



Report

of the UPS-CESCO Research Group of Cross-Border Cooperation
on its activities in 2023

1. About the Research Group

The Research Group was established on 2 December 2021 by the Rector's Order No 37/2021.

The Research Group of Cross-Border Cooperation, established by the National University of Public Service (UPS) and the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI), held its inaugural meeting on 24 March 2022. The aim of the research group is to **bring together academia and civil society and to combine theoretical research with practical implementation.**

Founding members:

Name	Affiliation
Dr Zsuzsanna Fejes	Head of the Research Group, habilitated Associate Professor (Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies) President (CESCI)
Prof. Dr Kis Norbert	Head of Department, Professor (Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies)
Dr Tamás Kaiser	Head of Department, habilitated Associate Professor (Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies)
Dr Dániel Gazsó	Research Fellow (Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies)
Dr Gyula Ocskay	Secretary General (CESCI)
Dr Istenes-Benczi Melinda	International Relations Coordinator (CESCI)
Dr Gyelník Teodor	Senior Research Fellow (CESCI)
Dr Péter Belcsák	PhD student (Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies) - terminated at the end of the spring semester 2023
Dr Zsolt Menyhárt	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Internal members who joined:

Name	Affiliation
Dr József Balla	Associate Dean for General and Development, Associate Professor (Faculty of Law Enforcement)
Prof. Dr János Sallai	Head of Department, Professor (Faculty of Law Enforcement)
Dr László Vájlók	Master teacher (Faculty of Law Enforcement)
Ádám Kalmár	PhD student (Faculty of Law Enforcement)
Lénárd Zsákai	PhD student (Faculty of Law Enforcement)

External members:

Name	Affiliation
Dr Szabolcs Pogonyi	Associate Professor, Central European University
Dr Sara Svensson	Associate Professor, Halmstad University, Sweden
Dr Edit Soós	Habilitated Associate Professor, University of Szeged

The website of the research group:

- In Hungarian: <https://research.cesci-net.eu/>
- In English: <https://research.cesci-net.eu/en/home-page/>
- On the UPS website: <https://antk.uni-nke.hu/kutatas-tudomanyos-elet/kutatointezetek-szakmai-muhelyek/hatarmenti-egyuttmukodesek-kutatomuhely/kuldetesunk>

Extract from the Cooperation Agreement signed between UPS and CESCO concerning the Research Group:

"In connection with the UPS-CESCO Research Group of Cross-Border Cooperation established on the initiative of both Parties in 2021 by UPS Rector's Order No. 37/2021, the Parties jointly undertake to:

- a) build and maintain close professional cooperation and support,
- b) develop the Research Group's image and external relations,
- c) organise professional events,
- d) support the publication work of the members of the Research Group,
- e) launch and develop the Research Group's journal,
- f) prepare and implement of projects,
- g) develop the knowledge and values of young people in the public service and the orientation of their interest towards the areas defined as cooperation objectives, by developing curricula and teaching materials in the bachelor and master courses,

- h) develop and realise training programmes,
- i) organise joint research,
- j) develop the research group into an independent research institute."

The Research Group held its annual meeting on 2 March 2023.

In 2023, we have taken important steps towards the release of an internationally recognised journal. The **Journal of Advanced Studies on Borders, Cooperation and Development**, or **ABCD Journal** for short, is planned to be published by UPS, CESCO and the University of Eastern Finland. Its editorial board will include eminent international researchers and practitioners in the field.

