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# EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION AT THE ROMANIAN – HUNGARIAN BORDER

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**Abstract:** *The Romanian – Hungarian border is a facilitator for the various NUTS forms, which, through the wide range of instruments and forms of cross-border cooperation facilitated by the European Union's programs and policies, develops various forms of cross-border cooperation with beneficial results on both sides of the border.*

*In this direction we will carry out an evaluation of the Romanian-Hungarian border regions, trying to identify the various forms of cooperation, such as Euroregions or cross-border cooperation programs which are instruments that can add value to this region and provide sustainable development in the target region.*

**Keywords:** *Evaluation, border regions, Romanian-Hungarian Borders, CBC*

## Introduction

The Romanian-Hungarian border can be defined as a closed, cold border, until the revolution in 1989, because from the point of view of cross-border cooperation, of different forms of cooperation (e.g. Euroregions), or of European cross-border cooperation programs can be defined as a region without such elements of cross-border cooperation<sup>1</sup>.

Along the Romanian-Hungarian border, taking into account the NUTS system, we find several structures on both sides of the studied border which are found within various forms of cross-border cooperation, plus the Euroregions, which are not included in the NUTS system, but there are forms where we find at least two entities, structures, organizations on either side of the border that pursue common goals for different purposes.

In order to be able to evaluate the Romanian-Hungarian border region we will identify 3 major forms of cross-border cooperation, on which we will take our methodological approach so that we can study the regions on both sides of the border of the two neighbouring States Romania and Hungary.

The three major forms of cooperation<sup>2</sup> that we will operationalize are: Euroregions<sup>3</sup>, European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation EGTC<sup>4</sup>; Cross-border Cooperation Program Hungary - Romania 2007-

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<sup>1</sup> Constantin Țoca, Klára Czimre, “Cross-border Cooperation at the EU Internal and External Borders”, in *Eurolimes*, vol. 21, Spring 2016, p. 7-19.

<sup>2</sup> Constantin Țoca, “Different Territorial Levels of Romanian-Hungarian Cross-Border Cooperation”, in *The Frontier Worker - New Perspectives on the Labor Market in the Border Regions*, edited by Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, Dana Cigan, C.H. Beck, Bucharest, 2013, p. 71-80.

<sup>3</sup> Alexandru Ilieș, *România. Euroregiuni* [Romania. Euroregions], University of Oradea Publishing House, Oradea, 2004, p. 163-164.

<sup>4</sup> Constantin-Vasile Țoca, Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, “The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), Instrument of Cross-border Cooperation. Case Study Romania–Hungary”, in *Eurolimes*, vol. 10, Autumn 2010;

2013 (HU - RO 2007 -2013)<sup>5</sup>. They are based on developing neighbourhood relations and cross-border collaborations between two development regions on Romania's side (the North - West Development Region and the Western Development Region) and two statistical Hungarian regions (Észak Alföld and Dél Alföld). This territory consists of four Romanian counties (Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timiș) and four Hungarian counties (Szatmár Bereg, Hajdú Bihar, Bekes and Csongrád), located near to the common border. Thus, from the perspective of the Euroregions, on the Romanian-Hungarian border are several such forms of cross-border cooperation, but some of them extend to the level of neighbouring countries. So, the Euroregions that cross the Romanian-Hungarian border are:

- Bihor (Romania) - Hajdú Bihar (Hungary)<sup>6</sup>;
- The Carpathian Euroregion<sup>7</sup>, one of the biggest Euroregions in Europe with the participation of 5 European States: Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland<sup>8</sup>;
- Euroregion Danube - Criș - Mureș - Tisa, with the participation of Romania, Hungary and Serbia.

From the point of view of the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, according to the official list of groupings the establishment of which has been notified to the Committee of the Regions on the basis of Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council published in Brussels on 6 January 2020, the **Table 1** shows the forms of EGTC which have been identified with the participation of Romania and Hungary. The third form of cooperation of the Romanian – Hungarian border regions will be operationalized through the Hungarian cross-border cooperation program Hungary – Romania 2007-2013 (HU-RO2007-2013).

