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ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION THROUGH A POSSIBLE EGTC ORADEA-DEBRECEN¹

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Abstract: *A border region is an area consisting of a number of human communities and a network of relationships that link between communities and the space they are found, but are disturbed by the legal constraints of the border. Irrespective of political systems in which circumscribes, border regions have to deal with specific problems at spatial, social, economic, cultural or political level. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is also like the Euro regions a border entity, but unlike the latter, the group has legal personality recognized both at EU Member State and EU level. In this respect, as a result of the analysis presented in this research, we believe that the Hajdu Bihar and Bihor space should, in future as soon as possible (one or two years), to set up an EGTC. In this respect, at the Metropolitan Area of Oradea level was made a first step towards creating the group, setting up Oradea Metropolitan Development Committee.*

Keywords: *The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), Oradea Metropolitan Development Committee (OMDC), Bihor County, Hajdu Bihar County, EGTC Oradea-Debrecen*

1. EGTS, institutional formula of cross border cooperation.

The philosophy of border cooperation is based on the idea that if two or more central border regions believe they can solve some problems better than if they would tackle unilaterally. Cross-border cooperation is based on principles of partnership, subsidiary and that of the existence of a concept or a cross-border development strategy. The partnership principle implies the existence of two types of partnerships: vertically partnerships between the national, regional and local levels on each side of the border and horizontal partnership established between the two sides located on both sides of the border (Adrian-Claudiu Popoviciu, 2010).

The fields which can cause the development of cross-border partnerships are, for example, the following: environment, agriculture, urban planning, transport, communications, economy, jobs, tourism, education and culture. Therefore, the following actions can be taken: studies on pollution and / or treat various types of waste and production of network facilities to treat their waste²; protection programs and management

¹ The paper, *Romanian – Hungarian Cross-Border Cooperation Trough a Possible EGTC Oradea-Debrecen*, was published in *Regional and Cohesion Policy. Insights into the role of the Partnership Principle in the New Policy Design*, Edited by Ioan Horga, Jordan Gh. Bărbulescu, Adrian Ivan, Mykolia Palinchak, Istvan Suli – Zakar, 2001, p.241-261

² A permanent cooperation was established between the cities Szentgotthard (Hungary) and Jennersdorf (Burgenland, Austria) for evacuation and treatment of sewage and household waste disposal by a private company registered in the system and established companies in Hungary with the Austrian

environment and framework for life, building high-voltage lines, the composition of common computer database on flora and fauna of the region; the composition of interregional and transnational infrastructure, global studies on the socioeconomic structure and urban networks of cross-border area, studies on the common transport needs in general and particularly border transport; the development of intermodal transportation projects together; common interventions for certain road and rail routes and studies on how to optimize the operation of railway lines or public transport; definition of the legal and financial structure of cross-border public transport; Interregional traffic studies (transport and communication). Among the many cross-border activities in the fields of economy and jobs, can be mentioned: coordination and regular exchange of information in socio-economic statistics, common economic diagnostics, joint, legal guides containing practical possibilities of cross-border cooperation (Diana Cârmaciu and others, 2009); border investment and market innovation, cooperation in energy (energy supply network); articulation and complementarily in terms of training and continuous; the publishing of frontier worker guides to all rights and obligations of such Community worker in both the home country and working against the country; meetings between employers and business associations, cross-border agreements among companies to attract investment; the creation of permanent cross-border relations between business and technology research centers, among chambers of commerce, trade unions; cross-border and interregional cooperation in industrial innovation.

From this presentation of the concept of cross-border cooperation and favorite areas in which this transnational relationship can solve the communities' problems in a much more efficient measure, we will also analyze the institutional arrangements under which national state creates the legal framework conducive to conduct cross-border relations. The European Outline Convention on Cross-border Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities is the process of developing cross-border cooperation³, representing it in a legal act of reference for any possible cross-border cooperation is the realization of several years of reflection and efforts Council of Europe. She wanted herself, in terms of the Parliamentary Assembly, the cornerstone of the new edifice on which the European construction should favor him in border areas. „The member States of the Council of Europe, signatories to this Convention, Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members and to promote co operation between them; Considering that, as defined in Article 1 of the Council of Europe Statute, this aim will be pursued in particular by agreements in the administrative field; Considering that the Council of Europe shall ensure the participation of the territorial communities or authorities of Europe in the achievement of its aim; Considering the potential importance, for the pursuit of this objective, of co operation between territorial communities or authorities at frontiers in such fields as regional, urban and rural development, environmental protection, the improvement of public facilities and services and mutual assistance in emergencies; Having regard to past experience which shows that co operation between local and regional authorities in Europe makes it easier for them to carry out their tasks effectively and contributes in particular to the improvement and development of frontier regions; Being resolved to promote such co operation as far as possible and to contribute in this way to the economic and social progress of frontier regions and to the spirit

capital. City of Sopron (Hungary) and Province of Burgenland (Austria) study a possible joint cooperation in the maintenance of road network.

³ *European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation Between Territorial Communities or Authorities, Madrid, 21.V.1980, Source: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=106&CM=8&DF=16/08/2010&CL=ENG>, accessed on 15 of May 2010*

of fellowship which unites the peoples of Europe; (...)⁴.

The Framework Convention does not have the ambition to cover situations of cross-border cooperation. Even provides specifically that its provisions "to not affect the possibility for Contracting Parties to use commonly other forms of cross-border cooperation"⁵. This leaves an open door to future developments, thus contributing to the successful implementation of the Convention, both in terms of ratification by the states and its use by the local border. The first observation we can make concerns the link between the Framework Convention makes all cross-border cooperation and neighborly relations in general. Secondly, the provisions outlined in the Framework Convention are less restrictive, with a particular structure of a short agreement, subject to common rules laid down by general international law of treaties, and a number of annexes in the form of "models and drawings of agreements, statutes and contracts" which "is likely indicative, do not have a conventional value"⁶.

At the Community level, an unreasonably high period was characterized by the lack of an adequate legal framework for the establishment of such joint management structure. But this problem has been corrected by the Community institutions for the current budget year, threw the proposals made in the EU cohesion policy. Therefore, the need to create a suitable tool to pressure the European Commission to propose, on July 14, 2004, a regulation to achieve the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). EGTC Regulation⁷ refers to a legal instrument, although the validity is not limited to the 2007-2013 programming period is meant to be used for: : should be able to act, either for the purpose of implementing territorial cooperation programs or projects co-financed by the Community, notably under the Structural Funds in conformity with Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund, or for the purpose of carrying out actions of territorial cooperation which are at the sole initiative of the Member States and their regional and local authorities with or without a financial contribution from the Community⁸. Another reason for creating this common mechanism for integrated management refers to the principle of non-cooperation that should not be more difficult between two partners from different Member States, only between partners in the same Member State⁹.

