

**ACTIVITY
REPORT
2017**



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Short introduction of CESCO

Our services for the members

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 supports the development of projects in the border regions;
 it designs territorial integrated strategies and takes part in cross-border programming ;	 it supports the development of 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 CESCO Carpathia (Slovakia).

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 CESCO'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 CESCO 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 Szkordilis 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 CESCO 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.



Member institutions of our organization

● local municipality

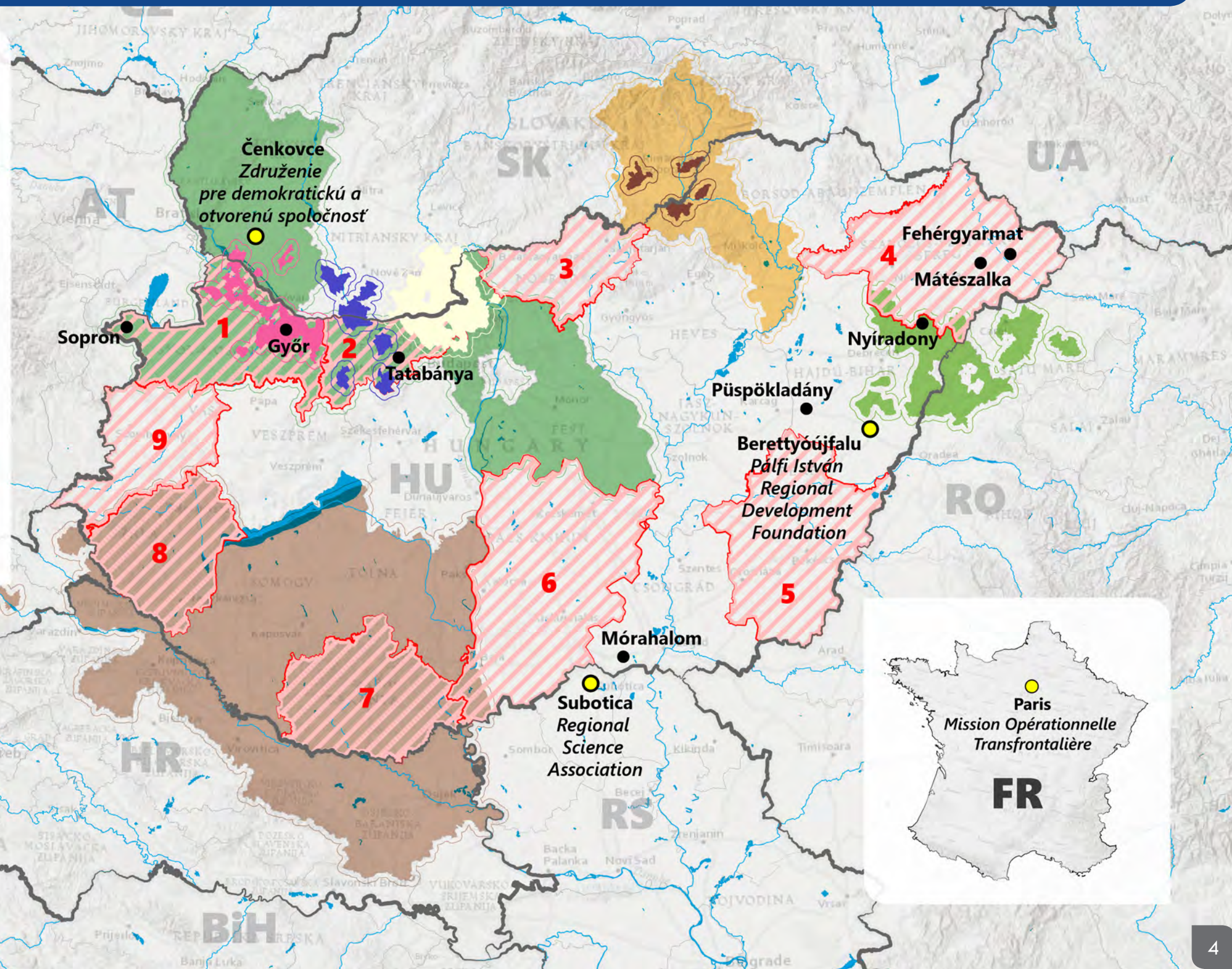
● association

▨ County Council

- 1 Győr-Moson-Sopron county
- 2 Komárom-Esztergom county
- 3 Nógrád county
- 4 Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county
- 5 Békés county
- 6 Bács-Kiskun county
- 7 Baranya county
- 8 Zala county
- 9 Vas county

EGTC / EUROREGION

- ▨ Arrabona EGTC
- ▨ Pons-Danubii EGTC
- ▨ Ister-Granum EGTC
- ▨ Rába-Danube-Váh EGTC
- ▨ Slaná-Rimavá EGTC
- ▨ Gate to Europe EGTC
- ▨ Pannon EGTC
- ▨ Slaná-Rimavá Euroregion



1. Our activities with a EUROPEAN

significance

By 2017 CESC 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. CESC 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 CESC 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.

