



Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations

Cross-border conurbations: Empowering internal governance

« EGTC » URBACT Thematic seminar

Chaves, 12 March 2009



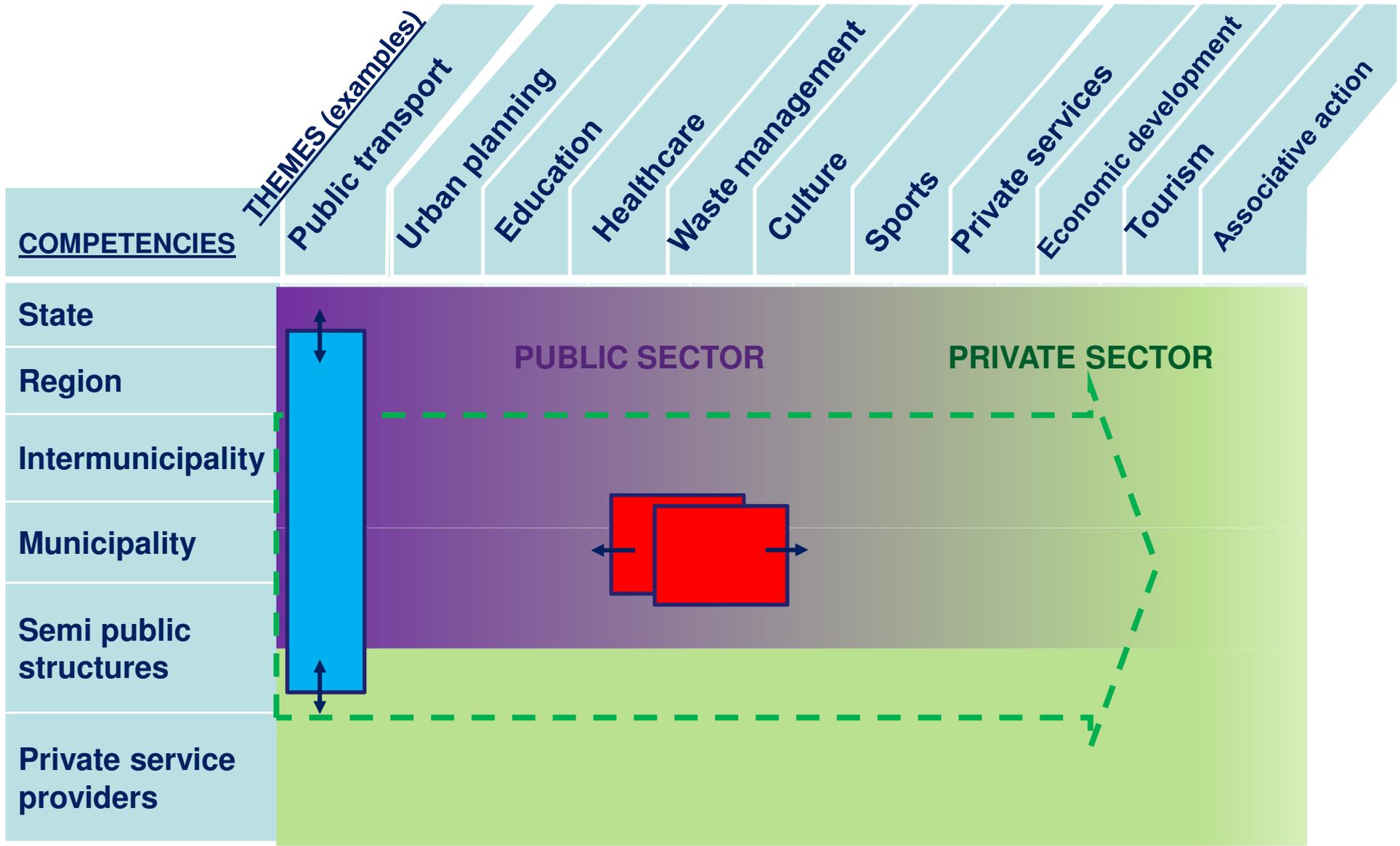


Workshop 2

Institutionalization of the cooperation within cross-border conurbations

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Project coordinator*



Multilevel thematic cooperation (example : EGTC)



Cooperation of authorities with similar competences on several fields of activities (example : EGTC, LGCC, ...)