**Table 1.** European groupings of territorial cooperation at the Romanian – Hungarian border CAS No: 134

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Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, Constantin-Vasile Țoca, “Romanian-Hungarian Cross-Border Cooperation through a Possible EGTC Oradea-Debrecen”, in *Regional and Cohesion Policy: Insights into the Role of the Partnership Principle in the New Policy Design*, edited by I. Horga, I. Bărbulescu, A. Ivan, M. Palinchak, I. Süli-Zakar, University of Debrecen Press, University of Oradea Press, Debrecen-Oradea, 2011, p. 241-261; Constantin-Vasile Țoca, “Projet of the Debrecen-Oradea Cross-border Agglomeration”, in *The European Parliament, Intercultural Dialogue and European Neighbourhood Policy*, edited by Ioan Horga, Grigore Silași, István Süli-Zakar, Stanisław Sagan, University of Oradea Press, Oradea, 2009, p. 253-260; Constantin-Vasile Țoca, Edina Lilla Mészáros, “The Existing EGTC Models of Territorial Cohesion and Their Applicability in the Debrecen-Oradea Agglomeration”, in *Central European Regional Policy and Human Geography*, no. 1-2012, p. 23-40.

<sup>5</sup> Klára Czimre, Constantin-Vasile Țoca, “Cross-Border Co-operation Tendering: Actors and Activities (Focus: Hungary-Romania Crossborder Co-operation Programme 2007-2013)”, in *Sustainable Development and Resilience of Local Communities and Public Sector*, edited by Cristina Haruța, Cristina M. Hințea, Octavian Moldovan, Accent Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2019, p. 196-215.

<sup>6</sup> Cristina Dogot, *Euroregiunea Bihor – Hajdú Bihar*, available at [https://www.academia.edu/22191177/Euroregiunea\\_Bihor\\_Hajdu\\_Biharia](https://www.academia.edu/22191177/Euroregiunea_Bihor_Hajdu_Biharia), [accessed in 12/29/2020]; Constantin-Vasile Țoca, “Ethnic Analysis within Bihor-Hajdú Bihar Euroregion”, in *Analele Universității din Oradea. Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene*, supplement, 2013, p. 111-119.

<sup>7</sup> István Süli-Zakar “Carpathian CBC Macroregion as a Space of Innovation”, in *Cross-Border Cooperation: Models of Good Practice in Carpathian Region*, edited by Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, C.H. Beck, Bucharest, 2014, p. 16-28; Constantin-Vasile Țoca, Ioan Horga, “Sociological Research: University of Oradea’s Students Knowledge Regarding the Bihor-Hajdú-Bihar and Carpathian Euroregions”, in *Regional Development in the Romanian-Hungarian Cross-Border Space – From National to European Perspective*, University of Debrecen Press, Debrecen, 2006, p. 129-136.

<sup>8</sup> Cosmin Chiriac, “Administrative Units within the Carpathian Euroregion. Comparative Analysis”, in *Cross-Border Cooperation: Models of Good Practice in Carpathian Region*, edited by Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, C.H. Beck, Bucharest, 2014, p. 159-170; Cristina Dogot, “Romanian Local Administrations and Their Activities in Carpathian Euroregion Analysis”, in *Cross-Border Cooperation: Models of Good Practice in Carpathian Region*, edited by Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, C.H. Beck, Bucharest, 2014, p. 172-185.

Nr. Crt.	EGTC	Registered office	Member States	Date of establishment
1	Bánát – Triplex Confinium Limited Liability EGTC (EN)	Mórahalom, HU	<u>HU</u> /RO	5.01.2011 (registration)
2	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation "Gateway Europe" – limited liability (EGTC "Gateway Europe") (EGTC Gate to Europe Ltd.)	Nyíradony, HU	<u>HU</u> , RO	7.05.2012 (registration)
3	European Common Future Building European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation with Limited Liability (European Common Future Building EGTC)	Battonya, HU	<u>HU</u> , RO	17.10.2012 (registration)
4	European Border Cities European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability (European Border Cities EGTC)	Nyíregyháza, HU	<u>HU</u> /RO	20.11.2014 (registration)

