

İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ★ INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**EVALUATION OF JOINT SMALL PROJECTS IN BORDER
REGIONS IN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION**

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Programme: Regional Planning

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İSTANBUL TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ ★ FEN BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

**AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ İLE BÜTÜNLEŞME SÜRECİNDE
KÜÇÜK ÖLÇEKLİ PROJELER FONUNUN
DEĞERLENDİRİLMESİ**

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PREFACE

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ABBREVIATIONS:

AEBR:	Association of European Border Regions
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBC:	Cross-border Co-operation
CoE:	Council of Europe
EC:	European Commission
EGTC:	European Groupings of Territorial Co-operation
EMU:	European Monetary Union
ENPI:	European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument
ERDF:	European Regional Development Fund
ESF:	European Social Fund
ETC:	European Territorial Co-operation
EU:	European Union
IPA:	Instrument for Pre- accession Assistance
JSPF:	Joint Small Projects Fund
NAFTA:	North American Free Trade Agreement

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AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ İLE BÜTÜNLEŞME SÜRECİNDE KÜÇÜK ÖLÇEKLİ PROJELER FONUNUN DEĞERLENDİRİLMESİ

ÖZET

‘AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ İLE BÜTÜNLEŞME SÜRECİNDE KÜÇÜK ÖLÇEKLİ PROJELER FONUNUN DEĞERLENDİRİLMESİ’ başlıklı tezin amacı küçük ölçekli sınır ötesi işbirliği projelerinin yerel topluluklar üzerindeki etkilerinin değerlendirilmesidir. Genelde küçük ölçekli işbirliği projelerinin, özelde de AB’nin Küçük Projeler Fonu ile gerçekleşen projelerin yerel toplulukların kalkınmasında ve AB ile bütünleşmesinde olumlu yönde rol oynadıkları iddia edilmektedir.

Projelerin hedefleri ve bütçeleri ekonomik kalkınmanın birinci öncelik olarak ele alınmasını engellediğinden bu çalışma, küçük ölçekli projeleri özellikle sosyal ve ekonomik anlamda sınır bölgelerinde yaşam kalitesinin arttırılmasına yönelik basit katkıları yönünden incelemektedir. Küçük ölçekli işbirliği projelerinin bütünleşme sürecine olumlu yöndeki katkısının üç temel sebebi olduğu iddia edilmektedir. Öncelikle ortak sorunları çözmek ya da insanların hayat kalitelerini iyileştirmeye yönelik yapıları sınırın iki tarafındaki insanların birbirilerini tanımalarına ve sorunlar karşısında birleşmelerine olanak sağlamaktadır. İkinci olarak ortak ilgi alanları olan insanları buluşturmakta yardımcı olarak karşılıklı etkileşimleri arttırırlar ve son olarak da toplumun farklı kesimlerinin (öğrenciler, doktorlar, sanatçılar, kadınlar vs.) işbirliği sürecine dahil olmasını teşvik ederek bütünleşmenin neden olabileceği olumsuz etkileri azaltırlar. Bu amaçla fon desteği ile uygulanan projeler hakkında farklı Avrupa ülkelerinin deneyimlerini kapsayan, 9 farklı sınır bölgesinden 78 projeden oluşan bir araştırma yapılmış ve varsayımları desteklemek amacı ile bir anket düzenlenmiştir. Sonuçlar ana hipotezin doğrulamasını sağladığı gibi fona dair bazı eksikliklerin tespit edilmesinde de yardımcı olmuştur.

SUMMARY

This study of 'EVALUATION OF JOINT SMALL PROJECTS IN BORDER REGIONS IN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION' aims to evaluate small projects in terms of their impacts on local communities. It is argued that small co-operation projects in general and more specifically the Joint Small Projects Fund (JSPF) of the European Union have a special importance in the development of border regions and generating integration among local communities bordering each other.

Due to the scope and budget of the projects, general economic development has been left to further investigation thus this study mostly focused on exploring to reveal simple improvements in peoples daily lives, either economically or socially. It is found that in terms of integration, the small projects positively support the process in three ways. It is designed based on problem solving or improving the quality of life of local people through innovative activities, which enables people of two sides of the border to let to know their similarities and unite against common problems. Second, it helps people in meeting others with similar interests, which increase the level of interaction. Third, it has capability to avoid the negative impacts of integration by fostering participation, and encouraging all parts of border society, for example, students, women, sportists, hunters, doctors and the like, to be involved in projects. For this purpose, first a case study with 78 beneficiaries of the Fund from 9 different cross-border regions among Europe was realized to verify aforementioned impacts. Then a questionnaire was designed and applied as a supplementary. The findings proofed the main hypothesis and indicated some shortcomings of the fund in terms of evaluated objectives as well.

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization has a problem with the idea of nation state, specifically in the issues of sovereignty, centralization and solid borders (**Paasi, 1998; Anderson and O'Dowd, 1999**). The changes in economic and social demands from different components of society and technologic breakthroughs put things in a different manner, in which the nation state remains 'too big for small problems, and too small for big problems' (**Virtanen, 2004**). Establishing and strengthening ties between supra national or global and sub- national or regional is the base of that dilemma. In other terms nation states are in between supra national organizations like European Union (EU) and sub-national regions, who are seeking for more autonomy in order to survive in a world of competition. As **Hurrell (2007)** argues 'the age of economic globalization, has also been the age of regionalization', but not of nationalism. Aforementioned ties bound not only geographic and politic units, but also societies and individuals. One of the possible ways to integrate international society passes through communicating and acting together with neighboring regions, especially in international terms. This is how cross- border co-operations (CBC) at regional level emerge in the international arena. They have become bridges by linking neighboring societies and binding them to a more complex and a large-scale structure (**Perkmann, 2006**). However, the concept of CBC naturally includes an administrative component, which forces a hierarchical structure of participation among different governmental bodies (**Özgen, 2005**) especially when large scale projects are considered. Thus their implementation is largely an administrative process, which rarely involves local societies. Hence the notion of being bridges and bonds occurs as a result of implementation of the projects

1.1. CONTEXT AND HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Among several types of CBC, small scaled projects differentiate from the others by adopting a participatory approach that involves not only local administrative authorities, but also different local actors, such as non-governmental organizations, schools, commercial unions etc. into co-operation process. In addition they do not focus on to generating economic development, but increasing

integration through people-to- people actions. Thus the implementation period itself serves for establishing 'bonds' and 'bridges' for integration and adaptation to global society. However the issue of how do they affect local societies in terms of integration and adaptation, and accordingly how does an individual contribute to them have not been addressed in the literature. The study specifically focused on EU and border regions of EU where several projects have been realized with the support of Joint Small Projects Fund (JSPF). The fund desires additional importance, since it operates since 2003 in Turkey, Thus the investigation of projects realized with the support of the fund may help to analyze one of the first practical attempts of Turkey's EU integration process.

This study is an attempt to explore and understand the affects of CBC projects realized under the support of Joint Small Projects Fund (JSPF) of EU to local communities and peoples daily live by questioning and analyzing the efficiency of the Fund in terms of promoting valuable projects for development and integration in border regions. This can be referred to the development of a comprehensive approach to be used in the analysis of the small co-operation projects applications.

As its main hypothesis this study argues that participating in projects realized under the JSPF may not only have a significant contribution to the integration of local communities at border sides but also pave the ground for the development and institutionalization of integration policies aimed by the EU. This was thought to be occurred in various ways. First, JSPF is has a structure based on problem solving or improving the quality of life of local people through innovative activities, which both enable people of two sides of the borders to let to know their similarities and unite against common problems. Second, it helps people in meeting similar interests with others, which may increase the level of interaction. Third, it may have capability to avoid the negative impacts of integration by fostering participation, and encouraging all parts of societies at the borders, for example, students, women, sportists, hunters, doctors and the like, to be involved in projects. Last it may be used as an effective instrument to stimulate the development and to keep consistency in applying the policies at border regions.

1.2. AIM OF THE STUDY AND THE METHODOLOGY

This study aims to evaluate projects realized with the support of the JSPF, in terms of how do they contribute to European integration by having direct affects to peoples daily live in terms of integration, development and participation, while they also supply their continuity.

To do so we have structured the research as follows;

1. A comprehensive literature review related to EU policies for CBC and applications of JSPF has been carried out via various sources including websites, electronic databases, projects booklets published in Internet etc. A page of the booklets has been attached as a sample in app. C. The general structure of the booklets consists of an introduction, usually made by official bodies, and a main part where one page per each project is reserved. These booklets usually aim to make former projects known into the eyes of potential candidates for future projects, thus to help them to improve their ideas. Since one page could represent the whole sample, and the average size of the booklets is more than 30 pages, only the first page of the booklet for Hungary- Austria for the year 2001 was attached to the appendix.
2. 78 projects varied from 10 countries of 9 different cross border regions were reviewed and classified according to their objectives in integration, development, participation, continuity and institutionalization as well as sector divisions.
3. A structured questionnaire survey to measure the integration, the development, the participation and the continuity/institutionalization was designed as a supplementary tool to confirm the conclusions drawn by revision of 78 projects. The questionnaire was sent via e-mails to all 78 JSPF beneficiaries whose projects were revived.

The study consists of six main chapters including the introductory one. Second chapter will present the CBC issue in general in terms of definitions, literature, different scales and geographies. The aim was to define the place of the concept of CBC in world politics. Third chapter focuses on EU in terms of CBC. An introduction to EU concerning its global role, regional politics and structural scheme and the EU's main approaches and tools for CBC were investigated and presented. In fourth chapter, among various tools for CBC, the JSPF has been evaluated. Fifth chapter covers the case study, while the final chapters contain conclusions and discussion.

2. CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION

Cross border co-operation (CBC) has been defined as “... any concerted action designed to reinforce and foster neighborly relations between territorial communities” in the European outline convention on transfrontier co-operation (1980). **Schmitt Egner's (2000)** definition is ‘organized trans-national interactions between neighboring regions on both sides of the border for preserving, steering and developing a common space of living’. **Boman (2006)** handles with the issue from an administrative point of view, ‘neighborly co-operation in all areas of life between regional and local authorities along the border and involving all actors’. **Perkmann (2006)** also supports that argument: ‘cross-border co-operation can be defined as a more or less institutionalized collaboration between contiguous sub national authorities across national borders’.

As a short summary CBC has an international mission on sub- national level. Improving neighborly relations through intensive action in any field is the main goal, while the type of action and sectoral differentiation is on secondary importance. As **Scott (2003)** argues ‘the routinization of dialogue and the strengthening of decentralized channels of communication’ are the most important short term priorities for CBC Involving local authorities in international relations is another crucial point of these actions, while advanced levels of involvements could turn in to trans- national integration. ‘For that purpose CBC should be perceived as a new trans-national space of action by the people of the both sides of the border, and should be used effectively in social and economic actions’ (**Schmitt- Egner, 2000**).

2.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF CBC IN THE WORLD POLITICS

The Council of Europe argues that CBC should be used for the purpose of maintaining an adequate level of dialog, promote balanced social and economic growth and avoid any feelings of new divisions in Europe (cited from **Ricq, 2006**). The complementary relationship between CBC and local democracy has also been found place in the literature. **Ricq (2006)** argues that effective CBC requires strong local self government; on the other hand every CBC means strengthening and furthering local democracy. He takes his argument

one step further with the idea of 'transfrontier democracy' as a guarantee for peace, stability, cohesion and solidarity for the whole of Europe. **Vazquez- Castillo (2001)** stresses the vulnerability of the border areas, by pointing out, that political borders can not 'miraculously' block occasions like pollution, natural disasters etc. to spread out, but joint action may could. In terms of local self governance **Boman (2006)**, states that 'at the grassroots level, CBC may change the values as well as practices at the local level, which in the long run may if not change, than challenge the local-centre relations. While these tensions often lead to reactive actions on the part of the centre, in the long run they may also produce change' In the 2003 dated Chisinau declaration of the EU, which was focused of integration of South- east European post- communist countries through CBC, the importance of CBC was stressed as:

- I. Helping to reestablish contacts between people and territories separated by international borders and create new contacts
- II. Being an instrument for development of territorial communities' or authorities' sectoral policies
- III. Fostering the social cohesion of, and understanding between, border populations. (**Ricq 2006**)

Aforementioned topics could be adopted to the concept of CBC in general, however in the scene of world politics CBC has actively been used as a tool for the integration of the formerly iron curtain countries to the rest of the world and the free marked economy (**Haase, 2005**). For example the Republic of Karelia, which is situated among Russian- Finish border and is a part of the former Soviet Union, nowadays, defines its external policy almost on CBC (**Republic of Karelia, 2000**). The minister of external relations of R. of Karelia, Valery Shlyamin, defines the importance of his country in its region as catalysis for the Russian labor, which is trying to be a part of the international division of labor. He says that, this process started after Russian joining to the framework of Madrid Convention on CBC between border regions and communities. Therefore Shlyamin asks for more integration, CBC and investment from Finland and EU. But it has to be mentioned that this is not only, due to awareness of the social and economic benefits of the CBC, but also because of the large funds of EU, devoted for CBC.

2.2 AN ANALYTIC INVESTIGATION ON CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION

2.2.1. TYPES OF CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION

The evaluation report of **EMS (2004)** categorizes co-operation projects in three main types.

First the projects where actions take place on the one side of the border, but have a cross- border impact, like 'strongly apparent' projects such as a waste water treatment plant, serving communities on both sides of border; or 'less apparent' like some road projects. The report argues that those are most common type of joint actions with 62% of the total projects realized in Europe.

Secondly type of projects are 'mirror projects' where a project on one side of the border is 'mirrored' by a similar project on the other side, like development of business centers in towns on both sides of the border. However these mirror projects are considered to be effective less except creating 'exploration of synergies' between parties, since each side of the mirrored project acts in its own agenda.

The third type is the integrated projects, where partners on either side of the border contribute different elements to the project, which are considered as effective but 'very difficult to develop', mainly due the high cross-border interaction required, which is highly obstructed by national, or even EU's bureaucracy. In fact the problem of 'different operating environments,' is one of the most serious problems that stand in front of co-operation.

In sectoral terms a comprehensive list of types of CBC could be found in table 1.1. The table has been derived from a much more comprehensive and explanatory list of **Ricq (2006)** and previously realized projects under different EU's co-operation funds. The list could be expanded much more, depending on the geographical position and social and economic specifics of regions (e.g. sea neighboring). Among those, cross- border infrastructure projects are considered to be among the most profitable types of CBC, since they generate profits for construction firms, have the potential of increase the property values in their catchments areas and allow governments to stimulate growth and provide direct benefits to the politicians (**Smart and Lin, 2004**). According to the evaluation report of EMS, good and interesting projects arise out of ongoing relationships, rather than last minute searches for partners; and financial sustainability is core and must be planned for as early in the project cycle as possible.

Table 2.1. A typology of the fields of CBC

ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING	TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS	ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT	HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES	EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND CULTURE
Environment	Transport	In general	Social security in general	Education and Training
Studies on pollution and/or waste disposal	Systematic exchange of information on public transport	Regular co-ordination and exchange of socio- economic statistics	Monitoring transmissible illnesses and epidemics	Exchanging staff in education
Protection and management of the natural environment	Optimizing the running of railways and public transport	Making joint economic diagnoses, taking joint action		Creation of bi- or tri- partite university institutes
Raising awareness about environmental problems	Joint planning of construction of transportation infrastructure	Producing practical legal guides that describe opportunities for CBC	Mutual administrative assistance concerning drugs, trafficking channels etc.	Setting up courses for the language spoken in the neighboring country
Mutual assistance in emergence of natural disasters	Green corridors for the frontier labor force with no customs formalities.	Social protection of the transfrontier labor force	Exchanging medical staff or trainees	Socio- cultural infrastructure and events
Agriculture	Equalizing the infrastructure in order to avoiding bottlenecks	Publishing guides for legal rights of transfrontier workers	Frontier workers	Concerts and other forms of entertainment (tours, joint film, theatre productions)
Spatial Planning	Transfrontier alert procedures that can by- pass national governments	Technology		Everyday cultural events (prizes, exhibitions, forums)
Interregional and transnational infrastructure (transport, communication)	Transfrontier use of emergency services	Transfrontier involvement in science parks	Improving social security cover for frontier workers	Providing support for bilingual associations and bilingualism
Harmonization of landuse plans	Communications	Technology transfers	Publishing handbooks	Religion
Trans-frontier land management	Transfrontier mail delivery, bypassing the major national centers	Business and industry		Telecommunications and media
Studies on the socio-economic structure and urban framework of the trans-frontier area		Organizing dialogue between employers' associations and businesses		Creating regional media networks
Sectoral studies (e.g. joint construction of bi-national industrial zones)		Co-operation in industrial innovation		Producing interregional radio programs
Sustainable development	A joint telephone exchange for regional enquiries	Tourism		Providing joint coverage of important transfrontier events for the media
		Exhibitions, fairs, shows etc.		Sports and Leisure
		Exploiting common tourism resources (e.g. cultural routes)		Organizing and promoting regional sports events
		Co-ordination of museum exhibitions		Arranging sports exchanges
				Using shared facilities (swimming pools, stadiums, golf courses etc.)

2.2.2. EXAMPLES ON CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION ON THE WORLD

CBC has a long history in Europe, which even can be considered as a tradition (**Ricq, 2006**) However after the establishment of the EU, co-operation became a systematic, institutionalized process in which various actors are involved. Only in Baltic Sea region there has been hundreds of CBC realized with different scopes and administrative levels. This is an organic process that makes the Baltic Sea to be perceived as a cognitive network of co-operations (**Scott, 2003**).

An EU like co-operation type emerges in South Asia under the name ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Countries). The Association is based on free trade agreements and is oriented to create a borderless, integrated area like EU (**ASEAN**). Thus it could be argued that it represents an attempt for a supra- national CBC. However in sub-national (i.e. regional) level, co-operation has not been institutionalized. The regional approach of the ASEAN remains in continental level, i.e. the region is Southeast Asia in the ASEAN's terminology, therefore a project based CBC approach has not been adopted. Another attempt for co-operation in Asia is the 'Great Altai Initiative' (**Pinnick, 2005**). It is a environment protection based co-operation organization that involves Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Their attempt to protect Altai Mountains has been turned in to a regional development co-operation for the regions of the area.