Although the Commission initially proposed that the legal form to have territorial jurisdiction in the border area, it was decided to have competence in all three major areas of intervention covered: cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation, being finally approved on July 5, 2006. After the approval of the Regulation, which was directly applicable in all 27 EU Member States from August 1, 2006, the Member States had to make the necessary legislative framework to ensure effective implementation of

⁴ *European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation Between Territorial Communities or Authorities Preamble*

⁵ Article 3, point 3 out of the Convention

⁶ Article 3, point 1 out of the Convention

⁷ *Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)*

⁸ *Argument no. 11 of Regulation (EC). 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 July 2006 regarding a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)*

⁹ *The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), What Use for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes And Projects?*, Wien, 2008 p. 8

regulations within a year¹⁰. By August 1, 2011, the European Commission to the European Parliament and European Council on the implementation EGTC Regulation, together with proposals for amendments, if necessary¹¹. Even without a proposal from the Commission, the joint management body will be integrated believe only perfected in no case removed for future budgetary programming period.

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is like the Euro regions a border entity, but unlike the latter, the group has legal personality recognized both at EU Member State and EU level. According to Article 4, paragraph 4 of the Regulation, an EGTC has in all Member States the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons of the Member State law. In particular, EGTC may acquire or dispose of tangible or intangible immobilizations can hire staff and may sue and be sued.

According to the rules of organization and functioning of the group we can identify four main models of organization of this legal instrument:

1. The formation of a group in order to implement territorial cooperation programs.
Example: EGTC as Managing Authority and / or the Joint Technical Secretariat INTERREG IVA Program;
2. The achievement for implementation of projects co-financed in the field of territorial cooperation within the Structural Funds (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund).
Example: it could cover the development of cross-border transport services or health in a program of cooperation objective or the convergence of two national programs;
3. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation created in order to develop and implement projects financed by the European Union other than those listed above;
Example: 7th Framework Program for Research and Technological Development, or CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Program) may co-finance projects cooperation submitted by entities in two Member States
4. The European grouping of territorial cooperation to achieve common goals achieved communities outside any EU funding.

The participation of the Member States with regional or local authorities in a legal structure, according to national law is an unprecedented phenomenon in the Community¹². The Union Member States have three important roles in determining the profile of EGTC: to designate the authorities responsible¹³ for implementing the Regulation and establish potential participation of falling under their jurisdiction¹⁴; designates the competent authority to control the management of public funds by an EGTC¹⁵; the Member States may also become members EGTC¹⁶. In terms of Regulation 1082/2006 is excluded participation of private entities, but this can be invoked art. 1 (9) of Directive

¹⁰ Article 18, paragraph 2, "The Regulation shall apply until August 1, 2007, except article 16 which shall apply from 1 August 2006." from the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 July 2006 regarding a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)

¹¹ Article 17 of Regulation EGTC

¹² *The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), What Use for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes And Projects?*, Wien, 2008 p. 15, source: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Pages/welcome.aspx>, accessed on 12 of December 2009

¹³ Article 16, paragraph 1, Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006

¹⁴ Article 2, paragraph 2, Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006

¹⁵ Article 6, paragraph 1, Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006

¹⁶ Article 3, paragraph 1(a), Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006

2004/18/EC¹⁷, which establishes criteria for the definition of a public body. In those circumstances, a private entity may be considered as a potential member for the formation of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation.

In any event, the Member States are obliged to inform the Commission periodically of any changes to the lists of bodies and categories of bodies which may participate in the formation of a group. In addition, we must not forget the possibility of using another legal instrument, governed at Community Member that of public-private partnership (EGTC and private entities) to ensure project management but also for those legal entities not EGTC can join to have a role in its management. The objective and tasks of the European grouping of territorial cooperation is established by its members through an agreement concluded between members, subject incurred by public areas closely related to state sovereignty¹⁸. However we interpret the Community or national regulations, by establishing a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation its members should not make it an end in itself but a means to achieve objectives of common interest or other border communities.

On a synthetic view, we can say that EGTC is a legal instrument under Community law, not under international law as the Madrid Framework Convention. Like other regulations, do not require ratification or negotiating bilateral or multilateral treaties, it is binding and directly applicable in all Member States. As a result, the self-regulation allows local and regional authorities in different Member States and certain bodies governed by public law authorities or associations of all these groups to establish common legal personality to implement programs and projects of cooperation. Another aspect of the above analysis concerns the legal personality of the group, which can be private or public, depending on the applicable national law (this possibility was left open by regulation). In particular, the EGTC has the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal entities within Member States through national legislation¹⁹.

A very important aspect that we must emphasize is the fact that EGTC has not created an intermediate administrative level, and its members do not transfer all their powers by the group, but only those which are necessary for the implementation of the mission undertaken. This instrument of territorial cooperation has also the goal of eliminating the discriminatory realities within the EU internal market governed by different ratio feature cooperation between two partners from different countries to cooperation between two partners from the same country. EGTC does not eliminate all existing legal forms of cooperation, but comes as a new alternative is really much more

¹⁷ Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts

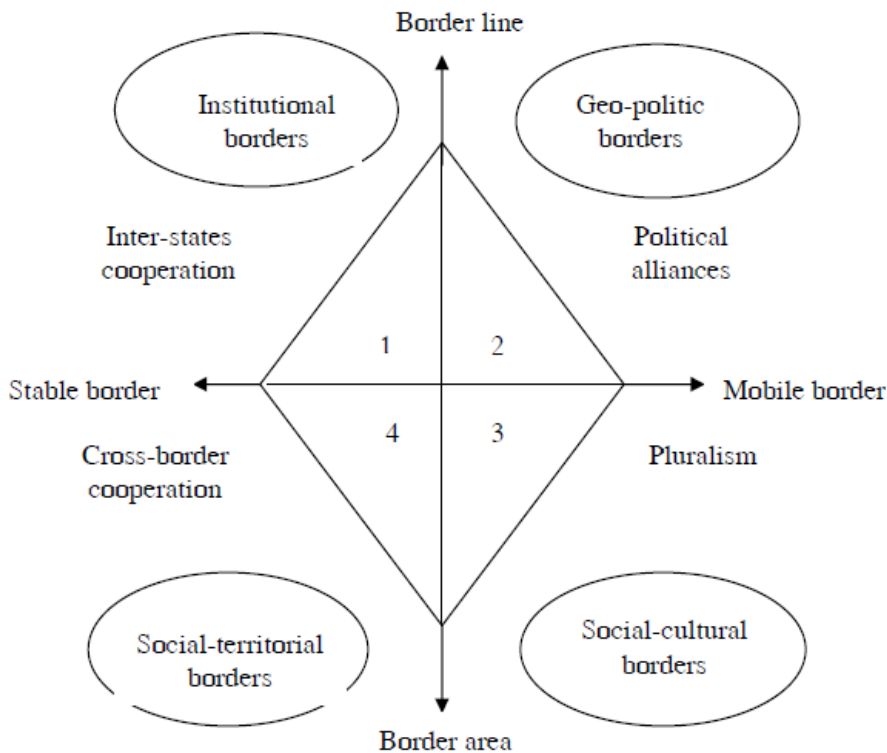
¹⁸ Article 13 of the Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 establishes: „Where an EGTC carries out any activity in contravention of a Member State's provisions on public policy, public security, public health or public morality, or in contravention of the public interest of a Member State, a competent body of that Member State may prohibit that activity on its territory or require those members which have been formed under its law to withdraw from the EGTC unless the EGTC ceases the activity in question. Such prohibitions shall not constitute a means of arbitrary or disguised restriction on territorial cooperation between the EGTC's members. Review of the competent body's decision by a judicial authority shall be possible”.

