

Impact of PO4 projects on the ground

Employment & Inclusion across borders: project-based workshop from border to belonging

Interact / Košice (Slovakia), 21-22 April 2026

Interact



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



Reactivating rural economies across borders:

A Cserehát action plan model for jobs and local value chains

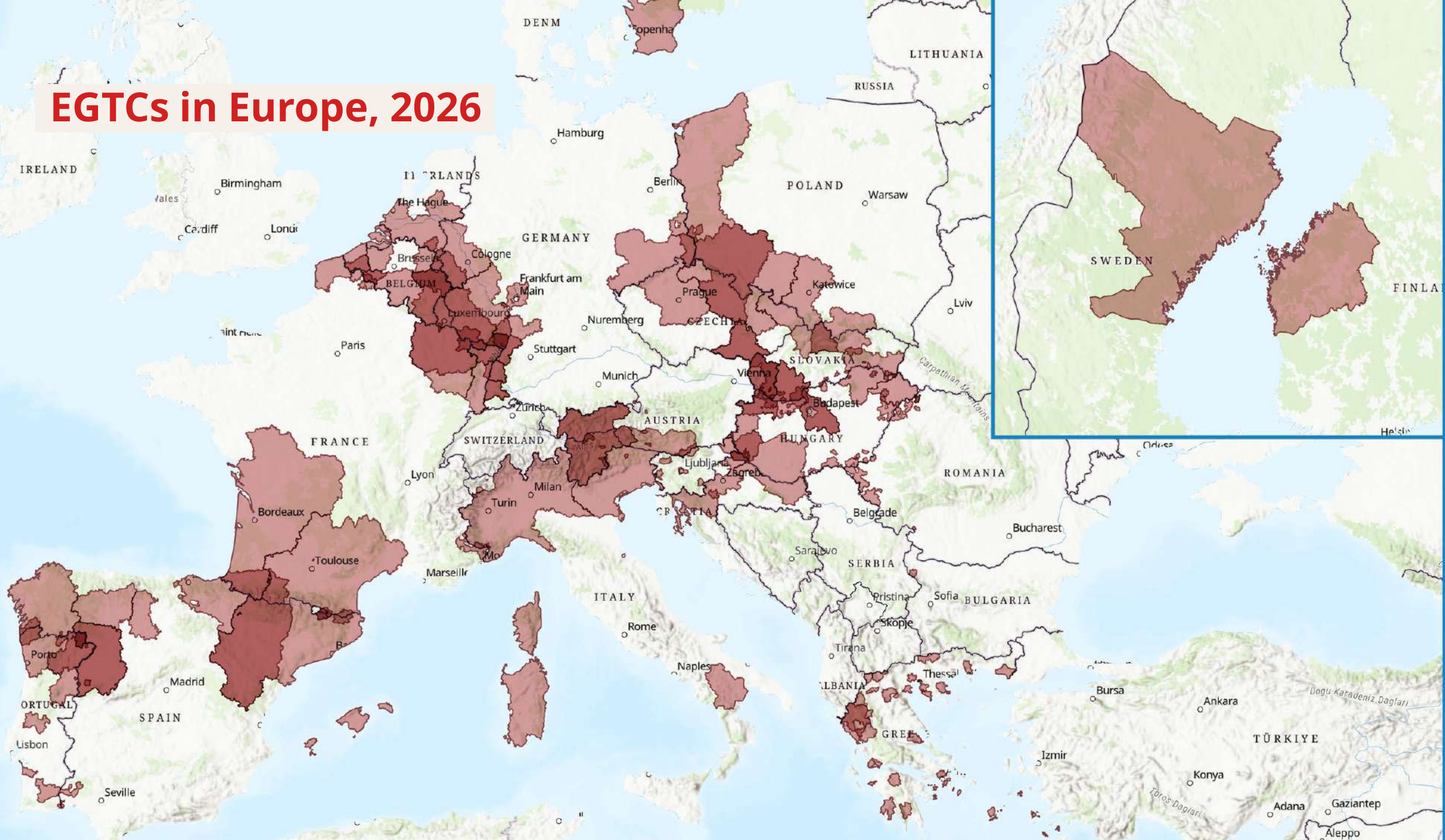


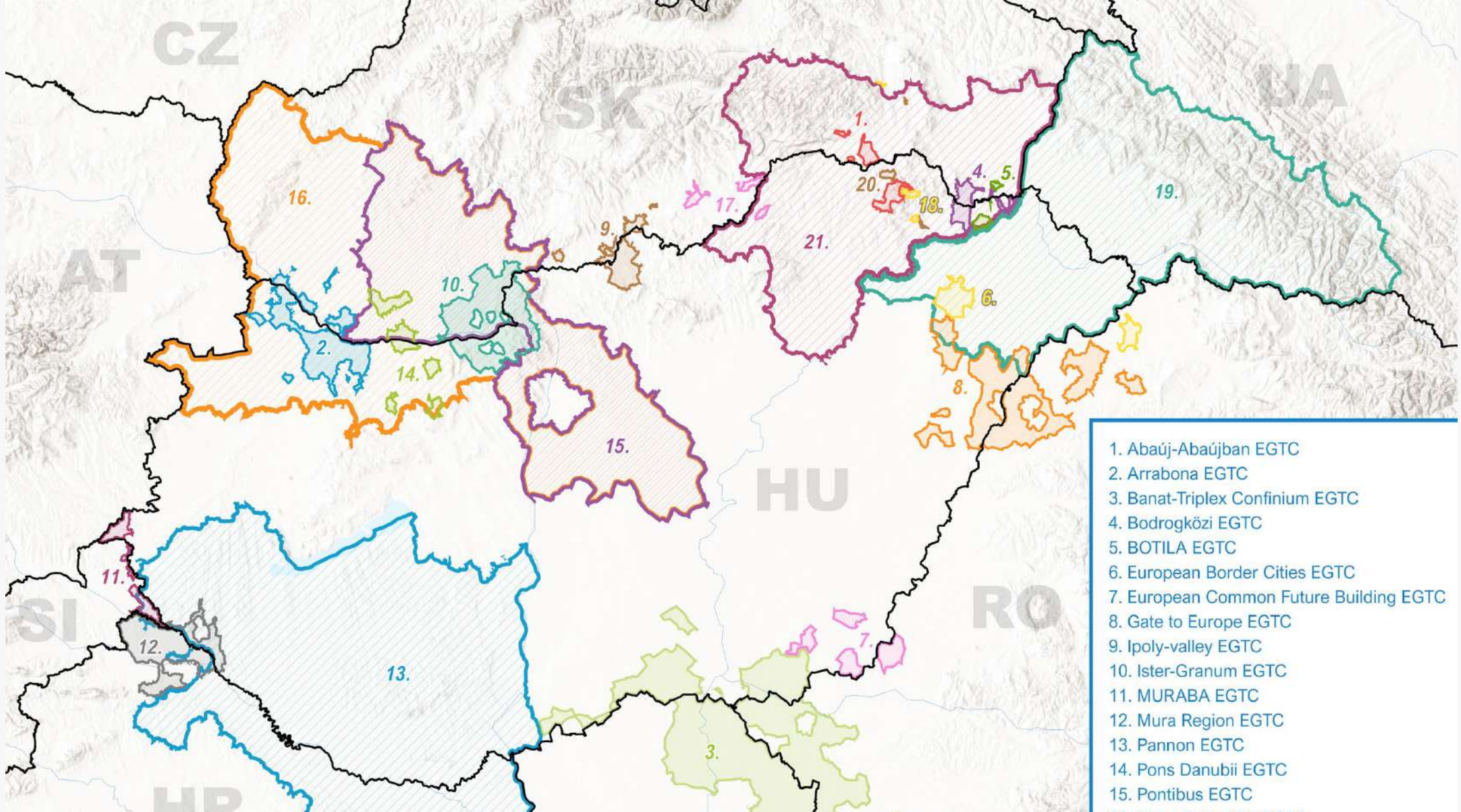


ACHIEVEMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND GOALS OF VIA CARPATIA EGTC

**EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION VIA
CARPATIA WITH LIMITED LIABILITY**

EGTCs in Europe, 2026





1. Abaúj-Abaújban EGTC
2. Arrabona EGTC
3. Banat-Triplex Confinium EGTC
4. Bodrogeközi EGTC
5. BOTILA EGTC
6. European Border Cities EGTC
7. European Common Future Building EGTC
8. Gate to Europe EGTC
9. Ipoly-valley EGTC
10. Ister-Granum EGTC
11. MURABA EGTC
12. Mura Region EGTC
13. Pannon EGTC
14. Pons Danubii EGTC
15. Pontibus EGTC
16. Rába-Duna-Vág EGTC
17. Slaná-Rimava EGTC
18. SVINKA EGTC
19. Tisza EGTC
20. TORYSA EGTC
21. Via Carpatia EGTC

EGTCs along the Hungarian borders, 2026



2026 EGTC Overview

Status in the EU, Hungary, Slovakia and along the Slovak–Hungarian border

European Union

86 active EGTCs

93 are listed in the official register

7 groupings have already ceased to exist

Slovakia

10 active EGTCs

20 have a Slovak member

3 ceased to exist out of 17 existing ones

Hungary

15 active EGTCs

26 have a Hungarian member

4 ceased to exist

Source: user-provided background material + official list of the European Committee of the Regions.

Why an EGTC Matters

Four practical advantages of a permanent cross-border cooperation body

EGTC

one permanent legal body for cross-border action

Strengths

A more strategic, coherent and visible model for cross-border cooperation

01

Institutional continuity

A standing body avoids rebuilding partnerships for every Interreg call. It retains knowledge of the territory, partners, languages and funding rules, lowering transaction costs and supporting long-term strategy.

02

Better project implementation

One legal entity can coordinate transport, cycling routes, tourism, heritage, health, education, social and environmental projects more coherently than separate institutions acting alone.

03

Stronger identity & visibility

An EGTC presents the border area as one cooperation space, helping attract EU funding, investors, visitors, universities and service partnerships while turning the border into an asset.

04

Practical service coordination

It helps connect urban centres and smaller rural settlements through better healthcare access, mobility, labour-market actions, youth and senior programmes, and destination management.

Challenges



Legal policy

Even one permanent body must work across two national systems. Different Slovak and Hungarian rules on procurement, state aid, labour and sectoral regulation can slow joint implementation.



Government

Large urban centres and smaller municipalities may not share the same priorities. Success depends on clear decision-making, fair cost-sharing and trust among all members.



Financing

Some EGTCs are active when EU calls are open but weaker between funding rounds. Long-term impact requires stable member support, operating resources and a role beyond project administration.



