still we are actively involved in the preparation of certain workshops and we help the work with professional lectures and consultation.

In 2019, three such events were held. In March, in Szentgotthárd, Melinda Benczi talked about the EGTC monitor, in June, in Budapest, Enikő Hüse-Nyerges talked about legal accessibility and in November, in Hollókő, our project manager presented available resources of tenders for interested stakeholders.

Individual support of EGTCs

In 2019 we provided professional support on specific request for Hungarian EGTCs. Many of these requests belong to legal areas. For example, we prepared a professional background material for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for legal controls at the EGTCs. Before the annual meeting of the approval authorities in Budapest, which was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, we compiled a list of problems related to the registration of the EGTCs. We prepared the modification of the statutes for the RDV EGTC. Our legal advisor helped to solve controversial issues in the annual general assembly of MURABA EGTC.

The drawing of digital maps of the Hungarian EGTCs (in 2019, due to the changes of membership, we were requested by the Pannon EGTC and the Arrabona EGTC to draw these maps) and the interventions that help the capacity development (in 2019, such process started at Ipoly-Völgye EGTC by the encouragement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and we initiated to restart of the training of desk officers specialized in border region development at EDUTUS University, and we helped to create its professional program) are also part of the professional support.

We have been working on the creation of a Hungarian EGTC monitor, which would share in an eye-catching way all the relevant information in the Hungarian related European Groupings of Territorial Cooperations. However, we still could not launch this portal in 2019.

We conduct our institutional development activities without any extra charge (apart from the foundation of the ECR EGTC).

Institutional development related events

| Date | Location | Event |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21st March, 2019 | Szentgotthárd | General Assembly of MURABA EGTC |
| 28-29 March, 2019 | Szentgotthárd | EGTC workshop |
| 24th June, 2019 | Budapest | EGTC workshop |
| 15th July, 2019 | Budapest | Negotiation on the accession to the ECR EGTC at the National Transport Authority |
| 18th September, 2019 | Ludányhalászi | Professional workshop at Ipoly-Völgye EGTC |
| 6th November, 2019 | Budapest | Coordination with representatives of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC |
| 28th November, 2019 | Szeged | Lecture and consultation with the originators of the Central European hydrological EGTC |
| 29th November, 2019 | Hollókő | EGTC workshop |
| 5th December, 2019 | Budapest | Coordination with the representatives of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |

Cross-border policy-making

CESCI places strong emphasis on the participation in cross-border cooperation related Hungarian and EU policy-making. In this field, our activity is very diversified, it ranges from the local level to the EU level.

Participation in European policy-making

Cross-border investment and economic development projects

The European Investment Advisory Hub of the European Investment Bank commissioned our association to prepare a comprehensive analysis with the French Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière. The analysis examines the financial possibilities of the bigger, and also the smaller, but interrelated cross-border projects. On the one hand, the study presents in a comprehensible way the peculiar conditions of the cross-border cooperation and developments and draws attention to the already existing tools. On the other hand, it contains a compilation of the best practices, which provides ideas through concrete investment projects and solutions applied on regional level, to customers to know in which direction they should go when it comes to cross-border investments. Finally, it presents and organizes the potential developments of 11 European border regions, and based on them, it offers suggestions for EIB on multi-fund financial constructions of cross-border investments.

Our association actively took part in the elaboration of the methodology and prepared several case studies based on the results of extended surveys and interviewing. At the end, 5 of them were included in the analysis, and we were involved in its drafting too.

Legal accessibility

In the last few years we were actively involved in the EU initiatives for tackling still existing legal and administrative obstacles that hamper the cross-border cooperation and mobility. Therefore, we participated in the work of the working group created by the Luxembourg EU Presidency, which resulted in the draft regulation regarding the *European border region Mechanism*. We participated also in the project *Cross-Border Review* implemented by the European Commission, and it resulted in the publication of the Communication *Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions*. Thanks to this, the project *B-Solutions* coordinated by AEBR began with the objective is to reveal more legal and administrative obstacles by including the local stakeholders, to help to solve them, and to spread the knowledge on how to solve them. Our association monitors the project's results and tries to join its implementation too. As a result, we were invited as evaluators to a forum organized in January, in Brussels, where we elaborated together the results of the first call of the project *B-Solutions*. In the second part of the year, within the second call, we participated in the reveal and analysis of a specific obstacle too.