Editors in chief:

- James W. Scott, University of Eastern Finland, Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Boglárka Koller, National University of Public Service, Jean Monnet Professor of European Studies
- Gyula Ocskay, CESCO

Members of the Scientific Editorial Board:

- Zsuzsanna Fejes, National University of Public Service, Hungary
- Teemu Makkonen, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
- Eduardo Medeiros, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Sara Svensson, Halmstad University, Sweden
- Juan-Manuel Trillo-Santamaría, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Members of the editorial board:

- Hynek Böhm, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic
- Davide Cadeddu, University of Milan, Italy
- Tobias Chilla, University of Erlangen, Germany
- Dániel Gzásó, National University of Public Service, Hungary
- Martín Guillermo-Ramírez, Association of European Border Regions
- Estelle Evrard, Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research, Luxembourg
- Jaroslaw Jańczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
- Victor Konrad, Carleton University, Canada
- Joanna Kurowsky-Pysz, WSB University, Poland
- Jussi Laine, University of Eastern Finland
- Fabienne Leloup, Catholic University of Louvan, Belgium
- Dana-Bianca Mitrică, Romanian Academy of Sciences, Romania
- Jean Peyrony, Cross-border Cooperation Mission, France

- Paul Richardson, University of Birmingham, UK
- Edit Soós, University of Szeged, Hungary
- Anne Thevenet, Euro-Institute of Kehl, Germany
- Peter Ulrich, Leibniz Institute for Spatial and Social Research, Germany
- Elisabeth Vallet, University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada
- Birte Wassenberg, University of Strasbourg, France.

During the year, we worked with Editor-in-Chief James Wesley Scott to develop the concept for the journal, which will be submitted to major publishers in 2024; and we successfully invited the above-mentioned members of the editorial board.

2. Tendering activity

2.1 Proposal of an international consortium - with a Norwegian lead partner

Horizon-CL3-2022-DRS-01-01 on Enhanced citizen preparedness in the event of a disaster or crisis-related emergency, under the theme of Disaster-Resilient Society

The title of the call: Empowering Citizens and Communities to Prepare for and Respond to Disaster (acronym OMG)

Decision (30/03/2023): not successful, score achieved: 12.5

Lead partner: Faculty of Social Sciences, Nord University, Levanger, Norway

The primary role of the UPS-CESCI RG, together with the Romanian Academy of Sciences, would have been to present the conditions for disaster management in the Hungarian-Romanian border region (disaster events, existing institutions, organisations, governance mechanisms in cross-border disaster management, projects to date, potential future cooperation, participation and preparedness of citizens in disaster management) at case study level, and to coordinate the 3rd work package of the project (technological background study).

Consortium partners:

- Nord University, Levanger (Norway)
- Umeå University (Sweden)
- University of Luleå (Sweden)
- University of Tartu (Estonia)
- University of Eastern Finland (Finland)

- University of Iceland (Iceland)
- Aegean University (Greece)
- Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)
- Central Sweden University (Sweden)
- University of Strasbourg (France)
- Nordland Research Institute (Norway)
- Romanian Academy of Sciences Human Geography and Regional Development Research Institute (Romania)
- University of Tübingen (Germany)

3. Networking, international relations

3.1 The Research Group's participation in the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN)

The Research Group applied for full membership in autumn 2022 and was admitted as a full member of TEIN with the unanimous support of the General Assembly on 14 December 2022.

TEIN (<https://transfrontier.eu/>) brings together European research institutes working in the cross-border field and professional organisations promoting cross-border cooperation.

Within the framework of TEIN, the Research Group has established contacts, joint research projects and exchanges of experts with the following universities:

- Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, School of Management, Austria
- University of Ljubljana Faculty of Public Administration, Slovenia
- WSB University, Poland
- ICRESS (Institut Catalan de Recherche en Sciences Sociales), Spain
- University of Girona, Spain
- IEC/Institute of Catalan Studies, Spain
- Université Savoie Mont Blanc, France
- 3IEP/ University of Strasbourg, Science Po, France
- UPVD (Université de Perpignan Via Domitia), France
- ITEM, Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross border cooperation and Mobility, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands
- European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Viadrina Center B/Orders in Motion, EGTC Center of Excellence, Germany/Poland
- National University of Uzhhorod, Ukraine (admitted in 2023 on the proposal and with the support of UPS-CESCI)

6-7 September 2023: Zsuzsanna Fejes, Head of the Research Group, participated and gave a presentation at the TEIN Annual General Assembly and the subsequent conference (European University Viadrina)

Website: <https://transfrontier.eu/new-member-for-the-tein-network-a-look-back-at-the-2023-general-assembly/>

The annual membership fee of TEIN is 150 euro, financed from the budget of the National University of Public Service for the year of 2023.

