



DANUBE-KRIS-MURES-TISA REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
DUNA-KÖRÖS-MAROS-TISZA REGIONÁLIS EGYÜTTMŰKÖDÉS
COOPERAREA REGIONALĂ DUNĂRE-CRIȘ-MUREȘ-TISA
РЕГИОНАЛНА САРАДЊА ДУНАВ-КРИШ-МОРИШ-ТИСА

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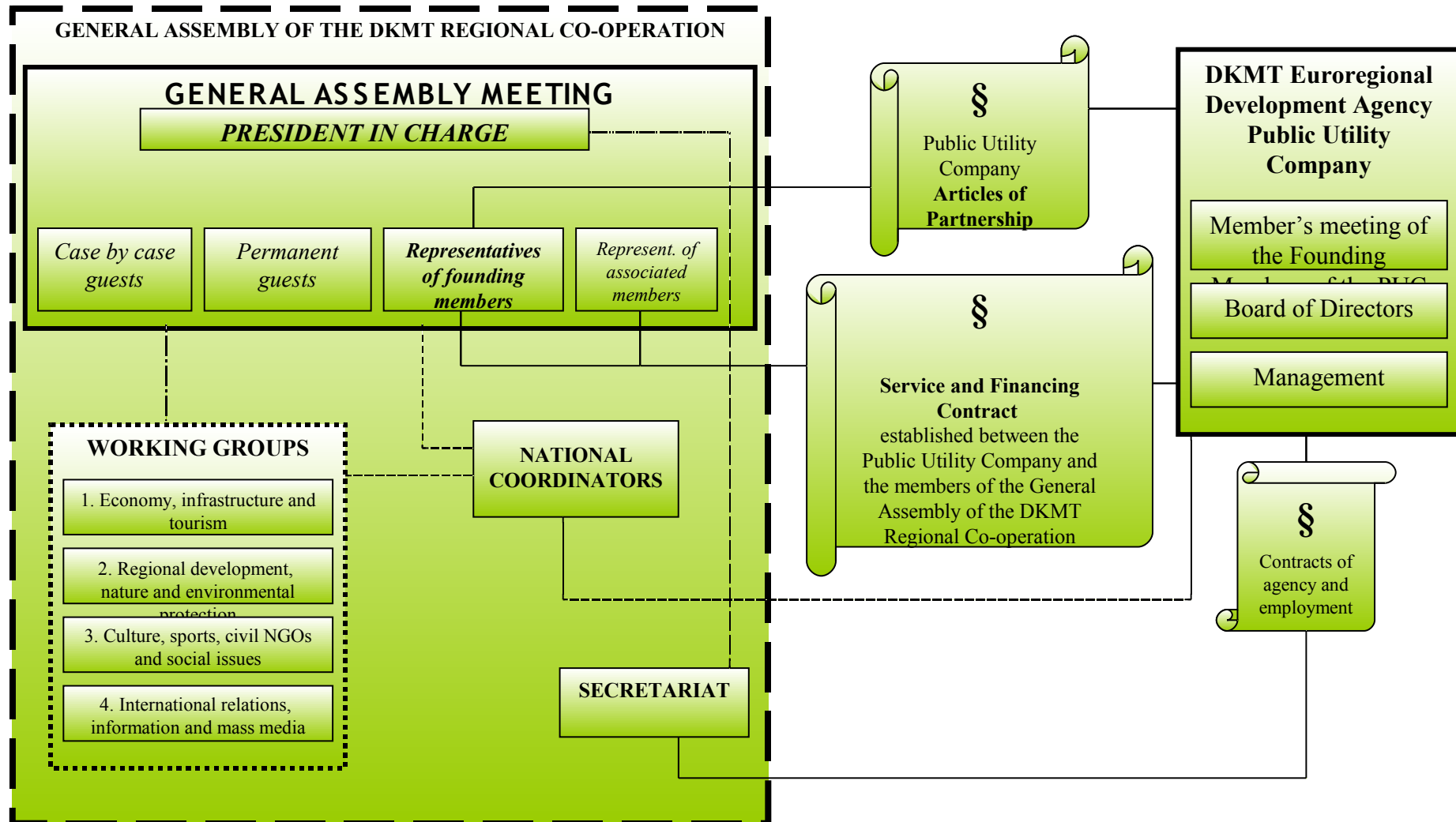
Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregional Development Agency PUC.