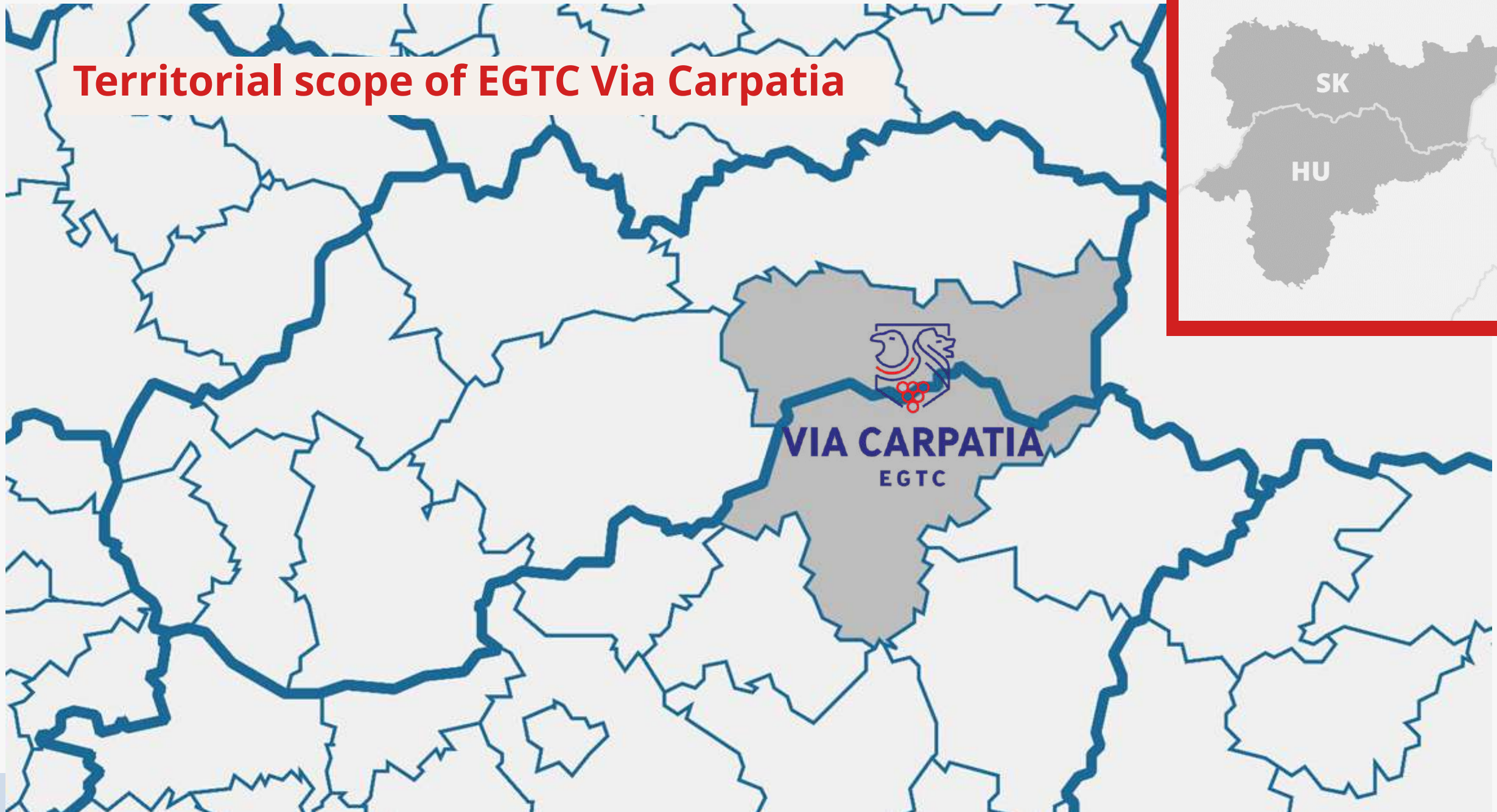
Administrative & language barriers

Different working cultures, approval procedures and language realities can delay reporting, coordination and delivery. Strong day-to-day management is essential.

EGTC

navigating cross-border complexity

Territorial scope of EGTC Via Carpatia





Dr. Boglárka Gál Bánné
President of the Via
Carpatia EGTC



Rastislav Trnka
Vice-President of the Via
Carpatia EGTC



Dr. Julianna Máté
Director of the Via Carpatia EGTC

Who are we?

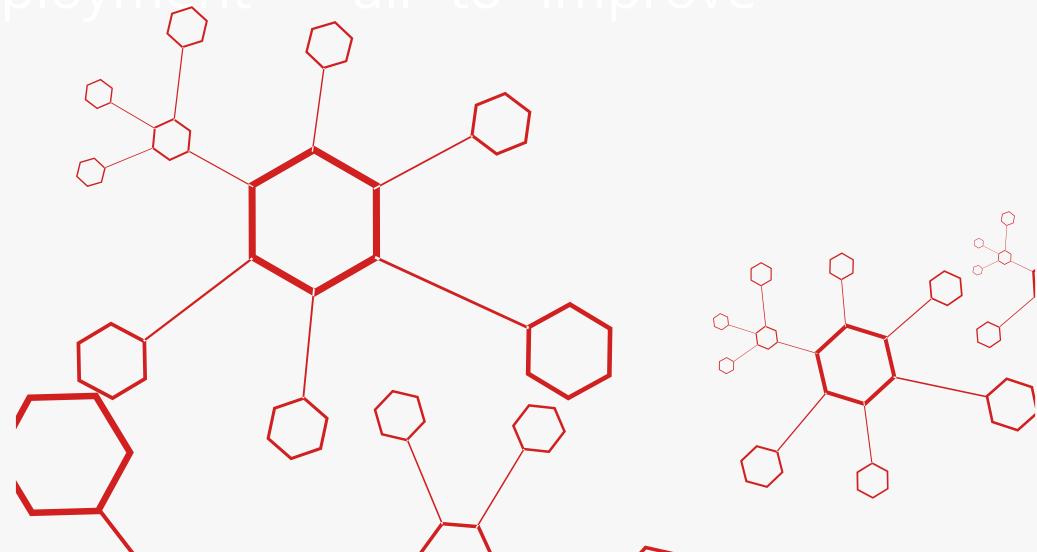
- The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Via Carpatia, with limited liability, established in 2013.
- Members :
 - Košice Self - Governing Region
 - Borsod - Abaúj - Zemplén County
- The grouping operates across a cross - border region inhabited by over 1.4 million people.
- It is one of the 8 active cross-border EGTCs in the Hungarian–Slovak border region.

Our Team



Our Mission and Actions Across Borders

Via Carpatia EGTC connects the regions of Košice and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén through **projects** – protecting the environment, supporting tourism, developing the silver and local economy, preserving historical heritage, and enhancing education and employment – all to improve people's lives.



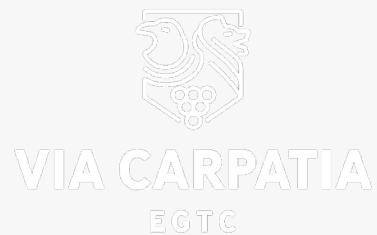
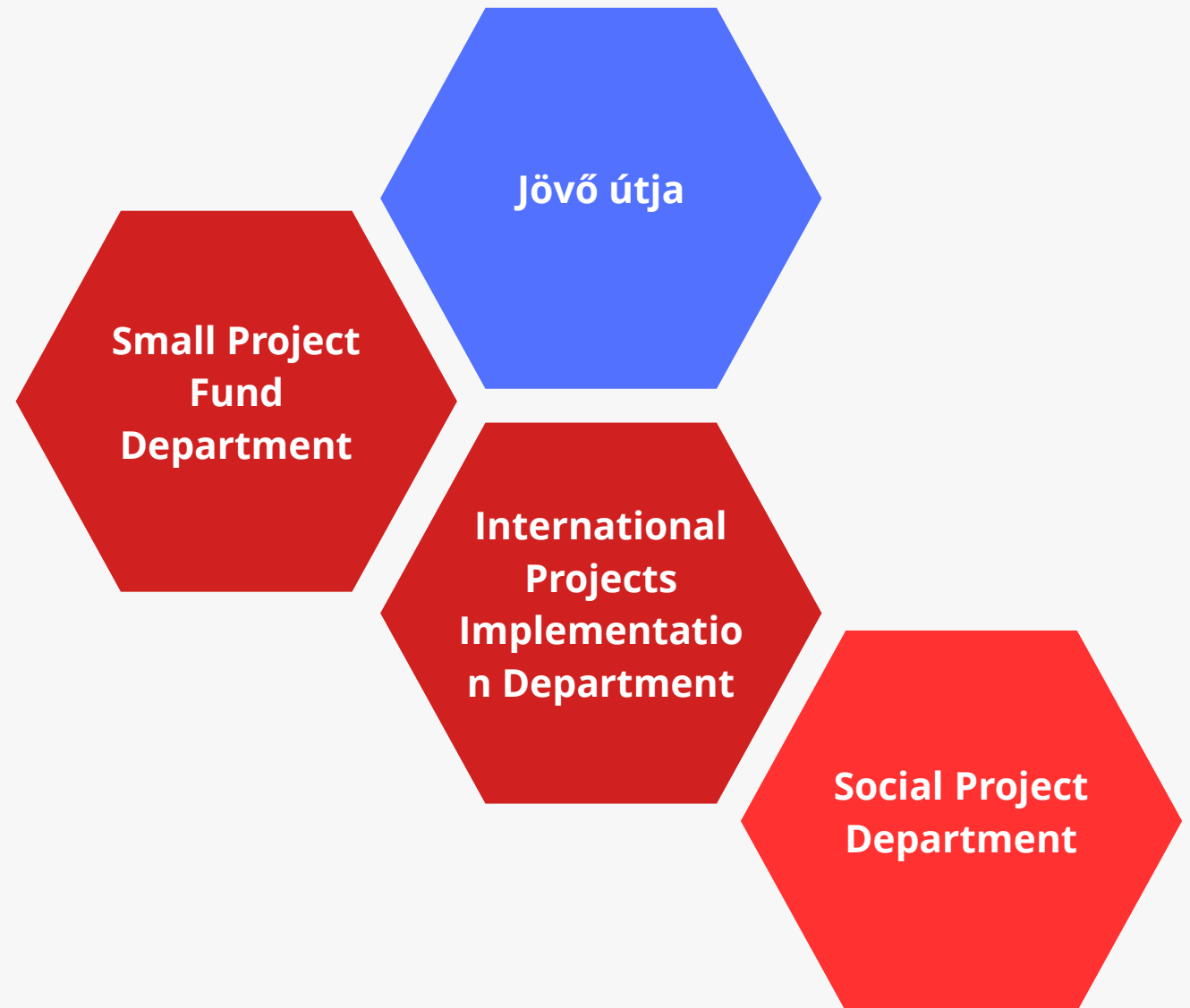
What we do?

