

Tisa Catchment Area Development

Transnational Strategy and Policy Recommendations

Jointly for our common future

TICAD

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The document is based on the synthesis of the territorial analyses prepared by the five countries concerned targeting the Tisa catchment area of Ukraine, Romania, Slovak Republic, Hungary and the Republic of Serbia.

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I. Introduction

The Tisa Catchment Area stretches to the eastern half of the Carpathian Basin and is flanked by the interior ranges of the Carpathian Mountains. The territory of 157 thousand square kilometres is rich **in natural resources; water, both surface and sub-surface: rivers and lakes as well as drink-water**, thermal and mineral water supplies; abundant mineral deposits: coal, oil, gas and a broad range of minerals; fertile soil, excellent climatic conditions for farming; woodlands, groves, meadows and pastures of great expanse; consolidated settlement network; precious architectural, artistic and natural monuments; rich historic traditions; peoples of cultural, ethnic, national diversity; assiduous and talented workforce. This same area, however, tormented by natural and technological disasters (floods, forest fires, draught, wind-storm and industrial explosions, toxic pollutions) as well as by wars and animosities has suffered tremendous losses too.

The deposits of mines are gradually exhausted. Within five years, from 1995 to 2000 the woodland decreased by no less than 16 % (from 46,572 km² to 39,181 km²). Large stretches of land have become unproductive because of subsequent draughts and floods, pollutions; wastewater has contaminated the waters, neglect and un-thoughtful developments resulted the decay and even the vanishing of historic monuments; the obtrusive and by now often derelict manufacturing, mining and infrastructure developments have devoured most beautiful landscapes. And the territory is losing from its most precious resource, people too.

In March 2001, after two significant waves of pollution that arrived from Romania and spread along the Tisa River and certain streams in its catchment area and caused ecological disaster, the decision of the Ministerial Committee of the European Council asked the concerned states (Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine) to cooperate in order to prevent cases similar to the disasters affecting the Tisa and Someş rivers, including the potential elaboration of an agreement under the auspices of the European Council.

The five countries situated in the Tisa River Basin agreed with the appeal and undertook cooperation in this issue. With the active participation of the European Council, the “Expert Group” of experts delegated by the above countries as well as other international organisations concerned prepared the basic document of cooperation entitled “Initiative on Sustainable Spatial Development of the Tisa River Basin”, which the five countries concerned adopted unanimously.

With signing the “Initiative”, joint work started. For the coordinated continuation and extension of the work the responsible ministries and planning institutes of the partner states submitted a successful application to the **South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme**. In June 2009 the implementation of the project started at the kick-off meeting, with the cooperation of 14 organisations from the five affected countries and the Tisa Group of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The **aim of the Tisa Catchment Area Development – TICAD – transnational project** is to contribute to the harmonisation of the integrated territorial developments implemented in the river basin, to facilitate the creation of a sustainable economic structure, the optimal utilisation of natural and cultural resources, the development of areas of competitive growth and to promote the establishment of the internal and external functional interdependencies of the network of settlements.

Within the framework of the project the partners elaborated a common methodology and data base, on the basis of which they prepared the analysis of territorial processes on national level and

following that on catchment level, developed transnational complex development strategy. The present document is the **transnational complex development strategy of the catchment area**, elaborated on the basis of the analysis of territorial processes on catchment level.

II. Main objectives of the TICAD transnational strategy

The integrated territorial development strategy of the Tisa area will help to attain a sustainable economic system, optimal use of pooled natural and cultural resources and balanced distribution of competitive growth areas and enhancement of the internal and external functional relations in the settlement system. The strategy was formulated on the basis of mutually shared awareness of processes and will serve for the implementation of the EU Water Directives and territorial development objectives.

The strategy focuses on the following specific issues:

- To reduce vulnerability (reasonable use of water resources, appropriate land use, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts, attain better understanding of the actual and potential environmental risks).
- To improve the knowledge of spatial consequences of different measures (mapping of territorial conflicts, tracking the territorial changes in the light of historical processes).
- To improve the physical and functional communication channels (renewal of traditional social networks, improvement of infrastructure system and settlement structure, development of viable polycentrism, revival the transboundary settlement relations, restoration of road and rail border crossings, strengthening of cross-border cooperation, transnational knowledge exchange).
- To harmonize the use of natural and cultural assets (sustainable land-use, water management and environmental consciousness, shared responsibility for the Tisa River).
- To agree on the common development goals and promote the efficient allocation of investment funds.

III. The main principles considered

III.1. Territorial approach in EU policies

Territorial approach is indispensable for the understanding of the complex interrelations of social, economic, cultural and environmental processes.

The regions are geographic, social, political and administrative entities. **Regional development and change:** an intricate interplay of a broad variety of natural, historical factors which has come to the limelight in different aspects during the last century. The contents, priorities and programs of European regional policy will form a special focus of the course, with particular attention to the comparative analysis of the European regions.

Cities: nodes of development processes, centres of culture and also of social conflicts. The growth and change of cities and their urbanized areas: diverse processes.

Regional and urban development planning: tools for the management of growth and change with the purpose to avoid or overcome conflicts (both social and environmental), to guide the processes of growth and change towards and assure sustainable development.

Enlargement of the EU territory:

- Diversity, differences – territorial cohesion, solidarity
- Convergence
- Competitiveness
- Cohesion Policy

Relevance for the TICAD strategy:

The fundamental principle of TICAD strategy is territorial approach, the recognition and enhancement of the importance of territorial interconnections and cooperation.

III.2. Europe 2020 Strategy

Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade.

“In a changing world, we want the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy”. These three mutually reinforcing priorities should help the EU and the Member States deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

Background

At the European Council meeting on 23-24 March 2000 in Lisbon, the heads of states of the EU-member countries convened to discuss the issues of globalisation and the role of the EU in this process.

They agreed on a new strategy (called the Lisbon Strategy 2000) setting a strategic goal for the European Union. Until 2010, the EU should “become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”.

The Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs was launched in 2000 as a response to globalisation. The idea is for the EU and its member countries to cooperate on reforms aimed at generating growth and more and better jobs by investing in people's skills, the greening of the economy and innovation.

The main fields were economic, social, and environmental renewal and sustainability. The Lisbon Strategy was heavily based on the economic concepts of:

- innovation as the motor for economic change,
- the "learning economy",
- social and environmental renewal.

It was assumed that under the strategy a stronger economy would create employment in the EU, alongside inclusive social and environmental policies, which would themselves drive economic growth even further.

Just when the growth and jobs strategy was starting to deliver with steadily declining unemployment rates throughout the EU, the economic and financial crisis reversed the situation, highlighting the need to pursue and accelerate structural reforms.

By end of 2004, a mid-term report evaluated the progress reached so far towards the Lisbon Objectives. The result of this evaluation basically lined out that the EU has failed to reach its goals, and it demands more focused and intensive contributions from the different parts of politics and society. The Strategy was re-launched in spring 2005 and became more focused on growth and jobs.

The official appraisal of the Lisbon Strategy took place in March 2010 at a European Summit.

The amended Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs focuses on overcoming the recession and transforming the EU into a more sustainable, greener and more innovative economy.

The new Lisbon Strategy gives pointers for some key reforms in EU countries:

- Investing in people: to adjust to globalisation, the EU's fast-changing economy requires a flexible and highly skilled workforce. Lifelong learning projects help people to adapt to a changing job market.
- More research, development and innovation: strengthening links between research institutes, universities and businesses. At the same time, spending on research and development in the EU should increase to match international competitors.
- A more dynamic business environment: less red tape and easier access to credit, especially for small and medium-sized businesses.
- A greener economy: fight against climate change, the EU aims to reduce the environmental impact of economic growth by saving energy and promoting new, environment-friendly technologies.

At the European Summit in March 2010 where the new Europe 2020 strategy was also launched.

Strategic aims

The European Commission launched the Europe 2020 Strategy to go out of the crisis and prepare EU economy for the next decade. The Commission's proposal on a new strategy follows a public consultation that attracted some 1,500 comments. The strategy builds on what has been achieved and the lessons learn.

The main challenge is to lead the EU out of the recession through reforms to make the economy greener and more innovative - while encouraging lifelong learning. Economically the EU countries are so interdependent that, to make a real difference, they need to work together in the framework of the EU.

To stay competitive with traditional trading partners like the US and Japan, and with emerging economies like China and India, the EU needs to be more innovative. Ultimately, economic reforms are about ensuring the sustainability of European welfare systems in the future.

The Europe 2020 Strategy sets five quantified targets for the EU in 2020:

1. Employment
 - 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed.
2. R&D / innovation
 - 3% of the EU's GDP (public and private combined) to be invested in R&D/innovation.
3. Climate change / energy
 - greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if a satisfactory international agreement can be achieved to follow Kyoto) lower than 1990,
 - 20% of energy from renewables,
 - 20% increase in energy efficiency.
4. Education
 - reducing school drop-out rates below 10%,
 - at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education (or equivalent).
5. Poverty / social exclusion
 - at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The quantified targets refer to EU averages and take account of territorial variations though within limits.

Features of the targets:

- They give an overall view of where the EU should be on key parameters by 2020.
- They are being translated into national targets so that each Member State can check its own progress towards these goals.
- They do not imply burden-sharing: there are common goals, to be pursued through a mix of national and EU action.
- They are interrelated and mutually reinforcing:
 - educational improvements contribute to employability and reduce poverty,
 - more R&D/innovation in the economy, combined with more efficient resources, make the EU more competitive and creates jobs,
 - investing in cleaner technologies combats climate change while creating new business/job opportunities.

The Europe 2020 has identified new engines to boost growth and jobs. These areas are addressed by 7 flagship initiatives.

Within each flagship initiative, both the EU and national authorities have to coordinate their efforts so they are mutually reinforcing.

The flagship initiatives for smart (knowledge based economic) growth promote EU's performance in:

- improvement of the knowledge base (enhancing the performance /international attractiveness of Europe's universities, improving all levels of education and training),
- research/innovation (creating new products/services that generate growth and jobs and help address social challenges),
- digital society (using information and communication technologies).

The initiatives for sustainable growth are to enhance

- resource efficiency (reduction of greenhouse emissions, use of renewable),
- industrial policy supporting businesses (mainly SMEs) to respond to global competition, shift to low-carbon economy, cover the international value chain from access to raw material to after-sales service.

The flagship initiatives for inclusive growth include

- an agenda for new skills and jobs (raising employment rates; helping people acquire new skills, adapt to a changing labour market and make successful career shifts),
- European platform against poverty (to attain that at least 20 million fewer people are in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion).

Relevance for the TICAD strategy:

In the Europe 2020 Strategy there is a variety of ambitious target figures related to employment rates, educational attainment, business development, information services etc. which deserve consideration when the priorities and measures of the TICAD strategy are set.

III.3. Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020

Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions (agreed at the Informal Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development on 19th May 2011 Gödöllő, Hungary).

Background

The enlargement of the European Union over the 50 years brought about increasing territorial diversities and disparities, which in turn highlighted the importance of regional policies.

In the 1990's in response to the global recognition of the significance of sustainable development and territorial cohesion the European ministers responsible for regional development elaborated and in 1999 adopted a statement entitled European Spatial Development Perspective, ESDP.

The main and still relevant principles of ESDP are the following:

- polycentric development (territorial decentralisation),
- sustainable development,
- integrated approach (harmonisation of social, economic, environmental aspects),
- strategic approach (identifying objectives and interconnected actions),
- indicative (implementation: national governments in cooperation with the EU commission and the regions).

60 recommendations in three chapters (themes)

- polycentric development and urban-rural relations,
- equal access to services and information,
- wise management of natural and cultural heritage.

Among the means of implementation the ESDP promoted consistent territorial observation and analysis and the territorial impact analysis of EU policies.

In early 2000's increasing globalisation of the enlargement of the EU adopting 12 New Member States and the experience gained from the first results of the ESPON Program the elaboration of a new policy framework was decided. The Territorial Agenda of the European Union was agreed at the Informal Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development in May 2007 in Leipzig.

In the Territorial Agenda of the European Union is the following:

- increasing geographical concentration of population and economic growth,
- aging and different migration trends of population,

- climate change,
- decrease of biodiversity,
- increasing risks technological and natural hazards,
- energy shortage, increase of energy prices,
- increasing global competition.
- In face of these challenges the TA set the following priorities:
- polycentric development of metropolitan regions and cities,
- improvement of urban – rural relationships,
- strengthening of the interconnections of competitive and innovative regional, national and transnational clusters,
- development of trans-European transport, energy and communication networks, development of secondary networks and nodes,
- transnational cooperation in the management of technological and natural risks,
- strengthening European ecological networks and cultural resources.

The experience about the review of the (first) Territorial Agenda in 2007 and the lessons of Member States, have demonstrated that in order to strengthen territorial cohesion, more action is needed, not by the definition of new targets, but the fine-tuning of the existing ones; and their breakdown to operative measures.

Strategic aims

The (new) Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 (agreed in Gödöllő, Hungary, in May 2011) has the subtitle “Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions”.

In this document the challenges to be faced are formulated in the following:

- increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis,
- challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions,
- territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups,
- climate change and environmental risks: geographically diverse impacts,
- energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness,
- loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage.

In response to these challenges the priorities of territorial development are set as follows:

- promote polycentric and balanced territorial development,
- encouraging integrated development in cities, rural and specific regions,
- contributing to territorial cohesion at cross-border, transnational, and inter-regional level,
- ensuring global competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies,
- improving territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises,
- managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions.

Relevance for the TICAD strategy:

The issues which are addressed in the TA are relevant in the TCAD region. Depopulation, social deprivation especially of rural but also of peripheral urban areas are common difficulties. The cities, even the largest ones are in the secondary row of the national urban system. Polycentric urban development needs to be pursued in the manner which can be of benefit for the rural peripheries to, that is, urban development needs to be an active, stabilising process rather than draining of and praying upon local energies. The safeguarding of the highly vulnerable natural and cultural resources is even more important than elsewhere. The adaptation of climate change and management of risks is important in view of the regrettable recent experiences. Improvements of connectivity and – especially – the contribution of territorial cohesion at cross-border, national and inter-regional level are persistent needs.

III.4. Initiative on Sustainable development of the Tisza/Tisa River Basin

Signed by the ministers responsible for regional/spatial planning of Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine, at the 13th session of CEMAT, in Ljubljana, on 16 September 2003.