Participation in Central European policy-making

Legal accessibility between Visegrád Countries

With the support of the International Visegrad Fund, our project was launched to support the reduction of barriers of mobility between the four Visegrád countries by establishing a permanent joint mechanism. Last year we analyzed the model of the Nordic Council of Ministers and we compared it to the Visegrád Countries' decision-making processes. We published a study on it at the end of January.

We compiled a practical guide in 2019, the Manual of Information and Cooperation. The document's objective is to serve as a guide for government officials and decision-makers during the formation and operation of a potential Visegrád level legal accessibility platform. We expect the platform to reduce the number of those legal obstacles that hamper the cross-border mobility of workforce and students, the provision of social and healthcare services, the development of transport links etc.

The closing conference took place in Košice, on the 20th of June.

SECCo2: Youth for cross-border partnership and cohesion of Danube and Adriatic-Ionian macroregion

With the help of the Danube Strategic Project Fund we implemented our second SECCo project (Sharing Expertise on Cross-Border Cooperation within the Danube Region). Within the project we developed a digital knowledge platform and a toolkit together with the AEBR, the CESC Balkans and the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia, with the objective to promote the cross-border cooperation between two macroregions, to promote their exchange of experience and to include the future generation in the cross-border cooperation. We would have finished the project in December 2018, but we had to extend it, so it ended at the end of January 2019. During the year we had several related tasks too: we regularly updated the website, we had to present the project's results in several international events and we had to compile a summary as the support fund published for the annual forum in București a publication on the supported initiatives, mentioning our project as an example to follow.

Our activities within the Priority Area 10 of the Danube Region Strategy

The frames of the implementation of our SECCo2 project were given by a work plan that was approved in 2012 by the governing board of the Priority Area 10 (PA10) of the Danube Region Strategy. We actively participate in the work of the priority area that aims to achieve institutional capacity development and cooperation.

Also in 2019 we joined the work of the local actors' platform (D-LAP), we were present in their events, we made a PA10 focused comment on their action plan that is under the revision of Danube Strategy. Thanks to our proposal, the cross-border cooperation got into the action plan as a separate action.

We regularly take part in the work of the Hungarian Danube Region interministerial working group which is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Support for the Eastern Partnership

The Eastern Partnership is the third direction of our Central European activities. In this area we supported primarily the work of CESC Carpathia. We created another cooperation forum in 2019 in accordance with the mentality of the seminars of 2016 in Košice. The Košice Platform aims to connect experts that are engaged in the Eastern Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy, who will be able to efficiently influence the EU policy that concerns the eastern borders. We managed to bring in as the leaders of the platform Alexander Duleba, the director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association's Research Centre, professor of the University of Presov, and Oleh Lushka, leader of the Agency of Local Development & Information Resources Europolis. The first activity of the platform was to send a comment and a package of proposals on the ongoing reform of the Eastern Partnership to the European Commission of Enlargement. The partners compiled a tender

too, which was submitted to the Black Sea Trust fund. With the help of the tender they plan to widen the circle of experts concerned in the platform, and to popularize the initiative in the centre of the EU.

Participation in national policy-making

Legal accessibility

Revealing existing legal and administrative obstacles and wording initiatives that help to eliminate these obstacles play a more and more significant role within our activities related to the cooperation in border regions. With the support of the Ministry of Justice we could implement our fourth project in this topic in 2019. This time we were engaged in three main topics.

On the one hand, a comprehensive study was made with the help of experts, regarding the problem of how to solve the cross-border mobility of patients. Within the project, a proposal for a concrete text of bilateral agreements, that would enable the mobility of patients in the border regions, was made by analyzing the available legislative framework and the conditions of four hospitals in the border region.

On the other hand, we were engaged again in the cross-border mobility of ambulances. Therefore, we organized our second seminar for the emergency services of Hungary and of the surrounding EU member states, where the system of the Austrian-Czech border was presented. We even organized a study tour in the area, where experts of the emergency services and Ministries had the possibility to learn about the operation of the system. Thanks to our initiative, both the relevant Hungarian ministry and the National Ambulance Service (OMSZ) showed interest towards cooperation, and the Minister of Human Resources commissioned the Director-general of OMSZ to compile a background concept on cross-border rescue (also our studies were used).