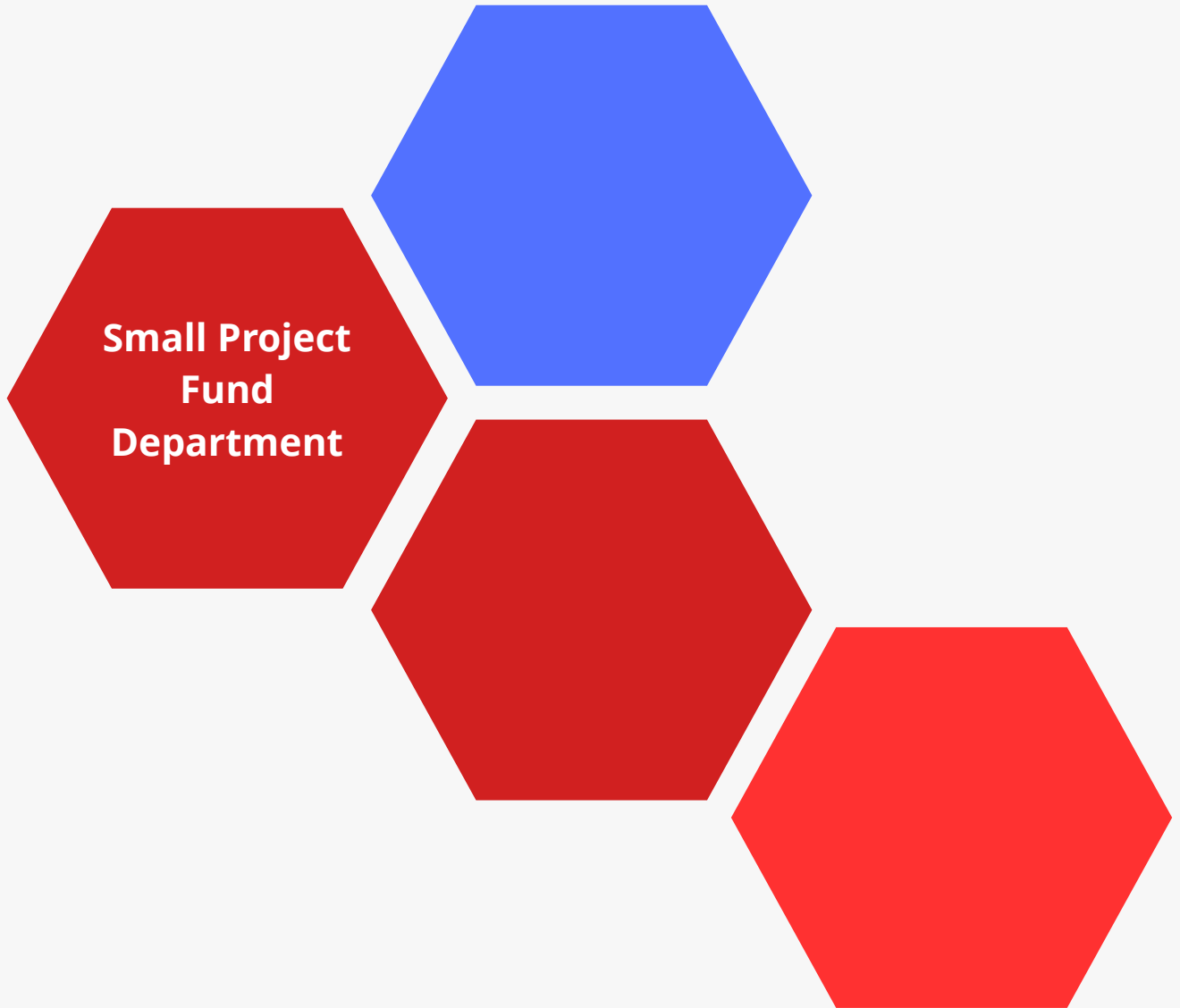
- **Support** cross - border, transnational and regional cooperation
- **Prepare and implement** national and international projects
- Manage the **Small Project Fund**
- Strengthen the region's economic and social **cohesion**
- Provide advisory and consultancy services in regional **development**

Action in numbers

- **1140** Jobs created
- **Each €1** invested in projects generated **€35** in value for the region
- **40** successfully completed international projects
- **Over € 20** million brought into regional development
- **Over € 40** million total budget implemented through projects with partners

Department Structure





VIA CARPATIA
EGTC

Organisational structure



Programming Department



Andrea Sedláček
Head of Department



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Veronika Kočíšová



Beáta Stašková



Kitti Üveges

Control section



**Tímea Gyenes
Havasi**



Jana Zábrazná



Small Project Fund (SPF)

Direct support for the Hungarian – Slovak cross – border area

Timeframe and Budget

First

programming period

2017 - 2023

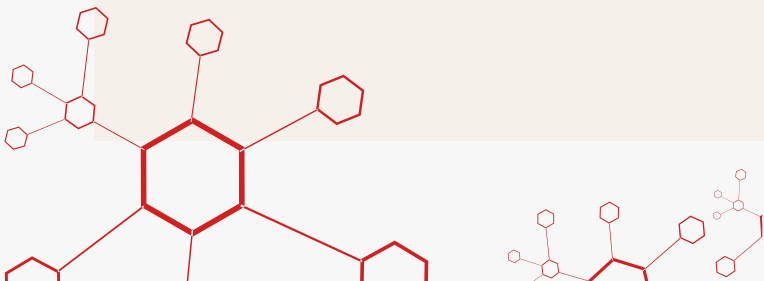
(6.2 million EUR allocated)

Second

programming period

2023 - 2027

(6.4 million EUR allocated)





Co-funded by
the European Union



VIA CARPATIA
EGTC



Small Project Fund (SPF)

Direct support for the Hungarian - Slovak cross - border area

Achievements of the First programming period (2017-2023)

- **127** projects supported in total
- a total of **29** infrastructural projects have been supported, representing an investment of over **€1.3 million**.
- A total of **98** cross - border events have been supported, with funding exceeding **€4.4 million**.
- **6** regions in the cross - border area

TRENDITION

Clothing without borders

Öltözködés határok nélkül

Odievanie bez hraníc



TRENDITION - Clothing without borders

www.trendition.hu

Öltözködés határok nélkül
ATTILA

TIRKA TAPALANA

IT ZÓNA_NŐ az IT 2019



Jazzy Days 2020 in Košice





YOUTH CAMP Bükkabrány

Achievements of the Second programming period so far (2023 - 2027)

- **2 Calls = 114 Projects = 114 Supported Events**
- **Current amount** of project funding: **2 794 010 €**
- **Remaining** amount of project funding: **2 369 541,05 €**
- **Types** of activities supported so far
 - camps
 - cultural events
 - festivals
 - conferece events and workshop
 - sports event
- **6** regions in the cross - border area

www.remeselnickyinkubator.sk
Interreg
Maďarsko – Slovensko



dujatie bolo podporené
ondu malých projektov
Programu Interreg
Maďarsko-Slovensko.



Rink
Remeselnický Inkubátor

prvý v Košickom kraji

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Remeselnický Inkubátor

www.remeselnickyinkubator.sk

Rink
Remeselnický Inkubátor

prvý v Košickom kraji

Rink

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Rink

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Rink
Oskar Szabo
Kláštor
výroba domácich sirupov,
šťavnatov, nápojov

Rink
Kláštor
výroba domácich sirupov,
šťavnatov, nápojov

Rink
Kláštor
výroba domácich sirupov,
šťavnatov, nápojov



Košice Region County Days in Rožňava



- Introduction
- History of VVV-Venlo
- Mission & Purpose VVV-Venlo
- Region Venlo Netherlands/ Germany/ Belgium
- Structure Education VVV-Venlo
- Scouting Talentplan/ Region
- What is talent/ Development stones
- Individual development/ Program
- Statistics

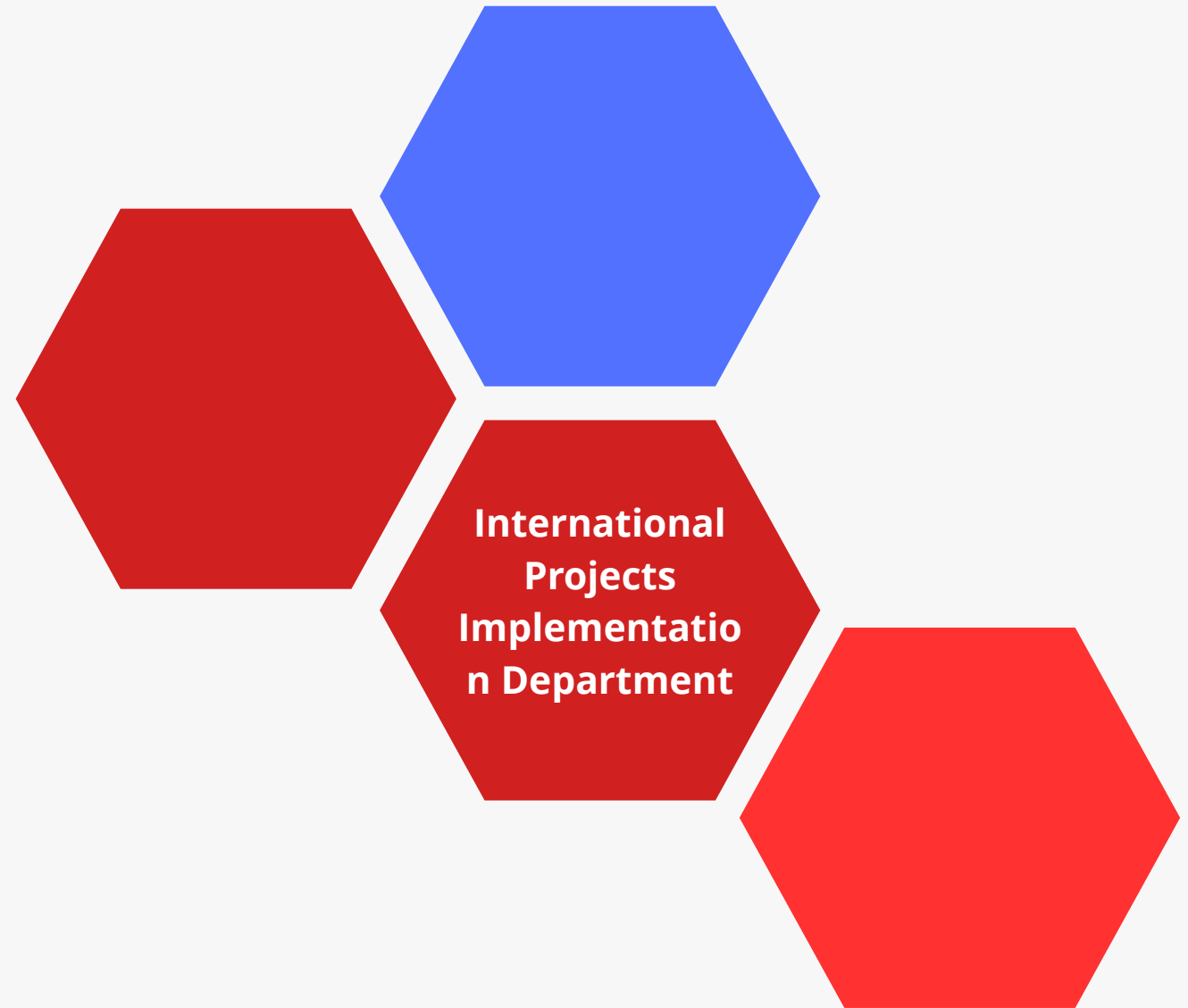
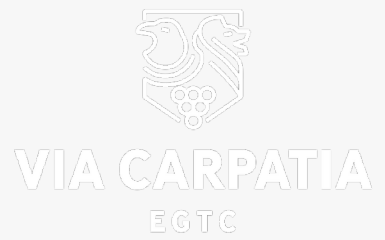
International Conference of Football Coaches in Košice