Background

The initiative is a follow up to the decisions of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers concerning the "possible contribution of the Council of Europe in cases of environmental disaster in rivers such as the Tisza/Tisa and Szamos/Someş", inviting the states concerned to continue efforts on this issue with a view to "promoting effective regional co-operation in the environmental field, including the possible elaboration of an agreement between the states concerned, under the auspices of the Council of Europe".

It is in line with the implementation of the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, adopted by the 12th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT), held in Hanover, Germany, on 8 September 2000 (Resolution No. 1).

Following the development of the ESDP, the material entitled "Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent" (CEMAT Guiding Principles) was prepared and adopted at the European Council Conference of Ministers Responsible of Spatial Development (CEMAT) held in Hanover in 2000, which brought together representatives of the 47 member states. It agrees with the ESDP in its approach, orientation and the system of its objectives. It takes a step forward with the designation types of geographical areas "requiring special treatment".

It highlights the following types of regions:

- cultural landscapes,
- urban areas,
- rural areas,
- coastal and island regions,
- mountains,
- floodplains and alluvial valleys,
- Euro corridors,
- redundant industrial sites, deteriorated industrial areas,
- border regions.

Both the ESDP and the CEMAT Guiding Principles outline the tasks which serve the practical enforcement of the formulated principles, and record the need for analyses which explore the territorial processes and the enforcement of the formulated spatial development principles.

A series of other work processes and materials affecting the future of the region were elaborated on the basis of the two main European documents containing spatial development principles.

The document entitled CEMAT Guiding Principles has been and is particularly important for the neighbouring and accession (non-EU member) and countries for their cooperation with one another and with the EU Member States.

Policy aims:

The agreement entitled Sustainable Spatial Development of the Tisa Region has set the following objectives:

- balanced social and economic development, improved competitiveness, promoting territorial cohesion,
- development generated by urban functions, the relationship between the town and the countryside,

- promoting accessibility,
- reducing environmental damage,
- enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural heritage,
- enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor for development,
- developing energy resources, maintaining safety,
- encouraging high quality, sustainable tourism,
- limitation of the impact of natural disasters by preventive measures.

The following are set as basic conditions within the framework of the strategy to be developed:

- the protection of the landscape and fragile ecosystems
 - water systems management in the course of spatial planning, the conservation of streams and lakes, limitation of the areas which can be occupied by urban expansion and intensive agriculture, flood protection;
- promoting territorial cohesion
 - (balanced territorial management, urban functions, urban-rural relationship, accessibility and access to information and knowledge), conservation of the natural and cultural heritage, encouraging high quality and sustainable tourism, the development of energy resources while maintaining safety;
- identifying the most efficient instruments of funding the programmes and projects for the sustainable development of the Tisa River Basin, especially by involving international organisations and funds.

Bilateral cooperation (Hungary – Romania) started on the basis of the CEMAT initiative. The present TICAD project is an expansion and synthesised continuation.

Relevance for the TICAD Strategy:

The CEMAT initiative is the direct premise of the TICAD project and determines the TICAD strategic objectives.

III.5. European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

Background

The macro region is an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges.

In the EU regional policy framework the Macro-regional Strategy aims to add value to interventions, whether by the EU, national or regional authorities or the third or private sectors, in a way that significantly strengthens the functioning of the macro-region. Moreover, by resolving issues in a relatively small group of countries and regions the way may be cleared for better cohesion at the level of the Union. Working together can become a habit and a skill. In addition, overall coordination of actions across policy areas will very likely result in better outcomes than individual initiatives". The objectives of a macro-regional strategy will clearly vary according to the needs of the regions concerned.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was adopted in October 2009 and is the first to be implemented. The one for the Danube Region is the second in the row.

The stakeholder consultations have led to the following messages:

- the Strategy is a welcome initiative to reinforce the integration of the Region in the EU,
- Member States and Third Countries commit themselves to the Strategy at the highest political level,
- the Commission is key in facilitating the process,
- the Strategy must deliver visible, concrete improvements for the Region and its people.

Strategy aims

The Danube Region can be characterised as a functional area defined by the river basin. The Strategy addresses the most significant challenges in an integrated way. It concerns primarily the following countries or regions (which fall within the hydrological basin of the Danube): Germany (especially Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria), Austria, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria as Member States of the EU, and Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (the regions along the Danube) as non Member States.

With over 100 million people, and a fifth of EU area, the Region is vital for Europe.

The main challenges addressed by the Strategy:

- Mobility: the Danube River itself is a major TEN-T Corridor. However, it is used way below its full capacity.
- Energy: prices are high in the Region, relative to world and European prices. Fragmented markets lead to higher transmission costs.
- Environment: the Danube Region is a major international hydrological basin. This requires a regional approach to water management. Major problems such as untreated sewage and fertiliser run-off make the Danube a highly polluted river. The environmental impact of transport links, tourist developments, or new energy-producing facilities must be considered.
- Risks: major, even catastrophic flooding and industrial pollution events are all too frequent.
- Socio-economic: the Region has very wide disparities. It has some of the most successful but also the poorest regions in the EU. In particular, contacts and cooperation are often lacking. The share of highly educated people in the Danube Region is lower compared to the EU27 average.
- Organised crime and security: significant problems persist.

The Danube Region also has many opportunities, such as:

- The Region is where Europe opens to the east. These transport and trade links must be developed.
- The Region has a solid education system, with many universities.
- The Region is characterised by rich environmental assets: exceptional fauna and flora, precious water resources and outstanding and diverse landscapes.

The actions identified in the Strategy are focused on four Pillars which address the major issues of the Region.

The pillars and priority areas are:

A) Connecting the Danube Region

- 1) To improve mobility and intermodality:
 - 1a) road, rail and air links,
 - 1b) inland waterways.
- 2) To encourage more sustainable energy.
- 3) To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts.

B) Protecting the environment in the Danube Region

- 4) To restore and maintain the quality of waters.
- 5) To manage environmental risks.
- 6) To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils.

C) Building Prosperity in the Danube Region

- 7) To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies.
- 8) To support the competitiveness of enterprises.
- 9) To invest in people and skills.

D) Strengthening the Danube Region

- 10) To step up institutional capacity and cooperation.
- 11) To work together to tackle security and organised crime.

The Action Plan of the Strategy explains that an action is an important issue requiring intervention by the countries and stakeholders involved to meet the objective of the Priority Area. It can be a new approach, an increased coordination in policy making, a support to a process already engaged, a networking initiative, etc. An action may not necessarily require financing.

The Actions should address identified priorities and be supported. They should have an impact on the macro-region (or a significant part of it) and should be realistic.

The projects are concrete, with a start and end date. In general they require financing, a project leader and project partners. The Action Plan of the Strategy presents projects by way of examples to stimulate further initiatives as the Strategy progresses, and as new ideas emerge.

There is reference to the Tisa River Basin as one of the 17 sub-basins and as an example of ongoing cooperation.

Relevance for the TICAD Strategy

For its implementation the TICAD Strategy must be in harmony with the one for the Danube Region, as the area is a constituent part of the Danube River Basin. The main objectives and commitments of both strategies are in harmony.

III.6. Rural development Strategy

Background

Agriculture and forests cover the vast majority of the EU territory and play a key role in determining the health of rural economies as well as the rural landscape. Agriculture still has a valuable contribution to make to their sustainable economic. Farmers perform many different functions ranging from food and non-food agricultural products to countryside management, nature conservation, and tourism. Farming can thus be described as having multiple functions.

EU agricultural policy is constantly evolving. From the earlier emphasis on subsidising production on a large scale and buying up surpluses in the interests of food security, there has been a shift of policy aims to enable producers of all forms of food - from crops and livestock to fruit and vegetables or wine - to survive by themselves in EU and world markets. To this end, EU agricultural policy has undergone significant changes in recent years.

Where necessary, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) supplements farm income to ensure that farmers make a decent living. However, assistance is linked to compliance with broader objectives in

the areas of farm hygiene and food safety, animal health and welfare, preservation of traditional rural landscapes, as well as bird and wildlife conservation.

The reforms have freed funds to promote internationally competitive, quality foodstuffs, innovation in farming and food processing, as well as rural development, including the diversification of rural economies. EU research budgets continue to support innovation in agriculture by increasing productivity while making farming more environmentally friendly. The common agricultural policy is an integrated EU policy and has 34 % share of the EU budget over the 2007-2013 period.

Strategic aims

The European strategic guidelines for rural development were set out in February 2006.

The agro-environment schemes encourage farmers to provide environmental services that go beyond following good agricultural practice and basic legal standards have been consolidated with the aim that farmers must respect environmental laws (laws on food safety and public, animal and plant health) and look after their land properly if they wish to qualify for direct income payments.

Rural development policy was strengthened to help rural areas respond to economic, social and environmental issues of the 21st century. The new legal framework and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development stress the necessity to stimulate growth and to create employment in these areas to improve sustainable development.

Rural Development policy for the period 2007-2013 is based on 3 themes, in accordance with the three axes defined in the new Regulation relating to Rural Development:

- improving agricultural competitiveness,
- improving the environment and supporting land management and,
- improving the quality of life and diversifying the economy in rural areas.
- A fourth axis the "Leader axis", which is inspired by the experience of the Leader Community Initiative, aims at implementing local strategies for rural development through local public-private partnerships.

Relevance for the TICAD strategy:

Agriculture and forestry have very high (70-90%) share in the land use of the Tisa Catchment Area. Considerable is the ratio of agriculture in the employment structure especially in the Romanian counties. The EU agricultural – rural development policy is therefore essential for this region. The policy aims – promoting sound, sustainable agriculture and forestry, landscape management, integrated rural development – are the same, and the funds allocated in the EU budget for these purposes are indispensable for the implementation of policy aims in these relatively less prosperous regions.

III.7. Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (GPTC, EC: SEC (2008)2250)

A clarification of the concept of territorial cohesion should enable improved analysis of the existing disparities between European Union (EU) territories and for strategies better adapted to their diverse nature to be adopted.

Background

The debate on territorial cohesion began in the early Nineties and led to the adoption by Member States of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) in 1999. The Commission developed the ESDP by reinforcing cooperation through the INTERREG programme and establishing the European Spatial Observatory Network (ESPON). The debate culminated in the adoption of the Territorial Agenda and its Action Plan by Member States in 2007 and the revised version in 2011.

Following the conclusions of the informal meeting of the EU ministers responsible for spatial planning and regional development in 2007, Leipzig, inviting the Commission to "prepare a report on territorial cohesion by 2008", this Green Paper launches a debate on territorial cohesion with a view to deepening the understanding of this concept and of its implications for policy and cooperation. The Green Paper does not cover any financial aspects of cohesion policy within the current financial framework.

The European Commission adopted the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion in 2008, signalling the start of a major consultation with regional and local authorities, associations, NGOs, civil society and other organisations, aimed at achieving a better and shared understanding of territorial cohesion and its implications for the future of the EU's regional policy.

Policy aims

It is pointed out in the Green Paper that territorial cohesion is the third dimension of cohesion, together with social and economic cohesion.

Territorial cohesion is about ensuring the harmonious development of all places of the EU and about making sure that their citizens are able to make the most of inherent features of these territories. As such, it is a means of transforming diversity into an asset that contributes to sustainable development of the entire EU.

Issues such as coordinating policy in large areas, macro regions, improving conditions along the Eastern external border, promoting globally competitive and sustainable cities, addressing social exclusion in parts of a larger region and in deprived urban neighbourhoods, improving access to education, health care and energy in remote regions and the difficulties of some regions with specific geographic features are all associated with the pursuit of territorial cohesion.

Increasingly, competitiveness and prosperity depend on the capacity of the people and businesses located there to make the best use of all of territorial assets. In a globalising and interrelated world economy, however, competitiveness also depends on building links with other territories to ensure that common assets are used in a coordinated and sustainable way.

Cooperation along with the flow of technology and ideas as well as goods, services and capital is becoming an ever more vital aspect of territorial development and a key factor underpinning the long-term and sustainable growth performance of the EU as a whole.

Public policy can help territories to make the best use of their assets. In addition, it can help them to jointly respond to common challenges, reach critical mass and realise increasing returns by combining their activities, exploit the complementarities and synergies between them, and overcome divisions stemming from administrative borders.

Many of the problems faced by territories cut across sectors and effective solutions require an integrated approach and cooperation between the various authorities and stakeholders involved. In this respect, the concept of territorial cohesion builds bridges between economic effectiveness, social cohesion and ecological balance, putting sustainable development at the heart of policy design.

The overall aim of territorial cohesion is: balancing territorial, economic and social development. Europe's territory has its own distinct settlement pattern, compared to the rest of the world. Only 7% of the overall EU population lives in cities of over 5 million inhabitants, as against 25% in the United States. Europe has so far managed to maintain a relative balance between urbanisation and the preservation of rural areas. This contributes to the European way of life. The Green Paper highlights this asset and suggests means to avoid depopulation or urban sprawl.

The following three key concepts need to be translated into policy actions:

- Overcoming differences in density - Agglomerations can foster both positive and negative effects. For instance, there can be increased focus on innovation and productivity and at the

same time, more pollution and deeper social exclusion. The Green Paper suggests that better coordination is key to enabling cities and their surrounding regions to complement their strengths to ensure that each territory can maximise its contribution to the prosperity of the Union as a whole. Or put another way, to ensure Europe is greater than the sum of its parts.

- Overcoming distance - Access to public services, efficient modes of transport, reliable energy networks, and broadband Internet remain unevenly distributed across the Union. In remote rural areas, on average 40% of people live further than a 30-minute drive from a hospital and 43% live more than one hour's drive from a university. In 2007, household access to broadband Internet was on average 15 percentage points lower than in urban areas.
- Overcoming administrative borders - Environmental problems, associated with climate change, flooding, biodiversity losses as well as commuting do not respect borders and better co-operation is needed to meet these challenges. Cohesion policy promotes cooperation through the INTERREG programmes, but the Green Paper underlines that much needs to be done. The EU is already stepping up its actions in the Baltic Sea Region and Danube River Basin, for instance, where stronger co-operation is seen as crucial to tackle environmental problems and to boost competitiveness.

Effectively, the widening of strategies implemented at Community, national, regional and local levels should enable:

- An increase in returns of agglomeration and a reduction in disadvantages for all types of territories, in order to support their harmonious development.
- Improved links between territories, to ensure access to services of general economic interest, principally in the fields of health, education, transport, energy, information and communication technologies.
- The promotion of cooperation between territories, in order to manage environmental and structural problems on the most appropriate territorial scale, as well as to create synergies of growth and innovation. Cooperation should be strengthened between cross-border regions in the new Member States and with the EU's external borders.
- Furthermore, cohesion policy should enable certain regions to make the most of their potential, in particular mountain or island regions or sparsely populated regions.