Wide governance, without transfer of competencies, platform of dialogue and concertation

1. Why to institutionalize the governance of cross-border conurbations?

Context: more and more institutionalized cross-border cooperation, because:

- Need for developing cross-border conurbations
- Need for securing cross-border cooperation (politically, financially, durability, etc)
- Need for more visibility of cross-border conurbations
- New opportunities with the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation (non exhaustive)

Legal basis Type of tool	Community law	Domestic law	Inter-state cross-border cooperation agreements
Public-law structure	EGTC under public law	Consorcio (ES) European District (FR)	Local grouping for cross-border cooperation , LGCC (BE,DE,LU,FR,CH,...)
Public-private partnership		Cross-border SEML (local PPP) (FR)	
Cooperation agreement		Private-law agreement (IT) Public-law agreement	Cross-border cooperation agreement (BE,DE,LU,FR,CH,IT,ES, ...)
Non-profit private structure	European economic interest grouping EGTC under private law	Association (BE,LU,DE,FR,IT,...) Foundation (NL, CH, ...)	

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation

2.1. Before (the creation) of the EGTC regulation

More restrictive possibilities for cross-border cooperation

- Madrid Convention, 1980: cooperation between local and regional authorities...

- ...implemented through inter-state agreements

Bayonne in 1995, Karlsruhe in 1996, Valencia in 2004, etc

- Absence of legal framework for cross-border cooperation between local and regional authorities on certain borders

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation

2.2. With the creation of the EGTC : new opportunities (regulation n°1082/2006) [1]

- A common legal instrument for **all 27 EU Member States**
- To manage EU programmes and **projects** dedicated to territorial cooperation (cross-border, transnational, interregional) co-financed or not by EU funds, for example:
 - Sectoral projects
 - Cross-cutting strategies

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation

2.2. With the creation of the EGTC : new opportunities (regulation n°1082/2006) [2]

- A structure with **legal personality**

It has its own budget, staff, capacity to conclude contracts, launch call for tenders, act in justice

- Intervenes within the **common** scope of competencies of its members

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation

2.2. With the creation of the EGTC : new opportunities (regulation n°1082/2006) [3]

- **Large partnership:** opened to all “contracting authorities” (submitted to public procurement rules), including the States
- **Opened to third States** under conditions: at least 2 EU Member States
- Enables to set-up a **cross-border decision making-process** (assembly)

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation

2.3. The implementation of the EGTC (regulation)^[1]

- Requires, if necessary, the adoption of national provisions

- The functioning of the EGTC is ruled by the convention and the statutes

- The convention and the statutes must be consistent with:
 - the Community regulation n°1082/2006
 - the law of the location of the seat of the EGTC
 - the law of each member

2. The legal tool box for cross-border cooperation

2.3. The implementation of the EGTC (regulation) [2]

- There is no an European model to set-up an EGTC
- 4 EGTCs already created in European Union on CB cooperation

Including 2 EGTCs on the Spanish-Portuguese border

- About 11 EGTCs under creation, including 7 on cross-border cooperation

3. The questions raised in the “EGTC” URBACT project

Starting point: 2 different situations

Current situation	Perspectives
<p>1. Absence of CB structure</p> <p><i>Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau</i> <i>Eurocidade Chaves-Verin</i> <i>Frankfurt (O)-Slubice</i></p>	<p>Creation of a CB structure (EGTC, ...)</p>
<p>2. Existing CB structure</p> <p><i>TEB (association)</i> <i>Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (EGTC)</i> <i>Ister-Granum EGTC</i></p>	<p>Deepening the CB governance</p>