Festival on the Top of Novohrad



The Race Woman in Betliar Castle





Organisational structure



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Project managers



Iveta Kubeková



Daniela Kolcunová



Chiara Lőrinczová



CITYCIRCLE

Interreg Central Europe Programme



MENO

14% Postup v hre

200 Počet hlasov

 Gymnázium
Poštová

UKONČENÉ LEVELY:



Young4Climate
Norway Grants

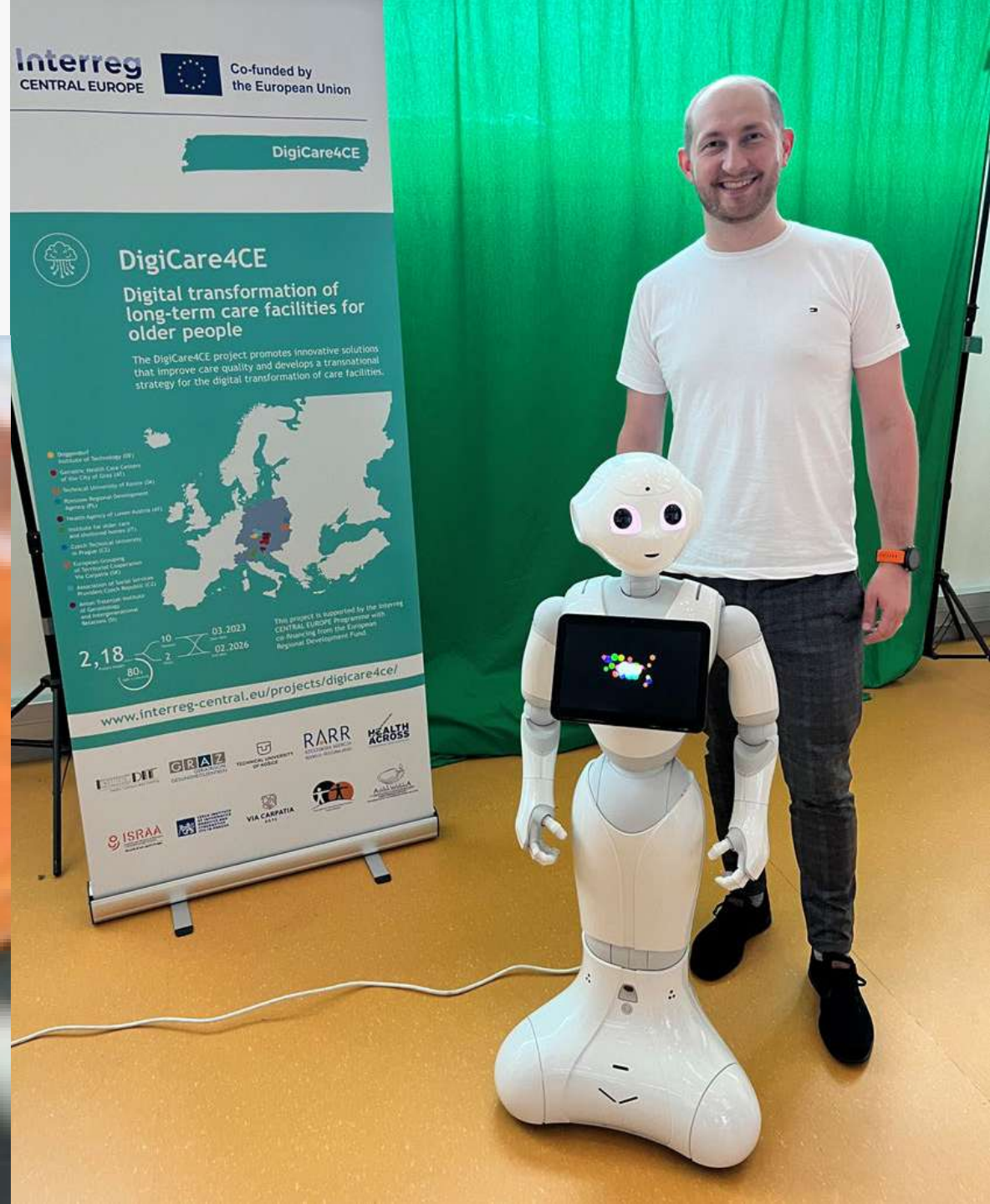



Norway
grants



DigiCare4CE

Interreg Central Europe Programme






REHEATEAST
Interreg Danube Region Programme



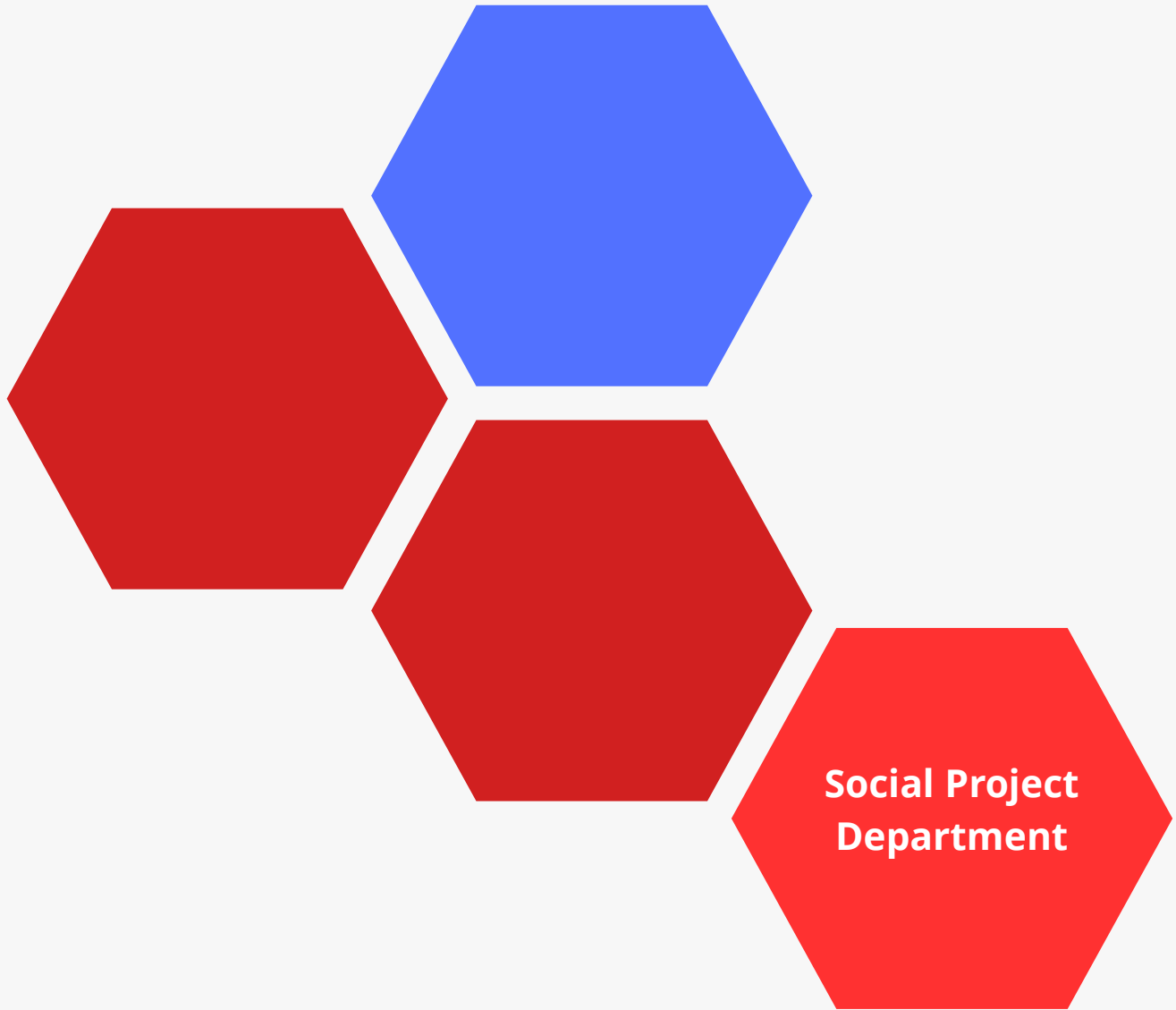


SAFETY4TMF
Interreg Danube Region Programme



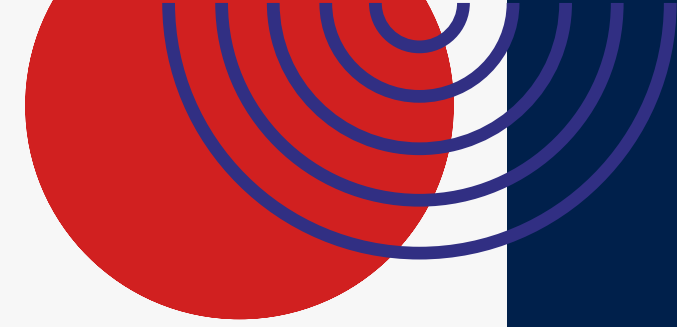
A map of Europe with a dark grey background. Numerous red pushpin markers are scattered across the continent, indicating various locations. In the center of Europe, there is a graphic of a field with green grass and a blue sky. A semi-transparent grey box with red text is overlaid on the right side of the map.

**We build partnerships and cooperation
over 600 partners all over the Europe**



VIA CARPATIA
EGTC

Organisational structure



Lectors



Ildikó Szegedyová
Senior Project Manager



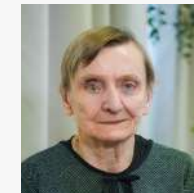
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Katarína Čápková
Project Manager





Centrum
aktívneho
starnutia

POŽIARNY UZÁVER

Toalety
Sprcha





nonprofit organisation



JÖVŐ ÚTJA

● ● NONPROFIT KFT. ● ●

Organisational structure



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Monika Szalay

Project Manager



JÖVŐ ÚTJA

● ● ● NONPROFIT KFT. ● ● ●



Renovation work on almost 200-year-old Patay mansion in Abaújszántó



Build and Promote Local Image

ETT 24 - "Educated team - the key to success"





VIA CARPATIA
EGTG



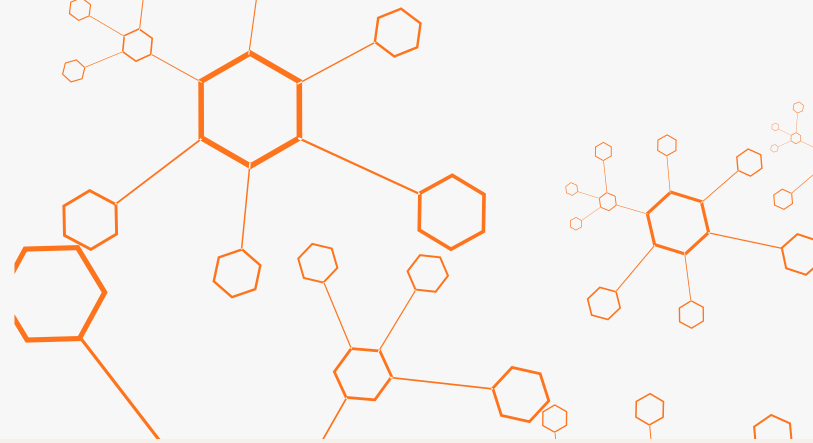


Territorial Action Plan for Employment (TAPE)

EMPLOYMENT CROSS-BORDER ACTION PLAN OF THE CSEREHÁT MICRO-REGION

- **Program: Interreg V - A SK - HU**
- **Title: Employment Cross - border Action plan of the Cserehát micro - region**
- **Duration: September 2019 - June 2022**
- **Budget: 4 438 314, 37 EUR**
- **Partners: 15**

Activities



- **establishment** of new multi purpose centres
- **establishment** of new plants for processing agricultural products
- creation of **market places**
- establishment of a **regional brand**
- establishment of a **network of local producers**
- **organization** of local markets and agro events.

