Co-operation contract of
Danube Euro-region

Preamble

The Local Government of Neszmély Village, the Tata Small Regional Area Development Association and the Slovakian Združenie Obcí Most Priatel’stva - Bridge Laying Association (hereinafter: the Contracting Parties), by recognising the development perspectives, which closely connect the population of the Region, and the existing and shaping connections in the domain of border co-operation, with the aim of:

- assisting, co-ordinating the co-operation of organisations operating on their area – by respecting their independence –,
- further promoting their good-neighbourhood relations based on the already working local government and area development systems,
- further broadening their co-operation tools,
- raising the elaboration and realisation of their area-development programme,
- achieving the most successful European Union integration of the areas represented by them and of the countries,

based on the European Frame Agreement on the Regional Local Governments’ and Public Administration Organs’ Borderline Co-operation and on the good-neighbourhood relations and the principles of friendly co-operation worded in the contract concluded between the Hungarian Republic and the Slovak Republic, the Local Government of Neszmély Village, the Tata Small Region Development Association and the Slovakian Združenie Obcí Most Priatel’stva - Bridge Laying Association of their own free will, generate Danube EURO-REGION (hereinafter: EURO-REGION) on the area of the Slovakian Združenie Obcí Most Priatel’stva - Bridge Laying Association by observing the provisions of their countries’ constitution and valid laws.

For the above noble aims, the Contracting Parties conclude the following at the place and time below:

1. Name of the Co-operation:

Danube EURO-REGION
Abbreviated name: EURO-REGION

2. Legal status, centre of the Co-operation:

The EURO-REGION is a border-line co-operation generated of the Contracting Parties’ free will where the Contracting Parties harmonise their activities improving economic and social development and area development for the objectives of the Co-operation.

The centre of the EURO-REGION: Komárom-Esztergom Megye (Komárom-Esztergom County)
2544 Nésmély, Fő u. 129.

3. Objectives, domains of the Co-operation
Co-ordination of the regional, local government, economic, trade, tourism and cultural tasks of the villages, towns and small areas on the Danube side and close to it,

Raising the interest in the region, publication of information relating to economics, trade, tourism and culture domestically and internationally,

Providing information to the population on the operation and the source opportunities of various financial funds of the European Union via the regional information system,

Providing information to the investors arriving in the small region and region, popularisation of the region in the Visegrád Countries and all available European forums,

Development of the relations between educational, scientific and innovation bases,

Co-ordination of area development and area correction,

Co-operation in preventing natural, environmental and water-protection catastrophes,

Harmonisation of the development of traffic,

Humanitarian and social co-operation,

Cultivation of the common cultural heritage

Successful participation in financing programmes of the European Union and Community,

Construction of the conditions of information exchange, insuring the flow of information,

Elaboration and co-ordination of recommendations on common projects and programmes,

Realisation and assistance of the elaboration of common projects and programmes,

Promotion of the close co-operation with the Euro-regions operating in the Visegrád Countries, strengthening the Visegrád spirit that is based on historical traditions.

4. Founders of the EURO-REGION:

The founders of the EURO-REGION are the contracting Parties.

a.) Local Government of Neszmély Village,
b.) Tata Small Regional Area Development Association, and
c.) Združenie Obcí Most Priatel’stva - Bridge Laying Association.

The Euro-region is open. The founders wish to realise their activities especially by the assistance of the following organisations (pillars) operating on their administrative area:

- Local and regional governments,
- County, area and regional area development councils,
- Public bodies,
- Scientific institutes,
- Civil organisations,
- The parties would rely on the assisting co-operation of ministries and regional public administration organisation.

5. Rights and liabilities of the Contracting Parties
The Contracting Parties have the same rights and liabilities during their co-operation. They state that their activities shall be characterised by mutual confidence, friendship and good neighbourhood relation in all the domains of the Co-operation.

6. The accessing parties of the EURO-REGION

Local governments and small area associations, co-operations, which have borderline partnership relations (hereinafter: the accessing parties).

The accessing parties make themselves represented in the highest decision-making and representation organ in a way defined in the Co-operation Contract.

7. Organisation of the EURO-REGION

1. the PRESIDIUM of the EURO-REGION
2. the Independent Committees of the EURO-REGION
3. the General Meeting of the EURO-REGION
4. the Secretariat of the EURO-REGION

8. The PRESIDIUM of the EURO-REGION

The highest decision-making and representation organ of the EURO-REGION is the Presidium.

The Presidium shall consist of 3 members, the persons delegated by the Contracting Parties.