3. The questions raised in the “EGTC” URBACT project

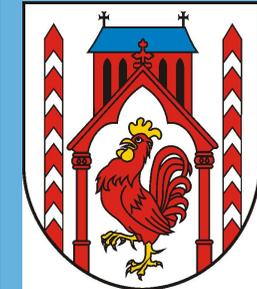
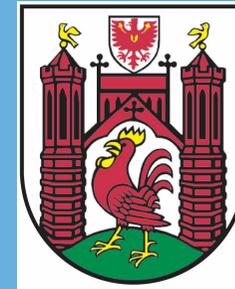
Each cross-border conurbation :

- **Makes an assessment** of the functioning of its own governance, with the CB Local Support group
 - **Develops solutions** to improve the cross-border governance (legal structure, technical work, political involvement, financial means, etc)
 - **Elaborates recommendations addressed to regional, national and European levels** to adapt and enhance the framework for CB cooperation
- Described in the Local Action Plan





Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations



Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice

On the (long) way to an European City

Juliusz ZWIREK, Jörg GLEISENSTEIN

Chairmen of the Joint Committee of Frankfurt (Oder) - Slubice

Sören BOLLMANN

“EGTC” URBACT project manager

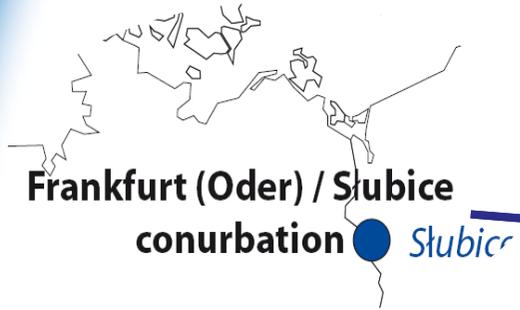
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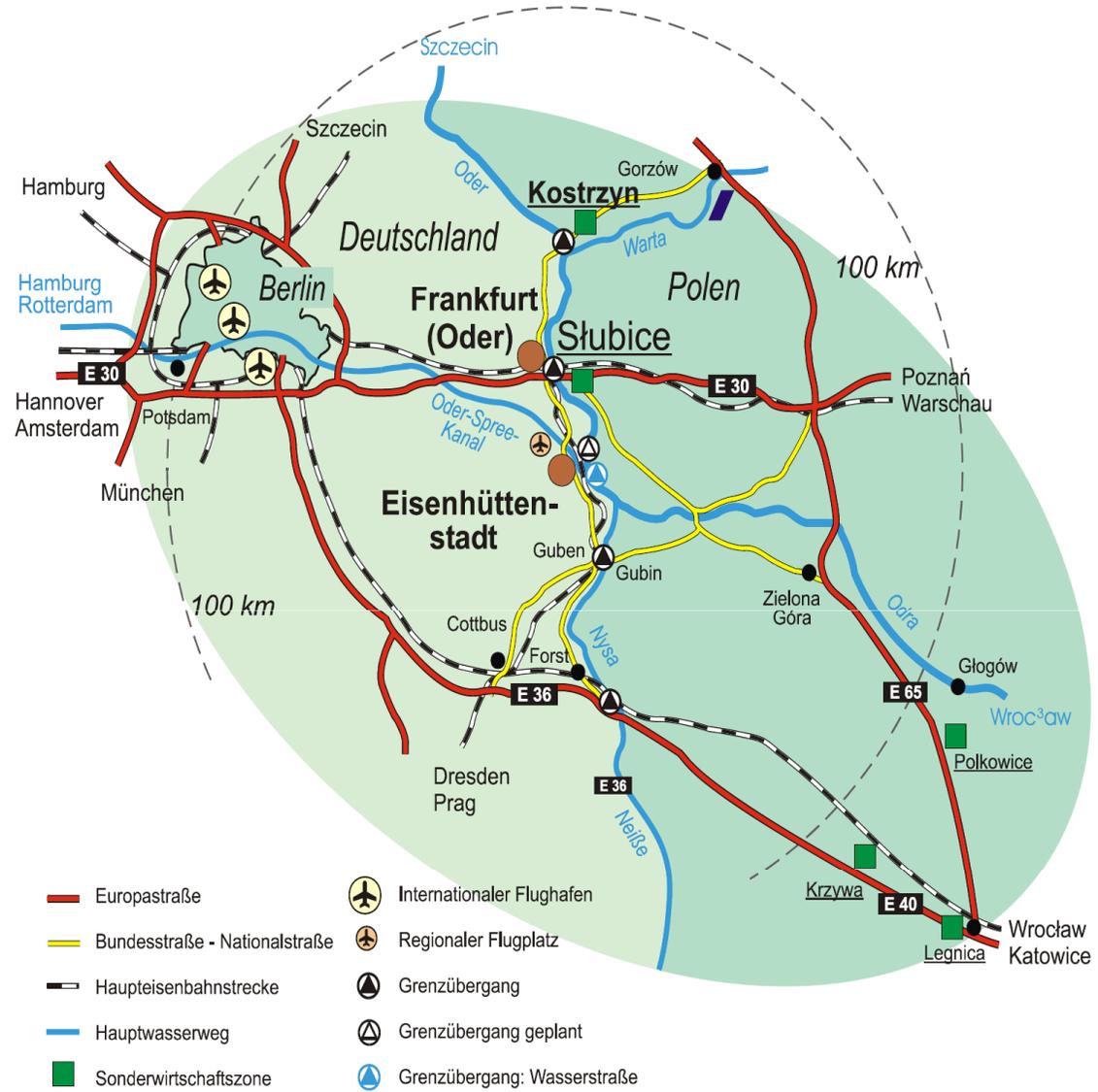


