

**ACTIVITY
REPORT
2019**



1406 Budapest, Pf. 7.



www.cesci-net.eu



cesci@cesci-net.eu

Short introduction of CESCO

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

CESCI is a private law public benefit organisation 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 it takes part in the relevant consultations and policy debates;



it helps to improve the local stakeholders' capacities by transferring of **knowledge**.

CESCO's main objectives

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 decisionmaking EU institutions 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 following 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
- dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes, Associate Professor, Head of the Strategic Development Office, University of Public Service

Members of the Board in 2019:

- 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, CybAlr cluster
- dr. Attila Tilki, Member of Parliament, member of the Hungarian delegation of the Council of Europe




Members

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 organisations, EGTCs and individuals participate in the activities of CESCO.

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

 EGTCs / Euroregion

-  Rába-Danube-Váh EGTC
-  Arrabona EGTC
-  Pons-Danubii EGTC
-  Ister-Granum EGTC
-  Slaná-Rimavá Euroregion
-  Slaná-Rimavá EGTC
-  Gate to Europe EGTC
-  Banat-Triplex Confinium EGTC
-  Pannon EGTC
-  Mura Region EGTC

Čenkovce
ZDRUŽENIE PRE
DEMOKRATICKÚ A
OTVORENÚ SPOLOČNOSŤ

1 GYŐR
2 TATABÁNYA

4 FEHÉRGYARMAT
MÁTÉSZALKA
NYÍRADONY

PÜSPÖKLADÁNY
PÁLFI ISTVÁN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION
Berettyóújfalú

MÓRAHALOM
REGIONAL
SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION
Subotica



Snippets from the life of our association

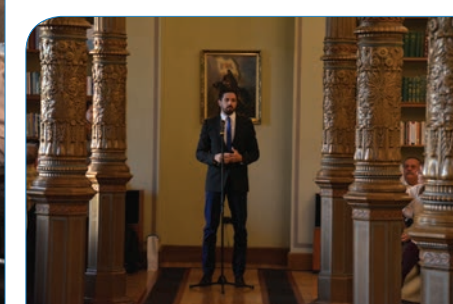
CESCI 10 – Happy Border to You!

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 organisation, 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 summarised 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 to our team to organise 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 meeting 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 meeting, it delivered its opinion on the proposals submitted to the general assembly and approved its own annual report; while during the latter one 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.

Members of the CESCI team 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 interns during the year.

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

In 2019, we organised „CESCI Light” evenings two times, with the goal of broadening the knowledge horizon of our team. István Oláh (member of our supervisory board) held a presentation on the latest developments of digital transformation, while György Farkas, associate professor at ELTE university, spoke about global demographic phenomena. 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 keep trying to strengthen our relations with the ambassadors accredited to Hungary. On 5th of March, His Excellency Robert Kocalj, 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 Initiatives Association, we paid an introductory visit at Her Excellency Mme Pascale Andréani, with whom we discussed about several joint events. As a result, Madame Ambassador opened our workshop organised 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, professor dr. György Kocziszky 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 organisation completes tasks with public benefit in the fields determined in its Statutes, since 2019 we have strengthened our social responsibility activities in different directions .

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.

Within the working organisation we formed a working group to further green our activities, 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 munkábal!). Within the latter action 5 of our colleagues rode more than 900 km in total.

CESCI's activities in 2019

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



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 organise such events (also in the conference of the 10th birthday of CESC we dedicated a special panel to the topic). Furthermore, we try to be present with our own publications in international scientific discussion. Finally, we gladly join the work of emerging research teams in the field of border studies.

Scientific events

Apart from the anniversary event, CESC did not organise any other scientific conference, but we participated in several similar events.

The crisis of Europe without borders – Castle Talks on Cross-Border Cooperation (Strasbourg, 18-19 March)

The University of Strasbourg with the support of the Erasmus+ programme held its upcoming scientific seminar, this time dedicated to the phenomena that hamper the cooperation along the borders. On behalf of our association, our secretary general, Gyula Ocskay gave a lecture titled 'New borders, new fences. Is it a crisis of the Schengen system?' and took part in a roundtable discussion too.

Positive effects of the establishment and functioning of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation along the external border of the EU (Yanoshi, 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 Yanoshi next to Berehove, in the presence of Hungarian and Ukrainian officers from ministries, county officers and the Council of Europe. The content of the volume was reviewed by the authors, apart from CESC, also by the experts 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 strategic cooperation.



