



INTRODUCTION OF Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives

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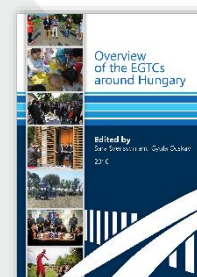
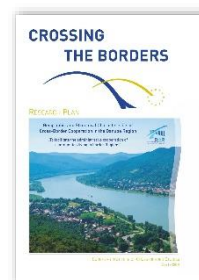


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Central European Service of Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI) is a Budapest-based think-and-do-tank of cross-border cooperation. The association established in 2009 carries out activities of wide range in several fields.

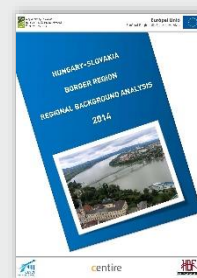
APPLIED RESEARCH IN BORDERLANDS STUDIES

- **Crossing the borders:** the project aimed at giving an overview on border areas and cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region. The consortium led by CESCI included scholars from six countries. The research concluded with a volume including 3 comprehensive and 14 case studies. For further information, please click [HERE!](#)
- **Overview on the EGTCs along the Hungarian borders:** the book contains analyses on the legal and policy background of Hungary in the field of EGTCs; on the operational factors of the Hungarian groupings and an evaluation on their work. For further information, please click [HERE!](#)

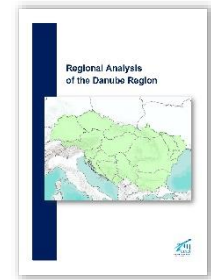


CROSS-BORDER STRATEGIC PLANNING

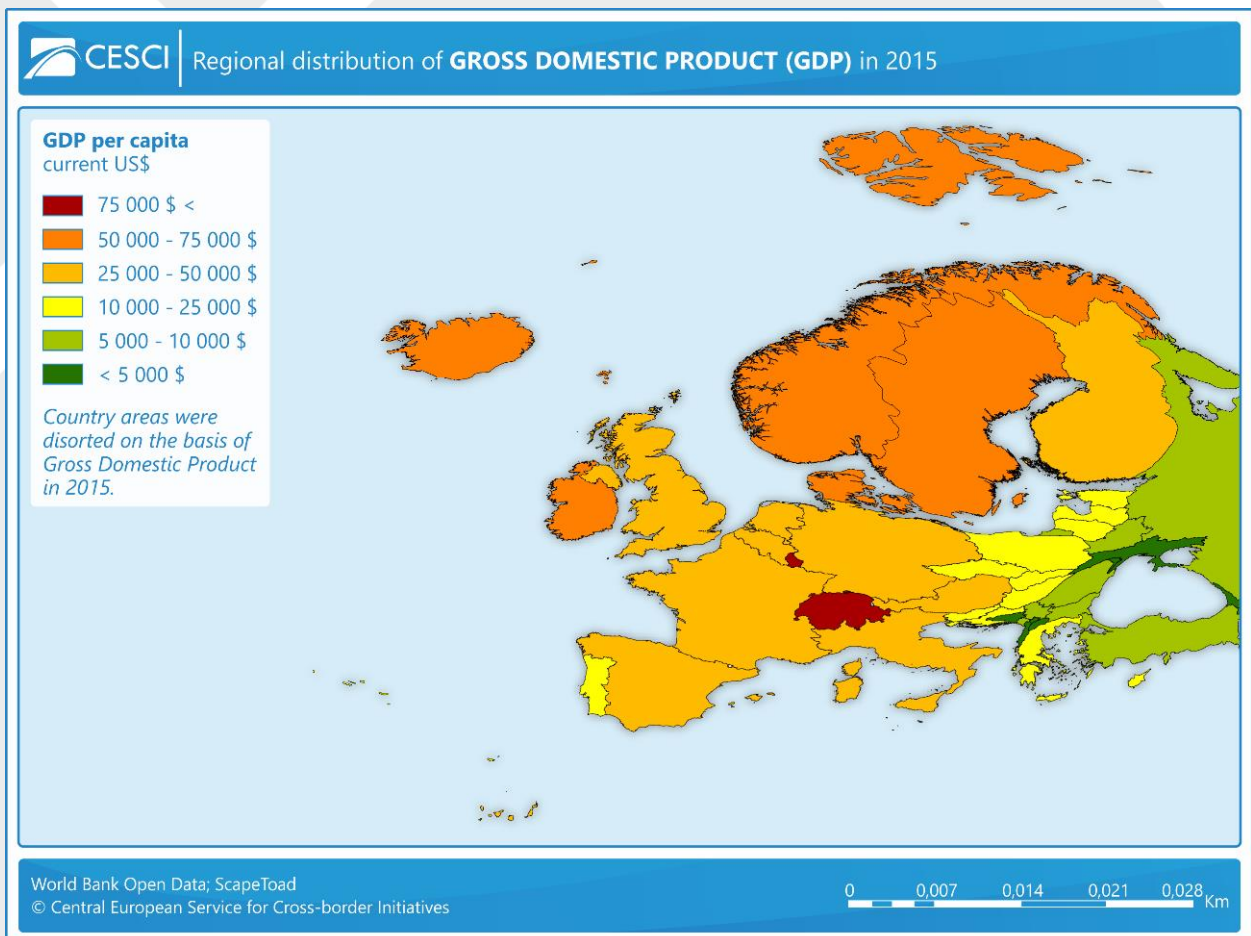
- **Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A programme:** CESCI has delegated a team leader to the planning team, drafted the regional analysis of the border area and took part actively in the elaboration of the priority areas 2 (cross-border mobility) and 3 (cross-border labour mobility).