What Was Created

Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment
Fruit Juice and Roasted Seeds Factory in Gagypáti



Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment
Pumpkin Oil Factory, Buzica



Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment Factory for Cabbage Processing in Hidasnémeti



Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment
Gesto Gelato & Pastry, Košice – Made from Local Products



Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment Markets in Encs and Moldava nad Bodvou



**Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment
Markets in Hidasnémeti and Buzica**



**Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment
Market in Gagyvendégi and St. Stefan's house, Curia in Gagyvendégi**



**Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment
Through renovation to education**



Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment

Find your way to the labour market



ÖNÉLETRAJZ Méno a priezvisko: Užívajte meno, ktoré je súčasťou rodnej. Tento sa, akore môže uviesť o sobošovom, prajete žia osobných dokladoch. Nestavajte skrátené formy mena alebo doméca odovznanie.

VEZETÉKNÉV, KERESZTNÉV
Cím/TELÉFON/EMAIL/FAX

Cím - Pri uvádzaní adresy nemôžete použiť žiadu zbytočnú prídavnú meno, akúkoľvek roľnku, Slovenskú republiku.
Telefón - Uvádzajte v medzinárodnom formáte
Naprič: +421 902 234 567
Email - Elektronická adresa by mala byť reprezentatívna, vyhnite sa nevhodným názvom, h. prajzvkam.
ROD - Vprazadáku sa uvádzajú ho prajete, vrátane dňa, mesiaca, roka, informáciu môžete uviesť vo formé roku narodenia, alebo uvedenia veku. Máte to prajhodnotiť jako informáciu o sebe nevadávať, naprič: 32 rokov.



TAPE Today 2026

Factories

Fruit Juice and Roasted Seeds Factory in Gagyapáti

- In the recent period, Cserehát-Völgy Kft. focused on
 - **dry food packaging and seed roasting**
 - Dsupin János (sole trader) produce and **package fresh fruit juices.**





Factories

Pumpkin Oil Factory, Buzica

- The project remains active, with annual pumpkin cultivation and oil pressing, producing approximately **500–1,000 liters per year**, sold directly to customers.
- Production is affected by dry weather conditions; **future plans include diversifying production (e.g., poppy seed oil)** and expanding the use of facilities.



Factories

Project TAPE - Territorial Action Plan for Employment Factory for Cabbage Processing in Hidasnémeti

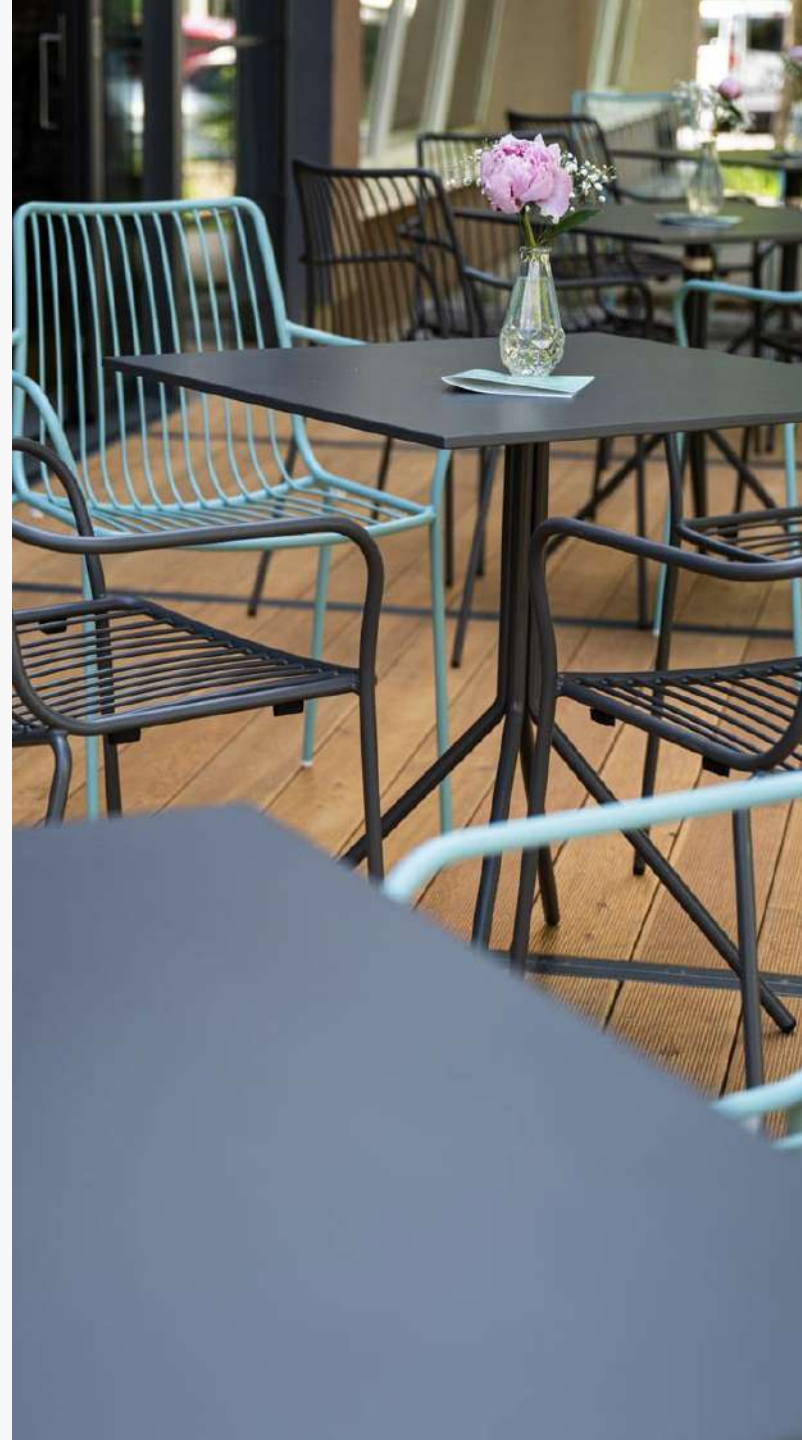
- Continuous large-scale production of **fermented cabbage with high capacity (16 fermentation tanks)**
- Strong production performance: approx. **2,250 tons of cabbage processed and 900,000+ packaged products**



Factories

Gesto Gelato & Pastry, Košice – Made from Local Products

- Retail and production space in Košice enabling on-site production **from local ingredients** and direct sales, supported by professional **gastro equipment**.
- Exploring off-season use of facilities, with **plans to expand into bakery production** when ice cream is not sold.



Markets



**Encs & Moldava nad Bodvou;
Hidasnémeti & Buzica; Gagyvendégi**

- Markets remain active and regularly operating – **markets are held monthly or even weekly**
- Strong community dimension – the spaces are used not only for selling, but also **for events, concerts, and community gatherings**
- Support for local producers – regular participation of several vendors (approx. 7–10) and a **wide range of local products** (food, crafts, cosmetics).
- Practical benefit: markets have helped organize and **regulate street selling**, creating better conditions and facilities for both vendors and visitors.









Local Image cserehat.eu



- Digital marketplace connecting local producers directly with customers, supporting farm-to-table sales.
- **120+ producers involved**, proving strong real-world use and long-term sustainability.
- **Boosts visibility and cross-border market access for small local producers.**



CSEREHÁT Výrobcovia Produkty Trhoviská Atlas Inzercia Blog Kontakt SK

alebo si vyberte kategóriu produktu

- Včelie Produkty
- Mäso
- Mäsové Výrobky
- Zelenina
- Ovocie
- Spracovaná Zelenina
- Spracované Ovocie
- Ryby
- Mlieko A Mliečne Výrobky
- Syry
- Oleje A Tuky
- Obilniny A Obilninové Výrobky**
- Pekárske Výrobky
- Vegánske Výrobky
- Vajcia
- Tuky Živočíšneho Pôvodu
- Strukoviny
- Zemiaky
- Huby
- Orechy A Semená
- Koreniny
- Cukrovinky
- Džem
- Vínne Produkty
- Bylinky
- Destiláty

Jelenlegi piacterek



Piactér Buzitán faluban

Egyedi esemény

A Piactér Buzitán minden hónap második szombatján nyitva tart. A helyi piacon lehetőség van különféle helyi és regionális termékek beszerzésére közvetlenül a helyi termelőktől. További információért kattintson az alábbi linkre: <https://obecbuzica.sk/hu/aktuality/kategorizatlan/jarny-farmarsky-a-remeseln-trh-2/>



Szepsi piactér

Egyedi esemény

A Szepsi piac minden hónap harmadik szombatján tart nyitva. A helyi piacon lehetőség van különféle helyi és regionális termékek beszerzésére közvetlenül a helyi termelőktől. További információért kattintson az alábbi linkre: https://kulturamoldava.sk/hu/stec_event/klobasovy-festival/



Gazdapiac Encs

Egyedi esemény

Az Encsi termelői piac minden csütörtökön üzemel. A helyi piacon lehetőség van különféle helyi és regionális termékek beszerzésére közvetlenül a helyi termelőktől. További információért kattintson az alábbi linkre: <https://www.encs.hu/?module=news&action=show&nid=262515>



Piactér Hidasnémeti községben

Egyedi esemény

Hidasnémeti község piaca a hónap minden szombatján nyitva tart. A falu helyi piacán több helyi termék előállítását, valamint a környező régió egyéb különlegességeit megtalálhatják az érdeklődők. További információért kattintson az alábbi linkre:

Vajcia

Tuky Živočíšneho Pôvodu

Strukoviny

Zemiaky

Huby

Orechy A Semená

Koreniny

Cukrovinky

Džem

Vínne Produkty

Bylinky

Destiláty

Od najnovšieho ↕





Renovation and Education

- **Secondary Vocational School – Moldava nad Bodvou**
 - **Development Centre – Encs**
- **Actively used electro-lab for weekly professional training** + 2 workshops for unemployed
 - Improves access to hands-on education – **no need to commute to Košice**
 - **Active**, sustainable centre – **no longer used only for trainings**
- 25 trainings, ~200 participants, 10+ partners**
- Flexible space for business development, workshops and community activities, adapting to regional needs



A decorative graphic consisting of orange lines connecting various hexagonal shapes, resembling a molecular or network structure. The word "SOCIAL" is written in red, bold, uppercase letters, partially overlapping the graphic.