¹⁹ Article 1, paragraph 4, Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 „An EGTC shall have in each Member State the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under that Member State's national law. It may, in particular, acquire or dispose of movable and immovable property and employ staff and may be a party to legal proceedings”.

enhanced. Unlike the lack of legal protection of the concept of Euro region, the EGTC is officially recognized by the European Commission as a "tag", protected by the European Union. One last point that we would like to emphasize concerns the possibility that these cooperative groups, due to many variants of association members, but also due to the existence of a junction between the Community and national legislation in achieving these groups, to get, in a long or short period of time, to a certain heterogeneity of realizing their forms, which then affect the major objectives of EU regional policy. Perhaps this was also one of the reasons for the Regulation stipulates a review clause²⁰, which allows the review of regulations on this instrument. Today in EU working only 15 European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation²¹, and another 20 groups are in various stages of implementation²².

2. The Oradea-Debrecen congestion, a possible EGTS Oradea-Debrecen precursor?

Remigio Ratti provides a typology of cross-border cooperation which identifies four key dimensions (Istvan Suli-Zakar, 2003: 443):



Legend :

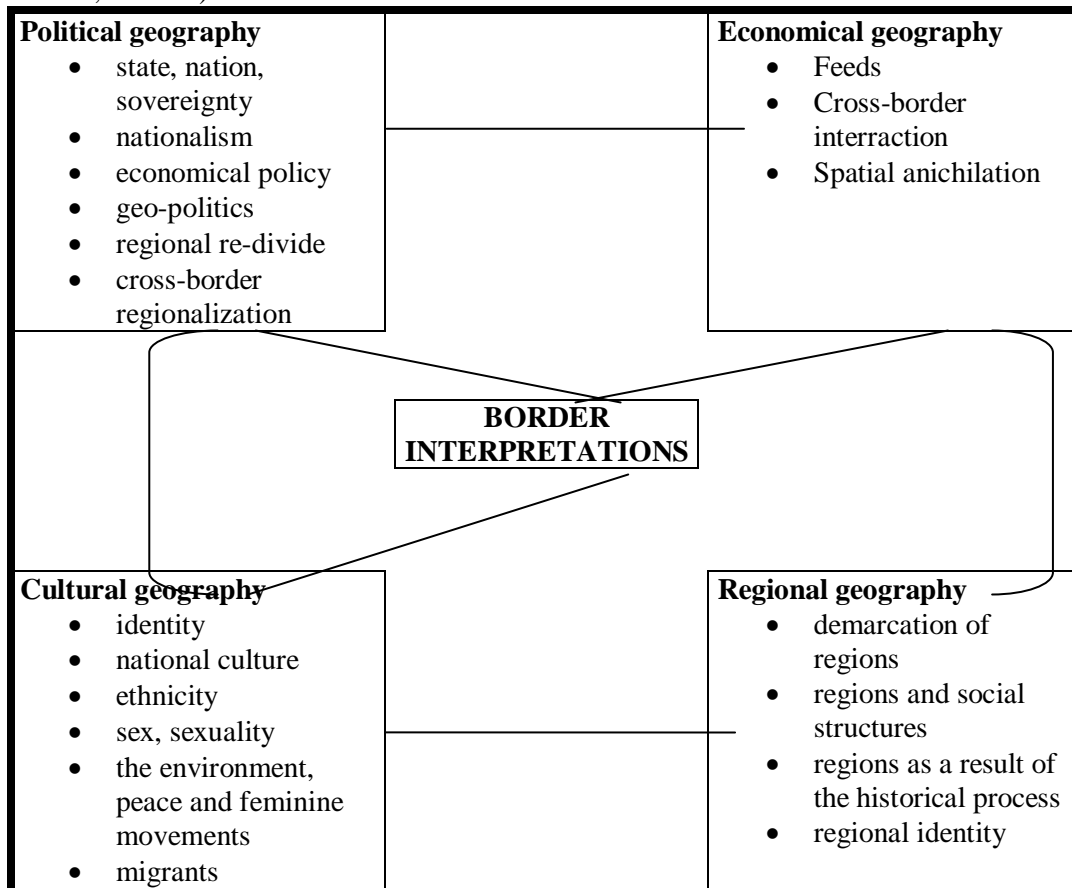
1. National economy; 2. Colonialism; 3. Liberalism, multilateral exchange; 4. accession, cooperation

²⁰ Article 17, Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 „By 1 August 2011, the Commission shall forward to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the application of this Regulation and proposals for amendments, where appropriate”.

²¹ source: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Projects/already/Pages/welcome.aspx>, accessed on 10 of June 2010

²² source: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Projects/preparation/Pages/welcome.aspx>, accessed on 10 of June 2010

The interpretation of boundaries should be considered in four large dimensions (Klara Czimre, 2005: 9):



Starting From this scheme we can say that at the Euro regional level we must have into account when we start a detailed analysis, the political geography, economic geography, cultural geography, regional geography and not least the components of these four dimensions. Also the subcomponents of the four large dimensions can become a priority direction of each research that contributes to their understanding and provide solutions for Euro-regional development. “The cultural dimension concerns the process of diffusion and hybridization of symbols, meanings, cultural values towards the progressive development of something like a culture or at least agreed to a global consciousness around a minimum set of globally shared cultural values” (I. Apahideanu, 2006: 307).

The sociological research conducted in the cities of Debrecen and Oradea method was based on the "sociological survey" and as a research tool, data collection was based on the questionnaire. The method chosen is a type which allowed quantitative questioning of a representative number of people in the two areas on which turned our project. A total of 1,000 questionnaires were applied by each of the two selected cities. For a database management after completing the questionnaires we used the SPSS (statistical program social), with which we have developed questionnaires and data interpretation. Sociological survey of target groups was:

- a) students who have applied 50% of questionnaires (500 copies each in each subject area of research).