In its efforts to deepen and clarify the concept of territorial cohesion, the Commission intends to consult interested parties on the scope of actions taken, the appropriate means of implementation to strengthen cross-border and transnational cooperation, the coordination of territorial and sectoral policies (essentially in the fields of transport, communication, employment, the environment, agriculture, competition and research), as well as on the opportunity to widen existing territorial partnerships to include new types of local players.

Relevance for the TICAD strategy

The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion raises the issue of balanced territorial development, convergence and cooperation as well as the responding to specific features of regions and the enhancement of territorial identity: all these aspects are highly relevant for the TICAD strategy.

IV. Definition of the five territorial categories

For the classification of the territorial units of the Tisa Catchment Area the following spatial characteristics have been explored:

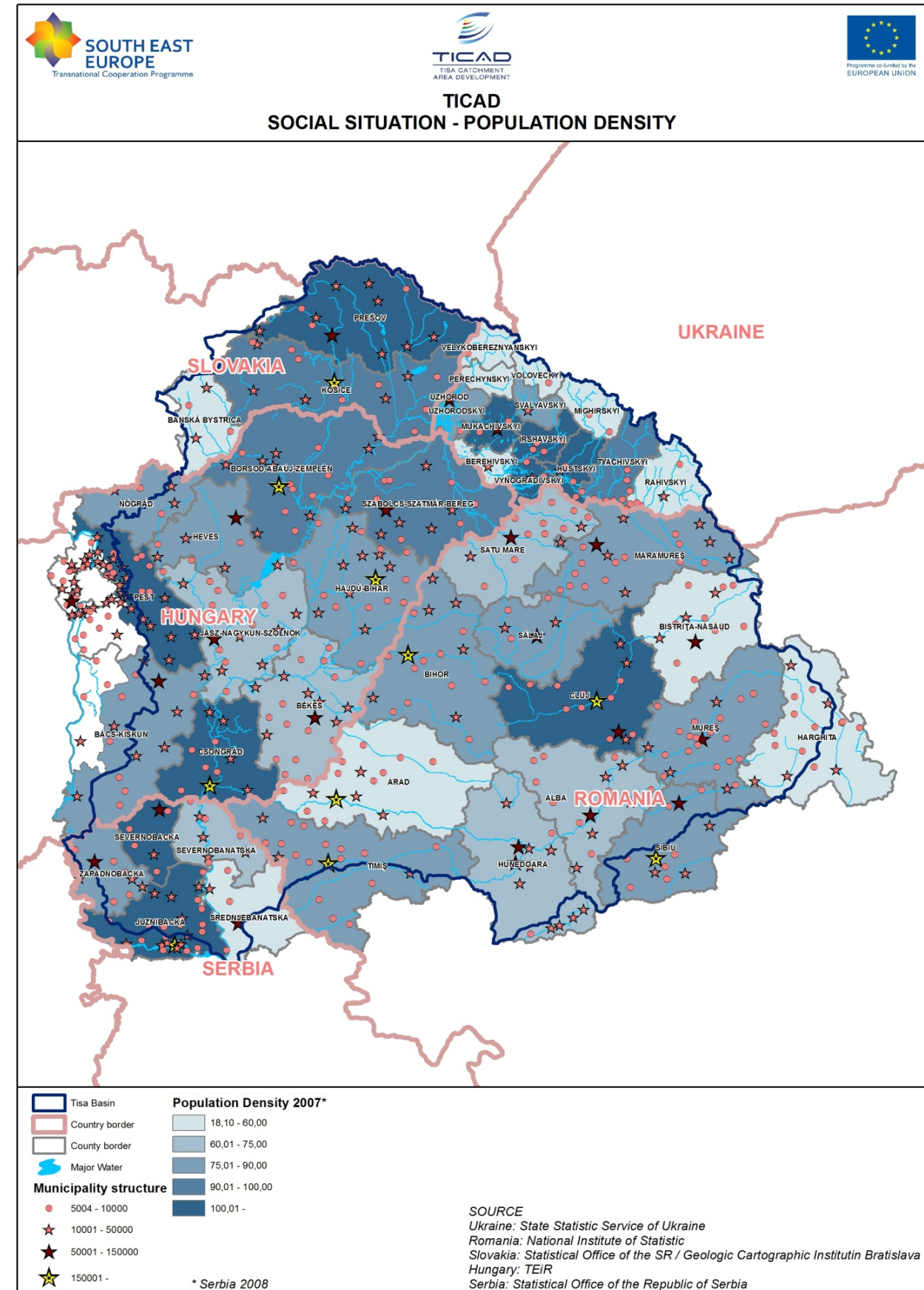
- settlement structure,
- demography,
- economic characteristics,
- land cover, land use features,
- infrastructure.

IV.1. Settlement structure

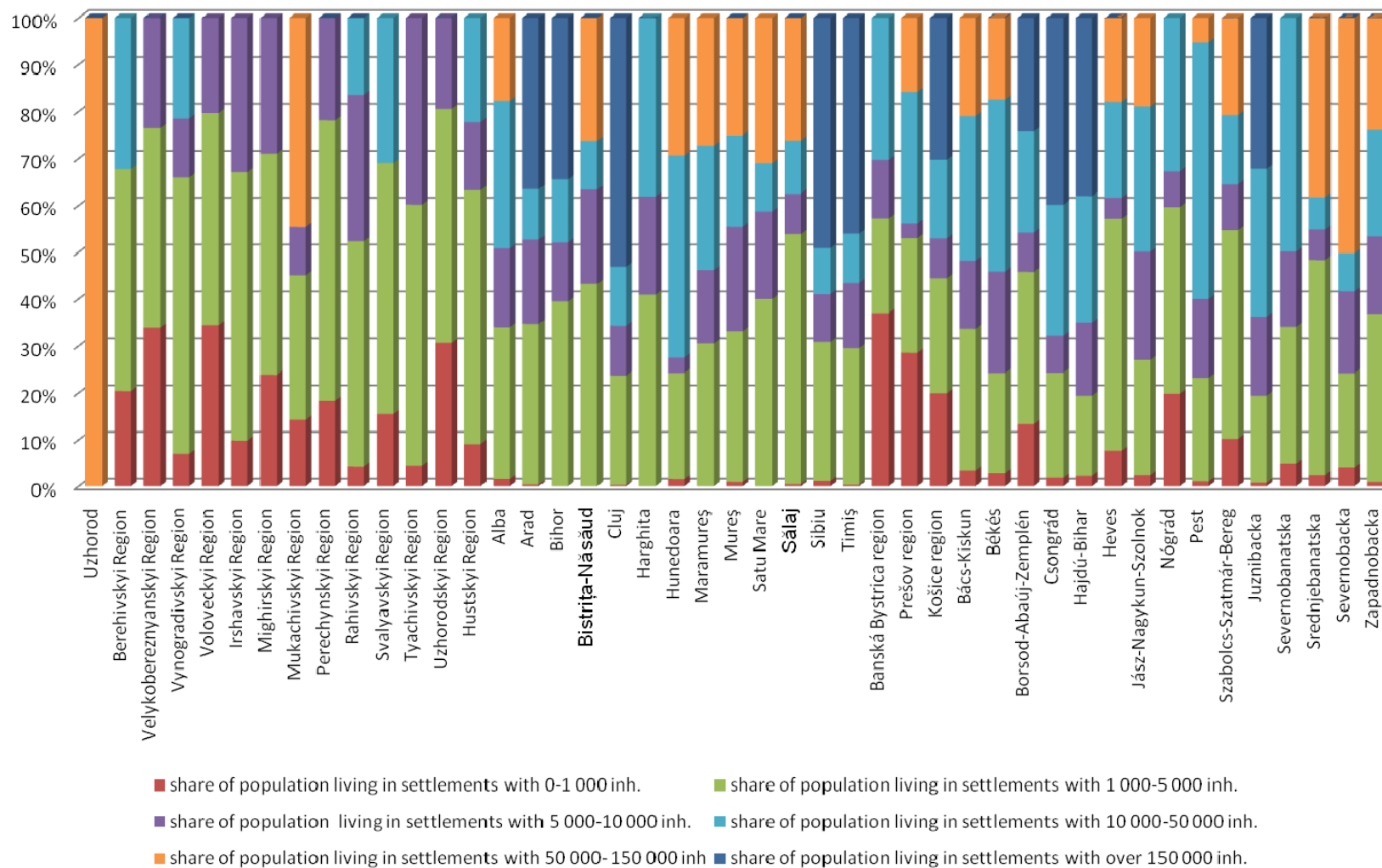
Three indices have been examined: size (number of population) of the central city; population density; ratio of small settlements (with population below 5,000).

In conclusion the following characteristics are identified:

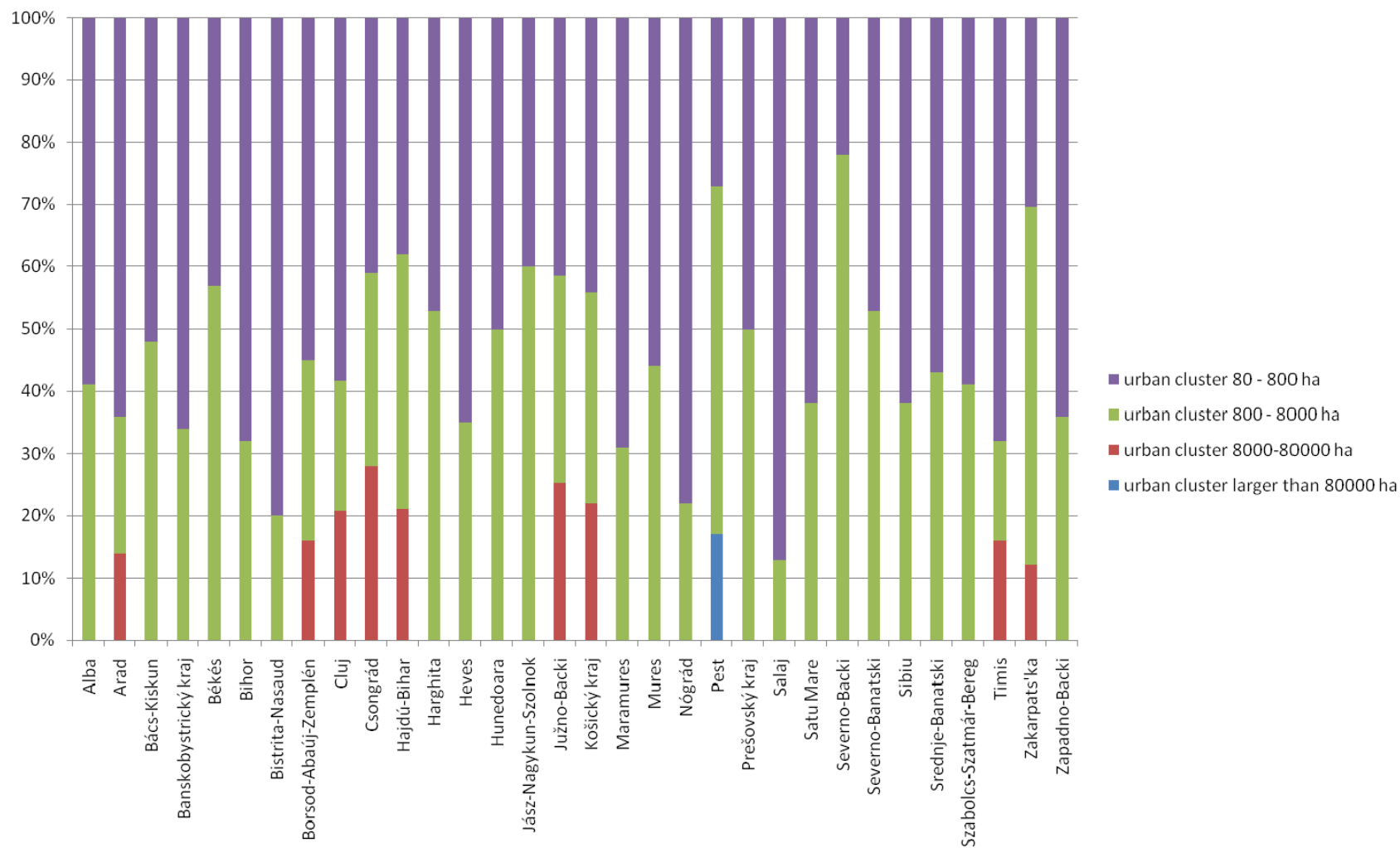
- In the Tisa Catchment Area there are ten central cities with population over 150,000.
- In counties (NUTS3 regions) Cluj, Timiș, Csongrád, Hajdú-Bihar, and Južnobačka a high ratio of population is concentrated in these centres. Population density is high. The counties of the other large centres – Bihor, Sibiu, Arad, Košice, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén – large urban concentration is paralleled by a high share of rural population.
- There are medium size centres (over 50,000 inhabitants) in 19 counties. Some of these are characterised by high rate of urban population and high density (Uzhorod, Severnobačka and Satu Mare), in others there is a balance of urban and rural population (Mukachivskyi, Mureș, Békés and Zapadnobačka). In the third group besides the medium-size centre there is rural majority in population ratio (Sălaj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Prešov, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Heves).
- There are also counties with overwhelming rural majority in population and with relatively small urban centre (Harghita, Nógrád, Severnobačka and Banská Bystrica – this minor area unit has no urban centre).