That's where we come from:



GERMANY / POLAND





1. Several beginnings in our cross-border cooperation

- **1945:** Suddenly we became (for each other) new neighbours on two sides of the border
- **1945-1989:** Cooperation was mainly based on personal contacts or took place while working together in Frankfurt's micro chip factory
- **1990-1999:** euphoria of common Europe: (too) high expectations and lots of common projects and plans



1. Several beginnings in our cross-border cooperation

- **2000-2007:** Disappointment (f.e. after Frankfurt's „no to cross-border tramway“), plans disappeared into the drawer; „everybody just care for himself“ or „your cigarettes and petrol for our clothes, cheap food and high tech“
- **From 2008:** But maybe together we might be stronger ...



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2. The daily cooperation's « Pyramid »

Joint strategy: working on a „joint vision for Frankfurt & Słubice 2020” and on the „Local Action Plan 2010-2020” within EGTC project

„high lights“: common City's Party in July 2009,
European Fire Brigade Meeting 2011

Daily joint life: Polish and German children together in the kindergarden or at the same classroom in school; „Polish-German Youth Orchestra“; students at European University Viadrina/ Collegium Polonicum

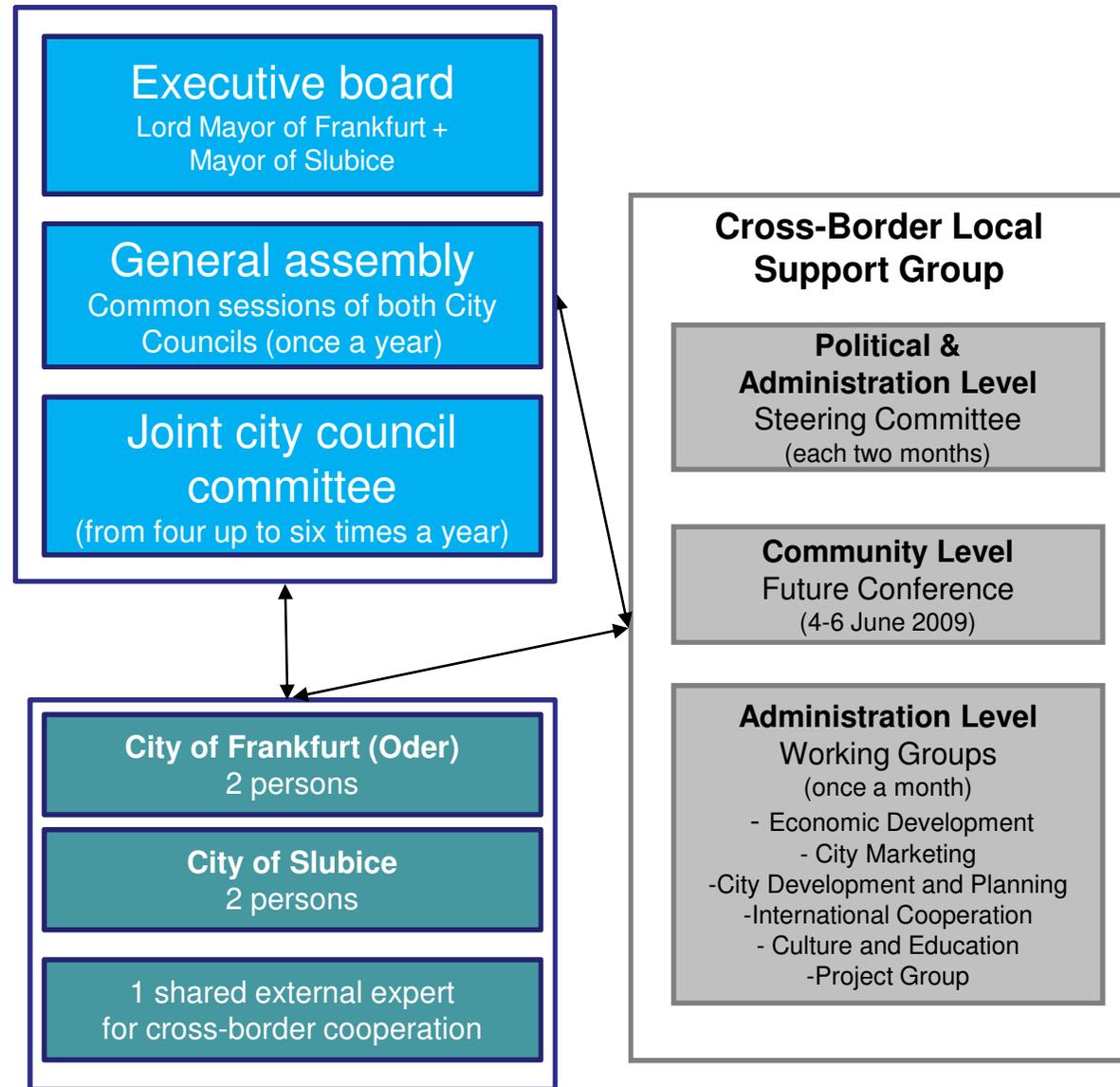
Daily life: about 1.000 Poles living in Frankfurt, about 100 Germans living in Słubice; lots of thousands of border crossings each day for going shopping, working, or spending one's spare time „on the other side“



**Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice:
Internal
governance
scheme**

Political structure

Technical team



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3. Assessment of the current functioning

3.1 Challenges/ difficulties encountered:

Is the current framework adapted to the ambitions of the CB conurbation? [1]

- The Joint Committee does not have the same legal status (on the German side) as other commissions
- No joint legal body or common office with joint human resources for a continuous cooperation
- A lack of human resources for daily cooperation at political and administrative levels

3. Assessment of the current functioning

3.1 Challenges/ difficulties encountered:

Is the current framework adapted to the ambitions of the CB conurbation? [2]

- Still a language barrier at technical level
- Regular meetings, open discussions and time to be spent to come to common agreements is often considered as something “additional” and “less important”

3. Assessment of the current functioning

3.2 Solutions/recommendations [1]

- Joint office and joint human resources within the project „Joint City Marketing 2009-2012“ (applied Interreg IVA project)
 - 11 bilingual persons as joint City Marketing Agency
 - Marketing of city, investment and tourism offers
 - Where? (Hopefully) on the City Bridge, in the former border clearance buildings

3. Assessment of the current functioning

3.2 Solutions/recommendations [1]

- Stronger mutual commitment, based on the „Local Action Plan 2010-2020”
- Stronger support from the community by the „Future Conference” (4-6 June 2009) and afterwards possibility to join the Local Working Groups
- Language training (German/ Polish or English) for 120 politicians and administration employees from January 2010 (Interreg IVA project)

3. Assessment of the current functioning

3.3 Good practices to be transferred to other cross-border conurbations?

- European University Viadrina/ Collegium Polonicum
- Children are learning together in the kindergarten or at school
- Common city development projects under the „Strategy 2003“
- ...



