

Proposal for the CESCI General Assembly meeting to be held on 25 April, 2017

Agenda item No. 3: Report on the 1 January-25 April 2017 events

Operating Conditions

The working organisation has been renting an office at Újpest quay since June last year which provides European-standard working conditions. From the beginning of 2017, the organisation has had 9 full-time and 3 part-time employees. Our colleague, Márton Pete, junior research fellow, moved and has been working at Faculty of Science of Eötvös Lóránd Science University, since 1 February, thus the number of our part-time employees has decreased to two. In the first quarter, the organisation had 4 persons in the internship programme.

1. Scientific Research

PHANTOM-BORDER

Our research project, which has started in 2015, will be finished soon. We received the survey of our two external authors in March, thus now it is possible to finalize the survey volume. The research has provided new information for the EU methodology of the cross-border projects' territorial impact assessment.

Related events

February 15th: participation in the DanUrb project opening conference (Budapest)

February 20th: Japanese scientists, Hiroshi Tanaka and Hideo Kojimoto visited CESCI

2. Planning and Programming

Professional support for Slovak-Hungarian INTERREG V-A programme

We work in cooperation with the Professional Secretariat of the Slovak-Hungarian INTERREG V-A programme on preparing the calling for tender about the cross-border employment action plan which is connected to the programme's priority axis 3, by helping to assemble the necessary documents and constructing the tender system.

Szép Cserehát territorial action plan

Via Carpatia EGTC assigned us to work on the cross-border action plan of the Cserehát area. We conducted nearly 50 interviews during the field-work and we also organised 3 workshops. Under the assignment, we have to work on a more expanded draft than the Slovak-Hungarian PA3 tender which reflects the problems of the area comprehensively. The customers are going to choose the projects of the action plan which will be submitted to the Slovak-Hungarian tender on the basis of the completed document.

Arrabona EGTC territorial action plan

Our association is going to prepare the action plan which will be submitted to the Slovak-Hungarian tender for our member EGTC. We discussed several versions in the first quarter, from which the topic of the action plan has been chosen.

Cross-border touristic routes

At the request of CESCI Carpathia we assembled a comprehensive survey in order to develop the cross-border thematic touristic routes of Košice and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén countys. We evaluated the current routes, presented Western European good practices and formed recommendations about the direction of the future developments in the survey. The document can be used as a preparatory survey in the related tenders.

Related events

January 25th: Szép Cserehát action plan: starting workshop (Košice)

January 26th: Szép Cserehát action plan: inaugural workshop (Encs)

February 6th: consultation in Széchenyi Programme Office about the SK-HU PA3 tender

February 7th: consultation at the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta with Gábor Kovács, regional director, about the Cserehát action plan

March 23rd: consultation at the Ministry about the SK-HU PA3 tender

April 19th: presenting Szép Cserehát action plan (Košice)

3. Project and Institution Development

Submitted tenders

The strategic basis of Danube Strategy supports projects which deals with the whole macro-region. The 2017 tender made it necessary to involve Adriatic and Ionian Strategy countries, with a specific focus on the Balkans. We submitted such tender to the call which would create an online and personal platform with the involvement of the cross-border cooperation actors; would help their professional

development; and would expand the earlier initiative of the AEBR Balkans office, which involves young leaders in the cross-border cooperation. Our partners: AEBR, CESCI Balkans and ISIG.

For the call of the Erasmus+ programme Strategic Partnership, under the CESCI initiative with the leading partnership of Euro-Institut in Kehl; we submitted our tender called, CB ManGo, which constructs an EU network educating the managers of the cross-border developments and governance. The members of the partnership are: AEBR, ISIG, MOT, Technical University of Liberec, University of Szeged and University of Salamanca.

At the request of the AEBR Balkans office, we intend to take part in two further Erasmus+ projects, in case of a successful tender.

Project development

We have continued the project development on the initiative of Mórahalom. We are planning to submit the tender, which aimed at popularizing the cellular territorial energy model, to the Danube INTERREG V-B call.

Within the framework of Interreg Europe, a recommendation has arrived from the University of Nürnberg to an EGTC-topic tender. Our colleagues have worked out a background material which concentrates on the significance of the territorial tools in the development of border areas.

We will submit a tender to the KÖFOP call on project development, which was published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The results are not known at the time of the formulation of the proposals.

Institution development

We provide professional support for the foundation of two EGTCs: the purpose of MURABA EGTC is to unite Slovenian Hungarian communities by creating common territorial developments; the foundation of the cooperative and national transport authorities EGTCs in the Euro-Contrôle Route network has been going faster this year, the approval of the statutes and convention is expected to be in June.