Yanoshi, 20th September

The EU – Ukraine Association Agreement: Implications for the Slovak-Ukrainian Cross-Border Cooperation. Ten years of the Eastern Partnership: achievements and prospects (Prešov, 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 Prešov organised a two-day international conference in the building of the Evangelical College of Prešov, focusing on Ukraine's approaching towards the European Union. On behalf of our association, the secretary general presented the achievements of the last few years of the cooperation in the regions along the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

European, Serbian, Bulgarian and Scandinavian perspectives on European Territorial Cooperation post 2020 (Beograd, 31st October)

With the support of the Sweden-Norway INTERREG programme a three-day study tour was organised in the Serbian-Bulgarian border region by the AEBR Balkans and the CESC Balkans for the experts involved in the programme. During the study tour, a seminar on the future of European Territorial Cooperation was held in the assembly hall of the Mayor's Office in Beograd. Within the seminar, our secretary general presented the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation as a tool of cross-border governance, and Ervin Erős, president of CESC Balkans, talked about integrated cross-border planning.

Further scientific events where we participated in 2019

Date	Location	Event
6-7 February, 2019	Flensburg (DK)	Scientific workshop <i>National Minorities in Regional Development</i> organized by the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)
20 th February, 2019	Budapest	<i>Cityregion governance and suburbanization – international seminar</i> organised by The Hungarian Society for Urban Planning
27 th February, 2019	Budapest	Conference <i>Smart cities and territorial statistics</i> organised by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office
19 th March, 2019	Budapest	Conference <i>AgriGo4Cities: Participatory urban agriculture for inclusive cities</i>
12 th June, 2019	Miskolc	<i>Scientific session celebrating the 70th birthday of professor György Kocziszky</i>
27 th September, 2019	Budapest	<i>2nd 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>
8 th November, 2019	Miskolc	<i>1st Interdisciplinary conference on the social and economical situation of the Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin</i>
28 th 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 deadline we several times included our suggestions in the tender making process.

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

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



Scientific publications

In 2019 the member of the working team engaged in extended scientific activities and several publications of CESCO were published, which were mainly scheduled for the 10th birthday event.

Cross-Border Review 2019

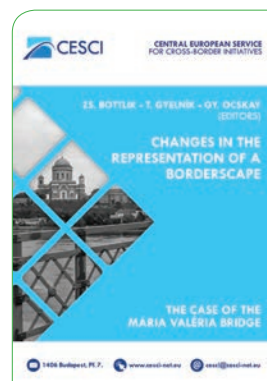
The yearbook of the association is published on an annual basis and compiled by well-known, international authors containing publications from all over the world. In the publication of 2019, whose editor-in-chief was James W. Scott (Karelian Institute), the writings of several noted authors, such as 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 authors invited by CESCO conducted a comprehensive research on the impacts of the Mária Valéria Bridge that connects Esztergom (HU) and Štúrovo (SK). We released the publication previously published online at the beginning of 2019 in a revised, printed version. The studies of the volume analyse 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 introductory chapter was written by Gyula Ocskay.

Lectures on Cross-Border Governance

With the support of KÖFOP and VEKOP programs, our association organised 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 Teodor Gyelník, senior research fellow of CESCO, who also wrote the prologue.



Publications of our colleagues (2019)

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]

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]

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., Ustyimenko, B.A., Lazur, J.V., Sanchenko, A.E., Fetko, J.I., Jacenko, S. S. (2019) Instytucijno-pravovij uchastyi Ukraini v evropejskijh ob'ednannjah teritorialnoho spivrobistnystva. Tisza Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai Területi Társulás. Uzhgorod.

Enikő Hüse-Nyerges and Éva Gangl submitted a study *A mentés határon átnyúló integrációjában rejlő potenciálok Magyarországon (Potential of cross-border integration of rescue services in Hungary)* for the journal *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 on cross-border cooperation edited by Birte Wassenberg, Bernard Reitel and Jean Peyrony proceeded in 2019. The CESCO team 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 programmes. Comparing to the previous planning portfolios, in 2019 our work was even more diversified.

Planning at local 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 benefit services. The proposed interventions were based on extended interviewing, a survey that reached nearly 1500 high school students, and on a comprehensive project-database.

Concepts of medium-sized towns

At the end of the year, at the invitation of Hétfa Research Institute 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-sized towns.