NAFTA (The North American Free Trade Area) is a significant cornerstone of the CBC process in North America. However it is not the starting point of co-operation in the continent. There were several attempts of co-operation like signing international treaties and creating bilateral institutions, negotiating and harmonizing environmental, transport and land use planning decisions (see for example **Vazquez Castillo, 2001**) and as **Scott (2002)** argues, 'although there is no dearth of CBC, although there exist only two national boundaries in the continent'. The start of co-operation, for example between Mexico and USA dates back to 1906 when the Boundary International Commission was created for the aim of regulation and conservation of rivers of Rio Grande, Colorado and Tijuana. The commission still remains as a more then a century lasting example of CBC. Afterwards several bilateral agreements were signed between Mexico and USA. However there is an uneven condition occurred during the co-operation process (**Scott, 2002; Vazquez-Castillo, 2001**) in the continent. Mainly due to the asymmetric economic conditions between Mexico in the one hand and Canada and USA on the other, the relations are dominated by the rich side. **Vazquez Castillo (2001)** for example argues that the signed CBC treaties contain several obligatory articles to Mexico, since USA

sets the limits and regulations according to already existing standards, but Mexico has a lot of way to reach them. Another point that she mentions is the informal relations between borders which reflect even planning processes in both sides of the borders. In several cases **Vazquez- Castillo (2001)** reports, there is a coordination and intensive communication between regional planning authorities, without existence of any diplomatic and hierarchic relations, which is, with her terms a 'new element in the process of bilateral planning'. Although the variety and history of CBC in the North America, the co-operation has never been developed into an EU like integration. **According to Scott (2002)**, the main reasons of that situation are the fears related with sovereignty, which is much more important in North America than is in Europe; the fears related with unemployment, which probably would increase dramatically if borders would open for Mexicans and the fears of Central America based illegal immigration and drug trafficking which uses Mexico as a port to enter in USA.

2.2.3. INCENTIVES FOR CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION

Schmitt-Egner (2000) argues that there is a correlation between intensification of CBC and the degrees of interdependence and transactions. The degree of interdependence include cross- border structures like nature and infrastructure (hardware conditions wit is own terms) and 'software structures' like common history, culture and language. The degree of transactions includes capital and goods, labor market, education, tourism etc. The higher interdependence and transaction degrees are, the more potential for CBC exist.

Directly affecting people's daily live (in positive sense), improving the quality of life, and creating cohesion in the applied regions via CBC can be realized more easily in existence or nonexistence of some factors. Those can be political, historical, social, economic or geographical. Although some social conditions like shared history, common language, ethnicity and intensive border crossing increase the possibility of co-operation, the creation of a CBC process is argued to be dependent on the existence of an institutional structure, like signing agreements, establishing procedures etc (**CDLR, 2002**). **Ricq (2006)** supports that idea: 'encouraging an entire new system of relations across frontiers, containing many fields such as education, culture, health, economy and environment; supporting informal relations across borders and creating and developing properly working mechanisms (e.g. institutions, councils, communities etc.) are the most important steps to be taken by the political authorities', to make CBC sustainable in the frontier areas. The

administrative systems of countries, i.e. being a center oriented nation state, decentralized nation state, a federation or confederation can have accelerating or blocking roles in CBC relations. However a political will of co-operation in all of governmental levels (local, regional, national) is a must whatever the administrative system is. Since some key incentives like recognizing CBC in the legislative documents, creating suitable legal instruments and procedures for assisting CBC process, introducing a working financial mechanism for supporting joint actions, and a continuing interrelation between stakeholders of co-operation process (private or public organizations, administrations, volunteers etc.) (**Ricq, 2006**) could only be improved with help of that political will.

A CBC process, according to **Ricq (2006)** passes through six main stages. These stages start with a 'total lack of relations', where the borders are regarded totally as dividing lines. Then comes the 'information exchange and reciprocal assessment' stage, where the first formal or informal contacts are made and the communities began to know each other in terms of administrative statues and priorities in different fields like economics, politics, social and cultural statues etc. The third stage is 'consultation' for legal structures for CBC within countries. The other three stages are 'co-operation', 'harmonization' and 'integration' which have also been stressed by **CDLR (2002)** for indicators of a successfully institutionalized CBC process. According to **CDLR (2002)** the fourth stage (co- operation) is the implementation of individual CBC projects. At the fourth stage the projects are evolving into an institutionalization dialogue like regularly planned joint meetings between politics or technocrats. After a long period the sixth stage comes almost naturally: setting up joint bodies or public corporations (ibid.).

An external supporter, CoE for instance, could help creating a suitable environment for co-operation in many cases. Of course friendly relations between governments of neighboring countries should exist as well. However the social will of co-operation which is informal and present in the daily live and traditions of local people are important, as well as the political will. Other protagonists of CBC in the social level are the commonalities in history, language, religion or ethnic origin. Especially in post- communist countries, where religion and ethnicity emerges as a suppressed social belonging, these protagonists were used as catalysts for co-operation and integration (**Haase, 2005**). In some cases an environmental object like a lake, mountain or valley can be the medium and catalyst of co-operation.

2.2.4. HINDRANCES OF CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION

The major obstacles in front of CBC could largely be grouped as antonyms of the incentives mentioned in the previous section. A center oriented nation state, with strong influence on local governments increases the procedure for realization of CBC projects. Since local authorities are not allowed to conclude international treaties with foreign authorities, CBC have been often based on informal or 'quasi-juridical' arrangements among the participating authorities. (**Perkmann, 2006**) However in some cases some steps taken for improving cross- border relations can hinder the process, too. For example new institutions can obstruct ongoing informal transfrontier relations. Economic disparities rarely create advantages for transfrontier relations, if not CBC (see for example **Smart and Lin, 2002**) but in most cases are obstacles of creating co-operation relations in transfrontier regions. Large economic gaps increase the fear of cheap labor in the wealthier side of the frontier region. This has been resulted for instance in a drawback of some regional authorities from the General Agreement of Trades and Services of WTO (**Ricq, 2006**). Secondly, most of border regions are fringes of an internal economic center. In terms of traffic, trade and employment they are center oriented, which means turning their back to their neighboring region. In social terms, cultural and linguistic differences can hinder CBC. This emerges as the social version of center orienting. Existence of negative national stereotypes, a widespread nationalism in the society (in school books, newspapers etc.), collective imagery of the "other" and the differentiation between "they" and "us" which symbolically are represented by the border line itself and are used as an ideology of the center that blocks the collective memory in border regions. Where the political and social will encourages co-operation projects, some institutional incompatibilities could slow the process. The administrative differences in neighboring countries make it difficult to harmonize grants for same projects and find appropriate respondent on the other side of the border. Also differences in tax systems, allocation of funds, procedures for CBC hold back the process as well.

2.2.5. BORDER REGIONS AND CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION

Various studies on border regions or concerning border regions take part in the literature of social sciences and regionalism. **Niebuhr (2006)** studied the relationship between market access and development in border regions (see also **Brühlhart et. al., 2002**). According to her, in economic terms, border regions are situated on an area with limited market access, since a half of their market potential

is blocked by political borders. This is a discouraging factor for firms in locating at this areas and leads to a decrease in border regions density of economic activities, i.e. they remain in the periphery of national economies, too (**Niebuhr, 2006**). **Anderson and O'Dowd (1999)** attribute also isolation, to the properties of border regions, due their politico- military importance (see also **Kakonen, 1998**). **Ricq (2006)** takes attention to their contradictory meanings in social terms as being areas where cultures and languages intermingle or isolate. In addition trans- frontier regions include two observed facts, a frontier as a physical limit and a territory for new contractual links (ibid). **Paasi (1998)** investigates borders, border regions and their changing meanings regarding the idea of the nation state, and creates a framework in historical perspective for the issue, with a large list of references. **Van der Veen and Boot (1995)** in their study on the relationship between CBC and European regionalism, mention on the changing position of border regions. According to them, the historical background of border regions is center oriented, where the people are forced to keep their attention turned toward the center. They receive little attention from national capitals and suffer from economic and social marginalization and the existence of frontiers obstructs their development. However the political internationalization between east and west Europe, the European integration process and the emergence of the market created more interdependency between countries and room for CBC. Therefore one of the objectives of EU's CBC policies is preventing isolation and improving living conditions in border regions (**Sadowski, 2006**). **Virtanen (2004)** defines CBC actions in border regions as fulfilling the goals of regionalism in a multinational sphere. Consequently border regions transformed into linking regions in the integrating Europe. Especially in Europe, as **Ricq (2006)** argues border regions build a new level of transfrontier awareness, culture and identity which blend, but not ignore regional, national and even European identities. In case of Europe, **Niebuhr (2006)** argues that economic integration can be expected only in the middle and long term in the border regions; however intensive cross border interactions might affect positively that process.

2.3. CONCLUSION

The long history of CBC on the world could not manage to reduce conflicts among countries. This issue is still dependent on politics of central governments. However evidence show that CBC, where applied, makes significant contributions for creating mutual understanding among societies and share the idea of belonging in a common geographic and social space. Especially in the case of European Union, where the borders became more and more porous this phenomenon was able to

achieve aforementioned goals in regional level, if not in national. Thus an investigation of EU, in terms of CBC would be explanatory on the affects of CBC projects on peoples daily live.

3. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION

3.1. THE EUROPEAN UNION

European Union, nowadays consisting of 27 countries, spread out nearly all over the continent, covered an area of approximately 4 million square km with a total population of more than 460 millions and still continuing to increase¹. The average GDP per capita in the union is 23.400 \$, while the lowest GDP/PC is 11000\$ in Estonia and the highest is in Luxemburg at 58.000\$. Turkey's average GDP/PC is 5.000\$. Some of indicators concerning the EU and Turkey are presented in Table 1.

Table 3.1 Comparative facts in the EU and Turkey

	EU 25		TURKEY	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
POPULATION (in millions)	450.4	460	67.8	71.6
UNEMPLOYMENT %	8,6	8,8	6,5	10,3
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE %	6,2 (1998)	5,2 (2003)	48.38	32
EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRY %	27,8 (1998)	25,5 (2003)	13.35	18
EMPLOYMENT IN SERVICES %	66 (1998)	69,2 (2003)	38.27	50
INFANT MORTALITY ‰	5,2	4,6(2004)	43	21,5 (2004)
GDP per capita \$	12638	20908	2924	4969
life expectancy at birth		78.6 (2004)	70,4	71,3

sources from eurostat, world bank, state planning organization and Turkish Statistical Institute

Except being establisher of the JSPF (as the main theme of the thesis), the EU may be interested this study for several reasons. Firstly in terms of co-operation the EU represents a unique example of demolishing borders and bringing a whole continent together with common interests and culture. Secondly the regional policies adopted by the EU has encouraged local institutions and initiatives to participate in the political environment, thus to strengthen the idea of democracy and to see integration work in practice. Thirdly aiming at strengthening regions, creating integration and increasing cohesion between them, the EU has built several

¹ According to eurostat the natural pop. Increase is 4.9% and net migration is 4.5%.

Institutions, treaties, arrangements and instruments. Among them, CBC instruments and treaties take an important part. Following paragraphs will focus on the research of protagonists of this research inside the themes mentioned above. They are also written to describe the union from a co-operation oriented perspective. The subtopics will explore the three interests mentioned above in the same order, i.e. the EU as a global actor, CBC and related regional policies of the EU and the instruments used for CBC in the EU.

Considering that, in following paragraphs different organizations will be mentioned as actors for CBC, a short legislative description of the European Union will be explanatory. The European Union is organized on three main administrative and legislative bodies. They are European Parliament (EP), European Commission (EC) and the Council of Europe (CoE). The European Parliament consists of elected parliamentarians from all member states and their numbers depend on the populations of their countries. They don't sit in blocks based on countries, but divided in seven Europe- wide politic groups. The parliament has three main duties:

- I. Approving or denying decisions/ legislations of European Council or asking for making improvements in them;
- II. Supervising the decisions of EU institutions, particularly the commission. This includes the right of approving/ rejecting the commissioners or censoring the commission as a whole.
- III. The parliament shares with European Council the authority over the European budgeted.

The Council of the European Union is the main decision- making body of the Union. It represents the governments of member countries, and according to the interests of the topic each country is represented by the related minister. The presidents or prime ministers of member countries meet up to four times a year under the name, European Council and shape general policies of the Union. The duties of the CoE are summarized under six main topics:

- I. Passing the European law together with the parliament;
- II. Coordinating the broad economic and social policies of the member states;
- III. Concluding international agreements with non- member countries;
- IV. Approving the EU's budget together with the parliament;
- V. Developing the EU's external and security policies;

- VI. Coordinating the co-operation of national institutions of security (i.e. courts and police forces).

The third legislative body of the union is the European Commission. It is the technocratic part of the Union which represents the interests of the EU in general. The assignment of the commissioners is a comprehensive process of election and appointment, in which national governments, EP parliament and the European Council of presidents are involved. After appointment, commissioners act independently from their governments, represent only the EU's interests and are responsible only to the EP. The main tasks of the commission are:

- I. Developing and proposing legislations to CoE and EP;
- II. Managing and implementing EU policies and the budget, including control of the implementation of the legislations among EU;
- III. Enforcing European Law;
- IV. Representing the EU in international stage, for example when negotiating agreements with other countries.

These three bodies are supported and accomplished by several specialized organizations. Among them

- I. The European Economic and Social Committee represents civil society, employers and employees;
- II. The Committee of the Regions represents regional and local authorities;
- III. The European Investment Bank finances EU investment projects, and helps small businesses via the European Investment Fund;
- IV. The European Central Bank is responsible for European monetary policy;
- V. The European Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration by EU institutions and bodies;
- VI. The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities publishes information about the EU;
- VII. The European Personnel Selection Office recruits staff for the EU institutions and other bodies.

3.1.1. THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE WORLD SCENE

"The EU did not set out to become a world power. Born in the aftermath of World War II, its first concern was bringing together the nations and peoples of Europe.

But...” described the EU external relations (**European Commission, 2004a**) in the brochure of EU. Despite some obstacles like the rejection of the EU constitution treaty in France and the Netherlands, the integration has been occurred during the past 50 years since the Treaty of Roma, the clock working system of commissions, institutions and different organizations clearly have revealed that to a certain degree this notion has been achieved. Besides, the union generates a quarter percent of the global wealth with 10817 billion €, and is the biggest trade partner of most countries of the world. It is the largest exporter and importer in the world (**WTO, 2005**). Although there are several disagreements and diversification in priorities within the member states, the Union takes part in the international trade agreements and represents its area as a whole. That is a large market it represents makes the union be a necessary part of the multilateral trade rounds and a respected actor in the world trade scene (**Dür et al., 2007**). However the meaning of the “union” is far beyond these numbers and its economic power (**Virtanen, 2004**). Assuming that globalization in any sense is the dominant character of current social, politic and economic affairs, the EU makes several contributions to this phenomenon, those might be lined after the ‘but...’ quoted above. First of all, starting from the European Coal and Steel Community in 1950, it represents a primary example of cooperation which makes it one of the leading actors of the age of globalization. The EU is the worlds the biggest aid donor to the developing and less developed countries, has the mission of peacekeeping allover the world, and keeps social cohesion as a principle of its existence. Although several question has been rising around these moral values of the Union, at least by putting them in written in its several treaties, the Union demonstrates that globalization is something more than the freedom of four movements. Secondly by bringing countries together around common values and interests it decreases the importance of borders and nation states. Thirdly the involvement of regional administrative bodies and local authorities in the government processes via several organizations increases the interest of public to the self governmental issues and democratic human rights. The EU is an effective supporter of regionalism and the phenomena which was called “glocalization”.

A short summary of the evolution of EU into a world power may should start with the establishment of the Schengen Convention (1985), that enabled free movement of goods, people and services, in a large area, somewhat like a whole continent and created a large region for the activities of Multi- National Corporation’s (MNC). As argument goes around in the EU, no EU country is strong enough to compete in the global economy. Therefore “the European single market provides companies with a

vital platform for competing effectively on world markets". (**European Union, a**) During the transition period of the new member countries, especially in middle and east Europe, several advantages have been gained due to the relatively low labor, land and transportation costs. Moreover the low level of competitiveness of the local sectors, created new markets for these corporations, and made them more 'competitive'. Also, several achievements were gained from "economies of scale and greater efficiency that can come from pooling resources" as EU argues (**European Union, 2007**). The establishment of single currency, the Euro (€) by abandoning national currencies created a great monetary discipline which helped in decreasing inflation in some countries and eliminating the risk of deflation (**Miles, 2006**). Nowadays EU has an effective role, in setting rules of the global trade in the World Trade Organization (WTO), as a result of realizing its targets on economic unification. The European Citizenship, declared with Maastricht treaty in 1992, enables citizens of member countries to travel and reside in any European country, to vote or stand for candidate in the state they live. These are described as primary rights of European citizens. Also the reciprocal acceptance of higher education degrees allows citizens to perform their professions in any European country they prefer. This common identity allows Europe to be perceived as a 'union' in the world.

In the conclusion of this part, the own words of the Union will be pretty explanatory: "Half a century of European integration has shown that the EU as a whole is greater than the sum of its parts: it has much more economic, social, technological, commercial and political clout than if its member states had to act individually. There is added value in acting together and speaking with a single voice as the European Union." (**European Union, a**).

3.1.2. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL POLICIES

In formal terms integration has been described by the density, intensity and the nature of the elements involved in a relation (**Andersen and Sitter, 2006**). **Illeris (1995)** defines integration as a phenomenon having both economic (i.e. trade in goods and services, capital flows, foreign direct investment and ownership by transnational companies) and social (interaction in terms of migration, information and innovation flows, as well as scientific, artistic and cultural impulses) dimensions. Increasing this 'density and intensity' has a specific target in EU: to generate both social and economic cohesion between and within member countries in order to counterbalance the Europe-wide free competition by Europe-wide solidarity. Since disparities exist not only in national level among members of EU, but in regional

level between and within countries. The regional policy of EU recognizes that fact and focuses on generating cohesion among regions. In economic terms cohesion corresponds to reducing the gap between rich and poor regions by transferring the wealth via 'structural funds' from rich to poor regions (**European Commission, 2007b**). In social terms cohesion could be summarized under the official European motto: 'United in Diversity'. The Union aims to create a 'common European identity' arising on western European values, such as respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law (**Virtanen, 2004**). Therefore several instruments for support exchange and co-operation in the fields of education, youth, culture and arts were developed. Three main topics in the regional policies of the EU serve for cohesion: first improving infrastructure and accessibility, while preserving environmental potential; second encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and the knowledge economy through the development of information and communications technologies and third creating more and better jobs by attracting more people into employment, improving workers' adaptability and increasing investment in human capital. For that purpose for the period of 2007-2013, 308 billion € will be reserved for cohesion policies, 51% of which will be spent in the new member countries representing less than a quarter of the total population. Three comprehensive funds were established for these three main policies, namely European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and Cohesion Fund. A summary of the aims and contexts of these funds could be found in table 3.2.

In legislative terms integration matches to a multi- level governance system, where neither a federalist approach, nor a supra-regional governance body is dominant, but different actors from different scales (i.e. local, regional, national and supranational) are involved in different processes of government (**Boman, 2006**). This is largely generated through regional unions and associations. For example, one of them, Committee of Regions is an advisory body to CoE, EP and EC. It is constituted from representatives of member states' local authorities in order to represent interests of local communities and has an important influence on decision-making processes. Economic and social cohesion; Trans- European networks in the fields of transport, energy and telecommunications; public health; education and youth; culture; employment; social policy; environment; vocational training; and transport are defined as the areas of interest of the committee of Regions (**Council of Regions**). Among the activities of Committee, European Groupings of Territorial Co-operation (EGTC) keeps an important place. EGTC is a legal anonymous body which would be established by at least two countries or regions after a co-operation

agreement between them, in order to deal with co-operation management issues and promote further co-operation. The aim is to establish an administrative body for the co-operation area which will manage and organize co-operation measures and represent the area of co-operation. The EU funds for co-operation will be used through this body. This instrument firstly was set up for the period of 2007-13 and is considered as a step forward in the co-operation process of the Union. A second example is Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), which constitutes from 250 member regions from 26 countries and 12 interregional organizations (**AEBR**). Similar to the Committee of Regions it is an interest group of border regions which gives advice and recommendations to EU. Giving information on problems and agenda of border regions, to EU, representing overall interests of border regions to national and international organs, creation of a co-operation network and exchange of know-how for solving common cross-border problems are described as aims of the organization. Council of Europe and EU are among members of the organization.

