

*Civitas Europica Centralis Foundation*

# **A comparative analysis of the evolution of EGTCs at the Hungarian-Slovakian border**

*Editors: Erika Törzsök dr. and András Majoros*

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Research report

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*CEC*  
CIVITAS EUROPIKA CENTRALIS

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Budapest, 2015



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# Foreword

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The history of cross-border relations in Hungary has changed significantly in the last 25 years, following the change of the regime. The relations had been triggered by the shopping tourism at the end of the 1980s, followed by institutional contacts, then, with the support of the Phare CBC programme, settlement-settlement and organisation-institution meetings as well as the establishment of ad-hoc institutions aimed at helping entrepreneurs. These formed the basis of the highly-promising euroregions which formalized the cooperation of the politicians and the elites, such as local and county-level political leaders, representatives of interests, favoured civil organisations, or territorial and local institutions and their leaders. In most cases, the grants contributed to the operation or the subsistence of the organisations. Obviously, these endeavours produced some results, as border-crossing points were created, roads and bridges leading thereto were built. Nonetheless, the free movement was blocked at some places by stone blocks and (permanently temporary) ditches. After 2004 more and more novel versions of the Interreg programmes entered, which programmes, in a centralized form, started to coordinate the cross-border relations or rather the demands. These programmes also focused on the transportation systems, but connected several civil organisations too, or helped to elaborate precious analyses that were not read by those to whom they had been addressed.

The institution of the European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) was started in 2006 and has since resulted in qualitative changes, because, instead of the former informal cooperation, it has been possible to establish organisations having their own legal personality, which are now able to operate at both sides of the border and can take over or create tasks. Hungary was the first to join the European agreements, and transposed the institution into its national law as early as 2007. Respect to Slovakia too for acknowledging, in 2008, the organisation facilitating cross-border relations. It characterizes the innovation propensity of the national regional development that the EGTC organisations established at the Slovakian-Hungarian border were among the first ones, and now these two countries account for more than 20% of the registered ones in the EU.

This research report is arguably the first to present the 13 European groupings of territorial cooperation of the Slovakian-Hungarian border region in a comprehensive, manifold and fact-rich manner. It provides up-to-date information using a unified analysis thematics, encompassing document analysis, in-depth interviews as well as questionnaires addressed to the member-settlements. The research report, however, is not only an inventory, but also a scientific work, since one can get to know the professional classification of the organisations and activities, with the indication of

the development types and their characteristics. Finally, the policy recommendations are also very useful, as they address the operational conditions of the organisations, and suggest the broadening of the manoeuvring dimensions to facilitate the definitive elimination of the borders and find new directions for the coexistence of the two countries.

I recommend this report not only to the 13 organisations in order to place themselves among the others, but also to politicians, researchers, students, teachers dealing with territorial processes or foreign policy, and to everybody to whom European integration matters.

Győr, September 2015

Prof. Dr. Rechnitzer János,  
professor

# Introduction

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Community legislation on the possibility of the establishment of “European grouping of territorial cooperation” (Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)) was issued almost 10 years ago, in 2006. Few people thought then that in 2015 we would talk about the – thus far – “asymmetric” nature of the European integration. One can hardly believe that, 25 years after the collapse of the so-called existing socialism, none of the successive governments could do anything about the regions where the economy had crashed at the beginning of the 1990s. In several regions, hundreds of thousands of people remain without a job, the poverty is massive, and generations are growing up without seeing their parents leaving home in order to work. In these regions hunger riots can be expected.

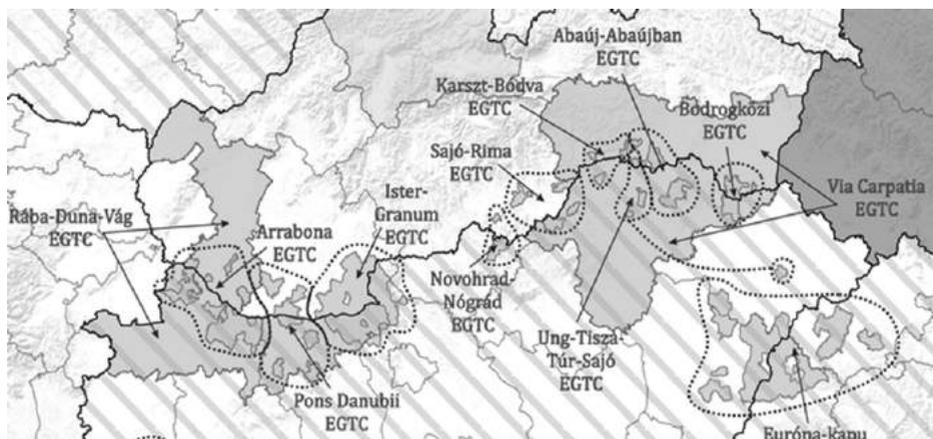
The decision-makers, however, do not really deal with the challenges caused by the territorial imbalances. Yet these differences are evident, it is enough to compare the Wien-Bratislava-Győr “golden triangle” or the Žitný ostrov/Csallóköz – Szigetköz region with the Košice-Miskolc or the Gemer/Gömör regions. The asymmetric nature of the catching-up with Western Europe can be displayed with “hard” data in the percentages of GDP per capita relative to the EU average (see Table 1).

Table 1 – GDP per capita (PPS) in the case of the Hungarian-Slovakian border counties, percentages of the EU-28 average, 2000 and 2012

County (Megye / Kraj)	2000	2012
Győr-Moson-Sopron	70	75
Komárom-Esztergom	44	66
Budapest	107	141
Pest	41	54
Nógrád	30	28
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	34	40
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>65</i>
Bratislavský	107	179
Trnavský	52	83
Nitriansky	43	66
Banskobystrický	41	53
Košický	44	58
<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>74</i>

Source: Eurostat

Figure 1 – European groupings of territorial cooperation at the Hungarian-Slovakian border



Note: the Figure does not show the Svínka and Torysa EGTCs registered at the end of 2013

Source: CESCI

Several studies of the outstanding representatives of the regional sciences (e.g. Gyula Horváth, János Rechnitzer) point out the causes and consequences of the regional disparities which our research does not deal with, these are considered as “conditions”.

We think that the EU institutions and the available financial sources still provide a significant chance for the improvement of the situation. These sources, however, cannot change the so-called absorption capability, if the utilization is not made “optimally”, with the maximal consideration of the economic and social interests. We consider the “European groupings of territorial cooperation” as important institutional assets able to reduce territorial disparities and increase absorption capability in 2015.

Today it can be stated that the “euroregional” cooperation method has only been able to create the basis, the opportunity for the institutionalization of the cross-border economic-social-political relations. However, it has not been able to provide substantive solution for the development of the peripheral border regions. The “European groupings of territorial cooperation” could, however, be suitable for strengthening the integration of a given, in situ Hungarian-Slovakian, border regions, mainly in the fields of economic, environmental, transportation and civic relations, in order to improve the life-quality and labour market situation of the population living in both advantaged and disadvantaged regions.

The most important “added value” of a “European grouping of territorial cooperation” (EGTC) is that it has its own legal personality, hence it has its own budget and staff, and it may even pursue entrepreneurial (business) activities.

Hungary (in 2007) and Slovakia (in 2008) were among the first countries that transposed the Community regulation into their national law. This also played an important role in that the two countries are forerunners regarding EGTC establishment: 13 (!) of the 51 EGTCs registered until the end of 2014, was established at the Hungarian-Slovakian border (see Figure 1).

The project implemented by the cooperation between the Hungarian Civitas Europica Centralis Foundation and the Slovakian Janos Selye University, and with the support of the International Visegrad Fund, has been devoted to the comparison of the EGTCs established on the Hungarian-Slovakian border. The research is based on a collection of statistical data, a questionnaire survey and personal interviews. It principally examined the antecedents (political-economic frameworks, main motivation of the establishment) of the founded groupings, the already achieved results as well as future prospects. The new research methodology could also be suitable for the comparison of EGTCs aiming at the revitalization of other border regions.

For the preparation of the research report – besides the quoted sources – we also used the main conclusions of the conference held at the Janos Selye University on 28 May 2015 (for the conference's presentation outlines, see Annex 3).

# 1. Research methodology

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This research examined the EGTCs established on the Hungarian-Slovakian border from three different aspects.

## 1.1 Secondary sources

To ensure the perspective of an objective „external observer”, we have mainly relied on the public information provided by the groupings’ websites and annual financial reports. On this basis, we have examined the main motivations behind the EGTC establishments, the results achieved and their future (mainly financial, political) sustainability. Regarding this aspect, the main conclusions are summarized in Chapter 2 presenting the EGTCs individually. In this chapter we introduce the definition of the „EGTC Role Matrix” as a new EGTC monitoring tool and we open it up for scientific and policy debate.

## 1.2 In-depth interviews

For the purpose of mapping the „manager” (directors’, chief clerks’) aspect, we carried out structured in-depth interviews with the directors and/or chief clerks of each EGTC in March and April 2015, mainly touching on the following topics:

- motivations, circumstances and difficulties of the EGTC establishment, registration;
- consequences of the changes in state regulations, territorial administration competencies;
- main focal points of cooperation;
- implemented and in-progress development projects;
- financial and human resources;
- future possibilities for and obstacles to cooperation;
- possible future role in the revitalization of the border region.

The main experiences of the in-depth interviews are also concluded in the Chapter 2.

## 1.3 Questionnaire survey

Finally, in order to get to know the “owner” (members’) aspect, we prepared a questionnaire survey among the EGTC member local governments. The survey was

carried out between 25 March and 31 May 2015. Online (Google form), self-administered, anonymized questionnaires were sent via e-mail, addressed to 177 leaders (mayors, presidents) of settlement/county local governments. The language of the text of the questionnaires (and the accompanying e-mail) was Hungarian for the local governments of Hungary, and bilingual, Slovakian and Hungarian for the local governments of Slovakia.

The questionnaire survey was based on four main subjects (dimensions):

- motivation: the main motivation factors of member local governments explaining the EGTC establishment/joining;
- satisfactions: to which extent are they satisfied with the EGTC's foregoing activities;
- future expectations: what do members expect of the EGTC's future operation;
- contributions: what kind of financial and human resources are contributed by the members to the EGTC's current activities, and what can be expected in the future in this regard.

Regarding the 1-3 dimensions, we have defined the following general points pre-assuming that the EGTCs can contribute to the strengthening of the cross-border cooperation mainly on these fields of development policy strategy:

- strengthening cooperation between civil organisations;
- exploitation of opportunities of cooperation of enterprises (except for tourism);
- exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism;
- strengthening environmental and nature protection cooperation;
- exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in health;
- exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in education;
- exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure;
- strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations;
- strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations;
- strengthening Slovakian-Slovakian ethnic relations;

We received substantive responses from 42 local governments, which means 24% and 56% response rate in terms of number of members and size of population (except for counties) represented, respectively. The received answers were also processed on the basis of the below-mentioned segmentation parameters, and if the re-

sults significantly differed from the average characteristics of the sample, then these differences were also analysed:

- country (55% and 45% of the respondent local governments have been Hungarian and Slovakian, respectively);
- EGTC affiliation;
- size: we consider “small” settlements those comprising some 80% of the sample where less than 10 thousand people live;
- founder/joiner: 84% of the respondents were a founder member of the given EGTC, while some one-sixth of them joined later;

The main results and conclusions of the questionnaire survey are summarized in Chapter 3.

The main policy conclusions and recommendations are drawn in Chapter 4. In this chapter we introduce and open for scientific and policy debate the definition of the “EGTC Maturity Index” as another new EGTC monitoring tool. At the end we formulate further research, analysis actions, topics aimed at increasing the development policy (territorial cooperation) role of the groupings.

## 2. EGTCs examined (“external observer” and “manager” viewpoint)

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In this chapter, firstly we present the possible ways of “typologizing” the EGTCs. Then the examined European groupings of territorial cooperation established on the Hungarian-Slovakian border between 2008 and 2014 are shown individually, in the chronological order of their registration.<sup>1</sup> The brief case studies are based on the “external observer” and “manager” viewpoints and methods (secondary sources, in-depth interviews) defined in the 1.1 and 1.2 subchapters.

### 2.1 Definition of EGTC types

According to the “territorial level” represented by the grouping’s members, and to the “geographical extent”, three basic types of the Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs can be defined:

- “Inter-municipal” groupings are those where cooperation is implemented between some (at least two) settlements, but these settlements are not necessarily bordered with each other, and their territories do not form an inter-linked geographical-development unit.
- “Micro-regional” groupings are formed by settlement local governments, the geographical territory of the cooperation, however, can be defined as an interlinked, cross-border geographical-development unit, area.
- “Macro-regional” cooperation is established by county (NUTS-3) or regional (NUTS-2) level local governments, and its main objective is the common development of a larger cross-border area (e.g. the “Danube”) belonging to more countries and not necessarily being an independent unit in the development policy of the given countries.

In terms of these geographical characteristics, the EGTCs established at the Hungarian-Slovakian border can be classified according to Table 2.

It can be seen that the majority (more than half) of the groupings could be fitted into the inter-municipal category having limited development capacities and competencies. The micro-regional type is represented by three, while – according to our approach – the macro-regional one is represented by two Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs.

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<sup>1</sup> In the cases of the EGTCs we apply the official, “English” names indicated in the register of the Committee of the Regions (EGTC Register).

Table 2 – Categorisation of the Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs according to the territorial level and geographical extent of the cooperation

EGTC	Inter-municipal	Micro-regional	Macro-regional
Abaúj-Abaújban	x		
Arrabona		x	
Bodrogközi	x		
Ister-Granum		x	
Karst-Bodva	x		
Novohrád-Nógrád	x		
Pons Danubii		x	
Rába-Duna-Vág			x
Sajó-Rima	x		
Svinka	x		
Torysa	x		
Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	x		
Via Carpatia			x

In defining another categorisation aspect, we are attempting to ascertain what kind of “role” is now played by the given grouping, and what its future function would be in the catching-up of the given border region, in the “revitalization” of cross-border economic, social etc. relations. Our hypothesis is that this role, which could potentially change over time, is mainly determined by the extent of the “fiscal autonomy” and the “development policy involvement”. The former aspect examines whether the results of the grouping can be maintained in financial terms, or whether the existence of the organisation depends mainly on external, state subsidies or on scarcely and not permanently available EU grants. As regards the latter aspect, we are searching the answer to the question whether the given grouping plays an active, “forming” role in the elaboration and implementation of the (central, regional, local) development strategies related to the border region.

By these two dimensions we define the “EGTC Role Matrix” that divides European groupings of territorial cooperation into four groups:

- “Grant hunters”: in the cases of those belonging to this group one can say about a low-level of fiscal autonomy and an (almost) total absence of devel-

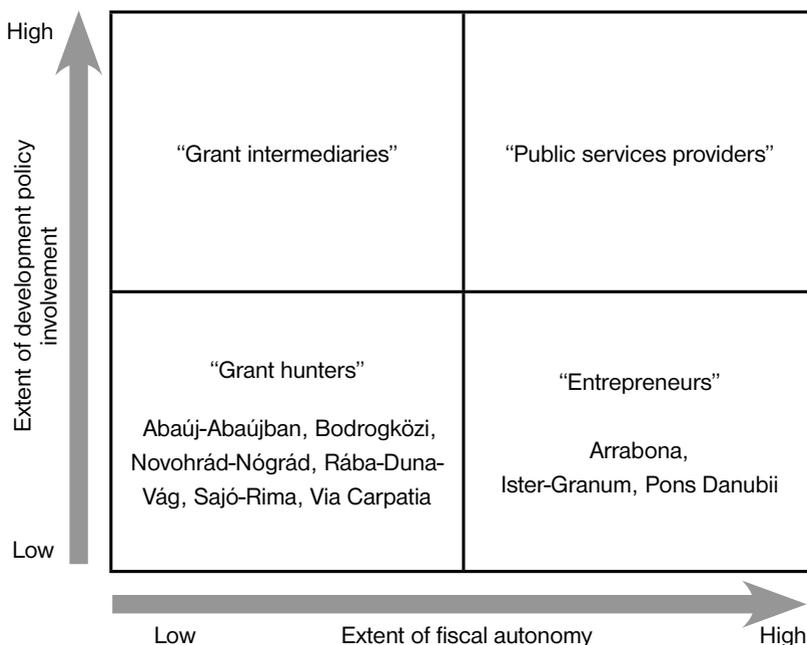
opment policy involvement. The main (almost the only) goal of these groupings is securing “European Territorial Cooperation” (ETC) funding and/or state subsidies to finance the operation of the organisation.

- “Grant intermediaries”: they are “authorised” by the government of the relevant countries in order to manage as “intermediary bodies” the allocation of certain funds, mainly those financing ETC “small-scale projects”. These groupings play an active role in the elaboration and implementation of the cross-border development policy strategy, however, the financial conditions of their operations are determined by the “technical assistance” sources given up by the central governments and related to a given budget period.
- “Entrepreneurs”: groupings that besides the direct utilisation of grant sources offer business (mainly tender writing, project management) services to its members, or even to external clients. The state subsidies play less important (or even no) role in financing of operations, however, they have only a “reviewer” role regarding the development policy related to the border region.
- “Public services providers”: in these cases the levels of fiscal autonomy and development policy involvement are both high. Owing to the regular members’ contributions (defined in the annual budget plan), calculable business revenues, and the development policy “authorisation” and the suitable legal-institutional environment, the grouping – on the geographical area of the co-operation – offers cross-border (transportation, health, catastrophe defense etc.) services (too).

Among the EGTCs established on the Hungarian-Slovakian border, for time being the Arrabona, the Ister-Granum and the Pons-Danubii groupings can be classified into the group of the “entrepreneurs”. Meanwhile the Abaúj-Abaújban, the Bodrogköz, the Novohrad-Nógrád, the Rába-Duna-Vág, the Sajó-Rima and the Via-Carpatia EGTCs currently play (at most) a “grant hunter” role in the given border region. The “de facto” already/yet non-existent Karst-Bodva, Svinka, Torysa and Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó EGTCs cannot already/yet be placed in our matrix (see Figure 2).

We apply our case studies presented in the subchapters below, in order to verify our categorisation. The role played in the catching-up, revitalization of a given border region, of course, can be changed over time, hence the “EGTC Role Matrix” can be used also as a monitoring tool. Regarding the EGTCs examined by our research, the 4.2 subchapter of the study draws future role “visions”.

Figure 2 – Categorisation of the Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs according to the definitions of the “EGTC Role Matrix”, 2015



## 2.2 Ister-Granum

The Ister-Granum European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability (hereinafter referred to as Ister-Granum) was set up as the first in the examined border regions, and – after the French-Belgian Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropole – as the second one in the EU.

The Ister Granum, implementing a “micro-regional” cross-border institutional cooperation, was registered in November 2008. Currently it is constituted by 42 Hungarian and 40 Slovakian settlement local governments, its seat can be found in Hungary, in Esztergom (see Table 3).

Table 3 – Main data of the Ister-Granum EGTC

Date of registration:	12.11.2008
Members (at the end of 2014):	42 Hungarian, 40 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Esztergom, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	170 284 people
Revenues (2014):	22 962 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	micro-regional
EGTC Role (2015):	“entrepreneur”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Ister-Granum, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The members of the Ister-Granum are settlement local governments, the settlements, in geographical terms, can be defined as an interlinked cross-border territorial unit, “development zone”. The grouping is constituted by settlements of the Esztergom District of Komárom-Esztergom County and – in lower proportion – the Pilisvörösvár, the Szentendre and the Szob districts of Pest County in Hungary, as well as the settlements belonging to the Nové Zámky, the Komárno and the Levice districts of the Nitra County in Slovakia. So the administrative territory of the grouping is shared between 7 districts of 3 counties of 2 countries. The cooperation is mainly built on the Esztergom – Štúrovo axis, these two towns account for almost one-quarter (23%) of the total population of the EGTC. The distribution of the population is slightly asymmetric: almost 70% of the 170 thousand people (117 thousand people) live at the Hungarian side of the common borderline. Besides Esztergom (29 thousand people) and Štúrovo (11 thousand people), the population of the Hungarian Piliscsaba (8 thousand people), Nyergesújfalu (8 thousand people), Tát (5 thousand people) and Lábatlan (5 thousand people), and the Slovakian Želiezovce reach 5 thousand people (see Table 4).

Table 4 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Ister Granum EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	Country	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Annayölgy	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	941
Bajna	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	1 928
Bajót	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	1 538
Csolnok	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	3 230
Dág	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	932
Dömös	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	1 167
Epöl	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	643

Settlement	Country	Country	District	Population, 2011 (people)
ESZTERGOM	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	28 926
Keszölc	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	2 626
Lábatlan	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	5 033
Leányvár	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	1 704
Máriaalom	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	677
Mogyorósbánya	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	862
Nagysáp	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	1 487
Nyergesújfalu	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	7 621
Piliscsév	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	2 356
Pilismarót	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	1 977
Sárisáp	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	2 770
Süttö	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	2 071
Tát	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	5 302
Tokod	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	4 143
Tokodaltáró	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	2 963
Úny	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Esztergomi	688
Piliscsaba	Hungary	Pest	Pilisvörösvári	8 472
Tinnye	Hungary	Pest	Pilisvörösvári	1 607
Pilisszentkereszt	Hungary	Pest	Szentendrei	2 259
Pilisszentlászló	Hungary	Pest	Szentendrei	1 223
Visegrád	Hungary	Pest	Szentendrei	1 718
Ipolydamásd	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	346
Ipolytölgyes	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	411
Kemence	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	1 025
Kóspallag	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	763
Letkés	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	1 109
Márianosztra	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	1 389
Nagybörzsöny	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	778
Nagymaros	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	4 679
Perőcsény	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	312
Szob	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	2 794
Tésa	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	73
Vámosmikola	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	1 592

Settlement	Country	Country	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Verőce	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	3 663
Zebegény	Hungary	Pest	Szobi	1 215
Bátorové Kosihy	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	3 427
Búč	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	1 160
Kravany nad Dunajom	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	737
Moča	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	1 141
Radvaň nad Dunajom	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	712
Bielovce	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	224
Čata	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	1 034
Hronovce	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	1 466
Ipeľský Sokolec	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	843
Keľ	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	647
Kubáňovo	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	290
Lontov	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	684
Malé Ludince	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	176
Nýrovce	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	533
Pastovce	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	503
Pohronský Ruskov	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	1 300
Šalov	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	383
Zalaba	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	187
Želiezovce	Slovakia	Nitra	Levice	7 115
Bajtava	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	410
Bíňa	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 465
Bruty	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	606
Chľaba	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	722
Gbelce	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	2 229
Kamenica nad Hronom	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 357
Kamenín	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 500
Kamenný Most	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 047
Lefá	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	342
Malá nad Hronom	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	386
Malé Kosihy	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	395

Settlement	Country	Country	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Mužla	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 913
Nána	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 175
Nová Vieska	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	719
Obid	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 167
Pavlová	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	236
Salka	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	1 021
Šarkan	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	378
Sikenička	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	442
Štúrovo	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	10 666
Svodín	Slovakia	Nitra	Nové Zámky	2 533

Source: Ister-Granum, KSH, ŠÚSR

The roots of the evolution history of the cooperation grouping go back to the end of the 1990s. In September 1999, the two then prime ministers of the two countries signed an inter-governmental agreement about the reconstruction of the Valeria Maria Bridge - that had been built in 1895, then had been blown up during both world wars, and had not been rebuilt between 1944 and 2001 - connecting the Esztergom and Štúrovo settlements, and thereby several “small regions”. The “Bridge Committee” established in the two towns by a civil initiative at the end of the 1980s was playing an essential role in the initiative of the reconstruction. Immediately after the agreement of the two governments, in December 1999 the mayors of the two towns agreed upon the creation of a regional level cross-border cooperation.