Related events

January 10th: DTP project development meeting (Mórahalom)

January 11th: consultation about the action plan with Arrabona EGTC representatives (Budapest)

January 12th: participation in the Erasmus+ tender seminar (Budapest)

January 12th: consulting with Frank Schouwaert, the representative of ECR network EGTC working group (Budapest)

January 30th: project development meeting (Mórahalom)

February 8th: participation in the Danube Transnational Programme seminar

February 15th: ECR network EGTC working group meeting (Brussels)

March 2nd: participation and lecture in the Vág-Danube-Ipeľ Euroregion partnership seminar (Gyula Ocskay, Révkomárom)

March 7th: MURABA EGTC foundation meeting (Lendava)

March 28th: project development workshop of the development partnership along the Lower Ipeľ (Ipolydamásd)

April 5th: meeting of the ECR network leading commission: the first reading discussion of the ECR EGTC statutes and convention (Brussels)

April 6th: consultation about the broader crossings in Košice

April 11th: consultation about the Cserhát action plan at Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta

April 12th: consultation about the planned action plan with the representatives of Arrabona EGTC; consultation with CEO Apor Kovács (Gate to Europe EGTC) about the resources

April 20th: conference on the foundation of MURABA EGTC (Szentgotthárd)

4. Mediation

Professional support for EGTCs

We worked out the integrated development strategy for Tisza EGTC in 2016. At the request of the management, we constructed a brochure providing a Hungarian and English overview of the strategy, it is meant to popularize the partnership, and it is an extra service. The Ukrainian translation is going to be made by the EGTC, which we also construct ready for printing.

The next EGTC workshop was held in March 7-8 in Esztergom. Our association was represented by our Secretary General, who held a lecture on the cross-border employment action plans as well.

Supporting national policies

The work on the topic of legal accessibility, which has begun in 2016, is going to be continued in three levels in 2017. Firstly, we provide professional support for the Ministry of Justice to build the three level institutional system for accessibility (ministerial working group, system of joint committee, V4 coordination). Within this framework, there were three consultations with the representatives of the Ministry up to now.

Secondly, we actively participate in the EU consultation process on this topic; we forwarded a summary of the results of the 2016 project to the management of Cross-Border Review project, which has the same thematic, and to DG Regio – as we agreed with the representative of the Department.

Thirdly, we implement the results of last year's project to four fields with the support of the Ministry of Justice in 2017: we provide aid to the neighbouring government of the Republic of Serbia for

formulating the implementing regulation which enables the establishment of the EGTCs; we launch a working group to handle the legal obstacles in order to facilitate the market access of local products and services of ambulance cars over borders; moreover, we measure the available current information resources about the frontier workers and propose integration. We have finished the preparatory stage of the project, we are waiting for the grant contract.

Supporting EU policies

We prepare a contribution to the 7th cohesion report in order to support the territorial cohesion and strengthen the factors of the cross-border cooperation.

We are going to participate in the activity of the so called Luxemburg Working Group which is working on the preparation of the European Cross-Border Convention new EU tool, which was worked out the time of the 2015 Luxemburg EU presidency.

At the request of the British consulting group specializing in rail and public transport, SYSTRA and the French MOT, we participate in the tender about the review of the missing railway connections within EU borders. The purpose of the document is to support the decisions of EU policies on connecting the EU member states in a better way. The result of the calling for tender is unknown at the time of the report.

Related events

January 9th: consultation with the Hungarian Minister of Justice László Trócsány about continuing the project entitled *Legal Accessibility*

February 16th: ECBC meeting (Brussels)

February 28th: participation in the DTP transnational touristic project opening conference headed by Pons Danubii EGTC (Tata)

March 7-8th: EGTC workshop (Esztergom)

March 15-16th: participation in the MOT annual general assembly in Belval (Luxemburg)

April 3rd: consultation with Zsolt Szokolai (DG Regio) about the Legal Accessibility project

April 10th: participation and lecture in the RDV EGTC local products workshop (Tata, Gyula Ocskay)

April 10th: participation in the DARLINGe transnational project conference (Budapest)

5. Membership Services

Our association is going to expand its membership services significantly, in 2017. For this purpose, we have already taken several steps in the first months of the year.

We are organising an urban-policy chamber conference related to our annual General Assembly, where among others Judit Törökné Rózsa, the European Commission Directorate-General for

Regional and Urban Policy is going to hold a lecture. Our aim is to support the competitiveness of the border cities by providing professional knowledge.

We published our last year launched newsletter in February.

We have started to organise our library, which we would like to make available for all our members.

Our new initiative is organising study visits: we provide 6 of our members the opportunity to travel to Basque Country in the end of May to enrich their knowledge about border cooperations with the gained experiences.

Report by: Gyula Ocskay, Secretary General

General Assembly Resolution no. .../2017 (IV. 25.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives approves the Report on the 1 January-25 April 2017 events

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: Chairman