Share of population in different settlement type



Size of interconnecting built up area

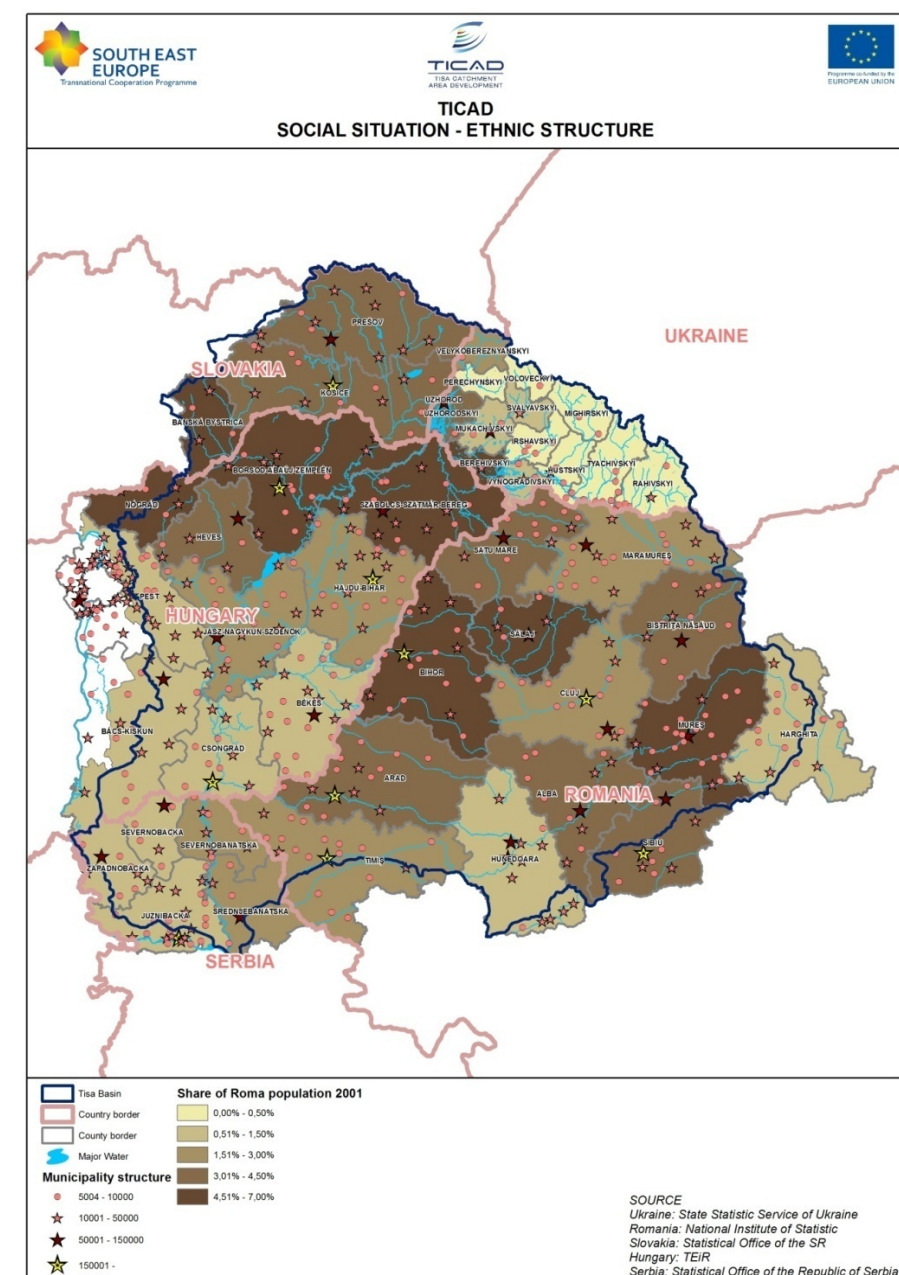
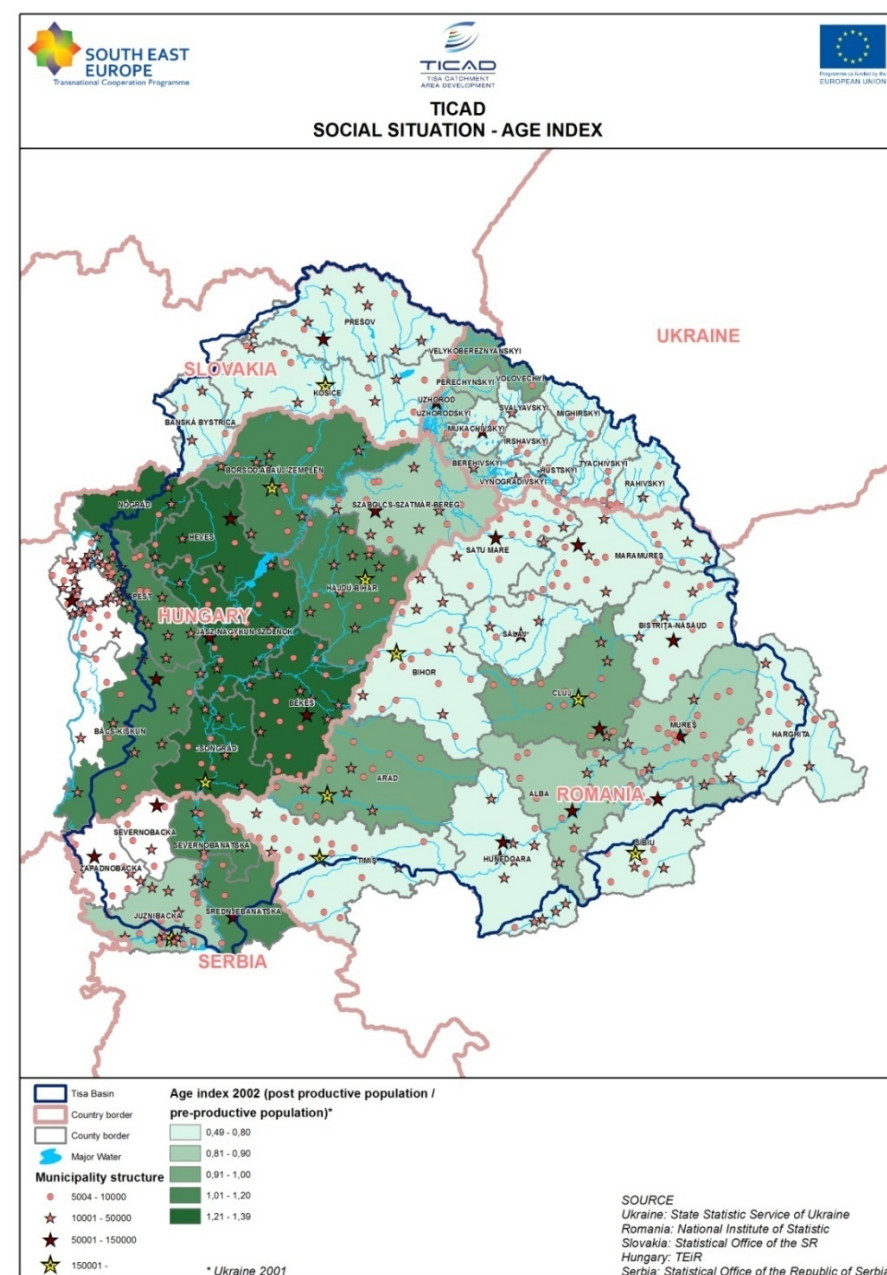
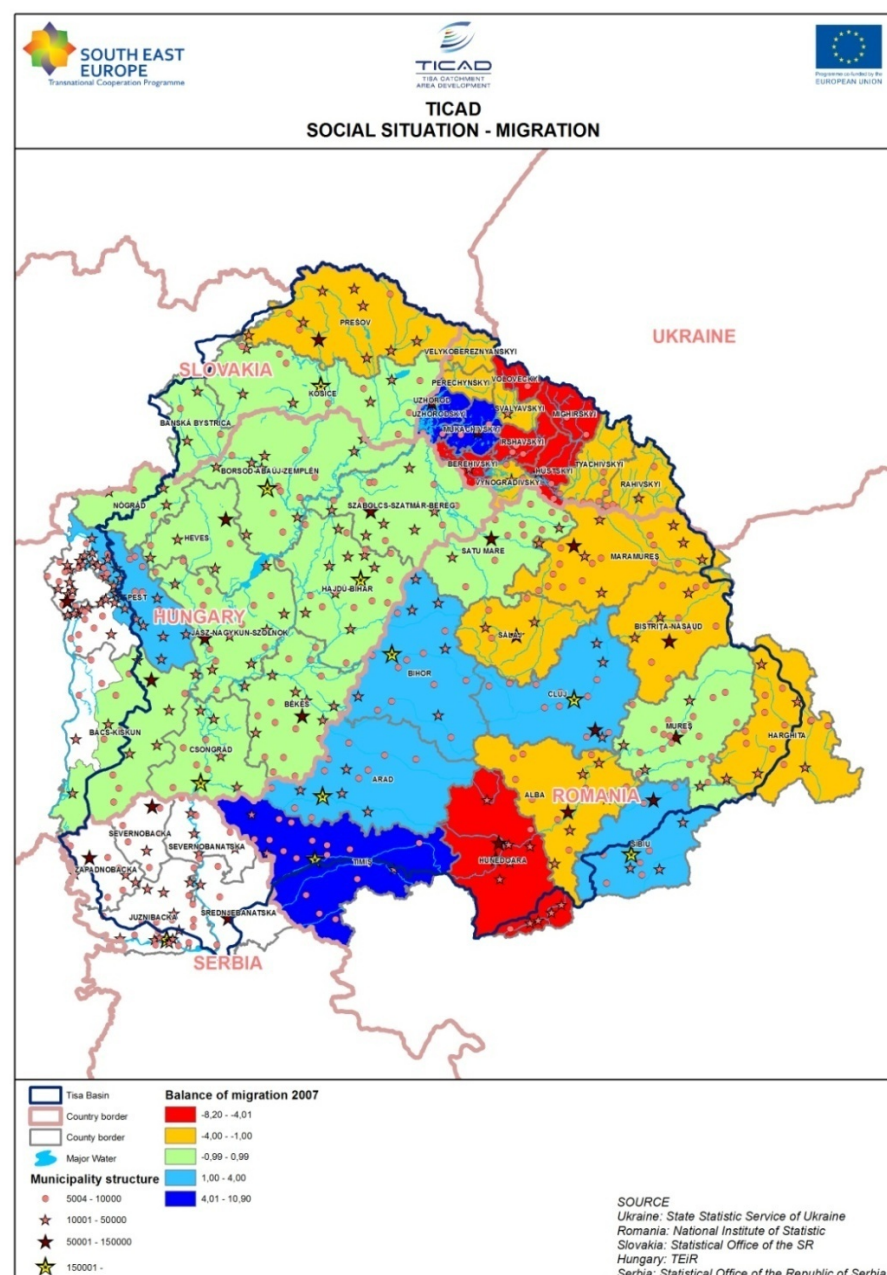