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Welcome to Frankfurt (Oder) & Slubice !



Thank you for your attention !





Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations



The Ister-Granum EGTC

Strengthening the cooperation

Gyula OCSKAY

“EGTC” URBACT project manager

Tamás LUNK

Expert for the Ister-Granum EGTC

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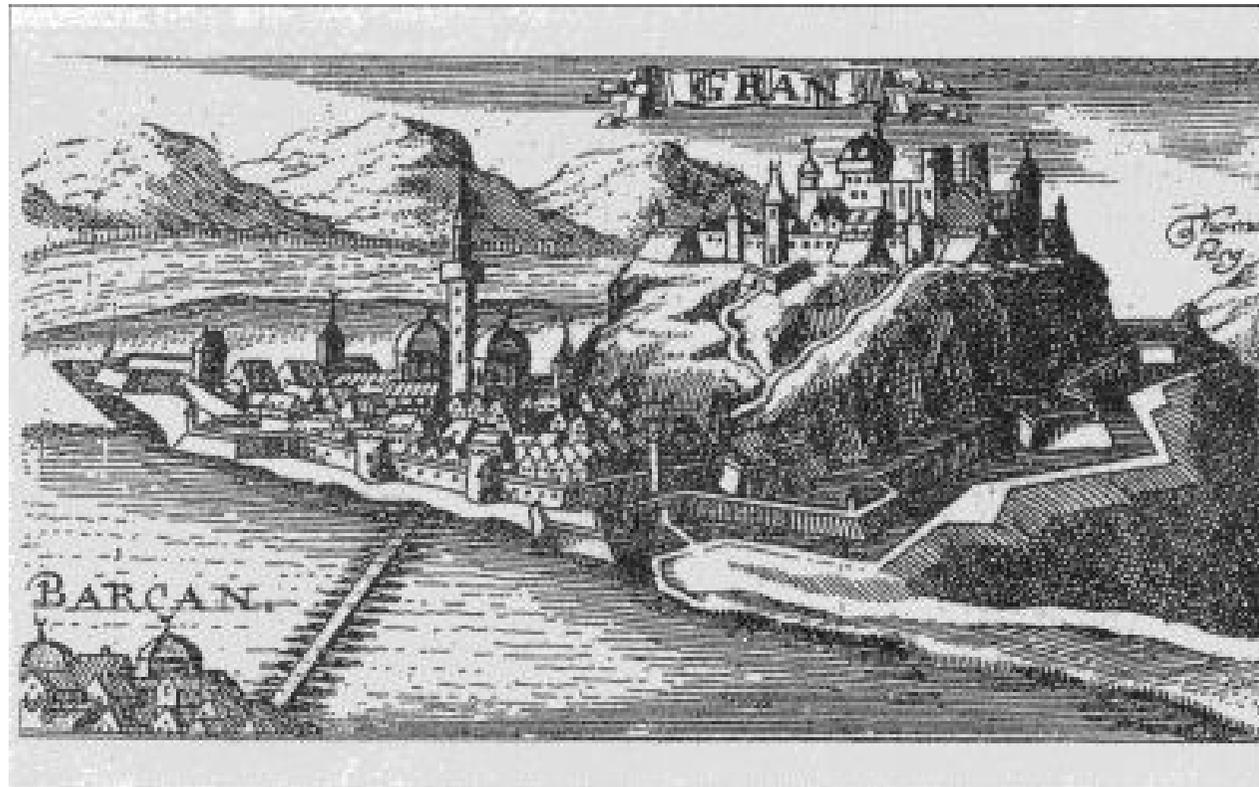