Our third topic is the enumeration of the difficulties regarding the procurements related to cross-border projects, and also the wording of proposals of solution (also with the involvement of exterior experts).

B-solutions project in the area of the Arrabona EGTC

The Arrabona EGTC successfully applied for professional support within the second call of B-Solutions issued by AEBR. Since CESC was a registered expert in the database of AEBR, the decision-makers requested us to analyze the obstacle in question. The specific problem was brought up by the project Builcogreen (which was implemented by the EGTC earlier), that aims to share across borders the machines, tools used in municipal management. Within the B-Solutions project we managed to discover the Hungarian and Slovak legislative background related to the cross-border mobility and usage of these special machines. We also made a proposal on the improvement of the conditions that currently hamper the system's operation.

Cross-border accessibility in the Hungarian-Serbian border regions

We successfully participated in the call of the Homokhátságért Association, on the analysis of Hungarian and Serbian legislations on the cross-border trade of local products. We started the elaboration of the study at the end of the year with the involvement of CESC Balkans.

Policy-making related events

| Date | Location | Event |
|------|----------|-------|
|------|----------|-------|

| Date | Location | Event |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31st January, 2019 | Brussels (BE) | B- Solutions expert meeting |
| 21-22 February, 2019 | Brno (CZ) | Partnership meeting of the V4 legal accessibility project |
| 5-6 March, 2019 | Wien (AT) | Participation in the meeting of the EUSDR's Danube Local Actors Platform (D-LAP) |
| 3rd April, 2019 | Košice (SK) | Founding meeting of the Košice Platform |
| 9th April, 2019 | Brussels (BE) | Participation in forum on small project fund |
| 7th June, 2019 | Luxembourg (LU) | Presentation of the results of the EIB study |
| 20th June, 2019 | Košice (SK) | Closing conference of the V4 legal accessibility project |
| 30th September, 2019 | Budapest | Ambulance's seminar of the legal accessibility project |
| 5th November, 2019 | Wien (AT) | Participation in the meeting of the EUSDR's Danube Local Actors Platform (D-LAP) |
| 15th November, 2019 | Praha (CZ) | Participation in the seminar <i>Multilevel Governance in the Danube Region's functional urban areas</i> |
| 6th December, 2019 | Budapest | Meeting of the Danube Strategy's interministerial working group |
| 9-10 December, 2019 | St. Pölten (AT) | Within the <i>Legal accessibility</i> project, study tour in the Austrian-Czech border regions |

Cross-border knowledge sharing

We conduct an extended, information and knowledge sharing activity (during which we also try to learn as much as we can), so that the local stakeholders can become more and more successful at establishing cross-border cooperation.

Capacity development

Council of Europe Leadership Academy in Hungarian-Ukrainian border regions

We managed to establish a fruitful cooperation with the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance of the Council of Europe in the last years. As a result, we organized the first Hungarian-Ukrainian local leadership academy focusing on cross-border cooperation, in partnership with the Tisza EGTC and with the support of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We organized this training series of three occasions with the involvement of European experts, in Yanoshivska Silrada and in Kisvárdá. The training ranged from strengthening the local governance to the conditionality of the establishment of cross-border municipal cooperation. Apart from the organizing tasks, we compiled a resource map for the Ukrainian mayors. In the closing event 15 local leaders and experts received their certificate.

Annual conference and the 3. cross-border training of the AEBR

In 2019, the Association of European Border Regions' general assembly and annual conference were held at the end of October in Dresden. Related to the event, the third cross-border training (Cross-Border School) took place as well. On behalf of our association Melinda Benczi, strategic planner, gave a lecture at the conference on the planning methodology elaborated by CESCO, then she involved the participants of the school in a planning game that she developed and it had a great success. Considering the wide success, it was suggested that we further develop the game with the help of a project in international cooperation.