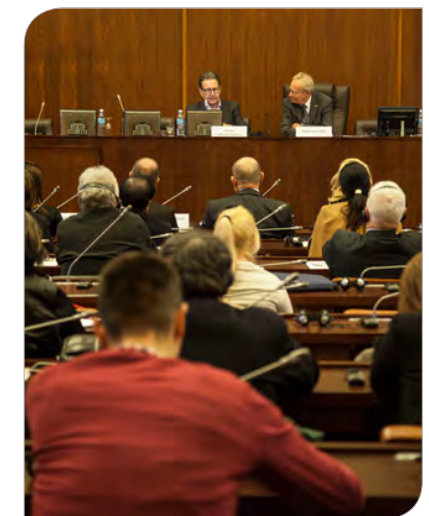


Legal accessibility 2.0

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 CESC 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, CESC 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 CESCİ 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. CESCİ – 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.



Related 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
- CESCİ 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



Related 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 CESCİ 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

Date	Event	Location
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



Date	Event	Location
20 th and 21 st September	Participation and presentation on the Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions 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 CESCİ Balkans	Novi Sad



Date	Event	Location
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

CESCİ 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.



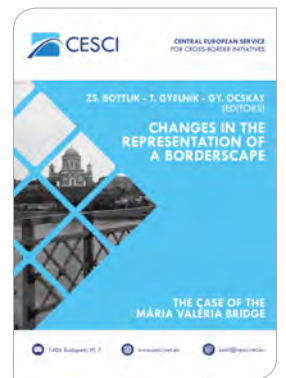
Our yearbook is available on our website:
<http://institute.cesci-net.eu/en/crossborder-review-2017>



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 behavior 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.



The volume is available on our website:
<http://cesci-net.eu/phantom-borders-publication>



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.

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

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



Rudolf Bauer's study is available on our website:
http://cesci-net.eu/tiny_mce/uploaded/CarpathianConventionStudy_RudolfBauer.pdf





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 CESCO'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.



Related 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



Related events

Date	Event	Location
12 th January	Meeting with Frank Schouwaert, the coordinator of the ECR cooperation, on the necessary steps of the establishment of the EGTC	Budapest
15 th February	Meeting of the ECR EGTC Task Force	Brussels
5 th April	Meeting of the ECR network's steering committee	Brussels
29 th and 30 th June	Regional Economic and Policy History workshop	Budapest
17 th August	Meeting of the ECR EGTC Task Force	Brussels
14 th 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
28 th and 29 th September	Twinning: project development workshop	Budapest
17 th 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 1 st to 3 rd November	10 th European Forum for Geography and Statistics	Dublin
9 th and 10 th November	The yearly conference of the Institute of Transnational and Euregional Cross-Border Cooperation (Maastricht University)	Düsseldorf



Date	Event	Location
16 th 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
23 rd November	Macro-regional policy challenges and good practices with the aim of cross-border planning, governance and interoperability	Budapest
7 th December	Meeting of the ECR EGTC Task Force	Paris

Presence on the international stage



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 Carpathia (Košice) and CESC 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 CESC Balkans' 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.



Related 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 Rheinflall
9 th October	EGTC Platform's annual meeting	Brussels
from 25 th to 27 th October	AEBR's annual conference and General Assembly	Badajoz



Date	Event	Location
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



Date	Event	Location
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 TÖÖSZ 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



Date	Event	Location
22 nd November	Workshop on simplification of European Territorial Cooperation	Brussels



Date	Event	Location
from 5 th to 7 th December	ESPON seminar on digitalization	Tallinn



2. 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.



Results of our project *Crossing the Borders* are available on our website:

<http://institute.cesci-net.eu/en/crossing-the-borders-geographic-and-structural-characteristics-of-crossborder-cooperation-in-the-danube-region>

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.



European Economic Congress (Katowice)



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.



Related 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)



Related 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



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.



Related documents

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



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

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 CESCİ 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.



Related 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)
- CESCİ / CESCİ Carpathia: Study on the cross-border tourism routes and border regions within the Via Carpathia EGTC



Related 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	Homrogd



Date	Event	Location
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	Kisvárd



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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 neighboring 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.