**ISTER-GRANUM
EURORÉGIÓ**

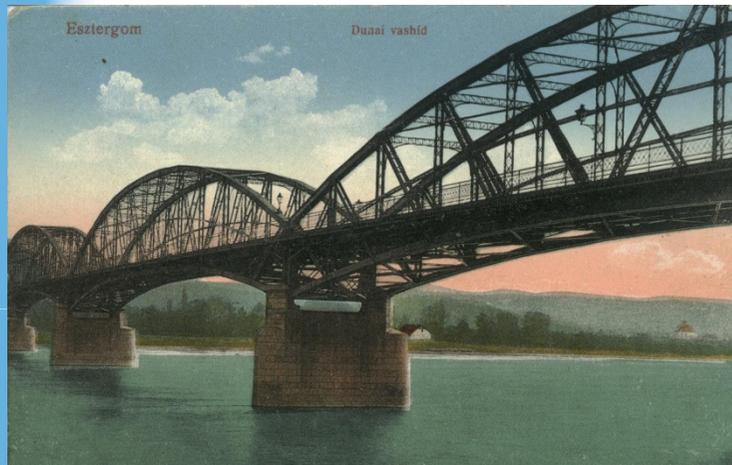
Origins of the cross-border cooperation

Strong historical contacts between Štúrovo and Esztergom



Origins of the cross-border cooperation

The Maria Valeria bridge



1895



1919



1995



2001

Key dates of the formalization of the cross-border cooperation



15 May 2000, Letter of Intent

13 October 2000,
Foundation Letter



17 November 2003, signing the Euroregion's
Foundation Document



21 September 2005, presentation of the
regional development plan in the European
Parliament, Brussels

6 May 2008, foundation of the
Ister-Granum EGTC





The Ister-Granum EGTC

Why an EGTC...

- Integrated Development Plan of the Euroregion (2005): planned own institutions
- Complementarity of facilities and services (eg. logistics and industrial parks, health care, tourism, economic advancement etc.)
- Strong will of stakeholders to cooperate over the long pull
- Participation in constituting process of the Hungarian EGTC-regulation
- The need of sustainability



The Ister-Granum EGTC

...and how to make it?

- **06.05.2008**

Foundation ceremony in the royal palace of Esztergom
Many problems during the registration process