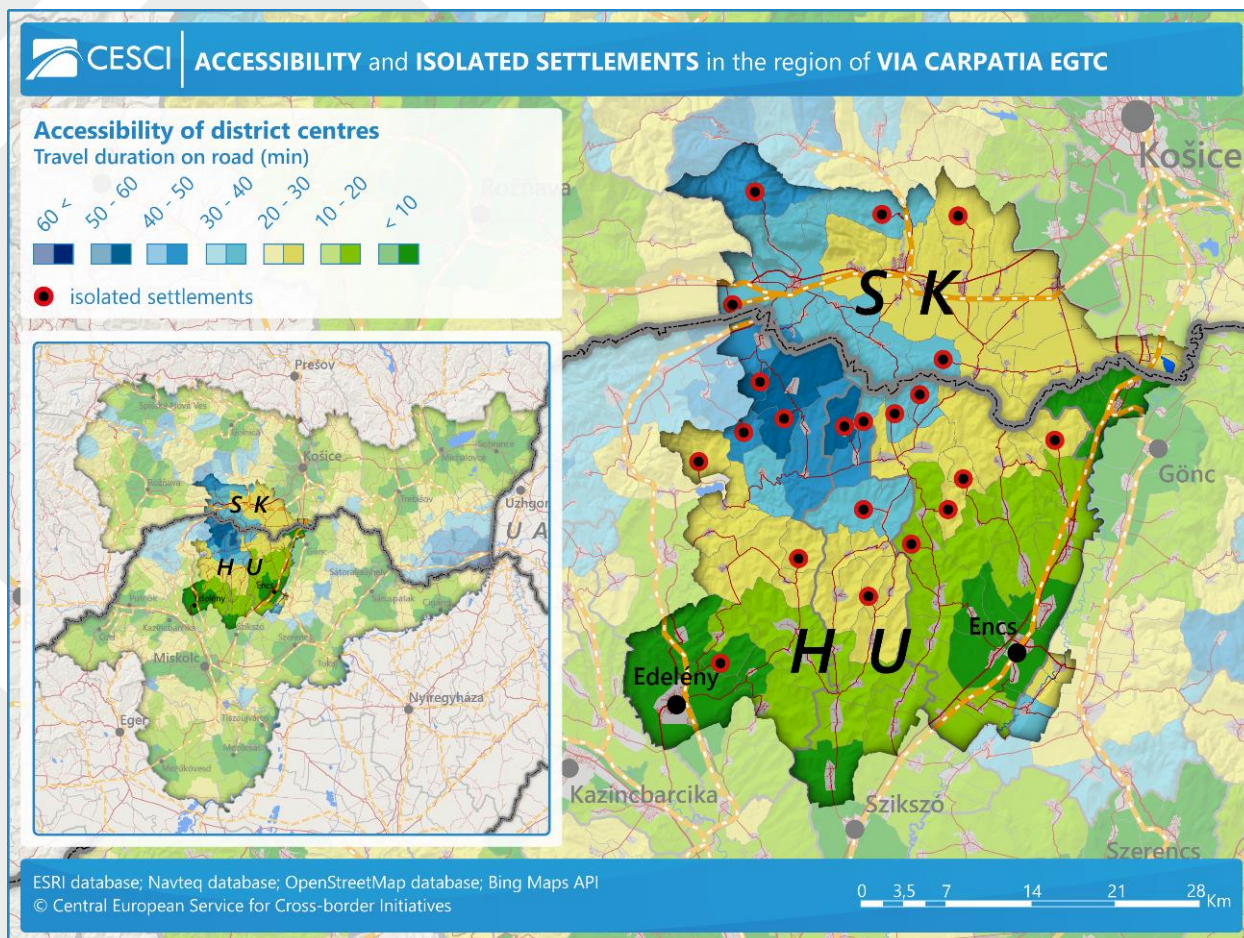
- **Regional analysis of the Danube Region:** the document served as a basis for the development of the transnational Danube Programme (INTERREG V-B).