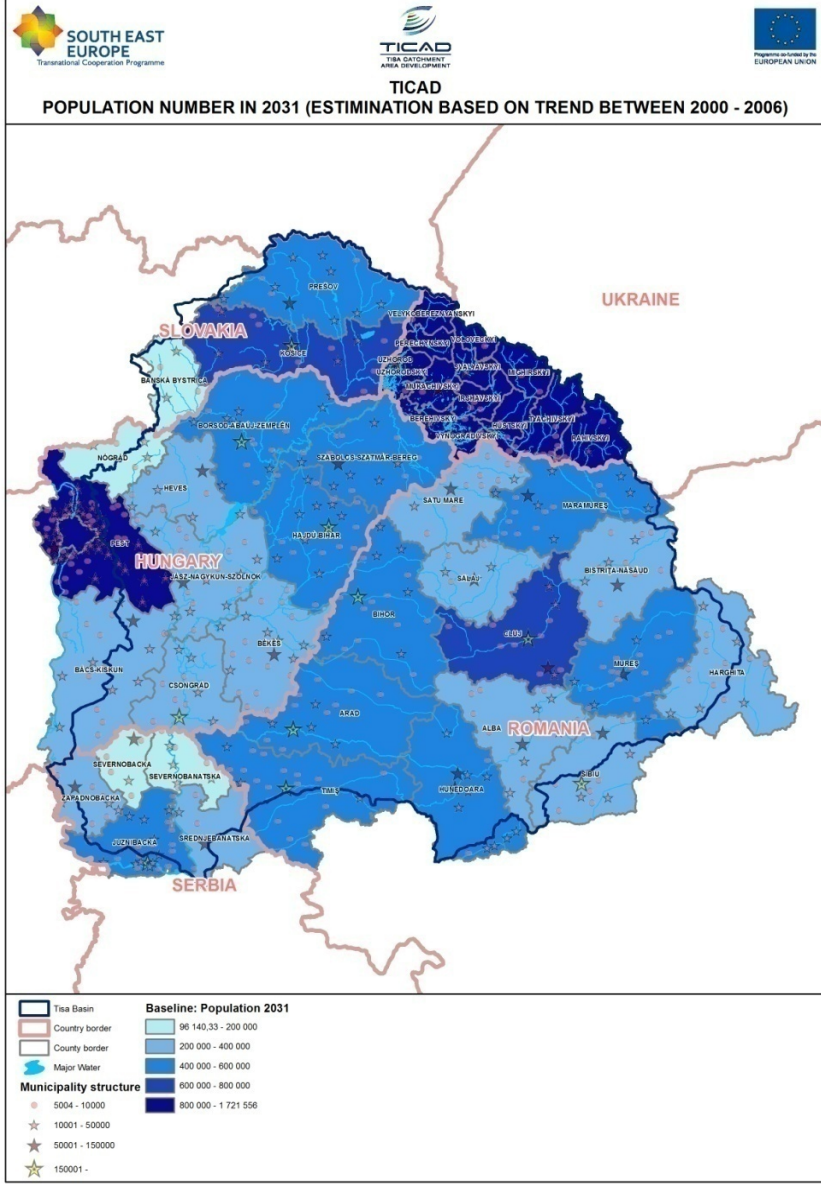
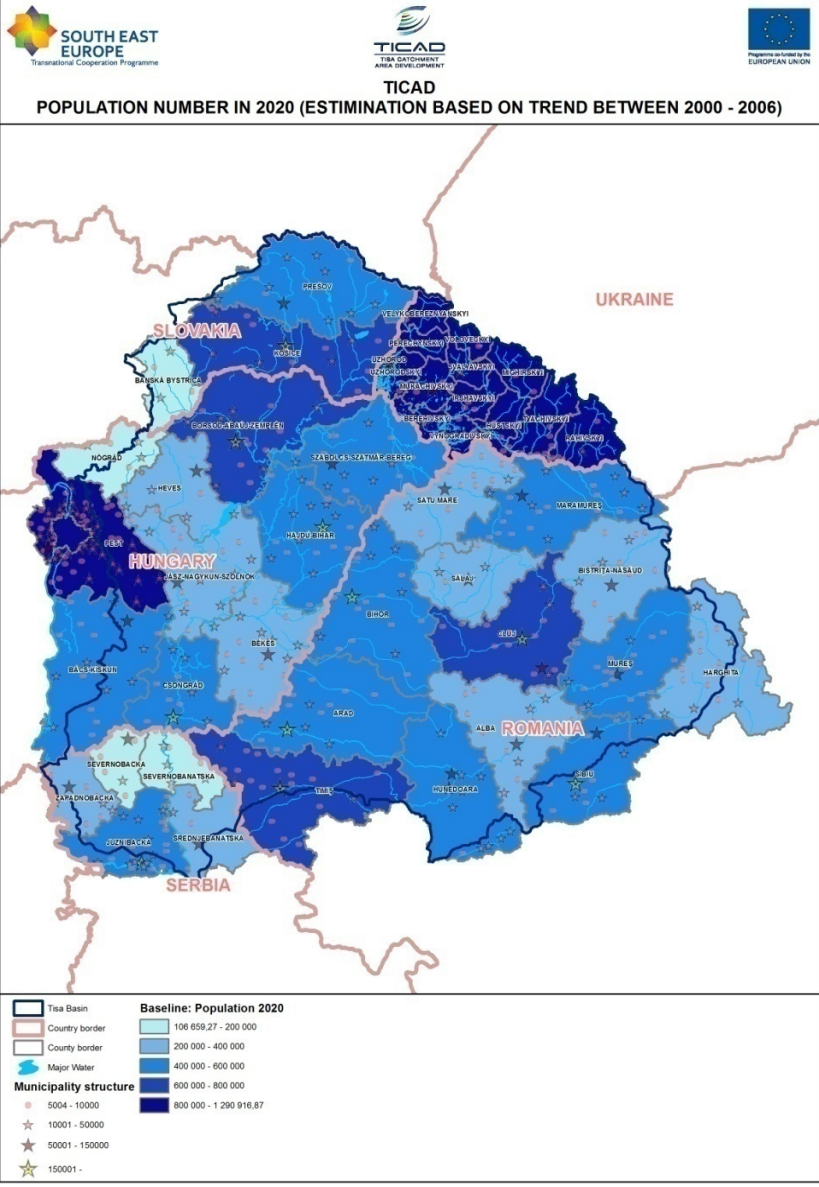
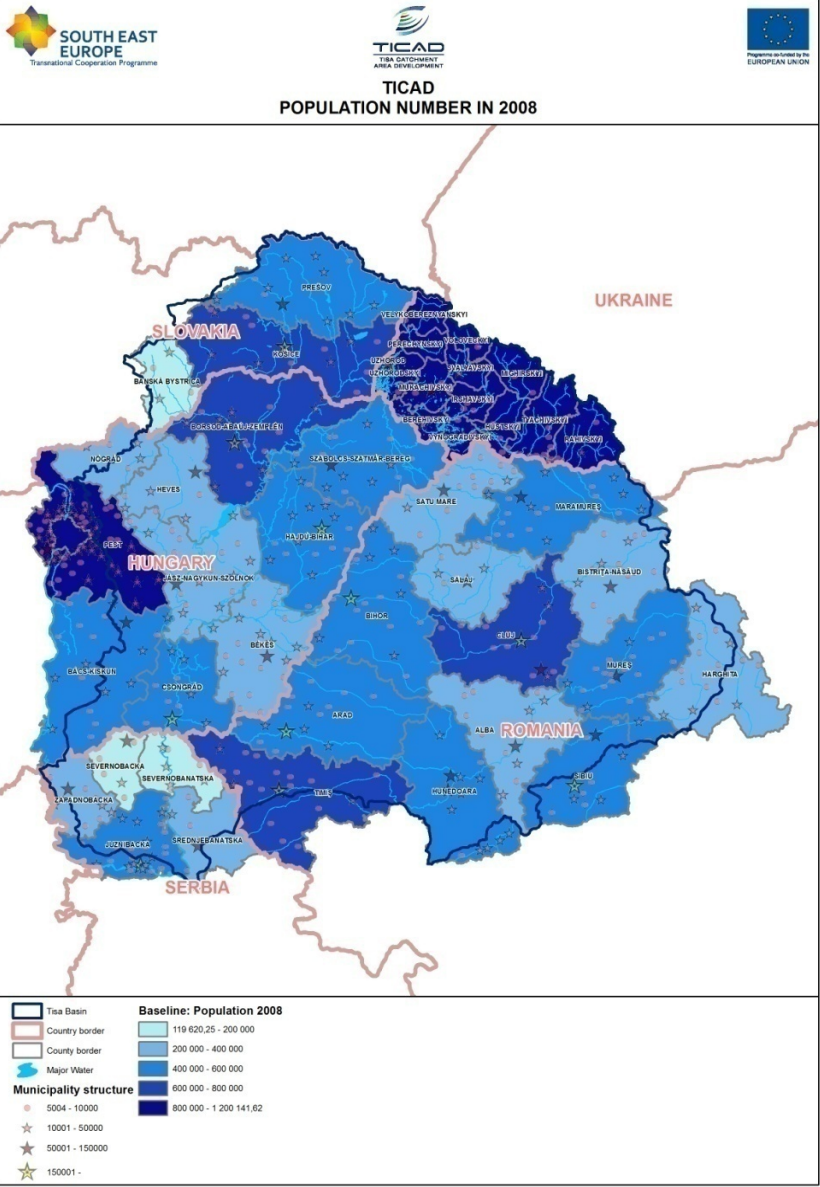
IV.2. Demography

Three components are characteristic for the demographic processes in the Tisa Catchment Area. The future trends are rather determined by the migration, age structure and ethnic composition. With regard to this latter the ratio of Roma population has been taken into account because of the high birth-rate in this group and because they are under the pressure of exclusion and peripheral status.

The following demographic trends have been identified:

- Migration gain and relatively young age structure is characteristic in oblasts Uzhorod and Mukachivskyi in Ukraine and in Timiș, Bihor and Sibiu counties in Romania.
- Migration gain too but with balanced or aging age structure is typical in Cluj, Arad in Romania and in Pest County in Hungary.
- Migration loss and young age structure prevails in the other Ukrainian counties as well as in Prešov (Slovakia), Hunedoara, Harghita, Maramureș, Alba, Sălaj, Bistrița Năsăud (Romania).
- There is balanced migration rate and relatively young age structure in Košice, Banská Bystrica, Satu Mare, Mureș and Szabolcs-Szatmár counties. The young age structure follows from the high rate of Roma population.
- The majority of the counties of Hungary (with the exception of Pest and Szabolcs-Szatmár) have balanced migration rate and aging age structure. Roma population is of high rate in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Heves and Nógrád counties.
- From the counties of Serbia there are no official migration data. There was a tendency of substantial growth during the last decade of the 20th century due to migration from the conflicts and uncertainties in the southern parts of the country.
- If the current trends are extrapolated substantial population decrease can be foreseen in the majority counties in Hungary: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Békés, Bács-Kiskun and in Romania: Timiș, Cluj, Alba.

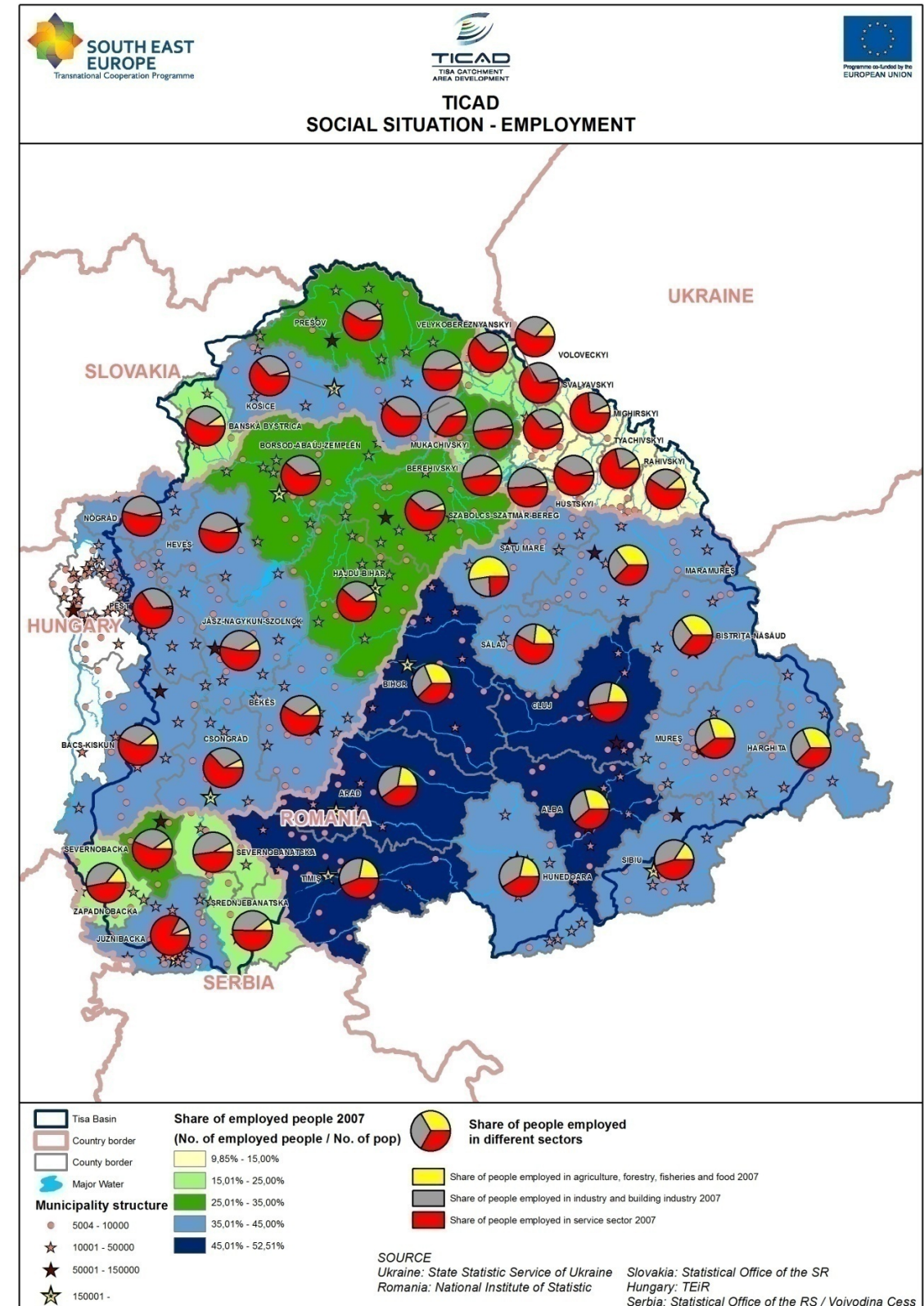
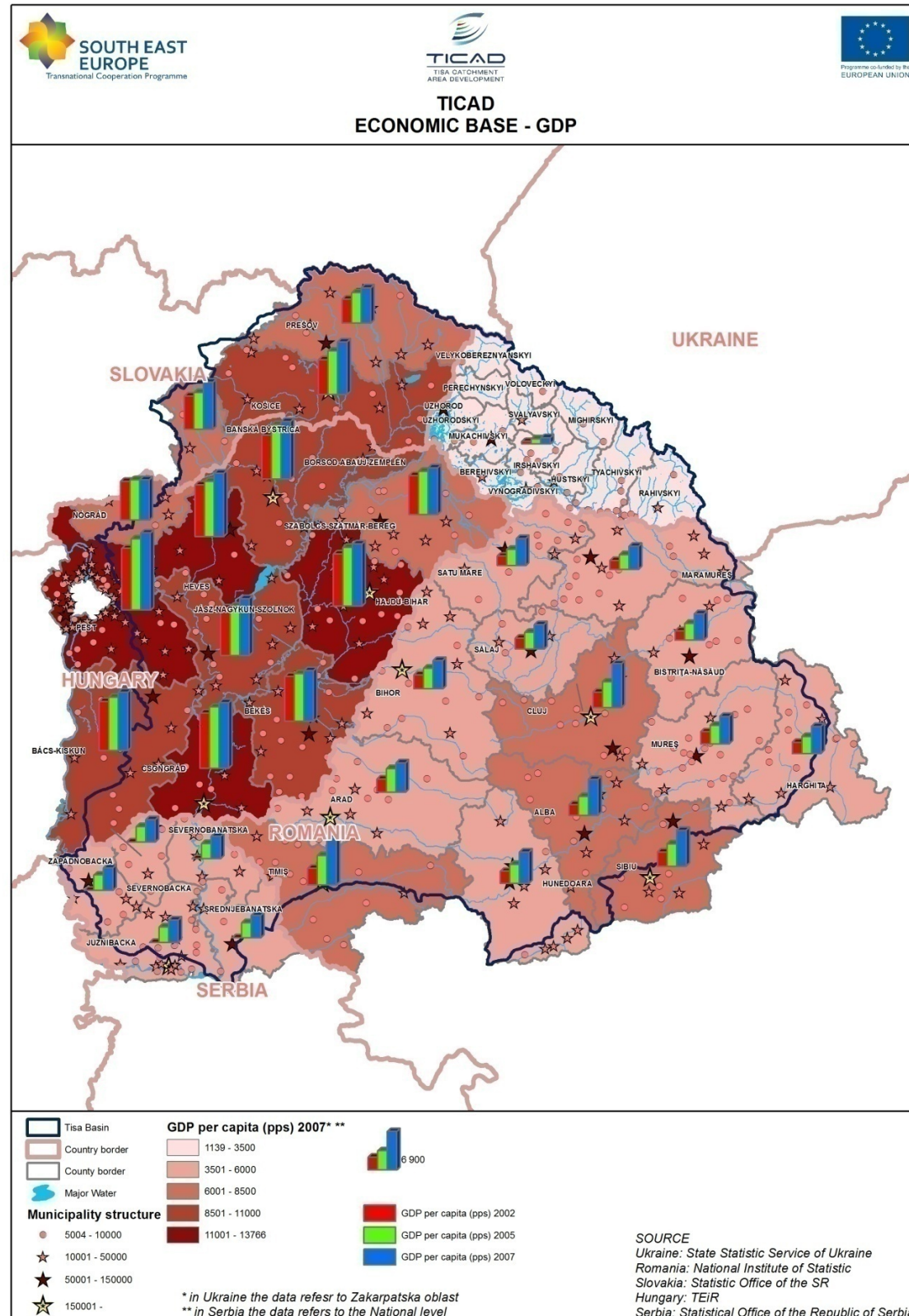


