



# **Challenges of cross-border cooperation in Hungary**

**Dr. Jenő HAMORY**

*Head of department, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Economic Relations Department,  
Hungary*



# Comparative Advantages of Hungary

- **Geography:** multitude of borders (7) with neighbours
- **Carpathian Basin:**
  - common language
  - identical traditions, culture
  - „go-between” role for Hungary
- **Crossroads at European level, regional „turntable”**
  - East-West
  - North-South
- EU-membership (stages: 2004, 1992, 1987, 1968)
- Inviting, inclusive nation, open economy

# Possible Financial Resources

- EU-funds (E.T.C., 2007-2013): EUR 685 mn
- Transnational programmes
  - Central Europe, EUR 246 mn
  - South East Europe, EUR 206 mn
- A part of national Regional OPs
- A (smaller) part of mainstream national OPs
- Development projects along the borders by neighbouring countries
- In total: over **EUR 1 billion!** – should be more but:  
**never before so vast resources allotted for enhancing cross-border cooperation!!!**

# Chances and Challenges

- **European trends:**
  - „Europe of regions” (more funds for border areas)
  - „Europe of civil society” (cooperation among smaller communities)
- **E.T.C.:** real and feasible cross-border development trends are necessary!
- **EGTC**
  - new, „articulated”, „fine-tuned” instrument
  - mustn't be over-estimated but should fully be utilised!
  - from institutional to real development phase
  - *IsterGranum EGTC*: pioneer role in Central Europe

# Danube Region European Strategy

- Great medium term opportunity for Hungary
- Preparation for the 2014-2020 period
- Out of 11 preliminary Hungarian programme proposals submitted to EC – three with Hungary in the lead:
  - ***seamless Europe*** (to eliminate trade and transport bottlenecks)
  - ***preservation of live water values*** in Danube area
  - ***environment friendly transport*** in Danube region (shipping, intermodal transport facilities)
- **Further Hungarian proposals to be expected:** strengthening business contacts, closer cooperation among SMEs, labour market cooperation

# Vision for the Future

- ***Hungarian hopes for the medium term future:***
  - bigger proportion of EU funds for ***cross-border*** developments
  - when the crisis is gradually over the „going will be better” for the national economies of the whole Carpathian Basin including regions along borders
  - further ***refinement*** and „articulation” of EU and regional ***instrumentary*** (Cohesion Policy, E.T.C., Danube Strategy)
  - ***abolishment of virtual and factual borders*** within the Central European (Carpathian) region
  - ***economic*** cooperation will be a priority



**Thank You for  
your Attention!**

[jhamory@kum.hu](mailto:jhamory@kum.hu)