- b) public opinion or people older than 25 years, 40% of questionnaires (400 questionnaires in each city).
- c) persons employed in various institutions that have a close relationship with regional space, regional cooperation 10% of questionnaires (100 questionnaires for each area).

The questionnaire consists of a variety of questions through which we tried to emphasize the following elements:

- a) links the two cities with population of:
 - visits that were made in the neighboring country and in neighboring city.
 - purpose for which it was made visit.
 - means of transport by which interconnects the two neighboring cities in the country.
- b) aspects of social life facing the two communities.
- c) classification of major fields.
- d) performing trust in the city administration.
- e) the project's importance for the harmonious development of the two communities.
- f) actions should be implemented for sustainable movement congestion.
- g) SWOT analysis.
- h) Socio-demographic data of respondents.

The questionnaires were designed with closed-choice questions pre-coded responses and open questions, where students could express their views openly and in the end we made based on their answers to open coding and placing them in coded form database.

Next we will review the questions in the questionnaire for the target group, and students will also go to the interpretation of data gathered through responses.

Table 1 Visiting the neighboring country, Hungary, Romania.

Oradea			Debrecen		
Students %	Public opinion	Institutions	Students %	Public opinion	Institutions
YES: 52.2 %	YES: 69.1 %	YES: 61.1 %	YES: 35 %	YES: 47.5 %	YES: 48.5 %
NO: 47.8 %	NO: 30.9 %	NO: 38.9 %	NO: 65 %	NO: 52.5 %	NO: 51.5 %

From this question we can note that people which are living in Oradea visited in a much larger proportion the neighbor country in comparison with neighboring townspeople neighbor who came to a much lesser extent in the neighboring country, their percentage is below 50% and among students we can see that it manifests the slightest interest for this indicator. This is due to the status of Romania of EU member country, a country acceding to the great European family, which has led to more frequent visits to a member country of the European Union, Hungary various reasons, goals (goals visits find them to question. (4).

The most used means of transport, if the target group of students, to link the two areas both for the people of Oradea (33.3%) and for the people of Debrecen (25.8%) is the private car. Another means used to a lesser extent bus or coach is to Oradea (16.2%), Debrecen (5%). The rest train and other modes are used in a very small proportion, not exceeding 5% percent. Lower rates for coaches, coach, train is due to much weaker ties between the two cities, here we remember that there are regular flights between the two municipalities, and to train option, there is a part of the railway between the two localities which makes the transport mode much easier compared to the relatively small distance between the two cities, because the train travels a circuitous route.

The last response option, is not the case, is the percentage of people who were not in the neighboring country once and for Debrecen percentage is considerably higher than for travel to the neighboring country.

Table 2 *The number of visits in the city of Debrecen and Oradea in the last year*

No. of visits	Oradea			Debrecen		
	Students	Public opinion	Institutions	Students	Public opinion	Institutions
1	30.2 %	32.5 %	29.1 %	25 %	27 %	30.1 %
2	9.6 %	13.3 %	14.5 %	4.6 %	9 %	8.7 %
3	5 %	7.9 %	5.5 %	2.5 %	4.9 %	5.8 %
4	3.1 %	1.5 %	0.9 %	0.4 %	0.8 %	1 %
5	1.2 %	3.4 %	2.7 %	1.7 %	1.6 %	1 %
7	1.1 %	-	3.6 %	0.4 %	0.8 %	1 %
10	0.7 %	1 %	2.7 %	0.5 %	0.8 %	-
20	0.2 %	1 %	-	0.3 %	0.8 %	1 %
30	-	1.5 %	1.8 %	0.4 %	0.8 %	-
Did not visit	47.8 %	38.4 %	39.1 %	64.6 %	52.5 %	51.5 %

As we can see in the question on the visit of neighboring (target group: students) the number of visits ranges from one visit where the percentage is higher, Oradea (30.2%) and Debrecen (25%), 30 visits but a very small percentage, less than 1%. The Debrecen population visited the neighboring city of Oradea in a much smaller proportion (64% of citizens have visited Oradea, Debrecen), but the Romanian citizens visit the city ever more often (47% of them visited the neighboring town). The other types of visits categories play an increasingly smaller percentage as the number of visits to the neighboring city grows, we can say that category between 1-3 visits combined occupy the largest percentage, 44.8% for Oradea and a much smaller percentage to 32.1 Debrecen %.

If we look at the percentages for the two target groups still see that store large amounts among the visits made by the neighboring city of Oradea in Debrecen, but the similarities in the institutional balance is kept (the only discrepancy being the indicator two visits), here can say that visits to the two communities are mutual, which shows a close cooperation.

With this question we can identify that there are links between the inhabitants of two towns just by the number of visits that were made by citizens of both cities, the neighboring town, and prevails in a considerable number of visits that start in Oradea, meaning Romanian citizens to the Hungarian space respectively Debrecen.

Table 3 *The purpose of visits*

Purpose	Students OR / DB	>25 years, public opinion OR / DB	Institutions OR / DB
Travel	13.8 % - 8.8 %	10.3 % - 13.9 %	18 % - 16.5%
Transit	11.6 % - 1.3 %	11.8 % - 1.6 %	12.7 % - 2.9 %
Shopping	13.6 % - 15 %	24.6 % - 24.6 %	18.3 % - 23.3 %
Business	5.8 % - 4 %	5.4 % - 1.6 %	9 % - 1 %
Relatives	3.6 % - 6.7 %	4.9 % - 4.1 %	6 % - 3.9 %
Other purposes	4 % - 4.2 %	4.4 % - 1.6 %	4 % - 1 %
Not necessary	47.8 % - 64.2%	38.4 % - 52.5 %	32 % - 51.5 %

Other purposes:

- cultural – entertainment events
- medical

- competitions
- school projects
- conferences
- international seminars

The purposes: tourism, transit, shopping are the most important goals, in terms of the identified percentages. Travel is an affinity for one side of the citizens of both countries to visit the neighboring country, there are attractions, traditions, customs and cuisine of different regions, all in one place an attraction develops, there are stations at both the Hajdu Szabolcszlo Hungarian and Romanian side Baile Felix.

The purpose of business is also represented by the existence of many companies as there are the two cities and the Bihor - Hajdu-Bihar Euro-region which includes the two cities, which are developed partnerships, international cooperation, even multinational companies with some involvement and across borders.

The Romanian border - is full of Hungarian history, there were a number of historical moments that led to the cultural influences of various kinds and therefore the definitive demarcation of the border brought the two neighboring countries rise and populations of the two states separated by drawing a border state, thus leaving a wide border and part of citizens which have various degrees of relationship and for the visits in neighboring takes to visit relatives.