3.2. Contact with the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Institute.

External member Edit Soós has initiated a cooperation with an international, multidisciplinary research institute based in Flensburg, in the Danish-German border region, in the framework of a personal mission of ECMI.

The research institute is funded by Denmark, Germany and the Province of Schleswig-Holstein, and works with governments and civil society, alongside the academic community and international organisations working on European national minority issues.

Possibilities for cooperation: exploring joint research programmes, developing and submitting consortium proposals, participating in conferences.

ECMI website: <https://www.ecmi.de/> - Contact: Martin Klatt, senior researcher.

3.3. UPS-Széchenyi Programme Office (SZPI) cooperation agreement initiative

The Széchenyi Programme Office is responsible for the management of EU cross-border programmes with Hungarian participation.

The points of the Cooperation Agreement related to the Research Group:

- Research and grant cooperation, organisation of conferences with the involvement of the Research Group on Cross-Border Cooperation
- Objective: to map research programmes, develop and submit joint proposals, participate in conferences.

In the framework of the cooperation, we organised a panel on integrated cross-border instruments at the SZPI “Art of Cooperation” international conference on 17 October 2023 in Budapest.

4. Conferences, workshops

4.1. AEBR Annual General Assembly and Conference organised jointly with CESC

8-11 November 2023, Košice. EU integration of Ukraine across borders

The annual event of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) held in Košice included a V4 conference. The event focused on the EU integration of Ukraine and the experiences of the Visegrad Four countries in cross-border cooperation during the EU accession process and beyond. The event concluded with a study tour to Uzhhorod.

Speakers:

- **Dr Zsuzsanna Fejes:** Evolution of CBC in Hungary - lessons and future perspectives.
- **Ocskay Gyula** (moderator) Round-table discussion: What lessons can be learned from the EU integration of the Visegrad countries?

Website: <https://www.aebr.eu/aebr-annual-events-2023-in-kosice-slovakia/>

<https://budapest.cesci-net.eu/v4-ukrajna-eu-integracio/#esemnyek>

4.2. Border regions facing a poly-crisis in the 21st century. Resilience and future perspectives of cross-border relations

10-12 September 2023 Wrocław-Opole

The presentation focused on the security policy aspects of the migration crisis in close connection with the phenomenon of bordering-borderism. In addition to the presentation of the research methodology, the audience was introduced to the changes in the narratives in the speeches of the Presidents of the European Commission and the changes in narratives and vocabulary in the EU countries based on the EU documents for the period 2015-2022. The results were illustrated by graphs produced using Speak AI (sentiment analysis) and MAXQDA (word cloud, interactive word tree, etc.) softwares.

Speakers:

- **Melinda Istenes-Benczi and Teodor Gyelník:** W/ordering in the EU. Changes of European discourse on migration

Website: <https://research.cesci-net.eu/polikrizis-elott-allo-hatarvidekek-a-21-szazadban-a-hataron-atnyulo-kapcsolatok-ellenallo-kepessege-es-jovobeli-perspektivai/>

4.3. 5th International Conference on Territorial and Inter-organisational Cooperation

20-22 September 2023 Brenna

The WSB University in Poland (ranked third in the international ranking of Polish universities) held its fifth conference of this title and theme in 2023. The hybrid event was attended by 10 researchers from on-site

and 7 researchers from other countries online. Among the plenary speakers, Gyula Ocskay gave a presentation on the impact of the crises experienced since 2015 on cross-border cooperation in the EU.

Speaker: **Gyula Ocskay**: 'The end of a dream? How did the most recent crises affect the concept of borderless Europe?'

Website: <https://wsb.edu.pl/international-conference-on-territorial/keynote-speakers>

4.4. Diaspora 2023 Borderless Communities - Diaspora 2023 Communities Beyond Borders

4-6 May 2023. Pécs

This was an international and interdisciplinary conference organised by the Institute of English Studies, the Institute of Hungarian Language and Literature, the Diaspora Project Network of the University of Pécs and the Pécs Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Speaker: **Dániel Gazsó**: Theoretical and methodological framework of diaspora research. Diaspora Policy, Diaspora Theory, Diaspora Network, Institutionalisation.