From one point of view, the regional policies, while generating integration, also serve for compensating the negative impacts of integration and redistribute the welfare. According to **Van der Veen and Boot (1995)** the advantage gained by a) technologically developed regions via the existing productivity differentials, and b) coming together of increasing accessibility and low labor costs in some specific regions; will have a negative impact on some other regions. In order to avoid the feeling of 'being looser of the integration process,' the regional policies should support the disadvantageous regions (ibid). On the other hand, in economic terms, integration is considered to work for relatively poor countries and regions, and accelerate convergence in them, but has no significant impact on relatively rich states (see for example **Bornschier et. al., 2004** or **Brühlhart et. al., 2004**). This is considered to be the cost of integration, which not every member is voluntary to pay and stands as a problem in front of the EU's policy makers. A similar critique has been done by **Andersen and Sitter (2006)**. They argue that integration has different levels in Europe, varying from country to country, as well as from sector to sector. For example in the EMU (European Monetary Union) and free travel (Schengen Area) issues, some member countries have their specific arrangements and limitations to other members (e.g. UK, Denmark) whereas some other countries wait on the queue to be able to use their full rights. Moreover EU itself contains some dilemmas inside. On the one hand, some sectors like competition policy and

liberalization of telecoms are applied equally to all member countries, but the environment protection policies and priorities vary from country to country (ibid.).

Whatever the level of integration is, it is the fact that it is spread out the continent and as **Virtanen (2004)** concludes and the alternative of integration means isolation for any country.

3.1.3. EUROPEAN ENLARGEMENT PROCESS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

EU includes 27 countries since the beginning of the year 2007, and still has candidate and potential candidate countries, including Turkey. In terms of integration and cohesion policy EU asks for several improvements in different topics to candidate countries in order to fulfill the community acquis². It is expected to reach at least to a certain degree before accessing. For this purpose several instruments were developed. The most important among them is the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Since this tool mainly operates through CBC projects, will be investigated in next section. Also the Territorial Co-operation Objective listed in table 3.2. includes cross border contacts and serves for convergence in candidate countries as well.

3.2. CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION IN EUROPEAN UNION

Starting from its establishing treaties, CBC is a tradition among the union. **Sadowski (2006)** states three main reasons for initialization of CBC in Europe, first it has been seen as an important tool for cohesion, second it helps to integrate candidate countries and third it plays an important role for fostering friendly relations with neighboring countries. Thus it has been recognized as 'one of the most efficient instruments for building an integrated and united Europe' (ibid.). Also it has been argued that CBC is an efficient tool for multi level governance, since it enables local actors to access to the European arena through various support mechanisms (**Boman, 2006**).

² Acquis: All treaties, legal documents and communications concerning the constitution of EU.

Table 3.2. A summary of European regional policies

FUNDS	BENEFICIARIES	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
ERDF social and physical infrastructure	poorest regions of all member countries (all European regions with a GDP less than 75% of EU's average, regardless to their countries' general situation.	'assistance on supporting sustainable integrated economic development and creation of sustainable jobs'	modernizing and diversifying regional economic structures
ESF employment issues and human capital			research and technological development innovation and entrepreneurship environment risk prevention tourism investment in culture transport energy education health and social infrastructures direct assistance for investment in SME's. technologic development innovation capacity entrepreneurship environment and risk prevention encouraging energy efficiency promoting the use of clean technology access to transport and telecommunications services promoting different kind of co-operation among the Union
COHESION FUND supporter for the objective 'convergence'	member states whose living standards are less than 90% of the EU average (i.e. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia)	speeding up convergence in the Member States and regions whose development is lagging behind by improving conditions for growth and employment	supporting environment protection transport infrastructure projects develop renewable energy.

3.2.1. THE FOUNDATIONS OF CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

During the last 50 years CBC politics have been institutionalized, systemized and granted regularly with several funds. The first document for CBC is the 1980 dated 'European Outline Convention on Trans-frontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities', the so called Madrid Convention (**Ricq, 2006**). In the preamble section it is stated that the aim of the Council of Europe is 'to achieve a greater unity between its members and to promote co-operation between them'. Therefore the need for a legislative arrangement for co-operation in the fields like regional, urban and rural development, environmental protection, improvement in public facilities and services and mutual assistance in emergencies is committed and for that purpose encouraging any initiative by territorial communities and authorities has been put as an article (article2, paragraph 2) in the convention. This article increases the importance of the convention in the history of CBC in Europe. As a document it consists from a large appendix to the 12 articulated main document. Several model agreements for different co-operative units (states, regions, municipalities etc.) and co-operation levels (management, law setting, supply of services etc.) in the fields of regional, urban and rural development, environmental protection, the improvement of public facilities and services and mutual assistance in emergencies are subject to the annex (**Sadowski, 2006**). Although they are not formal documents, but recommendations, they "create a link between CBC and all neighborly relations in general" (**Ricq, 2006**). Two additional protocols entered into force in December 1998 and December 2001 strengthens the support given to local communities. The first protocol acknowledges that under certain conditions and obeying the domestic law, local authorities shall conclude trans- frontier agreements. With the second protocol, the right for local authorities to conclude trans-frontier agreements in non- neighboring countries was acknowledged. After that convention, the importance of the outline convention and CBC has been mentioned in several agreements, protocols and conferences (see for example European Symposia on CBC [held in every 5 years], the 2003 Krakow conference, and the 2002 Helsinki declaration).

The Benelux convention signed in 1986 accepts the right of local governments to be involved in CBC's and differing from the outline convention; it does not limit co-operations with space and spread them out to the whole continent. The 2003 Chisinau Political Declaration is another corner stone for CBC, since it accepts CBC as a tool for European integration and mentions of the importance of application of joint projects not only within the Union, but also with candidate countries, too. In the

declaration CBC has been recognized as a tool for democratic stability and social and economic development. Except previously mentioned topics on importance of co-operation, it is also notes that territorial communities and authorities should normally have the capacity to establish contacts, conclude agreements and conduct CBC activities with the partners of their choice.

Finally regional development and CBC tools created for the 2007- 2013 period form the last steps of the evolution of co-operation in the Union. They are a forward step of the structural funds and for the mentioned period their focus is on harmonizing all the instruments for effective use. Therefore reducing the diversity of instruments and flexibility in interactions between beneficiaries of different instruments has been set as priority.

3.2.2. THE TOOLS FOR CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

CBC in Europe is 'transversal' or 'multidimensional' (Ricq, 2006), since it has to be realized under the rule of domestic law, which highly differs from country to country and in most cases is center oriented rather than being regionalist or decentralized in any sense. On the other hand being involved in a CBC process requires an intensive and direct interaction with the partner and a region oriented perspective, because of the nature of CBC projects. Especially border regions involved in co-operation thus have to act by taking into consideration both parts of their belongings. Therefore the general tendency in EU is to generating tools or evaluating old ones with the target of resolving problems caused by that dilemma.

The policies for the period of 2007- 2013 brought several changes in the CBC instruments. However the basic principles remain the same. There is not much data on the implementation of new instruments, since being in the beginning of the period. Thus the method of investigation of EUs CBC tools formally will be based on the newly declared instruments. However the explanation and evaluation of instruments will be based on definitions of the previous period 2000- 2006.

3.2.2.1. EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION OBJECTIVE (ETC)

The INTERREG program, under ERDF was the largest co-operation fund in EU. The 2000- 2006 period was its 3rd phase and € 4.9 billion were allocated in total for the period. The aim of INTERREG was described as strengthening economic and social cohesion across the EU, by fostering the balanced development of the continent through cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. Special emphasis has been placed on integrating remote regions and those which share external

borders with the candidate countries (**European Commission, 2006a**). Cross border, transnational and interregional co-operation are subtopics of the program and are named in respect of each, as INTERREG 3A, 3B and 3C. Among those in objective 3C the focus is not on the project, but on the co-operation itself. The involvement of different bodies in to co-operation process and establishing networks between regions is the priority of the topic. The objectives respectively share 67%, 27% and 6% of the budget (**European Commission, 2001**). A summary of their priorities could be found in table 3.3.

Table 3.3. Main priorities of the objectives under INTERREG

OBJECTIVE 3A	OBJECTIVE 3B	OBJECTIVE 3C
Urban and rural local development	spatial development strategies	exchanges of experience and good practice between Member States and with third countries
Entrepreneurship	cities' and rural/urban co-operation	
Labor market integration & social inclusion	transport and communications systems	
Culture	management of natural resources (e.g. water)	creating cooperation initiatives in sectors such as research, technology development, enterprise, the information society, tourism, culture or the environment
Information/ communications networks	management of cultural heritage	
Environment and energy (esp. renewable)	small-scale infrastructure	
Transport infrastructure and institutional capacity building.	maritime and insular co-operation	
	linkages of outermost regions	

Aforementioned three topics are combined as European Territorial Co-operation Objective for the period of 2007- 2013, but the subtopics remain the same (i.e. trans- frontier, transnational and inter- regional co-operation). Their total budgeted increase to € 7.75 billion. The share of subtopics in the new budget is respectively 74%, 21% and 5%. Although ETC is based on former INTERREG, it will also substitute three other programs, two of which used CBC as an instrument. First of them, EQUAL, was a program created for combating discrimination and inequalities in labor market, promoting creation of more and better jobs and ensuring equal opportunities in accessing them in the basis of CBC (**European Commission, a**). The final budget allocated for the fund (September 2007) was € 3.25 billion (**European Commission, 2007**). The second program, which includes co-operation and is linked to ETC is Leader+. The aim of the program was promoting sustainable development of rural areas and agricultural policies in the union. Supporting inter-territorial and transnational co-operation was not the base, but one of the phases of the program. Leader+ was financed under European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) till 2007, with the scope of common agricultural policy. The final program which constitutes ETC is URBAN, which does not employ CBC as an instrument and aims improvement of especially small and medium sized urban

areas, including infrastructure, transportation, urban governance, environmental protection etc.

Combining all these programs, the aim of the objective is described as promoting common solutions for neighboring authorities in the fields of urban, rural and coastal development, the development of economic relations and the creation of networks of small and medium-sized enterprises. Research, development, information society, the environment, risk prevention and integrated water management are defined as main fields of co-operation (europa.eu). The ETC is financed under ERDF.

3.2.2.2. COHESION FUND

Trans- European Networks are the main area of function of the Cohesion Fund. As it is told in the brochure of the Union (**European Commission, 2005**) they are 'essential for the citizens and economy of the EU'. These networks include mainly transportation facilities, i.e. motorways, railways, air and sea ways transportations and satellite navigation; the networks include energy and telecommunication as well. Their scope is to connect all member states with an improved infrastructure. The Cohesion Fund instead of completing these networks, co-ordinates them, sets priorities and shares the costs of construction. The second area of functioning of the cohesion fund is the environment. For instance effective energy use, and renewable energies, development of rail transportation, supporting intermodality, and strengthening public transport are among subjects of this topic. A total of 7.6 billions € was allocated to these purposes for the financial period of 2004- 2006. The amount has been increased to 61 billions € for the period of 2007- 2013 (**European Parliament, 2007**).

3.2.2.3. INSTRUMENT FOR PRE- ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)

Instrument for Pre- accession Assistance (IPA) is created to be a unique and comprehensive tool for improving candidate countries' and potential candidate countries' integration capacity. The officially candidate countries are Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Croatia; the other western Balkan Countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo (under UN security force administration) are considered to be potential candidate countries.

Implemented six main instruments during the period of 2001- 2006 were meld down under this fund. Among them PHARE (The Program of Community aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe) needs to be clarified thoroughly. It was created to assist candidate countries' accession process, implementing the acquis

and to prepare them for managing the structural funds. One of the program's aims was establishing the overall priorities a candidate country must address to prepare for accession and the resources available to help them do so (**European Commission, b**). The fund is the equivalent of INTERREG for candidate countries, and thought to be as effective as INTERREG in reducing disparities. Also co-operations with member countries benefited from structural funds, such as INTERREG were financed through PHARE- CBC in candidate countries. These kind of joint projects have created an important part of the integration through co-operation process. For the period of 2001- 2006 the budget of PHARE was circa 10 billions €.

A different program for CBC, PHARE- CBC was set. The projects realization is co-financed by the beneficiary country and the EU. Projects realized under PHARE- CBC were specific to pre- defined priorities of individual regions. Also to encourage local actors to join into the co-operation projects and increase integration through people- to- people interactions the JSPF (Joint Small Projects Fund) was introduced under PHARE- CBC. Its aim was improving social and economic conditions of border regions in accessing countries and promoting integration through developing people-to-people actions among both sides of the border. For the period of 2000-2003, a total of €645.3 million were allocated by EU, which catalyzed €350.3 million of co- financing for PHARE- CBC. During the period, the sector benefited the most was infrastructure (mainly transportation) with 33.37%, environment (e.g. wastewater disposal projects) projects followed it with 28.64%, people- to- people actions (i.e. JSPF) were in the third place with 15, 48%. The rest of the share was economic and social development and poverty reduction (12.31%), border management (8.74), and technical assistance, public health and nuclear projects. The last three topics consist less than 1.5% of the total.

CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization) was a program created for helping post- communist countries in western Balkans (i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in completing their transition process and encourage them for a wider European integration. Promotion of closer relations and regional cooperation among countries and between them, the EU and the candidate countries of central Europe was one of the four objectives of CARDS (others were sustainable economic and social development; institutional and legislative development, including harmonization with European Union norms and approaches; and reconstruction, democratic stabilization, reconciliation and the return of

refugees) (**European Commission, c**). A total of € 4.65 billion was allocated for this fund for the period 2000- 2006.

ISPA (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre- accession) was created for assist candidate countries for upgrading their physical infrastructure to the EU standards. Although there is no specific topic on CBC in the definition of ISPA, several projects like bridge construction, technical assistance were realized with co-operation of two countries. ISPA was financed under the Cohesion Fund.

SAPARD (Special Accession Program for Agriculture & Rural Development) had the aim of synchronizing regional policies of candidate countries with EU. There were no CBC projects, to be subject to the instrument.

The special pre accession instrument for Turkey was related with PHARE program, it used same tools, but financing was differentiated from PHARE. For the year 2006 the total of assistance was €130 million.

The needs of creating a single comprehensive instrument occur through the previous experience where the lack of harmonization between different instruments emerged as a handicap for application of several projects. The high level of bureaucracy in EU hindered projects which were defined in the responsibility areas of different instruments. CBC projects between member, candidate and potential candidate countries were also subject to the conflict. The aim of creating flexibility and being target oriented, depending on different countries' priorities, needs and levels of evolution was one of the aims of establishing the new instrument as well. The frame of IPA was described as, to 'strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform public administration, carry out economic reforms, promote respect for human as well as minority rights and gender equality, support the development of civil society and advance regional co-operation, and contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction' (**European Commission, d**). IPA has five components covering the functions of old instruments mentioned above: transition assistance and institution building; CBC, regional development; human resources development; and rural development. The last three components are available only for candidate countries. The adoption and implementation of the full requirements for membership is an additional objective for candidate countries. The potential candidate countries are requested only for an approximation to the latter objective. Among the scopes of the instrument two take specific importance for this work. First of them is establishing a public administration reform, including the establishment of a system enabling decentralization of assistance management

(official journal of EU, L210/185, article 2, 1c). This reform, as a part of regional policies of EU, forces an increase in the capacity of regional/ local authorities and accepts them as legal respondent in implementation of various projects. By addressing the funds to local authorities, requesting beneficiary countries to adopt regulations enabling decentralization and putting the issue with several articles in different contracts on table, EU acts coherent on this issue (**COM2004, 627 final**). The second scope is 'regional and cross- border co-operation' (**ibid, article 2, 1h**). The objective of this component is defined as promoting good neighborly relations, fostering stability, security and prosperity in the mutual interests (**ibid, article 9**). Within the same article the legislative methods to be followed in case of intersection of other instruments for co-operation, i.e. cohesion fund and ERDF are defined as well. The total amount of money allocated for the period 2007- 2013 is € 11 468 million.

3.2.2.4. EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT (ENPI)

The ENPI aims at developing relationships with non- candidate countries neighboring the EU. The objectives of ENPI can be summarized under three main topics.

- I. Increasing prosperity in frontier regions through promotion of sustainable economic and social development and through co-operation with neighboring countries.
- II. Improving relations with neighbors by co-operation for solving common problems, e.g. in the field of environment and developing local and regional "people- to- people" actions across external borders.
- III. Ensuring security in external borders by taking joint preventions against crime and helping border populations cross frontiers lawfully, while ensuring secure borders and blocking illegal traffic.

The importance of co-operation with neighbors is underlined by EC, by stressing that in following decades the capacity of the Union for providing security, stability and sustainable development for its citizens will be closely related to the relationships of EU with its neighbors (**COM 393 final**). In addition avoiding drawing new dividing lines in Europe and establishing cross-border cultural links is aimed through neighborhood policy (**regulation EC No 1638/2006 paragraph 15**). This especially stresses the importance given to CBC as a tool for integration and good external relationships, by EU.

Another topic is arising around security policy. This instrument of EU is in fact a call for its neighbors for increasing their relations and prosperity in their common borders on the base of mutual understanding and CBC.

Current European Neighborhood Policy categorizes Unions neighbors in three groups. The first group consists of 12 eastern neighbors of the Union³ in eastern Europe and Central Asia, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Until 2007, the neighborhood instrument for these countries was TACIS. In this part of the Europe, the relationship of EU with its neighbors mostly worked on support programs. Support for institutional, legal and administrative reform; support to the private sector and assistance for economic development; support in addressing the social consequences of transition; support for development of infrastructure networks; promotion of environmental protection and management of natural resources; development of the rural economy; and support for nuclear safety, where applicable were the main topics of co-operation of EU. Between 1991-1999 a total of €2.65 billion was allocated for countries in TACIS (**European Commission, 2000**).

The second group of neighboring countries is the western Balkan countries in the southeastern borders of the Union. They are now considered as candidate or potential candidate countries and are out of the ENPI. The previous relationship of EU with them was defined under CARDS program, which was explored in the previous section.