Development concepts of towns beyond borders populated by Hungarians

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as part of our public benefit services we have elaborated development concepts to be implemented with Hungarian state support in cross-border cities, where significant Hungarian community lives. The elaboration of the concepts started in 2017. In 2019, we had to reshape and update the concept of Komárno (Slovakia), Lendava (Slovenia), Salonta (Romania) and Berehove (Ukraine). We have drafted similar documents to Satu Mare and Târgu Mureş (Romania) and we have started summarising the development ideas regarding Oradea (Romania). We have elaborated a similar document targeting four Transylvanian smaller settlements too, also in the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Planning at regional level

Planning facilitating the enlargement of the V/c Helsinki corridor

According to the plans of the Hungarian and the Croatian governments, the construction of the sections of the V/c Helsinki corridor stretching across the two countries, will be completed between Mohács and Osijek in the near future. In order for the proposed infrastructural investment to achieve visible economic and social impacts on the demographically shrinking area, CESCO was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to conduct a comprehensive regional analysis. The strategic document has been drafted with the help of experts involved from 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 Hungarian borders. For the orientation of the support, regional strategies are made which are in compliance with the given country's developmental documents and objectives. In 2019, CESCO was commissioned by the Romania--based Pro Economica Foundation to elaborate 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-Danube-Váh EGTC

Our association was commissioned by the Rába-Danube-Váh EGTC to update the development strategy elaborated by CESCO in 2014-2015, before the upcoming new budgetary period of the EU.

A project of the Ister-Granum EGTC targeting the valorisation of water-related cultural heritage

Ister-Granum EGTC together with 6 partners, with the support of the INTERREG EUROPE programme, implements a project utilising water-related cultural heritage with protection of the ecosystem. Within the project called 'WAVE', every partner has to deliver a stat-of-play analysis 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 of Hungary was reviewed and commented by our team, with special emphasis on border issues. Similarly, we delivered our opinion also on the professional proposal made by Team Pannon engineering office regarding the settlement plans drafted on country level.

We digitalised 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 programmes

We started the mid-term evaluation of four cross-border programmes managed by Hungary as a public benefit service, in the second half of 2018. We completed the evaluation of the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A cooperation programme in April 2019. Subsequently we managed to conclude the evaluation of Hungary-Croatia INTERREG V-A programme in May and the evaluation of Hungary-Serbia INTERREG-IPA CBC programme in June. The Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC programme was launched with a significant delay, consequently, comparing to the other evaluations, we were not able to provide but a first draft later, in August. As a result, the work concluded only in 2020.

We elaborated the four documents with the same methodology, analyzing the programme's efficiency, effectiveness and its already identified and forecasted impacts. With the application of a unique method, we also evaluated the cross-border character of the selected projects.

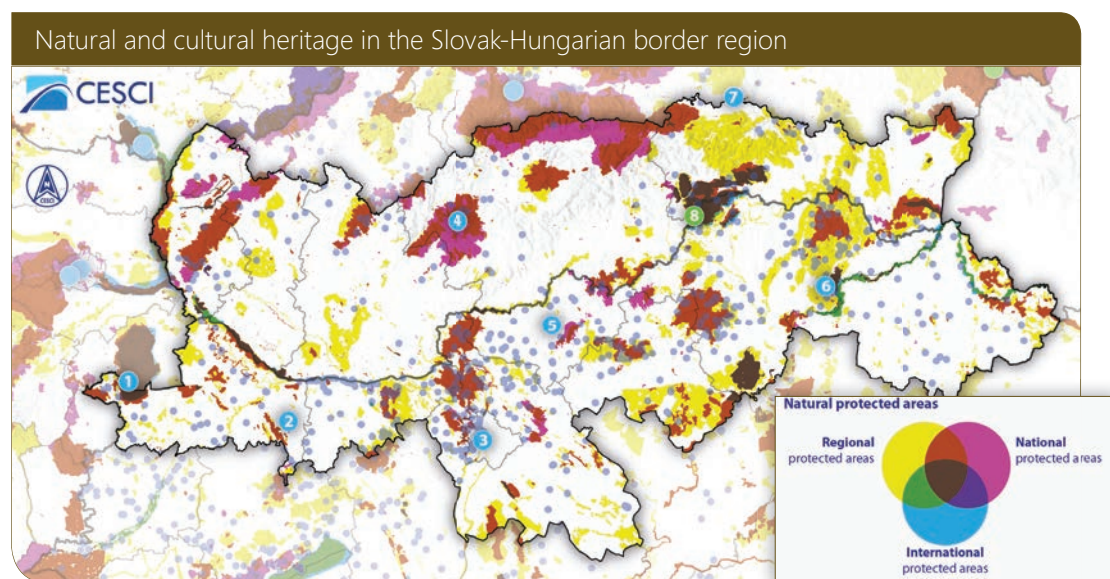
Regional analysis of cross-border programmes 2021-2027

In the second half of the year, we started the preparation of three cross-border programmes (Hungary-Slovakia INTERREG A, Hungary-Serbia INTERREG IPA CBC, and the NDICI (later called 'NEXT') neighbourhood programme involving four countries as public benefit service. In all three cases our duty was to elaborate the territorial analysis (regional analysis) that prepares the programme strategy: collecting, analysing and geoinformatically processing statistical data, organizing workshops with the involvement of local and regional stakeholders, carrying out extended surveys.