Information, knowledge transfer

Professional seminar of the Oradea process in Debrecen

The series of events that aim to strengthen the Hungarian-Romanian professional relations was first launched in 2012 together with the French-Hungarian Initiative Association (Initiatives France-Hongrie) and the Metropolitan Region of Oradea, was organized in 2019 for the first time in Debrecen. The participants were greeted by László Papp, mayor of Debrecen, by Pascale Andréani, French ambassador and by Marius Gabriel Lazurca, Romanian ambassador. This time our main lecturer was Dominique Lorrette, cooperative expert of the border regions of the French Grand Est Region. Through the example of the French-German reconciliation process and the common development work, he suggested potential cooperative tasks for the current leaders and experts of counties and cities in the border regions. Unlike the previous years, the meeting had more like a workshop atmosphere, rather than a conference one, and it was more successful. The activity of the participants is a good sign before the next, similar event.

ESPON CPS webinar

For the closure of the ESPON Cross-border Public Services project, INOVA, Belgian consultancy firm, organized three webinars to share the results of the project, to inform local stakeholders and to collect the local experiences. CESCO was requested to organize the Central European webinar, which

took place on the 12th of November. Our task was to identify the circle of the guests, to invite and prepare those who were concerned, and also to give a briefing on the initiative of *Legal accessibility*. The webinar had 20 participants of the region.

Events of municipal information in the Hungarian-Serbian border regions

The Municipality of Bács-Kiskun County organizes the mayor's forum every year, with a great success. At the forum they try to broaden the knowledge of local leaders in several settlement management related topics. In 2019, also our association was invited to provide information on the ongoing Hungarian-Serbian INTERREG IPA program, and this way to let mayors know about the program's expected priority areas.

The event of Kecskemét inspired the adjacent Municipality of Csongrád County, and it organized a similar forum to help the work of the leaders, and we were invited to this event as well, with the same topic.

Transport development in Hungary – 21. conference

The Transport Division of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers has been organizing for two decades in every spring, on interdisciplinary basis, the conference previously called „Útügyi Napok” („Road days”). CESCO was invited last year as well, in the section that examines the long-run impacts of the transport development. Our General Secretary gave a lecture on the impacts of the transport on our spatial approach.

Informative lectures on EGTC tools

Our co-workers regularly give lectures at different professional events on EGTCs, on their regulatory environment, on their uses. In 2019, two such informative events were held in the Hungarian-Austrian border regions.

In Sopron, at the closing conference of the ConnReg (Connecting Regions) project, our co-workers were requested by the organizers to provide information on the EGTCs. At the expert forum of the Smart Pannonia project we talked about possible uses for transport purposes of the EGTC tools.

Knowledge sharing related events

| Date | Location | Event |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15th May, 2019 | Siófok | Lecture at the conference <i>Transport Development in Hungary</i> |
| 18th June, 2019 | Sopron | Lecture at the closing conference of the project <i>ConnReg</i> |
| 10-12 July, 2019 | Yanoshivska silrada (UA) | Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe (first training) |
| 28-30 August, 2019 | Kisvárdá | Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe (second training) |
| 10-12 September, 2019 | Yanoshivska silrada (UA) | Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe (third training) |
| 3-4 October, 2019 | Salgótarján | Lecture at the conference <i>XIII. Borderless partnership</i> |
| 23-24 October, 2019 | Dresden (DE) | Annual conference and cross-border training of the AEBR, presentation of CESCO's planning game |
| 12th November, 2019 | Budapest | ESFON CPS webinar |

| Date | Location | Event |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14th November, 2019 | Kecskemét | Lecture at the mayor's forum organized by the Municipality of Bács-Kiskun County |
| 27th November, 2019 | Debrecen | Annual event of the Oradea process |
| 10th December, 2019 | Sopron | Lecture at the expert's forum of the project <i>Smart Pannonia</i> |
| 11th December, 2019 | Szeged | Lecture at the mayor's forum organized by the Municipality of Csongrád County |

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 2019 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 (2018, 2019)

The following alternative conditions apply:

- a) the annual average budget surpasses HUF 1 million (de facto in 2018-2019: 198.987 HUF)
- b) overall taxed outcome of the two years (baseline year) is not negative: 72.745 HUF)
- c) personal charges (expenses), without taking into consideration officials' allowances, are at least a quarter of all charges (expenses) (de facto in 2018-2019: 62.16 %)

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

The following alternative conditions 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 2018-2019: 74.77 %)

Account of allocations by objectives

Allocation to senior officers

No allocations were provided for senior officers in 2019.