In October 2000, 22 Slovakian settlements (belonging to the Južný region with the seat of Štúrovo) and 11 Hungarian settlements (mainly belonging to the Micro-regional Development Association of Nyergesújfalu) signed a cooperation declaration. The first meeting of the decision-making body was held in December 2000, in parallel with this the Eurohid Foundation was registered with a seat in Esztergom. In May 2001, the cooperation was renamed as Ister-Granum Cross-border Micro-region, while in October the Valeria Maria Bridge representing the main infrastructure pillar (and the symbol) of the cooperation was delivered to the public. The renaming of the cooperation as the Ister-Granum Euroregion took place in November 2003.

Since the “euroregion” did not have its own legal personality and could not undertake any substantive development activity, in November 2005 the local government of Esztergom town decided to establish the Ister-Granum Euroregion Development Agency Nonprofit Ltd. During the “euroregional” period roughly covering the

years between 2000 and 2008, the main objective of the cooperation activity, covering already 220 thousand people of 102 settlements by the end of the period, was to strengthen mainly civilian (“people-to-people”) relations. The projects of this period mainly entailed the organization of events (meetings of mayors, festivals, athletic events) and the distribution of various common publications. In parallel with this, in 2005 the development plan of the Euroregion was made and presented in Brussels too. In order to implement the plans, to operate the development agency, a regional development office was opened in Esztergom in October 2006.

The accessions of the two countries to the EU in 2004, the development of relevant Community legislation, and the publication of the EGTC regulation in 2006 created the suitable frameworks for the implementation of larger-scale, economic cooperation. The establishment of the Ister-Granum European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability took place in May 2008, while it was registered with the competent Metropolitan Court in November 2008. The new grouping had the same name as the Euroregion had had, but it had its own legal personality and limited liability. It is a fact to be emphasized that 16 of the Euroregion’s 102 settlement local governments (mainly a part of those belonging to the Hungarian Pest County) did not join the EGTC yet. Between 2008 and 2014 another 4 settlements exited the grouping.

It is worth dividing the period since the establishment into two main periods. In the period between 2008 and 2011 several significant development projects were elaborated. Moreover, for the implementation of 3 of these projects, the grouping succeeded to win grants within the framework of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013”. Nevertheless, the projects “failed”, they were not implemented because the members (mainly the local government of Esztergom) could not provide the necessary own financial contribution. This caused a significant loss in confidence among the member local governments. This “learning” period is characterized by the instability of the management, as three directors followed each other at the head of the grouping. Moreover, between 2010 and 2014 Esztergom had an “opposition” mayor, that probably played an important role in that the group has won only smaller grants (e.g. within the framework of the Leader programme).

The period between 2011 and 2014 can be labelled by the “financial consolidation”, “becoming an entrepreneur” and “strategic planning” indicators. Despite the explosive increase in members’ contributions (probably additional payments) the year 2011 still resulted in a loss of more than 6 million HUF. Between 2012 and 2014, however, mainly owing to operation grants provided by the Hungarian central government and won through calls to tender, the financial situation of the grouping ameliorated (see Table 5).

Table 5 – Main financial-accounting data of the Ister-Granum EGTC, 2009 – 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Revenues, thousand HUF	4 785	18 144	13 875	16 984	17 240	22 962
of which: - net sales	0	0	92	637	2 456	3 250
- members' contribution	4 685	4 282	9 306	3 286	3 417	3 392
- grants	0	13 592	4 219	12 914	11 310	16 209
- income from financial activities	100	270	258	147	57	111
Expenditures, thousand HUF	7 603	13 352	20 303	15 660	16 988	20 578
of which: - personnel costs	1 643	6 839	11 449	11 322	11 709	11 880
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	- 2 818	4 792	- 6 428	1 324	252	2 384
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	n/a	n/a	3	3	3	3

Source: *Ister-Granum annual reports*

In parallel with this, the income from the “own”, entrepreneurial activities, mainly related to the sales of tender writing, project management services for the member local governments has increased, in 2014 this kind of income already accounted for almost 15% of total revenues.

Currently, 5 key priorities of the development of the border region covered by the EGTC are known:

1) The creation of the “Ister-Granum Business and Logistics Area” aiming at the “exploitation of the complementary advantages of the existing or future logistics-industrial potential on the two banks of the Danube”. The complementary advantages are provided by the fact that the strong industrial potential is coupled with weak logistical conditions on the Hungarian side of the common border line, meanwhile the situation is reversed at the Slovakian side where despite the favourable logistical conditions significant industrial activities have not yet emerged. The creation of the area would improve the employment indicators of the border region and the differences in development level would be decreased. However, this requires so-called “integrated territorial investments” (ITI). A working group of the Ister Granum EGTC set up in February 2013 has already elaborated some 20 ITI concepts (project plans for tenders), also indicating the potential executors (mainly member local governments). A report has been prepared too, and a business forum has also been launched where the larger employers of the border region (e.g. the Suzuki) are also represented. Nevertheless, in order to implement the plans it is required that the grant systems of the two countries “accommodate” the ITI project types, but it seems that there is still no real chance for this in the 2014-2020 EU programme period.

2) Development of transport infrastructure for which the Ister-Granum EGTC pursues mainly lobbying activities. One of the first results of this is the freight ferry connection between Esztergom and Štúrovo, that establishes a new direct North-South transport route between the Hungarian main road 11 and the Slovakian main road 63, contributing to the creation of the business-logistics area mentioned in the previous point. This concept is matched with a regional demand (common entrepreneurial interest) that the North-South connections (one of them) of the V. (Venice – Ljubljana – Budapest – Uzzhorod – Lviv) and the V/a. (Bratislava – Žilina – Košice – Uzzhorod) Pan-European transport corridors should be realized through the Esztergom – Štúrovo intersection point with joining the Hungarian highway M1 through the Zsámbék basin.

3) The objective of the “Creation of the network of local products” is “to secure local producers’ access to the markets, by this the promotion of alternative methods of income generation”. The support of the producers’ voluntary actions within the framework of cross-border cooperation contributes, on the one hand, to the increase in the local demand for local products, and – with strengthening of “socialization” and “internal social cohesion” – to the promotion of the Ister-Granum EGTC, on the other. Firstly, a brochure presenting local food products was made, published in 10 thousand copies and distributed to those settlements of the grouping where markets of local producers operate. Then the construction of a complete database containing the products and contacts of local producers has been started. Furthermore, the “Ister-Granum” common trademark was made within a framework of a project implemented jointly with the local Leader action groups. The first cross-border producers’ market has already taken place in the Hungarian Letkés. Nevertheless, the elaboration and implementation of detailed marketing plans are required for successful branding. Even the opportunities are significantly obstructed by the food chain regulation system and practice of the two countries that are different and strengthens “agrarian protectionism”.

4) Tourism development, the institutional framework of which would be provided by the “tourism destination management” (TDM), an “umbrella” organisation to be established in cooperation with the Pons Danubii (see subchapter 2.6) and the Arrabona (see subchapter 2.9) groupings operating also along the common Hungarian-Slovakian Danube stretch. With regard to the Ister-Granum, the activity of the tourism organisation would include the Danube Bend too. Furthermore, the development of a cross-border biking route is one of the mid-term (2014-2020) strategic goals of the grouping.

5) Renewable energy and environment management on the field, for which cooperation would be a novel element to be implemented, the first step of which – with the involvement of the research groups of the Hungarian BME and ELTE universities – would be the establishment of so-called consulting centres at both sides of the border.

The provision of Esztergom-Štúrovo public transport would be an obvious service but it could not be implemented in the given legislative environment. The hospital in Esztergom has free capacities, strengthening health cooperation, however, is not a reality either because of the differences in health insurance systems. Nevertheless, in the Slovakian Štúrovo/ Párkány settlement the number of out-patients residing has significantly grown in recent years.

The permanent office of the Ister-Granum hosting the working structure of the organization already has 4 employees, however, the grouping would not yet be able to finance the personnel costs without the support of the Hungarian central government (see Table 5). The Europe Institute established in 2013 by the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI) founded in 2009 and playing inevitable role in the establishment of the EGTCs with Hungarian participation, operates at the same address where the grouping is registered.

In spite of some exits, one can describe the Ister-Granum as a “multi-actor” grouping. This, on the one hand, strengthens the political-economic-social embeddedness of the grouping, but, on the other, it is difficult to hold the 80 local governments together in the operative sense, to coordinate the possibly different development plans, to create a coherent and feasible development strategy. This can explain that at the closing of the present study the Ister-Granum did not have a mid-term development strategy, for instance for the 2014-2020 EU programming period. The cooperation is still based on the Esztergom-Štúrovo bridge, consequently it is strongly exposed to the future change in the balance of political powers in these two settlements. Now it is still questionable, for instance, what the consequences of the 2014 municipal elections will be, as a result of which the mayor who led the Slovakian Štúrovo town between 1990 and 2014 has not been re-elected.

### **2.3 Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva)**

The Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva) European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability (hereinafter referred to as UTTS) was registered in January 2009 and can be defined as a cross-border “inter-municipal”, but not as a development area.

The UTTS – according to the grouping’s agreement dated December 2008 – was established by the Hungarian Homrogd Communal Local Government, the Hungar-

ian District Clerk of Baktakék, Beret, Detek, Gagyapáti Settlements, and the Slovakian Janík Commune. “Curiously” the seat of the grouping was registered in Kántorjánosi belonging to Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, that is 140 km far away from Homrogd and is closer rather to the Hungarian-Ukrainian and the Hungarian-Romanian (than the Hungarian-Slovakian) border. The seat was moved to Homrogd only in 2012. Altogether less than 3 thousand people live in the settlements represented by the members (see Table 6).

Table 6 – Main data of the Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva) EGTC

Date of registration:	08.01.2009
Members (at the time of establishment):	1 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian settlement local government, 1 Hungarian district clerk
Seat (settlement, country):	Homrogd, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	2 859 people
Revenues (2014):	n/a
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	unspecified

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanartasa>, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The grouping is formed by settlements belonging to the „periphery of the periphery”, a little village (Homrogd) of the Szikszó District, small villages (Baktakék, Beret, Detek) and a dwarf village (Gagyapáti) of the Encs District of the Hungarian Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, and only one Slovakian small village (Janík) belonging to the Košice-okolie District of the Košice County (see Table 7).

Table 7 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva) EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	Country	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Baktakék	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Encsi	772
Beret	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Encsi	264
Detek	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Encsi	270
Gagyapáti	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Encsi	16
HOMROGD	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Szikszói	931
Janík	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	606

Source: KSH, ŠÚSR

In the Statutes of the grouping the following activities (focus points of the cooperation) – related to the programmes to be implemented with the co-financing of the European Community and with territorial cooperation – have been defined:

1. promotion-development of common environmental management and environment protection;
2. support of urban and rural development and relations;
3. reducing isolation at the border areas;
4. promotion of better availability of information and communication networks;
5. activities promoting integrated territorial development.

Nevertheless, in order to implement the above-mentioned activities, establishment of a work organisation that would be responsible for operative tasks, elaboration of development programmes and projects, and submitting application for tenders – according to our information – has not yet taken place.

The preparation and publication of the financial report of the grouping – in accordance with the law – have not taken place either, so the grouping does not fulfil the basic requirement laid in its statutes and the Hungarian legislation.

On the whole, it can be said about the UTTS that it does not pursue any significant (official) activities, “de facto” it does not operate, it does not fulfil the legal requirements, according to our approach, and its EGTC role played in the revitalization of the Hungarian-Slovakian border region is “unspecified”.

## 2.4 Karst-Bodva

We can reach conclusions similar to the UTTS’s ones in the case of the “comparable” Karst-Bodva EGTC that was established in 2009 but registered in Slovakia.

Table 8 – Main data of the Karst-Bodva EGTC

Date of registration:	11.02.2009
Members (at the time of establishment):	2 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Turňa nad Bodvou, Slovakia
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	1 213 people
Revenues (2014):	n/a
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	unspecified

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The “inter-municipal” Karst-Bodva EGTC was founded by the local governments of the Hungarian Perkupa and Varbóc, and the Slovakian Hrušov settlements, the registered seat of the grouping, however, is located in the Slovakian Turňa nad Bodvou, which is a non-member settlement. The total number of the member-settlements hardly reaches 1 thousand people (see Table 8).

The grouping was formed on the territory of the “Gemer-Tornai karst” divided by the valley of the Bodva river, and being an organic unit in geological, geographical and culture-historical terms, but because of the state borders, it is mentioned separately as the Hungarian Aggtelek Karst and the Slovakian Slovak Karst. One cannot talk about an interlinked development area in the case of this EGTC because it is comprised by only 3 settlements. Of which a little village (Perkupa) and a dwarf village (Varbóc) belong to the Edelény District of the Hungarian Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, while a small village (Hrušov) belongs to the Rožňava District of the Slovakian Košice County (see Table 9).

**Table 9 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Karst-Bodva EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)**

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Hrušov / Körtvélyes	Slovakia	Košice	Rožňava	334
Perkupa	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Edelényi	837
Varbóc	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Encsi	42

*Source: KSH, ŠÚSR*

The establishment documents of the grouping formulate only a general objective: “supporting cooperation and harmonic development with strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the border areas”.

In order to reach this objective – according to our information – the Karst-Bodva EGTC has not pursued any significant activities. Similarly to the UTTS, “de facto” it does not operate, its EGTC role played in the revitalization of the Hungarian-Slovakian border region, according to our approach, is “unspecified”.

## **2.5 Abaúj-Abaújbán**

The Abaúj-Abaújbán European Limited Liability Grouping of Public Utility for Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as Abaúj-Abaújbán) was registered in May 2010. It is currently formed by the local governments of 9 Hungarian and 7 Slovakian settlements, but its headquarter can be found outside the programme area,

at Miskolc, which is the seat of the Hungarian Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (see Table 10).

Table 10 – Main data of the Abaúj-Abaújiban EGTC

Date of registration:	27.05.2010
Members (at the end of 2014):	9 Hungarian, 7 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Miskolc, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	10 096 people
Revenues (2014):	15 319 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	“grant hunter”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Abaúj-Abaújiban, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The grouping was created on the territory of the “Abaúj” historical-geographical small region, however, because of its small size and just 10 thousand inhabitants it can rather be defined as an “inter-municipal” EGTC. On the Hungarian side of the border region, 9 settlements belonging to Gönc District of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County can be found. The population of only one of them (Boldogkőváralja) reaches one thousand people, the others are little (Boldogkőújfalu), small (Fony, Korlát, Hejce, Hernádcéce) and dwarf (Arka, Mogyoróska) villages. Some 70% of the grouping’s total population lives on the Slovakian side of the common borderline, as two relatively bigger settlements (Velka Ida, Perín) can be found there. The other Slovakian settlements belong to the categories of little (Cestice) or small (Nizny Lanec, Komárovce, Debrad, Resica) villages (see Table 11).

Table 11 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Abaúj-Abaújiban EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Arka	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	60
Boldogkőújfalu	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	565
Boldogkőváralja	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	1 067
Fony	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	310
Hejce	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	223
Hernádcéce	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	209
Korlát	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	300
Mogyoróska	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	80

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Regéc	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	81
Cestice	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	824
Dehrad	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	378
Komárovce	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	387
Nizny Lanec	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	442
Perín	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	1 430
Resica	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	334
Velka Ida	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	3 406

Source: *Abaúj-Abaújban*, KSH, ŠÚSR

The antecedents of the Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC can be traced back to the end of the 1990s. The Foundation Supporting Rural and Territorial Development (Vidék- és Területfejlesztést Elősegítő Alapítvány, VITEA) founded by the “Szabó couple” (Ferenc Szabó and Klára Kémeri Szabóné) started to operate in the Hungarian Abaúji and Bodroghközi regions in 1998. Then the Abaúj-Abaújban was established from one of the development partnerships, while from the other one the Bodroghközi EGTC (see subchapter 2.10) “emerged”.

Hence, the creation of the base of the Abaúj-Abaújban cross-border cooperation between local governments is in great part due to the regional activity of the VITEA. Nevertheless, in the first half of the 2000s this was limited typically to the organisation of mayors’ meetings and establishment of twin-town relations. The cooperation was accelerated by the elimination of border control between the two countries. On the eve of the Schengen border opening (21 December 2007), at the initiative of the mayor of Boldogkőváralja, the above-mentioned 9 Hungarian and 7 Slovakian local governments as well as the VITEA established the cooperation named “Abaúj Development Partnership”. The first successful common project of the partnership was a tender aiming at strengthening twin-town relations, financed directly from Brussels’ resources, within the framework of the “Europe for Citizens” programme.

The “breaking-out” point was a project entitled “Abaúj tourism without borders”, financed with 1.5 million euros (!), implemented between 1 November 2009 and 28 February 2011 within the framework of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013”. The main beneficiary of the grant (its “lead partner”) was the Boldogkőváralja Communal Local Government, but the implementation was made within the framework of the “Abaúj Development Partnership”. The project achieved several, smaller developments improving the touristic attractions of the

border region. Mainly event locations, memorial houses, tourism information offices were created, but introductory films, information boards were also made, even a regular local train service was established to reach the Boldogkő Castle.

The Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC was set up in 2010 on the basis of this development partnership. So far, the organisation has mainly concerned the preparation for the 2014-2020 EU programme period. On the occasion of several “EGTC days” organized by member settlements the opportunity to show to the local audience the objectives and the achievements of the grouping was provided. Furthermore, the organization had opportunities to introduce itself at several regional development forums. In order to prepare for tenders aiming at the exploitation of renewable energy resources, plans of “geothermal wells” were prepared at several member settlements. In parallel with this, as part of its 2011 call for tender for the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013”, VITEA received a grant of 1.5 million euros (!) for a project that was finalized already by the end of 2014. The project, entitled “Possibilities for competitiveness”, implemented the training a total of only 50 entrepreneurs in 5 turns, and organized professional business conferences.

Table 12 – Main financial-accounting data of the Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC, 2010 – 2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Revenues, thousand HUF	n/a	4 335	21 855	7 805	15 319
of which:					
- net sales	n/a	0	0	0	402
- members' contribution	n/a	38	793	412	325
- grants	n/a	4 283	20 474	7 205	14 471
- income from financial activities	n/a	14	588	185	121
Expenditures, thousand HUF	n/a	3 579	19 087	7 821	15 683
of which:					
- personnel costs	n/a	714	2 731	820	0
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	n/a	756	2 768	- 16	- 364
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

Source: Abaúj-Abaújban annual reports

Since its establishment, among the revenues of the Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC only the operating grants provided by the Hungarian government are present. From the available information the use pattern of these grants is not obvious. The grouping does not have its own staff, the operative work organising tasks is probably done by the VITEA (see Table 12).

The active preparation for the 2014-2020 development period is indicated by the fact that the grouping's development strategy (entitled “Ferenc Rákóczi II. Plan”) has already been prepared.

As a whole, it can be concluded that the Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC has been set up as a result of an organic institutional development. In a small border region significant projects have been achieved, that have implemented not only events strengthening civilian (people-to-people) relations, but also projects aiming at tourism or renewable energy management development as well as at cooperation between local entrepreneurs. The EGTC, however, has yet provided only a loose institutional framework, and it has not turned up as an independent regional development actor. The potential legal-organisational added value of the grouping has not been utilized yet, until now the operation of the EGTC has basically targeted at “hunting” the Hungarian state subsidies.

## 2.6 Pons Danubii

The Pons Danubii EGTC institutionalizing a “micro-regional” cross-border cooperation was registered in December 2010. Its current members are 4 Hungarian and 3 Slovakian settlement (town) local governments, its official seat is located in the Slovakian town of Komárno (see Table 13).

Table 13 – Main data of the Pons Danubii EGTC

Date of registration:	16.12.2010
Members (at the end of 2014):	4 Hungarian, 3 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Komárno, Slovakia
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	119 751 people
Revenues (2014):	n/a
Geographical type:	micro-regional
EGTC Role (2015):	“entrepreneur”

Source <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Pons Danubii, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The geographical area of the Pons Danubii – covering the “historical” district of Komárom – can be defined as a cross-border “development zone” or micro-region. Only towns have joined the grouping, the total number of population amounts to 120 thousand people. On the Slovakian side of the common borderline one middle-town (Komárno) and two little towns (Hurbanovo, Kolárovo) of Nitra County can be found. The Hungarian side is represented by a middle (Tata) and three little towns (Komárom, Oroszlány és Kisbér) all of which are district centres of Komárom-Esztergom County. The distribution of the grouping’s population by country is relatively symmetric (Hungary: 56%, Slovakia: 44%) (see Table 14).

Table 14 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Pons Danubii EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Hurbanovo	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	7 656
Kolárovo	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	10 665
KOMÁRNO	Slovakia	Nitra	Komárno	34 561
Kisbér	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Kisbéri	5 564
Komárom	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Komáromi	19 284
Oroszlány	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Oroszlányi	18 446
Tata	Hungary	Komárom-Esztergom	Tatai	23 575

Source: Pons Danubii, KSH, ŠÚSR

The Pons Danubii cooperation was established practically without any institutional (euroregion, civil organisation) antecedents, after a preliminary work that lasted for some 2 years. The “geographical constraint” also played a role in its establishment, because “at the East” the expansion of the Ister-Granum (see subchapter 2.2) already reached a “critical” level, and “at the West” the Arrabona EGTC (see subchapter 2.9) dominated by Győr started to be formed. Hence the Pons Danubii was practically established as a wedge between the Ister-Granum and Arrabona, completing the “EGTC coverage” of the common Hungarian-Slovakian line of the Danube.