In the case of the Hungarian-Slovak program, a short background analysis was drafted 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 exclusively thereon.

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

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



Regional analysis of the Danube Transnational Programme

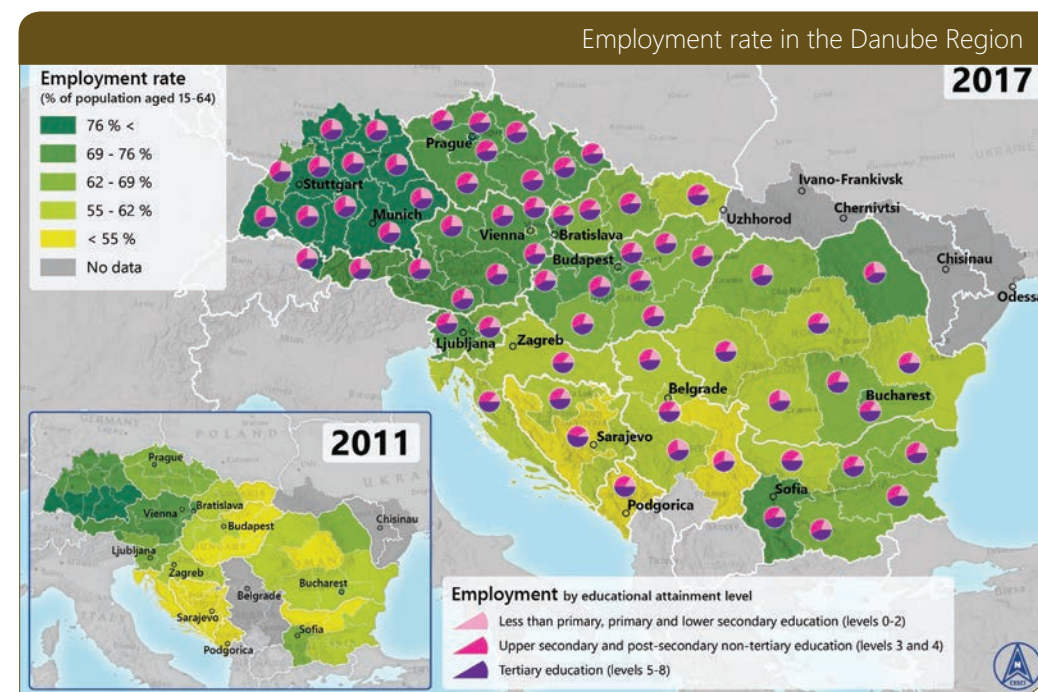
In February, within the framework of our public benefit services, we started the elaboration of the regional analysis of the transnational programme covering the Danube Region and involving 14 countries. The task required significant resources and started with the development of a comprehensive statistical database, using available national statistical data, the literature related to the analysed topics and the information gathered from member states. The richly illustrated chapters were made with the help of this database. We validated the relevant chapters in several rounds, with the involvement of experts of the member states. We also participated in several professional events as invited speakers and we contributed to the presentations of the Managing Authority by preparing background materials. We played an active role in the planning workshops too.

Development programme 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 programmes of the next EU budgeting period, so that they consider the development of more than 30 of our border cities as a separate priority. The proposal was made in accordance with the approach of EU urban policy, the draft regulations and the recommendations of the country specific reports of 2019, also by considering the unfavourable impacts of the administrative borders on the Hungarian urban network. Our proposal gained a favourable feedback and we got invited to be part of the working group that prepares territorial interventions. We delivered the document in different versions that helps the professional establishment of the proposal.