The third group of neighboring countries consists of eastern and southern Mediterranean countries, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza Strip. The so- called Euro- Mediterranean Partnership found its body in the MEDA program. The program was constituted from two components. On the one hand, with bilateral co-operation programs, economic transition and preparation for free trade and strengthening the economic balance was aimed. More than 80% of funds allocated were for bilateral programs between years 1995- 1999. Among projects realized were Syrian- Europe business center, the social fund for employment creation in Egypt and total development in Morocco. On the other hand, to the regional co-operation programs all countries surrounding the Mediterranean were involved. Among examples realized with this fund were networks of institutes in fields like economics and foreign; environment programs for

³ Countries neighboring candidate countries (i.e. Turkey) and maritime borders are included to ENPI

protection of Mediterranean and youth programs. Between 1995- 1999 the total budget of Union for MEDA was € 3, 35 million.

Main working areas of ENPI are

- I. promoting political dialogue and reform
- II. promoting environmental protection and good management of natural resources
- III. supporting policies aimed at poverty reduction
- IV. supporting policies to promote social development and gender equality
- V. employment and social protection
- VI. supporting cross-border cooperation to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental development in border regions
- VII. promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms
- VIII. supporting the democratization process
- IX. ensuring efficient and secure border management
- X. promoting cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs
- XI. fight against and prevention of terrorism and organized crime
- XII. promoting understanding between cultures
- XIII. people-to-people contacts.

Above mentioned three instruments (TACIS, CARDS and MEDA) are now considered as different dimensions of EU's new neighborhood policy. Although there are no specific financing instruments like the previous programs, two new dimensions are added to this policy. They are the Nordic Dimension focusing on relations with Russia and member countries neighboring her and the Black Sea dimension, which is aimed to follow the path of MEDA with the motto 'Black Sea-Bright Future' (**European Commission, 2007a**) For the current period (2007- 2013) €14,3 billion are allocated for these projects.

3.2.2.5. EUROREGIONS (Euregio, Euregion, Euroregion, Europaregion, Grand Region or Regio)

A Euroregion represents a trans-frontier region build up for solving common problems. Euroregions are created by bilateral or multilateral agreements and have different legal bodies, authorities and responsibilities defined by these agreements.

In general a Euroregion does not have a legal significance, but as it is defined by EU, 'it simply suggests a feeling of belonging to Europe and a will to take part in the European integration process' (**Ricq, 2006**). According to **Perkmann (2006)** a Euroregion or a trans-frontier region also represents an area defined by commonalities in geography, ethnicity, history, economic possibilities, but is disrupted by the governments ruling on both sides of the border. Therefore a Euroregion is a 'potential region' (**ibid**). In fact, Euroregions deal with a wide range of interests, starting from promotion of international understanding and culture, strengthening of economic co-operation to developing actions in areas like public health, education etc. The density of co-operation depends to their capacities and their limits occurred from national legislations. The organizational structure of a 'classical' Euroregion is a 'twin association' (**ibid.**) where two associations are established firstly on both sides of a border under their national laws by municipalities or regional governments or any other local authorities, and then join each other by signing a cross-border agreement based on the Madrid Convention for establishing an Euroregion. In some cases third organizations like regional development agencies, interest associations and chambers of commerce can also be official members of Euroregions. Their organizational schemes usually consist of a council, a presidency, subject oriented work groups and a common secretariat. Their scope of action varies from spatial planning and rural development to improvement of local democracy. Euroregions act as bodies for implementing regional policies of EU in border regions and in current situation EU support has put Euroregions as the 'standard model of pursuing CBC' (**Perkmann, 2006**). The Euroregions compete with other regular regions in economic and social fields; moreover they take an important part of Unions border and enlargement policies (**Virtanen, 2004**). In 2002 there were more than 70 Euroregions in Europe (**Perkmann, 2002**); while today they are more than 165 (**Council of Europe, a**). The significant increase in the number of Euroregions demonstrates that they have been used efficiently and are perceived as problem solving institutions in EU level.

Table 3.4 shows the evolution of CBC tools of EU, whereas in table 3.5. individually the responsibility areas of the tools are described. The simplification of the tools is remarkable. Also each of the instruments became a comprehensive tool, but there is no specific solution to the previously existing coordination problem between PHARE and INTERREG. This problem seems to be left to be resolved during the application process. On the other hand a comprehensive system of co-operation has been created.

Table 3.4 Summary table of EU's instruments for CBC

2001- 2006		2007- 2013		
objective	financial instruments	objective	financial instruments	
cohesion fund	cohesion fund	convergence	ERDF ESF Cohesion Fund	
objective 1 (promoting the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind)	ERDF ESF EAGGF FIFG			MEMBER COUNTRIES
objective 2 (supporting the economic and social conversion of areas experiencing structural difficulties)	ERDF ESF	regional competitiveness and employment	ERDF ESF	
objective 3 (supporting the adaptation and modernization of education, training and employment policies and systems in regions not eligible under Objective 1)	ESF			
INTERREG EQUAL Leader+	ERDF ESF EAGGF	European Territorial Co-operation	ERDF	
PHARE	PHARE	IPA	IPA	CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES
PHARE- CBC	PHARE			
SAPARD	SAPARD			
CARDS	CARDS			
ISPA	Cohesion Fund			
The Special Pre-accession Instrument for Turkey	The Special Pre-accession Instrument for Turkey			
TACIS	TACIS	ENPI	ENPI	NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
MEDA	MEDA			

Table 3.5 Tools for CBC in the EU

OBJECTIVE	BENEFICIARIES	FIELDS OF ACTION
convergence	the least developed member countries and regions	growth and employment
		physical and human capital
		innovation
		knowledge-based society
		adaptability to change
		the environment
		administrative effectiveness
regional competitiveness and employment	regions of member countries which are not among the least developed (i.e. not covered with convergence objective)	competitiveness, employment and attractiveness
		innovation
		entrepreneurship
		protection of the environment
		accessibility, adaptability and the development of inclusive labor markets.
European territorial cooperation	regions at NUTS III level which are situated along internal land borders, certain external land borders and certain regions situated along maritime borders	strengthen cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation
		urban, rural and coastal development
		development of economic relations
		creation of networks of small and medium-sized enterprises
IPA	candidate and potential candidate countries	strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law
		reform public administration
		carry out economic reforms
		human rights
		minority rights
		gender equality
		development of the civil society
		regional co-operation
		poverty reduction
		sustainable development
ENPI	land and maritime neighboring countries	prosperity in frontier regions
		public health
		infrastructure modernization
		cross- border employment.
		Improving relations with neighbors
		solving common problems
		local and regional "people- to- people" actions
		security in external borders

3.3. CONCLUSION

The answer of what is the European Union has no formal and complete answer. It is not a federation, since the member countries keep their sovereignties and national (internal and external) policies. However with a flag, currency, anthem, a representative body for third countries and by enabling free trade and movement within its borders it differs from other institutions based on free trade agreements like ASEAN, NAFTA or MERCOSUR. Some researchers suggest that the Union represents a structure of multi-level governance instead of a supra national body. In that structure, policies of the Union are shaped through the interdependence between regional, national and supranational actors, but not by a single supranational body (**Virtanen, 2004**). The Union has also a humanitarian mission, and is worlds biggest aid donor, which is not seen in any other trade based organization. Moreover preparations for a constitution, although they encounter various problems in national level, take this differentiation one step forward. But despite these 'nation-like' characteristics that force for a ceding from national sovereignties, it does not have the aim of abrogating or replacing current nation-states, however there is no doubt, it reduces their importance on the global scene. The EU has been defined as a 'family of democratic European countries, committed to working together for peace and prosperity' (**European Union, a**). As it is stated in the CIA Fact book, it is 'an unprecedented phenomenon in the annals of history' and since its nation-like characteristics are likely to be expand, it deserves to have a special entry in the intelligence records (**CIA**).

In conclusion some critiques about the EU have also to be mentioned, even if they are not directly related with the CBC process. This is important in order to keep the comprehensive view on that 'unprecedented phenomena'. First of all there is the argument that the Union is just a different form of classic capitalist institutions that co-operate with MNC for creating more profit and disturb the welfare state and dismiss the labor rights by the way. The argument is supported by the facts that EU strongly supports the flexible working hours; that social policies are left behind by many leading countries such as France and England; and that the cheap labor force from new member countries is put as a threat in front of the labor with relatively good income (**Yilmaz, 2002**). Secondly falling slow in action during the war time in Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina made EU to be blamed with not acting honestly on its mission to keep peace. Thirdly the integration policies and the continuing enlargement increase the nationalist movements in member countries and also the

nationalist parliamentarians in the EP. This finds its reflection in society in xenophobia and even racism. Finally the fear from loosing national boundaries and other limits stands not as a critique but as an obstacle in front of the process of integration.

The reduction of the importance of nation states in Europe is two fold. The first one is in supranational level as mentioned above, and the second one is in local level due the decentralization policies of the Union. For an active involvement of citizens to political life and increase democratic participation EU gives high importance and support to local and regional authorities. The high institutionalization process within Union, that covers all democratic institutions and even adds some new institutions like EC shows the prosperity of affecting not only MNC's and trade based relationships, but also daily live of regular citizens. Thus integration has not only to be realized in geographic, but also in social terms, to be able to unite the future of citizens of Europe. In this context it could be argued that CBC has been used efficiently. Although they did not reach to a full success, the first steps for generating a homogenous body in terms of welfare have been taken through CBC.

Hurrell (2007) remarks three key points in international relations. First of all the international society can be understood by considering it with two criteria, power and operation of legal and moral norms, secondly international society can be described only in historical and sociological depth, and thirdly a states system presupposes a common culture. By attributing these ideas to the works of Martin Wight, he mentions of the need of going beyond. He also mentions that even Europe has limits, but the world of regions is going forward on its road. The policies of integration and international relations of EU demonstrate that all these three criteria have a response in the current situation. The constitution debates, ongoing enlargement tasks and the interior problems such as alphabets, nationalist and racist parties, limited traveling permissions to the new- accessing countries and anti-integration propaganda show that it is hard to be 'united in diversity'. And there are still questions to be answered on what is international society within the Union and how geography, history and conjuncture can be combined for going beyond the ongoing debates on what the Union should be? In these terms CBC may be able to enlighten the future formal and informal structure of European society

4. SMALL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS AND THE JOINT SMALL PROJECTS FUND

Amongst CBC types, small projects emerge as the most efficient tools to influence directly local communities, make significant improvements in the daily live of society and integrate them to global society. All these affects are mostly due their small scale and limited geographical scope. However the impacts and importance of small co-operation projects has not been found a place in the academic literature. Although several issues directly related with small scale projects, like the tendency to localization (see **Boman, 2006, Vazquez- Castillo, 2001**), the hybrid structure of cross border interactions in border regions (see **Andersen and O'Dowd, 1999, Paasi, 1998**) and cross-border regions emerged through CBC (see **Perkmann, 2002, Scott, 2002**) have been investigated by various researchers, and a large amount of small projects were realized under different funds in different geographies. However in terms of European integration and development in border regions, these projects have various positive impacts. Firstly cultural differentiation and sharpened nationalist tendencies which increase proportionally with porosity in borders and lead to a social enclosure in border regions is attributed to negative sides of integration. **Dürschmidt (2006)** calls this process 'increase of social barriers'. Small co-operation projects have the potential to break down these social barriers by increasing participation of local people in problem solving cross border interactions concerning their daily live. Secondly in European case, it is worthwhile to develop cohesion and social integration in bordering regions during the accessing negotiations, since migration to wealthier parts of the region is likely to occur after accession of the candidate country (**Dürschmidt, 2006**). Small projects are able to serve as a tool for local development and reducing migration. Thirdly increasing centralization in nation state pacifies citizens in political terms and makes them dependent to the welfare state. This diminishes the capacity of people to influence decisions and contribute to social life (**Midgley, 1986**). Small projects encourage participation and avoid the risk of pacification of citizens. Fourthly, small projects are suitable for an empirical analysis of everyday life practices in border regions, which is crucial to 'grasp the ways in which socio-cultural boundaries and political borders

interact, and to realize how local, everyday life reproduces and negotiates existing borders while also generating new boundaries' (Dürschmidt, 2002). Finally, it is crucial to remind that those positive impacts are not a shortcut to (European) integration on border regions and all of them may not be a consequence of the projects, but a result of local factors of change (Boman, 2006). Thus a research on small projects could help to understand to what extent they help for integration and local socio- economic development.

4.1 SMALL SCALE CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

Small projects are considered as people- to- people actions, which mainly aim to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and cultures. Improvements of economic life and some small scaled infrastructure facilities are also within the scope of small co-operation projects. They are designed to create direct linkages between citizens, cities, businesses, educational and research institutions, hospitals, and non-governmental organizations of all kinds for the purpose of promoting understanding, sharing know-how, and developing new solutions to common problems and increasing mutual understanding as well. In this sense small scaled co-operation projects include joint actions in two sides of a border, as in the EU case, however in general any kind of projects realized with a small amount of money, focused on a limited area of interest and have a positive impact on local communities are within the definition of the term.

Small projects have been realized in different parts of the world, mostly with the aim of making simple changes in people's daily life in order to improve their quality of life. They can be either co-operation projects (where integration of two countries is an additional aim) or just aid from one institution or country to the other for implementation of a proposed project.

4.1.1. SOME EXAMPLES FOR USE OF FUNDS FOR SMALL PROJECTS

Funds for small scaled co-operation have been used in various parts of the world, in general with a common purpose: generating improvement in international relations and a small scale development in a specific sector. A common donor/ beneficiary relationship is between former European colonies and EU, or individual European countries like Germany. Germany has been developed a small scale fund which grants projects in different third world countries like Pakistan (The German

Embassy, Islamabad, 2007), India (**The German Embassy, New Delhi**), Bangladesh and Ghana. The target area of the grants is the poor and most vulnerable parts of the society, and is developed to be distributed in a non bureaucratic and efficient manner. Among the projects are improvements in employment situation of women, increasing living conditions via fresh water or small power generating projects, repair of school buildings or any improvement in educational facilities etc. The funds are limited up to € 8000, varying from country to country and are recognized as one of the tools of increasing the partnership between countries. The German government has announced that in 2003 more than 1500 projects were granted with a total of € 6.7 million (**German Foundation for World Population**). It is known that several European countries embassies like Swiss, Dutch, Finnish or British support co-operation mainly with third world countries via similar funds.

EU supports small scaled co-operation not only in Europe, but even in overseas. For example it is an important topic of EU's external relations with Indonesia (**Delegation of the European Commission to Indonesia, 2003**), Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam and other less developed Asian and African countries. The Union modified the content of the facility, by changing the aim of the fund as increasing dialogue between societies and make significant improvements in economic issues. Those projects cover areas like training and capacity building programs, conferences, publications, media products etc and strengthening the civil society in the road to grass- root democracy, integration of related countries to the world economy, administrative reform and development of rural areas (**European Commission, 2006b**). These partnerships have also been seen as a sign of the emergence of a 'transnational civil society' that is "promoting social equity and more accountable public and private institutions in each country" (**Vazquez- Castillo, 2001**) and "they increasingly share the view that the local is bi-national, and vice versa" (**ibid**). A similar of JSPF was created under TACIS program in the eastern borders of EU. The program was criticized as having positive impact on sustainability, however being localized and burdensome to management (**European Commission, e**). However the increasing amount of allocations (from € 3 million in 1996, to € 9.2 million in 2003) and large interest of participants (with more than 1000 applications during 1996-2003 period) (**Boman, 2006**) shows that local communities response to Europe's call for joint actions.

Another encouraging example of use of that kind of funds is from Serbia. The funds established by the three Serbian Non governmental organizations in a conference

called Civic Dialog and 'civic dialog projects' are used for increasing the interactions between citizens in Serbia and Kosovo. They serve not only for increasing prosperity, but also to re- build the environment of peace in the region (**Civic Dialogue, 2007**).

4.2 JOINT SMALL SCALE PROJECTS FUND (JSPF)

"The creation of a tolerant and prosperous Europe does not depend only on co-operation between states. It also requires transfrontier co-operation between local and regional authorities, without prejudice to the constitution and the territorial integrity of each state"

Council of Europe, Vienna Declaration, 1993 (cited from **Sadowski, 2006**)

JSPF was introduced under the PHARE- CBC program in 1998, and seems to be the most comprehensive tool for application of small co-operation projects. Between the years 2000- 2003 15.5% (~€100 millions) of grants allocated under PHARE- CBC are used for JSPF. During this period, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were the official beneficiaries of the Fund. In 2004 Turkey joined to this group.

In order to evaluate a systematic approach, the Fund will be examined under three main topics, the background of the fund, including the eligibility criteria and the main acquisitions aimed to be gathered via implementations of small projects; a framework for available sectors for candidate projects; and a comparative analysis of advantages and problems concerning the fund, including some advices found place in reports.

4.2.1 THE BACKGROUND OF JSPF

In the 'regulation for establishment of PHARE- CBC program' (**EC, 1998**) for the evaluation of the CBC process, the necessity of increasing the number of projects with cross border impact and increasing their implementation pace has been mentioned. Specifically, the necessity to strengthen the involvement of local and regional actors in cross-border cooperation, to enhance the bottom-up approach, to bolster the capacity of local actors for programming, implementation and monitoring, and to allow local authorities in border regions to take decisions on small projects of a real cross-border nature were the main stress point for small scaled projects (**EC, 1998**). The issues of involvement of local actors in co-operation processes and increasing their capacities for implementation and management of joint projects afterwards create the basis for the establishment of the JSPF (**ibid, article 5/2**). In further reports concerning the beneficiary countries (see for example **Ministry of EU**

Integration, Romania, 2003), some additional topics of interests are mentioned. A brief list, derived from **Ministry of EU integration, Romania (2003)** is below:

- I. development of cultural co-operation between neighboring regions on both sides of the border
- II. support and increase in numbers of cross border meetings of various groups of the population, especially of youth
- III. support of educational activities for institutions and individuals involved in local/regional development, in local government and in organizations of public interest
- IV. raising the level of public awareness and information on cross-border co-operation affairs and on the process of European integration
- V. encourage local involvement in the PHARE- CBC Program and to support small-scale actions which may form the basis for larger cross-border co-operation projects
- VI. stimulation and support to the creation of permanent structures among the local and regional organizations in the border region in question, particularly organizations with membership for both sides of the border
- VII. enhance possibilities for cross-border tourism attraction and linkages between the tourism support infrastructures on either side of the border
- VIII. develop and enhance co-operation between the communities on either side of the border with a view to joint improvement of economic development, living conditions and on-going contact

The fund was designed to be flexible and responsive to local needs and efficient through the relatively short implementation period (**Ministry of EU Integration, Romania, 2003**). Although it is not necessary to have equal impacts on both sides of the border, a cross border impact is obligatory for projects candidate for the fund. Allocations are distributed among beneficiary countries respectively to the population, GDP per capita and surface of the border regions concerned. The fund grants between €10000- 50000 for a duration of min. 3, max. 12 months to applicants which have proposals for one or more of the topics mentioned above, and also fulfill the following criteria:

- I. be non- profit making

- II. be local and regional authorities; associations of local and regional authorities; Euro regions; chamber of commerce; professional associations; trade union associations; non-governmental organizations; schools, colleges, universities within the defined border regions.
- III. have their headquarters within the eligible border region
- IV. local branch offices of national organizations that have a clear role in the border region
- V. be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project, not acting as an intermediary
- VI. have stable and sufficient sources of finance to ensure the continuity of their organization throughout the project and, if necessary, to play a part in financing it
- VII. be experienced and able to demonstrate their capacity to manage activity corresponding with the size of the project for which a grant is requested
- VIII. have one partner on the other side of the border, who must fulfill the same eligibility criteria

4.2.2. SECTORS ON FOCUS

The main sectors listed below are a summary of country guideline fiches and call for applications for JSPF.