Table 4

Aspects of the social life

Nr crt	Students - Oradea: Aspects of the social life	Very big	Big	Medium	Low	No issues
A	The quality of buildings	8	19.8	54	15.6	2.7
B	Public lighting	3.8	17.8	41.3	29.1	8
C	Assurance of labor places	27.1	31.6	26.9	12.4	2
D	Sewerage	18.4	32	33.1	13.1	3.3
E	Solving the citizens' issues	20	30.9	36.7	11.1	1.3
F	Central heating	8.4	16.9	39.1	28.2	7.3
G	Hot water	7.3	9.6	32.2	37.3	13.6
H	Cold water	6.9	7.1	22.7	40.9	22.4
I	Roads	48.4	22.2	18.9	8	2.4
J	Cleaning	34	30.4	23.8	9.6	2.2
K	Transport	12.9	20.4	36	22.2	8.4
A	The quality of buildings	5	16.7	62.9	13.3	2.1
B	Public lighting	3.3	8.8	30.4	44.2	13.3
C	Assurance of labor places	14.2	34.2	44.2	6.7	0.8
D	Sewerage	4.2	12.6	48.8	26.7	5.8
E	Solving the citizens' issues	6.7	26.7	49.2	12.9	4.6
F	Central heating	10.8	20	31.3	28.3	9.6
G	Hot water	3.3	7.1	22.9	43.3	23.3
H	Cold water	7.1	12.9	27.5	32.5	20
I	Roads	17.1	29.6	37.5	12.9	2.9
J	Cleaning	17.1	29.6	40.8	10.8	1.7
K	Transport	17.9	16.7	36.3	22.9	6.3

Besides this pre-coded answer options there it was also an opened answer option from which came many answers from which we can see that there are co-operations at an institutional level which are transformed in conferences, international seminars, school projects, even competitions, all the answers identifying the existence of a cross-border co-operation in the past as well as in the present, but also a perspective for the near future

here identifying the possibility of accessing structural funds that action in the direction of the cross-border co-operation development.

From the medical point of view we can say that both cities have one university medical specialists in this area forming centers that will appeal to students from all over Europe and other continents.

For the question “How do you appreciate on a 1 to 5 scale that in Oradea are issues connected to the following social life aspects?” (1= very big issues; 2= big issues; 3= medium issues; 4= little issues; 5= no issues), we presented in following due to the big amount of information resulted from the analysis of statistics, the target group that sees the students, another justification being the fact that on this target group it is based the construction of the future crowd, concerning that they will be the beneficiaries of the results of the proposed project at the level of cross-border co-operation which concern the Oradea and Debrecen municipalities.

The most frequent issues (summing the answers that identify big and very big issues from the indicators in discussion), which appear at the level of the two communities are: elements of infrastructure, solving the citizens' problems and a sign that keeps the first place for both communities refers to the assurance of labor places, although there are recognized academic centers, there is not a sufficient economic power to cover the entire human resource specialist.

Table 5 Classifying the most important activity fields in Oradea and Debrecen

Students %	Over 25 years %	Institutions %
Commerce OR: 70.7 %/DB: 74.5%	Commerce OR: 61.6%/DB: 51.7%	Commerce OR: 75.4% /DB: 48.6%
Industry OR: 56.9 % /DB: 44.5 %	Industry OR: 71.9% / DB: 45.9%	Industry OR: 46.0%/ DB: 46.5%
Constructions OR: 54.9 % /DB: 22.9 %	Constructions OR: 51.2%/DB: 30.3%	Constructions OR: 56.6%/DB: 29.1 %
Transport OR: 36 % /DB: 30.1 %	Transport–OR: 26.6 %/DB: 26 %	Transport OR: 30 % DB: 26.2 %
Services OR: 34 % /DB: 72.1%	Services OR: 41.9 % / DB: 64 %	Services OR: 49 % /DB: 63.1 %
Travel OR 32.4 % / DB: 52.5%	Travel OR: 31.6 % DB: 45.5%	Travel OR: 30 %/DB: 54.7 %
Agriculture OR: 15.6 %/DB: 34.6%	Agriculture OR: 14.2 % / DB: 34 %	Agriculture OR: 19 % DB: 36 %

The results obtained for the 7 big activity fields that exist at the level of the two neighbor cities, it was made after summing the realized elections for the respondents for the first three places, for each field in part.

The question regarding the degree of confidence on institutions operating in the range of the two cities where the research was done we tried to capture the views of citizens of both communities reported to the main public institutions that manage the city, recalling here: the City Hall, Prefect Institution, Local Council, County council as well as confidence: religious institutions, educational institutions, media - not least the NGOs.

The biggest confidence at an institutional level was given to the Church and the University (here we used a scale with four degrees of intensity: very large, large and small and have accumulated the most important degrees of intensity that can capture public confidence in the institutions put analysis, very high grades and gaining greater confidence in institutions as church and educational institution to institution, the University of Oradea and Debrecen) two basic institutions of the society, a religious institution and secondly an educational one, having as an important also the clear

principles of training a religious culture, fair and a general one and in time of specialty for every member of the society according to his desire for orientation in various fields.

A significant confidence far from the two above-mentioned also ranges the NGOs, a side of the civil society which can play an important role at both companies towards an effective and lasting consolidation at the level of the Romanian-Hungarian border.

One of the central questions of the research focused on the surprise of the draft opinion on the project with the theme "to prepare a common future: *Congestion Communities Debrecen-Oradea 700 000 (2020)*", for joint development of cities of Oradea and Debrecen, here building a question with three types of response.

Table 6 *The opinion regarding a possible common project between Debrecen and Oradea*

		Students	> 25 years old	Institutions
YES	OR	66 %	64.5 %	73.1 %
	DB	51.7 %	63.1 %	60.2 %
NO	OR	13.1 %	10.3 %	15.7 %
	DB	5.4 %	4.9 %	5.8 %
I DO NOT KNOW	OR	20.9 %	25.1 %	11.2 %
	DB	42.9 %	32 %	34 %

From the answers given by respondents we can notice that at the level of the students in Oradea the proposed project is considered and wanted for a joint development between the two communities that can be transformed into a functional and efficient congestion, since it works very well across Europe border conurbations such as:

Lille / FR - Roubaix - Tournai - Tourcoing - Kortrijk / BE which brings together more than 2.2 million inhabitants, Agglomeration Basel - Mulhouse 600 000 inhabitants, has developed joint projects, of which the best known is the common international airport.

The higher percentage for Oradea which resulted in comparison with Debrecen may be due to the fact that the project at the city of Oradea was also made a campaign that attempted through public information forums and the nature of the decision in order to implement a long term project which could have numerous benefits as well as they can be also viewed at the existing cross-border congestions at the level of the border of Europe.