Digital village programme

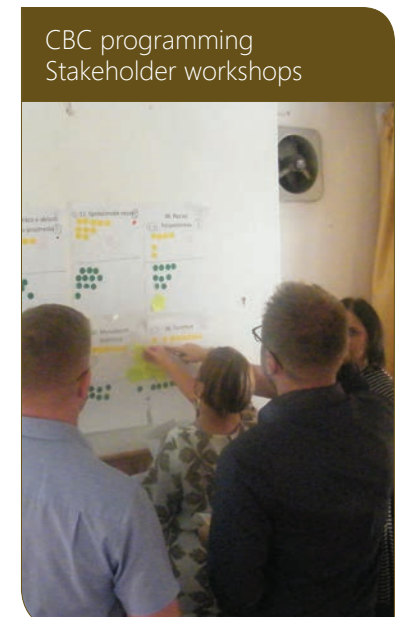
In 2018, during the elaboration of the strategic concept targeting the cross-border extension of the Digital Welfare Programme 2.0, we gained experience on the digital underdevelopment of rural areas in the border regions. In order to avoid the increase of the digital divide, we prepared a proposal on the development of small settlements, whose literary property was bought by the Governmental Agency for IT Development, with the objective of further utilisation.





Planning, programming related events

Date	Location	Event
4 th April, 2019	Wien (AT)	ESPON seminar dedicated to the challenges of the Danube Region
17 th April, 2019	Dudince (SK)	Meeting of the Monitoring Board of the Slovak-Hungarian INTERREG programme, approval of the mid-term evaluation
6 th May, 2019	Budapest	Workshop on territorially based interventions (preparation of TOP – Territorial development operational programme)
7-8 May, 2019	Beuron (DE)	Workshop of the planning working group of the Danube Transnational Programme (2021-2027)
21 st May, 2019	Noskovci (HR)	Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Hungary-Croatia INTERREG V-A programme
3 rd June, 2019	Budapest	Professional meeting of the programming working group of the Hungarian territorial operational programme post 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 the Danube Transnational Programme on the 8 th EUSDR Annual Forum
13-14 August, 2019	Oradea (RO)	Professional workshop of the economic development plan of Northern Partium region
3 rd September, 2019	Novi Sad (SR)	Hungarian-Serbian INTERREG IPA CBC programming stakeholder workshop
4 th September, 2019	Mórahalom	Hungarian-Serbian INTERREG IPA CBC programming stakeholder workshop
4 th September, 2019	Budapest	Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG programming stakeholder workshop
5 th September, 2019	Banská Štiavnica (SK)	Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG programming stakeholder workshop
4 th October, 2019	Budapest	ESRI conference
5-6 November, 2019	Budapest	Workshop of the planning working group of the Danube Transnational Programme (2021-2027)
6 th November, 2019	Budapest	Meeting of the Hungarian-Slovak INTERREG Programming Committee
7 th November, 2019	Beograd (SR)	Meeting of the Hungarian-Serbian IPA CBC Programming Committee
7 th November, 2019	Komarno (SK)	Planning workshop on the revision of the strategy of RDV EGTC
13 th November, 2019	Wien (AT)	Stakeholder workshop of the Central Europe transnational programme



Cross-border PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Since the beginning, we have been supporting the preparation and development of cross-border projects, so that the scientifically validated, 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)

The Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A programme applies several innovative solutions, partially thanks to the programming carried out with the assistance of CESCO. Accordingly, in a unique way, two European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) manage the Small Project Fund, the Hungarian based Ister-Granum EGTC takes part in an infrastructural project as the Slovak partner, and the representative of the EGTCs can participate with observer status in the meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

Within action plans (TAPes), the programme provides support for the employment development of different areas to strengthen labour mobility across the border and to develop the border regions that are disadvantaged from economic and social point of views. The action plans can include up to 7 employment development projects involving both countries, and tackle economic and labour challenges of a given area in a complex way. In 2019, we provided assistance for the launch of 3 TAPes out of 9 that have been selected for funding: namely the TAPes of Via Carpatia EGTC, Ister-Granum EGTC, and Ipoly-Táj Regional Development Association. As a public benefit service we provided occasions for consultation, we cured 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 a presentation at the kick-off conference.

Project development activities

Elaboration of applications to the calls of Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG programme

In 2019 we compiled 3 applications to the Hungarian-Slovak CBC programme. The application of the Ipoly-Valley EGTC should give an adequate answer to the demographical processes of the area and promote the cross-border integration of health services for elderly people. The project should help the development of catering services and healthcare in a sparsely populated area characterised by lack of functions.

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

Arrabona EGTC submitted an application aiming to continue the the Builcogreen project in order to develop further the cross-border share of municipality management services.

We drafted the last two applications as a public benefit service.

Project development related to CESCO's own professional program

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

For the realisation of the professional mission of the Košice Platform, which was founded in April, together with the Slovak Foreign Policy Association's Research Centre, the Association of European Border Regions, CESCO Carpathia and the association IARDI (Uzhgorod) we submitted a project proposal to the call of the Black Sea Trust Fund, which should support cross-border trust building among the Eastern Partnership countries.