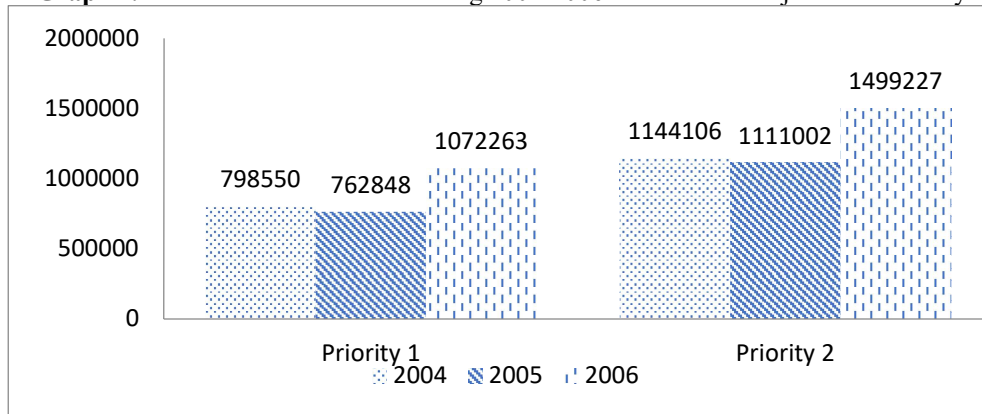
*Source:* <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRAactivities/Pages/Register/HU.aspx>

As a methodology, in our study we use the ex-post evaluation method, so that, based on the data already available at the level of the 3 dimensions mentioned above we will collect quantitative and qualitative data and assess the Romanian-Hungarian border. At the level of cooperation of the Euroregions, we will start our investigative work. From the perspective of Euroregion Bihar – Hajdú Bihar, Euroregion created in 2002 at the initiative of Bihar County Council (Romania) and Local Self-Government Hajdu Bihar (Hungary).

#### **Bihar – Hajdú Bihar Euroregion**

The Bihar – Hajdú Bihar Euroregion include the two counties neighbouring Romanian-Hungarian, Bihar and Hajdú Bihar. We will focus on the statistical data to highlight the degree of cross-border cooperation on two major European programs. The first one is PHARE CBC, a pre-accession program for Romania, which was carried out between 2004 and 2006, following by the Cross-Border Cooperation Program Hungary - Romania (HU – RO 2007-2013). The Phare CBC program was implemented at the level of the two priorities: 2 633 661 € (priority 1) and 754 335 € (priority 2) respectively, and the distribution of funds was made over the three years of implementation 2004, 2005 and 2006 (see **Graph 1**).

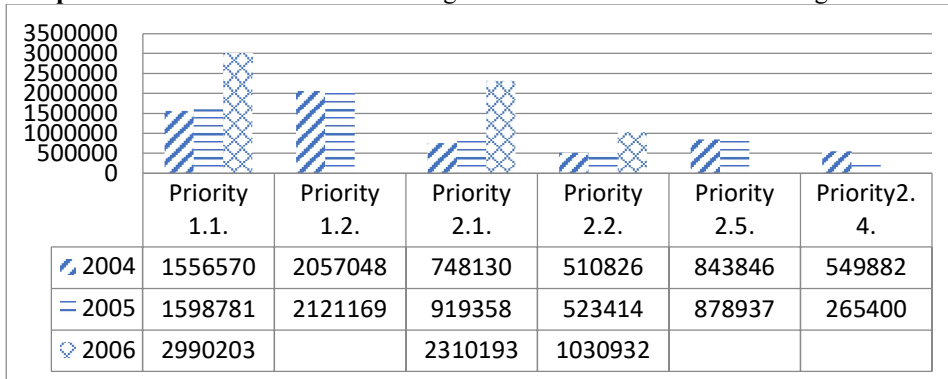
**Graph 1.** The PHARE CBC funds during 2004-2006 in Bihor and Hajdú Bihar County



Source: Own elaboration, <http://www.brecoadea.ro/index.php/programa/phare-cbc>

For a more detailed analysis, we presented **Graph 2**, which shows the distribution of funds between key area of intervention.