- I. Local Economic Development: development of small-scale enterprise marketing initiatives, markets, exhibitions and advertising events and so forth; the creation of cross-border co-operation structures and partnerships among supporting organizations. Promotion of business cooperation, enterprise development and cooperation between institutions representing the business sector (e.g. chambers of commerce), facilitate local employment, education and training initiatives
- II. Tourism: studies, event planning, institutional strengthening measures, specific SME training and related Human Resources Development programs
- III. Health and Education: particularly the sharing of resources and facilities on a cross-border basis, elaboration of materials for distance learning, exchange of know-how and experience.
- IV. Communications and Media: the development or establishment of facilities and resources to improve the flow of information and communications between

border regions, including support for cross-border radio, television, newspapers and other media

- V. Cultural Exchanges: meetings and exchanges among youth; artistic and supporting activities; folk events and similar actions with the emphasis on the establishment of traditions and long-term co-operation
- VI. Agricultural and rural development measures with particular attention for facilitating cross border cooperation projects
- VII. Planning and development studies: Projects providing a basis for planning within a border region. Projects can be supported that create the preconditions for joint planning in a border region, for framing joint research programs, for drawing up joint strategies for regional development in a border area with the aim to jointly define the development priorities and so forth. Development of project applications, feasibility studies are also included.
- VIII. Environment: Projects focusing on specific problems of the environment of the region, such as the drafting of studies, assessment of problems, environmental training, and actions aimed at increasing public environmental awareness and so forth.
- IX. Local Democracy: projects that help to create and intensify the skills of organizational structures in local and regional public administration and other elements of a democratic society (local and regional authorities; associations of local and regional authorities; Euro regions; chamber of commerce; professional associations; trade union associations; non-governmental organizations; schools, colleges, universities). Relevant training courses and information will be provided supporting exchange visits, project preparation and procedural matters.

4.3. ADVANTAGES, PROBLEMS AND CRITIQUES CONCERNING JSPF

The 'Thematic Evaluation Report on PHARE- CBC' of European Evaluation and Monitoring Services (**EMS, 2004**) was the single resource related with the JSPF. It investigates the PHARE- CBC project and processes in general and JSPF is one of the subtopics in it. The following items regarding advantages and problems are roughly mentioned in the report and are selected, derived and listed by the author, some additions are also included; whereas the facts and suggestions on the future of the fund are listed only from the report with no additional comments.

4.3.1. THE ADVANTAGES AND ADDED VALUE OF THE FUND AND PROJECTS

- I. The Fund has a high capacity of mobilizing worthwhile projects at local level
- II. The Fund is effective for capacity building of local implementation bodies and provides significant experience of programming and implementing small scale projects. Such an experience is particularly valuable for those applicants who go on to develop projects for funding under post accession instruments.
- III. The projects increase the learning experience between applicants. Projects are often the first of their type in the locality and can provide the applicant with new ways to express their creativity and endeavor in a cross-border environment.
- IV. Very local nature of the projects usually actively involves cross border partners
- V. High proportion of projects that are the first of their type or the first by the grant holder; raised awareness and interest amongst successful applicants in other EU funding sources. As a result there is a potentially large pool of project ideas under development.
- VI. Projects raised public awareness of cross-border co-operation affairs and on the process of European integration
- VII. Development and enhancement of co-operation between communities on either side of the border with a view to joint improvement of socio-economic development, living conditions and on-going contact has been promoted.
- VIII. Most of the JSPF projects would probably never have been realized without the JSPF acting as both a catalyst and facilitator.
- IX. As a means of stimulating interest and visibility and of mobilizing citizens they are unbeatable.

4.3.2. FACTS ON JSPF AND PROJECTS

- I. The projects demonstrate that there is solid absorption capacity for these kinds of local actions.
- II. Long-term sustainability of JSPF projects is likely to come from two main sources: (i) “people to people” or “business to business” contacts continuing after the duration of the project and (ii) events being repeated without Phare funding. Whilst the continuation of “people to people” contacts is encouraging, it is repeat events without Phare funding that will be the real measure of sustainability of JSPF actions.

- III. For many of the applicants, this is their first contact with any donor program and for many of the projects this is the first time they have been implemented.

4.3.3. PROBLEMS CONCERNING JSPF

- I. Only about 50% of compliant projects have been granted. This shows that there is an oversubscription problem in JSPF that demonstrates the interest of people.
- II. The Joint Small Project Funds are always oversubscribed and therefore exhibit strong demand led characteristics. It is one of the main failings across Phare-CBC that a demand-led instrument has been introduced but not the flexibility to respond with additional finance for successful funds.
- III. It will be very difficult for many of these projects to be run again without further support via the JSPFs or other sources. For those with the potential to attract alternative sources of finance, it could take several years to reach sufficient maturity for alternative funding sources (e.g. advertising and sponsorship revenue) to step in. There is therefore a question mark over the sustainability of many projects. In many cases there are few alternative sources of funding and many of the grant holders, such as NGOs or Chambers of Commerce, are still at a stage where they rely on donor funding. Many of the activities financed by the Joint Small Project Funds might lend themselves to alternative funding.
- IV. The Phare programming guide for JSPFs allows up to 7% of the JSPF to be used for management costs of the JSPF. This is usually used to contract a consultant, an NGO or another body, such as a Regional Development Agency (RDA) to undertake much of the day to day management and monitoring functions. However, these intermediaries are not involved in project concept development despite a need for some form of consultative or counseling function to help applicants develop their project concepts.

4.3.4. ADVICES FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE VIA THE FUND

- I. Increasing the usage of the JSPF's, increasing the sum of the money, or transport unused funds is necessary in order to supply the oversubscription.
- II. Contracting out a large part of the management of JSPFs can work well.
- III. The full Phare machine including all the key actors, procedures and payment processes have to be mobilized for JSPFs as with any grant scheme. JSPFs would benefit from a more simple and streamlined process.

- IV. There is a need to introduce project support at the applicant level through a counseling or mentoring type function at the local level.
- V. In some areas, regional development could be stimulated by actions taken by the national level to ease cross-border movement.
- VI. In any cases where JSPFs are centrally administered, conditions should be attached to future JSPFs to ensure that the funds are as locally based as is possible. Where possible intermediary organizations should be involved to provide counseling and mentoring for project development.

4.4 JSPF IN TURKEY

The JSPF process began in Turkey in 2003, with the launch of the 'instrument for pre- accession assistance for Turkey'. The only partnering country is Bulgaria, and in its counterpart the provinces of Odrin (Edirne) and Kırklareli. These two provinces are considered among relatively well developed border regions of Turkey (**Gezici and Sezgin, 2005**). The first call for applications for JSPF was a pilot project, where €500.000 was allocated for each country. 9 of 29 applications were granted and 98% percent of the fund was allocated for that year, and all projects finished successfully in November, 2006. For the following year the same amount of money was allocated to 13 eligible applicants among 25, 99% of the grant was evaluated. The final date for finishing projects was November, 2007. For the latter year, the total amount increased to €700.000 for each country and 13 projects were found eligible for the fund (**Ohtamış, 2007**). Since the fund is relatively new introduced, and there is not much information on finished projects, this section is not available to evaluate in terms impacts of the projects to local communities.

4.5. CONCLUSION

The limited literature on JSPF proofs their positive impact in areas where they were applied. Small projects appear to be highly effective in local level, due their size which enables people to create, apply and manage them. They do not need any high level formal interaction and easily connect parts of societies on both sides of the border. Possible difficulties could be in the fields of official formalities during application process, since activities subject of bi-national contact have to involve central governments in most countries. Thus an efficient and flexible governmental mechanism would be hardly supportive in terms of encouraging such projects, as mentioned in 'advices' section **EMS (2004)**. However the advice on involving

intermediary organizations as managers or mentors in the projects (**EMS, 2004**) may reduce involvement of local people to all phases of projects, hence reduce participation.

Small projects and JSPF in particular differ from other types of co-operation projects with their stress on generating integration and development in the lowest level, i.e. local communities, limited interest groups, even individuals. In this sense their success of generating economic development could be perceived relatively low comparing other large scale projects, however in terms establishing foundations of mutual understanding, connecting local people into international society, thus initializing integration from a grass root level, they are unique. The last part of the study is dedicated to explore aforementioned effects on a field study

5. EVALUATING THE IMPACTS OF JSPF

Taking in mind the fact that every border region has its own socio- economic conditions affected by various local and national components, thus every CBC involving at least two border regions, creates a unique environment; a risk in using generalizations emerges. However for a systematic approach, some minimum requirements that could help to understand the co-operation process in border regions and its impacts on local communities have to be sought.

Four main topics among those, attributed as objectives for JSPF in the aforementioned literature were considered as relatively more important and crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the nature of the fund. Also their existence among the principles of projects and to what extend projects were able to reach them could be used as a criteria for measurement of the efficiency of the Fund. Moreover interrelations between objectives and fields of activities (sectors) may serve to indicate common specific dynamics and interests in the both sides of the border society that could be transformed into public policies. After a definition of aforementioned main objectives this part of the research will consists of two main sections. The first section will be based on a research of projects realized under the JSPF, in terms of objectives and sectors. For this purpose an internet search for publications or booklets of projects was done. The second step will be based on the findings of a questionnaire conducted with project owners, thought to be complementary to the case research and fill the data gaps.

5.1. MAIN OBJECTIVES

5.1.1. INTEGRATION

Integration in general and European integration in particular cover a large part of this study, thus it will not be investigated here once more in detail. Integration has been recognized as one of the objectives of projects realized under JSPF as well as it is among objectives of every other co-operation project, in any scale. However as it has been stressed by **Perkmann (2002)** and **Boman (2006)**, relatively big and revolutionary actions like diminishing barriers and enabling free movement of people or creating new structures like Euroregions are not as effective as they

supposed to be for reaching integration. Small projects, with their ability of creating mutual understanding and the feeling of belonging to a shared geographical space are argued to be able to complement these larger actions, thus enhance integration. Integration here, has not been considered as a final product (like institution building or development) or as a positive impact of realized projects (like increasing participation), but as a working process in the background of the socio- economic environment in the both sides of the border, to which each of the realized CBC projects would make a significant contribution.

5.1.2. INSTITUTION BUILDING

Institution building has not been considered among direct objectives of projects realized under the fund. However the longer a project lasts, the more possibility it has to reach its other objectives. Therefore establishing some sort of institutions for the continuity of the projects is of crucial importance for project owners. However continuity could only be sustained with the help of alternative financial resources, which could be gathered in case of long duration and via an institutional organization (**EMS, 2004**). **Ricq (2006)** makes two observations on CBC in his conclusion, one it is spreading through Europe and second it is irreversible. According to him the insurance of that irreversible process is the 'systematic development of institutions of different types and purposes giving muscle to transfrontier co-operation'. Institution building ensures the consolidation and effective functioning of the process (**Midgley, 1986**) created through co-operation. **Midgley (1986)** also stresses the importance of institution building for increasing participation in communities.

5.1.3. PARTICIPATION

Participation is defined as a 'voluntary democratic involvement of people in a) contributing to development effort, b) sharing equitably in the benefits derived therefrom and c) decision- making in respect of setting goals, formulating policies and planning and implementing economic and social development programs' by UN in 1929 (cited from **Midgley, 1986**). 'Participation not only humanizes the bureaucracy, but strengthens the capacities of individuals and communities to mobilize and help themselves. In this way, dependence on the state is minimized and ordinary people rediscover their potential for co-operation and mutual endeavor.' **Midgley (1986)** argues. As mentioned previously the objective of decentralization has two main aims in EU's regional policies: to spread funds fairly and achieve cohesion and increase the level of democracy by promoting participation of local authorities, organizations and individuals in decision making

processes. Thus integration would be internalized. The fact that democracies can not function properly without a certain degree of decentralization, which means enabling local populations to manage through local self government institutions has also been recognized by EU (**Council of Europe, 2006**). The complementary relationship between local self- government and CBC is stressed by **Ricq (2006)**: 'Effective trans- frontier co-operation needs strong local self government; besides transfrontier co-operation is also a means of strengthening and furthering local democracy'. Participation is necessary for social development since it is influential in addressing the immediate needs of community and mobilizing local resources in order to correspond them. Moreover participation is argued to create a sense of fulfillment among individuals, which strengthens the sense and bonds of community (**Midgley, 1986**). It is also argued that there is a strong correlation between development and participation and poor communities usually lack of participation (**Midgley, 1986**). Hence increased level of participation also can be interpreted as that the benefits of development are fairly distributed (**UN, 1982**).

5.1.4. DEVELOPMENT

The economic development and improvement of living conditions in border regions via relatively large scaled projects like infrastructure or establishment of institutions is considered to be the main contribution of PHARE- CBC to border regions (**Sadowski, 2006**). Therefore the scope of development in JSPF projects mostly is limited with simple but significant improvements in peoples daily live.

5.2. THE CASE STUDY

Data for 78 projects (10 countries from 9 different regions) has been gathered from two main resources: official web pages of the projects and booklets published by regional development agencies or equals of various countries (see app.1). Projects from all available resources were used, not one left behind. Except these 78 projects, web resources available for some other projects were only in their native language, so could not be understood. A distribution of numbers of projects according to regions realized could be found in table 5.1. There is not a certain data on how much projects were realized under the JSPF. However if we assume that there is an average of 15 projects in each country per year, 12 countries participated since 1998 (for 9 years) a total of 1620 projects is calculated. Considering that not all of the countries started to benefit at the same time from the fund, and some of them retained from the fund after accession, the final number should be slightly

lower than 1620, thus the sample represents ca. 5% of all projects. 6 out of 12 countries officially benefited from the fund represent half of the study population. The data set has been categorized under three main topics, namely objectives, sectors of action of the projects and direct affects of projects to peoples daily live.

Table 5.1. Number of projects realized in each region

Bulgaria- Greece	2	Hungary- Austria	24
Bulgaria- Turkey	4	Hungary- Romania	21
Bulgaria- Romania	2	Slovenia- Hungary	12
Romania- Ukraine	1	Slovenia- Austria	9
Slovenia- Italy	1	TOTAL	78

5.2.1. FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

Charts 5.1 and 5.2 summarize general data derived from the survey. One of the main findings of the survey was the high level of interest to the projects focused on development mainly in economic terms (45 of 78 projects, 57.7%). Exploring business possibilities or promoting local business environment on the other side of the border via booklets, web sides, conferences etc. are the most common activities. They range from relatively more realistic projects like promoting house working for creating employment, to utopist projects like arranging the whole region to be a regional or even continental attraction point (CENTROPE, project nr. 31). Main sectors, regarding development are business (including promotion for potential investors), agriculture, employment, tourism and organizing activities like seminars, conferences, briefings or roundtable meetings shortly summarized as academic activities. Activities under aforementioned sectors are 41 of 78 (53%). Although a large variety of projects exist, which show the creativity of applicants as **EMS (2004)** notes, actions for investment promotion and improvement of cross-border business environment (e.g. booklet publishing or establishment of web- portals) exist in every country with no exception. Cultural exchanges, which mainly serve for integration and better understanding of the other side, are relatively low, 12 out of 78 (15.4 %). This reminds the phenomena of 'increasing social barriers', while reducing political ones (**Dürschmidt, 2006**). Integration has been mentioned as the general objective in most projects, however there is not much place for integration among the specific objectives of the projects (26 of 78, 33%), as far as it can be understood from media attained. Only in three of those, integration and development were together under

the field 'objectives'. This could be read as that improving economic conditions is the priority in border regions and probably integration will be an issue of interest after reaching a certain level of economic development. Sectors mainly related with the objective 'integration' are cultural activities, environment protection activities, academic activities and actions for increasing the capacity of various groups in society, summarized under the topic 'capacity building' (see table 5.2).

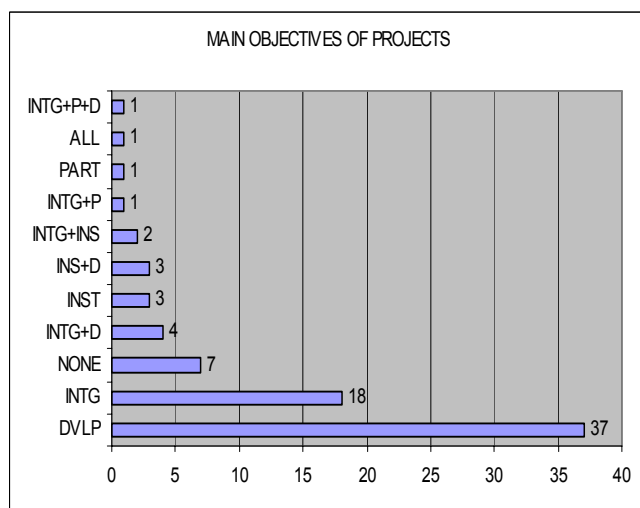


Figure 5.1. Main objectives of projects

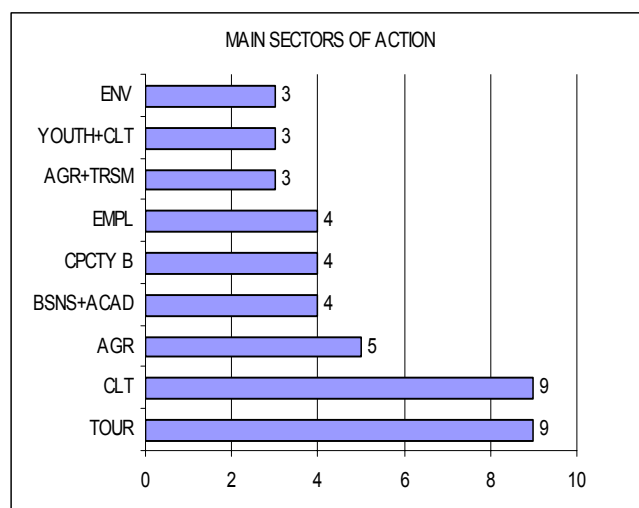
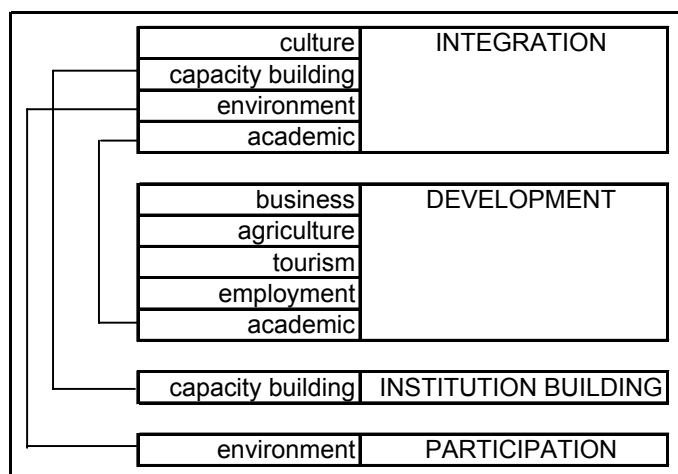


Figure 5.2. Main sectors of action

Table 5.2. Distribution of the main sectors according to their objectives



Continuity via institution building has been also subject to projects, however only four of them managed to achieve this result as an initial process of the projects. Thus projects most likely to survive after the end of EU funding seem to be those that are realized by already established institutions like NGO's, schools or municipalities. The rest of beneficiaries mentioned on this issue on the publications mostly argued that their continuity has been realized via external resources, mainly promises of municipalities or chambers of commerce in the region for continuing support. On the one hand this could be accepted as a response to critique of **EMS (2004)** to find alternative resources for continuity of a project. However being limited with a 'promise' or 'high interest and contribution of local people to the activity' (e.g. projects nr. 21 and 25) is hard to be argued as a support for continuity. The use of internet as an area of action could be argued to be a way of continuity, since the need for capital and human resources is minimized in this field. The projects that have mentioned establishment an internet resource as a final product are 8 of 78 (~10%), which is not a satisfactory ratio for continuity at all. These projects focused mainly on actions in agriculture, culture, business and capacity building sectors.