The cross-border cooperation projects, however, did not mean anything new in the region, the EGTC member local governments and the non-profit organisations contributing to the grouping’s activity had played active role in the Hungarian-Slovakian CBC programmes already before the establishment of the Pons Danubii. Nové Zámky having a relatively large population in the border region (some 40 thousand of inhabitants), however – by its own decision – has remained outside the grouping, it participates in concrete development projects at most.

The first 4-5 years of the operation of the Pons Danubii can be considered as a real “success story”. The grouping can be defined as a project-oriented EGTC playing an “entrepreneur” role, established mainly to prepare and implement Hungarian-Slovakian CBC projects. The so-called special committees formed by regional development professionals, for “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013”, had elaborated 11 grant application (project plans) aiming at grants amounting to 12 million euros in total. The Pons Danubii was the “lead partner” of the following granted – and already implemented – projects:

1) This first successful tender application of the grouping was a project named “Crossing Borders by Information” that implemented a media cooperation. With the collaboration of local televisions of 9 settlements (EGTC members + Nové Zámky, Svodín), a “web television” was implemented and operated from 1 January 2013 for almost 2 years. The common staff of 7 employees made and published more than 600 bilingual programmes, and video materials of more than 5000 minutes in total. The number of visitors of the website was more than 600 thousand during the project period. Besides the e-content development, common gallery and radio voice were created, and publications were also issued within the framework of the project financed by some 230 thousand euros.

2) “Cross-border cooperation of labour markets – WORKMARKET”: the project was granted within the Hungarian-Slovakian CBC application call of the year of 2011 yet, but – because of a delay in approvals of central authorities – it could be started only at the beginning of 2014. The project having had a budget of some 200 thousand euros was implemented in a professional cooperation between the Pons Danubii, the Slovakian Janos Selye University in Komárno and the Slovakian local labour office in Komárno (Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny Komárno). The Pons Danubii – besides fulfilling coordination and administrative project management tasks – contributed to the successful implementation of the project mainly with the preparation of a cross-border labour market analysis of some 200 pages. Whilst the partners realized mainly education programmes targeting entrepreneurs. Furthermore, creation of a bilingual website, issue of publications, job markets and organising of study trips were achieved.

3) In terms of volume, the largest project named “Komárom-Komárno-Kolárovo cycling route”, financed with a grant amounting to 2 million euros within the framework of the 2011 application call of the Hungarian-Slovakian CBC programme, has realised a cycling route connecting the Hungarian Komárom and the Slovakian Kolárovo towns. The building of the road of some 17 km in length was started in spring 2014 and it was finished in September 2014. Besides the infrastructure development, another important “product” of the project was a promotion video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RermKTvbkaM>). The project matches the development realized earlier by the Hungarian local government of Komárom whose long-term objective is to make a connection to the Eurovel 6 Wien-Budapest international cycling route.

Besides its direct involvement, the Pons Danubii has also contributed to start several projects in the region, mainly with its tender writing, project management (for profit) activities. The outstanding one of these projects is an economic cooperation

aiming at the creation of a cross-border business park to be realized by a common investment of the Hungarian Komárom and the Slovakian Hurbanovo local governments. The project with a total cost of 2.5 million euros, granted with an amount of 2 million euros by the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013”, has resulted in an expansion of the business parks of the two towns, and substantive development of public utilities was also realized. The project has been based on the economic “asymmetry” already mentioned in the case of the Ister-Granum (see subchapter 2.2): the Hungarian industrial, logistical advancement is coupled with a high level of unemployment in Slovakia. The situation is slightly subtled by Nokia’s exit from the Hungarian Komárom that has resulted in a fall of the town’s revenues from local business taxes by half, threatening the long-term economic sustainability of the cross-border business park.

The cross-border labour market situation is reflected by a project named “Slovakian-Hungarian cross-border migration” that has realized a labour market research and has been implemented jointly by the Hungarian Kopint Foundation For Economic Research and the Slovakian Kempelen Institute, also within the framework of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013”. The “involvement” of the Pons Danubii is given by that the seat of the Kempelen Institute can be found in the Slovakian Komárno too, meanwhile its leader is the director of the Pons Danubii.

It makes the comparison with the financial-economic situation of the other EGTCs harder that the financial-accounting report of the Pons Danubii is not public, it was not given to us – in spite of our repeated requests – by the organisation. During the in-depth interviews forming the basis of this case study, however, we have found that the member local governments pay a population-proportional contribution, 150 HUF / 0.5 EUR per inhabitants. This provides some 18 million HUF / 60 thousand EUR regular revenues for the organisation, which is by far the largest members’ contribution in the cases of the Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs. This is supplemented by “own resources” originated from “entrepreneur” EGTC role (tender writing, project management services). The subsidies provided by the Hungarian state, however, are not presented in the grouping’s revenues. In order to be eligible for them, the grouping has established the Pons Danubii Development Agency of Public Utility Nonprofit Ltd. with a Hungarian seat (in Tata). For ensuring operative work, the EGTC and the Nonprofit Ltd. employ 2-2 persons who are complemented by other 2-4 persons, depending on the human resource demand of the current projects.

The Pons Danubii is waiting for the 2014-2020 EU budget period with a complex and approved development strategy, and project concepts already elaborated. The tourism development will probably be in the focus of the developments. In order to build services (e.g. creation of cross-border bike renting system, organisation of

events, creation of Internet platforms, issue of publications) on the physical infrastructure already available (bridges, cycling roads etc.). The goal is that the grouping should play a “public services provider” role in tourism that – besides implementation of political, strategic objectives – could ensure the long-term sustainability of the operation of the organisation, with generating own revenues. Furthermore, it is also a priority objective to strengthen cooperation aiming at implementation of projects directly financed by Brussels sources and implemented jointly with international (mainly German, Dutch, and Slovenian) institutional partners.

## 2.7 Rába-Duna-Vág

The Rába-Duna-Vág European Limited Liability Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as Rába-Duna-Vág) established for “macro-regional” territorial cooperation was registered in December 2011. It was founded by two Hungarian (Győr-Moson-Sopron and Komárom-Esztergom) and one Slovakian (Trnava) county-level local governments, that altogether represent more than 1.3 million inhabitants divided in 60-40 per cents between the Hungarian and the Slovakian side. The seat of the grouping is located at the Hungarian Tatabánya (seat of Komárom-Esztergom county) (see Table 15 and Table 16).

Table 15 – Main data of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC

Date of registration:	10.12.2011
Members (at the end of 2014):	2 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian county local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Tatabánya, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	1 310 161 people
Revenues (2014):	12 884 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	macro-regional
EGTC Role (2015):	“grant hunter”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Rába-Duna-Vág, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

Table 16 – Size of population of the member counties of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

County	Country	Population, 2011 (people)
Győr-Moson-Sopron	Hungary	447 985
KOMÁROM-ESZTERGOM	Hungary	304 568
Trnava	Slovakia	557 608

Source: Rába-Duna-Vág, KSH, ŠÚSR

It is declared that the EGTC was formed in order to implement the “Danube Strategy” objectives related to the Hungarian-Slovakian borderline. Formerly two euroregions were operating on the geographical area of the grouping, but these can be considered only as indirect institutional antecedents of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC. The “Vag-Danube-Ipel Euroregion” was established still in 1999 by the Hungarian Komárom-Esztergom and Pest counties as well as the local governments of the Slovakian Nitra County. Despite the ambitious objectives, only some small-scale projects were realized under the “umbrella” of the euroregion. For a long time the seat of the euroregion was in the same building (in Tatabánya where the seat of the Komárom-Esztergom county local government is) where now the office of the Rába-Duna-Vág can be found. Similarly, the operation of the “Triple Danube Euroregion” brought little results too, that was founded by the Hungarian Győr-Moson-Sopron county and the Slovakian Žitný ostrov-Matúšova zem Regional Association (Podunajsko - Dolnovážske regionálne združenie) in 2011, and to which later several Hungarian and Slovakian settlement local governments also joined. In this case the continuity is that the former president of the Slovakian regional association is the current director of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC.

The establishment and foregoing room to manoeuvre of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC have been strongly determined, much stronger than in the cases of the other examined EGTCs, by the balance of political powers. The creation of the EGTC was initiated by Komárom-Esztergom County in order to cover the common Hungarian-Slovakian line of the Danube by a cross-border institutional cooperation by 3 Hungarian and 3 Slovakian county local governments. The Slovakian Bratislava County (Bratislavský kraj) will probably join soon. Nevertheless, now – according to the known declarations of intent – it seems that, in spite of the former euroregional cooperation as well as the long-lasting reconciliations, the Hungarian Pest County and the Slovakian Nitra county local governments will not join the Rába-Duna-Vág but they will probably establish their own bilateral EGTC.

The agreement of the grouping defines the following “development areas” of the “macro-regional” cross-border cooperation for strengthening economic and social cohesion: 1. Infrastructure, 2. Energy, 3. Information technology, 4. Motor vehicle industry, 5. Tourism, 6. Education, 7. Culture, 8. Sport, 9. Programme management for common projects, 10. Development of Danube and its affluents, 11. Logistics, 12. Support of small and medium companies, 13. Environment protection and agriculture.

Despite the wide spectrum of cooperation intent, the first 3 years of operation of the grouping has resulted in few significant results. The main reason for this is that the call for tenders of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013” had been already closed by the time of the registration of the EGTC. Lacking significant development sources, the activity of the Rába-Duna-Vág has been restricted to the following activities:

1) Participation in professional conferences, workshops in order to gain experience as well as to promote the grouping's objectives.

2) Elaboration of development strategic concepts, action plans. One of the main objectives of the EGTC is to implement so-called "integrated territorial investments" – already mentioned in the case of the Ister-Granum (see subchapter 2.2) – financed partly by CBC, partly by Hungarian and Slovakian domestic sources. One of the main obstacles to this is that none of the tender systems of the two countries is able to "include" this type of investments yet. The other implementation problem is that the development of the inferior roads is still one of the competencies of the county-level local governments in Slovakia, while in Hungary this is already a central government task.

3) Lobbying activities in order to consolidate the "grant intermediary" EGTC role of the Rába-Duna-Vág. One of the high-priority objectives of the grouping is to become one of the "intermediary organisations" that will firstly decide about the applications in the case of the small-scale projects mainly implementing "people-to-people" type of cooperation, within the framework of the next "Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020" operative programme. The Rába-Duna-Vág would fulfil this task on the "Western" part of the common Hungarian-Slovakian border, while – according to the "cooperation agreement" of the two EGTCs – on the "Eastern" part this role would be played by the Via Carpatia (see subchapter 2.12). Mainly because the counties are represented in the "task force" committee coordinating the preparatory works, the recommendation for the "intermediary organisational" participation of the two EGTCs has been incorporated into the draft of the operative programme. At the closure of the current research report, the approval of the operative programme by the European Commission (hence its publication) has not yet taken place.

The Rába-Duna-Vág does not have own (business) revenues, its operation is financed in one-fourth by members' contributions and in three-fourths by the Hungarian central state subsidies. Practically the state grants cover the wage costs of the currently employed two persons (director, head of office) (see Table 17).

Table 17 – Main financial-accounting data of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC, 2012 – 2014

	2012	2013	2014
Revenues, thousand HUF	n/a	18 195	12 884
of which:			
- net sales	n/a	0	0
- members' contribution	n/a	n/a	3 213
- grants	n/a	n/a	9 671
- income from financial activities	n/a	260	0

	2012	2013	2014
Expenditures, thousand HUF	n/a	16 693	12 859
of which: - personnel costs	n/a	9 103	9 714
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	n/a	1 502	25
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Rába-Duna-Vág annual reports

As a whole, it can be concluded that the definitive vision of the Rába-Duna-Vág is to realize a macro-regional cooperation, to play a “grant intermediary” EGTC role. At the time being, however, it plays only a “grant hunter” role, and its future depends strongly on the EGTC participation intents of Pest and Nitra counties.

## 2.8 Novohrad-Nógrád

The Novohrad-Nógrád European Limited Liability Grouping for Territorial Cooperation with (hereinafter referred to as Novohrad-Nógrád) institutionalizing still just an inter-municipal” cross-border cooperation was set up at the end of 2011. It is currently based on the cooperation of two settlement local governments, the Hungarian Salgótarján giving also the seat of the EGTC and the Slovakian Filakovo (see Table 18).

The EGTC represents a population of some 50 thousand people which is shared asymmetrically between the two sides of the border. Indeed, almost 80% of the EGTC population is represented by a middle-town, Salgótarján being also the seat of the Hungarian Nógrád county (and the Salgótarján District). Meanwhile on the Slovakian side a little town, Filakovo can be found that belongs to the Lučenec District of the Banskobystrický County (see Table 19).

Table 18 – Main data of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC

Date of registration:	21.12.2011
Members (at the end of 2014):	1 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Salgótarján, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	48 034 people
Revenues (2014):	15 352 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	“grant hunter”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europa-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Novohrad-Nógrád, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

Table 19 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
SALGÓTARJÁN	Hungary	Nógrád	Salgótarjáni	37 262
Fil'akovo	Slovakia	Banskobystrický	Lučenec	10 772

Source: Novohrad-Nógrád, KSH, ŠÚSR

A civilian initiative can be defined as the antecedent of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC. The Nógrád Geopark Association was founded in 2009 in Hungary (from 2010 it operates in the form of “non-profit ltd.”), in order to prepare – following the civil, professional works already started in 2006 – the first cross-border so-called geopark aiming at the integration of the historical heritage, landscape and communities of the “Palóc” rural area. On the Slovakian side the Združenie právnických osôb Geopark Novohrad-Nógrád was established with similar objectives and with a similar organisational form. Owing to the joint efforts, in the spring of 2010 the “Novohrad – Nógrád Geopark” became an official member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) operating under and waiting for joining UNESCO as a full member through the European Geoparks Network (EGN). The task of the Geopark is to preserve and present “geological, landscape, natural, ecological, archaeological, historical and cultural heritage and integrates all these to form geo-touristic offers, thereby developing the local economy” on the territory of cooperation.

The geopark interlinks 64 Hungarian and 28 Slovakian settlements, hence a population of 150 thousand people, however, only the two central settlements, the Hungarian Salgótarján and the Slovakian Fil'akovo joined the EGTC emerging as a new opportunity and being more suitable for getting (CBC) funds. It is worth mentioning that in the programme area of the EGTC – at least “on paper” – the “Neogradiensis Euroregion”, established by two civilian associations (the Hungarian Neogradiensis Region Association and the Slovakian Region Neogradiensis) but supported also by the members of the Hungarian county (Nógrád) and the Slovakian district (Lučenec, Veľký Krtíš, Poltár) parliament, has operated since 2000. Nonetheless, this cannot be considered as the institutional antecedent of the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC.

The main reason behind that the EGTC has not become an engine of development of the geopark is that in the first 3 years (2012-2014) of its operation the EGTC did not have a chance to participate in the tenders of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013” yet. Hence the first 3 years have been mainly spent on “socialization” and strategy creation.

In 2014 the grouping won a grant amounting to 12 thousand Euros from the International Visegrad Fund for its project entitled “Establishment of the Novohrad – Nógrád Geopark Partner Network”. The project has resulted – mainly through conferences and workshops – in the involvement of the stakeholder sectors engaged in nature conservation, education, regional development and tourism (local governments, civilian and business sphere, state and territorial professional institutions). Furthermore, study trips were undertaken at those Czech and Polish application partners that are also members of the international (EGN, GGN) geopark networks.

Additionally, the operation grant provided by the Hungarian government has contributed to the revenues of the EGTC, to maintain the office functioning as a work organ and to employ the staff (4 persons in 2014). In 2014, however, “business revenues” of some 2.5 million HUF were also reached (see Table 20).

The EGTC provided expertise for the elaboration and implementation of an EU (non CBC) tender of the local government of Salgótarján, amounting to more than 600 million HUF and targeting the “eco-touristic” development of the geopark. During the preparation for the 2014-2020 EU budget (tender) period, tourism development strategies and action plans were also elaborated, with a special focus on the development of equestrian tourism. This is mainly because the director of the EGTC and the president Hungarian Equestrian Tourism Association of Public Utility is the same person.

Table 20 – Main financial-accounting data of the Novohrad-Nógrád ETT EGTC, 2012 – 2014

	2012	2013	2014
Revenues, thousand HUF	13 096	10 962	15 352
of which:			
- net sales	0	0	2 528
- members' contribution	n/a	n/a	n/a
- grants	n/a	n/a	n/a
- income from financial activities	40	1	15
Expenditures, thousand HUF	13 056	9 495	15 385
of which:			
- personnel costs	4 920	3 614	11 297
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	40	1 467	- 64
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	2	2	4

Source: Novohrad-Nógrád annual reports

As a whole, it can be stated that the Novohrad-Nógrád EGTC was established for a “well-marketable story”, in order to develop a “cross-border geopark”. Until now, however, it plays only a “grant-hunter” EGTC role, its operation is practically financed

by the Hungarian central budget. Nevertheless, the expertise available, the concrete ideas targeting tourism development ensure suitable base for increasing the added value of the EGTC. In order to realize the opportunities, however, it is necessary to increase the geographical extent (the number of local governments) that could also moderate the “exposure” to decisions based on political aspects.

## 2.9 Arrabona

The Arrabona European Limited Liability Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as Arrabona) implementing a cross-border “micro-regional” territorial cooperation was registered at the end of 2011. It was established by two Hungarian (Győr, Mosonmagyaróvár) and two Slovakian (Dunajská Streda, Šamorín) towns, but now (at closing time of the case study) it already has 24 Hungarian and 5 Slovakian settlement local government members. Győr being a Hungarian regional centre gives its seat (see Table 21).

Table 21 – Main data of the Arrabona EGTC

Date of registration:	29.12.2011
Members (at the end of 2014):	24 Hungarian, 5 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Győr, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	249 225 people
Revenues (2014):	40 870 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	micro-regional
EGTC Role (2015):	“entrepreneur”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Arrabona, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The grouping was set up in favour of the cooperation of two border regions (Szigetköz, Žitný ostrov). The EGTC represents a population of some 250 thousand people, the distribution of the member settlements and the total population, however, are quite asymmetric. Four-fifths of the members and the population is given by the settlements of three districts (Győr, Csorna and Mosonmagyaróvár) of Győr-Moson-Sopron County. The seat, Győr as a large town gives alone more than half of the EGTC’s population. The Slovakian side is represented by a middle town (Dunajská Streda), two little towns (Šamorín, Velk Meder) and two communes (Horn Bar, Vel’ké Dvorníky) of Dunajská Streda District of Trnavský County (see Table 22).

Table 22 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Arrabona EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Abda	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	3 011
Bágyogszovát	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Csornai	1 285
Bóny	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	2 131
Börcs	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 255
Dunakiliti	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Mosonmagyaróvári	1 987
Dunaszeg	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 937
Dunaszentpál	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	688
GYŐR	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	129 527
Győrság	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 433
Győrújbarát	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	5 968
Győrújfalu	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 608
Halászi	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Mosonmagyaróvári	3 070
Ikrény	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 775
Kimle	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Mosonmagyaróvári	2 300
Kisbajcs	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	866
Kunsziget	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 233
Mecsér	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Mosonmagyaróvári	579
Mosonmagyaróvár	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Mosonmagyaróvári	32 004
Mosonszolnok	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Mosonmagyaróvári	1 644
Nagyszentjános	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 802
Pér	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	2 321
Rábapatonna	Hungary	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	2 423
Vámosszabadi	Slovakia	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	1 589
Vének	Slovakia	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Győri	167
Dunajská Streda	Slovakia	Trnavský	Dunajská Streda	22 481
Horn Bar	Slovakia	Trnavský	Dunajská Streda	1 249
Šamorín	Slovakia	Trnavský	Dunajská Streda	12 992
Veľké Dvorníky	Slovakia	Trnavský	Dunajská Streda	1 072
Veľké Meder	Slovakia	Trnavský	Dunajská Streda	8 828

Source: Arrabona, KSH, ŠÚSR

The Arrabona EGTC in fact was established without any institutional antecedents of cross-border cooperation. The “small regional association” of Győr can perhaps be considered as an institutional antecedent, in the sense that the office currently providing the work organisation of the EGTC formerly functioned as the operative seat of the small regional association, and a part of the EGTC staff (also the Director) were formerly employed by the small regional association.

The EGTC was founded by 4 settlements, on the initiative of Győr town having an unquestionable economic power but searching for innovative development breaking-out points between Wien, Bratislava and Budapest. The number of members – exceptionally among the EGTCs examined – has been continuously increased, indicating that, in spite of the dominant role of Győr, the joining has meant an attractive perspective for the border region’s other smaller local governments lacking financial sources.

The first 3 years of the operation of the Arrabona has brought ambivalent results. Three project concepts were submitted to the last call of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013” operative programme, but none of them has been granted. In the first year of the operation, in 2012, almost entirely the members’ contributions and the Hungarian government grants generated revenues, and the year was closed with a loss as a whole. From 2013, however, the Arrabona has undertaken an “entrepreneur” role. The member contributions (currently: 30 HUF or 0.1 EUR per inhabitant) provide only a part of the necessary revenues, the available Hungarian grants for the operation of the Arrabona have decreased with the growing number of the EGTCs with Hungarian participation, and new CBC application calls have been not released. Given these unfavourable conditions, it has been obvious for the Arrabona’s management, that only strengthening of its own, business-type activities could guarantee the chances for survival of the grouping.

The employees of the office functioning as the working organisation of the Arrabona have started to provide tender application writing, project management services for the EGTC member local governments. They have contributed to the Hungarian small settlements’ getting Hungarian rural development sources to buy village buses, to the lengthening of the side-track of the industrial park in Győr, to the implementation of the project of Győr local government increasing R&D capacity and knowledge in motor vehicle industry and also dealing with cross-border employment possibilities, and to some smaller-scale human resource developments. Not only local governments but also civilian organisations, business entities can be found among the grouping’s references. In 2014 they helped their partners to implement investments amounting to some 2 billion HUF that generated revenues of more than 20 million HUF for the grouping. Owing to the increasing “entrepreneur” EGTC role, more than half of the grouping’s current revenues have already resulted from business activities. In 2014 the work organisation had 4 permanent employees (see Table 23).