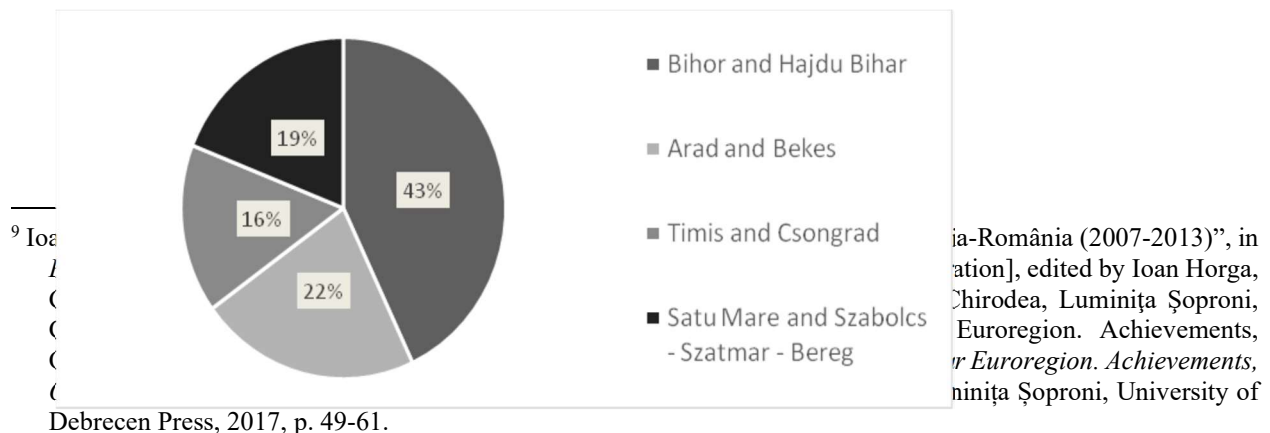
**Graph 2.** The PHARE CBC funds during 2004-2006 at the Romanian-Hungarian border



Source: <http://www.brecoadea.ro/index.php/programa/phare-cbc>

During the implementation of the Hungary-Romania Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2007-2013, the Bihor-Hajdú Bihar Euroregion, through its two counties, attracted from a total of 248 million Euros, a percentage of 43% of the program funds, being an example of good practice at the Romanian – Hungarian border<sup>9</sup>.

**Graph 3.** HU - RO 2007-2013 funds at the Romanian-Hungarian border



<sup>9</sup> Ioana...

ia-România (2007-2013)”, in [...], edited by Ioan Horga, Chirodea, Luminița Șoproni, Euroregion. Achievements, or Euroregion. Achievements, nița Șoproni, University of

**Source:** own elaboration, based on data collected from [http://www.huro-cbc.eu/en/financed\\_projects/](http://www.huro-cbc.eu/en/financed_projects/)

### Carpathian Euroregion

The Carpathian Euroregion is one of the largest Euroregions in Europe, encompassing no less than 5 component countries (Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland), covering an area of over 160,000. square km and with a population of about 16 million inhabitants<sup>10</sup>. At the level of the Carpathian Euroregion, a foundation has been set up for each country, the Carpathian Foundation, which has played an important role in financing projects in this area in order to develop this vast region of Europe. If we focus only to the Romanian-Hungarian border, we aim two counties on the Romanian side (Bihar and Satu Mare), and on the other side of the frontier, we have the counties of Hajdu Bihar and Szatmar Bereg. For the Hungarian side, the implemented projects were founded by a number of programs, including the National Cooperation Fund (Nemzeti Együttműködési Alap) and ENPI INTERREG programs. The most important projects implemented by Hungary within the Carpathian Euroregion, which involved cross-border area of interest, are presented in **Table 2**.