Participation and involvement of local people voluntarily into co-operation actions is a flu area in the booklets and web pages. There is no specific interest on participation and local self governance among projects, although it has been introduced as one of the key topics of co-operation by EU. The projects also are far away of the subject, 'understanding the other'. With no exception all projects focus on the improvement in their side of the border and there is no specific impact on the other side that has been mentioned in the booklets. A third lacking information is in the affects of projects on people's daily live. Most of the projects with the objective

'development' were focused on business development and academic action. These two sectors' impacts on people's daily live are uncertain. Some projects like publishing tourism brochures would have indirect affects in case of attracting tourists. The remaining projects could be grouped in two. On the one hand projects like establishing fairs and carnivals and joint concert actions or school or hospital trips (e.g. projects nr. 12 and 24) have a significant impact in terms of entertaining and becoming familiar with the culture of the bordering region. On the other hand projects like professional educations for farmers (e.g. projects nr. 68 and 76) or for steel workers (project nr. 13) have positive impacts in improving economic conditions of local people. Those types of projects are 19 of 78 (24%) as far as it can be recognized from booklets. However the data is unsatisfactory for identifying such projects, since most of projects don't mention on the issue, even if they have a significant impact.

For detailed information of distribution of main sectors according to their objectives see table 5.3. Since there is no limitation, a project may be classified under two or more objectives, hence the total number of projects in table exceeds 78.

Some derivations from findings could be listed as follows:

1. All of the beneficiaries are aware of the importance of defined topics, and at least one of them has been mentioned in the goals sections of booklets or project definitions.
2. The focus on development, mainly in economic terms has been found as a common interest among projects, although sectors of action vary from country to country. People explore fields of development among their local resources, which have been emerged for example as tourism or agriculture depending to the country. Taking in mind that at least one business promotion project in every country exist, it could be argued that a reflection of 'being in the border' could be seen when looking at the projects. Lagging behind in terms of economics, force people in border regions to focus on the struggle with this phenomenon.
3. There is no doubt, JSPF positively supports participation of local people and institutions to the co-operation process by enabling only those who are situated on border region to participate. However the results show that the interest of local people is not an issue of importance, even if it ever exists. Neither on booklets, nor in the web pages has no specific importance been given to the issue. On the other hand the goal of integration, which is important as much as participation, finds a significant place in the descriptions of the projects, even if their fields of action does

not directly support the goal. Here the stress of EU to priorities of projects may be questioned, since the owners' own descriptions of projects show the given importance to both issues as a response to EU demands for granting.

Table 5.3 distribution of projects according to sectors and objectives

NUMBER OF PROJECTS ACCORDING TO SECTORS	OBJECTIVES	INTEGRATION	DEVELOPMENT	INST. BUILDING	PARTICIPATION
	YOUTH	3 of 4	1 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
	CULTURE	12 of 15	2 of 15	2 of 15	1 of 12
	BUSINESS	5 of 17	14 of 17	2 of 17	0 of 17
	AGRICULTURE	5 of 12	9 of 12	2 of 12	1 of 12
	CAPACITY BUILDING	5 of 7	2 of 7	3 of 7	0 of 7
	ENVIRONMENT	4 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5	2 of 5
	TOURISM	2 of 15	13 of 15	0 of 15	0 of 15
	EMPLOYMENT	0 of 4	3 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
	PLANNING/ ACADEMIC	7 of 20	12 of 20	1 of 20	1 of 20
	HEALTH	0 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1

5.2.2. DIFFICULTIES REGARDING THE CASE STUDY

The difficulties in the foreign language emerge as the most important topic here. The limited internet resources are mostly in native languages of project beneficiaries, which make difficult to diversify the sample. On the other hand many of the web sides realized as a result of the fund don't have any section regarding the establishing process, the fund and the partnership. They are directly focusing at their final aim, e.g. promoting the tourism potential of a cross-border region. Another concern is related with the booklets. Since they have limited space, mostly one page per project, the data available is mostly limited with issues considered as most important by the project owner, and existence of some other possible impacts, e.g. promoting participation, could not be identified.

5.3. THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire has been prepared to gather complementary data mainly on topics of integration, participation and affects of people's daily live. The questionnaire consists of 30 questions, mostly dichotomous (Yes/ No) and Likert Scale type and was sent to all of the projects investigated in previous section. A copy of the questionnaire has been attached to the app. D.

The first area of interest of the questionnaire was integration mainly in terms of the cross border impact of the projects. In addition the interests to co- operate with the other side of the border among final beneficiaries of the project has been sought as well. These two topics were prepared to measure if integration emerges as a 'hands on' practice, or is it left as a wish in the objectives section. Since integration is aimed

to be realized with native societies in the two sides of the border, co-operation with a non- ethnic based organization is preferred, otherwise the project would have the potential of being discriminatory instead of connective. Hence establishing partnerships with ethnic based organizations has been sought and considered as an element reducing the effects of project in terms of integration. The second area of interest was if the projects would manage to continue after the cut off the fund. It has been asked if they have considered the subject among the goals of their projects, if they succeed to create sustainable institutions for co-operation via this project and even if not, were they be able to enhance with a general culture of co-operation, which they could transfer to others, at least. Participation, i.e. people's involvement in co-operative actions, has been sought mainly in terms of voluntarism and the relationship of volunteers with the project. The relationship between voluntarism and being a final beneficiary of the project has been considered as an indicator of positive impacts of participation, since people would be directly involved in actions affecting their environment in that case. In this sense, the ratio of volunteers and professionals recruited for the project has been considered as an important factor as well. The issue of affects of projects to people's daily live has also been evaluated in terms of being able to generate a significant improvement in the local environment in any sector. The starting point of projects was an issue of interest, in terms of having background data. Here a differentiation has been asked under two topics, aiming a solution of any problem or generating an innovative activity. This data was unavailable for many of projects in booklets. However, knowing main triggering effects for such projects could have significant importance for understanding the co-operation process. Also how the participants perceive their projects and to what extend did they reach their goals has been asked in terms of integration, development, participation and continuity. A distribution of questions according to target objectives could be found in table 5.4.

Table 5.4. Distribution of questions according to target objectives

target objective	INTEGRATION	DAILY LIFE	PARTIZIPATION	CONTINUITY
question number	4 (partnership)	12 (development)	13 (volunteers)	19 (remained organization)
	8 (cross- border impact)	18 (youth)	14 (volunteers)	
	9 (cross- border impact)	26 (impact)	17 (local support)	23 (experience transfer)
	10 (beneficiary demand)	27 (volunteer/ beneficiary)	21 (proffesionals, -)	29 (department for CBC)
	11 (ethnicity, -)		22 (proffesionals, -)	

5.3.1. FINDINGS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

8 out of 78 questionnaires returned (10%). The reasons of such a low ratio of returns, which also represents a data on the nature of the Fund and projects, will be discussed in section 5.3.2.

Table 5.5. represents the answers given to the objective indicator questions in the questionnaire. In terms of how do participants perceive the general objective (integration, development, institution building or participation) of their project, four of them have chosen the topic development, while three out of four has chosen at least one additional topic. Continuity with four, participation and integration with three checks have found a considerable importance among objectives. Thus it could be argued, in general, the projects are properly oriented according to EU co-operation principles. Five projects claim that they generate an innovative activity, whereas three of them provide a solution to a specific problem. The cross border impact of the projects has been sought in terms of being able to make each of the partners known on the other side of the border. All of the beneficiaries argued they were able to make their organization known on the corresponding side. Also, they agreed their partner was efficiently introduced to their counter partner, with grading more than 4 in a 5 stepped Likert scale in 5 questionnaires. 6 of the beneficiaries finished their projects without having any problem concerning their partner. In 7 projects, final beneficiaries applied for further contact with the partners and only one of the beneficiaries has realized its project with an ethnic based organization. So in general it could be argued that projects have a significant positive impact on the other side of the border in terms of integration. In terms of success 6 out of 8 questionnaires produced any significant example regarding one of the main

objectives and all of them agree that their project manage to reach its predefined goal.

Table 5.5. Answers to indicator questions

questionnaire nr.		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
question nr.									
INTEGRATION	q4	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N
	q8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	q9	4	2	5	2	3	3	3	3
	q10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	q11	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
AFFECTS ON DAILY LIFE	q12	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N
	q18	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
	q26	3	2, 3	2,3,4	2,3,4	2	1,3,4	2,3	3
	q27	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
PARTICIPATION	q13	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
	q14		2	1	2	3		1	1
	q17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	q21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	q22	3	4	3	1	2	1	1	1
CONTINUITY	q19	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
	q23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	q29	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N

Y: yes; N: no; q.9: 1-5 Likert scale; q. 14/ 22 0-100 percentage, q26: see app.D

Project owners with no exception feel that they are enhanced with the capability of transfer their experience to other potential beneficiaries. However when talking on 'hands on' practice for institutionalization, four of participants could not manage to transform their project into a surviving institution, while two of those neither have a specific unit for CBC within their organization. Two out of four established a remaining office, while one's way of institutionalization was a network. The fourth project argued that an established contact for another project is its way of institutionalization.

In terms of participation, no volunteers participated in two out of 8 projects. In four of them the ratio of participation was between 0-20percent, and in the other two 20-35% and 35-50%. However with no exception they get help from local people in different levels during application of the projects. The contrary question, i.e. recruitment of professionals for the project has been responded with no exception as 'yes', while the ratio of professionals involved in projects is 0-20% in four of them, 20-50% in three, and 50-75% in one project. Table 5.6. reflects an existence of a third type of workers involved in the project, which probably are existing employees of the organization appointed for the project.

Table 5.6. Comparative table of volunteers and professionals involved in the project

Questionnaire nr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ratio of volunteers %	0	20-35	0-20	20-35	35-50	0	0-20	0-20
ratio of professionals %	35-50	50-75	35-50	0-20	20-35	0-20	0-20	0-20

Only in two of the projects, final beneficiaries, who are argued to be directly affected from the impacts of the project, are also among volunteers of the project. In terms of how the project affected peoples daily live most common answers were increasing interactions with the other side of the border with 7 out of 8 participants and quality improvement in any sector with 6 out of 8. The distribution of other answers could be seen in table 5.7..

Table 5.7. How do you describe your projects impact on your communities' life?

Questionnaire Nr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
increase in level of income						X		
quality improvement		X	X	X	X		X	
increased interactions	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
improved wellbeing			X	X		X		

In a sector distribution health and business projects with two applicants per each are the most chosen sectors. The others are tourism, culture, employment and environment activities.

5.3.2. DIFFICULTIES RELATED WITH THE STUDY

Three main difficulties encountered during the research could also explain the hindrances in exploring small co-operation projects in general. Firstly the scale of projects makes them hard to identify, since they are largely related to a limited part of the local community, e.g. trekking, folklore clubs, schools etc. Secondly peripherality keeps the beneficiaries in a hard to reach position, in particular when internet is poorly used. There is no web page of projects, neither a connection via internet, as one has tried to contact them via e-mail address which is declared officially in the project brochure, will always receive an automatic reply says 'this mail box does not exist anymore'. Moreover it is not hard to believe, a large sum of not replied mails are left in mail boxes were not controlled for a long time, since another usual reply was 'your mail could not be delivered since the quota of recipient is full, please try again later'. Communication problems were the third type of hindrances encountered. Mails for the research and the questionnaire were sent

in English to all beneficiaries in order to avoid misunderstandings that can occur during translation. However some of Turkish recipients replied that they would like to participate the study but only if we send them a Turkish version of the questionnaire. In the JSPF, it is allowed to hire professional assistance up to 7% of the budget. Usually this professional assistance could be the only English speaking person involved in the project, and after completion no one remains for further communications.

5.4. CONCLUSION

The questionnaire supplied the possibility to compare official declarations of project owners with their 'hands on' experience, although the number of responses was relatively low. First of all a comparative analysis of the issue 'development' could be done. As mentioned above, 57.7% of projects announced development as one of their objectives, consistently 4 out of 8 respondents argue to have a development based objective (question nr.1) and have created a significant economic development in the benefit of their community (question nr. 12). However on the contrary to the field study, integration takes a significant place among questionnaire respondents. Integration as an objective founds place in 3 out of 8 questionnaires, whereas increased interactions with the other side of the border found place in 7 out of 8 projects. Moreover the projects also have a significant cross- border impact in terms of introducing themselves to their counterpart, thus it could be argued that integration is successfully running in the background of the projects and the projects make significant contributions to the process. When the institutionalization is considered, a better ratio is gathered via questionnaires (4 of the responded questionnaires), which demonstrates that even if it is not considered as an objective, the attempt to survive has not been ignored during application process. In addition 7 of 8 projects have plans for future co-operation, which also could be accepted as a positive impact to the process of institutionalization. The questionnaire supports the argument that most of projects lack in promoting participation and encouraging local people to change their daily live. The issue of 'positively affecting peoples daily live' has been considered as a result of realization of the projects, but not as a process which could emerge during application of projects. Finally the involvement of youth into co-operation process has been investigated both as a final beneficiary and as an active part of the process, regarding establishment of a long lasting environment of co-operation in the border region, by involving the young generation into process. 5 out of 8 projects were able to generate a final product that directly affect the youth

(e.g. summer camp, youth center etc.), however in terms of active participation to the project they are not successful. Only 5 out of the 8 projects choose less than 20% of their professionals or volunteers among those, under the age 26.

First of all the issue of 'participation' should be questioned, since one possible way to positively change peoples daily life was to involve them in an action for that purpose. However neither project objectives, nor volunteer ratios do support such a tendency. The potential of these projects to mobilize people for such an action however can not be denied (**EMS, 2004**) due their scale and scope. May they efficiently should be used for that purpose. On the other hand in terms of integration and making significant changes in local environment (development) they are highly efficient as it has been proposed in their state of purpose, and proofed through the field study and questionnaire. Considering that at least 10 projects per year were realized in every participating country, a little at a time makes a lot.

6. CONCLUSION

'Many transfrontier regions I have visited and studied have told me of the extend to which their relations with neighboring regions have brought peace and mutual understanding: what a lovely achievement to attribute to transfrontier co-operation.' (Ricq, 2006)

In the study three issues have specific importance as motivators for such a research. They are namely CBC, European Integration and border regions. Their interrelation is supported by liberal economic globalization trends all over the world and regionalism policies of EU. First CBC process emerges as a tool of the world politics, which reduces the barriers in front of global actors, such as multi national corporations, supra regions like EU, NAFTA and MERCOSUR and social movements like World Social Forum, in terms of free flow of goods, capital, human and knowledge. In this sense every international movement for global action could be argued as a CBC, e.g. anti terrorism and free trade agreements, regional alliances and social movements.

At that point EU deserves special importance, two fold. First it is a result, may be the best, of that global process. EU itself is a multi national co-operative action that could be considered as a CBC project. On the other hand policies generated by EU, either external or internal, actively shape aforementioned process. EU is an efficient actor in the global scene. One part of the powers of EU on global politics lies in the capacity of reshaping its interior. During this process, shortly called integration, national barriers were abolished, while nation states remain. A single currency, a single social sphere and a common political will were introduced to the world and nation states inside. This could be considered as a cornerstone in modern politics which were nation state oriented before EU (**Hurrel, 2007**). Another critical part of the process is a recently emerging governance system, the multi- level governance. While on the top of the governance mechanism the trio of EC, EP and CoE executes and a hybrid structure of parliamentarians and technocrats has been established. On the lowest level, by founding of pressure or interest groups, regional organizations, municipalities and even non governmental organizations became more efficient in national and supra national level. In the middle, national,

governments serve as catalyst and coordinator of that process. Since this is a real ongoing process, it has strong impacts on local communities. On the one hand a continental citizenship emerges, covering all rights of a national citizenship but independent from social ties like nationality, ethnicity, religion and politic barriers. However on the other hand in peripheral –or non- metropolitan- areas these new opportunities meet a negative reflection in terms of increasing nationalist tendencies and even xenophobia.

In border regions the situation is more complicated due their historical situation. In many cases being separated from the half of their natural, economic, historical or social region on the one hand, being ignored by the central governments in terms of investment and welfare, on the other stimulate a dilemma in the borderlands, and make affects of both, exclusion and integration more visible.

Pre assuming that, liberal economic globalization and European integration are and will be driving forces behind the social changes in the contemporary world, it is necessary to study how they can be used in a positive way for society. CBC projects, especially those directly concerning local communities, in this sense should attract specific attention. This research was dedicated to small co-operation projects in aforementioned terms. It has been argued that those projects are able to make significant changes in peoples daily live, especially in peripheral regions by integrating them to the global society, promoting mutual understanding and a peaceful neighborhood and fostering participation for improving citizens' quality of life. The Joint Small Projects Fund of EU was on focus of the investigative part of the research as the main economic fund for such projects on the world. Findings proofed that applied co-operation projects have significant positive impacts in aforementioned terms. In other words the main hypothesis, that small scaled co-operation projects have a significant contribution to the integration of local communities at border sides and pave the ground for the development and institutionalization of integration policies aimed by the EU was confirmed through the findings.

Some handicaps were also indicated. The most important of those was the lack of involving local people in individual level to the projects. This could also be an issue of further research, especially in terms of proofing the impacts of involvement into local social, economic and political life (participation) to the integration process of EU. Applying the same methodology in a wider area, which is an institutional issue, rather than an MSc. thesis and a comparative country analysis, in terms of application processes and use of the fund could be areas of interest for further

researches. Offering a small but efficient tool for development in border regions in general could also be evaluated into a model available for Turkey. Whether these projects could offer a contribution to the solution of several complex border problems in the eastern borders of Turkey or do those complex problems hinder such an effective tool to be applied should be considered as an issue of interest as well.