SOCIAL

House of St. Stephen in Gagyvendégi

- The facility is used for lectures and educational activities
- **targeted training for marginalized groups**, helping them develop everyday life skills and **support their integration into daily life and society**

It is a subject to an on-site visit today.

What Will Be Created



Territorial Action Plan for Tourism

- **Program:** Interreg HU - SK
- **Title:** Make GMR Great Again
- **Acronym:** #gemer
- **Implementation Timeframe:** 40 months (Start date: 01/05/2026)
- **Total Budget:** 3 838 315,92 EUR
- **9 Partners**



Territorial Action Plan for Tourism

- **NON-profit development project (NDP): #gemer2**
- **Marketing project (MCP): #gemer**
- **Coordination and communication (CCP): #gemer**

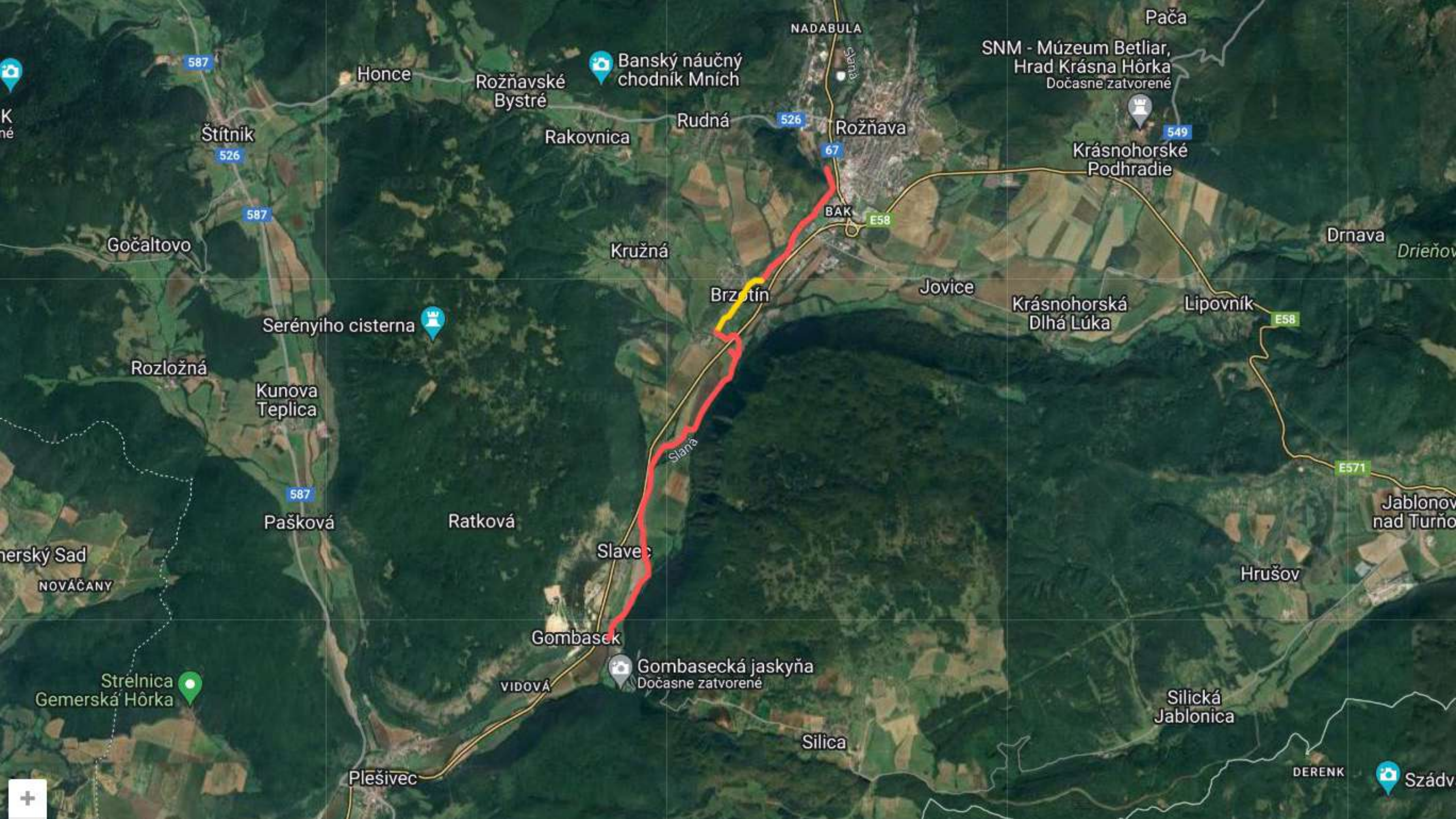


Territorial Action Plan for Tourism - Activities

- **Panoramic observation tower in Jablonov nad Turňou (Szádalmás)**
- Rocky lookout point of Baradla
- **Zipline in Gombasek (Gombaszög)**
- Cycling road in Košice county
- **Andrássy Art Gallery – Krásnohorské Podhradie (Krasznahorkaváralja)**
- “Rosszgyár” - Historic iron foundry in Bretka (Beretke)
- **Historic apple orchard in Gombasek (Gombaszög)**
- Museum of the Historic Watermill - Kováčová (KisKovácsvágása)
- **Edelény Castle**
- Bebek Chapel in Plešivec (Pelsőc)







NADABULA

Pača

SNM - Múzeum Betliar,
Hrad Krásna Hôrka
Dočasne zatvorené

Banský náučný
chodník Mních

Honca

Rožňavské
Bystré

Rudná

Rožňava

549

587

Štítnik

526

Rakovnica

Krásnohorské
Podhradie

Gočaltovo

Kružná

Drnava

Drieňov

Serényiho cisterna

Brzotín

Jovice

Krásnohorská
Dlhá Lúka

Lipovník

E58

Rozložná

Kunova
Teplica

587

Pašková

Ratková

Slavec

E571

Jablonov
nad Turňou

Nováky

NOVÁČANY

Hrušov

Strelnica
Gemerská Hôrka

Gombasek

Gombasecká jaskyňa
Dočasne zatvorené

VIDOVÁ

Silica

Silická
Jablonica

Plešivec

DERENK

Szádov





“What can be solved today must not wait until tomorrow.”

**“Responding promptly by connecting regions brings real solutions
here and now.”**



VIA CARPATIA

EGTC



Territorial Action Plans for Employment

Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme

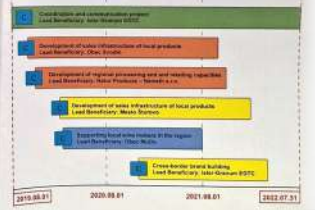
Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme operates in the financial framework of European Union funded by the European Regional Development Fund in 2014-2020. The Programme aims to promote good neighbourly relations, foster stability, security and prosperity in both member states and to encourage their harmonious and sustainable development in mutual interest.

PA1 - Nature and Culture	67,3 m €
PA2 - Enhancing cross-border mobility	22,5 m €
PA3 - Employment and labour mobility	34,6 m €
PA4 - Enhancing institutional cooperation	21,8 m €
PA5 - Technical Assistance	9,4 m €
Total budget of the programme (ERDF)	155,8 m €



The third priority axis of the Programme aims to promote the sustainable quality employment and to support cross border labour mobility. In the programme area reached more than 20%. This phenomenon was determined by the border. Neighbouring Slovak and Hungarian counties had very similar conditions. The side effects of the unemployment, poverty, migration and aging population were serious and are still present in these counties.

Stakeholders had to precisely identify the needs and possibilities of the target area and design comprehensive interventions with an overall objective to create new jobs and enhancing the cross-border labour mobility. Since these interventions are difficult to deal within a single project, Applicants had to create interrelated group of projects including hard and soft elements. Each TAPE had to contain 3 up to 8 project proposals which are in synergic or complementary relation.



In 2013 the programme management bodies started to design a completely new funding method, which might be able to reflect different territorial needs and challenges, guarantee the viability of the supported projects and connects the public and private sector in order to create new working places.

As a result of the two round competitive Call, Programme funds the realization of 9 different action plans and 47 projects around the Programme area promoting sustainable and quality employment and cross-border labour mobility.

The new development and selection procedure was based on a joint cross-border development plan called Territorial Action Plan for Employment (TAPE). The foundation of the Action Plan was the carefully outlined target area. The area had to be geographically continuous including territories of both member states and had to form coherent geographical, economic and social unit that is suitable to deal with challenges of the labour market of certain clusters of economic activity.



TAP-Territorial Action Plan

An innovative solution for Interreg Slovakia Hungary



Territorial Action Plans for Employment (TAPE)

Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary
Cooperation Programme

- Funded by the EU European Regional Development Fund (2014–2020)
- Goals: good neighbourly relations, stability, security, and sustainable development
- Total programme budget: **155.8 m €**
- Key priority areas: Nature & Culture, Mobility, Employment, Institutional Cooperation

TAPE Methodology & Results

Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme

- In 2011, unemployment in central/eastern border counties exceeded 20%
- 2013: New funding method designed to address territorial needs and connect public & private sectors
- TAPE required a geographically continuous target area spanning both member states
- Each TAPE contained 3–8 interrelated projects (hard + soft elements) in synergy
- Result: 9 action plans and 47 projects funded across the programme area
- Objective: Sustainable employment and cross-border labour mobility



Reconnecting producers and communities across borders:

Local markets, a model for rural employment activation

"If I give work, I give dignity — even if I cannot always give a livelihood."
— Dr. Gál, Szépcserehát project



Cross-border rural areas face shared structural challenges — and shared solutions

- After the end of socialist farming, land was concentrated in few hands — machinery replaced village labour, leaving communities without work or purpose
- Unemployment in the Cserhát / Cserehát border region exceeded 20% — matched by poverty, migration, and an ageing population
- Previous EU projects trained craftspeople (basket-weavers, potters, blacksmiths) — but when funding ended, the work disappeared: "They had a trade, but not a job"
- Modern facilities for processing local products established — from pumpkin seed oil to sauerkraut (Trnka / EGTC Via Carpatia)
- The EGTC Via Carpatia connected tradition with innovation, digital tools, and cross-border partnerships to create lasting jobs

SLOVAKIA SIDE

Buzita school, Szepesi market → cross-border brand building

HUNGARY SIDE

Encs market, Cserehát local producers → regional processing capacity

Five multifunctional market squares — more than trade, a catalyst for community

- **Economic layer:** Buying, selling, and bartering local products — "I once traded a Bible for five kilos of tomatoes" — keeping value within the community
- **Social layer:** Surplus goods redistributed to those in need; benches placed face-to-face to encourage unhurried conversation
- **Education layer:** Every market day, a local school is invited — children create and exhibit handmade products, learning craft and enterprise together
- **Cultural layer:** Folk dance, male choirs, cimbalom music, honey-cake festivals — markets tied to community celebrations, not the commercial calendar
- **Employment impact:** Two young men inspired by the market bought a *csűrös* (traditional press) and now travel fairs — a direct job creation story



Heritage as an engine for jobs:

The WineCellars cross-border experience

"Heritage is not a museum — it is a living resource. When we invest in it carefully, it invests back in the people who keep it alive."