**Table 2.** The main projects implemented by Hungary in the Carpathian Euroregion with a focus on Romanian-Hungarian border area

<u>Nr Crt</u>	<u>Project title</u>	<u>Project description</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>1</u>	FLAPP (Flood Awareness and Prevention Policy)	After a cyanide pollution in the Tisza River basin the objective was to raise flood awareness, start sustainable flood management and CBC to stimulate river basin approach	2004-2007	1 672 850 INTERREG IVC
<u>2</u>	Borders through the eyes of people	Sociological analysis and activities in border regions of Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine <sup>3</sup>	2012-2014	487 491 ENPI
<u>3</u>	Promotion of folk-arts and handicrafts in the Carpathian Euroregion	To return local folk-arts and handicrafts their role as an important part of cultural and economic life in the border Hungary-Ukraine region <sup>3</sup>	2013-2014	91 447 ENPI
<u>4</u>	CBC Parliament	To create a new IT tool and databases for development of the border region	2009-2011	424 971 ENPI
<u>5</u>	CER NEA Professional Program	To analyse and evaluate 20 years of CER, conference, book, operational support	2013-2014	13 324 NEA

<sup>10</sup> István Süli-Zakar, *Kozos Multunk – Kozos Europaert: 20 Eves a Karpatok Euroregio. Emlekek, Sikerek, Megújulás* [Kozos Multunk – Kozos Europaert: 20 years of the Carpathian Euroregion. Memories, successes, renewal], Didakt Kft Debrecen, Debrecen 2014, p. 371-372; István Süli-Zakar, *A Karpatok Euroregio Interregionalis Szovetseg Tiz Eve* [The Carpathians Euroregio Interregionalis Alliance ten eve], Debreceni Egyetem Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadoja, Debrecen, 2003, p. 111; István Süli-Zakar, *A Karpatok Euroregio 15 ev ahataronkon ativelo kapcsolatok fejleszteseert* [The Carpathian Euroregio has been developing relations for 15 years], Debreceni Egyetem Kossuth Egyetemi Kiadoja, Debrecen, 2008, p. 97-112; István Süli-Zakar, Klára Czimre, *Carpathian Euroregion – Borders in the Region – Cross-Border Co-operation*, University of Debrecen Press, Debrecen, 2001, p. 160.

6	Sustainable Development of Border Regions provided by effective functioning the Carpathian Euroregion	Creation a new macro-strategy for the CER territory	2013-2015	537 610 ENPI
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*Source:* Rudolf Bauer, *The Carpathian Euroregion project. Short study*, [http://cesci-net.eu/tiny\\_mce/uploaded/CER\\_study.pdf](http://cesci-net.eu/tiny_mce/uploaded/CER_study.pdf)

On the other hand, the Carpathian Foundation has been actively involved in the development of the Carpathian Euroregion in order to improve the quality of life, preserve social, ethnic, cultural<sup>11</sup>, environmental and sustainable development values in five Hungarian regions. The Foundation has been involved in grant and program activities totalling 1.5 million USD, but the most important grants that deserve attention are: construction program, 212,088 USD; integrated rural community program, 263,600 USD; Carpathian cultural heritage program with 171,000 USD; The Roma Net program dedicated 80,000 USD to Roma NGOs; CBC Carpathian program with 157 180 USD; Carpathian BRIDGE (the best rural development initiatives and gateway to Europe) with 80,000 USD; the program of local initiatives in the CER with 79,144 USD; *Community Centre of Development* with 30,000 USD; the Carpathian Scholarship Program with 20,000 USD.<sup>12</sup>

In Romania, one of the most representative projects implemented in the Carpathian Euroregion is the *Sustainable Development of Border Regions* project, which aimed to create a new macro-strategy for the CER territory, implemented in 2013-2015, with ENPI funds amounting to 537610 Euro<sup>13</sup>. Probably the last big project was in 2009, namely the “Civil Society Development Foundation”, where Carpathian Foundation Romania together with the Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation obtained financing from the Norwegian EEA funds in total € 2741817. The project had five components, namely strengthening democracy, children and young people, social inclusion and social services, the environment and cultural heritage<sup>14</sup>.