Table 23 – Main financial-accounting data of the Arrabona EGTC, 2009 – 2014

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Revenues, thousand HUF	15 311	24 497	40 870
of which:			
- net sales	0	10 102	22 741
- members' contribution	n/a	3 571	7 370
- grants	n/a	10 618	10 520
- income from financial activities	0	206	239
Expenditures, thousand HUF	19 862	17 438	38 354
of which:			
- personnel costs	10 525	11 567	25 310
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	- 4 551	7 059	2 516
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	n/a	4	4

*Source: Arrabona annual reports*

Besides business services, the Arrabona tries to pursue forceful lobbying activity, mainly in order to develop infrastructure of the given border region. Nonetheless, the grouping's activities have been almost exclusively focused on the Hungarian side of the border region. On the Slovakian side until now only different types of events (EGTC assemblies, conferences, workshops etc.) have usually taken place. These events have played an important role in that – with the contribution of the CESCO – the middle-term “integrated territorial strategy” of the Arrabona aiming at the efficient utilization of financial resources of the programme period of 2014-2020 has been prepared. The development strategy defines 21 project “packages” related to the following “intervention” areas:

- Innovation-guided economy
- Creation of a cross-border employment-education area
- Environmental cooperation
- Public services cooperation
- Coordination of development ideas
- Sharing buffer functions
- Networking
- Uniform representation of the Arrabona EGTC

As a whole, it can be concluded that, owing mainly to the commitment of the Győr local government and professional background of people managing the organisation, among the EGTCs examined, the Arrabona can be considered as one of the most successful ones. The sustainability of the results, however, depends much on its capability to extend its activities over the Slovakian side of the common borderline.

## 2.10 Bodrogeközi

The Bodrogeközi European Limited Liability Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as Bodrogeközi) was registered in April 2012. At present, 6 Hungarian and 11 Slovakian settlement local governments are its members, but its seat is located outside the programme area, at Miskolc being the seat of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County in Hungary (see Table 24).

Table 24 – Main data of the Bodrogeközi EGTC

Date of registration:	11.04.2012
Members (at the end of 2014):	6 Hungarian, 11 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Miskolc, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	14 471 people
Revenues (2014):	14 644 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	“grant hunter”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Bodrogeközi, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The grouping was formed in the “Bodrogeköz” historical-geographical small region. Nonetheless, given its very small size and its less than 15 thousand inhabitants it can be rather defined as an “inter-municipal” EGTC. On the Hungarian side of the border region 6 settlements belonging the Cigánd and the Sátoraljaújhely District of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County can be found. The number of population of only two of them (Tiszakarád, Karcsa) reaches one thousand people, the others are little (Alsóberecki, Tiszacsermely) or small (Karos, Felsóberecki) villages. Somewhat more than half (56%) of the grouping’s total population live on the Slovakian side of the common borderline, in the Trebišov District of the Košický County where besides three relatively bigger settlements (Streda nad Bodrogom, Somotor, Malý Horeš) also little (Velky Kamenec, Viničky) or small (Malý Kamenec, Zemplín, Ladmovce, Bara, Klin nad Bodrogom, Černochoch) villages can be found (see Table 25).

Table 25 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Bodrogeközi EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Alsóberecki	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Sátoraljaújhelyi	729
Felsóberecki	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Sátoraljaújhelyi	264
Karcsa	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Cigándi	1 824
Karos	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Cigándi	494
Tizsacsermely	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Cigándi	574
Tizsakarád	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Cigándi	2 464
Bara	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	308
Černochov	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	203
Klín nad Bodrogom	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	212
Ladmovce	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	326
Malý Horeš	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	1104
Malý Kamenec	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	442
Somotor	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	1529
Streda nad Bodrogom	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	2306
Veľký Kamenec	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	797
Viničky	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	508
Zemplín	Slovakia	Košice	Trebišov	387

Source: Bodrogeközi, KSH, ŠÚSR

As regards its establishment conditions, antecedents, operation model and results achieved, the Bodrogeközi EGTC can be considered as a “twin brother” of the Abaúj-Abaújbán EGTC (see subchapter 2.5). The close “relationship” is confirmed by that the registered seat of both groupings can be found at the same address, they are led by a married couple (“Szabó family”) who simultaneously manage the Foundation Supporting Rural and Territorial Development (Vidék- és Területfejlesztést Elősegítő Alapítvány, VITEA) interlocking also with the Bodrogeközi EGTC.

The “institutional” roots of this grouping can be traced back to the “Bodrogeközi Development Partnership” established in 2004. In fact, it is in a great part due to this partnership including 17 settlements that a road (of some 2.5 km in length) construction and a bridge reconstruction connecting the Hungarian Karos and the Slovakian Streda nad Bodrogom settlements were implemented. The investment was carried out already in 2006, within the framework of the “Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme, 2004-2006”, and the two communal local governments were

the beneficiaries. Moreover, mainly some common events (with the participation of the inhabitants or entrepreneurs) have been taken place.

The Bodrogeközi EGTC was established on the basis of this development partnership, but – because of a long-lasting approval process in Slovakia – it was only registered in 2012. The first some 3 years of the organisation’s operation have been mainly spent on the preparation for the 2014-2020 EU programme period. “EGTC days” were organised in the member settlements where it was possible to present the objectives and already achieved results of the grouping for the local people. In order to prepare for tenders aiming at the exploitation of renewable energy resources, plans for “geothermal wells” have been prepared at several member settlements.

Since its establishment, among the revenues of the Bodrogeközi EGTC only the operating grants provided by the Hungarian government are present. From the available information the use pattern of these grants is not obvious. The grouping does not have its own staff, the operative work organising tasks – similarly to the case of the Abauj-Abaujban – is probably done (as an “external entrepreneur”) by the VITEA (see Table 26).

Table 26 – Main financial-accounting data of the Bodrogeközi EGTC, 2012 – 2014

	2012	2013	2014
Revenues, thousand HUF	8 506	9 844	14 644
of which: - net sales	0	0	0
- members' contribution	402	417	525
- grants	8 005	9 206	14 008
- income from financial activities	98	220	111
Expenditures, thousand HUF	8 012	9 246	14 124
of which: - personnel costs	0	0	0
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	494	598	520
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	0	0	0

Source: Bodrogeközi annual reports

As a whole, in the case of the Bodrogeközi we can come to conclusions similar to the ones in the case of the Abauj-Abaujban (see subchapter 2.5): the EGTC has provided only a loose institutional framework for regional, otherwise quite active cooperations (mainly in the fields of civil relations, renewable energy management, entrepreneurial activities) yet, it has not turned up as an independent regional development actor. The potential legal-organisational added value of the grouping has not been utilized yet, until now the operation of the EGTC was basically targeted at “hunting” the Hungarian state subsidies.

## Sajó-Rima / Slaná-Rimava

The Sajó-Rima/Slaná-Rimava European Limited Liability Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as Sajó-Rima) that can be defined as an “inter-municipal” geographical type of EGTC was registered in April 2013. Among its members two Hungarian and two Slovakian settlement local governments can be found, its seat is given by Putnok town (see Table 27).

Table 27 – Main data of the Sajó-Rima EGTC

Date of registration:	03.04.2013
Members (at the end of 2014):	2 Hungarian, 2 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Putnok, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	73 123 people
Revenues (2014):	12 462 thousand HUF
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	“grant-hunter”

Source <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, Sajó-Rima, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The Sajó-Rima was founded on the territory of the “Gömör/Gemer” historical-geographical small region; however, it cannot be defined as a “microregional”, but rather as an “inter-municipal” cross-border cooperation of four towns altogether representing some 70 thousand people. On the Hungarian side a middle (Ózd) and a little (Putnok) town being two district centres of the Hungarian Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County are located. On the Slovakian side also a middle (Rimavská Sobota) and a little (Tornal’a) town of the Banskobystrický County can be found (see Table 28).

Table 28 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Sajó-Rima EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Ózd	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Ózdi	34 481
PUTNOK	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Putnoki	6905
Rimavská Sobota	Slovakia	Banskobystrický	Rimavská Sobota	24 322
Tornal’a	Slovakia	Banskobystrický	Revúca	7 415

Source: Sajó-Rima, KSH, ŠÚSR

The Sajó-Rima EGTC basically can be considered as the institutional descendant of the Sajó-Rima Euroregion. The Euroregion (founded in 2000), incorporated, however, a much bigger geographical area (in Hungary: Ózd-Putnok little region, Kazincbarcika little region, Miskolc little region, Tiszaújváros little region, Mezőcsát little region, in Slovakia: Rimavská Sobota, Rožňava and Revúca districts) and a population of some 1 million people. Although the euroregional years did not bring significant results, they have contributed to the creation of personal and institutional (mainly local governmental) relations. In order to utilize the new possibilities offered by the EGTC legal instrument, the Putnok local government – having been an engine of the Euroregion –, has decided to establish the EGTC.

By the time of the registration of the Sajó-Rima EGTC, however, the financial resources of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013” had dried up, so the EGTC immediately entered into a “sleeping status”. The first 2 years of the operation have been spent on getting experience and strategic preparation for the new programme period. The operation has been almost entirely financed by the grants provided by the Hungarian government (see Table 29).

Table 29 – Main financial-accounting data of the Sajó-Rima EGTC, 2013 – 2014

	2013	2014
Revenues, thousand HUF	n/a	12 462
of which:		
- net sales	n/a	0
- members' contribution	n/a	2 452
- grants	n/a	10 000
- income from financial activities	n/a	1
Expenditures, thousand HUF	n/a	6 414
of which:		
- personnel costs	n/a	1 380
Balance sheet, thousand HUF	n/a	6 049
Average statistical staff number of employees, people	n/a	n/a

Source: Sajó-Rima annual reports

At the close of this case study, the preparation of the grouping's development strategy and “source map” – in a collaboration with the CESCO – was still in progress. Taking the local natural and demographical conditions and realities into account, the EGTC wishes to strengthen cross-border relations in the following fields:

1) Information technological development, in order to intermediate economic (labour market, retail, services) information even faster, mainly in order to strengthen the internal market. For example there is an excess of supply of certain services (e.g. dress-makers' services) on one side of the border while there is lack of them on the other side.

- 2) Development of home gardening, ecological farming in order to exploit common natural conditions and to decrease the extremely high level of unemployment.
- 3) Development of tourism and accommodation services. The border region has not got even a TDM office, in spite of that it can be found at “halfway” between the picturesque Aggtelek and Szilvásvárad.

There are several “region specific” obstacles to exploiting possibilities provided by cross-border cooperation. Beyond the state-level regulation obstacles (hampering cross-border retail, for instance) being relevant in other border regions too, in this border region the basic, physical infrastructure conditions are still missing. For example, the Hungarian Putnok is only 20 km away from the Slovakian Tornaľa on public road, but there is no direct bus route connection between them, and the railway transportation lasts 7 (!) hours. The lack of “bottom-up” development ideas is even a bigger problem. Besides lack of competencies, the region is characterized by “local patriotism” in the bad sense of the word it also lacks the culture of regional cooperation. Even if there were constructive ideas, the local governments would not be capable providing co- or pre-financing resources. The local real estates being undervalued dramatically are not accepted by the banks as covers of pre-financing sources. The border region that had been a heavy industrial centre before the 1990s is currently not able to escape from the “vicious circles”, it has become an area of “periphery of the periphery”.

As a whole, it can be concluded that the Sajó-Rima EGTC provides another chance for catching-up for a much disadvantaged border region. Nonetheless, there are several infrastructural and “mental” obstacles to exploit cooperation opportunities. The grouping is still “indulging” in the use of Hungarian state subsidies, and it is not yet able to play a significant region-developing role.

## **2.12 Via Carpatia**

The Via Carpatia EGTC aiming at “macro-regional” territorial cooperation was registered in May 2013. It was established by the Hungarian Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and the Slovakian Košice county-level local governments representing almost 1.5 million inhabitants in total. The grouping’s seat can be found in the Slovakian town of Košice (see Table 30 and Table 31).

Table 30 – Main data of the Via Carpatia EGTC

Date of registration:	31.05.2013
Members (at the end of 2014):	1 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian county local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Košice, Slovakia
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	1 481 022 people
Revenues (2014):	n/a
Geographical type:	macro-regional
EGTC Role (2015):	“grant hunter”

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanatartasa>, *Via Carpatia*, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

Table 31 – Size of population of the member counties of the Via Carpatia EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

County	Country	Population, 2011 (people)
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Hungary	686 266
KOŠICE	Slovakia	794 756

Source: *Via Carpatia*, KSH, ŠÚSR

The area of the Via Carpatia EGTC has several “euroregional” connections (e.g. Košice-Miskolc Euroregion, Carpathian Euroregion), and some little “inter-municipal” EGTCs (Abaúj-Abaújban, Bodroghözi, Sajó-Rima, Svinka, Torysa) were also set-up on its territory. These groupings, however, are theoretically independent from the creation of the Via Carpatia.

The Agreement establishing the grouping defines the following fields of cooperation:

- elaboration and implementation of common development strategies and common development projects to be achieved in the following fields:
  - employment and social sphere,
  - supporting agricultural production (creation of distribution centres of rural products),
  - tourism (congress tourism, broad supply for each micro-region, e.g. wine and gastronomy, common marketing actions, information ways for travel organizers),
  - presentation and preservation of cultural heritage.
- integration of the following fields:
  - healthcare,
  - personal and road transport,

- communal waste,
  - flood protection,
  - environment protection,
  - cycling routes,
  - Tokaj wine region,
  - energy services,
  - civil defense,
  - investment promotion,
  - creation of cross-border logistical and industrial zones.
- common actions in the field of redirection of international flows of deliveries:
    - initiatives for revitalization of intermodal transportation of East-West direction,
    - initiatives for the construction of North-South connection road and for the registration of the Baltic corridor (Via Carpatia) along the Schengen border into the European TEN-T transport network.

Furthermore, another declared objective of the Via Carpatia is to “get the managing right of cross-border programmes financed by EU funds, in order to carry out common projects necessary for the implementation of common development strategies”. This means that the Via Carpatia – similarly to the case of the Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC (see subchapter 2.7) – wishes to be an “intermediary organ” that would decide in the first round on the small-scale project proposals of the “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020” operative programme on the “East” part of the Hungarian-Slovakian borderline.

So far, there is relatively little information on the actual activities of the Via Carpatia. The financial-accounting data are not known. According to the information available on the grouping’s website, the last some 2 years were mainly devoted to gaining experience, via conferences and professional workshops.

As a whole, it can be concluded that the Via Carpatia has decided to reach ambitious goals, practically to strengthen North-East direction of transportation relations and cross-border economic, social cooperation that could be derived from them. Whether this grouping will follow the fate of the euroregions that also had “big dreams”, depends on its capability to acquire the functions of an “intermediary organ” for the Hungarian-Slovakian small projects of the period of 2014-2020.. In this case its current “grant-hunter” EGTC role would turn into a “grant-intermediary” one.

## 2.13 Svinka

The Svinka being an “inter-municipal” type of EGTC was established by the Hungarian Tolcsva (where to grouping’s seat can also be found) and Háromhuta, and the Slovakian Obišovce settlement local governments, and it was registered in November 2013. The total number of inhabitants of the member settlements hardly reaches 2 thousand people (see Table 32).

Table 32 – Main data of the Svinka EGTC

Date of registration:	01.11.2013
Members (at the end of 2014):	2 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Tolcsva, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	2 346 people
Revenues (2014):	n/a
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	not specified

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanartasa>, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The grouping was named after the Szinye (Svinka) stream. The Hungarian members of the grouping are given by a commune belonging to the Sárospatak District of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County (Tolcsva being a part of the Tokaj wine region) and a dwarf village (Háromhuta). The Slovakian side is represented by only one settlement, a small village (Obišovce) being located almost 100 (!) km far away from Tolcsva (see Table 33).

Table 33 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Svinka EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Háromhuta	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Sárospataki	115
TOLCSVA	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Sárospataki	1 801
Obišovce	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	430

Source: KSH, ŠÚSR

Public information is not available on the foregoing activities of the Svinka, the grouping's annual financial-accounting report cannot be obtained either. The Agreement of the grouping defines only rough, general objectives. Nonetheless, the Svinka can also be found on the list of EGTCs financed by the Hungarian central budget.

On the whole, it can be said about the Svinka that it does not pursue any significant (official) activities, “de facto” it does not operate (yet), it does not fulfil the legal requirements, according to our approach, and its EGTC role played in the revitalization of the Hungarian-Slovakian border region can be seen as “unspecified”.

## 2.14 Torysa

The Torysa being a “tally” of the Svinka and also an “inter-municipal” type of EGTC was established by the Hungarian Sáradsadány (where the grouping's seat can also be found) and Gönc, and the Slovakian Čížatice settlement local governments. The total number of inhabitants of the member settlements does not reach 3 thousand people (see Table 34).

Table 34 – Main data of the Torysa EGTC

Date of registration:	01.11.2013
Members (at the end of 2014):	2 Hungarian, 1 Slovakian settlement local governments
Seat (settlement, country):	Sáradsadány, Hungary
Population (according to the data of the latest, 2011 census):	2 686 people
Revenues (2014):	n/a
Geographical type:	inter-municipal
EGTC Role (2015):	not specified

Source: <http://egtc.kormany.hu/europai-teruleti-tarsulasok-nyilvanartasa>, KSH, ŠÚSR, CEC

The grouping was named after the Tarca (Torysa) river. The Hungarian members of the grouping are given by a commune (Gönc) belonging to the Gönc District and a dwarf village (Sáradsadány) belonging to the Sárospatak District of the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. The Slovakian side is represented by only one settlement, a small village (Čížatice) being located almost 100 (!) km far away from Sáradsadány (see Table 35).

Table 35 – Geographical position (public administrative classification) and size of population of the member settlements of the Torysa EGTC (according to the 2011 Hungarian and Slovakian censuses)

Settlement	Country	County	District	Population, 2011 (people)
Gönc	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Gönci	2 059
SÁRAZSADÁNY	Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Sárospataki	247
Čižatice	Slovakia	Košice	Košice-okolie	380

Source: KSH, ŠÚSR

Public information is not available on the foregoing activities of the Torysa, the grouping's annual financial-accounting report cannot be obtained either. The Agreement of the grouping – that corresponds literally to the founding document of the Svinka – defines only rough, general objectives. Nonetheless, the Torysa can also be found on the list of EGTCs financed by the Hungarian central budget.

On the whole, it can be concluded that the Torysa does not make any significant (official) activities, “de facto” it does not operate (yet), it does not fulfil the legal requirements, according to our approach, and its EGTC role played in the revitalization of the Hungarian-Slovakian border region is “unspecified”.

### 3. Results of the questionnaire survey ("owner" viewpoint)

The following chapter summarizes the main results and conclusions of the questionnaire survey carried out with the methodology described in subchapter 1.3, among the EGTC member local governments.

#### 3.1 Sample characteristics

The self-administered, anonymized questionnaires (the English translation of the Hungarian version of which is presented by Annex 2) were sent to leaders (mayors, presidents) of 177 settlement or county local governments belonging to Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs, in the period (25 March - 31 May 2015) of the examination. In the cases of exactly two-thirds of the questionnaires the mayor/president, while in one-third other persons (deputy mayor, notary, other) were ticked as the "filler" (see question 2).

Substantive responses have been received from 42 local governments, which means 24% response rate in terms of number of members (see Table 36).

Table 36 - Questionnaire response rate broken down by EGTCs and countries

	Hungary	Slovakia	Total	
Pons Danubii	3 / 4	1 / 3	4 / 7	57%
Novohrad-Nógrád	1 / 1	0 / 1	1 / 2	50%
Sajó-Rima	1 / 2	1 / 2	2 / 4	50%
Bodrogközi	1 / 6	5 / 11	6 / 17	35%
Svinka	1 / 2	0 / 1	1 / 3	33%
Rába-Duna-Vág	1/2	0/1	1/3	33%
Arrabona	6 / 24	1 / 5	7 / 29	24%
Ister-Granum	8 / 42	8 / 40	16 / 82	20%
Abaúj-Abaújban	0 / 9	3 / 7	3 / 16	19%
Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	1 / 5	0 / 1	1 / 6	17%
Karst-Bodva	0 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 3	0%
Torysa	0 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 3	0%
Via Carpatia	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 2	0%
Total	23 / 102	19 / 75	42 / 177	24%

If we take the population sizes (disregarding county population data) represented by the respondent local governments as the basis, however, we can talk about a

more than 50% (Hungary: 65%, Slovakia: 34%) response rate. By this we can consider the results of the questionnaire survey to be “reliable”.

It can be seen that no responses have been received in the cases of the Karst-Bodva, Torysa and Via Carpatia EGTCs. While the response rate has been significantly above the sample average in the cases of the Pons Danubii, Novohrad-Nógrád and Sajó-Rima.

Previously we have assumed that the answers are determined, differentiated mainly by “country”, “EGTC” and “size” of the local governments. According to these segmentation features the sample is characterized by the following:

- 55% and 45% of the respondent local governments are Hungarian and Slovakian, respectively. The response rate has been 23% in the case of the Hungarian EGTC members, while it has been 25% in the case of the Slovaks. It has been an interesting experience that more than half (58%) of the Slovakian local governments have sent the Slovakian version of the questionnaire back.
- Almost three-quarters (69%) of the respondents are given by the Ister-Gratum, Arrabona and Bodrogközi EGTCs. The other groupings are represented by 4 or less responding local governments in the sample (see Table 36).
- We have also classified the local governments according to number of inhabitants as a result of the answers to the 3<sup>rd</sup> question of the questionnaire, and we have defined “big” local governments, where population exceeds 10 thousand people. Some one-fifth (21%) of the local governments of the sample belong to this category, while four-fifths (79%) of the respondents can be considered as “little” local governments.

On the basis of the responses to the 4<sup>th</sup> question, 83% of the respondents were a “founder” of the given grouping, while 17% was a later “joiner”. Nonetheless, in this regard the answers did not differ from one another, so applying “founder or joiner” type as a segmentation feature was finally discarded by us.

The responses have also been processed by these segmentation features, and if the results significantly differed from the average characteristics of the sample, then these differences are also analysed below.

### **3.2 Motivation factors of establishment/joining**

The 5<sup>th</sup> question was targeted at exploiting the motivation factors of participation in (founding of, later joining to) the given grouping. In the cases of the general points (presented in subchapter 1.3), we asked the “decision-makers” to weigh each factor on a scale from 1 to 5. Five respondents were not (yet) in a decision-maker position

at the time of establishment/joining, hence regarding this subject our conclusions are based on 37 answers.

It can be concluded that the “exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism” is the most important motivation factor, followed by “strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations” and “strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations”. The importance of health and education cooperation as well as “strengthening Slovakian-Slovakian ethnic relations”, however, is relatively low (see Figure 3).

Nevertheless, the answers regarding motivation factors show significant differences by EGTCs. All aspects were given 4 or 5 factor points in the cases of the Novohrad-Nógrád, Pons Danubii and Rába-Duna-Vág. On contrary, in the case of the Ister-Granum only the scores of tourism (3.70) and transport development have reached 3.50 value.