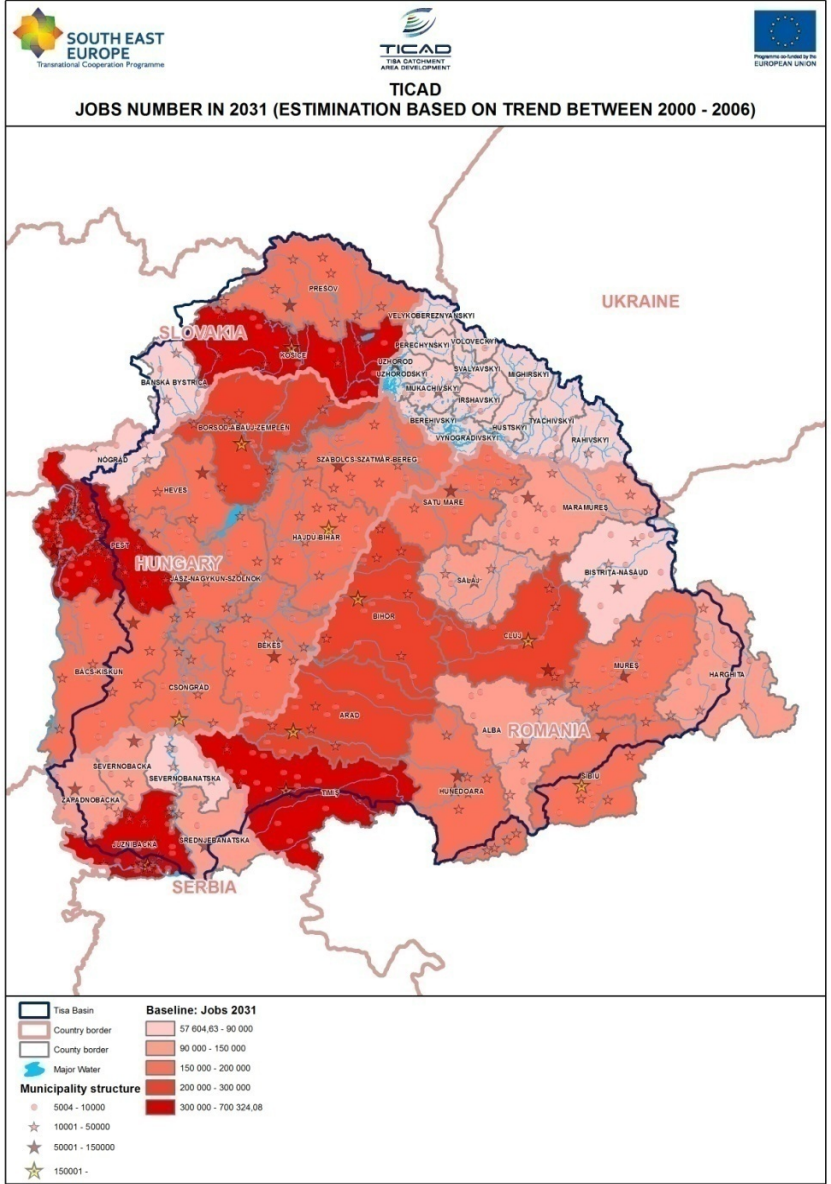
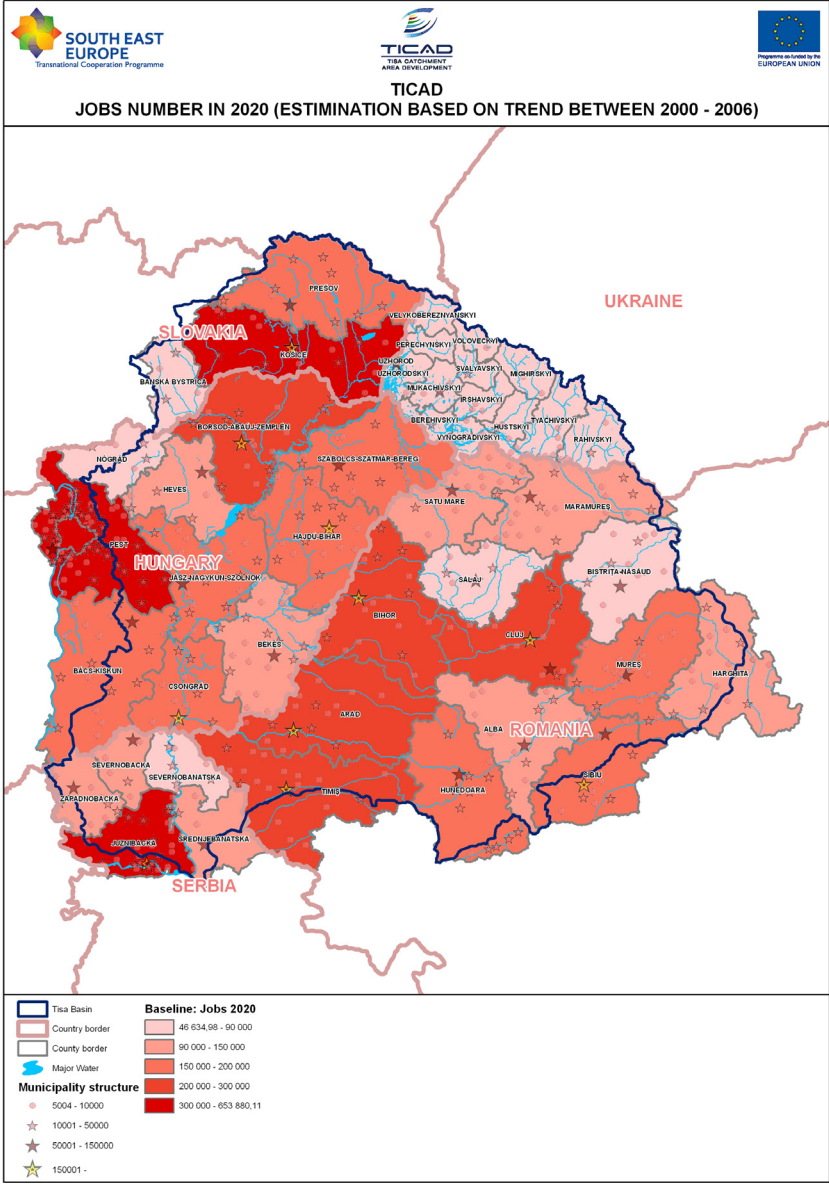
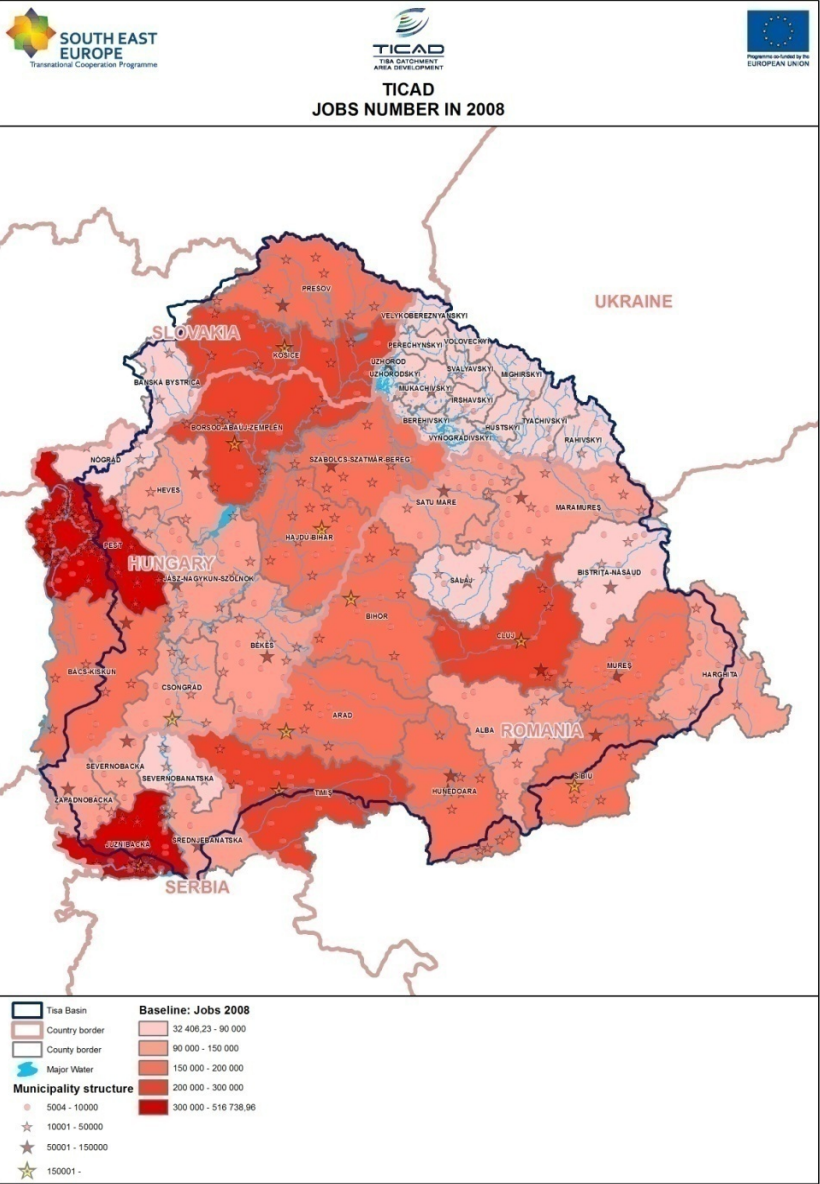


IV.3. Economy characteristics

GDP per capita, trend of change of GDP, rate and structure of employment are figures characterising the economic situation of the Tisa Catchment Area.

- The highest GDP per capita occurs in counties of Hungary: Pest, Csongrád, Heves, Hajdú-Bihar, though employment rate is rather low.
- Medium is the level of GDP per capita and low is the employment rate in the other counties of Hungary and in Košice of Slovakia.
- Medium level of GDP per capita and low employment rate with high agricultural employment are characteristic in the Hungarian Great Plain counties of Hungary (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Bács-Kiskun and Békés).
- In both other counties of Slovakia, in Nógrád and Szabolcs-Szatmár of Hungary as well as in the counties of Romania and Serbia GDP per capita is below average and very low in the counties of Ukraine.
- Between 2002 and 2007 there was a general improvement of GDP in the whole Tisa Catchment Area. In four counties (Timiș, Cluj, Alba, Sibiu) of Romania rise was great and sudden between 2005-2007. In Nógrád County of Hungary there was practically no change in GDP in this period.
- The counties with low GDP can be ranged in three groups in terms of employment rate. Medium is the rate in Uzhorod and Južnobačka, so is in several counties of Romania, where it is due to the high rate of agricultural employment. The third group with low GDP level has low employment rate in counties of Ukraine and Serbia and in two counties of Slovakia and Hungary each, both with two lowest GDP level.
- The current economic tendencies may lead to the rise of the number of jobs in 2031 in counties Pest, Heves, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Békés of Hungary and Satu Mare, Cluj, Bihor, Arad in Romania.





IV.4. Land use structure

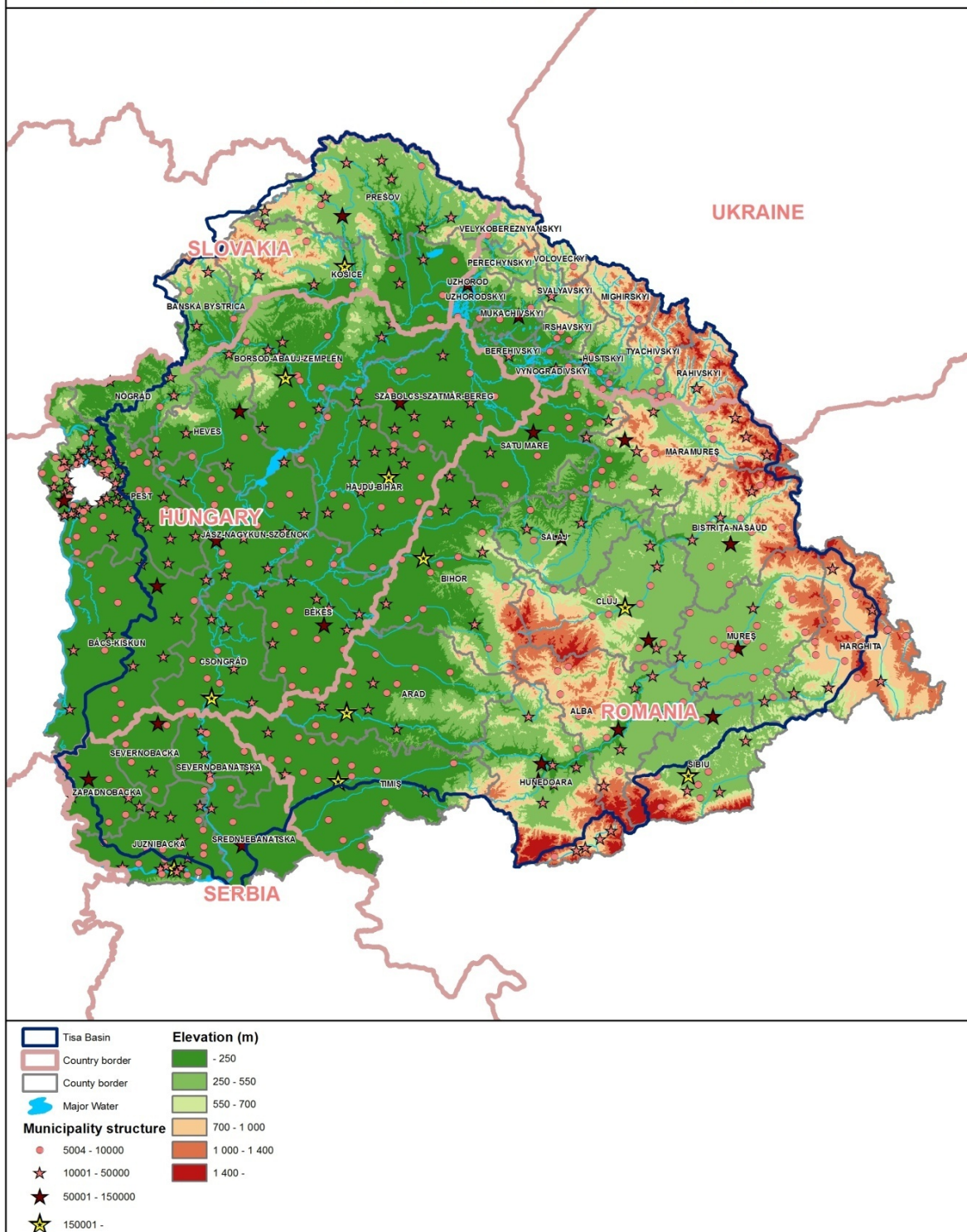
The characteristics of land cover / land use have been explored with regard to geography (morphology), the respective ratios of land cover with special regard to natural and semi-natural areas, agricultural areas and their specific uses and the size and ratio of forests. Assessment has been also made of the exploitation of land use potential (based on the actual land use and the potential derived from morphologic and soil features). The resulting ratios indicate the difference between actual and ideal land uses.