Website: <https://btk.pte.hu/sites/btk.pte.hu/files/2023-04/PTEDiaszpora2023UPDiaspora2023PROGRAM.pdf>

4.5. Meeting of the Forum of Hungarian Members of Parliament from the Carpathian Basin - Working Group on the Diaspora

15 November 2023. Parliament House, Budapest

Dr Dániel Gazsó gave an introductory presentation to the Hungarian MPs, leaders of Hungarian parties abroad and presidents of umbrella organisations operating in the diaspora, during which he presented the main methodological issues of quantifying Hungarian communities of migrant origin and the available relevant statistical data.

4.6. Ulpiana Forum

16-18 November 2023 Pristina

Speaker: **Dániel Gazsó**: The Hungarian Diaspora Engagement Policies.

Session: Diaspora Data: Building Scale in Communications, Networking, and Outreach for Diaspora Engagement

Website: <https://ulpianaforum.org/>

4.7. Online lecture series to introduce the members of the Research Group

In 2023, the Research Group on Cross-Border Cooperation launched a series of online lectures to introduce the members of the Research Workshop and to exchange research topics.

Lectures:

- **Dr Zsuzsanna Fejes:** Legal and institutional framework of cross-border cooperation (17 May) <https://research.cesci-net.eu/dr-fejes-zsuzsanna-eloadasa-a-hatarmenti-egyuttmukodesek-kutatomuhely-kereteben/>
- **Dr Dániel Gazsó:** The institutionalisation of Hungarian diaspora communities and their relations with the motherland (30 November) <https://research.cesci-net.eu/gazso-daniel-eloadasa-a-hatarmenti-egyuttmukodesek-kutatomuhely-kereteben/>
- **Dr János Sallai:** Historical sources of state borders (4 December) <https://research.cesci-net.eu/sallai-janos-eloadasa-a-hatarmenti-egyuttmukodesek-kutatomuhely-kereteben/>

5. Publication activity - with Research Group affiliation

Published publications:

- Benczi, M. (2023): Sustainable cross-border cooperation? A case-study on the role of national minorities. *Észak-magyarországi Stratégiai Füzetek*, 20(4), pp. 74-85. <https://www.strategiaifuzetek.hu/files/770/Strat%C3%A9giai+F%C3%BCzetek+2023-4.pdf>
- Fejes, Zs. (2023): Evolution of Cross-border Cooperation in the European Union. *Social Horizons*, III(5), pp.55-77. <https://scindeks-clanci.ceon.rs/data/pdf/2787-0693/2023/2787-06932305055F.pdf>
- Gyelník, T. (2023a): Formulation of the Slovak national narrative and its Slovak-Hungarian constellation. *Észak-magyarországi Stratégiai Füzetek*, 20(4), pp. 52-60. <https://www.strategiaifuzetek.hu/files/770/Strat%C3%A9giai+F%C3%BCzetek+2023-4.pdf>
- Gyelník, T. (2023b): Post-Soviet Borders: A Kaleidoscope of Shifting Lives and Land. [Book review: Post-Soviet Borders: A Kaleidoscope of Shifting Lives and Land by von Löwis, S. - Eschment, B. Routledge, London-New York.] In: Scott, W. J. (ed.): *Cross-Border Review Yearbook 2023*. CESCI, Budapest. <https://budapest.cesci-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Y2023-11-GYELNIK-Book-Review-Post-Soviet-Borders.pdf>
- Gyelník, T. (2023c): Public Policies for Territorial Cohesion [Book review: Public Policies for Territorial Cohesion by Medeiros, E. Springer, Cham.] In: Scott, W. J. (ed.): *Cross-Border*

Review. *Yearbook 2023*. CESCI, Budapest. <https://budapest.cesci-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Y2023-12-GYELNIK-Book-Review-Territorial-Cohesion.pdf>