Figure 3 – Motivation factors of EGTC founding/joining



Note: the responding decision-makers (n=37) evaluated on a scale from 1 to 5 how much role the given aspect has played in the decision on the participation in the grouping (1 = not at all, 5 = very important). In the figure – on the basis of the received answers– the unweighted average values have been presented.

In the case of the Hungarian local governments, environmental protection (3.90) and enterprise development (3.67), while in the Slovakian cases the development of Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations (4.25) has greater importance than the average (sample average related to the given aspect).

It can also be concluded that the bigger a member local government (settlement) is, the more significant cross-border development of transport (“big ones”: 4.78, “little

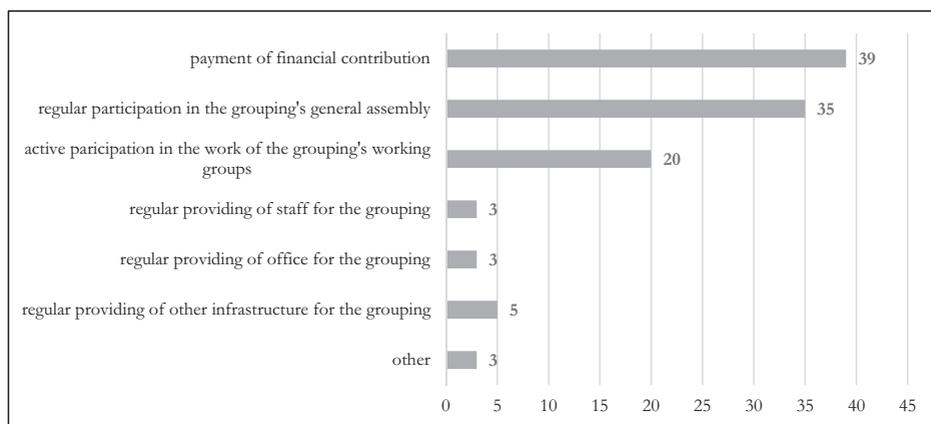
ones”: 3.12) and entrepreneurial cooperation (“big ones”: 4.44, “little ones”: 3.00) is. In the case of the “big ones”, the significance of health (4.11) and education (4.33) is much higher than the sample average (2.15, 2.62).

### 3.3 Contribution to EGTC activities

Questions 6-8 were targeted at mapping the current type(s) of member local governments’ participation in the given grouping, and whether they possess the suitable financial and human capacities to contribute to the successful operation of the EGTC with more resources.

Regarding current forms of contribution (of which more than one may have been designated), it can definitely be concluded that a significant part (some half) of the members contribute to the work of the given EGTC exclusively through “payment of contribution” and, as a consequence, through “regular participation in the assemblies of the grouping”. In other words, they contribute as a “decision-makers”. Less than half of respondents have indicated that they had been active participants of operative works implemented by working groups. Staff (employees), office and/or other infrastructure is provided by only one in ten respondents for the grouping (see Figure 4).

Figure 4 – Current contribution to EGTC activities

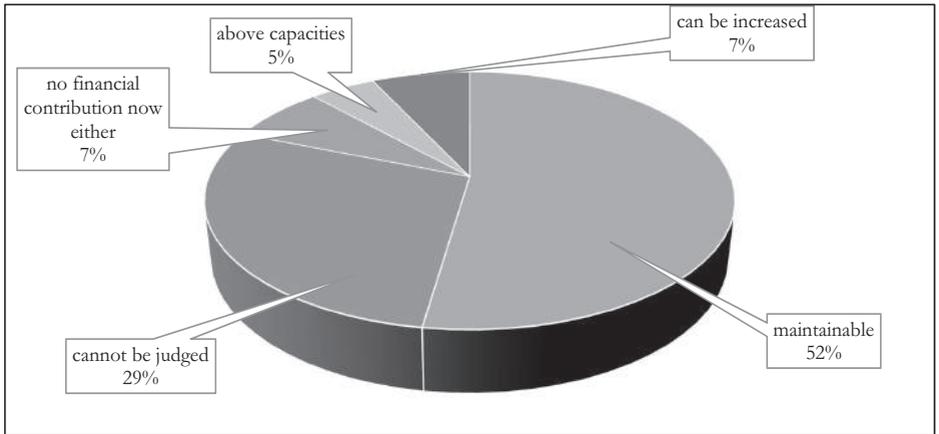


*Note: the respondents (n=42) could tick one or more answers regarding their current form(s) of contribution to activities of the given EGTC. In the figure the (absolute) frequency of mentioning of single contribution forms are presented.*

The “big” local governments provide physical and/or human resources in a relatively higher proportion for the sake of regular operation. Regarding other segmentation features we cannot note significant differences.

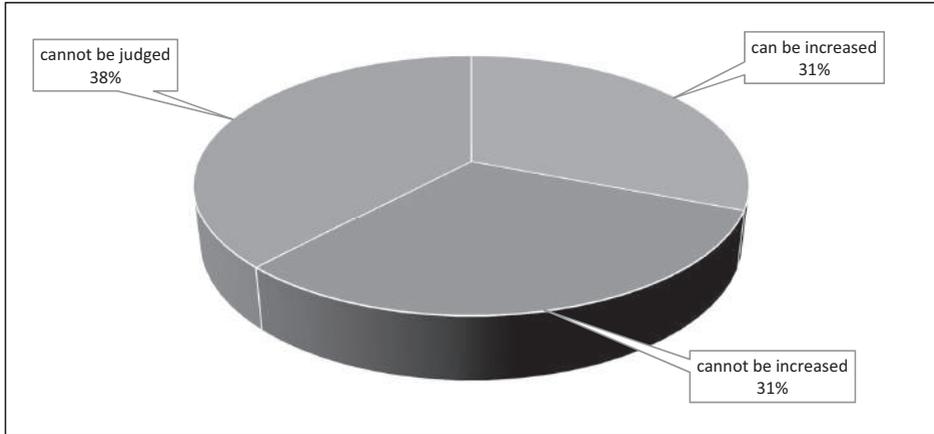
For the question inquiring future sustainability of financial contributions, about half of the respondents said that they would be able to ensure current financial resources in the future too. About 30% were uncertain regarding this question. Meanwhile only 5% have already achieved capacity “beyond their power”. With regard to this question, the differences by features examined are not significant. On the basis of the given answers, we can definitely conclude that it is not the financial capacities of member local governments that bottleneck development of EGTCs (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – Future financial contribution (capacities) to EGTC activities



*Note: the respondents (n=42) could tick one answer whether they have necessary financial capacities to contribute with higher degree to the grouping's activities than now. In the figure the number showing the distribution of responses expressed as a relative, percentage value.*

Figure 6 – Future human contribution (capacities) to EGTC activities



*Note: the respondents (n=42) could tick one answer whether they have necessary human capacities to contribute with higher degree to the grouping's activities than now. In the figure the number showing the distribution of responses expressed as a relative, percentage value.*

Regarding human capacities the situation is not obvious at all. On the whole, about one third of respondents think they cannot increase the human contribution to the operation of the given EGTC, while another third believes it could. Another one-third is uncertain about this question (see Figure 6).

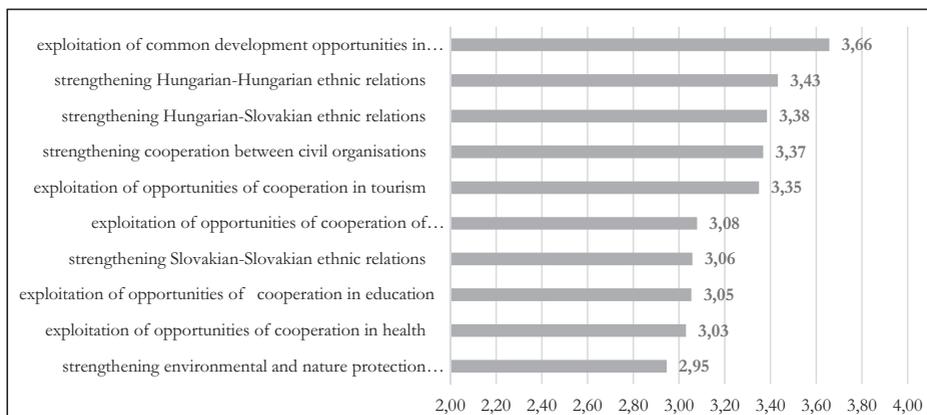
The “big” local governments have given “yes” answer in a relatively larger proportion, while among the respondents representing the longest-operating Ister-Granum the proportion of “no” (56%) has been much higher.

### 3.4 Satisfaction with the grouping's activities to date

Using responses answering question 9, we have quantified satisfaction of member local governments with activities of their EGTC, as a whole and by general points.

It can be concluded that members' satisfaction has been above average (3.24). If we analyse the answers by general points examined, it can be seen that the local governments are the most satisfied in the fields of “exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure” (3.66), “strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations” (3.43) and “strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations” (3.38). The differences between the following above-average scores can be considered as being “within possible limits of error”. Nonetheless, the EGTCs' least “added value” appear in the case of education (3.05), health care (3.03) as well as environmental and nature protection (2.95) (see Figure 7).

Figure 7 – Satisfaction with the EGTC's activities to date



*Note: the respondents (n=42) evaluated on a scale from 1 to 5 their satisfaction with the grouping's activities to date, by the given general points (1 = not at all, 5 = absolutely). In the figure – on the basis of the received answers and differed from 0 value – the unweighted average values have been presented.*

Based on the comparison with motivation factors (see subchapter 3.2), it can be concluded that the “gap” between the expectation and satisfaction of member local governments (difference between the satisfaction and motivation factor scores) is the largest in the case of the cooperation objectives of “strengthening environmental and nature protection cooperation” (-0.67), “exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism” (-0.57) and “strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations”. Consequently, the results of the EGTCs have been even worse than founders/joiners have expected mainly in these three fields.

Regarding satisfaction, the answers differ from each other mainly by EGTCs. We can say about member satisfaction being much higher than the sample average in the cases of the Novohrad-Nógrád (5.0) and the Pons Danubii (3.7) EGTCs. We note, however, that if a grouping is represented by less respondents (in the case of the Novohrad-Nógrád only one), the possibility of “distortion” increases. The responses suggest that the members of the Abaúj-Abaújban (2.5), Rába-Duna-Vág (2.2) and Sajó-Rima (2.2) are least satisfied with their grouping's activities to date.

Nonetheless, as it is said by answers to question 10, more than three-quarters (76%) of member local governments argue that their EGTC membership has contributed to increasing their “project capacity”. All of the “no” answers correspond to “little” local governments, and their proportion has been significantly higher than sample average in the cases of the Abaúj-Abaújban (67%) and Ister-Granum (38%). Analysing the re-

sponses by countries, it has turned out that regarding increase of their tender chances the Slovakian local governments (63%) are less satisfied compared to their Hungarian partners (87%).

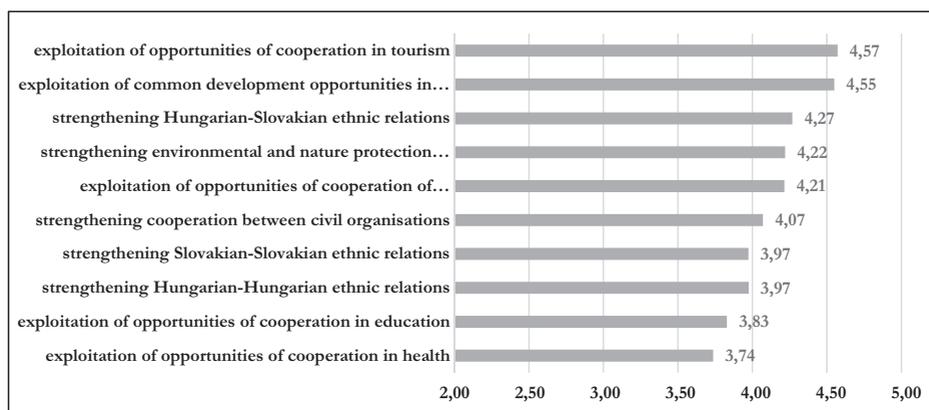
### 3.5 Future prospects

Finally, using answers to question 11, we have analysed the members' future prospects (perspectives) using the set of general points similar to the previous subjects.

The responses point out that the EGTC owners, in spite of the currently relatively low level of satisfaction, consider “exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism” (4.57) as the most important in the future too, but “exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure” (4.55) is not far behind either. Cross-border cooperation in education (3.83) and health (3.74) will probably be less significant in the future too (see Figure 8).

Regarding future prospects, the size-related differences are significant: the “big” local governments attach above-average significance (being more than 4.00 in all subjects) practically to all given cooperation fields. Significant differences in perspectives cannot be demonstrated by countries or EGTCs.

Figure 8–Future prospects connected to EGTC cooperation



*Note: the respondents (n=42) evaluated on a scale from 1 to 5 in which fields the grouping should contribute to strengthening cross-border relation (1 = not important at all, 5 = very important, 0 = not relevant/cannot be judged). In the figure – on the basis of the received answers and differed from 0 value – the unweighted average values have been presented.*

## 4. Policy conclusions and recommendations

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The chapter below firstly introduces the definition of the “EGTC Maturity Index” as a new EGTC monitoring tool and we open it up for scientific and policy debate. Then – as the main conclusions of the research – it summarizes the main possibilities and difficulties for further development of the groupings compared, emphasizing the existing “lack of competencies” concerning the latter. Finally, further research, analysis areas, subjects (recommendations) targeting the increase of development policy (territorial cooperation) role of EGTCs are drafted.

### 4.1 EGTC Maturity Index

The case studies of chapter 2 have pointed out that the EGTCs established along the Hungarian-Slovakian border have reached fairly different “maturity” level during their developments so far. In order to quantify and compare development, we define the “EGTC Maturity Index” indicator as a complex measure composed of an objective set of criteria, which is suitable to measure and evaluate the (non-linear!) development as well as the capacity of European groupings for territorial cooperation (as development policy organisations) to achieve defined political and strategic goals.

The set of criteria is based on 4 dimensions, by which different “sub-indexes” of the “EGTC Maturity Index” can be interpreted:

- publicity: how the conditions of the organisation’s establishment, its objectives, results already achieved are public, or how the operations are transparent -> “Publicity subindex”;
- resources: quantitative and qualitative indicators of the organisation’s access of financial and human resources -> “Resource subindex”;
- regional development: capability, capacity of the organisation to play a significant role in the economic-social catching-up of a given border area (region) -> “Regional development subindex”;
- members’ satisfaction: satisfaction of grouping members with the organisation’s operation to date, with its contribution to reach objectives defined -> “Members’ satisfaction subindex”.

Both the aggregate indicator and its subindexes can each be interpreted on a scale from 0 to 5, where the larger value means higher level of organisational maturity.

We have examined the compliance with “publicity” requirements based on the groupings’ websites, information available on them, content of financial-accounting reports and experiences of interviews, using the following 10 criteria (presented in Table 37).

Table 37 – Aspects examined in evaluation of EGTCs’ compliance with “publicity” criteria

Aspect	Definition
Website	Does the grouping have its own website?
Decisions, minutes	Are the documents registering the main decisions, and copies of minutes of assemblies of decision-making bodies available on the grouping’s website?
Contacts	Can the postal (mailing), phone and e-mail contacts be found on the grouping’s website?
Actualities	Can actual news, not older than 6 months from the time of the survey be found on the grouping’s website?
Information in English	Is information on membership, objectives, and contacts available also in English on the grouping’s website?
Business report	Has the financial-accounting report containing information on management of the grouping been prepared and made public at the deadline and in the manner defined by regulations?
Business report on website	Has the financial-accounting report containing information on management of the grouping been made public on the grouping’s website?
Revenue sources	Does the financial-accounting report containing information on management of the grouping contain the composition of revenue sources (member’s contributions, grants, sales revenues etc.)?
Grants	Is the basic information (name of the grantor organisation, objective of the grant, grant amount) on sources of revenues from grants available on the grouping’s website and/or in the financial-accounting report containing information on management of the grouping?
Presence in Brussels	Does the grouping possess an office ensuring direct representation of the grouping in Brussels?

Table 38 – Examined EGTCs' compliance with “publicity” criteria (“Publicity” sub-index)

	Arrabona	Ister-Granum	Novohrad-Nógrád	Rába-Duna-Vég	Bodrogközi	Abauj-Abaujban	Pons Danubii	Sajó-Rima	Via Carpatia	Karst-Bodva	Svinka	Torysa	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó
	1-2.	1-2.	3-4.	3-4.	5.	6-9.	6-9.	6-9.	6-9.	10-13.	10-13.	10-13.	10-13.
Website	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Decisions, minutes	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Contacts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Actualities	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Information in English	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Business report	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Business report on website	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Revenue sources	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Grants	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Presence in Brussels	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>PUBLICITY SUB-INDEX</b>	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

All “yes” (Y) answers “equal” to 0.5 point, while all “no” or “not known” (N) answers to 0.0 point. By this, among the EGTCs examined, the Arrabona and the Ister-Granum are the most in compliance with publicity criteria, while at the bottom the “de facto” non-functioning groupings that are practically in “shadow” for the public (Karst-Bodva, Svinka, Torysa, Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó) can be found (see Table 38).

In order to define the quantitative and qualitative indicators of financial and human “resources”, we have relied on the financial-accounting reports and answers received during interviews. Considering this dimension, we have examined also 10 aspects (presented in Table 39).

Table 39 – Aspects of examination of “resources” being available for EGTCs

Aspect	Definition
Business past	Does the grouping already have minimum 3 closed, complete business years?
Increasing revenues	Have the revenues of the organisation increased as compared to the previous year (in the last closed business year)?
Own revenues	Has the grouping realized “own” (sales) revenues, i.e. derived neither from members’ contributions, nor from grants (in the last closed business year)?
Grant independence	Does the share of grants not exceed more than 50% of the grouping’s total revenues (in the last closed business year)?
Grant diversification	Has the grouping received non-governmental and non-CBC grant (in the last closed business year)?
Full-time director	Is the grouping’s Director a full-time employee?
Another full-time employee	Besides the Director, does the grouping have another, minimum 1 person of full-time employee?
Coverage of wage costs	Does the sum of members’ contribution and “own revenues” cover personnel costs (in the last closed business year)?
English language skills	Does minimum 1 member of the grouping’s work organisation (minimum 1 employee of the office) possess advanced-level of English language skills?
Project management experience	Does minimum 1 member of the grouping’s work organisation (minimum 1 employee of the office) possess project management experience?

All “yes” (Y) answers “equal” to 0.5 point, while all “no” or “not known” (N) answers to 0.0 point. On this basis, among the EGTCs examined the Arrabona has the best access of resources, while the Ister-Granum and the Novohrad-Nógrád can be found at the second and third place. The Pons Danubii probably has much better conditions but available information on aspects examined are limited. At the end of the line, in this case too, the groupings classified as “non-functioning” (Karst-Bodva, Svinka, Torysa, Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó) can be found, but the situation is not much better in the case of the Sajó-Rima either (see Table 40).

Table 40 – “Resource” access of EGTCs examined (“Resources” sub-index)

	Arrabona	Ister-Granum	Novohrad-Nógrád	Pons Danubii	Rába-Duna-Vág	Abauj-Abaujban	Bodrogközi	Via Carpatia	Sajó-Rima	Karst-Bodva	Svínka	Torysa	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-6.	5-6.	7-8.	7-8.	9.	10-13.	10-13.	10-13.	10-13.
Business past	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Increasing revenues	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Own revenues	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Grant independence	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Grant diversification	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Full-time director	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Another full-time employee	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Coverage of wage costs	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
English language skills	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Project management experience	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
<b>RESOURCES SUB-INDEX</b>	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

When defining the “Regional development” sub-index, firstly we have applied the “size matters” assumptions meaning that the border region development “capacity” of an EGTC is bigger if it represents a larger population, and there are (more) higher level territorial administrative (district - LAU 1, county - NUTS 3, region - NUTS 2) centres among its members. Moreover, we have examined whether the given grouping has a middle-term strategy regarding 2014-2020 EU programme period. Besides, we have taken institutional experience of implementation of CBC projects, preparation of the Hungarian-Slovakian CBC operative programme and elaboration and implementation of “integrated territorial investment” (ITI) concepts (aspects presented by Table 41) into account, based on public information and experience of interviews.

Table 41 – Aspects determining “regional development” capacities of EGTCs

Aspects	Definition
Min. 100 thousand people of population	Does the number of population living in the geographical area covered by the grouping reach 100 thousand people (according to data of the latest censuses)?
District cooperation	Does the grouping have at least one district (LAU 1) centre, or is it definitely for a district level cross-border cooperation?
County cooperation	Does the grouping have at least one county (NUTS 3) centre, or is it definitely for a county level cross-border cooperation?
Region cooperation	Does the grouping have at least one region (NUTS 2) centre, or is it definitely for a region level cross-border cooperation?
Development strategy	Does the grouping possess a middle- or long-term development strategy?
CBC project experience	Has the grouping (as a “lead partner”) already implemented at least one development project in the current (or the previous closed), relevant cross-border cooperation (CBC) operative programme?
CBC project concept	Has the grouping already elaborated at least one development project related to the current (or the next, not initiated yet), relevant cross-border cooperation (CBC) operative programme?
CBC planning	Has the given grouping been involved in planning of the current (or the next, not initiated yet), relevant cross-border cooperation (CBC) operative programme?
ITI concept	Has the grouping elaborated at least one so-called integrated territorial investment concept?
ITI implementation	Has the grouping implemented at least one so-called integrated territorial investment concept?

Similarly to the previous dimension: all “yes” (Y) answers “equal” to 0.5 point, while all “no” or “not known” (N) answers to 0.0 point. In this regard, the Pons Danubii has the best scores, in tie for the second place the Arrabona and the Ister-Granum are ranked. In this regard, not only the “non-functioning” small EGTCs (Karst-Bodva, Svinka, Torysa, and Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó) but also the Bodrogközi and the Abaúj-Abaújban seem to be less “capable of living” in long-run (see Table 42).

Table 42 – “Regional development” capacities of the examined EGTCs  
 (“Regional development” sub-index)

	Pons Danubii	Arrabona	Ister-Granum	Novohrad-Nógrád	Rába-Duna-Vág	Via Carpatia	Sajó-Rima	Abauj-Abaujban	Bodrogközi	Karst-Bodva	Svínka	Torysa	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó
	1.	2-3.	2-3.	4-6.	4-6.	4-6.	7-8.	7-8.	9.	10-13.	10-13.	10-13.	10-13.
Min. 100 thousand people of population	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
District cooperation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
County cooperation	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Region cooperation	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Development strategy	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
CBC project experience	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
CBC project concept	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
CBC planning	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
ITI concept	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
ITI implementation	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-INDEX</b>	4.0	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Finally, in the case of the “member’s satisfaction” dimension, we have examined the satisfaction of member local governments regarding the EGTC activities undertaken so far, based on the related results of the questionnaire survey (see subchapter 3.4). On the basis of the aspects defined in the questionnaire survey 1) Novohrad-Nógrád, 2) Pons Danubii, 3) Bodrogközi is the ranking (see Table 43). Nonetheless, we note that members’ satisfaction scores are in reversed proportion to the number of answers received in the case of a given EGTC (the satisfaction level is usually higher in the case of EGTCs having less members). In the cases of the Via Carpatia, the Karst-Bodva and the Torysa EGTCs we have not received any answers, so in these cases the score of members’ satisfaction is “not known”.