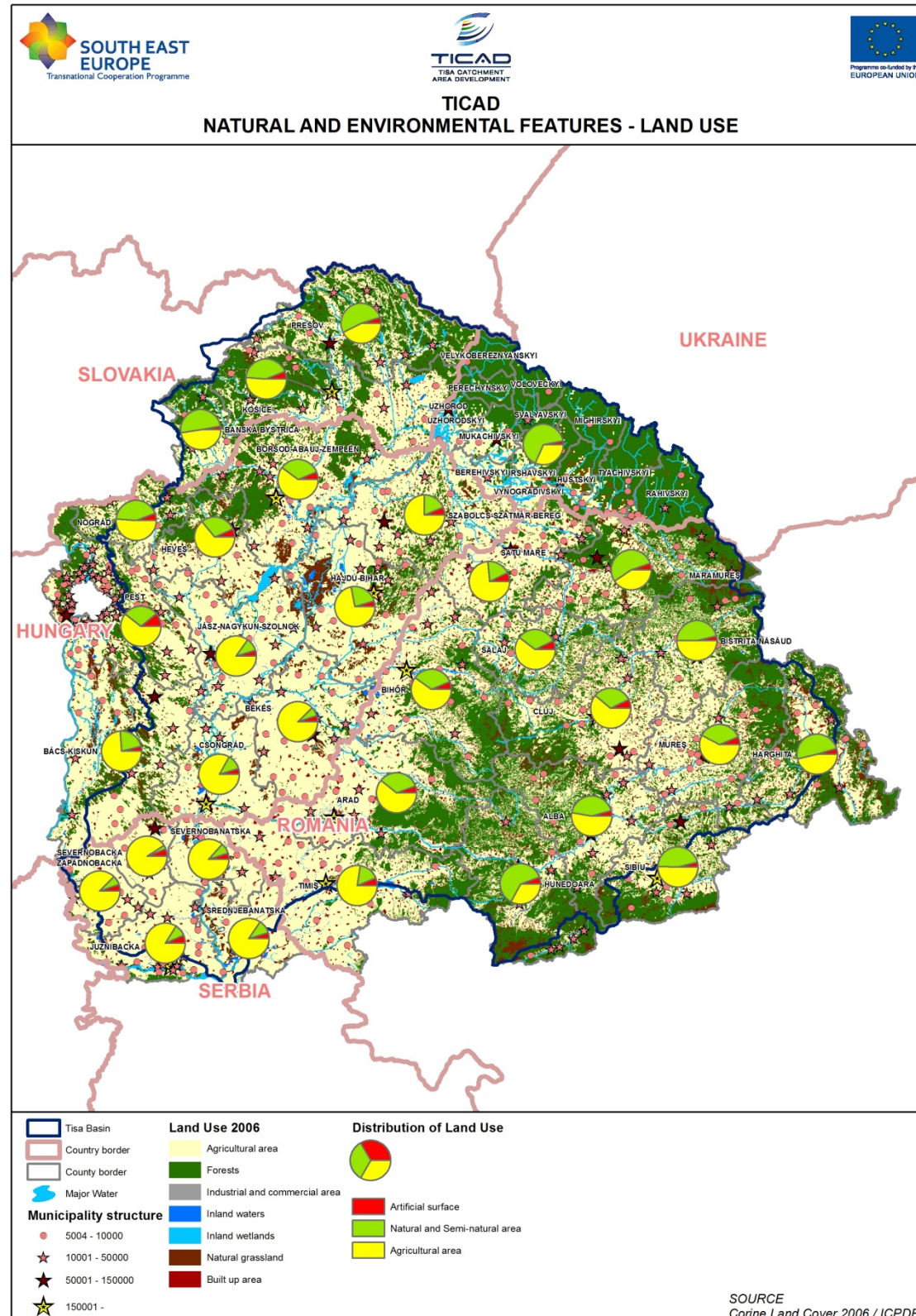
The territorial characteristics of land cover and morphologic features are the following:

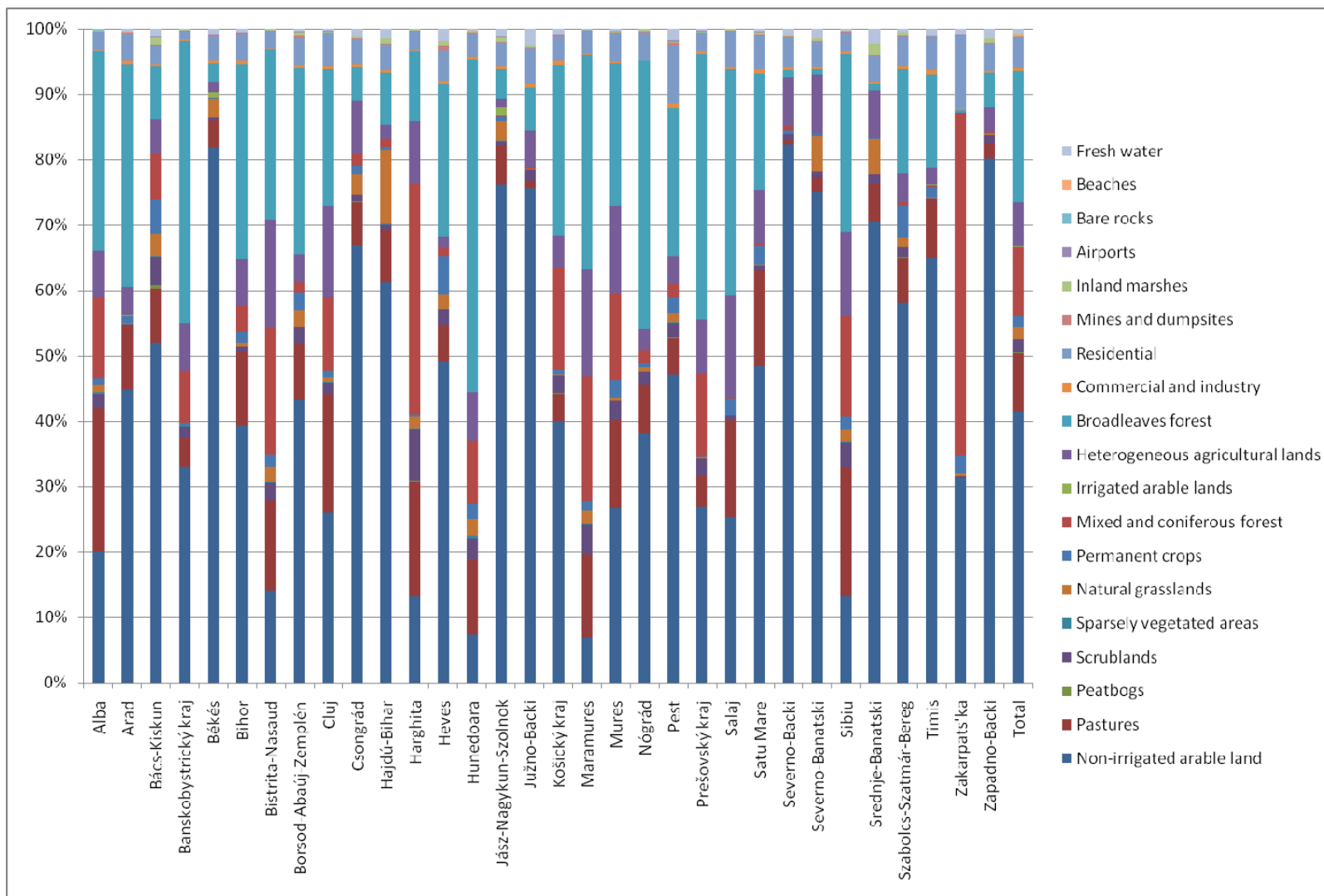
In terms of morphology four territorial groups are differentiated: plains, hilly and mountainous areas as well as high mountains.

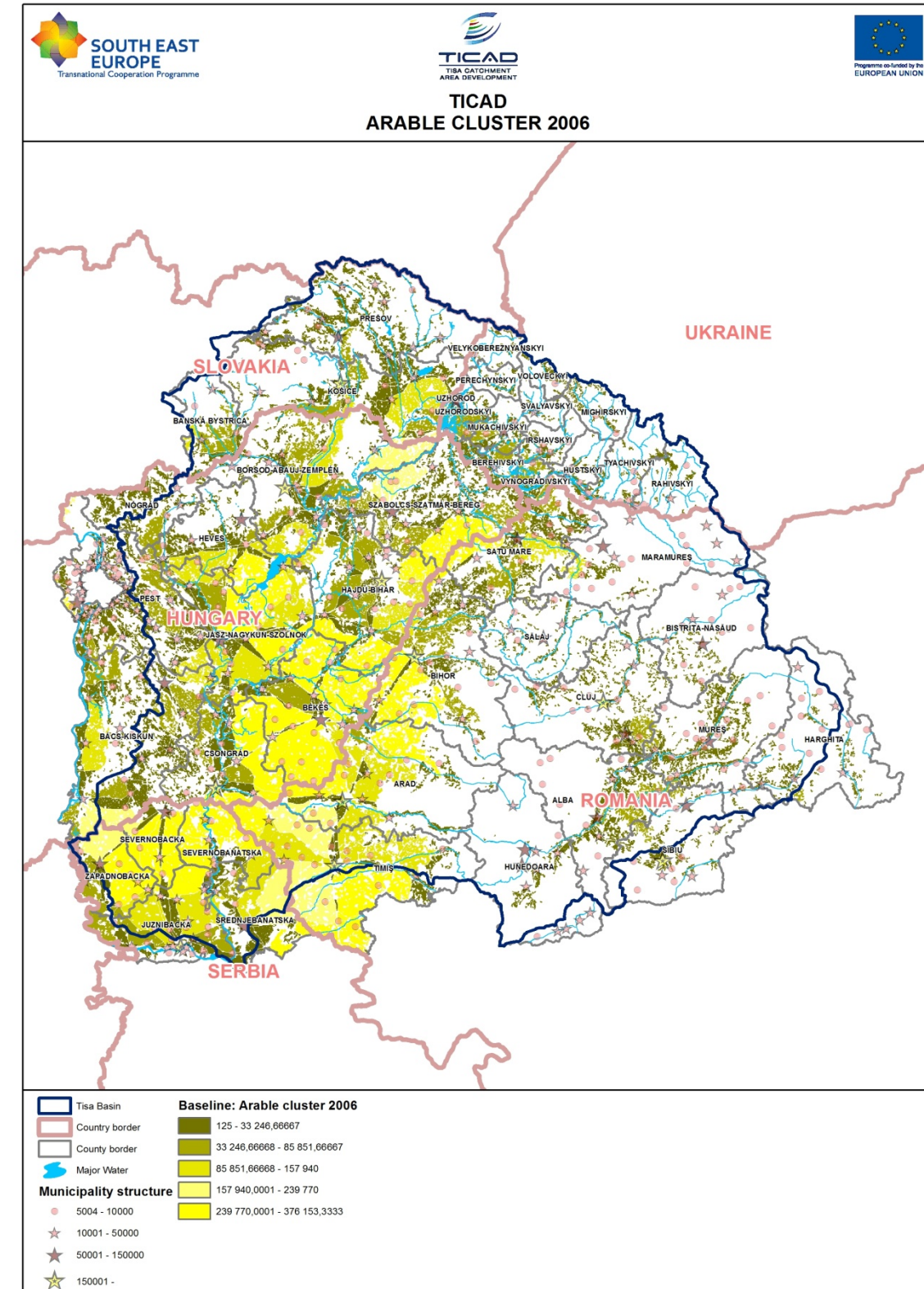
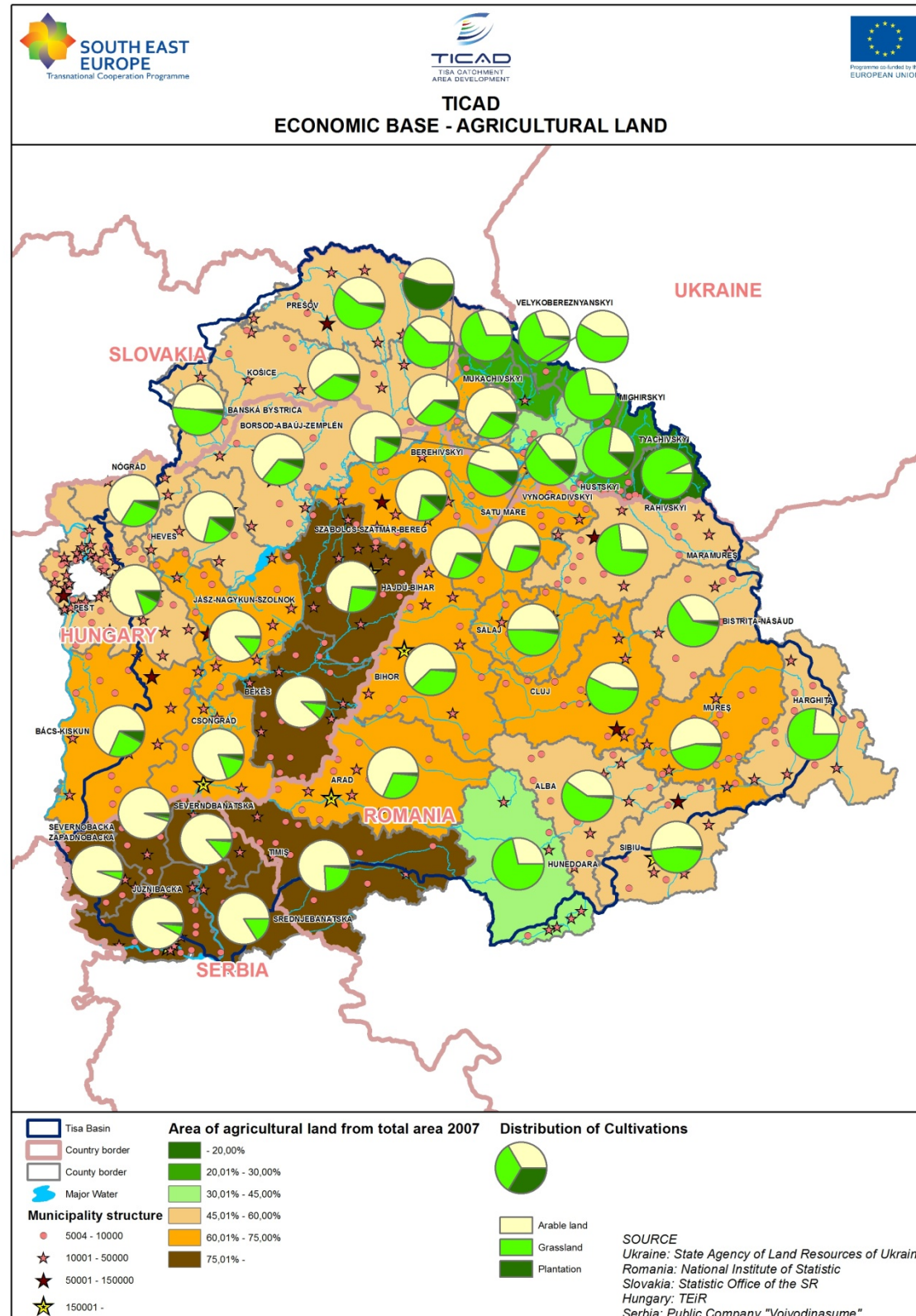
- The high mountains of the Carpathian range with extensive forests are in Ukraine.
- On the high Tatra Mountains in Slovakia and on the Carpathian Mountains in Romania the ratio of agricultural areas is low, the semi-natural areas are extensive, with high, though lower ratio of forests (Prešov, Košice, Harghita, Hunedoara, Maramureş, Alba, Bistriţa-Năsăud, Sibiu).
- Relatively higher is the ratio of agricultural areas on the mountains of Heves, Bihor, Cluj and Mureş counties, with lower rate of semi-natural areas and forests.
- On the plain areas agricultural use is predominant, mainly plough land with low rate of scattered forests. These are the counties of the Hungarian Plain: Békés, Hajdú-Bihar, Csongrád, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Bács-Kiskun and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, and the counties in Serbia Bačka, Banat and in Ukraine Berehivskyi, Vynogradivskyi and Uzhorodskyi. Mukachivskyi is similar, though with lower share of agricultural area.
- The hilly and low mountainous areas comprise two groups: in Južnobačka, Timiş, Sălaj, Satu Mare and Arad counties the ratio of agricultural areas is relatively high, forests are scarce. In counties Pest, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Nógrád, Banská Bystrica, Irshavskyi and Hustskyi the ratio of semi natural areas and forests is higher.