In order to see the priority items in helping the streamline city of Oradea and Debrecen, it was built a closed-choice question, existing in final the possibility of an additional response beyond those listed, and the followed directions were:

- a) the opening of new border crossing points - building new roads to Debrecen
- b) realizing of conducting Points (economic, tourist, administrative, Euro-regional, transportation, etc.)
- c) daily flights Oradea - Debrecen (Bus, Train)
- d) regular meetings between officials of two cities
- e) training courses of managers, experts, employees in Oradea (those of Debrecen) and Debrecen (those of Oradea)
- f) the organization of mobility (exchange), teachers, students and schoolchildren
- g) the development of joint projects
- h) the organization of job fairs
- i) the organization of common projects
- j) organizing of meetings between experts from different fields of activities
- k) other activities you think would be important for collaboration to be implemented.

In following of the answers is noted that for a harmonious development of the two neighboring cities of student arise three essential elements that have a representative

percentage of over 50% and we think they are relevant to this positive outlook on the future, these being:

- information points
- exchange programs
- joint projects which can be obtained through all sorts of local funds, euro regional, regional, national, and not least the EU structural funds can be an essential element for building a harmonious congestion of Debrecen - Oradea communities.

Another central element of research was the SWOT analysis through which we wanted to capture the views of three target groups for internal and external elements of the City of Oradea and Debrecen.

Table 6

The SWOT Analysis of Oradea

Strength Points		Low points	
Internal factors		Internal factors	
Cultural objectives	54	Infrastructure	78
Institutions	45	Local administration	29
The architecture of buildings	40	Transport	28
Commercial centers	44	Justice	24
Academic environment	39	Labor places	24
Commerce	40	Green spaces	14
Border, Customs	22	Old buildings	20
Geography	27	Congestion	7
Transport	20	Industry	8
Churches	23	Agriculture	8
Industry	16	Services	6
Infrastructure	22	Security	4
Travel	16	Homes	7
Green spaces	16	Pollution	6
Opportunities		Threats	
External factors		External factors	
Travel	55	Infrastructure	79
The city development	46	Local administration	29
Investors	44	Transport	28
Cross-border projects	32	Justice	24
Working places within EU	25	Working places	24
Border	22	Green spaces	14
Integration in the EU	15	Old buildings	20
Burse	10	Congestion	7
Infrastructure	10	Industry	8
European funds	8	Agriculture	8
Academic environment	6	Services	6
NGOs	6	Homes	7

Table 7

The SWOT analysis of Debrecen

Strength points		Low points	
Internal factors		Internal factors	
University	108	Transport	74
Travel	57	Working places	54
The city development	17	Road Network	18
Geography	10	Geography	15
Services	13	Infrastructure	8
Health	13	Public security	8
City Management	18	Mentality	7
Regional point	12	Social institutions	6
Cultural point	19		
Transport	11		
Infrastructure	9		
Religious center	7		
Opportunities		Threats	
External factors		External factors	
Travel	39	Policy	17
Relations	24	Geography	9
Highway	14	Migration	7
Education	11	Working places	12
Regional point	10	Big companies	5
Development	7		
Working places	6		
European Union	6		
Culture	5		
Sport	6		
Geography	5		
Projects	5		

Following the SWOT analysis, there can be drawn some conclusions relevant to the cities of Debrecen and Oradea.

For both cities can be highlighted as strengths points two:

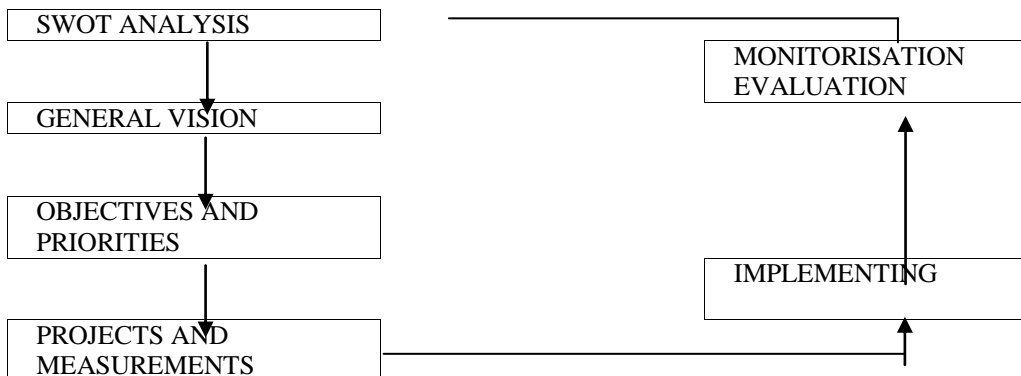
- the cultural dimension where we can integrate the following responses: cultural, architectural buildings, churches, religious centers
- the educational dimension, here we can emphasize the academic environment both of Oradea and Debrecen, as represented by the two major state universities.

As common and representative weaknesses we mention the jobs, but at Oradea a very high frequency indicator is infrastructure, here the explanation being that during the application of sociological research were made large infrastructure works. Threw opportunities we mention tourism, the opportunity offered by the EU structural funds and not least to attract investors who may be an important factor of development of cities.

As we see, for realizing a strategy of effective cross-border cooperation and developing a mechanism for integration closer to European requirements should be met six major conditions representing the Euro-regional success. Any Euro-region must undertake a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) to represent a basic starting point for future construction plans and Euro-regional sustainable development strategies. After the SWOT analysis the specialists must build an overview of the Euro-region and think about action plans. Any structure of Euro-regional

cooperation since its inception must start off with a range of objectives and priorities to be adjusted in time to the Euro regional demands and needs.

The stages of a cross-border strategy (N. Boar, 2005: 53)

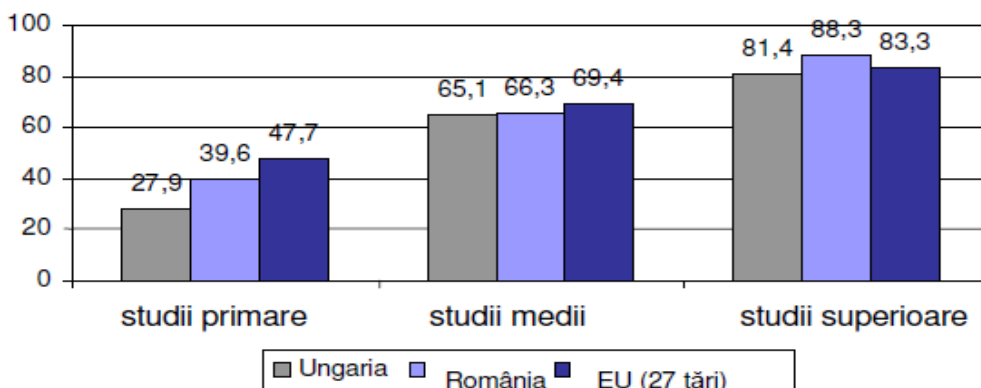


In order to be implemented, the plans and ideas of experts have called on EU funded, national, regional, local projects and must be found and called on those measures that will benefit in areas of Euro-regional interest. There should not be forgotten the projects that access financial funds, calling the neighboring country as partners together to achieve goals and objectives of projects proposed for funding and approved for implementation.