Table 43 – “Members’ satisfaction” factor values of the examined EGTCs  
 (“Members’ satisfaction” sub-index)

	Novohrad-Nógrád	Pons Danubii	Bodrogközi	Svínka	Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	Arrabona	Rába-Duna-Vág	Ister-Granum	Abauj-Abaujban	Sajó-Rima	Via Carpatia	Karst-Bodva	Torysa
	1.	2.	3.	4-5.	4-6.	4-6.	7-8.	7-8.	9.	10.	11-13.	11-13.	11-13.
Strengthening cooperation between civil organisations	5	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	..	..	..
Exploitation of opportunities of cooperation of enterprises (except for tourism)	5	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	..	..	..
Exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism	5	5	3	3	3	3	0	3	4	2	..	..	..
Strengthening environmental and nature protection cooperation	5	4	3	3	3	3	0	2	2	2	..	..	..
Exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in health	5	4	3	3	3	2	0	2	1	2	..	..	..
Exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in education	5	3	4	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	..	..	..
Exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure	5	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	2	..	..	..
Strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations	5	3	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	..	..	..
Strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	..	..	..
Strengthening Slovakian-Slovakian ethnic relations	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	..	..	..
<b>MEMBERS’ SATISFACTION SUB-INDEX</b>	5.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

In order to get the aggregate indicator, the sub-indexes related to the dimensions examined have been weighed as follows:

- “publicity” sub-index: 25%
- “resources” sub-index: 30%
- “regional development” sub-index: 20%
- “members’ satisfaction” sub-index: 25%

Based on these, in 2015, among the Hungarian-Slovakian groupings examined, according to the ranking of “EGTC Maturity Index”, the Arrabona (3.92), the Ister-Granum and the Novohrad-Nógrád can be found on the first, second and third place, respectively (see Table 44).

Table 44 - “EGTC Maturity Index” of the Hungarian-Slovakian groupings, 2015

	EGTC Maturity	publicity	resources	regional development	members' satisfaction
	Index	sub-index			
1. Arrabona	3.92	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.9
2. Ister-Granum	3.72	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.6
3. Novohrad-Nógrád	3.55	3.5	3.5	2.5	5.0
4. Pons Danubii	3.27	2.5	3.0	4.0	3.7
5. Rába-Duna-Vág	2.77	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.6
6. Bodrogközi	2.39	3.0	2.0	1.5	3.3
7. Abaúj-Abaújban	2.38	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.5
8. Sajó-Rima	1.87	2.5	1.0	2.0	2.2
9. Via Carpatia	1.85	2.5	2.0	2.5	0.0
10. Svinka	0.60	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
11. Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	0.60	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
12. Karst-Bodva	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
13. Torysa	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

#### 4.2 Opportunities and obstacles, lack of competencies

The Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs show much variation. Most of them has been established as a result of an organic development (usually originated in “euroregional” cooperation). In some cases of the formations (e.g. Ister-Granum, Pons

Danubii, Bodrogközi), the physical infrastructure connection (mainly buildings of bridges, roads) has brought new possibilities and dimensions, while elsewhere (e.g. Novohrad-Nógrád, Arrabona, Rába-Duna-Vág, Via Carpatia) “marketable stories” (opportunity of development of a geopark, strengthening regional position of a large town, contributor possibility for allocation of EU funds) have launched common thinking. Unfortunately, however, in several cases (e.g.) Karst-Bodva, Svinka, Torysa, Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó) the real intentions of the founders and “people beyond them” are not clear for external, objective observers.

Almost 10 years have passed after the birth of the Community regulation enabling the creation of EGTCs, but the border region development role and the added value of the new institutional form are still not clarified in political decision-makers’ mind. In the case of the Hungarian-Slovakian relation, mainly this unclarity is the reason why the majority of the EGTCs still plays the same “grant-hunter” role, still intends to withdraw financial resources of EU-funded bilateral CBC programme, as the local governments, civil organisations and “non-profit ltds.”) previously (before 2007) did, and still do today.

The EGTCs, mainly the Arrabona, the Ister-Granum and the Pons Danubii that have been able to get out of this, and have institutionalized a “micro-regional” cross-border cooperation, are those where the local (“bottom-up”) political will has been coupled with – mainly owing to economic power (see Győr, Esztergom, Komárom “industrial hubs”) – enough financial resources, and with professional know-how suitable for planning and elaborating large-scale development projects.

For now, the “maturity level” of groupings playing an “entrepreneurial” EGTC role has been the highest. In their cases, the role of strengthening “public service provider” could be the next step. Nevertheless, there are some mainly external, legal-nature obstacles to this. There are currently several differences in legislations that hamper cross-border retail, transport, telecommunication and other services (affecting more countries), not only in Hungarian-Slovakian relation. For “counterproductive” legislation, protectionism the case of the “Tokaj wine” could be a good example. Already the first (originated from 1908) wine act declared the extension of Tokaj, and also the Hungarian law as well as interstate agreements admit that the Tokaj lane crosses into Slovakia too. On contrary, other Hungarian acts do not allow to import and process grapes produced in Slovakia. But the Hungarian small farmers may not sell at the Slovakian markets either without – an issued, of course, as a result of a long-lasting and expensive procedure – permit of the Slovakian authorities.

The gap between the “Western” and “Eastern” part of the Hungarian-Slovakian borderline can be detected not only in terms of economic development level but also in the activities and results of the EGTCs. In the “East” many little, solely insignificant, “inter-municipal” EGTCs have been established. Among them there are some

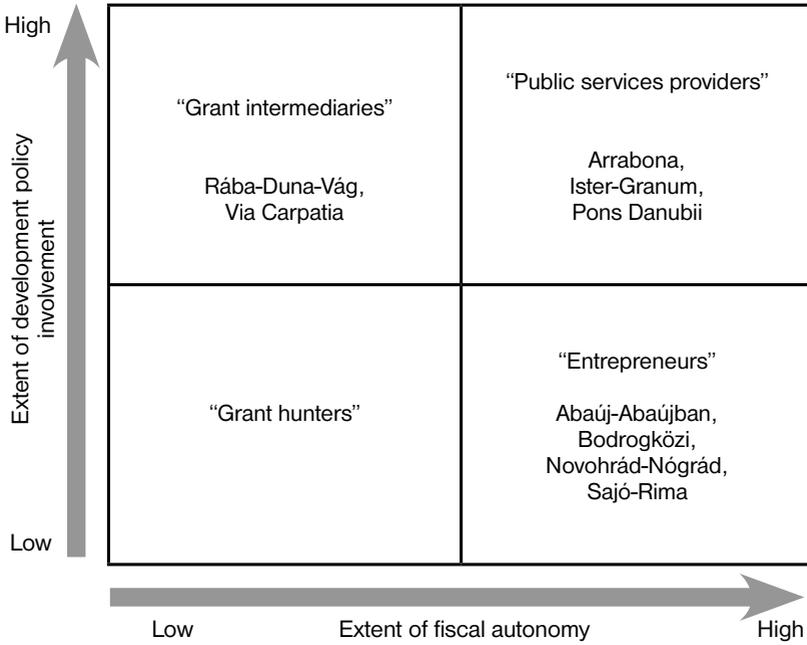
“skilful” ones (e.g. Abaúj-Abaújban, Bodrogközi) that play an efficient “grant-hunter” role targeting utilization of resources of CBC programmes (mainly events, education, and small-scale infrastructure development). There are some “promising” initiatives thinking of larger areas (e.g. Novohrad-Nógrád, Sajó-Rima) that, however, have been not able to get significant results. Meanwhile, this is where we can find those already/ yet “non-functioning” EGTCs (Karst-Bodva, Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó, Svinka, Torysa) about which there is definitely no significant information available.

There are several factors that preclude the exploitation of opportunities on the “Eastern” Hungarian-Slovakian borderline. The scarcity of resources available is coupled with low level of absorption capability. It is difficult to raise pre-financing resources for a tender project, the potential beneficiaries, for instance, do not have any chance of getting a bank guarantee, or (because of the dramatically low price of real estates) giving a real estate collateral; moreover, exchange rate changes (unpredictable volatility of HUF/EUR rate) make realistic financial planning difficult. The conflicts between the centralized political interests and the real challenges and opportunities of the peripheral regions can be hardly bridged. The economic rationality is often overwritten by a political one, hence it is not possible to free up the available human capital, and the innovative initiatives are “put down”.

It is a new phenomenon in the Hungarian-Slovakian relation that two “macro-regional” EGTC have been also created that – after the necessary political decisions, and creation of the suitable human resources and financial (“technical assistance”) conditions – could be capable to play a “grant intermediary” role in the “small-scale project fund” of the next “Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020” operative programme.

Regarding the vision of the Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs examined during the research, three scenarios can be defined. According to the “pessimistic” version, the EGTCs will not able to carry out a border region developer role dedicated to them, and they will virtually share the fate of the “euroregions”. According to the “optimistic” scenario, the politics will recognize the added values of this organisational form, thus groupings will become real engines of cross-border economic, public service cooperations.

Figure 9 – “Role vision” of the Hungarian-Slovakian EGTCs – 2020, “realistic” scenario



The most probable, “realistic” scenario suggests a further development taking place at different rate and direction (see Figure 9). The Arrabona, the Ister Granum and the Pons Danubii currently being forerunners will further strengthen their entrepreneurial activities that will let their financial independence grow, and they will be involved in greater and greater degree in the development policy decisions affecting the given border region. Hence they could perhaps become a “public services provider” already by 2020 (the end of the new EU programme period). The current “grant-hunters” will utilize financial resources that will be available between 2014 and 2020 well, so the degree of their financial independence will increase, that will make them suitable for providing business services generating own revenues for the members. Nonetheless, if – the geographical scope will not be extended, eventual “mergers” will not be taken place either, then – they will remain “little” in terms of size, then their development policy weight will not increase significantly. The currently already (Karst-Bodva, Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó) or still (Svinka, Torysa) “non-functioning” EGTCs will be probably “de iure” discontinued (liquidated), because they do not fulfil basic legal requirements either.

The exploitation of Hungarian-Slovakian cross-border cooperation opportunities is heavily hampered by the fact that the Hungarian member local governments – as a consequence of the centralizing government decisions – have less and less competencies. Consequently, in the fields of infrastructure development, education, health and environmental protection the strengthening of local-level relations is less realistic. Nevertheless, common economic developments (mainly in logistics, tourism, investment promotion) devoted to increasing the economic potentials of border regions – since the “local industrial tax” will slowly remain the only one revenue source of Hungarian settlements – will come more and more into the foreground in the future.

The lack or asymmetric distribution of development competencies (see that the Slovakian county-level local governments can implement road development at county-level, for instance) could be counterbalanced by a “multi-level governance” institutional structure (implemented for example in the French-Belgian border region, in the case of the first EGTC, the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai). The essential of this is that at the management-decision level of an EGTC institutionalizing cooperation of a border region, representatives (decision-makers) of states, counties, districts and settlements are all presented. Implementing this kind of multi-level cooperation model in the Hungarian-Slovakian relation (neither in other Central and Eastern European border regions) seems not to be realistic in medium-term (by 2020).

The narrow degree of independence of regional, local actors, however, stops the emergence of innovative, creative solutions, new territorial development paradigms. An expressive example of this is that in the “integrated town development strategies” of even the significant large towns at the border (e.g. Győr, Tatabánya, Miskolc) just short allusions relate to the importance of strengthening cross-border cooperation, and to the possible organisational forms (e.g. EGTC, euroregion) of implementation of objectives. The thinking in regions are presented in the development goals determining vision (e.g. “Wien-Bratislava-Győr cooperation on economic fields, or the “role of Tatabánya in the Vág-Duna-Ipoly Euroregion”) but the concrete cooperation, as we can see it in 2015, has been not implemented anywhere.

The state-level legislations now stop cross-border retail, improvement of public health services, creation of a common information service system, development of labour markets, handling unemployment. The secrets of success would be the decentralization in development policy, transmission of certain competencies, and improvement of cooperation culture.

### 4.3 Recommended further research, analysis actions

For carrying the research results on and strengthening the role of EGTCs that can be defined as one of the take-off points of Central and Eastern Europe, the Civitas Europica recommends the following further research, analysis actions (projects).

- “Integration of intellectual capital of border regions”: providing an institutional framework to coordinate development strategies, feasibility plans and concrete projects of given border regions, in order to promote institutional cooperations.
- “Repealed”: legislation development recommendations in order to abolish legal barriers of Hungarian-Slovakian European territorial cooperation. The project will systematically explore Hungarian and Slovakian legislation and other regulations hampering cross-border retails, transport, public health, information and other services, and will make concrete suggestions in order to modify or repeal them.
- „New crossing opportunities”: new possibilities for economic-social cooperation in the catchment area of the new Hungarian-Slovakian border crossing points planned.

As early as 2013, the governments of Hungary and Slovakia made a treaty pledging that 21 new border crossings points would be built between the two countries in the EU programme period between 2014 and 2020. The research targets the mapping the new dimensions, concrete (not yet fully exploited) cooperation opportunities to be brought by the new planned border crossing points in the affected border regions.

- “Mother-tongue public services”: demand and possibilities of administration in Slovakian language at Hungary’s border settlements inhabited by Slovaks. The different development pace of the two countries and their border regions – taken place after EU joining in 2004 – has resulted in new direction of mobility in the relation of Hungary and Slovakia. One of the new phenomena of this is that Slovakian-speaking people have moved to some border settlements (mainly in the Szigetköz) of Hungary in great number. This has brought a new type of demand for local public services on the one hand, and for public administration on the other. In the framework of the project, the demand for and opportunities of Slovakian-speaking administration will be examined, mainly related to the most-affected Hungarian settlements.

- “School at the border”: perspectives of cross-border cooperation from the viewpoint of youth living in the Hungarian-Slovakian border regions. The project will implement an opinion poll among the youth (high school and university students aged 16-25 years) living in the Hungarian-Slovakian border region. The survey will focus on the fields of cross-border cooperations important for this segment, and on channels of getting information on the “other side” of the border.
- Elaboration of and EGTC monitoring methodology  
In the project, a methodology suitable for evaluating and continuously monitoring results achieved by European groupings for territorial cooperation will be developed, which will also be suitable for the preparation of (national and EU) policy decisions.

# Annexes

## Annex 1

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### List of abbreviations used in the research report

CBC	Cross border cooperation
CEC	Civitas Europica Centralis Foundation
CESCI	Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
EC	European Community
Eurostat	“Statistical office” of the European Union, directorate-general of the European Commission responsible to provide statistical information and to promote the harmonisation of statistical methods.
ITI	Integrated territorial investment
GDP	Gross domestic product, a general indicator of macro and regional economic performance
KSH	Statistical office of Hungary (“Központi Statisztikai Hivatal”)
ŠÚSR	Statistical office of Slovakia (“Štatistický úrad Slovenskej republiky”)
PPS	Standardized indicator of purchasing power parity (purchasing power standard)
TDM	Tourism destination management

# Annex 2

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## **QUESTIONNAIRE (ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE HUNGARIAN VERSION)**

### **I. GENERAL QUESTIONS**

General features of the organisation, and the person filling the questionnaire that participate in the survey

#### **1. Type of organisation**

*Please indicate the kind of organisation you represent as filler of the questionnaire*

- Hungarian settlement local government
- Slovakian settlement local government
- Hungarian county local government
- Slovakian county local government
- Hungarian district clerk
- Slovakian district clerk
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Position of the respondent**

*Please specify your current position (“quality”) authorizing you to represent the organisation*

- Mayor
- Deputy mayor
- Notary
- District notary
- President of the assembly
- Other, to be specified: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Population size**

*Please indicate the size of the (total) population of settlement(s) or county represented by you, in persons*

\_\_\_ people

## II. CONDITIONS OF EGTC FOUNDING/JOINING

In this block it is required to provide the answers regarding conditions (mainly motivation factors) that have existed at the time of the founding of (later joining to) the given European grouping of territorial cooperation in the case of the organisation surveyed.

### 4. EGTC specification

*Please specify the "European grouping of territorial cooperation" which the organisation represented by You belongs to as a member, and for what time?*

- Ister-Granum
- Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó (Hernád-Bódva-Szinva)
- Karst-Bodva
- Abaúj-Abaújban
- Pons Danubii
- Rába-Duna-Vág
- Novohrad-Nógrád
- Arrabona
- Bodrogközi
- Sajó-Rima
- Via Carpatia
- Torysa
- Svinka

We have been founding members:

- yes
- no

Later, we have joined to a grouping already established, on:

\_\_\_day \_\_\_month\_\_\_\_year

## 5. Motivation factors

*If you were in a decision-maker position already at the time of founding/joining, please indicate on a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 = it has not played a role at all; 5 = it has played a very important role) what motivation factors played a role for you deciding to participate in the grouping. Tick value 0 if you were not yet in a decision-maker position already at the time of founding/joining.*

	0	1	2	3	4	5
strengthening cooperation between civil organisations						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation of enterprises (except for tourism)						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism						
strengthening environmental and nature protection cooperation						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in health						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in education						
exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure						
strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations						
strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations						
strengthening Slovakian-Slovakian ethnic relations						

*If there are other factor(s) that has/have also played significant role besides the above-mentioned ones, please specify it/them here!*

## III. PARTICIPATION IN EGTC ACTIVITIES

These questions relate to the kind of current participation of the local government in activities of the given grouping.

## 6. Form(s) of participation

*Please indicate the current form(s) of participation of the organisation represented by You in the activities of the previously given "European grouping of territorial cooperation". You can tick one or more answers!*

- payment of financial contribution
- regular participation in the grouping's general assembly
- active participation in the work of the grouping's working groups
- regular providing of office for the grouping
- regular providing of other infrastructure for the grouping
- regular providing of staff for the grouping
- other

*You can write about the "other" form(s) here:*

## **7. Financial capacities**

*Please indicate whether you have the necessary financial capacities in order to contribute to activities of the grouping with higher sources than provided now?*

- currently we do not contribute with financial sources to grouping's activities
- our current financial contribution is already beyond our capacities
- we can maintain our current financial contribution in the future too
- even we can undertake higher financial contribution
- now it cannot be judged

## **8. Human capacities**

*Please indicate whether you have the suitable human resources (expertise) in order to contribute to activities of the grouping with higher sources than provided now?*

- yes
- no
- now it cannot be judged

#### IV. Evaluation, perspective of EGTC membership

The answers responding the questions below evaluate the EGTC membership and its perspective as a whole.

##### 9. Satisfaction

Please indicate on a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 = we are not satisfied at all; 5 = we are absolutely satisfied) how satisfied you are with the grouping's activities (known by You) to date. Indicate with value 0 the point that is not relevant, or it cannot be judged.

	0	1	2	3	4	5
strengthening cooperation between civil organisations						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation of enterprises (except for tourism)						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism						
strengthening environmental and nature protection cooperation						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in health						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in education						
exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure						
strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations						
strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations						
strengthening Slovakian-Slovakian ethnic relations						

If there are other relevant factor(s) too, you can write about it/them here:

##### 10. Increase of project ability

As a whole, has the EGTC contributed to your greater chances for participation in tenders?

- yes
- no

## 11. Perspectives

Please indicate on a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 = not important at all; 5 = very important) the fields where the grouping should, in your opinion, contribute to strengthening cross-border relations! Indicate with value 0 the point that is not relevant, in your opinion!

	0	1	2	3	4	5
strengthening cooperation between civil organisations						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation of enterprises (except for tourism)						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in tourism						
strengthening environmental and nature protection cooperation						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in health						
exploitation of opportunities of cooperation in education						
exploitation of common development opportunities in transport infrastructure						
strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian ethnic relations						
strengthening Hungarian-Hungarian ethnic relations						
strengthening Slovakian-Slovakian ethnic relations						

If there are other relevant objective(s) not listed above, you can write about it/them here!

## V. Asking for feedback about results of the survey/project

### 12. E-mail address of the respondent

If you wish to be informed about the results of the survey or the project, please enter your e-mail address!

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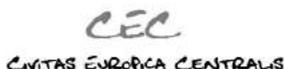
## Annex 3

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Drafts of presentations made on 28 May 2015 at J.Selye University in Komárno (mostly in Hungarian)

*Ing. Gyurovsky László (former minister of regional development of Slovakia): Economic situation of South Slovakia*

*Dr.Törzsök Erika (C.E.C Foundation, president) – Majoros András (C.E.C Foundation, researcher): Preliminary results of the “A comparative analysis of the evolution of EGTCs at the Hungarian-Slovakian border” research project*



**Dr. Törzsök Erika**

**Majoros András**

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### **„A magyar-szlovák határ mentén létrejött EGTC-k összehasonlító elemzése” c. kutatási projekt eddigi eredményei**

Selye János Egyetem, 2015.05.28.



*A projekt a Nemzetközi Visegrádi Alap támogatásával valósul meg*

#### **Áttekintés**

1. Bevezető gondolatok
2. Kutatás célja, módszertana
3. Vizsgált ETT-k
4. Kérdőíves felmérés eredményei
5. „Érettségi szint” mérés eredményei
6. Szerep típusok
7. További kutatási, elemzési irányok



## 1. Bevezető gondolatok

- Az „európai területi társulások” létrehozásának lehetőségéről szóló közösségi joganyag (az Európai Parlament és a Tanács 1082/2006/EK rendelete az európai területi együttműködési csoportosulásról) közel 10 éve, 2006-ban jelent meg.
- Akkor még kevesen gondolták, hogy 2015-ben az EU-integráció – legalábbis eddig – „felemás” voltárról beszélhetünk. Szinte hihetetlennek tűnik, hogy 25 évvel az ún. „létező szocializmus” bukása után az egymást követő kormányok nem tudtak mit kezdeni azokkal a térségekkel, ahol az 1990-es évek elején összeroppant a gazdaság. Egyes térségekben emberek százai maradtak munka nélkül, óriási a szegénység, és generációk nőnek fel úgy, hogy nem látják a szüleiket reggel munkába indulni. Ezekben a térségekben éhséglázadásokra lehet számítani.
- A döntéshozók érdemben nem foglalkoznak azokkal a kihívásokkal, melyeket a térségi egyenlőtlenségek okoznak. Holott ezek a különbségek szembeötlőek, ha csak a Bécs-Pozsony-Győr „arany háromszöget”, vagy a Csallóköz-Szigetköz térséget hasonlítjuk össze a Kassa-Miskolc vagy Gömör térségekkel. A Nyugat-Európa-hoz való felzárkózás felemás volta az egy lakosra jutó GDP uniós átlaghoz viszonyított százalékos arányában is keményen tetten érhető.