A second impact of the research was its' attempt to bring a systematic approach for the small scaled projects and the JSPF, in terms of objectives, sectors of interest, experiences, advantages and disadvantages, since in that unexplored area, the first need was to clear the path and organize available data in the start of the research. In these terms, the research could be perceived as an introduction to JSPF.

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LIST OF APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A: Web addresses of official web pages and booklets of projects

APPENDIX B: List of projects investigated

APPENDIX C: A sample of booklets investigated

APPENDIX D: A copy of the Questionnaire

APPENDIX A: Web addresses of official web pages and booklets of projects

BULGARIA- GREECE

- <http://bn-petrich.com/index.php> (web page)
- <http://www.thrace-business.com/en/index.html> (web page)

BULGARIA- TURKEY

- http://www.maritza.info/BG/p_place_democracypoint.htm (web page)
- <http://www.yambiz.com/cbc/en/index.htm> (web page)
- <http://pgpstt-yambol.com/project/index.html> (web page)

BULGARIA- ROMANIA

- <http://www.danubul.net/defaulteng.aspx> (web page)
- http://www.vratza.bg/projects/kat_ikon_en.pdf (web page)

ROMANIA- UKRAINE

- http://www.gecbucovina.ro/proiecte/caravana_eng.html (web page)

SLOVENIA- ITALY

- <http://www.vipavska-dolina.si/?jezik=ANG&id=&oblika=Program&baza=1&vsebina=> (web page)

HUNGARY- AUSTRIA

- <http://www.vati.hu/main.php?folderID=3104> (booklet)

HUNGARY- ROMANIA

- <http://www.vati.hu/main.php?folderID=3104> (booklet)

SLOVENIA- HUNGARY

- <http://www.rra-mura.si/ssmp/start.htm> (booklet)

SLOVENIA- AUSTRIA

- http://www.park-goricko.org/download/9/2006/9/2509_3486_objava_izdelkov_za_splet.pdf (booklet)

APPENDIX B: List of projects investigated

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
Bulgaria-GR	1	RASED "THRACIAN BUSINESS NETWORK"	2003	to establish a network for cross-border initiatives targeting companies, business organizations and local authorities in the region	Establishing of Thracian business network of companies, business organizations and municipalities from Haskovo and Evros for supporting the process of attracting investors in the cross-border region.
				help the border region to overcome specific development problems resulting from their relative isolation in the framework of national economies	
				create conditions for business cooperation and attracting investments in the cross-border region Haskovo (Bulgaria) – Evros (Greece).	Conducting of series of Bulgarian-Greek partnership meetings of companies, business organizations and municipalities. The meetings will support Bulgarian companies to be prepared for Bulgaria's accession to EU and to create sustainable business partnerships.
					Registering of a website – Thrace-Business.
					Development and publishing of Business guide Haskovo-Evros in Bulgarian and Greek language. The guide includes contact information of companies from both sides of the border
					Conducting of Bulgarian-Greek forum for business cooperation.
	2	LIFES "Creating and Development of business networks for cooperation in the cross border region of Petrich, Razlog, Strumiani, Bulgaria, and Serres, Greece"	2004	create a basis for involving all key players and place them in the right position	a webpage
				supporting cross border collaboration and development of economic potential through improving the enterprises competitiveness.	
Bulgaria-Turkey	3	"By a children's train through the Balkans"	2005	studying and making the cultural and historical heritage of the Balkans popular	. Establishment of a Children Partnership Club
				overcoming the religious and ethnic differences in the Balkans	Education of a target group of children in four modules – history, culture, nature resources and religion in the border regions
				Enlarging the childrens' knowledge on the culture, history and religion of the two border regions	
				To encourage professional contacts and co-operation between teachers, pedagogues and experts from Yambol and Odrin	Workshops organized in Yambol and Odrin "The children of Odrin talk about Yambol", and "The Children of Yambol talk about Odrin".
	4	CROSS BORDER SCHOOL FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY	2003	improving administrative capacity of municipalities in the region for supporting cbc and making eu candidacy process popular among public	establishment of a mobile team for cbc consultation creation of a regional database
				establishment of 'the school for local democracy' with permanent staff	
				training for advisors for eu-cbc projects for municipalities	
	5	"FORUM FOR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP Bulgaria- Turkey"	2003	improvement and support of the cross-border cooperation in the field of development of the economic potential of the region	questionnaire- informative study
					joint conferences and forums
				to assist the business circles and local organisations and institutions, related to the business and regional development to overcome the specifics and the problems in the field of economy, caused by their relative isolation in their national and regional economies	joint public-consultative council for economic development and investments
				Reinforcement of the local cooperation in the field of the economic development through consolidation of the capacities and resources of the local aithorities and non-governmental organisations and business support organisations	bureau and virtual platform for distance business consulting and informing in Bulgarian and Turkish languages

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
Bulgaria- Romania	6	Danube Bridge for Partnership, Cross-Border Initiatives and Business Cooperation	2003	improving the economic development in the peripheral region by stimulating the business cooperation between the companies	organising a study trip to the Romanian region
				Supporting the border regions to overcome the specific problems of their development by cooperating at local level.	micro exhibition of companies from the region of the town of Rousse
				Encouraging and support for the establishment of reliable networks for coopration on both sides of the border and connecting them with the global networks of the European Union	Data-base with detailed information about companies working in the two border regions
					The information will be presented in a website and in a business catalogue
					Danube Centre for Cross-Border Initiatives and Business Cooperation
					Campaign to gather information on SMEs in the Bulgarian-Romanian borderline region
					Software with a data base on SMEs in the cross-border region
Bulgaria- Romania	7	THE MUNICIPALITY - CATALYST OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2004	The main purpose of the project is to increase the capacities of the municipalities of Vratsa and Craiova, in the field of economic development of their territories.	Preparation of reports for the priorities of the economic development of both municipalities and carrying out a presentation forum
				To get to know each other better and improve their skills in creating better conditions for the development of business and increasing the economic potential of the transboundary region.	Distributing a questionnaire to identify the potential sectors for economic development
					database of the business organizations and the non-governmental sector for cooperation purposes
Romania- UA	8	The Ecologist Caravan "The Green Week"	2004	stimulation of the closeness between people and communities	Materials for promoting the message of this action in three languages
				bilateral contacts during some event-activities, developed especially with the young people	Thematic events (4), organized with trimestrial frequency, alternatively on each side of the border, ecologist actions with bilateral participation, itinerary show rooms with ecologist cartoons, varnishings, lectures, debates, round tables, book launches
				promotion of the knowledge, mutual esteem and the care for the natural environment, in the spirit of the local sustainable development through cooperation, peace and cordial neighborhood.	
				The stimulation of understanding and respect of the differences and diversities (ethnic, cultural, religious, sexual etc.)	Informational portal in three languages "TransEco", for information, communication, on-line discussions (forum).
				emphasis of the mutual desires, needs and problems, during the bilateral contacts of the members of the collectivities, especially the young people	
SL-IT	9	Upper Vipava valley – recognised tourist destination	2004	to increase reputation of this area as a tourist destination	A management organization model of this tourist destination has been prepared through a good practice's transfer,
					a graphic image, a web information portal and a printed promotional brochure in three language
					awareness arisen during the project that tourism is an important perspective and developing economic activity of the Vipava valley area.
HU- AU	10	CARMINA BURANA JOINT CONCERT	2001	lay the foundations of a long-term CBC	mutually improving each other's musical skills and knowledge and to get a better understanding of Austrian and Hungarian musical traditions
				a joint concert (Carl Orrf: Carmina Burana), including joint preparations for the show and the concert itself	
	11	DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL GEODATA SET BY MEANS OF AREAL LASER SCANNING	2001	Development of a precision Digital Relief Map (DRM) for neighbouring sections of the CBR	Records created under the project and the national parks information system are kept and gradually improved
				Integration of DRM within the information system of a national park	
				resolve conflicts between various forms of land utilization in favour of nature preservation	

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
	12	EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES: HOLIDAY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDICAPPED YOUTH	2001	promote the social reintegration of handicapped youth, reduce discrimination against them and give them increasingly equal opportunities at the same time.	exhibitions
				achieving integration through bringing together handicapped and non-handicapped youngsin venues such as arts and crafts workshops	the language barrier and other gaps in communication between the Hungarian and the Austrian participants were seamlessly bridged by the joy of creative work
					Special educational programs have a very positive impact on the physical and mental well-being of the handicapped.
	13	NEW REGIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH STEEL FIXER TRAINING COURSES	2001	fullfilling the significant shortage in steel fixers both on the Hungarian and the Austrian side	training courses
				to give a chance of social integration and alignment to young people living in the region who have shifted to the periphery of society, unable to build up an existence.	practice on both side of the border
HU- AU	14	HUNGARIAN FARMERS IN THE UNION	2001	improvement of farming potential in the region along the Mura River	exchange of knowledge and information supply
				preparing local farmers and croppers for EU accession using relevant expertise gained in Burgenland	an agricultural fair and a field trip
				.	putting together the licensing plan for a cold storage unit
					information of the benefits of establishing /operating new, EU compatible farming partnerships to croppers and farmers in the region via workshops
	15	STUDY ABOUT THE COOPERATION OF WINE REGIONS ALONG THE BORDER	2001	collectively discuss the ways forward and to explore each other's backgrounds	information exchange, community building and promoted cooperation and communication between involved communities
				joint product development, product quality control, marketing communication and sales policies; wine tourism, harmonized selling policies, bilateral education, training and research.	6 concerts were performed under this project.
					collective lunches and dinners after the rehearsals, established partnerships
	16	MUSIC WITHOUT BOUNDARIES	2001	build links between participating choirs to reinforce cultural relations along the border	joint concerts for the benefit of music lovers in both borderline regions
	17	ENCOUNTER OF NATURE AND CULTURES AROUND THE ALPS FOOTHILLS AND LAKE FERTŐ	2001	increasing the popularity of the area by bundling natural and cultural resources and advertisement through marketing campaigns.	expansion of the photo archives
					production of publications
					production of a mobile installation to emphasize the identity of the region
	18.	WINE CULTURE WITHIN AND ACROSS THE BORDER (WINE TOURISM FROM OSZKÓ TO HEILIGENBRUNN)	2001	improvement of tourism including wine tourism and the compilation of a joint cross-border selection of tourist programs	own stands at 4 domestic tourism shows and regional programs and offers available on the Internet.
					Vinotheque and Wine Museum displaying wines produced along the Austrian-Hungarian border and equipment and machinery used in winemaking.
					improve technology and knowledge behind winemaking and wine tourism, such as a series of training courses for winemakers, a field trip to Austria, a conference and other operations associated with the tourist information system and wine marketing.

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
	19.	ALPS & FLATLANDS TOURISM PROJECT	2001	publishing a joint catalogue listing tourism service providers along the border region	publishing a joint catalogue listing tourism service providers along the border region
	20.	ECOTOURISM AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE ÍROTTKŐ NATURE PARK	2001	the expansion of tourist services offered, which would build on local treasures to get visitors to learn about the natural and cultural legacy of the park. to organize the first convention of domestic nature parks.	building educational hiking trails, display areas and exhibits, partly linked to well-known excursion destinations (such as the Írott-kő overlook or Kalaposkő) and partly directing attention to previously ignored features (such as museums of local history)
	21	FROM EUROPE TO EUROPE	2001	increasing mutual understanding on the way to Europe.	People regularly invited each other to one-on-one and collective sessions, celebrations, concerts, excursions, outings or in the Petőfi Theatre of Sopron. 7 lectures on music history Arts and crafts workshops (weaving, embroidery, wood carving) workshops on mutual language teaching benefits and difficulties of joining the EU where representatives of the 2 nations exchanged their similar and differing views and experiences regarding various aspects of accession according to the topics.
	22.	ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WINEMAKING TECHNOLOGY IN THE SOPRON WINE REGION	2001	propagate an environmentally friendly winemaking technology	a booklet printed to outline the basics of the technology, giving a detailed description of the typical environmentally conscious grape growing practices generally accepted and followed by EU member states. seven 2-day seminars in the wine communities field trips to Austria allowing winemakers to study environmentally friendly grape growing practices
	23	JOINT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE VIENNA / BRATISLAVA / GYŐR REGION	2001	to develop a joint regional development strategy for the next 10 to 15 years that would serve as a baseline for decisions regarding the development of towns, sites and infrastructure	four small region task force meetings and four area focus task force meetings with respect to a status review of the Hungarian side. 2 trilateral workshops, organized to identify actions, present and discuss results. a list of potential partners for future INTERREG projects
HU- AU	24.	CULTURE AND SPORT WITHOUT BORDERS	2001	to get a better understanding of the geography and history of the neighbour country in a playful, unofficial manner, through sports, trips, sightseeing, hikes and games.	development of a new urge for language learning, skills improvement and creating exhilarating and inspiring get-togethers
	25	HISTORICAL MEMORIAL DAYS ALONG THE BORDER, SZENTGOTTHÁRD - MOGERSDORF	2001	to mobilize players in the fields of culture, science and communication on both sides of the border in celebrating the 340th anniversary of the Battle at Szentgotthárd in 1664.	a festival that attracted people from the region and from across the border.

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
	26	PARTNERSHIP FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS	2001	to accelerate economic development relations in the Hungarian-Austrian border region and to prepare and hold a sequel to the international economic development conference first held in the autumn of 2003 (2nd Pannonian Economic Days).	new contacts, agreements and project proposals realized at various forums
					website and publication
				Exchanging views and knowledge of processes of economic cooperation, synchronizing concepts and strategies	
	27	ÍROTTKŐ INTERREGIONAL BICYCLE MARATHON	2001	propagating the strengthening a "Biker Friendly Region" among bicycle tourists and to reinforce cooperation between bicycle clubs along the borderline.	a cross-border bikers network
	28	I LOVE THIS LAND - "ICH LIEBE DIESE LANDSCHAFT"	2001	Review the status of and assess development opportunities in the area of Sopron and Eisenstadt by locals and by experts in the fields of environmental protection, organic farming, transportation, energy supplies, water management, ecotourism and environmental education	14 small-group field trips to Hungary and Austria focusing on mentioned areas.
	29	WELL PREPARED BUSINESSES - SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS	2001	training small and medium sized businesses to be able to develop and implement their own independent projects, to receive funding from grant sources and to recognize the opportunities inherent in cross-border cooperation and joint projects.	new knowledge, new contacts and improved cooperation skills via training and field trips
HU- AU	30	LENTI STATISTICAL REGION - REGIONAL PLANNING AND TRAINING WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO RECEIVING STRUCTURAL FUNDS	2001	turn the previously formed functional small regions into a statistical small region and to produce a small regional development plan for the Lenti statistical small region	a series of training courses under the project.
				offer training to develop human resources with the participation of municipal officials, representatives, businessmen and civil organizations.	Materials that will be useful in the future were produced and distributed among the candidates in written and digital formats and people learned important new information.
					People adopted the EU tendering approach, developed specific projects and used their pre-existent and newly acquired knowledge to elaborate new strategies for their respective homes.
	31	CENTRAL EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION: THE DIANE PROJECT	2001	create a joint large region embracing neighbouring areas in Central and Eastern Europe and Austria (CENTROPE) with the ability to benefit from such cooperation to match the attractiveness of Asia and other countries and regions across Europe in terms of alluring investment.	
	32	CAR-COMM-NET COMMUNICATION TRAINING IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY	2001	establish a cooperation ring along the border to include automotive clusters, innovation and technology centres, research and development centres and businesses in the West- Pannon Eregion	Training modules set out to bring Hungarian and Austrian businesses closer to one another.
					intercultural module for building, leading and motivating efficient work teams in international environment.

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
HU- AU	33	HEALTH TOURISM IN THE TOWN OF KŐSZEG AND AROUND THE KŐSZEG HILLS	2001	researching and scrutinizing opportunities in health tourism including tourism services built on air as a healing factor in particular	research of a number of sites that would be fit for Kőszeg to be re-classified as a climatic health resort and proposition of demarcation of 1+3 sites,
					a short-term action plan, identifying the specific steps of re-classification as a climatic health resort.
					a catalogue intended for investors, containing 8+4 pages, was published in 1,000 copies.
HU- Romania	34	Development of Hungarian-Romanian Borderland Water Course Relations in the Maros Valley	2003	Development of Hungarian-Romanian cross border water course relations and improvement of efficiency in water damage prevention between Szeged–Arad.	mutual visits of delegations of experts
					a four day trip on the river section
					a documentation study
	35	“Starting Businesses without Borders”		publishment of a bilingual manual with useful data needed for establishing business in the region.	
	36	Borderland Regional Portal System Construction and Operation	2003	Establishment of a comprehensive regional trilingual system of portals (Hungarian Romanian and English) to portal system was to build up electronic solutions for public administration in Hungary and across the border, to present settlement marketing and regional services and support the cultural activities of communities.	
HU- Romania	37	Borderland Communication Building and Development in the Field of Traffic and Transport	2003	Strengthening the cooperation between businesses operating in the field of Hungarian and Romanian cross border traffic, transport and logistics.	a logistics conference in Szeged
				Facilitating access to economic information and services in the region	
	38	Rural Development Case Studies in the Hungarian-Romanian Border Section	2003	to Improve competitiveness of businesses by presenting successful rural development projects which can constitute an example for them to determine their breakout points. Compilation of case studies of implemented rural development projects	A four days workshop was organised
	39	AGÓRA Civil Society in the Regional Development Strategies	2003	Determination of the method of participation for NGO's in the cross border and regional development strategies.	A survey was made on the needs, situation of the non-governmental organisations
	40	Hungarian-Romanian Borderland Cooperation Conference	2003	Intensification of cooperation activities established along the Hungarian-Romanian border section between settlements, institutions and non-governmental organisations.	A two days conference was organised for introducing CBC, establishing new contacts and joint proect generation
	41	Ecological Ties on Both Sides of the Border	2003	introducing the EU market for local farmers and building personal and business relations between organic farmers and their organisations in order to make effective steps jointly	a study identifying the trends
					a web site offering application opportunities
					a fair improving the local market

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
	42	Economic Intensification at the Edge of the Border Through Development of Handicrafts	2003	enlargement of tourist and business opportunities for micro and small enterprises, creating alternative sources of income and making traditional local crafts marketable.	A feasibility study was made about the implementation of a complex of handicrafts base
					For masters and artisans carrying out handicraft activities preconditions of long term sustainability and professional integration of their activities have been created.
	43	Project Development Concept for Entrepreneurs in the Borderland	2003	Training Hungarian and Romanian enterprises to prepare and manage cooperation projects.	
				Creating a thematic and project management manual which is suitable for the training of Hungarian and Romanian business organisations alike.	
	44	Development of Hungarian-Romanian Excess Surface Water Control Cooperation in the Körös Valley	2003	Development of Hungarian-Romanian cross border water course relations and improvement of efficiency in water damage prevention	currently paper-based documents of the common excess surface water control structures on Hungarian territory have been recorded on electronic media
					As a result of the development scheme, up-to-date, operative protection information is available for the partners (KÖR-KÖVIZIG and DAC), which can be utilised free of distortions and quickly for the cooperating
	45	Settlement and Community Planners for the Survival of Villages	2003	To assist strengthening of local society	A settlement and community development training was organised
				to promote networking of non-governmental organisations and communities	Small settlement community planners participating on the study tour and in the training have become better informed and competent.
	46	Arts Without Borders	2003	organisation of a discussion meeting and exhibition on arts in order to provide the framework for artists (especially fine artists) and recipients to further thinking.	"How can I see Europe" children's drawing competition
					A fine arts publication and a photo album
	47	PEGASUS CBC Programme	2003	Organisation of free of charge, modularised training programme for the small and medium enterprises on both sides of the border to increase project generation and implementation potential of entrepreneurs	Visitors from across the border learnt about the cultural and natural values and monuments of the region
					In the training, small and medium enterprises on both sides of the border learnt about the different regulatory frameworks, the resources and regional planning system of the EU and explored the potentials in partnership.
HU- Romania	48	Nyíregyháza–Szatmárnémeti Economic Development Cooperation	2003	Nyíregyháza and Szatmárnémeti economic development and cooperation intensification.	a conference from economic experts
					a workshop for exchange of experiences
	49	Békés–Szalonta School Partnership Programme	2003	Cooperation of five educational institutions operating in the region for implementation of educational, cultural and sports programmes, creating a European practice of the civil society.	A joint economic development and investor publication was prepared containing the geographic situation of the cities, penetrability within the region, their role in the region, social features from the investor perspective, economic state of affairs, and presenting investment opportunities
					mutual exchange visits and guest performances
	50	Investment Incentives on the Frontiers	2003	Making the region attractive among potential investors by joint investment opportunities.	Expert-assisted questionnaire was used to assess investment environment and investment supply.

