

First partnership meeting SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER REGIONS PROVIDED BY EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE CARPATHIAN EUROREGION

March 21, 2014
Nyíregyháza, Hungary

Partnership without borders

Press-release

Opening of the project “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER REGIONS PROVIDED BY THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE CARPATHIAN EUROREGION”

The date 21st of March, 2014 has become a very important for Transcarpathian region, as well as Ukraine in general and our neighboring regions. Thus, the main event of the March 21 was the signing of the political part of The Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union. Also, on this day was the opening of the project “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER REGIONS PROVIDED BY THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE CARPATHIAN EUROREGION», implemented by the Self-Government of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region, Hungary, International Association of Regional Development Institutions “IARDI”, as well as the Carpathian Euroregion Slovakia and Romanian part of the Carpathian Euroregion, Public center “Business



Initiatives” from the Ivano-Frankivsk region. The project is funded by the European Union within the framework of Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 and the organizational support of the associated partners from Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine.



The participants of the first partnership meeting in Nyíregyháza were welcomed by **Mr. Oszkár Seszták**, President of Self-government of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region, member of the Hungarian Parliament, and expressed his hope that this project will form the basis for further successful cooperation in border regions.

In his speech at the meeting, **Mr. Gergely Trieb**, Consul of the Consulate General of Hungary in Uzhhorod stressed the importance of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union.

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Martin Guillermo Ramirez, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions "AEBR" emphasized on the timely implementation of the project "Carpathian Euroregion" and stressed the importance of formation a new vision of border regions under the current geopolitical and economic development conditions.

For the associated partnerships in the project are invited self-governments of border regions and leading organizations in the field of cross-border policy formation. Association of European Border Regions "AEBR" from Germany supported the initiative of the Carpathian Euroregion and Martin Guillermo Ramirez, Secretary General of the Association "AEBR"

expressed the readiness of the organization to provide expert support in the formation of a new model of the Carpathian Euroregion. Association of European Border Regions "AEBR" is the leading organization working in the field of cross-border cooperation, which consists of about one hundredth members, Euroregions and cross-border cooperation organizations, including the Carpathian Euroregion as one of the oldest and biggest European region.



Moderator of the Conference, Professor **István Süli – Zakar**, expert of Carpathian Euroregion, welcomed the experienced experts of the Carpathian Euroregion, who stood at the origins of the Euroregion, **Serhii Ustych**, director of the Institute for Transfrontier Cooperation (Ukraine), the former head of the Carpathian Euroregion, 1995-1996, **Berchan Pamfil**, former head of Romania's Carpathian Euroregion, **Mariya Nagyova**, expert of Carpathian Euroregion of Slovakia and **Ivan Hevtsi**, expert of Carpathian Euroregion from Ukraine.



Serhii Ustych, Director of Institute for Transfrontier Cooperation (Ukraine), former chairman of the Carpathian Euroregion, 1995-1996, presented an expert research on the Carpathian Euroregion and focused on the need to optimize the activities of Carpathian Euroregion. **Ivan Hevtsi**, expert of the International Association "IARDI", stressed the importance of working groups' renovation and committees of the Carpathian Euroregion, which worked successfully since 1993.

Participated in a conference the representatives of the Romanian part of Carpathian Euroregion: **Berchan Pamfil**, a representative of the Maramures County Council (Romania), ex - President of the Carpathian Euroregion and **Bogdan Lazar**, head of the Romanian part of Carpathian Euroregion and representatives of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Euroregion: **Mariya Nagyova** expert and **Gabriel Kish**, head of the Slovak part of Carpathian Euroregion.

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Experience in the field of Euro-regional cooperation was presented by the President of the Euroregion "Dnister" **Serhii Tatusyak**.



During the conference, Secretary of Carpathian Euroregion, self-government of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region, Hungary, **Brigitta László** and

Nataliya Nosa, President of International Association "IARDI" presented the main objectives and activities of the project aimed at improving the efficiency of cross-border cooperation among border regions and improving the work of the Carpathian Euroregion.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the International Association "IARDI" **Nataliya Nosa** awarded the commemorative diplomas "for outstanding achievements in the euro regional cooperation" to **Mr. Seszták Oszkár**, President of Self-governemnt of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg region, **Mr. Martin Guillermo**, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions "AEBR", **Brigitta Laszlo**, head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Euroregion and asked to deliver a diploma for **Jens Gabbe**, experts of "AEBR". 10 years ago, partners and experts from the border regions united their efforts in order to implement a strategic approach for the development of the border regions of Ukraine, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Poland, and develop a strategic document Carpathians 2004 - 2011. In 2003, the Association "AEBR" gave a strong expert support in the development of program document and recommended the establishment of International Partnership Network, which received an institutional form "International Association of Regional Development Institutions "IARDI".



During the conference the best project initiatives were presented. Initiative of the International Association "IARDI" "CBC Parliament" will be information - communication instrument to ensure the effective functioning of the Carpathian Euroregion. "Strategy of Ukrainian-Slovak cross-border cooperation" will be part of the strategy of the Carpathian Euroregion.



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At the end of the Conference a discussion was held on the exchange of experience on regional and cross-border cooperation and prospects of the Carpathian Euroregion.

The International Association "IARDI" presented the Metodological platform which was developed by the project expert **Oleh Luksha**.

Methodological Platform aims at the coordination of positions and visions of involved project experts from different countries of Carpathian Euroregion to achieve the main and specific objectives of the Project (Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, representing the eligible area of the HUSKROUA Programme, and - Polish border area which is a part of CE). Methodological Platform coordinated with the current contract documents of CE as well - aimed at creating a consolidated methodological instrument for experts and consultants representing all the countries of CE.



Considering the unity of purposes and objectives on the establishment and activities of CE, all involved outside experts and consultants carry out mutual coordination of proposals relating to:

- bilateral relations and Cross-border Cooperation between neighbouring border regions of both countries;
- trilateral relations and Cross-border Cooperation among neighbouring border regions of three countries;
- multilateral relations and Cross-border Cooperation among all

neighbouring border regions of 4 and 5's countries.

Joint expert developments, suggestions and recommendations should comply with the principle of coordination "interrelated multilevel system of priorities and interests", that is, any lower level of CBC in general cannot be in contradiction with the level of CE, presented by border regions of 5's countries for which experts prepare a separate opinion.

Martin Guillermo Ramirez, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions "AEBR" supported the initiative of partnership group of the Carpathian Euroregion, provided useful tips to ensure effective strategic planning process in the border regions and informed that the leading experts of the Association "AEBR" provide expert support on the most important stages of the project.

The next meeting of partners and experts will be held in April - May 2014 in Romania and Slovakia within the round tables, scheduled in the project.

Press-service of the International Association "IARDI"

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