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 to systematically establish this cooperation within a project (Heal Now). Our association also took part in the compilation of the proposal and we can help the implementation (if the project gets selected) as a professional partner.

Project Development events

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

Presentation at the kick-off conference of Via Carpatia EGTC's action plan



(Photo: Via Carpatia EGTC)

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 planning and project development, CESCO is actively involved in shaping the cross-border institutional cooperation too, which primarily means professional assistance provided for the establishment and operation of EGTCs.

Support for the establishment of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

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

CESCO was commissioned back in 2015 by the Brussels based ECR professional network to provide professional support for the establishment 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 documents of the Dutch based association had to be adjusted to 14 countries' legislations.

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 of the convention and the statutes had to be modified. Besides, we promoted the accession process of the future Hungarian member, but we failed at the end.

Formation of a macro-regional 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 establishment of an EGTC, and by winning a tender they got support for the preparation of the foundation process. The parties held their annual meeting with the presence of CESCO experts on 28th November in Szeged where they discussed 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 establishment of EGTCs along the Hungarian borders

Our association received a request from four local municipalities in Bodrogek, who decided to found an EGTC. Our team prepared the necessary founding documents and assisted the approval process.

The Novohrad-Nográd EGTC, after its promising start, 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 labelled geopark in the world. We provided professional consultation opportunities for the stakeholders concerned regarding the previous EGTC's termination and a new one's foundation.

EGTC Program

EGTC workshops

CESCO constantly provides professional assistance for already operating Hungarian EGTCs. In 2012, we triggered the EGTC workshop as a forum of networking and exchange of experience. Workshops are held 3-4 times in a year and in 2018 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade took over its organisation. Even though organizing and financing the workshop is not CESCO's duty anymore, still we are actively involved in the preparation of them and we help the work with professional presentations and consultation.

In 2019, three such events were held. In March, in Szentgotthard, Melinda Benczi presented the EGTC monitor under development, in June, in Budapest, Enikő Huse-Nyerges talked about legal accessibility and in November, in Hollókő, again our project manager presented available funding resources for interested stakeholders.

Individual support of EGTCs

In 2019 we provided professional support upon specific requests for Hungarian EGTCs. Many of these requests belong to legislative background. For example, we prepared a professional background material for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on legal control at the EGTCs. Before the annual meeting of the approval authorities in Budapest, which was organised 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 solve controversial issues at the annual general assembly of the MURABA EGTC.

To draw 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 such maps) and to facilitate capacity development (in 2019, such process started at Ipoly-Valley EGTC by the encouragement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and we initiated to restart the training of cross-border development managers at EDUTUS University, as well as, we contributed to the design of the curriculum) form also part of our consultancy services.

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 Cooperation. 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
21 st March, 2019	Szentgotthárd	General Assembly of MURABA EGTC
28-29 March, 2019	Szentgotthárd	EGTC workshop
24 th June, 2019	Budapest	EGTC workshop
15 th July, 2019	Budapest	Negotiation on the accession to the ECR EGTC at the National Transport Authority
18 th September, 2019	Ludányhalászi	Professional workshop at Ipoly-Valley EGTC
6 th November, 2019	Budapest	Consultation with representatives of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC
28 th November, 2019	Szeged	Presentation and consultation with the initiators of the Central European hydrological EGTC
29 th November, 2019	Hollókő	EGTC workshop
5 th December, 2019	Budapest	Consultation with the representatives of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade



EGTC workshops in 2019



Cross-border POLICY-MAKING

CESCI places strong emphasis on the participation in CBC related Hungarian and EU policy-making. In this field, we carry out very colourful activities ranging from the local to the EU level.

Participation in European level policy-making



Cross-border investment and economic development projects

The European Investment Advisory Hub of the European Investment Bank commissioned the French Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière to prepare a comprehensive analysis examining the funding possibilities of larger, and also smaller, but interrelated cross-border projects. The MOT invited CESCI to take part in this project. On the one hand, the study presents in a comprehensive way the peculiar conditions of cross-border cooperation and developments and draws attention to the already existing tools. On the other hand, it contains a compilation of best practices, which provides for the EIB ideas through the presentation of concrete investment projects and solutions applied on regional level, in order to get to know in which direction they should go when it comes to cross-border investments. Finally, it presents and systematises the potential developments of 11 European border regions, and based on them, it makes recommendations for the 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 that the drafting of which we were involved in.