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
HU- Romania	51	"Cross-Border Tourism Development"	2003	Facilitation of economic and tourism relations between Romania and Hungary, promotion of tourist attractions, services and accommodation in the two counties.	60 pages trilingual publication (English Hungarian and Romanian), illustrated richly with colour pictures was prepared presenting the key attractions of the region in hospitality industry, tourist services and accommodation possibilities.
	52	Establishment of an Eco Region in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Szatmár Counties	2003	The goal is to establish an ecological region in counties having the similar natural features Szabolcs-Szatmár- Bereg and Szatmár (Satu Mare, Romania) including the professional and institutional foundations.	The establishment and operation of the eco-region facilitates the implementation of natural farming methods elaboration and application of the appropriate development criteria for the different zones of the region.
	53	ITC Institutional Cooperation Study	2003	Development of a study plan for institutional cooperation to implement a materials science centre and technology transfer.	a situation analysis was completed where existing basic and applied research projects were identified A study plan for institutional cooperation to implement a materials science centre and technology transfer was prepared
	54	Human Resource Development in the Agrarian Logistical Chain	2003	Ensuring the acquisition and transfer of the knowledge necessary for the successful operation of logistical and in particular agrarian logistical services adapted to the economic conditions of the two regions in the cross border areas with the launch of structured training programmes.	A joint working team of the educators developed a training curriculum for basic, secondary and higher level of agrarian logistics.
	55	Borderland Agrarian and Village Tourism Development	2003	Sustainable development of the tourism industry enhancement of tourist potential training of tourist industry businesses, strengthening cross border ties through exchange of experiences.	Current state of tourism in the area was assessed with the help of experts Training was organised for the development in project management and business development.
	56	INTERREG – PHARE CBC Distant Learning Project	2003	Increasing the absorption capacity at the Hungarian- Romanian border section, intensification of the developments in the frontiers and exploitation of the synergies implied in cooperation, preparation of small area associations and settlement groups operating in the Hungarian-Romanian border area to participate in cross border cooperation projects.	A distant learning curriculum was created which is suitable to deliver knowledge and competencies to experts working with small area associations and settlement groups. They can get practical experiences which may affect their day-to-day activity and provided they are successful in acquiring the materials they will be given an insight into funding sources available through the system of Structural Funds.
	57	Improvement of information system in the border region	2000	develop and improve the float of the information about political, economical and cultural systems, development, co-operation and events on both sides of the border, and foster communication among border regions	Seminars and workshops for journalists were organised and performed. radio programs and newspaper sides on crossborder region All the information gathered about the events in the border regions of Slovenia and Hungary was published on internet
	58	without borders	2000	promote economic activities and to improve the co-operation with Hungarians on the other side of the border.	Cross-border co-operation was promoted and the information flows among inhabitants of the border region about the possible sources of support and possibilities of co-operation were improved The gaps in the structure of the business support organisations were identified and abolished, and their joint, more effective work was promoted.

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
SL-HU	59	AGRICULTURAL INTERREGIONAL ELECTRONIC MARKET	2000	establishment of an information system for promotion of agriculture in border regions	establishment of agricultural interregional electronic market where offers of farm products and services are represented
	60	HEALTH PROMOTION	2000	to encourage the population to accept a healthy lifestyle that consequently means improvement of health	During 140 workshops the inhabitants were acquainted with the risk factors, their prevention and suppression, which are the first steps to changing a lifestyle as a long-term process.
	61	ATTILA'S PATH	2000	maintain and restore a part of the cultural and historical heritage and to develop additional tourist offer and also a cross-border connection among schools	
	62	HOLIDAYS IN A TRADITIONAL HOUSE	2000	list and evaluate the existing and potential tourist offer in the Pomurje region.	The marketing concept of traditional houses as a new integral tourist offer in the countryside was prepared together with a Hungarian partner. The owners of the houses had to be motivated for a revitalisation of potential tourist houses in the old farmhouses and to secure the idea of a permanent organisation for information exchange, consulting, development and marketing on both sides of the border.
					the creation of the catalogue of existing and potential offerers of the product "Traditional Pannonian House" as an information basis for forming new and specialised tourist products.
	63	HERB PRODUCTION	2000	a soft transformation to the organic farming for water protection of the area	training of those who are interested to continue with the herbs production in future.
SL-HU	64	MUTUAL CO-OPERATION – WITH KNOWLEDGE AGAINST DRYNESS	2000	to accelerate co-operation among schools, associations and agricultural educational institutions, pupils, students and youth, who already manage farms or they are going to take over.	the workshops were performed (ploughing, drag, interlinear cultivation, stubble cultivation of the land), which consisted of lectures and of the practical part. Participants have gained better theoretical and practical knowledge about the land cultivation
	65	ESTABLISHMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROMOTION OF INVESTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER	2000	attraction of domestic and foreign investors who would stimulate the economic development on both sides of the border	For the potential investors the information and data were gathered, and analysis done for their easier decisions about investment in the region. The promotional material (CD-s and home pages) was prepared including the presentation of possible locations on both sites of the border for domestic and foreign investors
	66	BREAD AND WINE – NEW WAY OF LIVING	2000	establishment of the wine-growing learning road Vitis Vitae in autochthon wine-growing environment.	A sample vineyard is planted with a hundred of different vine sorts, also with older ones that now disappear, but were in the past common in this area.
					The established wine-growing teaching road combines the offer of the wine-growing hill above the village Filovci and leads along the sample vineyard enables education of the winegrowers or simply presents the attractions of the viniculture, wine and vine.
	67	MURA – OUR RIVER	2000	The frame program of environmental protection and dissection of the river Mura into three protected zones	four workshops and two international conferences where, beside the local population, representatives of the municipalities, business and different associations, participated also the representatives of the neighboring countries.

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
	68	TOURIST TRADE BY VINE	2000	education of people for the quality wine offer	New sorts were planted in the ampelographic garden to raise the knowledge
				develop and improve the winegrowing, in the sense of raising the quality of production and grapes manufacturing in order to form a special segment of local tourist offer.	The project has contributed to better quality of grapes and wine which is shown also in greater yield and the number of the samples of the analysis and wine bottled.
					increased number of tourist visits.
SL- AT	69	TRIP TO COUNTRY SIDE	1999	improving the competitive position of tourism and crafts activities through training farmers, craftsmen and owners of local restaurants into new products.	designing the concept of the e-product 'trip to the country side'
	70	INITIATION OF HOME BASED BUSINESS IN CROSS BORDER REGION KOROŠKA - CARINTHIA	1999	to establish the conditions for the development of home-based business in cross border region Carinthia and to encourage the development of this activity.	organization of workshops, stimulating entrepreneurial spirit, help with getting contacts with Austrian craftsmen.
					an equipped center, 4 workshops with 70 participants, conference and seminar about home-based business, fair.
	71	VENTURE FACTORY	1999	promote entrepreneurship	center for market research and business plan development for youth
	72	BETWEEN SWASTIKA AND RED STAR	1999	informing the youth on totalitarian regimes, which have existed in both sides of the border.	Multimedia project consists of exhibition, interview, publication (exhibition catalogue), CD-rom and internet presentation. All publications are bilingual; the exhibition will take a tour in Slovenia and Carinthia
	73	MILL ROUTE	1999	preserving memory of milling industry and helping the owners of remaining mills	attractive original tourist events
				promote cooperation between municipalities by organising joint network of this thematic routes as a way of market approach by creating new additional elements of tourist offer	leaflets, brochures and information tables along the road
	74	WELLNESS DEVELOPMENT VISION	1999	teaching new / additional knowledge and skills in the field of wellness and wellness tourism for those employed in health service, tourism and similar sphere of activities	training programmes
	75	ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS OF CROSS-BORDER REGION (ROMAN SEPULCHRAL MOUNDS)	1999		
	76	FOOD PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTS	1999	promoting organic food processing	seminars, workshops, excursions and trips to related fairs, certificate trainings and seminars
SL- AT	77	CENTRE OF GROWING, REMAKING AND MARKETING OF ECOLOGICAL AND TOURISTICAL FARMING PRODUCTS OF SLOVENIA	1999	solution for problems of local producers and farmers which do not have satisfying technical equipment	seminars

COUNTRIES	NR	NAME OF THE PROJECT	YEAR	OBJECTIVE	PRODUCT/ ACTIVITIES
Bulgaria-Turkey	78	exchange of educational models and technologies from the two sides of border in the field of transportation in the professional education	2003	cooperation in the vocational education of transport	mutual conferences, workshops and practical education
				improvement of education techniques through cooperation	

APPENDIX C: A sample of booklets investigated

HU010803 HUNGARY-AUSTRIA SMALL PROJECT FUND 2001

HU010803 HUNGARY-AUSTRIA SMALL PROJECT FUND 2001

HU010803 HUNGARY-AUSTRIA SMALL PROJECT FUND 2001

1. CARMINA BURANA JOINT CONCERT (HU 010803-11)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project was to lay the foundations of a long-term cross-border cooperation. As a first step, Austria's Wiener Tonkunstvereinigung and Sopron's Franz Liszt Symphony Orchestra would stage a joint concert (Carl Orff: Carmina Burana), including joint preparations for the show and the concert itself at the Cave Theatre of Fertőrákos. As a spin-off, in addition to collective efforts, interaction at a personal level and seminars, our goal was to mutually improve each other's musical skills and knowledge and to get a better understanding of Austrian and Hungarian musical traditions. If the project turns out successful, an agreement for cooperation would be signed.

The show

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Franz Liszt Symphony Orchestra of Sopron was established 175 years ago under the original name Soproni Musik Society ("Soproni Zeneegylet"). Before WW2, the Orchestra frequently employed guest musicians from Vienna, when performing pieces of a larger scale. Later historical developments rendered this cooperation impossible. This project allowed for the resurrection of this noble tradition of times past. Carmina Burana is a show that requires a large number of performers, otherwise unimaginable using our own resources solely. In the planning phase, we located the appropriate partners (orchestra, choir), we located the appropriate partners (orchestra, choir) to move on to make arrangements for soloists, extras and instruments. We also had the added advantage of standardizing and beefing up the local orchestra's costumes, music stands and instruments. Making travel arrangements and setting up joint rehearsals for a great number of performers (200 people) was quite a challenge, as was securing facilities and stage equipment, advertising, invitation and transportation of the audience.

PARTNERS

Our partner in preparations and implementation was the Wiener Tonkunstvereinigung, an amateur music ensemble in Vienna featuring a symphony orchestra and a choir. Both parties found that we have a lot in common. In problems, technical background and available funding. The Vienna group throws concerts in and around Vienna mostly. Further players included the Franz Liszt Teachers' Singing Ensemble of Sopron and the choir of the Ferenc Erkel Elementary School.

The show

ACHIEVED RESULTS

As the final act of the project on May 29, 2004, the choir performed the musical in the Cave Theatre of Fertőrákos. In front of a sell-out crowd of 700 and met with loud success. Preparing brought members and leaders of the two orchestras close together. Assets of the Hungarian and the Austrian groups (e.g. knowledge, apparatus) were pooled, which added an element of enhanced working conditions to the joy of collaboration.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are in the process of planning new programs and projects to perform other pieces (such as Verdi's Requiem) that are feasible only if undertaken jointly.

THE MAIN DATA OF THE PROJECT

Full budget of project	45,257 (EUR)	Photo support	47,757 (EUR)
Reference number	01/010803-11		
Name of Project Holder	Frant Laci Soproni Orkestra Foundation of Sopron		
Address	9400 Sopron, Erődház s. 12		
Phone	+36 20 918 5104		
E-mail	frant.laci@proton.hu		
Contact person	Frant Laci		
Person in charge of project (EU/EEA)	Frant Laci		
Partner(s)			
Name of cross-border partner organisation	Wiener Tonkunstvereinigung		
Address	1090 Wien, Glacisgasse 18-24		
E-mail	wien@tonkunstvereinigung.at		
Contact person	Andreas Nolden		

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APPENDIX D: A Sample of the Questionnaire

Q.Nr.



Istanbul Technical University
Faculty of Architecture
Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning

Taskisla Building/ 80196
Taksim/ Istanbul/ Turkey

Questionnaire for Investigation of Impacts of Joint Small Projects Fund on Local Environments

"This questionnaire is developed in Istanbul Technical University, Inst. of Science and Technology, as part of requirement of "Regional Planning Master programme" and aimed at analyzing the projects realized under the Joint Small Projects Fund of European Union. The information presented here will be strictly confidential and of author(s) responsibility to prevent any of use except that research. We appreciate your participation and will be delighted to receive questions/comments on e-mail address below"

If you have been realized more then one project under that fund, please answer the questionnaire separately for each one.

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NAME OF THE PROJECT

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES

1. How would you describe your projects aim? (you can choose more than one)

☐ integration: To be able to make known the other side of the border for both countries and to increase the perception of living together, the capacity of creating common spaces for achieving the negative impacts of political borders.

☐ development: To make a significant contribution in the development of the economy of the region and improve the quality of life of people

☐ participation: To set up a foundation that would encourage people to participate in activity for improving their daily lives.

☐ continuity and institutionalization: To provide a foundation to make the co-operation and the culture of co-operation lasting in the region for now and future generations.

☐ any other

2. Has your project produced any significant examples for any of the choices given in the Question nr 1?

☐ yes If yes, please describe

☐ no

3. Do you agree that your project would have accomplished or will have, its mission?

☐ yes

☐ no If no, why?

4. Were there any problems occurring during the project, concerned your partner or partnership?

☐ yes

☐ no

5. If you answered the 4'th question as "yes", choose one below, for describing the problem

- ☐ problems with partner organizations
- ☐ problems with beneficiaries
- ☐ problems with local governments
- ☐ problems with central governments
- ☐

6. If you answered the 4'th question as "yes", did they disencourage you for any future Cross Border Co-operation?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

7. What was the final product of your project, choose one below.

- ☐ a solution to a specific problem
- ☐ an innovation for improving the Quality of life in the region? (without referring to an existing problem)

8. Have you managed to make your organization known on the other side of the border?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

9. Do you agree that the final beneficiaries of the project are/were aware of your partner

- ☐ 1 totally disagree
- ☐ 2 disagree
- ☐ 3 agree
- ☐ 4 totally agree
- ☐ 5 I don't know

10. Did any from your beneficiaries contact you on further collaboration with the other side of the border?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

11. Is your partner an ethnic based organization, especially concerning minorities?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

12. Were you able to create any significant economic development for the interest of your beneficiaries?

- ☐ yes If yes, please describe
☐ no

13. Were there anyone volunteered in your project?

- ☐ yes
☐ no

14. If yes, what was the rate of volunteers to the total number of employees working for the project?

- ☐ 0-20 %
☐ 20-35 %
☐ 35- 50 %
☐ 50-75 %
☐ 75- 100 %

15. What was the rate of employees and volunteers under the age of 26 to the total number of employees and volunteers?

- ☐ 0-20 %
☐ 20-35 %
☐ 35- 50 %
☐ 50-75 %
☐ 75- 100 %

16. How did you make your project be in the public eye?

- ☐ advertising
☐ local meetings
☐ media
☐ local- social network
☐ friends network
☐

17. Did you get any support by any means from local people for the project?

- ☐ yes
☐ no

18. Has your projects outcome made any direct effect on the youth (summer camp, youth center etc.)?

- ☐ yes If yes, please describe
☐ no

19. Is there any working organization (a contact office, a network, etc.) remained, after completion of your project?

☐ yes If yes, please describe

☐ no

20. Do you have any new Cross Border Co-operation plan?

☐ yes

☐ no

21. Have you recruited any professionals do the management implementation work of your project?

☐ yes

☐ no

22. If yes, what was their rate to the total number of employees and volunteers working for the project?

☐ 0-20 %

☐ 20-35 %

☐ 35- 50 %

☐ 50-75 %

☐ 75- 100 %

23 Will you be able to transfer your experience you gained from your project into an useful info of implementation of Cross Border Projects or training?

☐ yes

☐ no

24. Do you have any other contacts on the other side of the border?

☐ yes

☐ no

25. Is that project your first experience benefited from the Joint Small Projects Fund?

☐ yes

☐ no

26. How do you describe your projects impact on your community's life? (If your answer does not match with one of the below, fill the last choice or don't give any answer.)

☐ increased level of income of a part of the community

☐ helped to improve the quality of the environment of any sector (health, education, agriculture etc.)

☐ increased interactions with the other side of the border

☐ improved wellbeing of a specific part of the community (women, children, disabled etc.)

☐

27. Were/ Are your volunteers also your beneficiaries?

☐ yes

☐ no

28. If yes, what is their rate to the total number of beneficiaries?

☐ 0-20 %

☐ 20-35 %

☐ 35- 50 %

☐ 50-75 %

☐ 75- 100 %

29. Has your organization established any specific unit for Cross Border Cooperation projects?

☐ yes

☐ no

30. Any additional words on your project's importance in your Cross Border Region?

BIOGRAPHY

Ervin Sezgin was born in 1979 in Sofia, Bulgaria and immigrated to Turkey in 1989. He graduated the Bahçelievler Anadolu Lisesi (high school) and ITU Urban and Regional Planning department. Has job experience in various sectors. He is married with a daughter.