The members of the Presidium shall elect an executive president from among themselves. Besides the executive president, 2 persons shall deploy their activities as co-presidents.

The mandate of the Presidium shall be valid for 5 years. The mandate shall start from the day after the date of conclusion of the contract.

The executive President shall represent the EURO-REGION and the Presidium toward external parties.

The Presidium shall define its working order by the stipulation that it shall have a meeting when it is necessary but at least twice a year. The secretary shall be the standing invited party of the meetings of the Presidium. The Presidium shall only be entitled to bring a decision on the merits on any topics connected to the objectives of the Co-operation. More than half of the delegated members shall be present for the quorum of the Presidium.

The Presidium shall bring its decisions by open voting, subject to qualified majority (by the unanimous votes of more than half of the delegated members).

Each member of the Presidium shall have 1 vote each.

9. The Independent Committees of the EURO-REGION

The Independent Committee shall assist the work of the Presidium, which shall be constituted of the invited representatives and experts of social, economic and public administration
organisations (such as especially chambers, area development councils, civil organisations, public administration offices) – of 10 people maximally.

The Independent Committee shall be an organ that gives its opinion and makes its proposals.

The Presidium shall request the proposal of the Independent Committee if necessary.

The secretary working beside the groups shall insure the summoning of the Independent Committees, the properly prepared argumentation material and their operation conditions.

The opinion and proposal prepared by the Independent Committees shall not be binding to the Presidium’s decisions.

10. The General Meeting of the EURO-REGION

The General Meeting of the EURO-REGION shall have a meeting at least once a year. The member of the General Meeting shall the founders and the associated members.

11. The Secretariat of the EURO-REGION

The Secretariat shall insure the undisturbed, continuous operation of the EURO-REGION.

The members of the Secretariat shall be the executive secretary working beside the Presidium and the working organisation of the Secretariat.

The standing working organisation of the Secretariat shall operate at Neszmély, as the executive Secretariat that shall be controlled by the Executive Secretary working beside the Presidium.

The Executive Secretary shall be the standing invited member of the meetings of the Presidium and that person shall preside the meetings of the Independent Committee. The Contracting Parties shall assign the person of the Secretary.

The Secretariat shall prepare its own working order – subject to the approval of the Presidium.

Duna Eurorégió és Ügyviteli Fejlesztési Kht. (Danube Euro-Region and Administrative Development Public Utility Company) shall deploy the EURO-REGION’s economic, administrative and development activities.

12. Financing of the EURO-REGION

The EURO-REGION shall operate based on an annual business plan, which shall be approved by the Presidium.

The operational revenues of the EURO-REGION:

1.) Monetary assets gained for the operation as a result of applications.
2.) Miscellaneous monetary assets.

The Secretariat shall account for the monetary assets utilised for the EURO-REGION’s operation to the Presidium every six months.
13. Accession, withdrawal

The EURO-REGION shall be open toward the village and town local governments and small region associations that have borderline partnership relations.

The entities that wish to access the EURO-REGION shall subject themselves to the provisions of the Co-operation Contract.

The Presidium shall bring a decision on the acceptance of the entities that wish to access to the EURO-REGION.

The Contracting Parties and the accessing parties shall inform the Presidium on their intent to withdraw from the Community in writing 3 months before their withdrawal. Withdrawal shall be valid with the effect of the 31st December of the calendar year. Until that effective date, the provisions of the Co-operation Contract shall be binding the Contracting Party and the accessing party that wish to withdraw.

If a contracting party withdraws, the Presidium shall decide on the future of the EURO-REGION, on the method of termination of the organisation and all the liabilities that are generated until the effective date.

The change of the EURO-REGION’s legal status shall also belong to the competence of the Presidium if valid legal statutes insure opportunity to that based on legal statutes that are applicable to the Contracting Parties.

The change of the legal status of the EURO-REGION shall be subject to the unanimous decision of the Presidium.

The delegation right shall be transmitted to the Accessing Party in the case of accession.

14. The Contracting Parties inform the General Secretary of the European Council and the leader of the European Union’s Delegation on the conclusion of this Co-operation Contract in the Hungarian Republic and the Slovak Republic and they submit the Contract’s entire text to their disposal.

15. The Co-operation Contract – upon its authorisation based on the decision of the small area association and the local government – shall enter into force on the day following its signature by the Contracting Parties.

Neszmély, the 20th February 2003

Benkő Ferenc
On behalf of the Local Government of Neszmély Village

Director of the Tata Small Region Area Development Association

President of Združenie Obcí Most Priateľ’stva - Bridge Laying Association