Legal accessibility

In the last few years we were actively involved in the EU initiatives tackling still existing legal and administrative obstacles that hamper 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 Cross-Border Mechanism*. We participated also in the project *Cross-Border Review* implemented by the European Commission, which resulted in the publication of the Communication *Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions*. Thanks to this Communication, the *B-Solutions* project coordinated by AEBR began with the objective to reveal more legal and administrative obstacles by including the local stakeholders, to help solve them, and to spread the knowledge on these solutions. 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 organised in January, in Brussels, where the participants assessed the results of the first call of the project. 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, we implemented a project to support the reduction of barriers of mobility between the four Visegrád countries by establishing a permanent joint mechanism. In 2018, we analysed the model of the Nordic Council of Ministers and we compared it with the Visegrád Countries' decision-making processes. We published a study on the results at the end of January, 2019.

In 2019 we compiled a practical guide, 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 cross-border labour and student mobility 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 EUSDR and EUSAIR

With the support 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 CESCO Balkans and the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia, with the objective to promote cross-border cooperation in the territory of the two macroregions, the exchange of experience; and to include the future generation in cross-border cooperation. We would have finished the project in December 2018, but we had to extend it, so we closed it at the end of January 2019. During the year we had several further tasks related to the project: we regularly updated the website, we had to present the project's results in several international events and we had to compile a summary thereon, as for the Annual Forum held in București, the Fund published a publication on the supported initiatives, mentioning our project as an example to follow.



Our activities within the Priority Area 10 of the Danube 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 Strategy. We actively participate in the work of the priority area that aims to develop institutional capacities and cooperation.

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

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

Promotion of Eastern Partnership

Eastern Partnership is the third direction of interest of our Central European activities. In this area we used to primarily support the work of CESCO Carpathia. However, in 2019, we created another cooperation forum in the spirit of the seminar of 2016 in Košice. The Košice Platform aims to unite experts that are engaged in Eastern Partnership and European Neighbourhood Policy, who will be able to efficiently influence EU level policy shaping targeting the eastern borders. We managed to bring in Mr Alexander Duleba, director of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association's Research Centre, professor of the University of Prešov, and Oleh Lushka, leader of the Agency of Local Development & Information Resources Europolis as the coordinators of the platform. The first activity of the platform was to issue a position paper including recommendations on the ongoing reform of Eastern Partnership to the DG NEAR of the European Commission. The partners also compiled a project, which was submitted to the call of the Black Sea Trust Fund. With the help of the project they plan to widen the circle of experts concerned in the platform, and to popularise the initiative in the centre of the EU.

International conference at the 10th anniversary of Eastern Partnership (Prešov)





Participation in national policy-making

Legal accessibility

Revealing existing legal and administrative obstacles and forming recommendations that help to eliminate these obstacles play a more and more significant role within the scope of our activities. With the support of the Ministry of Justice we managed to implement our fourth project in this topic in 2019. This time we dealt with three main topics.

On the one hand, a comprehensive study was elaborated with the involvement of experts, regarding cross-border patient mobility. Within the project, after having analysed the available legislative framework and the situation of four hospitals operating in the border regions concrete textual proposals for bilateral agreements enabling cross-border patient mobility have been drafted.

On the other hand, we investigated the cross-border mobility of ambulance cars. We organised our second seminar of the emergency services of Hungary and of the neighbouring EU member states, where the system of the Austrian-Czech border was presented. In addition, we organised a study tour in the area, where experts of the emergency services and Ministries had the possibility to learn about the daily 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 Capacities commissioned the Director-general of OMSZ to draft a background concept on cross-border rescue (using also our studies).

Our third topic was the identification of the difficulties regarding the procurements related to cross-border projects and the wording of recommendations for solutions (also with the involvement of an external expert).

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 published by AEBR. Since CESCO was a registered expert in the database of AEBR, the decision-makers requested us to analyse the obstacle in question. The specific problem was brought up by the project Builcogreen (which was implemented by the EGTC earlier), that aimed at cross-border share of machines and tools used in municipal management. Within the B-Solutions project we managed to unfold the Hungarian and Slovak legislative background related to cross-border mobility and utilisation 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 to analyse Hungarian and Serbian legislations related to cross-border trade of local products. We started the elaboration of the study at the end of the year with the involvement of CESCO Balkans.

Policy-making related events



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

Legal accessibility project: Study tour in the Austrian-Czech border region



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 at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border

In the last years we managed to establish a fruitful cooperation with the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance of the Council of Europe. As a result, we organised 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 organised this training series of three occasions with the involvement of European experts, in Yanosha and in Kisvárd. The training conducted the participants along the way from strengthening local governance to the conditionality of the establishment of cross-border municipal cooperation. Apart from the organisational tasks, we also compiled a resource map for the Ukrainian mayors. At the closing event 15 local leaders and experts were handed their certificate.