Erika Oskó

- Established:
21 November 1997
- Area:
71.6 thousand km²
- Population:
5.4 million
- Managing body:
General assembly
- Website:
www.dkmt.net
www.ericinfo.eu



ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF THE DANUBE-KRIS-MURES-TISA REGIONAL CO-OPERATION



Motives of the cross-border co-operation

- Removal of border as a separating line
- Overcoming prejudices and aversions, dissolving historical heritage
- Termination of peripheral conditions and isolation
- Increasing economic growth and living standards
- Facilitating fast integration into the EU

Basic principles of cross-border co-operation

- **Subsidiarity:** every decision has to be made on the most optimal level
- **Additionality:** EU funds do not replace, they add to national expenditure
- **Concentration:** focusing sources and tools
- **Partnership:** close co-operation of actors
- **Programming:** long term, complex development programs

Working methods of cross-border co-operation

- Strategy oriented operation, not only case by case programs
- Complex co-operation, through many kinds of connecting channels
- Partners' relationship vertically and horizontally
- Decisions and implementation of joint actions always on the basis of procedures in effect

Main fields of cross-border co-operation

- Economic development
- Infrastructure development
- Protection of environment and nature
- Tourism
- Cultural relationships
- Education
- Civil relationships
- Public safety, catastrophe prevention
- Social co-operation

Specific objectives of DKMT

- Basic objective: establishing a strong system of relationships relying on jointly developed infrastructure, information and knowledge base, helping the development of innovation, to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of the DKMT Euroregion
- Turning DKMT into a model region, a mediator of values between the EU and the Balkans
- Increasing abilities of the region to put up sources

SWOT analysis of DKMT Strengths

- Valuable natural resources
- Multicultural traditions
- Varied and attractive landscapes, divergent cultural heritage – excellent tourism related endowments
- Developed R+D and innovation potential
- Joint strategic planning
- Availability of international airport

SWOT analysis of DKMT Strengths

- Important European corridors intersect the Euroregion
- There are three internationally acknowledged higher educational centres in the region that have been working together
- Working media relationships and cultural co-operations
- Developing international and EU system of relationships

SWOT analysis of DKMT

Weaknesses

- Existence / possibility of EU membership
- Differences in EU sources, tendering possibilities, support systems. The EU harmonisation of economy is significantly divergent
- Shortage of capital, lack of interest on behalf of investors, low level of own sources, relative poverty in all three areas

SWOT analysis of DKMT

Weaknesses

- Weak transport connections within the region, outdated infrastructure
- Border crossing stations with insufficient capacity
- Underdevelopment of tourism infrastructure, lack of integrated tourism information
- Lack of Euroregional tourism marketing
- Polluted surface and ground waters

SWOT analysis of DKMT

Weaknesses

- Lack of the system of tools necessary for the management of cross-border environmental pollutions
- Insufficiency of the institutional system of cross-border regional and local level co-operation
- Lack of innovation disseminating aspects
- Negative demographic tendencies

SWOT analysis of DKMT Opportunities

- Improvement of relationships, stabilizing circumstances on the Balkans
- The region can function as a Southeast European gate with the enlargement of the EU
- Availability of EU support for cross-border co-operation
- The university centres of the region are capable of catalysing European level development

SWOT analysis of DKMT Opportunities

- The Euroregion is able to integrate the connection of regional development and the knowledge base
- The development of Trans-European Networks intersecting the region enables the reconstruction of transport networks torn apart, and thus connecting the region to the circulation of the European economy
- Strengthening the international logistical role

SWOT analysis of DKMT

Threats

- Changes of the political situation might negatively affect co-operation
- Relatively high environmental risk of serious natural disasters
- The slowness of infrastructural developments restricts co-operational possibilities
- Failure to close up economy and especially agriculture may cause social problems

SWOT analysis of DKMT

Threats

- Shortfall caused by the insufficient financing of R&D and the sector of higher education
- The different dates of EU accession may cause tensions
- The Schengen border control may hinder co-operation
- The tourism related marketing activity is not realised because of the lack of resources