Once approved, a project must be passed to the next phase, namely the implementation phase, where through various activities planned under the project to achieve the indicators referred to in the writing project.

3. EGTS Oradea-Debrecen – a possible choice

The border zone is characterized by medium to high unemployment levels, with significant differences within regions. Another significant phenomenon is the existence of hidden unemployment - a large number of people without jobs, who simply are not taken out. Unfortunately, the training of unemployed people is generally low, which limits their chances of finding a job. Although there is a seasonal border migration of labor in the border area (especially from Romania to Hungary), the labor market area is far from being an integrated.



The rate of employment force for people aged between 15 to 64 years depending on the readiness²³

²³ *Ibidem*

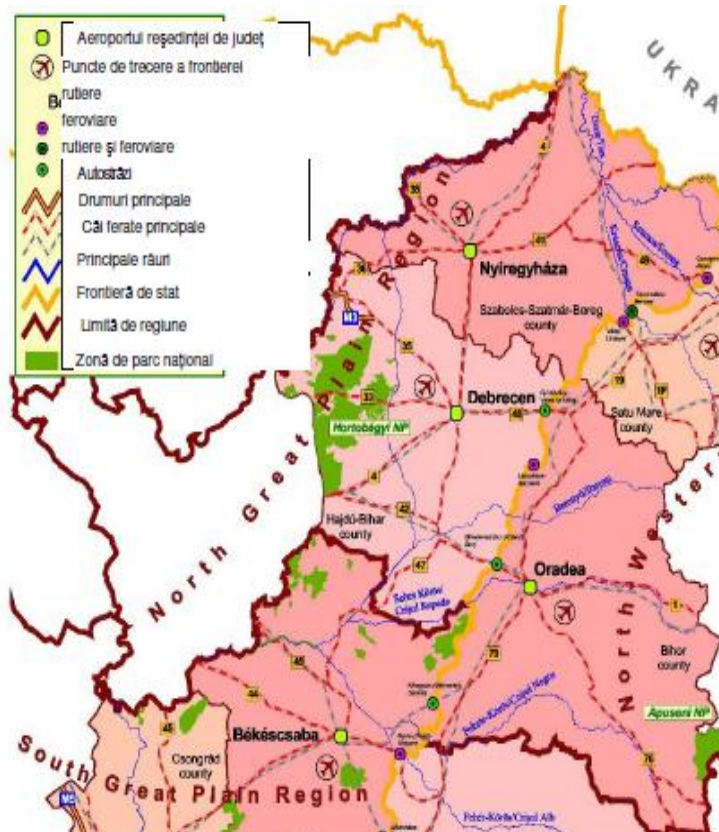
On transport infrastructure, the border region faces various problems. While the larger settlements (Debrecen and Oradea) can be relatively easily accessed from major economic centers, benefiting from decent transport links with neighboring countries; many small rural settlements are characterized by low accessibility²⁴.

The generally poor quality of roads causes one of the most serious problems. In light of the state border removal, the repairment of some of these roads is imperative, given the fact that they can facilitate more active links between communities located along the border. Between the two counties analyzed are two rail links:

(Püspökladány) – Berettyóújfalú – Episcopia Bihor – Oradea

(Püspökladány) – Debrecen – Valea lui Mihai

These lines are suitable for both individuals and the transport of goods. Regarding the overall quality of service, we note that the transport of passengers is inadequate and needs improvement.



Transmission lines in the Bihor - Hajdu Bihar²⁵

As it can be seen from the SWOT analysis of section 2 or from the one realized by the European Commission, the official document of appointment, the issue of transport infrastructure and jobs are on the agenda between the two communities in Bihar - Hajdu Bihar cross-border area. Without a tool, as is the European grouping of territorial cooperation in the border area Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, the authorities carried out mirror projects in Oradea and Debrecen on various funding programs, but which can not always sync, especially when only one of the two projects are financed. Next we will present an

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 17

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 123

example of good practice on upgrading the transport infrastructure through cooperation, Oradea Metropolitan Area (project leader) with the mayor of Debrecen (partner). The two public entities implemented in the period December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010, inside the Cross-border Cooperation Program Hungary-Romania from 2007 to 2013, the project "Preparation of strategic investment for the development of integrated road transport infrastructure in the urban poles Oradea-Debrecen"²⁶, acronym - INFRASTRAT.

Through its functions, the transport activity is, with communications and banking system, the "backbone" of the economic circuit, both at international, national, local and cross border level. The single European market, but also the global economy and globalization are accompanied by new relations of exchange, involving new trends transport much wider areas than those traditionally known. At least at European level, the new vision of East-West relations and the center-periphery, an efficient transport system is vital to trade and promote competition and productivity in all economic field but also growth in lagging regions. The transport policy must be integrated with other sectorial policies, particularly planning policy, environmental policy, and energy policy and with the telecoms. The "key" in this area is connected to the trans-European road network, air and railway transport sector by allowing higher valorization of the metropolitan territory and borders²⁷.

Regarding the transport infrastructure, common problems of border communities still generate a form of partnership inarticulately and less coherent without an institutionalized form to coordinate the function that responds to this problem, current approaches do not think that will achieve the major goal, a modern transport infrastructure, developed, branched throughout the border area and related to European transport arteries.

From the researches we have done on the problem of employment as a priority common policy in the Romanian-Hungarian border counties of Bihor - Hajdu Bihar, we concluded that this is a major interest in inter-institutional level, although it has the same valences in both areas of the border, that is a common acute need. We substantiate the claim also on the research carried out by the Oradea Metropolitan Area under the project "Identification and cluster development in Euro-region Bihor - Hajdu Bihar"²⁸ and also on direct and objective conditioning of economic development and job application.

According to the functionalist "philosophy" this problem should be treated jointly for a more rapid and more ample result. At the level of the areal border Bihor - Hajdu Bihar there have already identified several clusters or other formats that have potential for training, all for a more emphasized development of cross-border business. Why is the "cluster"²⁹ an effective way to growth in the border area of Bihor - Hajdu Bihar? We

²⁶ Perseus Code HURO/0801/154, the total budget of this project is 164.175 Euro, of which EU funding is 85% state financing, 11.5% and partners' contribution amounts to 3.5%.