Annual conference and the 3rd cross-border school 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 accompanied with the third Cross-Border School. On behalf of our association Melinda Benczi, strategic planner, gave a presentation on the planning methodology elaborated by CESC at the conference, then she involved the participants of the CB school in a planning game developed by herself. Considering the great success of the game, it was suggested to develop it further with the help of a project of international cooperation.



AEBR annual conference and cross-border school

Information provision, knowledge transfer

Professional seminar of the Oradea process in Debrecen

The series of events that aim to strengthen the Hungarian-Romanian professional relations was launched in 2012 together with the French-Hungarian Initiatives Association (Initiatives France-Hongrie) and the Metropolitan Region of Oradea. In 2019 the event was organised for the first time in Debrecen. The participants were greeted by László Papp, mayor of Debrecen, Pascale Andréani, ambassador of France and Marius Gabriel Lazurca, ambassador of Romania to Budapest. This time our keynote speaker was Dominique Lorrette, expert of cross-border cooperation of the French Grand Est Region. Based on the example of the French-German reconciliation process and the common development work, he made suggestions on potential solutions of cooperation addressing the participating leaders and experts of counties and cities of the border area. Unlike the previous years, the meeting had more like a workshop atmosphere (instead of a conference) and it was more successful. The activity of the participants is a good sign before the next, similar event.



ESPON CPS webinar

As the closure of the *ESPON Cross-border Public Services* project, INOVA, Belgian consultancy firm, organised three webinars to share the results of the project, to inform local stakeholders and to collect the local experiences. CESC was requested to organise 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.

Knowledge sharing events of municipalities along the Hungarian-Serbian border

The Municipality of Bács-Kiskun County organises the mayor's forum every year, with a great success. Through these forums they try to broaden the knowledge of local leaders in several municipality management related topics. In 2019, also our association was invited to provide information on the programming of the future Hungary-Serbia INTERREG IPA CBC programme, and this way to let mayors know about the programme's expected priority areas.

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

Transport development in Hungary – 21st conference

For two decades, in every spring the Transport Division of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers has been organising the conference previously called „Útügyi Napok” („Road days”) on an interdisciplinary basis. CESCİ was invited last year, in the section that examined the long-run impacts of transport development. Our secretary general gave a presentation on the impacts of the transport on our spatial behaviour.

Informative presentations on the EGTC tool

Our colleagues regularly give presentations at different professional events on the EGTC tool, its legislative environment, and its utilisation. In 2019, two such informative events were held in the Hungarian-Austrian border region.

In Sopron, at the closing conference of the ConnReg (Connecting Regions) project, our colleagues were requested by the organisers to provide information on the EGTCs. At the expert forum of the Smart Pannonia project we talked about possible application of the EGTC tool for transport purposes.

Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe (Photo: Tisza EGTC)



AEBR annual conference and cross-border school

Presentation at the closing conference of the ConnReg project



Knowledge sharing events

Date	Location	Event
15 th May, 2019	Siófok	Presentation at the conference titled <i>Transport Development in Hungary</i>
18 th June, 2019	Sopron	Presentation at the closing conference of the <i>ConnReg</i> project
10-12 July, 2019	Yanoshi (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	Yanoshi (UA)	Leadership Academy of the Council of Europe (third training)
3-4 October, 2019	Salgótarján	Presentation at the <i>XIII. Borderless partnership</i> conference
23-24 October, 2019	Dresden (DE)	Annual conference and cross-border school of the AEBR, presentation of CESCİ's planning game
12 th November, 2019	Budapest	ESPOŃ CPS webinar
14 th November, 2019	Kecskemét	Presentation at the mayor's forum organised by the Municipality of Bács-Kiskun County
27 th November, 2019	Debrecen	Annual event of the Oradea process
10 th December, 2019	Sopron	Presentation at the expert's forum of the Smart Pannonia project
11 th December, 2019	Szeged	Presentation at the mayor's forum organised by the Municipality of Csongrád County



CESCI

Határon Átnyúló Kezdeményezések Közép-európai Segítő Szolgálata
Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives

Seat:

1067 Budapest, Teréz krt. 13.

Postal address:

1406 Budapest, Pf. 7

Office:

1137 Budapest, Újpesti rkp. 5.

Phone number:

+36/1-32-12345

E-mail:

cesci@cesci-net.eu

Web:

www.cesci-net.eu

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/cescibudapest/>

Skype:

[cesci-net.eu](https://www.skype.com/cesci-net.eu)

**The printing of the activity report was supported by the
Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.**