— Synthesised from the WineCellars project objectives, Interreg Slovakia-Hungary



Reviving centuries-old wine culture to generate sustainable rural employment

- **Two UNESCO-linked sites** activated: Hercegkút (Hungary) — part of the historic Tokaj wine region — and Malý Horeš (Slovakia), with its distinctive andesite stone cellars
- Total investment of **€945,608** (85% ERDF-funded) to upgrade infrastructure, accessibility, and visitor services — without altering the character of historic buildings
- Physical upgrades included paved walkways, gastronomic pavilions, social spaces, tourist apartments, a new car park, and an electric vehicle charging station
- Local wine organisations engaged to care for traditions and manage the development sites — embedding community ownership from the start
- New tourism programmes and services created to reach wider audiences and diverse target groups across both sides of the border

From cellar to livelihood: what the WineCellars model delivers

- **Rural identity strengthened:** investment preserved the authenticity of historic sites while making them economically viable for local communities
- **Local employment created:** new tourism services, gastronomy, and visitor programmes generate jobs and income for residents and small producers
- **Environmental care embedded:** reducing negative environmental impact and preserving natural areas were explicit project priorities alongside economic goals
- **Cross-border cooperation as the lever:** neither village alone could have built a destination — the partnership created a joined-up cultural tourism circuit
- **Replicable formula:** identify shared heritage, upgrade with light-touch infrastructure, involve local producers, create new programming — and protect what makes the place irreplaceable



Addressing ageing in border regions:

A cross-border model for integrated senior services



Active Ageing Centre

EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION VIA CARPATIA WITH LIMITED
LIABILITY



Active Ageing Centre
#SKHU Ambassadors

Our Mission and Actions Across Borders

*„Supporting **seniors** to remain independent in their home environment for as long as possible while promoting **active leisure**, strengthening mental and physical **well-being**, enhancing quality of life, and **fostering community connection**.“*

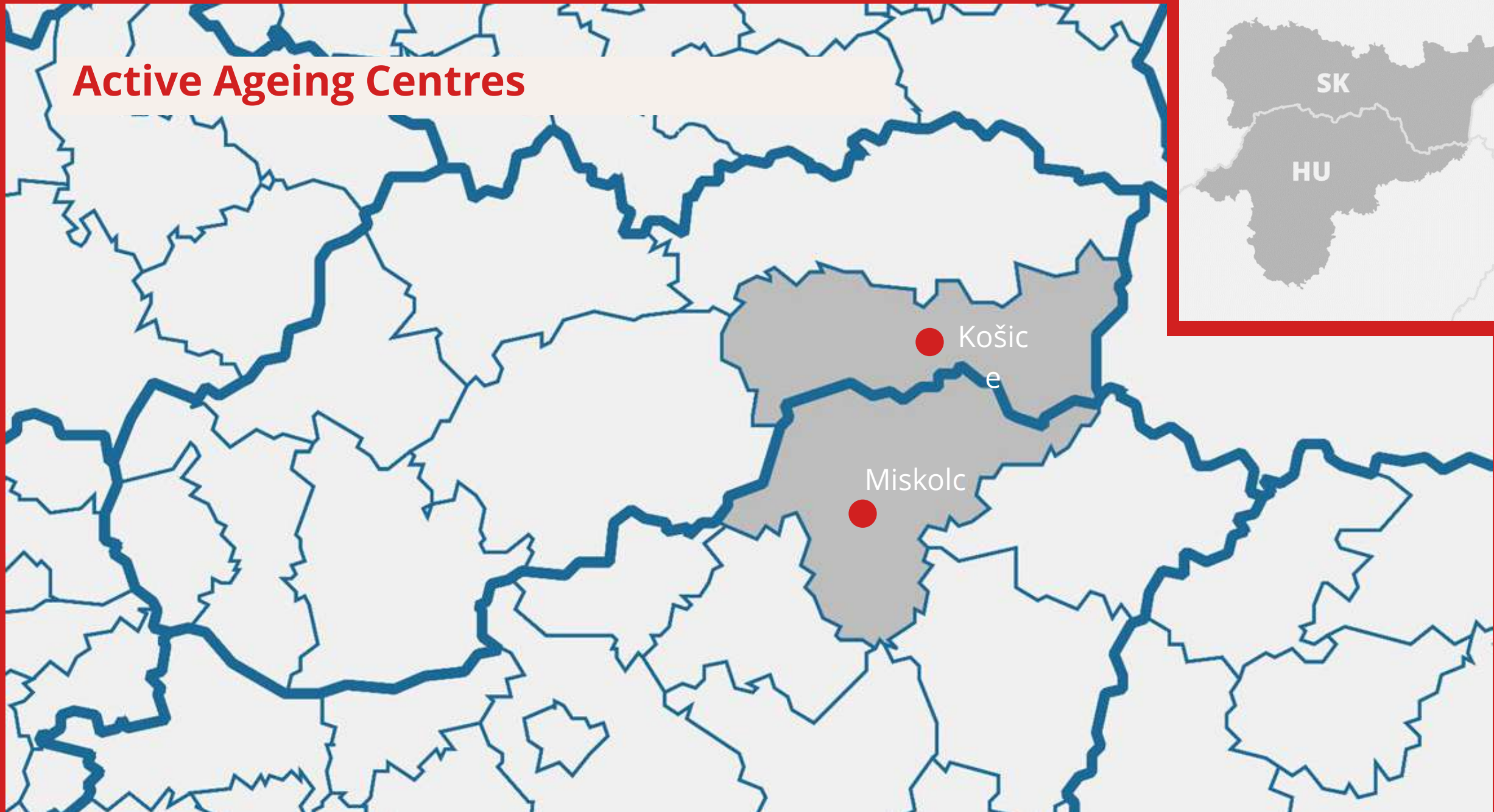


Active Ageing Centre
#SKHU Ambassadors

SKHU Ambassadors

- **Program: Interreg V - A Slovakia Hungary**
- **Title: Active ageing - Create a cross border team of ambassadors in order to improve the quality of life for Slovak and Hungary seniors**
- **Total budget: 195 942,00 EUR**
- **ERDF Contribution: 166 550,70 EUR**
 - **Budget Via Carpatia EGTC: 101 210,00 EUR**
 - **ERDF Contribution: 86 028,50 EUR**
- **Partners: EGTC Via Carpatia (Slovakia)
BORA 94 (Hungary)**

Active Ageing Centres



Košice

Miskolc

SK

HU

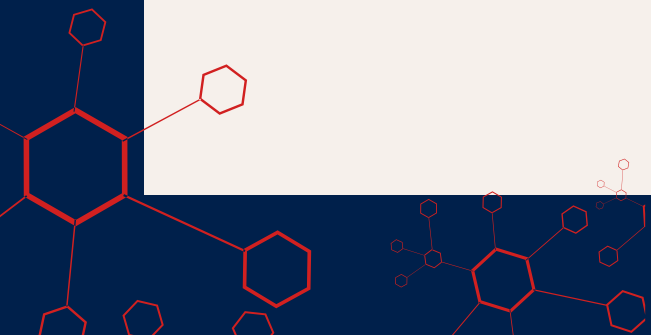
Cross border character of the project

Active Ageing Centre in Košice

Budget: 86 028,50 EUR

Active Ageing Centre in Miskolc

Budget: 80 522 EUR



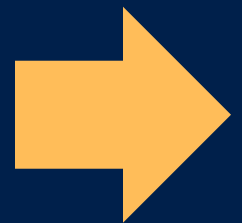
Origin of the idea



VIA CARPATIA
EGTC

I CARE-
SMART

Interreg Central Europe



Project SKHU Ambassadors

Interreg V - A Slovakia Hungary



Active Ageing Centre
#SKHU Ambassadors

Organisational structure



Ildikó Szegedyová
Senior Project Manager



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Katarína Čáповá
Project Manager

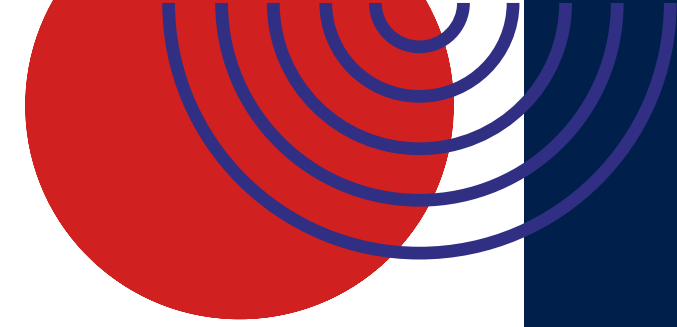


+421 907 768 598



katarina.capova@viacarpattia.eu

Organisational structure Lectors



Main goals reached

Improving the quality of life of seniors in Slovakia and Hungary

- Opening of the Center 06.06.2022
- Opening the terrace 05.06.2024
- Online reservation system from 01.05.2025
- Part of new Erasmus + project - Bridging Paradigms from 01.11.2025



Action in numbers

2022

- **50** members
- **20** weekly activities involves members
- **11** activities per month

2026

- **1001** members
- **200** weekly activities involves members
- **70 +** activities per month

The oldest member is a **102-year-old woman**

Offices



Košice



Miskolc

Interior spaces in Miskolc



Interior spaces in Košice



Interior spaces in Košice - Gym





Lecturers

- Active members of the center who lead activities
- Currently: **42 active lecturers**

Schedule

PONEDELOK	UTOROK	STREDA	ŠTVRTOK	PIATOK
		1 Cvičenie 9:00 Anglický jazyk 10:00	2 ZATVORENÉ	3
6	7 ZATVORENÉ	8 Zdravotné cvičenie 8:00 Cvičenie 9:00 Anglický jazyk 10:00 Arteterapia 10:15 Arteterapia 13:00	9 Výlet Zdravotné cvičenie 8:00 Čchi-kung 9:15; 10:30 IT experti 10:00 BIO klub 13:00	10 Ozdravné cvičenie 8:30 Arteterapia 9:00 Zdravá výživa 9:30 Nordic walking 10:00 Záhradkárčenie 10:00
13 Tvárová joga 8:00 Nemecký jazyk 9:00 Cvičenie 9:00 Tanec 10:30	14 Joga 09:00; 10:45 IT 8:30 zač., 10:30 pokr. Nordic walking 10:00 Prehliadka 13:00 Háčkovanie 13:00	15 Cvičenie 9:00 Zdravotné cvičenie 8:00 Anglický jazyk 10:00 Finančná hra 10:00 Arteterapia 13:00	16 Zdravotné cvičenie 8:00 Čchi-kung 9:15; 10:30 IT experti 10:00	17 Výlet Ozdravné cvičenie 8:30 Zdravá výživa 9:30 Nordic walking 10:00 Záhradkárčenie 10:00 Arteterapia 9:00
20 Tvárová joga 8:00 Nemecký jazyk 9:00 Cvičenie 9:00 Tanec 10:30 Prednáška 13:00	21 ZATVORENÉ	22 ZATVORENÉ	23 Čchi-kung 9:15; 10:30 IT experti 10:00 Prednáška 13:00	24 Ozdravné cvičenie 8:30 Arteterapia 9:00 Nordic walking 10:00
27 Tvárová joga 8:00 Nemecký jazyk 9:00 Cvičenie 9:00 Tanec 10:30 Prednáška 13:00	28 Výlet Joga 09:00; 10:45 IT 8:30 zač., 10:30 pokr. Nordic walking 9:00 Háčkovanie 13:00 Spoloč. hry 13:00	29 Pohyb v rytme 8:00 Cvičenie 9:00 Anglický jazyk 10:00	30 Výlet Čchi-kung 9:15; 10:30 IT experti 10:00 Financie a seniori 13:00	