Account of assets used for public activities

Equity: 40.336 HUF Aim of utilization: public utility activities

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 | 198.987 HUF |
| Ectv.32.par.(4) b) $K1+K2 \geq 0$ | Yes | 50.896 HUF |
| Ectv.32.par.(4) c) $(I1+I2-A1-A2)/(H1+H2) \geq 0,25$ | Yes | 0.6216 |
| 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 | 0.7477 |
| Ectv.32.par.(5) c) $(L1+L2)/2 \geq 10$ ps | No | 0 ps |

Basic data needed for defining a public utility status

| | Previous year | Base year |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| B. Total annual income: | 176.643 HUF | 221.331 HUF |
| D. Public utility income: | 110.118 HUF | 192.007 HUF |
| E. Normative grant: | 0 HUF | 0 HUF |
| F. Support from EU structural funds and Cohesion Fund | 0 HUF | 0 HUF |
| G. Adjusted turnover | 0 HUF | 0 HUF |
| H. Total expenditure | 157.548 HUF | 188.488 HUF |
| I. Personal charges | 99.445 HUF | 115.642 HUF |
| J. Public utility expenditure | 98.552 HUF | 163.984 HUF |
| K. Profit/Loss after taxation | 18.487 HUF | 32.409 HUF |
| L. Number of volunteers assisting the association's operation (in accordance with regulation LXXXVIII/2005 on public utility volunteer activity) (persons) | 1 | 0 |

Personal expenses

| | 1000 HUF | Previous year | Base year |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| A. Personal charges | | 99 445 | 115 642 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| A.1. | Wage charges | 71 372 | 83 644 |
| A. 1 .A. | out of it: commissions | 0 | 0 |
| A. 1 .B. | out of it: honorarium | 0 | 0 |
| A.2. | Other personal charges | 13 314 | 15 574 |
| A.3. | Wage contributions | 14 759 | 16 424 |
| B. | Allocations by the association | 0 | 0 |

MEGHATALMAZÁS

Alulírott **dr. Tóth Tamás** (született: Letenye, 1970.09.10.; anyja neve: Fentős Máris; lakcím: 2100 Gödöllő, Batsányi János utca 3.) , mint a Határon Átnyúló Kezdeményezések Közép- európai Segítő Szolgálata (1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 13.; adószám: 18188071-2-42) képviselője

meghatalmazom

Koncz Katalint (anyja neve: Lojek Julianna Zsuzsanna; lakcím: 2315 Szigethalom, Thököly Imre utca 22/a; adóazonosító: 8403904800), hogy a

Határon Átnyúló Kezdeményezések Közép- európai Segítő Szolgálata

2019. évi beszámolóját

az Országos Bírósági Hivatal részére a szervezet nevében a saját ügyfélkapuján keresztül beküldje.

Budapest, 2020.



meghatalmazó

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meghatalmazott

Tanuk:

Név:

Lakcím:

Aláírás:

Név:

Lakcím:

Aláírás:

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42
Registering body: Budapest Capital Regional Court
Registration number: 01/01/10819

CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

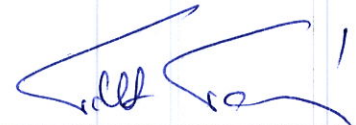
1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 13.

