



Report „Activities and projects 2021-2022“,

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Activities

- Consultation and advisory services for the Ministry of investments, regional development and informatization of the Slovak republic in the process of integrated territorial strategies preparation

The aim of this contract with the Ministry was to help four regions and six city's functional areas in the Eastern and Central Slovakia to prepare their integrated development plans for the ongoing programming period to be ready to receive the packages of integrated territorial investments for their territories. The idea of this more or less financial decentralization was to improve the financial independence of the self-governing city's functional areas and regions. Our task was also to comment and make suggestions on how to improve the existing methodology for preparing territorial development plans and to comment on the proposed governance structures in the regions and functional areas.

- Leading and coaching the processes of local development plans preparation for towns and cities (Košice, Tornaľa, Revúca, Jelšava, Spišská Nová Ves) and also improving skills of officials, and their accountability

These contracts with cities and towns had also the objective to prepare their development plans for the ongoing programming period. Our role was not to strictly write documents but more to lead the process and to coach employees of these city's offices who were involved into the plans preparation in order to improve their skills and thinking.

- Creation of regional specific smart policies for Žilina self-governing region - culture, social innovations, transport, also the regional policy of transparency

This work was based on the European money which all eight self-governing regions in Slovakia received in order to improve their capacities, to improve processes at the office, re-setup their chosen regional policies and also to build new structures and analytical units to be partners to the central ministerial analytical units. Some regions established new Institutes of development. I have been working for the Žilina region, where I was responsible for social innovations policy, culture development policy and also regional transparency policy. My task was also to train employees at the regional office.

- Cross border cooperation SKHU
as usual, we continued in CBC activities through some projects
- Promotion and networking
 - The international 60th ERSA congress
I took part at this annual event, which was organized by the European Regional Science Association and every year attracts the best regionalists in Europe
 - The conference “Region’s development and digitalization” under auspices of MEP Ivan Štefanec and Hanns Seidel Stiftung and Anton Tunega Foundation
This conference was organized by the Slovak member of the European Parliament Mr. Ivan Štefanec and this event attracted some other MEPs and other people from several countries not only from Slovakia. I was invited to give a lecture on “The development planning”.
 - The “RegioFórum Gemer” 2021, Revúca
It was a great conference organized by the Slovak Academy of Science yearly and the conference gathered several top academic experts who make research in different issues in the Gemer regions like music, literature, archaeology, tangible cultural heritage and others. My contribution was about “Planning of the development in the Gemer region”
 - The Transparency International Slovakia seminar 2022, Stará Lesná
I was invited as a special guest to the regular TIS event, organized for people from the local and regional tiers from the whole Slovakia, this year the event was dedicated to the issue of self-governing regions. The special topic was the regional policy of transparency in the Žilina region, but the evening long discussion covered various other topics like the role of the self-governing regions, fiscal federalism, national legislation system, control at local and regional level etc.

Projects

- NatGate – “Narrow gauge railways as unique gates to nature and cultural heritage”, the Hungarian partner – “Nagybörzsöny Község Önkormányzata”, Slovak partner – “Detská železnica Košice”; the budget: 409 590 EUR; the project started on January 1st, 2021, and will be terminated in August 2022

This INTERREG project deals with an interesting topic – narrow gauge historical railways. Their development was very similar in the Central Europe and these railways have naturally similar challenges. The European money are intended for the cultural heritage conservation and improvement, in this case it is a specific technical cultural heritage. The Hungarian partner is Nagyborszony municipality and in the project, they invest into the historic locomotive, the historic wagon, the amphitheatre and the St. Stephan church lighting. On the Slovak side the investments go to the historic steam locomotive renovation, two historic summer wagons, the rails improvement and some promotional activities of the Children Railways in Košice.

- “The support of coordinating and implementing capacities of regional development in the district of Revúca”; the project budget 498 423 EUR; the project started on May 1st, 2021, and will last for two years:

The aim of the project is to improve personal capacities in the town offices in three towns in the Revúca district – Revúca, Jelšava and Tornaľa. Our objective is to lead and coach the process of development plan preparation in those towns. The project's outputs will be cities' development plans and several project intentions. But the most essential output should be to strengthen the capacities, of those who work in the city development area.

- “The educational course” – the climate education for elementary and secondary schools in the Košice region; the content of the course: Ecology, Waste-basics, Waste sorting, Circle economy, Sustainable development; 5 days on five schools

The aim of this project was to educate young people in five elementary and secondary schools in the Košice region on climate issues. This work was very exceptional, young mostly heard about Miss Greta Thunberg but did not know why emissions of greenhouse gases are dangerous, what is the difference between the waste landfill and an incinerator, what are the UN sustainable development goals, etc. One day was also set for teachers, who deal with the climate issue.

- “The workbook on social economy” - a guide for public sector officials in Slovak and Hungarian language; the content: Social entrepreneurship on a local, regional, and national level, Legislative framework for social entrepreneurship, Planning tools and methods in social business, Specifics of social planning in comparison with other forms of business, best practices

This contract concerned the elaboration of a handbook on social entrepreneurship for local self-government. As outputs of the project are two handbooks, one for Hungary and one for Slovakia. The guide is intended mostly for Mayors who would like to establish a social enterprise and make a social conversion of the municipality, but also for those, who social enterprise already have, but would like to improve it. There are also included in the guide two best practices both in Hungary and also in Slovakia.

- The project targeting cross-border legal and administrative obstacles Hungary-Slovakia INTERREG A program 2021 -2027 prepared by CESCO and already approved; the lead partner: CESCO Budapest, the beneficiary partner: CESCO-Carpathia Košice; the project will last for 7 years; expected start of the project: at the end of 2022

This project was prepared by CESCO, we are a partner, very appreciate it and thanks to this project we will hopefully be able to expand our team and develop the organization