Like its counterparts, Hungary, the Romanian part of the Carpathian Foundation (CF) provided funding for over 250 projects with a value of approximately 1,500,000 between 1995 and 2005. Among important funding projects were: the local initiative program (until 5,000 USD / project); CBC Program (up to 25,000 USD); Integrated Rural Community Development Program (IRCD) (up to 150,000 USD / project); RomaNet (up to 5,000 USD / project); Heritage Program Live (up to 8,000 USD / project). Furthermore, the Romanian CF, since 1995, the Carpathian Foundation has received funds from a multitude of financiers from the European continent as well as from the USA, as follows<sup>15</sup>: The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Michigan, USA, 10,8 million USD, between 1995 and 2010, The Ford Foundation, New York City, New York, USA, 400,000 USD in 2002-2003, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York City, New York, USA, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington D.C., USA, The EastWest Institute, New York City, New York, USA, The Cooperating Netherland Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2,6 million USD between 2002 and 2008;

<sup>11</sup> Alina Stoica, Constantin-Vasile Țoca, “Romanian-Hungarian Cross-Border Cultural and Educational Relations”, in *Cross-Border Partnership: With Special Regard to the Hungarian-Romanian-Ukrainian Tripartite Border*, edited by I. Horga, I. Süli-Zakar, University of Oradea Press, Oradea, 2010, p. 70-75.

<sup>12</sup> Rudolf Bauer, *The Carpathian Euroregion Project. Short Study*, available at [http://cesci-net.eu/tiny\\_mce/uploaded/CER\\_study.pdf](http://cesci-net.eu/tiny_mce/uploaded/CER_study.pdf) [accessed in 12/29/2020], p. 24-25.

<sup>13</sup> Official site of the project no. HUSKROUA/1101/066 available at <https://www.keep.eu/project/15316/sustainable-development-of-border-regions-provided-by-effective-functioning-the-carpathian-euroregion> [accessed in 12/29/2020].

<sup>14</sup> Environmental Partnership Foundation, NGO Funded projects 2004-2009, available at [www.rep.ro](http://www.rep.ro) [accessed in 02/02/2021].

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*.

The European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands; The Open Society Institute, Budapest, Hungary, 1,7 million USD in 1999-2006; King Baudouin Foundation, Brussels, Belgium, 180,000 USD in 1999-2004; The International Visegrad Fund, Bratislava, Slovakia, Georghé Ofrim, Sighetu Marmăției, Romania, Fred Robbey, The Villages, Florida, USA, 900,000 USD in 2002-2003; The Charities Aid Foundation, 460,000 USD<sup>16</sup>.

Based on the data analysed at the level of the Carpathian Euroregion and especially of the projects implemented at Romanian-Hungarian border, in the counties that are our research target area, were implemented, over a period of 20 years, projects in value of 4,727,693 Euros initiated by the Hungarian side, and by the Romanian side, projects worth 4,779,427 Euros. Furthermore, on the Romanian side, we have an added value of over 16,000,000 USD through the contribution of the various external sponsors.

### **Euroregion Danube - Kris – Mureş - Tisa**

This Euroregion is based on the collaboration relations between three countries, Romania, Hungary and Serbia, and at the level of Romanian-Hungarian borders we have 3 counties in our target area, namely Arad, Timiș and Csongrad. At the level of this Euroregion, in our target area operates the Hungary-Romania Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2007-2013, through which they were financed 2 major cross-border projects: Borderless routes and adventures in the DKMT Euroregion; EuroRegional News Aggregator project<sup>17</sup>.

The funds attracted by the counties from the DKMT Euroregion, mirroring the counties on both sides of the Romanian-Hungarian border, the counties of Timiș and Csongrad attracted 16% of the HU - RO RO 2007-2103 funds, and Arad and Békés (Békés is not part of the DKMT Euroregion, but is in our research area), they attracted 22% of the HU - RO 2007-2013 funds.

### **European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation**

The European Territorial Cooperation Group Bánát - Triplex Confinium Limited Liability EGTC, was established in 2001 and based in Mórahalom (Hungary). The group is composed of Romanian (37) and Hungarian (37) mayors plus 8 communes in Serbia, as observer members. At the level of this area, there is collaboration with the Serbian side, materialized in cross-border projects implemented at the level of Serbian-Hungarian border. Even if this area is not in our established zone of study, the funds attracted through projects are important and worth taking into account. Among the projects implemented at the level of this group we mention<sup>18</sup>:

- modernization of development strategies of local communities and elaboration and implementation of joint cross-border projects within the Sectoral Operational Programs HU - SRB / 0901/213/013, with a total budget of 99,800 Euro;
- in within the 2011 ETT call for projects, it was financed for 2011 with 5,000,000 HUF (approximately 14,000 Euro), by the Fund Manager Wekerle Sándor, authorized by the Ministry of Administration and Justice;
- the Ministry of Administration and Justice managed by Wekerle Sándor, launched in 2012 funding of the European Territorial Associations / EET (EET-12 appeal code). The group receives non-reimbursable funding of 8,850,000 HUF (approximately 25,000 Euros);
- the project “Dance and Music Without Borders”, funded through the Hungary-Romania Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2007-2013, amounting to 69,743 Euros;
- COOP-BANAT-HURO/1001/083/2.1.2. - a project who worth 75,770 Euro, and aimed to strengthen cooperation between the Southern Plain region of Hungary and the Western region of Romania,

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<sup>16</sup> [Rudolf Bauer, op. cit.](#), p. 26-27.

<sup>17</sup> Official site of Danube – Kris – Mureş – Tisa Euroregion, Completed programs, available at <http://dkmt.net/en/index.php?page=programok>, [accessed in 02/02/2021].

<sup>18</sup> Official page of BTC-EGTC, available at <http://www.btc-egtc.eu/ro/aplicatii/licitatii-castigate> [accessed in 02/02/2021].



for stimulate economic growth by capitalizing on the territorial advantages and relational as well as the elaboration of a strategic plan of the group.

The European Territorial Cooperation Group “Gateway Europe” - Limited Liability (EGTC “Gateway to Europe”), (EGTC Gate to Europe Ltd.), has in turn implemented a number of projects that have received funding from two directions, one national, from the Hungarian state, and the second European funds directive. Among the projects implemented at the level of this group we mention<sup>19</sup>:

- from the Hungarian state, on the budget line to support the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation), several projects were implemented through which the website was created, meetings between local actors and organizing various activities; from the Ministry of Justice of Hungary financing the project ETT-13-B-0003, in amount of 9 112 500 Forints and the project ETT-14-B-0006 in amount of 10 000 000 Forints,

- from the direction of the financing from European funds, the project was implemented Agricultural forum in Dél-Nyírség Erdőpuszták Leader Association's localities for the realization of one Agricultural Forum based on 35/2013 (V.22) Rural Development Ministry Regulation regarding the implementation of LEADER Strategies.

European Common Future Building EGTC, is a Romanian - Hungarian EGTC group with 8 members at the moment, but at the level of this form of cooperation we have not identified any statistical information. However, based on the group's objectives, the aim was to consolidate a common tourism management system, which would present the entire region to tourists, with an implementation idea by designing a website and developing a common marketing strategy<sup>20</sup>. Among its other objectives, the EGTC emphasizes investment in infrastructure, training and cooperation of producers, while intending to focus more on visibility and capacity building.

European Border Cities European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability (European Border Cities EGTC), was initiated by the president of the European Border Cities EGTC, Ferenc Kovács - mayor of Nyíregyháza and the co-president Gábor Kereskényi, mayor of Satu Mare. Its director is István Pató, the head of the Urban Planning and City Management department in the mayor's office in Nyíregyháza. According to the EGTC Group's data, it focuses on the launch of the Hungary-Romania cross-border development programs for 2014-2020 and the quadripartite cross-border cooperation programs (HU-SK-RO-AU), that are able to carry out the group's plans<sup>21</sup>.

## Conclusion

Based on the study carried out in our work, we will try to highlight the cross-border cooperation at the Romanian – Hungarian border, where we have identified two forms of cross-border cooperation, namely Euroregions and EGTCs. On the other hand, a very effective instrument was the cross-border programs between 2004 and 2006 (when projects were implemented from pre-accession funds) and between 2014-2020. In this context, a specific instrument has been identified at the level of the Carpathian Euroregion, which through the fund set up has supported Euroregion in its overall development.