- **16.06.2008**

Approval is done for the Slovakian municipalities **15.08.2008**

Approval is done for the Hungarian municipalities

- **18.10.2008**

End of the registration process at the Capital Court in Budapest

- **12.11.2008**

Legal force of the declaration of the Court

- **13.11.2008**

General Assembly

- **29.11.2008**

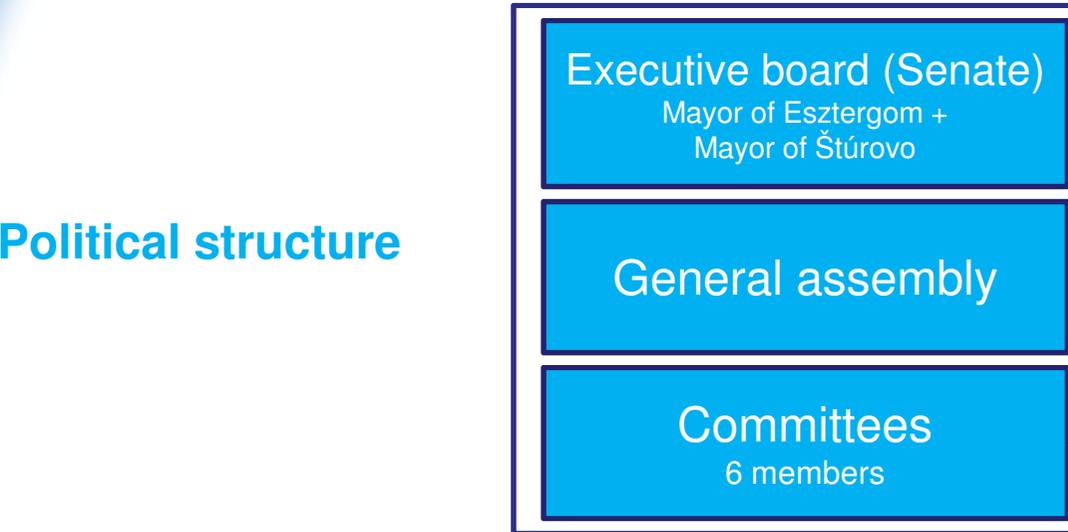
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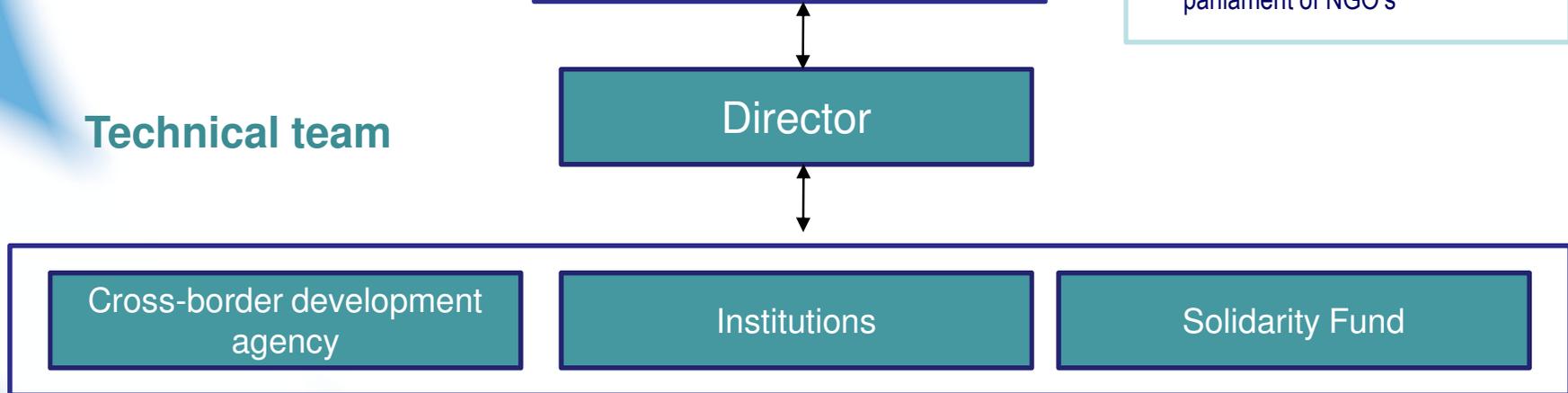


Ister-Granum EGTC

Political structure



Technical team



Assessment of the current functioning

1. Weaknesses

- Weak involvement of decision-makers at regional and national levels
- Lack of interest in participating to the work of the committees
- Low level of awareness concerning the benefits and responsibilities of the EGTC among the local stakeholders
- Dominant role of the municipality of Esztergom („inferiority complex” on behalf of other settlements)
- Lack of a development fund that can prefinance the projects

Assessment of the current functioning

2. Solutions (proposals for the LAP)

- Creating a regional lobby club
- Transforming the committee system into a project workshop system
- Updating regional development strategy, including developing shared vision of the region, involving regional stakeholders
- Creating joint institutions and enterprises
- Creating a regional development fund

Assessment of the current functioning

3. Joint institutions, enterprises

Field	Main projects
Cohesion	Solidarity Fund
Industry	Ister-Granum Enterprise-logistic Belt Ltd.
Tourism	Joint tourist destination management and thematic routes
Labour market	Consultant office network on starting SME's and flow of human resources; EXPO-office
Health Care	Regional health care system
Energy policy	Joint energy agency for using renewable resources
Public transport	Joint public transport management system
Communication	Joint broadcast and regional bilingual television (Ister-Granum News Agency)
Civil society	Regional service system supporting NGO's

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You are welcome!



European Union
Erősebb Regionális Fejlesztésért