- **Integrated cross-border strategic plans of the following EGTCs:** Arrabona (HU-SK), Banat-Triplex Confinium (HU-RO-SR), Gate to Europe (HU-RO), Mura Region (HU-HR), Rába-Danube-Váh (HU-SK), Tisza (HU-UA).
- **Cohesion-based cross-border planning:** CESCI has developed own methodology of integrated cross-border planning where the (integrated) interventions are based on the challenges of cross-border regional economic, social and territorial cohesion of the particular border region.



Map 1.: Regional distribution of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 2015



Map 2.: Accessibility and isolated settlements in the region of Via Carpatia EGTC

CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY MAKING

- **Legal accessibility:** the initiative targets the still pertaining legal and administrative obstacles along the Hungarian borders and in Central Europe. The activities of the initiative include the unfolding of obstacles and drafting of legal and policy recommendations. CESCI is also coordinating the development of a macro-regional platform of removal of obstacles at the level of Visegrad countries. For further information, please click [HERE!](#)
- For **policy (non-)papers on Cohesion Policy, European Territorial Cooperation and cross-border cooperation**, please click [HERE!](#)
- **Frontier Value project:** the project was implemented in 2011-2012 with a view to assessing the long-term sustainability of the Hungarian-Slovak cross-border projects realised from 1999 to 2010 and to identify best practice examples. For further information, please click [HERE!](#)

CROSS-BORDER INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Professional coordination of / consultancy for the establishment process of 14 EGTCs with a seat in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Netherlands.
- Professional coordination of the work of the Hungarian EGTC Platform.
- Participation in the work of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions.
- Elaboration of studies and policy papers on institutionalised cross-border cooperation and multi-level governance.

CROSS-BORDER PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- CESCI is regularly developing and realising cross-border projects and it facilitates the creation of cross-border project partnerships and consortia.
- **Territorial Action Plans for Employment (TAPes):** the action plans applied within the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A programme contain 3 to 7 interconnected projects aiming to improve the employment conditions and cross-border labour mobility across the Hungarian-Slovak border. The projects are implemented in an integrated way, within a package. CESCI has also taken part in the development of the methodology of the call.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND AWARENESS RAISING

- Wide range of awareness raising activities: publications, conferences, workshops, seminars.
- **Cross-border knowledge transfer and partnership building initiatives:** annual seminars in Szentgotthárd (HU-SI) and Oradea (RO-HU).