²⁷ Oradea Metropolitan Area *Cadrul strategic al dezvoltării durabile 2007 -2026*, 22 of November 2006, p. 43, <http://www.zmo.ro/romana/Documente/Cadrul-strategic.html>, accessed on 8 of February 2010

²⁸ Phare CBC 2005 Project Ro 2005/017-536.01.01.21, more accessible documents at <http://www.zmo.ro/romana/Proiecte/Identificarea-si-dezvoltarea-de-clustere-in-euroregiunea-Bihor--Hajdu-Bihar.html>

²⁹ In advanced economies, the layer most dynamic regional economies is composed of a mixture of "economic clusters". "Cluster" in the denotative sense means "group" and in the economic sense, clusters are groups of companies and associated institutions acting in a specific area or joint, located in relative geographic proximity, including both producers / manufacturers / service providers, and related service providers (bankers and insurance specialist, etc.) suppliers, universities and professional associations. Classic examples of clusters are electronics industry in Silicon Valley in California, watch industry in Switzerland, etc. A cluster acts as an area of expertise, a pool of resources and contribute to all the companies involved and supplies. Typically, clusters also contain, in addition

believe that for two reasons. The first reason concerns the sustainable competitive advantage which creates an economic cluster is the result "economies of agglomeration and proximity", that economies of scale and scope achieved by grouping the firms in the cluster, derivative, or very low cost / further investment, using only the existing resources of the cluster members.

The second reason is based on the advantage of the Hungarian work zone in the activity of identifying and accrediting of emerging clusters of at least two years from the Romanian border³⁰. (See table below).

Clusterm	Termal	Debrecen
Industria construcției	Construcții	Debrecen
Cercetare și Dezvoltare	Cercetare și Dezvoltare	Debrecen
Gestionarea, arderea și reciclarea deșeurilor	Gestionarea, arderea și reciclarea deșeurilor	Debrecen
Cercetare Ape Termale - inovație	Cercetare Ape Termale - inovație	Debrecen
Investiții și consultanță	Investiții și consultanță	Debrecen

In addition, the already formed cluster in Hajdu Bihar need both Romanian business environment correspondent, and the expansion of sales of products generated in a neighboring district, Bihor. In this respect, as a result of data analyzed in the body of this work, we believe that space Hajdu Bihar - Bihor must, in a short future, as soon as possible (one or two years), constitute a European grouping of territorial cooperation . In this respect, at the level of the Metropolitan Area of Oradea a first step was made towards creating the group, setting up Oradea Metropolitan Development Committee³¹. Under Article 1 of the Protocol of collaboration³², the Oradea Metropolitan Development Committee is an institutional building, unincorporated advising, which relies on three "pillars" of development of the metropolitan area:

- (a) Education,
- (b) Business environment,
- (c) Public administration.

This committee promotes administrative efficiency within local authorities, environmental protection, research and innovation, promoting education academic

to a group of related industries, other important entities in terms of competition. These include, for example, suppliers of specialized inputs such as components, machinery and services, or providers of specialized infrastructure. Often, clusters extend to different downstream channels and customers and laterally to manufacturers of complementary products and the industries related by skills, technologies or common inputs. (*Studiu Economic Având ca Obiect Identificarea de Clustere Emergente*, realizat în cadrul proiectului *Identificarea și dezvoltarea de clustere în Euroregiunea Bihor - Hajdu Bihar*, p. 5, http://www.zmo.ro/content/editor/File/Clustere/1_%20Economic%20identificare%20Clustere.pdf, accessed on 8 February 2010

³⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 41

³¹ Project initiated by the working group consisting of: Adrian Foghiș (Oradea Metropolitan Area), Lucian Hungarians (Local Council of Small and Medium Oradea) and Adrian Popoviciu-Claudiu (University of Oradea)

³² Cooperation protocol signed between the University of Oradea, Oradea Metropolitan Area, Bihar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Local Council of Small and Medium Employers Federation Bihor Oradea for development and promotion of Oradea Metropolitan Area as an area of welfare, employment and development sustainable, signed on September 24, 2008, accessible at <http://www.zmo.ro/content/editor/File/CDMO/Protocol%20final%2024%20sept%202008.pdf>

performance, linked to European educational standards and increase economic competitiveness by attracting and supporting investments involving high value added, low unemployment, the stimulating of the qualification process continues. Also, the Oradea Metropolitan Development Committee contributes to achieving the development goals of the metropolitan area and serves to link the projects financed or publicly funded partners. In the meetings held in the Committee were developed several drafts of European grouping Oradea - Debrecen, based on the existing consensus on the need for setting up such a legal instrument, but not yet completed a version.

Considering that the common needs of both communities from both sides of the Romanian-Hungarian border could be better handled by creating a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation between the two poles of urban development Oradea - Debrecen, we propose below some elements that we consider indicative of a potential project of this kind.

The GECT name	Euro-metropolis Oradea – Debrecen
Acronym	EMOD
Implementing statute	Project proposal
Implicate states	România (RO) Ungaria (HU)
Territory	The Romanian and Hungarian border area, represented by the space of the Bihor county from the North-West Development Region, at the East of the border and the space of the Hajdu-Bihar county from the Great Plains region of North (Észak-Alföldi Régió) at the West of the border.
Members	16 local authorities: 10 in Bihor County: the city of Oradea and the near villages Biharia, Borş, Cetariu, Girişu de Criş, Nojorid, Oşorhei, Paleu, Sântandrei 6 in the Hajdu-Bihar County: the city of Debrecen, cities of Berettyóújfalu, Biharkeresztes, Derecske, Hajdúszoboszló, Püspökladány,
Duration	Undefined
Objectives	Creating an area of welfare, employment and sustainable development; The consolidation of cross-border cooperation; The synchronization of the cross-border policies by harmonizing the inter-institutional eurometropolitan dialogue; Realizing a single development strategy for two peoples with common history and future;

Referring to the organization of the Oradea-Debrecen Euro-Metropolis we think that it should be composed of four structures: The Euro-Metropolis Oradea - Debrecen Assembly (legislative role), the Board (composed of one representative of each member of that group, with the role of manager, which ensures the enforcement of judgments Assembly), the Secretariat of the Oradea - Debrecen Euro-Metropolis (current business structure association with permanent staff) and Advisory Committee (involved in studies and analysis on key areas of intervention of the organization, or to define the multi-annual actions program.

The fundamental objective of cross-border cooperation in the European Union is to integrate separate areas of national borders, but face the common problems that must be answered with common solutions. We believe that the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation is necessary solution in the border area, which constitutes a legal crucible of common solutions hairpin populations for which the past dividing border today became an element of cohesion. Cross-border cooperation is the central priority of raising the competitiveness of border regions, further contributes to economic and social integration

of adjacent border areas. Although significant differences exist between border populations, their desire to live a better life creates the critical mass for determining the authorities in implementing this new Community legal instrument.



The Hajdu Bihar County³³



Map of the Oradea Metropolitan Area³⁴

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³³ http://www.hajdubihar.eu/hbm_map.jpg, accessed on 8 February 2010

³⁴ <http://www.zmo.ro/>, accessed on 8 February 2010