In general, all forms of cross-border cooperation as well as cross-border projects have been a real support for the development of the Romanian-Hungarian border. In order to see, as accurately as possible, the implementation of cross-border cooperation between Romania and Hungary, we present below a map in which we capture the involvement of the neighbouring counties, as well as those NUTSs territorial area which have been added by extending the Euroregions or EGTCs. Thus, covering a larger area than proposed at the beginning of the study, the area of impact is much greater and the communities are more significant.

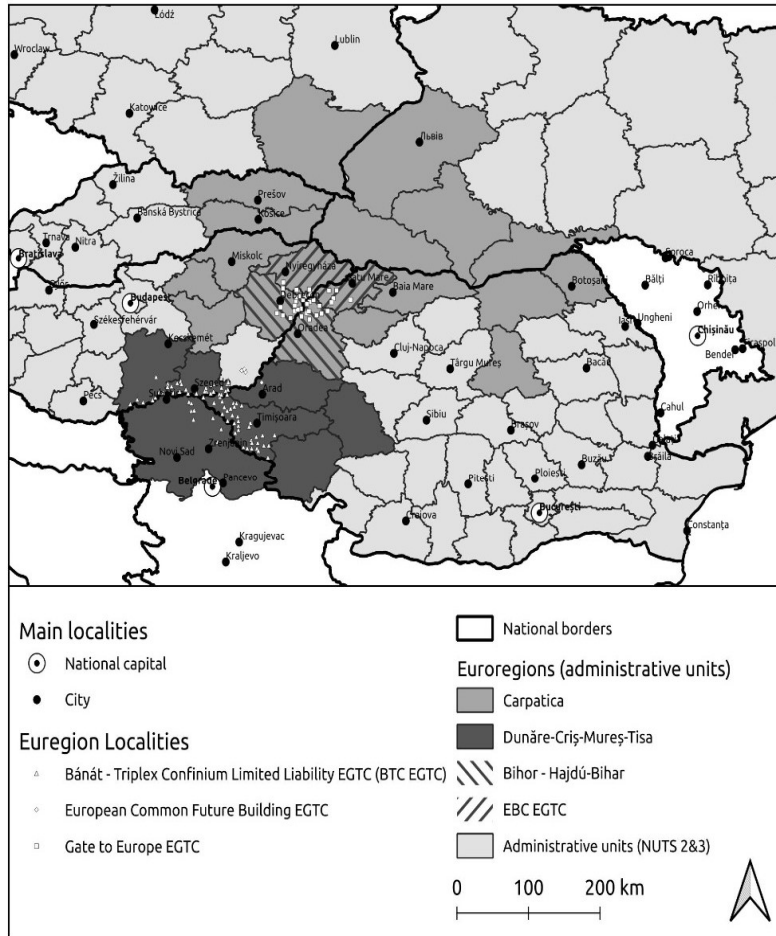
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<sup>19</sup> Official site of EUROPA-KAPU EGCT, available at <http://europakapu.eu/projects>, [accessed in 02/02/2021].

<sup>20</sup> European Committee of the Regions, EGTC, *Europe – Building Common Future*, available at [https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRActivities/Pages/Eur%C3%B3pa-k%C3%B6z%C3%B6s-j%C3%B6v%C5%91-%C3%A9p%C3%ADt%C5%91-\(Europe---building-common-future\).aspx](https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRActivities/Pages/Eur%C3%B3pa-k%C3%B6z%C3%B6s-j%C3%B6v%C5%91-%C3%A9p%C3%ADt%C5%91-(Europe---building-common-future).aspx), [accessed in 02/02/2021].

<sup>21</sup> European Committee of the Regions, EGTC, *European Border Cities EGTC*, available at <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/CoRActivities/Pages/border-cities.aspx>, [accessed in 02/02/2021].

The final conclusion of the work, following the research carried out, is that at the Romanian – Hungarian border a series of results could be identified which helped to develop the target border regions, as well as the neighbouring communities. By implementation of cross-border projects founded especially through HU – RO 2007-2013 programme, was developed an infrastructure who laid the foundation for sustained collaboration for the next Interreg V A Cross-border Cooperation Program.



All this combined represents an added value to the study of border regions, which falls within the objective of the Regional Development Policy, namely the increase of the target area, the increase in the quality of life in this zone and as far as possible the reduction of distance from the developed regions of the European Union.