- Gyelník, T. - Ocskay, Gy. (2023): Project note on the strategic project 'Promotion of legal accessibility across the Slovak-Hungarian border'. In: Scott, W. J. (ed.): *Yearbook 2023*. CESCI, Budapest. <https://budapest.cesci-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Y2023-10-GYELNIK-and-OCSKAY-ACCESS.pdf>.
- Ocskay, Gy. (2023): The list of phone numbers and the paradox of representation. Reflections on resilience in a cross-border context. *Észak-magyarországi Stratégiai Füzetek*, 20(4), pp. 61-73. <https://www.strategiaifuzetek.hu/files/770/Strat%C3%A9giai+F%C3%BCzetek+2023-4.pdf>
- Ocskay, Gy. - Scott, J.W. (2023): Cross-territorial Governance via EGTCs for Territorial Cohesion. In Medeiros, E. (ed): *Public Policies for Territorial Cohesion*, Cham: Springer, pp. 191-209.

Under publication:

- Benczi, M.: Outlining the main perception stands on the Hungarian-Romanian border. In Wassenberg, B. (ed): *Frontiers in Motion*, Bern: Peter Lang.
- Ocskay, Gy.: Improved cross-border relevance through integrated interventions: the TAPE tool of the INTERREG VI-A Slovakia-Hungary Programme, *European Planning Studies*.
- Ocskay, Gy. - Guillermo-Ramírez, M. - Medeiros, E. - Peyrony, J.: Post-COVID symptoms in EU cross-border cooperation. In Weber, F. (ed): *Transformation Processes in Europe and Beyond*. Wiesbaden: Springer.
- Sallai, J.: Border Control on the Romanian-Hungarian Border in the Socialist Era. In Wassenberg, B. (ed): *Frontiers in Motion*, Bern: Peter Lang.

6. Educational activities

6.1. In the autumn semester of the academic year 2022/2023, CESCI members (Gyula Ocskay and Melinda Istenes-Benczi) were involved in teaching 2 courses

- The institutional foundations and process of governance (in Hungarian)
- Comparative analysis of government systems (in Hungarian and English)

(Notary: Dr Zsuzsanna Fejes)

6.2. Announcement of topics in doctoral training

6.2.1. Doctoral School of Public Administration, Doctoral programme in Political Science and Governance (Head of Programme: Prof. Dr Iván Halász)

Topic 15: Cross-border governance - Opportunities and challenges of territorial cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe (in Hungarian and English)

Tutor: Dr Zsuzsanna Fejes PhD, habil, associate professor

6.2.2. Doctoral School of Public Administration, Doctoral Programme in Public Administration and Sociology (Head of Programme: Prof. Dr. Norbert Kis)

Theme 22: Diaspora research: social integration, institutionalisation and relations with the motherland of communities of migrant origin

Social integration of diasporas

Tutor: Dr Dániel Gazsó

6.3. Planning the invitation of foreign academics - Ludovika Scholars

At the invitation of the Research Group, Dr hab. Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, Prof. from WSB University in Poland, has applied for the Ludovika Scholars Program.

The application did not win funding.

Affiliation:

- Dyrektor Instytutu Studiów nad Współpracą Terytorialną i Międzyorganizacyjną / Director of Research Institute on Territorial and Inter-Organisational Cooperation
- Kierownik Katedry Zarządzania / Head of Department of Management
- Zastępca Kierownika Szkoły Doktorskiej / Deputy Chair of the Doctoral School
- Dyrektor Centrum Transferu Technologii / Director of Technology Transfer Center
- Akademia WSB / WSB University, Ciepłaka Street 1c, 41-300 Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland
- https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joanna_Pysz;
<https://scholar.google.pl/citations?user=1KT3VGkAAAAJ&hl=pl>; <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3967-9263>; <https://publons.com/researcher/1356464/joanna-kurowska-pysz/>

Budapest, 31 January 2023.

Dr Zsuzsanna Fejes
Head of the Research Group