### Egy lakosra jutó GDP (PPS) az EU-28 átlag %-ában, 2000 és 2012

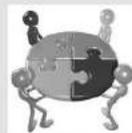
Magye / Kraj	2000	2012
Győr-Ménfőcsanak-Sopron	70	75
Komárom-Esztergom	44	66
Budapest	107	141
Pest	41	54
Nógrád	30	28
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	34	40
<b>Magyarország</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>65</b>
Pozsony / Bratislavský	107	179
Nagyszombat / Trnavský	52	83
Nyitra / Nitriansky	43	66
Besztercebánya / Bansko-bystrický	41	53
Kassa	44	58
<b>Szlovákia</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>74</b>

Forrás: Eurostat

- A regionális tudományok jeles képviselőinek (például Horváth Gyula, Rechnitzer János) több tanulmánya rámutat a térségi egyenlőtlenségek okaira és következményeire, ezekkel kutatásunk során nem foglalkoztunk, azokat „adottságnak” tekintettük.
- Úgy gondoljuk, hogy az uniós intézmények és a rendelkezésre álló pénzügyi források továbbra is komoly esélyt jelentenek a helyzet javítására. Ugyanakkor az ún. abszorpciós képességen ezek a források sem változtatnak, ha nem „optimálisan”, a gazdasági és társadalmi érdekek maximális figyelembe vételével történik ezek felhasználása. Az „európai területi társulásokat” 2015-ben továbbra is a térségbeli egyenlőtlenségek mérséklése, az abszorpciós képesség növelése egyik fontos intézményi eszközként tekintjük.
- Ma már kijelenthető, hogy az „euro régiós” együttműködési forma csupán az alapokat, a határon átnyúló gazdasági-társadalmi-politikai kapcsolatok intézményesülésének lehetőségét teremtette meg, ugyanakkor nem hozott érdemi megoldást a periférikus határtérségek felzárkóztatásában. Az „európai területi társulások” viszont alkalmasabbak lehetnek, hogy egy adott, esetünkben a magyar-szlovák határtérségek integrációját, elsősorban a gazdasági, környezetvédelmi, közlekedési és civil kapcsolati területeken úgy erősítsék, hogy mind a jobb adottságú, mind a hátrányosabb térségekben élő lakosság életminősége, munkaerőpiaci helyzete érdemben javuljon.



## 2. Kutatás célja, módszertana



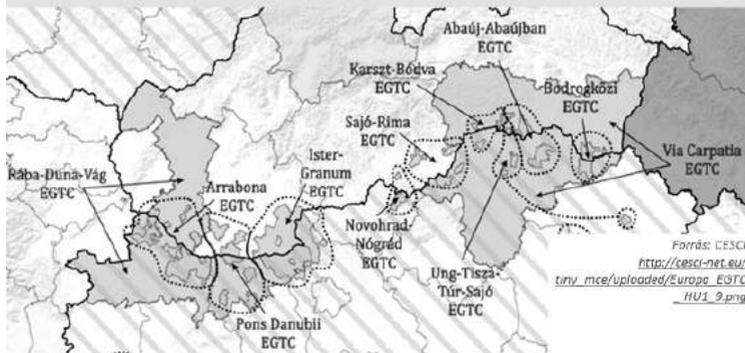
### Célok

- A magyar-szlovák határ mentén létrejött **„európai területi társulások”** (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, EGTC) eddigi fejlődésének összehasonlító vizsgálata
  - előzmények, keretfeltételek, motivációk
  - elért eredmények
  - jövőbeli kilátások

## ETT / EGTC

- 2006 óta létező uniós jogi eszköz a határon átnyúló intézményi együttműködések hatékonyságának növelésére;
- önálló jogi személyiséggel, saját költségvetéssel és személyzettel rendelkezik;
- vállalkozói tevékenységet folytathat;
- Magyarország és Szlovákia elsők között ültette át a közösségi rendeletet a nemzeti jogrendjébe (2007-2008);
- 2014 végéig bejegyzett kb. 50 EGTC-ből 13 (!) a magyar-szlovák határ mentén jött létre

## ETT-k a magyar-szlovák határ mentén



## Módszertan

- „Tulajdonosi” (tag-önkormányzati) aspektus  
-> KÉRDŐÍVES FELMÉRÉS
- „Menedzseri” (igazgatói, irodavezetői) aspektus  
-> MÉLYINTERJÚK
- „Objektív külső szemlélődői” aspektus  
-> HONLAPOK, PÉNZÜGYI BESZÁMOLÓK



### 3. Vizsgált ETT-k



#### Ister-Granum

Regisztráció:	2008.11.12.
Tagok:	42 magyarországi, 40 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Esztergom (HU)
Lakosság:	170 284 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	22 962 ezer HUF
Típus:	mikro-regionális, „vállalkozó”



Forrás: Ister-Granum  
[http://www.istergranum.eu/ister\\_granum\\_terkep.jpg](http://www.istergranum.eu/ister_granum_terkep.jpg)

#### Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó

Regisztráció:	2009.01.08.
Tagok:	1-1 magyarországi települési önkormányzat és körjegyzőség; 1 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Homrogd (HU)
Lakosság:	2 859 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	n/a
Típus:	településközi, -

**NEM MŰKÖDIK!**

#### Karszt-Bódva

Regisztráció:	2009.02.11.
Tagok:	2 magyarországi, 1 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Turňa nad Bodvou (SK)
Lakosság:	1 746 fő
Árbevétel, 2014:	n/a
Típus:	településközi, -

**NEM MŰKÖDIK!**

## Abaúj-Abaújban

<b>Regisztráció:</b>	2010.05.27.
<b>Tagok:</b>	9 magyarországi, 7 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
<b>Székhely:</b>	Miskolc (HU)
<b>Lakosság:</b>	10 096 fő
<b>Árbevétel, 2014</b>	15 319 ezer HUF
<b>Típus:</b>	településközi, "támogatás vadász"



## Pons Danubii

<b>Regisztráció:</b>	2010.12.16.
<b>Tagok:</b>	4 magyarországi, 3 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
<b>Székhely:</b>	Komarno (SK)
<b>Lakosság:</b>	119 751 fő
<b>Árbevétel, 2014</b>	n/a
<b>Típus:</b>	mikro-regionális, "vállalkozó"



## Novohrad-Nógrád

<b>Regisztráció:</b>	2011.11.21.
<b>Tagok:</b>	1 magyarországi, 1 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
<b>Székhely:</b>	Salgótarján (HU)
<b>Lakosság:</b>	48 034 fő
<b>Árbevétel, 2014</b>	15 352 ezer HUF
<b>Típus:</b>	településközi, "támogatás vadász"



## Rába-Duna-Vág

Regisztráció:	2011.12.10.
Tagok:	2 magyarországi megyei, 1 szlovákiai kerületi önkormányzat
Székhely:	Tatabánya (HU)
Lakosság:	1 310 161 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	12 884 ezer HUF
Típus:	makro-regionális, „támogatás vadász”

- Komárom-Esztergom
- Győr-Moson-Sopron
- Nagyszombat

(Pozsony (kerület) ?)  
(Nyitra ?)  
(Pest ?)

## Arrabona

Regisztráció:	2011.12.29.
Tagok:	24 magyarországi, 5 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Győr (HU)
Lakosság:	249 225 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	40 870 ezer HUF
Típus:	mikro-regionális, „vállalkozó”



## Bodrogközi

Regisztráció:	2012.04.11.
Tagok:	6 magyarországi, 11 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Miskolc (HU)
Lakosság:	14 471 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	14 644 ezer HUF
Típus:	településközi, „támogatás vadász”



## Sajó-Rima

Regisztráció:	2013.04.03.
Tagok:	2 magyarországi, 2 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Putnok (HU)
Lakosság:	73 123 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	12 462 ezer HUF
Típus:	településközi, „támogatás vadász”



## Via Carpatia

Regisztráció:	2013.05.31.
Tagok:	1 magyarországi megyei, 1 szlovákiai kerületi önkormányzat
Székhely:	Košice (SK)
Lakosság:	1 481 022 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	n/a
Típus:	makro-regionális, „támogatás vadász”

- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén
- Kassa (kerület)

## Svínka

Regisztráció:	2013.11.01.
Tagok:	2 magyarországi, 1 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Tolcsva (HU)
Lakosság:	2 346 fő
Árbevétel, 2014	n/a
Típus:	településközi, -

## Torysa

Regisztráció:	2013.11.01.
Tagok:	2 magyarországi, 1 szlovákiai települési önkormányzat
Székhely:	Sárazsadány (HU)
Lakosság:	2 686 fő
Árbevétel, 2014:	n/a
Típus:	településközi, -

**NEM MŰKÖDIK?**

**NEM MŰKÖDIK?**



## 4. Kérdőíves felmérés eredményei



### Módszertan

- online (Google form), önkitöltős, anonim kérdőív
- adatfelvétel időszaka: 2015. március 25. – május 5. (többszöri küldés)
- nyelv: magyar és/vagy szlovák
  - magyar: 73%
  - szlovák: 27% (!)
- címzettek (e-mail): polgármesterek/elnökök
- válaszadók:
  - polgármester: 66%
  - alpolgármester: 5%
  - jegyző: 7%
  - egyéb személy: 22%

### Válaszadási arány tagszám szerint

	HU	SK	Összesen	
Pons Danubii	3 / 4	1 / 3	4 / 7	57%
Novohrad-Nógrád	1 / 1	0 / 1	1 / 2	50%
Sajó-Rima	1 / 2	1 / 2	2 / 4	50%
Bodrogközi	1 / 6	5 / 11	6 / 17	35%
Svíinka	1 / 2	0 / 1	1 / 3	33%
Arrabona	6 / 24	1 / 5	7 / 29	24%
Ister-Granum	8 / 42	8 / 40	16 / 82	20%
Abauj-Abaujban	0 / 9	3 / 7	3 / 16	19%
Ling-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	1 / 5	0 / 1	1 / 6	17%
Karszt-Bódva	0 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 3	0%
Rába-Duna-Vág	0 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 3	0%
Torysa	0 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 3	0%
Via Carpatia	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 2	0%
<b>Összesen</b>	<b>22 / 102</b>	<b>19 / 75</b>	<b>41 / 177</b>	<b>23%</b>
	22%	25%		

### Válaszadási arány lakosságszám szerint

	HU	SK	Összesen
Novohrad-Nógrád	100%	0%	76%
Pons Danubii	73%	66%	70%
Sajó-Rima	91%	23%	61%
Arrabona	69%	28%	61%
Ister-Granum	42%	23%	35%
Bodrogközi	8%	39%	25%
Abauj-Abaujban	0%	32%	23%
Svíinka	7%	0%	6%
Ling-Tisza-Túr-Sajó	1%	0%	3%
Karszt-Bódva	0%	0%	0%
Rába-Duna-Vág	0%	0%	0%
Torysa	0%	0%	0%
Via Carpatia	0%	0%	0%
<b>Összesen*</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>56%</b>

\* megyék nélkül

## Szegmentációs ismérvek

- ország (HU: 54%, SK: 46%)
- ETT/EGTC
- méret:
  - „kis” település:  
lakosság < 10 ezer (80%)
  - „nagy” település:  
lakosság > 10 ezer (20%)
- alapító (83%)/  
csatlakozó (17%)

## Dimenziók, szempontok

<b>Motiváció</b>	Civil szervezetek közötti együttműködés erősítése Civil szervezetek (kivéve: turisztikai) együttműködésben rejlő lehetőségek kiaknázása Turisztikai együttműködésben rejlő lehetőségek kiaknázása
<b>Élegedettség</b>	Ökumenet- és természetvédelmi együttműködés erősítése Egészségügyi együttműködésben rejlő lehetőségek kiaknázása Oktatási együttműködésben rejlő lehetőségek kiaknázása
<b>Jövőbeli elvárások</b>	Ökumenet- és természetvédelmi együttműködés erősítése Közlekedési infrastrukturális közös fejlesztési lehetőségek kiaknázása Magyar-szlovák nemzetiségi kapcsolatok erősítése Magyar-magyar nemzetiségi kapcsolatok erősítése Szlovák-szlovák nemzetiségi kapcsolatok erősítése
Hozzájárulás az ETT tevékenységeihez	

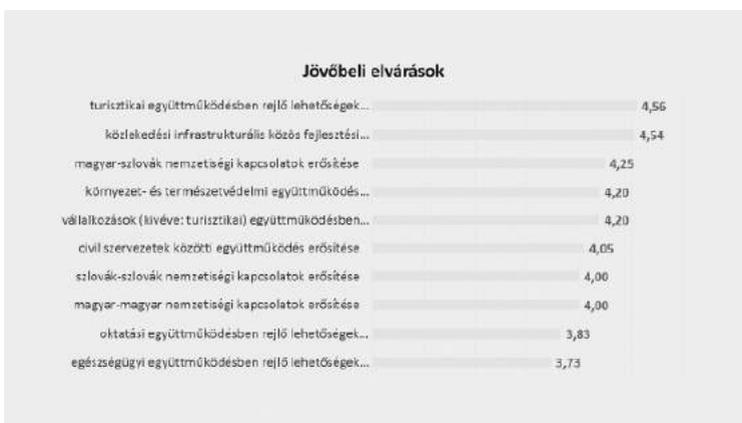
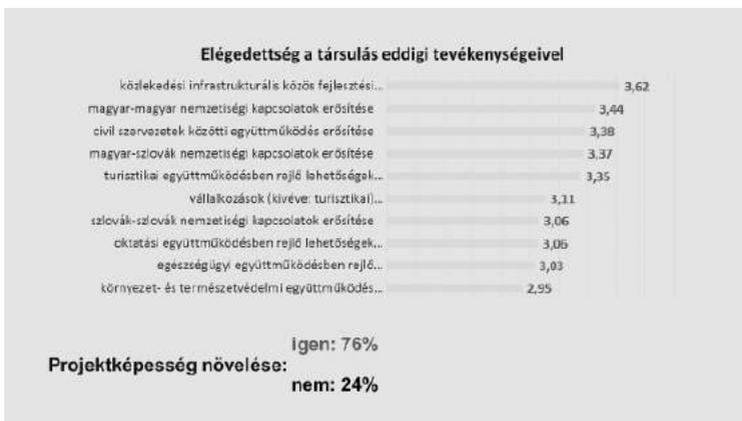
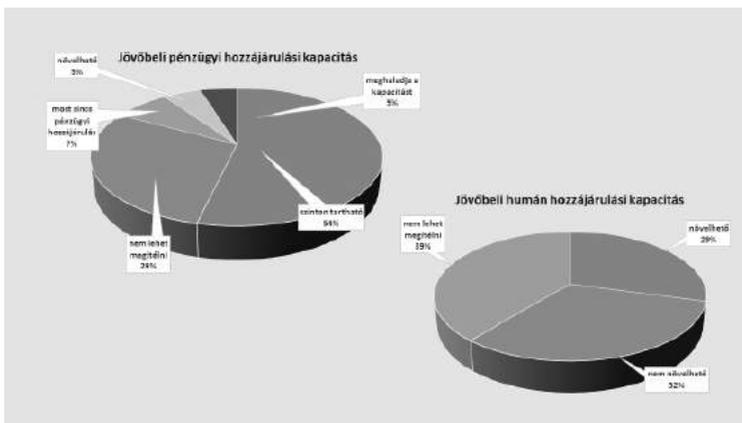
## Eredmények

### Alapítás/csatlakozás motivációs tényezői



### ETT tevékenységekhez való hozzájárulás







## 5. „Érettségi szint” mérés eredményei



### „ETT Érettségi Index” (EGTC Maturity Index)

- **Objektív szempontrendszer alapján képzett, komplex mutatószám, melynek segítségével az európai területi társulások (nem lineáris!) fejlődése, a kitűzött célok megvalósítására való képessége mérhető, értékelhető.**

- > **Nyilvánosság (Publicity) 25%**
- > **Erőforrás-ellátottság (Resources) 30%**
- > **Régiófejlesztés (Regional development) 25%**
- > **Tagi elégedettség (Members' satisfaction) 20%**

NYILVÁNOSSÁG	1. Aradon	1. Iszer-Granum	3. Rébe-Duna-Vég	3. Novohrad-Nyírád	5. Rodregósi	6. Via Carpatia	6. Abauj-Abaujban	6. Sajó-Rima	6. Pann Danubii
A társulásnak van honlapja	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Közzétett határozatok/jegyzőkönyvek elérhetők a honlapon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Posta, telefon, email elérhetőségek megtalálhatók a honlapon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legalább 1 aktuális hír a honlapon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pénzügyi-számviteli beszámoló elkészült	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pénzügyi-számviteli beszámoló megtalálható a honlapon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A beszámoló tartalmazza a bevételi források összetételét	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Projektek címei, céljai, támogatási összegei nyilvánosak	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tagság, célok, kapcsolatinformációk angolul is	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Közvetlen brüsszeli jelenlét (iroda)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Publicity subindex</b>	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

## ERŐFORRÁSOK

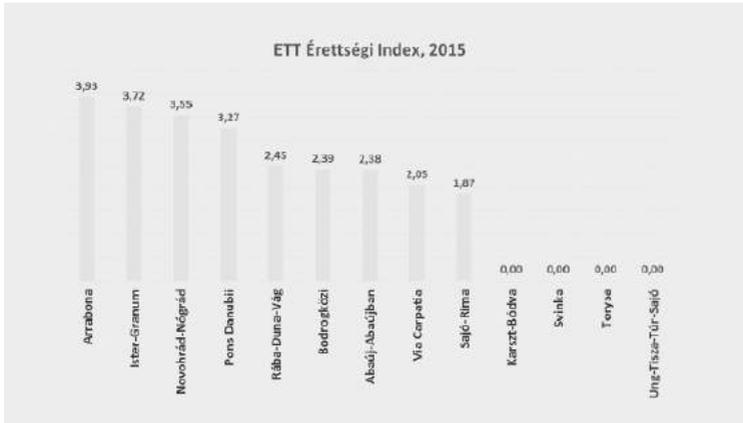
	1. Arrabona	2. Ister-Granum	3. Novohrad-Nógrád	4. Pons Danubii	5. Rébe-Duna-Vég	6. Abauj-Abaujban	7. Bodroglóci	8. Via Carpatia	9. Sajó-Rima
Legalább 3 lezárt üzleti év	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Növekvő árbevétel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
„Saját” bevételek (nem tagdíj, nem támogatás)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Az árbevétel kevesebb mint 50%-át adják a támogatások	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Állami és CBC támogatásokon kívül más támogatás	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Főállású igazgató	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Igazgatón kívül még legalább 1 főállású alkalmazott	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tagdíjak és saját bevételek fedezik a személyi jellegű kiadásokat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legalább 1 fő rendelkezik angol nyelvtudással	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legalább 1 fő rendelkezik projektmenedzsment tapasztalattal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Resources subindex</b>	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.0

## RÉGIÓFEJLESZTÉSI KAPACITÁS

	1. Pons Danubii	2. Arrabona	3. Ister-Granum	4. Novohrad-Nógrád	5. Rébe-Duna-Vég	6. Via Carpatia	7. Sajó-Rima	8. Abauj-Abaujban	9. Bodroglóci
Legalább 100 ezer fő lakosság	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Járási szintű együttműködés vagy legalább egy járási központ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Megyei szintű együttműködés vagy legalább egy megyeközpont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Régió szintű együttműködés vagy legalább egy régióközpont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Létezik fejlesztési stratégia dokumentum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legalább 1 projekt az aktuális CBC programban	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legalább 1 kidolgozott projekt koncepció	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Résztvétel az CBC program tervezésében	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integrált beruházási koncepció kidolgozása	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integrált beruházási koncepció megvalósítása	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Regional development subindex</b>	4.0	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.5

## TAGI ELÉGEDETTSÉG

	1. Novohrad-Nógrád	2. Pons Danubii	3. Bodroglóci	4. Arrabona	5. Ister-Granum	6. Abauj-Abaujban	7. Sajó-Rima	8. Rébe-Duna-Vég	9. Via Carpatia
civil szervezetek közötti együttműködés erősítése	5	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	3
vállalkozások (kivéve: turisztikai) együttműködésben rejülő lehetőségek kiaknázása	5	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
turisztikai együttműködésben rejülő lehetőségek kiaknázása	5	5	3	3	3	4	2	2	2
környezet- és természetvédelmi együttműködés erősítése	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
egészségügyi együttműködésben rejülő lehetőségek kiaknázása	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
oktatói együttműködésben rejülő lehetőségek kiaknázása	5	3	4	2	2	2	3	3	3
közlekedési infrastrukturális közös fejlesztési lehetőségek...	5	5	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
magyar-szlovák nemzetiségi kapcsolatok erősítése	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3
magyar-magyar nemzetiségi kapcsolatok erősítése	5	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	3
szlovák-szlovák nemzetiségi kapcsolatok erősítése	5	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Members' satisfaction subindex</b>	5.0	3.7	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.2	1.0	1.0



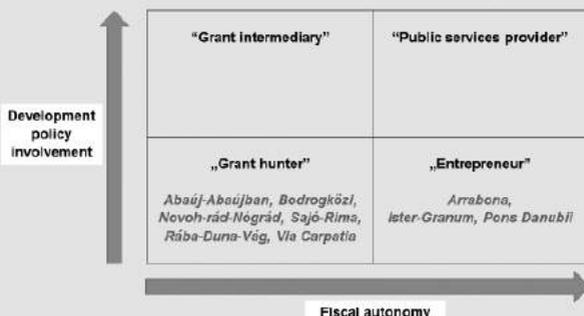
## 6. Szerep típusok



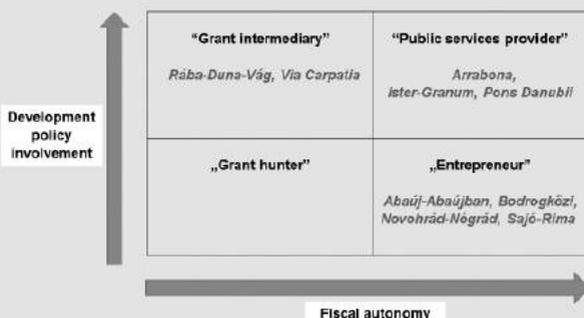
### ETT szerep:

- **Elsősorban a pénzügyi autonómia (fiscal autonomy) és a fejlesztéspolitikai „bevonás” (development policy involvement) mértéke, térségi szemlélet jelenléte határozza meg.**
- **Időben változhat.**
- **4 fő típus**
  - „Támogatás vadász” – Grant hunter
  - „Vállalkozó” – Entrepreneur
  - „Támogatás közvetítő” – Grant intermediary
  - „Közszolgáltató” – Public services provider

## ETT Szerep Mátrix (EGTC Role Matrix), 2015



## ETT Szerep Mátrix (EGTC Role Matrix), 2020 - Vizió



### Életképesség, akadályok

- Források szűkössége, alacsony abszorpciós képesség
- Centralizált politikai érdekek és a térségek valós kihívásai közötti ellentétek
- Jogi szabályozások, elszámolási rendszerek (HUF, EUR) eltérő volta
- Térségi/ helyi szereplők önállóságának szűkössége, ami fékezi az innovatív, kreatív megoldásokat, új területfejlesztési paradigmák megjelenését.
- A szabályozások befékezik a határon átnyúló kereskedelmet, a közegészségügyi ellátás javítását, a közlekedés racionalizálását, közös információs szolgáltató rendszer kialakítását, a munkaerőpiac fejlesztését, a munkanélküliség kezelését.
- Siker titka: decentralizáció, kompetenciák leadása, együttműködési kultúra javítása
- Ha a politika felülírja a gazdasági racionalitást az adott térségek humán tőke kapacitása nem felszabadítható, kreativitás, innovativitás lefolytódik.