Related documents

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



Related events

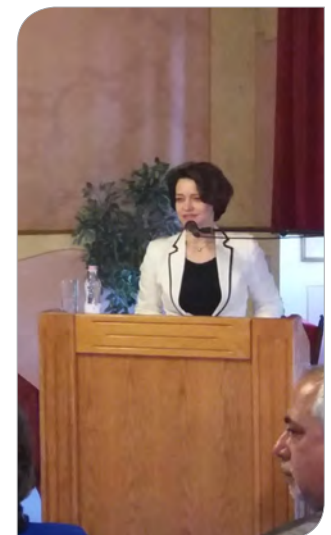
Date	Event	Location
17 th March	Meeting with the city administration to discuss the <i>City of the cities</i> concept	Esztergom
20 th April	Meeting with the leading architect to discuss the <i>City of the cities</i> concept	Esztergom
17 th May	Meeting with the leading architect to discuss the <i>City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



Related documents

- Action plan of Câmpie region

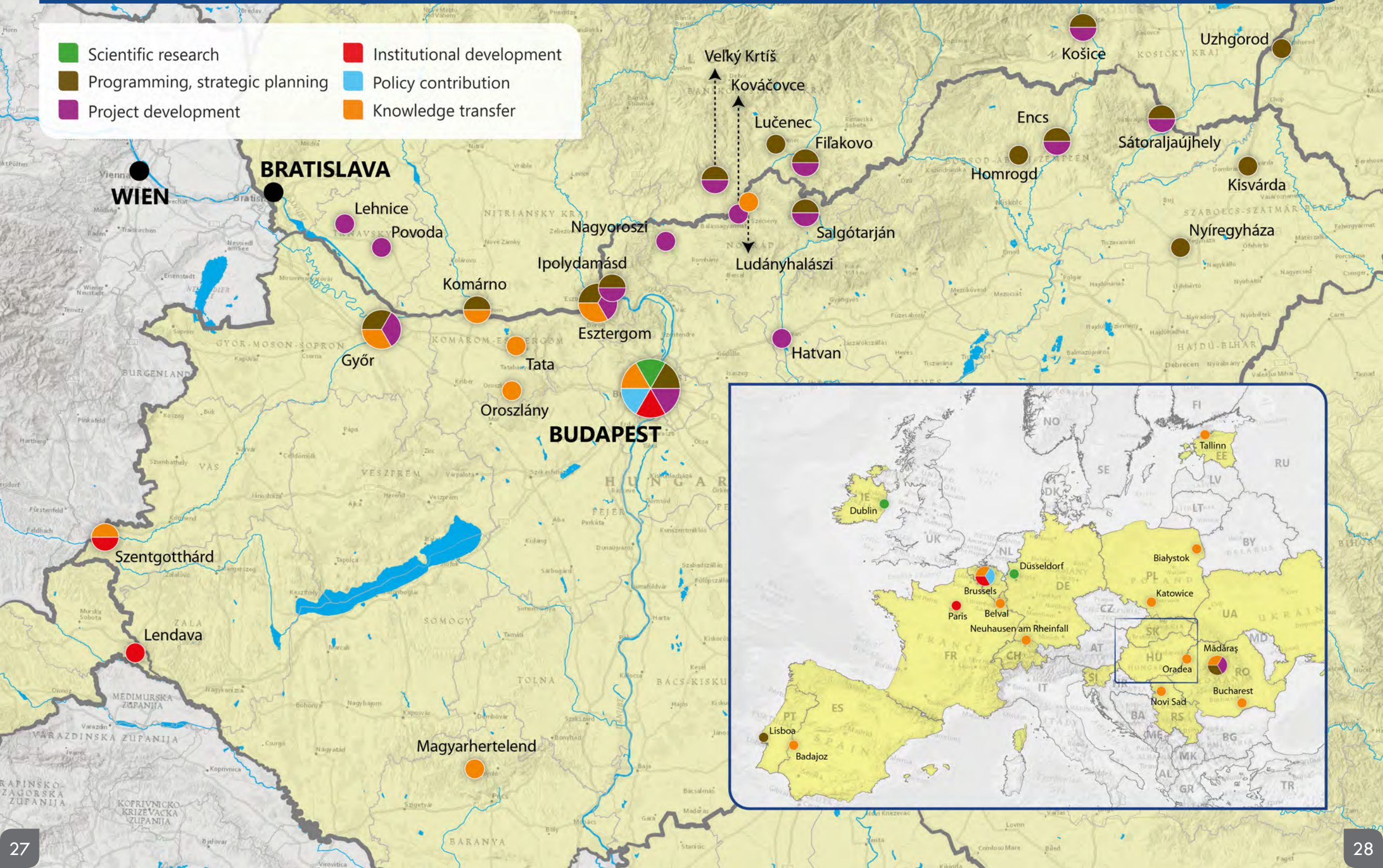


Related events

Date	Event	Location
22 nd and 23 rd May	Forum at Szentgotthárd	Szentgotthárd
2 nd June	Inauguration of Zoltán Kallós Museum	Răscruci
from 23 rd to 25 th June	Workshop at Câmpie region	Mădăraş
from 22 nd to 31 st August	Leadership training of the youth from Câmpie	Magyarhertelend
25 th October	Seminar on heritage management at Oradea	Oradea

Territorial scope of CESCİ's activities in 2017

- Scientific research
- Programming, strategic planning
- Project development
- Institutional development
- Policy contribution
- Knowledge transfer



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.

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