Je potrebné sa prihlasovať na každú aktivitu vopred z dôvodu kapacity miestnosti!

 cas@viacarpattia.eu
 +421 907 768 598
 Bačíkova 7, 040 01 Košice
 Centrum aktívneho starnutia
 viacarpattia.eu
 caskosice.eu
 Konzultačné hodiny osobne
 UTOROK A PIATOK: 8:30 - 10:00
 ŠTVRTOK: 10:30-12:00

VIA CARPATIA EGTC	CVIČENIE	APRIL 2026	IT KURZY
Posilňovacie cvičenie s Palkom (mierne náročné)	JOGA Joga s Angie každý utorok o 9:00 a 10:45		Dvojmesačný kurz každý utorok a štvrtok, zameraný na zlepšenie IT zručností.
Relax a oddych pre tvár a telo s Grétkou	TVÁROVÁ JOGA		NEMECKÝ JAZYK Konverzácia v nemeckom jazyku pre začiatočníkov s Ingou
Čínske liečebné cvičenie s Ivetkou	ČCHI-KUNG		ANGLICKÝ JAZYK Konverzácia v anglickom jazyku pre začiatočníkov s Adkou
Tanečno-fitness cvičenie, ktoré spája latinsko-americké rytmy s jednoduchými pohybmi s Grétkou	POHYB V RYTME - NOVINKA		VÝLETY A PREHLIADKY 09.04. Kežmarok + Strážky s Palkom
Dve skupiny: so Silvi "Nordic aktiv" v Lesoparku Furča - utorok s Andrejom "Nordic pohoda" v Mestskom parku pri stanici - piatok	NORDIC WALKING		14.04. o 13:00 návšteva Štátnej vedeckej knižnice - Vizsolyiská Biblia a vzácne tlač 16. storočia s Marienkou
Naučíte sa rôzne druhy tanca s Nikou každý pondelok o 10:30	TANEC		17.04. Turniansky hrad s Ferkom
10.04 o 9:30 Kurací šalát s Ondrejom	ZDRAVÁ VÝŽIVA		28.04. Obišovský hrad so Zsuzsu
17.04. o 9:30 Cícerové kari s batátmi v kokosovom mlieku a bulgurom s Ági	HAČKOVANIE		30.04. Čermeľ - Horný Bankov - Terasa so Zorkou
Dynamické a relaxačné cvičenie, kde sa precvičí, ponaťahuje a posilní celé telo s Ági	OZDRAVNÉ CVIČENIE		ZÁHRADKÁRČENIE 10.4. a 17.4. úprava a skrášlenie záhrady centra
15.04. o 10:00 Finančná hra s Nadou	FINANCIE A SENIORI		PREDNÁŠKY A BESEDY 20.04. o 13:00 "Zdravé" a "nezdravé" potraviny pod drobnohľadom
30.04. o 13:00 Financie a seniori - vážne a veselo s Nadou	HÁČKOVANIE		23.04. o 13:00 Podvody a bezpečnosť s políciou
14.04. a 28.04. o 13:00 Háčkovanie drobností pre predčasniatka a háčkovanie ďalších užitočných predmetov			27.04. o 13:00 Tradičná čínska medicína - emócie a trpezlivosť
			BIO KLUB Záhradkárské témy - jarne práce, prednášky o pestovaní, balenie bylín a ďalšie činnosti
			ARTETERAPIA 08.04. o 10:15 Decoupage s Palkom
			08.04. o 13:00 Vyšívané záložky so Zuzkou
			10.04. o 9:00 Maľovanie pre radosť s Valikou
			15.04. o 13:00 Knižná tvorba - POP UP knižné karty so Zdenkou
			17.04. o 9:00 Stromčeky šťastia s Markou
			24.04. o 9:00 Kožené kľúčenkys s Ondrejom

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Reservation system



Our activities

- Strength training
- Health exercise
- Recovery exercise
- Physiotherapy
- Čchi-kung
- Dancing
- Joga
- Nordic walking
- Trip
- Crafts and Crocheting
- Cooking
- Gardening
- IT course
- English and German language
- Lectures and discussions
- Travel talks
- Quizzes and concerts
- Finance

Exercise



Exercise



Dancin

g



Jog



Nordic walking



Socializing through tourism



Socializing through tourism



Crafts



Flower arranging



Leatherworking

Crafts



Embroidery



Creating handmade books

Crafts



Decorating gingerbread cookies



Felting

Crafts



Painting



Macrame

Cookin

g



Cookin



Crocheting



Crocheting



Gardening



IT courses



IT courses



Language lessons



English lesson



German lesson

Lecturers and discussions



Travel talks



Cultural and special activities



Košice National Theatre



Presidential Library

Cultural and special activities



Constitutional Court



East Slovakia Museum

Concerts



Workshops and lecturers



Quizzes



Collaboration with other partners

Intergenerational connection



**Deutsche telekom IT
Solution Slovakia**



Kindergarden



Regional Public Health Office



Botanical Garden - Plant Swap



The Slovak Red Cross



MINISTERSTVO

VNÚTRA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



EKF TUKE



VŠEOBECNÁ
ZDRAVOTNÁ
POISŤOVŇA



NÁRODNÁ
BANKA
SLOVENSKA
EUROSYSTÉM



Úsmev ako dar

aby rodina
zostala spolu



REGIONÁLNY
ÚRAD VEREJNÉHO
ZDRAVOTNÍCTVA
SO SÍDLOM V KOŠICIACH



Knižnica pre mládež
mesta Košice

Cross-border visits between Košice and Miskolc







Thoughts from our seniors



Pavol, 67 y.o.: *"It helps me stay socially connected and keeps me busy in my free time. Exercise helps me keep my body healthy and my mind active."*



Silvia, 64 y.o.: *"I've made new friends and learned new things; these activities help her stay mentally active and acquire new skills."*



Zdenka, 72 y.o.: *"Nordic walking and health exercises have helped me improve my physical and mental health."*

Interest in our centre among seniors is **steadily growing**

Continuing Social Priorities Through New Projects



Bridging Paradigms – Enhancing the Psychosocial Well-being of Older Adults through Digital Literacy

- Bridging Paradigms helps older adults improve their digital literacy and psychosocial well-being.
- The project develops training materials, prepares trainers, and turns day centres into local learning hubs.
- It supports social inclusion, lifelong learning, and confident use of digital tools.
- The project is supported and implemented under the **Erasmus+ programme**, funded by the European Union.

Where can you find us?

Active ageing centre in Košice

Bačíkova 7, 040 01 Košice

E-mail: cas@viacarpattia.eu

Phone number: +421 907 768

598

Facebook: Centrum aktívneho
starnutia

Web: viacarpattia.eu

caskosice.eu



**We can't change the fact that
we will all grow old one day,
but we can change how we grow old!**



Active Ageing Centre
#SKHU Ambassadors



VIA CARPATIA

EGTC



Empowering producers, sustaining communities:

Rural agrifood as a driver for jobs

LESSON FOR POLICYMAKERS

Hard infrastructure (a factory) only creates lasting jobs when paired with soft support: market access, branding, producer networks, and a private operator with skin in the game.

LESSON FOR PROGRAMME DESIGNERS

The TAPE structure — requiring interlinked projects rather than isolated grants — forced the factory, the market squares, and the digital platform to work as one system, not three unrelated investments.



The sauerkraut factory in Hidasnémeti — from a cross-border idea to a working production line

€1.49M

Total project budget

€1.07M

ERDF contribution

2

Cross-border partner enterprises

16

Fermentation tanks in operation

- Part of the **Cserehát TAPE** (Territorial Action Plan for Employment) — a cross-border initiative to create lasting jobs by linking local agricultural production with processing capacity
- **Lead partner:** Tesz-Team Kft. (Hungary) built the sauerkraut processing factory in Hidasnémeti; **Slovak partner:** Agentúra GES (Košice) created a confectionery using local ingredients — two businesses, one shared strategy
- Factory foundation stone laid **May 2021**; opened **May 2022** — built from scratch in a rural border village with virtually no prior food processing infrastructure
- The Horváth family, as owners and operators, represent the core model: **private entrepreneurship supported by EU cooperation funds**, embedding a family business into a regional value chain
- Supported through Priority Axis 3 of Interreg SK-HU — specifically targeting **reduction of employment inequalities** across border regions

A family-run agrifood business as a template for rural economic activation

- **Production at scale:** approximately 2,250 tonnes of cabbage processed per year and over 900,000 packaged products — significant output for a village-level enterprise in a structurally weak region
- **Local sourcing as a chain:** the factory creates demand for locally grown cabbage, connecting farmers and processors into a functioning rural value chain — the cross-border brand cserehat.eu links both sides with 120+ producers
- **Continuity beyond the project:** the factory remains in active, continuous large-scale production — demonstrating that the TAPE model can outlast the funding cycle when private ownership is embedded from the start
- **Replication on the Slovak side:** the Gesto Gelato & Pastry in Košice (local ingredients, city-facing market) shows how the same logic works across different geographies and product types
- **The formula:** identify an underused agricultural resource → build processing capacity with EU co-funding → hand ownership to a local family → connect to a cross-border brand and market network

5 Main Take Aways

1. Projects only last when communities own them Earlier rounds trained craftspeople but left no jobs when funding ended. What survived the TAPE cycle was rooted in people and private commitment — the Horváth family's factory, Dr. Gál's market square, the Horš wine cellars — not in budgets.
2. Agrifood and heritage are underutilised engines of rural employment. 2,250 tonnes of cabbage processed, 900,000+ products packaged, centuries-old wine cellars turned into tourism destinations. Local resources — when connected to processing capacity, branding, and markets — create real, lasting jobs without relocating people.
3. Cross-border cooperation turns local limits into regional assets. Neither Hidasnémeti nor Buzica, neither Hercegkút nor Malý Horeš could have built a value chain alone. Every €1 invested by EGTC Via Carpatia generated €35 in regional value. The border is not a barrier — it is the partnership's raw material.
4. Social inclusion must be built into economic projects from the start. Active Ageing Centres grew from 50 to 1,001 members in 4 years. Targeted training at Gagyvendégi reached marginalised Roma communities. The market squares served as redistribution points. Employment activation that ignores vulnerable groups simply displaces the problem.
5. Territorial Action Plans are the model to scale — not single projects. The TAPE methodology — geographically continuous, 3–8 interlinked projects, combining factories, markets, training and branding — delivered 9 action plans and 47 projects. A new Tourism TAP (#gemer) is already launching. The structure, not just the funding, is what works.



"What can be solved today must not wait until tomorrow — responding promptly by connecting regions brings real solutions here and now."
— EGTC Via Carpatia · closing message, Košice 2026

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

[Interact / Events / Employment & Inclusion across borders: project-based workshop from border to belonging \(21-22 April 2026\)](#)