Priorities of the strategic program of the DKMT

1. Increasing social cohesion in the Euroregion
2. Improving the main road system, encouraging and harmonisation of interstate development measures
3. Strengthening economic relationships and the gate role within the region
4. Coordinated and sustainable development of the environment and nature

Working groups in the Euroregion

1. Economy, infrastructure and tourism
2. Urbanism, protection of environment and nature
3. Culture, sports, civil organisations and social issues
4. International relations, information and mass media
5. Catastrophe prevention
6. National health
7. Healthcare
8. Industrial park
9. Tourism
10. Agriculture

Membership

- Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- Consultative Committee of the Euroregions of the Visegrad Countries – Financial Control and Economic Committee



DKMT Euroregional Development Agency PUC.

Established: 24 May 2003

„The primary task of the PUC. is to ensure material (financial) contribution for the development of the area of the DKMT as an independent legal entity, carrying out for-profit activities beside the public utility activities, and – among others, this way – to support the advancement of joining the Euro-Atlantic integration.”



DKMT Euroregional Development Agency PUC.

PROJECT, PROGRAMS

- **Window to the neighbour – Media view about the DKMT Euroregion** (PHARE CBC Romanian-Hungarian Small Project Fund) – presenting the Euroregion to citizens, news coverage about the Euroregional programs, Cross-border Newsletter (2004)
- **Protean Europe** (Delegation of the European Commission in Hungary Phare SPP) – cultural festival (April-June 2004)
- **The Strategic Plan of the DKMT Euroregion** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany – Friedrich Ebert Foundation) – the real assessment of the Euroregion and the summary of demands at the same time, the definition of priorities and measures and their acceptance by all three countries (28 May 2005)
- **MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS – 28 May 2005**
– dr. Ferenc Somogyi, Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu, Vuk Draskovic
- **MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS– 19 April 2006**
– dr. Ferenc Somogyi, Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu, Vuk Draskovic
- Generating **joint bilateral and trilateral government meetings** – strategic cross-border programs

DKMT PUC.

Projects, programs

- **Environment conscious everyday life of young people, for the young people** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Hunida PUC.), 2005
- **Study and exchange of experience regarding water quality improvement** (Phare Small Project Fund 2003 Hungary-Serbia and Montenegro program), 2005-2006
- **Within and beyond the European Union – series of cross-border trade fairs and conferences** (Phare CBC 2003 Hungary and Romania – Cross-border economic development program), 2005-2006
- **Within and beyond the European Union – Economic development in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary), 2005-2006
- **Formation of thematic tourist route groups in the DKMT Euroregion** (INTERREG IIIA), 2006-2007

A development project recommended in the strategy of the DKMT (strengthening economic relationships within the region – establishing tourism related co-operations between SMEs and non-profit organisations)

- **ERIC – Euroregional Informational Centre** (INTERREG IIIA), 2006-2008

A development project recommended in the strategy of the DKMT (increasing the social cohesion of the region – extending information supply)

- **Security without borders** (European Commission Directorate-General Environment - Community Civil Protection Action Programme, 2007-2008)



Projects under implementation at the moment

- 1. Formation of thematic tourist route groups
in the DKMT Euroregion**
(INTERREG IIIA)

- 2. ERIC - Euroregional Information Centre**
(INTERREG IIIA)

- 3. Security without borders**
(European Commission Directorate-General
Environment)

ERIC

Euroregional Information Centre

DKMT Danuber-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregional
Development Agency PUC.

Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of
Vojvodina

Regional Media and Artistic Foundation Szeged



The aim of the project

The project helps the multilingual communication of the DKMT, it motivates the euroregional, integration and innovation related efforts of cross-border regions, and it provides assistance for the stabilisation and EU integration processes of the region with special tools.