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

Accounting date: 31 December 2019

Type of balance sheet: Simplified annual report

Budapest, 30 September 2020



Managing Director



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

This published information has not been audited

CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42

Registration number: 01/01/10819

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

Accounting date: 31 December 2019

| | 1000 HUF | Previous year | Previous year (modified) | Base year |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 01. | A. Fixed Assets | 1 229 | | 2 870 |
| 02. | I. Intangible assets | 111 | | 1 330 |
| 03. | II. Tangible assets | 1 118 | | 1 540 |
| 04. | III. Financial investments | 0 | | 0 |
| 05. | B. Current Assets | 43 168 | | 74 120 |
| 06. | I. Inventories | 0 | | 0 |
| 07. | II. Receivables | 14 721 | | 16 008 |
| 08. | III. Marketable securities | 0 | | 0 |
| 09. | IV. Liquid assets | 28 447 | | 58 112 |
| 10. | C. Prepaid Expenses and Accrued Income | 7 | | 0 |
| 11. | TOTAL ASSETS | 44 404 | | 76 990 |
| 12. | D. Shareholders' Equity | 40 336 | | 72 745 |
| 13. | I. Subscribed/issued capital | 0 | | 0 |
| 14. | II. Retained profit | 21 735 | | 40 336 |
| 15. | III. Limited reserve | 114 | | 0 |
| 16. | IV. Evaluation reserve | 0 | | 0 |
| 17. | V. Profit/loss from basic (public) activity | 11 566 | | 28 023 |
| 18. | VI. Profit/loss from business activity | 6 921 | | 4 386 |
| 19. | E. Provisions | 0 | | 0 |
| 20. | F. Liabilities | 3 580 | | 4 000 |
| 21. | I. Subordinated liabilities | 0 | | 0 |
| 22. | II. Long-term liabilities | 0 | | 0 |
| 23. | III. Short-term liabilities | 3 580 | | 4 000 |
| 24. | G. Accrued Expenses and Deferred Income | 488 | | 245 |
| 25. | TOTAL LIABILITIES | 44 404 | | 76 990 |

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Tax ID: 18188071-2-42
Registering body: Budapest Capital Regional Court
Registration number: 01/01/10819

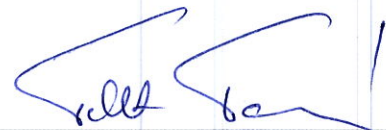
CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

1067 Budapest, Teréz krt. 13.

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

Reporting period 1 January 2019–31 December 2019

Budapest, 30 September 2020



Managing Director



Határon Átnyúló Kezdeményezések
Közép-európai Segítő Szolgálat
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CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Tax ID: 18188071-2-42

Registration number: 01/01/10819

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

Reporting period: 1 January 2019–31 December 2019

| | 1000 HUF | Previous year | Base year |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| A. | Total revenues of public activity | 110 118 | 192 007 |
| A.1. | Subsidy for public activity | 107 270 | 189 383 |
| A.1.A. | subsidy from founder | 0 | 0 |
| A.1.B. | subsidy from central budget | 100 686 | 160 492 |
| A.1.C. | subsidy from local budget | 0 | 0 |
| A.1.D. | other | 6 584 | 28 891 |
| A.2. | Amount of contracted grants | 0 | 0 |
| A.3. | Revenues of public activity | 0 | 0 |
| A.4. | Members' subscriptions | 1 400 | 1 609 |
| A.5. | Other revenues | 1 448 | 1 015 |
| B. | Revenues of business activity | 66 525 | 29 324 |
| C. | Total revenues (A+B) | 176 643 | 221 331 |
| D. | Costs of public activity | 98 552 | 163 984 |
| D.1. | Material type expenditures | 30 958 | 44 294 |
| D.2. | Payments to personnel | 62 528 | 100 609 |
| D.3. | Depreciation | 664 | 770 |
| D.4. | Other expenditures | 4 241 | 17 823 |
| D.5. | Expenditures of financial transactions | 161 | 488 |
| E. | Costs of business activity | 58 996 | 24 504 |
| E.1. | Material type expenditures | 18 974 | 6 619 |
| E.2. | Payments to personnel | 36 917 | 15 034 |
| E.3. | Depreciation | 407 | 115 |
| E.4. | Other expenditures | 2 599 | 2 663 |
| E.5. | Expenditures of financial transactions | 99 | 73 |
| F. | Total costs (D+E) | 157 548 | 188 488 |
| G. | Pre-tax profit/loss (B-E or C-F) | 7 529 | 4 820 |
| H. | Tax liability | 608 | 434 |
| I. | After tax profit/loss from business activity (G-H) | 6 921 | 4 386 |
| J | After tax profit/loss from public activity(A-D) | 11 566 | 28 023 |

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