## **7. További kutatási, elemzési irányok az ETT-k térségi szerepének betöltéséhez**

- **Az európai területi együttműködés jogi akadályainak lebontása – Magyarország és szomszédos országainak esete**
- **A határ menti gazdasági, társadalmi együttműködés új lehetőségei a tervezett új magyar-szlovák határátkelők vonzáskörzetében**
- **Az ETT-k „társadalmiasításának” lehetőségei (közvélemény kutatás, üzleti / civil szervezeti felmérések, kommunikációs platformok kialakítása)**
- **Határon átnyúló közszolgáltatások szervezeti kereteinek kialakítási lehetőségei**
- **ETT monitoring módszertan (objektív mérőrendszer) továbbfejlesztése**

***Közép-Kelet-Európa egyik kitorési pontja:  
ETT/EGTC***

## **KÖSZÖNJÜK A FIGYELMET!**

*A projekt a Nemzetközi Visegrádi Alap támogatásával valósul meg*



## Civil szemmel az EGTC-ről

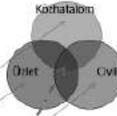
Rajnai Gábor elnök  
ECOVAST Magyarországi Egyesület  
2015. 05. 28. Komárno

### Nyitott kérdések

- A „civil” szem sajátossága?
- Mi is a cél valójában?
- Megoldás és/vagy anomália?



## Civil szem(üveg)



- Hívószó: partnerség – társadalmi tőke (elválasztó(?) határ?!)
- Térségi programozás: (érdekharmónia és szinergia)
  - Három szereplő: (külön „szín” az országhatár)
    - Közhatalom - eredmény (hasonló játékszabályok)
    - Üzleti világ - haszon (egyéni piaci érdekek: verseny és/vagy együttműködés)
    - Civil társadalom - érték (kulturális és szemléleti alapok)
- Közös érdekhalmazok, az origó/a szövetség alapja!!!

3

## Közös hajó élmény, mint motiváció



- Európai Unióban: LEADER-től a CLLD-ig
  - Alulról építkezés: tervezés, programozás és végrehajtás
  - A helyi szándékok és törekvések szinergiája
  - Helyi/térségi közös értékfeltárás és jövőkép
  - Együttműködési készség – térségi háló – társadalmi tőke
  - Közösségépítés, autonóm gondolkodás és lét
- EGTC-ben közhatalmi túlsúly és/vagy vezető elv
 

Kérdés a másik két szereplő érdemi jelenléte, mindez határon átnyúló viszonyok között?

4

## Célok és érdekek – a határ szerepe?!

Egy területi egység és/vagy települések halmaza?



- Területi kiegyenlítés, programharmonizálás,...?
  - Depresszív határ-menti térségek vs. adottságok
  - Pólusfilozófia és a vidéki térségek fejlődése
- Szubszidiaritás, decentralizáció,...?
  - Döntési hatáskörök és politikai szándékok
- Térségi programozás, forráskoordináció,...?
  - Szigetszerű szándékok, ébredő együttműködési készség
  - Jó esetben közös célokra és/vagy forrásra programozunk
  - Kinek a tenyeréből „eszünk”? – Csak forrás-vezérelt?

A forrás kívülről jön – a társadalmi tőke belül épül!!!

5

## Konkrét tanpálya az Ipoly-mente

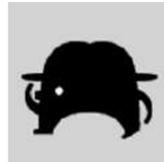
- Adottság a határfolyó maga: hidak, de nem csak
- Ipoly-menti Térségi Fejlesztési Fórum
  - Részvétel a megyei tervezésben, majd a HU-SK ETE
  - Projektalkotó csoportok: Vállalkozók, Természet és környezet, Egészségügy, Közlekedés, Turizmus, térségi tervezés és programozás összehangolása
- Partnerek:
  - Önkormányzatok, szakmai civilek, vállalkozók
  - EGTC(k): Istergranum, Pontibus – Új helyzet?!
- **Eredmény: térségi „belső építéset”**
  - közös célok – szakmai partnerségek
  - kapcsolati háló – társadalmi tőke?



## Megoldás és/vagy anomália?

Nyilvánvaló és/vagy fedett érdekek?!

- Mire megoldás az EGTC?
  - Térségi kooperatív gondolkodást indukál
  - Javítja a területi programozási kultúrát
  - Növeli a forrásabszorpciók készséget
- Mennyiben anomália az EGTC?
  - Nem vált szerves részévé a nemzeti intézményrendszereknek (testidegen formáció maradt)
  - Nem harmonizálja érdemben a területfejlesztési tervezést és programozást (legfeljebb partnerségi alapú véleménycserek)
  - Nem tompítja jelentősen a partnerségi deficitet, a forrásvezérelt gondolkodást és a külső elvárásokat



Köszönöm a figyelmet

[grainai@ecovast.hu](mailto:grainai@ecovast.hu)

***Dr. Hardi Tamás PhD (HAS, Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute for Regional Studies, West Hungarian Research Department, research fellow): Asymmetries and cross-border regions at the Slovakian-Hungarian border***



**Civitas Europaea Centralis Konferencia  
2015. május 28.  
Selye János Egyetem, Komárom-Komárno**

**Aszimmetriák és összekapcsolódó  
határrégiók a szlovák-magyar  
határtérségben**

**Asymmetries and cross-border regions at  
the Slovakian-Hungarian border**

HARDI, Tamás PhD  
tudományos főmunkatárs  
egyetemi docens  
MTA KRTK Regionális Kutatások Intézete  
Nyugat-magyarországi Tudományos Köztestület, Győr  
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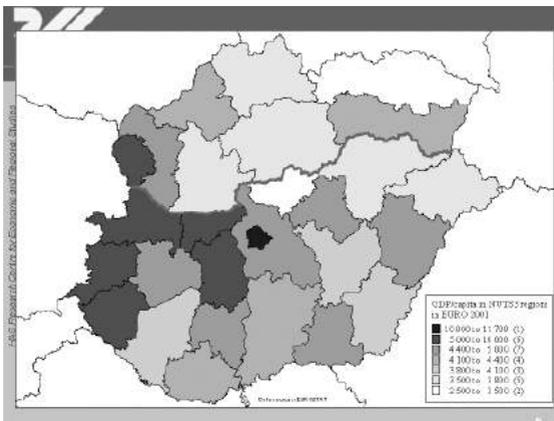
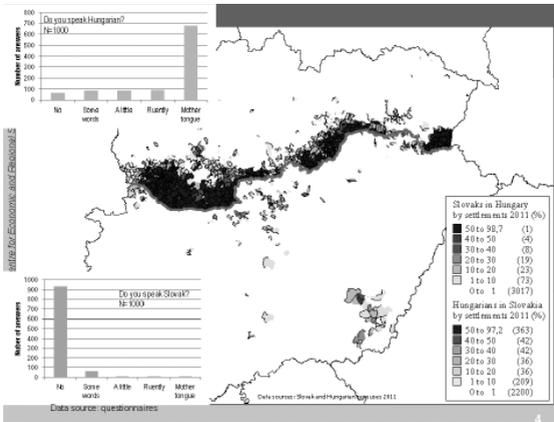
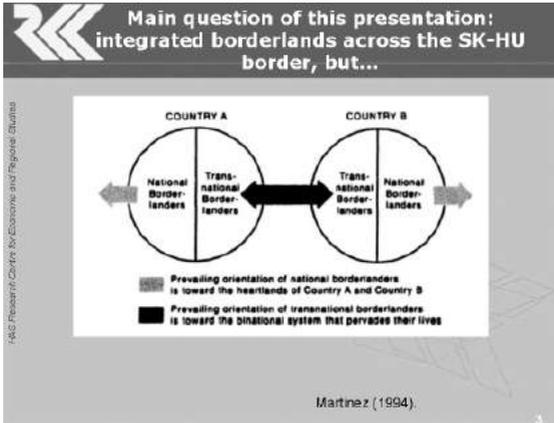
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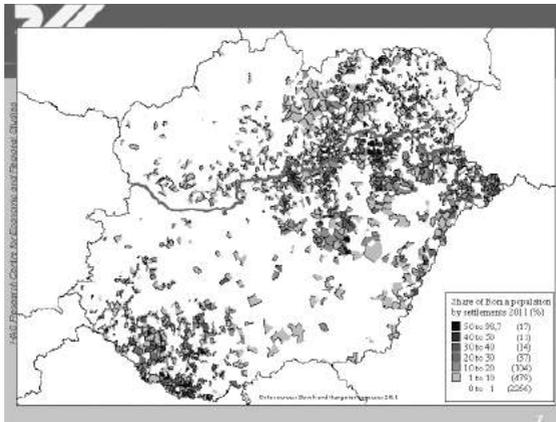
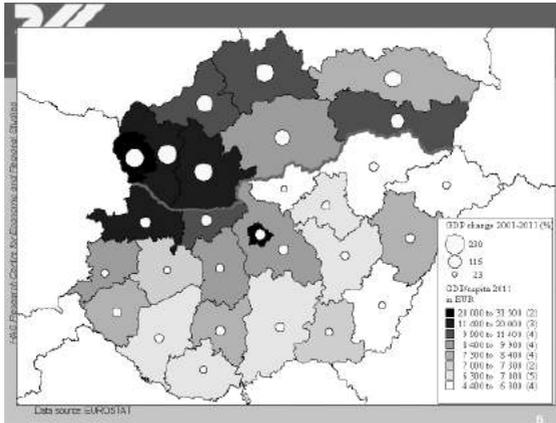


**Researches on which this presentation is  
based**

- **Research for the Socio-economic Analysis of the Slovakian–Hungarian Border Region 2007-2008**  
HUSKUA05/02/117 Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Program
- **AGGLONET Hungarian-Slovak suburbia surrounding Bratislava 2009-2010**  
Hungary - Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013  
HUSK0301/1.5.1.0007
- **Examination of the political-geographical spatial-structures in the neighbouring countries 2013-2015**  
Hungarian Scientific Research Fund ID: K 104801

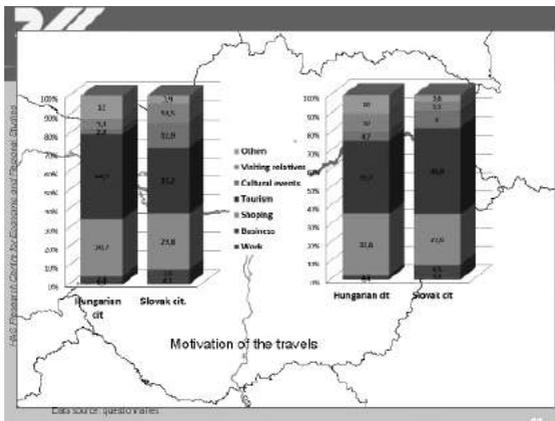
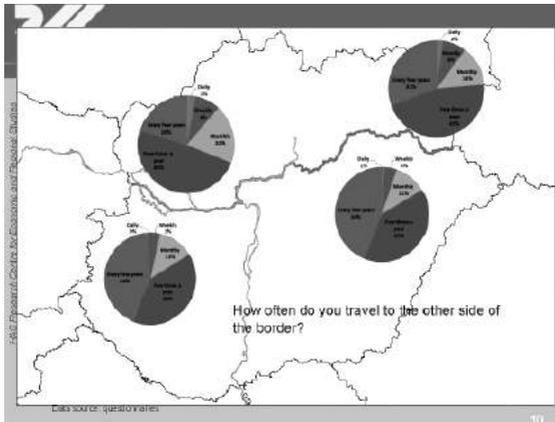
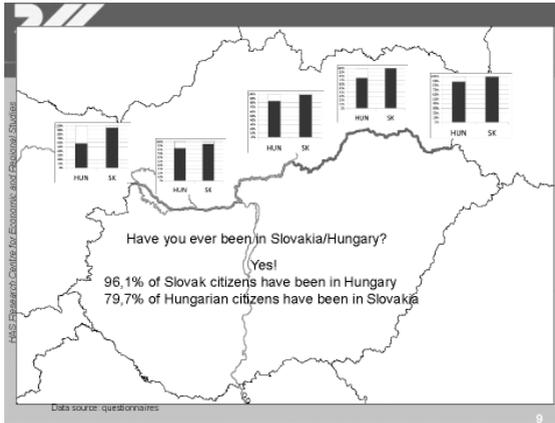
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## 2. Asymmetries of cross-border mobility and contacts

Data sources: Questionnaire survey of inhabitants (2008) Sample: 2x1000 persons living in the border region and  
 AGGLONET questionnaire survey of new settlers in Bratislava's suburbia Sample: 2X300 persons





## Destinations of travels

F&D Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies



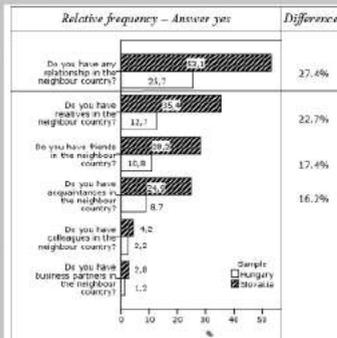
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## Personal contacts across the border

*Probable frequency of the relationships and the types of relationships*

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Source: Questionnaire survey of inhabitants (2008), Figure: Zelená Csizmadá



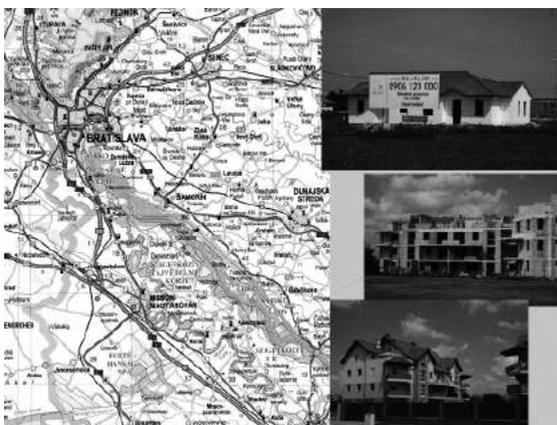
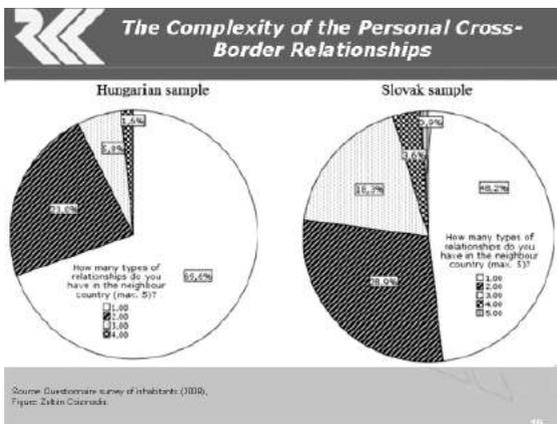
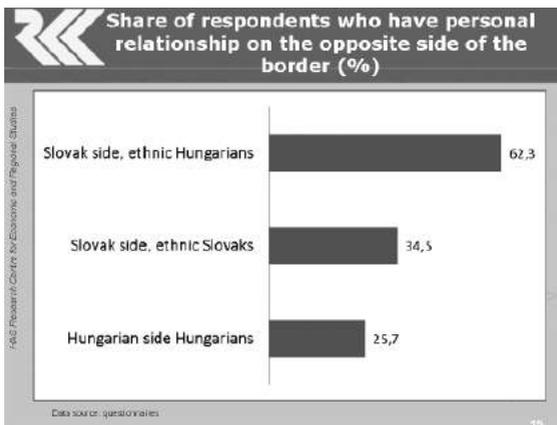
## The differentiation of network properties according to the ethnicity of the respondents – Slovakian side

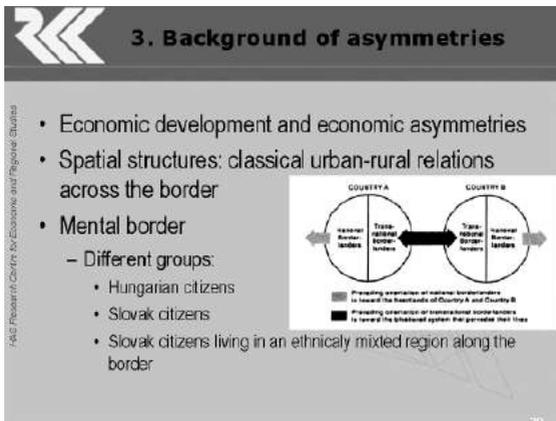
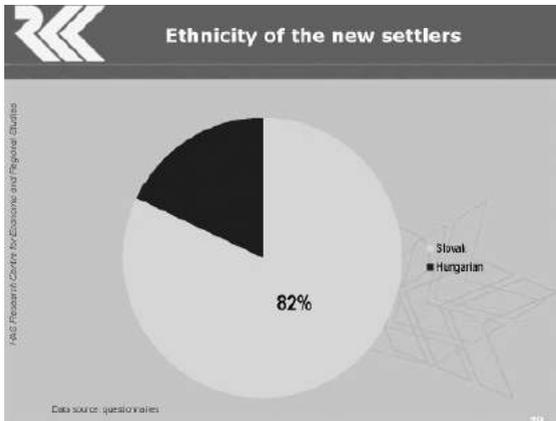
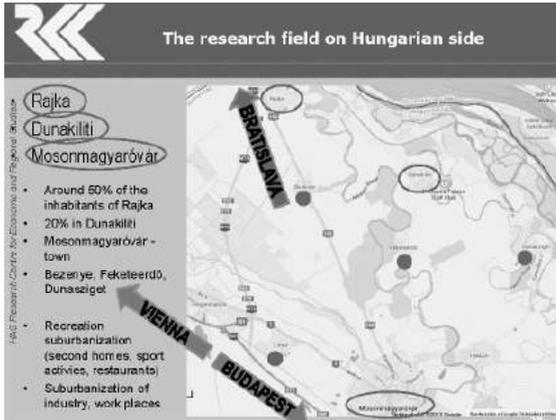
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	Hungarian nationality	Slovak nationality
Do you have any contact on the other side of the border (in Hungary)?, %	62,3	34,5
How many persons do you keep in touch with? (average)	25	14
How many relatives do you have? (average)	10	11
How many friends do you have? (average)	11	7
How many acquaintances do you have? (average)	20	8
With one kind of contact only, %	45,6	58,2
With two kinds of contacts, %	30,6	23,6
With three or more contacts of different types, %	23,8	18,2

Source: Questionnaire survey of inhabitants (2008), Figure: Zelená Csizmadá

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***Simon Zsolt (Member of Parliament, former minister of agriculture of Slovakia) – Csicsai Gábor (Member of Parliament, former state secretary of agriculture of Slovakia): How the EGTCs' operations can be improved at the Slovakian-Hungarian border?***



## Mi az alapja az EGTC szövetségnek ???

- 1082/2006/EK rendelet 3. cikk

☐ A csoportosulás összetétele :

- a) tagállamok;
- b) regionális hatóságok; (megyék )
- c) helyi hatóságok; ( falvak és városok)

( nemzeti jogszabályok alapján fennálló hatásköreik korlátain belül...)

## Miért nem működik jobban?

- Helyhatósági és regionális szervek alkotják
- Nincs reális döntéshozatali jogkörük (illetve nagyon korlátozottak)
- Az államok még mindig úgy vélekednek, a határok elválasztanak.
- Nincs politikai akarat nagyobb mértékben összekötni a határ két oldalát.

## Mi valósult meg eddig?

- Kerékpárutak épültek
- Konferenciákat szerveztek
- Tanulmányokat készítettek
- Turizmus fejlesztő kezdeményezések
- Autóbusz-közlekedés (Nagygyeőr –Győr-Nagygyeőr )
  
- **Ipoly-hidak** (államközi megállapodással )
- A komáromi új híd tervezése, megvalósítása

## Mi az ami hiányzik?

- A kis- és középvállalkozások szorosabb összevonása
- A helyi piacok kölcsönös fellendítése (őstermelők, ...)
- Kölcsönös jogszabály elismerése, illetve bevezetése.

### 1. példa

- Az 1908-ból származó első bortörvény megállapítja, hogy hol terül el a Tokaj
- A magyar jogszabály és az államközi egyezmények is elismerik, hogy Tokai dűlő a szlovák oldalon is van.
- A magyar jogszabály nem engedélyezi a szlovák oldalon termesztett szőlő bevitelét és feldolgozását.
- Ami korábban egybetartozott az most miért nem az? És még meddig nem lesz az?????

### 2. példa

- A révkomáromi piacon a magyar kistermelő a szlovák hatóságok engedélye nélkül nem árulhat (Állategészségügyi és Élelmiszer-biztonsági Felügyelet, adó, vállalkozói engedély...)
- De a komáromi piacon a révkomáromi polgár már vásárolhat és gond nélkül haza viheti az árút..
- Akkor miért ne vehetné meg a révkomáromi polgár a terméket a saját piacán????

## Megoldás?

1. A vonatkozó jogszabályok feltérképezése
2. Módosítási kérelem az államoknál
3. Külön jogszabály bevezetése a határ menti övezetekre [30-50km]

Köszönöm  
megtisztelő  
figyelmüket