Overall objectives

- Eliminating the peripheral nature of the cross-border region
- Increasing the level of euroregional information supply and awareness in the border region
- Supporting the formation of euroregional co-operations and the principle of subsidiarity
- Activating the economic life, economic relationships of partner countries, strengthening regional business relationships

Direct objective

The **direct objective** of the project is the establishment of an information centre, which helps the operation of euroregional relationships with news agency activities, multilingual multimedia press service

- The establishment of the DKMT Euroregional Information Centre and the Serbian contact office, operation of a news agency, on-line information services
- Building of euroregional relationships and networks
- Developing the own professional press network of the border region
- Delivery of knowledge, experiences, accentuated management of information regarding the European integration
- Strengthening coherence in everyday life

Target group

- Media of the DKMT Euroregion: local and regional newspapers, radios, televisions
- First of all county newspapers published in a large number of copies and local radios, several dailies and weeklies published in a large number of copies in the Vojvodina
- Media websites, which means an alternative media on the one hand and further readers on the other hand
- Professional organisations, chambers of commerce, educational and cultural organisations, civil organisations of the cross-border region

Target area

DKMT Euroregion:

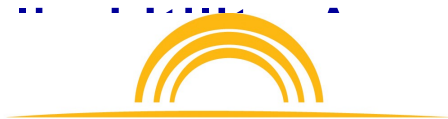
- South Great Plain: Bács-Kiskun County, Békés County, Csongrád County
- Vojvodina
- On-line news service – „the wide world“
- Euroregional Informational Centre – Szeged
- Serbian contact office – Novi Sad

Formation of thematic tourism route groups in the DKMT Euroregion

DKMT Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregional
Development Agency PUC.

Executive Council of the Autonomous Province
of Vojvodina

South Great Plain Medical and Thermal Baths
Public Association



Overall objectives

- Improving the level of tourism related services, development of tourism infrastructure
- Enlivening national and foreign tourism, decreasing seasonal characteristics
- Increasing the competitiveness of the region in the field of tourism, connecting to the circulation of international tourism – increasing the number of visitors and the income generated by tourism

Direct objectives

- Development of thematic route packages:
 - 1. Health tourism (wellness and thermal) route
 - 2. Folklore route
 - 3. Route of secession
 - 4. Route of industrial establishments and monuments
- Planning and implementation of the system of information boards
- Co-ordination of tourism related services and service providers along thematic routes, establishing co-operations
- A wide range promotion of developed tourism packages, preparation of thematic publications
- Creating the touristic image of the Euroregion, strengthening identity

Target group

- Tourism related professional organisation of the border region (stage organisations, professional associations gathering enterprises)
- Local governments of the settlements along thematic routes
- The owners or operators of establishments incorporated in the thematic routes, enterprises serving tourism
- Settlements with unique attractions that can be incorporated in the thematic routes, participating from tourist traffic to a smaller extent so far



Security without borders

DKMT Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa Euroregional
Development Agency PUC.

Hungarian Civil Defence Association

Main objective

To give possibility to the 50 invited experts and professionals

- to establish co-operations,
- to build relationships

through the organisation of a several day workshop, and laying the foundation for the cross-border risk analysis and management.

The subjects of the workshops cover studying the sources of danger affecting the DKMT Euroregion to the greatest extents:

- flood,
- Hazardous materials and their transport,
- epidemics, and within it bird-flu.

Direct results of the project:

- The development of cross-border and international relationships,
- Elaboration of recommendations as regards cross-border activities to be implemented jointly,
- Increasing the level of information received by citizens on the longer run,
- Improving the preparation of organisations participating in civil defence.

Projects under evaluation

- 1. Health insurance without borders
(INTERREG IIIA)**
- 2. Setting up an action group for the joint
management of flood challenges
(INTERREG IIIA)**
- 3. Increasing the capacity of local
governments in the DKMT Euroregion with
the tools of information technology
(Norwegian Financing Mechanism)**

Problems encountered on the basis of DKMT experiences

- Lack of development sources
- Lack of competences necessary for implementation
- The proportion of EU funds allocated for cross-border programs is small
- There is no sufficient experience in the field of direct EU funds from Brussels
- In the case of national co-financing the whole of the DKMT Euroregion cannot be beneficiary
- From a Hungarian call for proposal the Romanian or the Vojvodina part of the DKMT cannot receive support

Problems encountered on the basis of DKMT experiences

- The calls for proposals are not synchronised and they are often deficient
- It is hard to gain direct information about EU sources with Brussels based management
- Pre-financing problems
- VAT financing problems
- There is no separate chapter about euroregional co-operations in the NDP, there is no state support

**THANK YOU FOR THE
ATTENTION!**

**Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa
Euroregional
Development Agency PUC.**

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