

STUDY TOUR OF THE CARPATHIAN EUROREGION

Organized by ICDT in the Framework of the
“Feasibility Study for Creating the Dniester/Nistru Euroregion” Project

7-12 June 2010
Ukraine and Hungary

European experiences have proven that the concept of cross-border/transfrontier cooperation and its formalized framework, the Euroregion is an appropriate instrument to find solutions for common problems in the context of cross-border cooperation and address locally important issues such as the environment, economic and infrastructure development, poverty, migration, people-to-people contacts, and thus transform the political agenda to impact the everyday life of communities in given border regions. With this program, ICDT continues to facilitate the process of the creating the Dniester/Nistru Euroregion comprising northern districts of Moldova, a district in southwest Ukraine and two districts of the Transnistrian region. The Centre assists the representatives of the districts and central authorities in identifying the specific legal and institutional prerequisites of creating the Euroregion. In order to build the capacity of local and national stakeholders and their understanding of the concept and practice of euroregions and other forms of cross-border cooperation, this five-day study trip was organized with the main goal of learning about the experiences, programmatic and organizational structure of the Carpathian Euroregion and discuss the applicability of the main findings in Dniester/Nistru Euroregion. Participants of the study trip included representatives of the central authorities and local territorial units and municipalities involved, as well as ICDT staff and Carpathian Foundation's program coordinator.

Day 1, Monday 7 June: Arrival to Uzhgorod

Arrival of participants, dinner

Day 2, Tuesday 8 June: Uzhgorod

Subject: Introduction to the Carpathian Euroregion, general presentation of the possible fields of cooperation, and an introduction to the initiatives of the Carpathian Euroregion.

Morning:

- Cross Border Cooperation in Europe by Mr. Sándor Köles, Senior Vice President, ICDT
- Introduction of the Ukrainian-Hungarian Local Area Development Centre (UMTI) by Mr. József Tarpai, Executive Director, UMTI (www.umti.org)

Afternoon:

- Meeting with Mr. Ernő Nuszer, President of the Ukrainian National Committee of the Carpathian Euroregion and his colleagues

Project site visit:

- Visit to one of the cross border development projects of the Ukrainian – Hungarian Local Area Development Centre

Evening:

- Sightseeing in Uzhgorod, and presentation by Mr. Sergey Ustich, Director, Institute for Cross-Border Cooperation, Uzhgorod
- Discussion and summary of the day by Sandor Koles, ICDT

Day 3, Wednesday 9 June: Arrival from Uzhgorod to Nyíregyháza

Theme: Introduction to the Carpathian Euroregion

- Presentation and discussion on cross-border economic Cooperation by Mr. András Rákóczi, Executive Director, KIÚT Local Area Development Association, Hungary

Afternoon:

Presentations:

- History and main characteristics of the Carpathian Euroregion by Dr. István Süli-Zakar, Chair, University of Debrecen Sociocultural and Regional Development Department, member of the Carpathian Euroregion Interregional Association Regional Council (www.szszbmo.hu/ce-regio)
- Operations of the Carpathian Euroregion: structure, organization and projects by Mrs. Brigitta Major László, Director, Carpathian Euroregion
- Discussion and summary of the day facilitated by Sandor Koles, ICDT

Day 4, Thursday 10 June: Nyíregyháza and Tokaj

Theme: Role of local municipalities in cross-border cooperation

Morning: Nyíregyháza

- Mr. István Román, Vice President of the General Assembly of Szabolcs – Szatmár – Bereg County, followed by sightseeing in Nyíregyháza

Afternoon: Tokaj

- Mr. János Májer, mayor of Tokaj on the role of local municipalities in cross-border cooperation

Evening:

- Presenting the Tarcas – Tokaji Wine Route project as a special way for promoting local products, tourism and building transfrontier partnership

Day 5, Friday 11 June: Eger, Egerszalók, Noszvaj

Theme: Introduction to the initiatives of the Carpathian Euroregion, the background, history and main activities of the Carpathian Foundation, Heves County and Eger city as an example for inter-sectoral cooperation

Presentations in the morning:

- Introduction of the Carpathian Foundation – Hungary, introduction to the cross-border projects by Mr. Roland Kelemen, project coordinator, Carpathian Foundation – Hungary (www.karpatokalapitvany.hu)
- Presentation on "civil house", "civil round table" and "civil gate" projects in Eger, as examples for cross border cooperation (www.civilhaz.eck.hu) by Mr. Ferenc Bárdos and és Mr. Péter Bodó Project Coordinators, Civil Services Centre of Heves County

- Introduction to the Heves County Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its current transfrontier projects (www.hkik.hu) by Mr. Sándor File, Director for Economic Development
- Presentation of Eszterházy Károly College – International Relations (www.ekf.hu) by Ms. Krisztina Szőke, International Relations Coordinator

Afternoon:

- Sightseeing in Eger
- Study trip evaluation session facilitated by Mr. Sándor Köles, ICDT

Evening:

- Dinner, meeting with Mr. László Habis, Mayor of Eger

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| Day 6, Saturday 12 June: Departure |
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Early morning departure from Eger