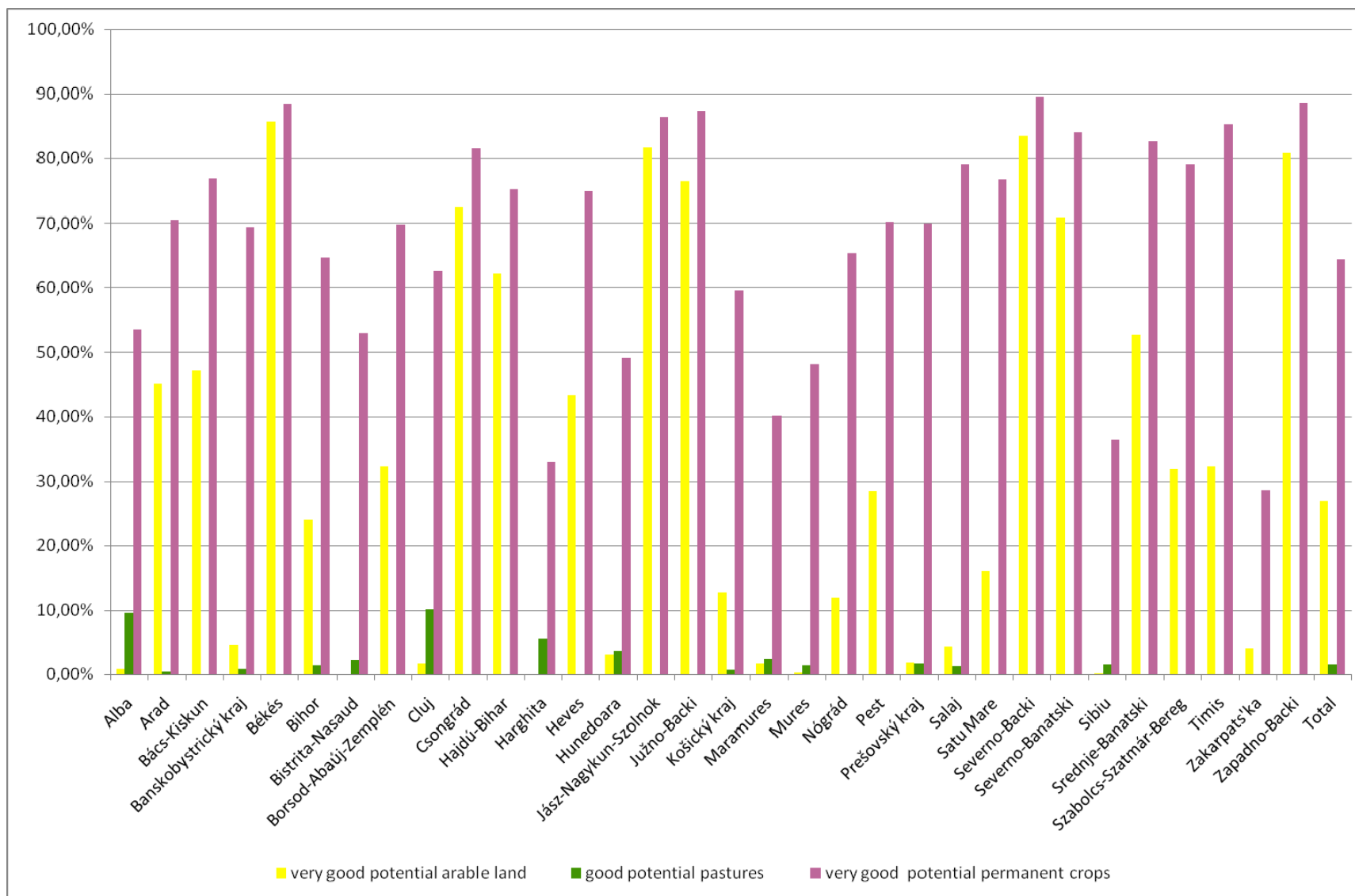
**TICAD
NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES - ELEVATION**

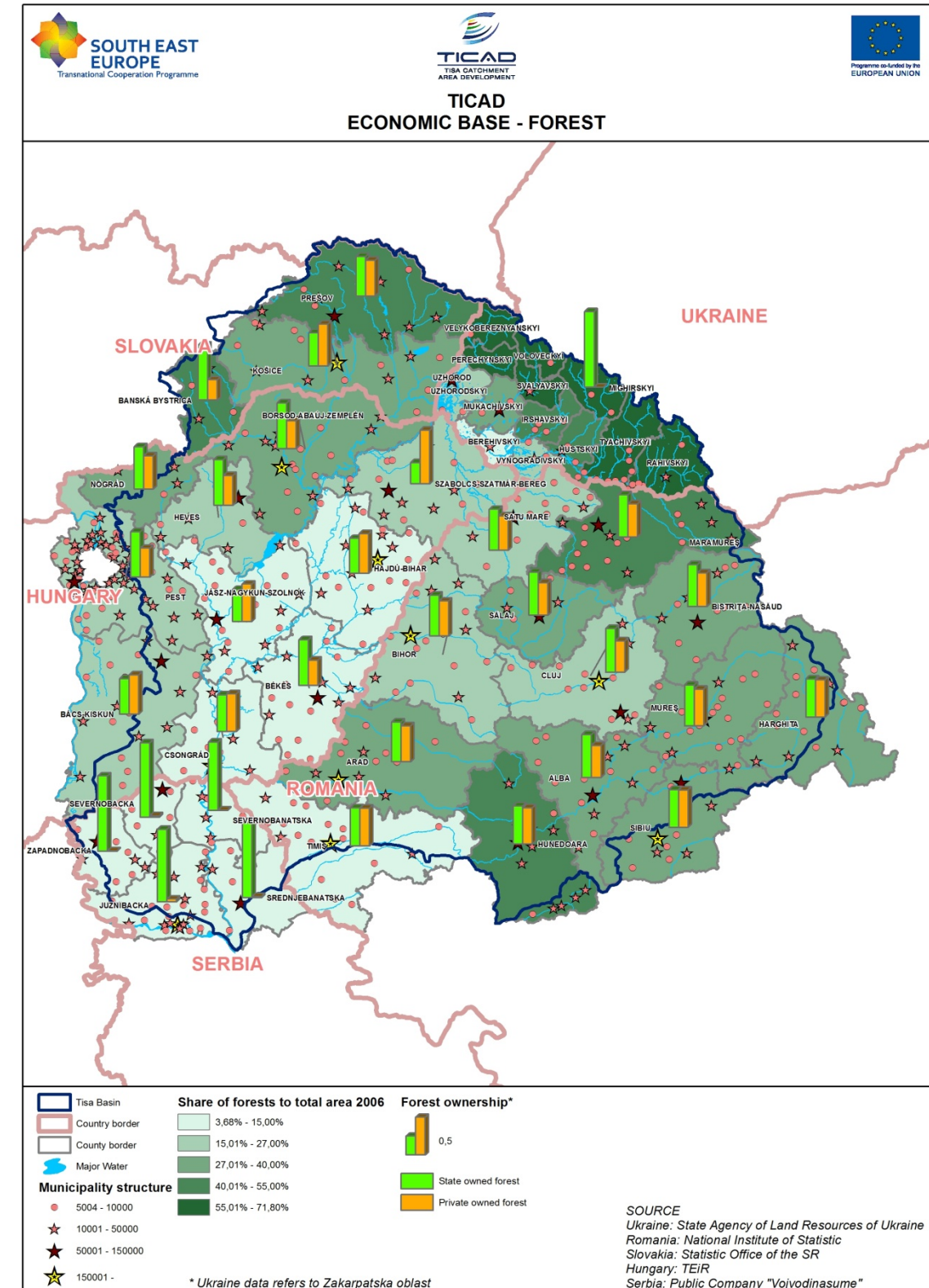
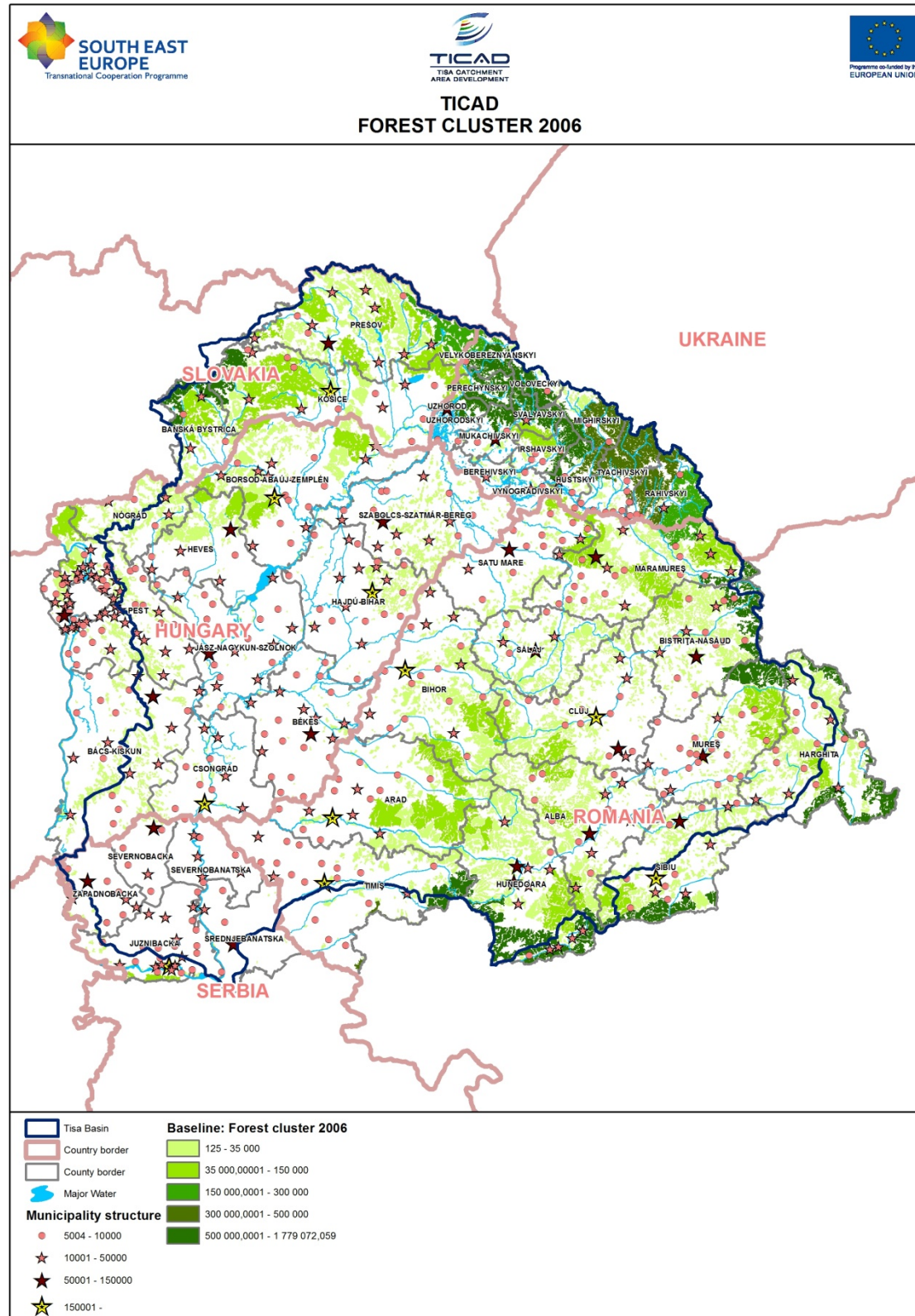


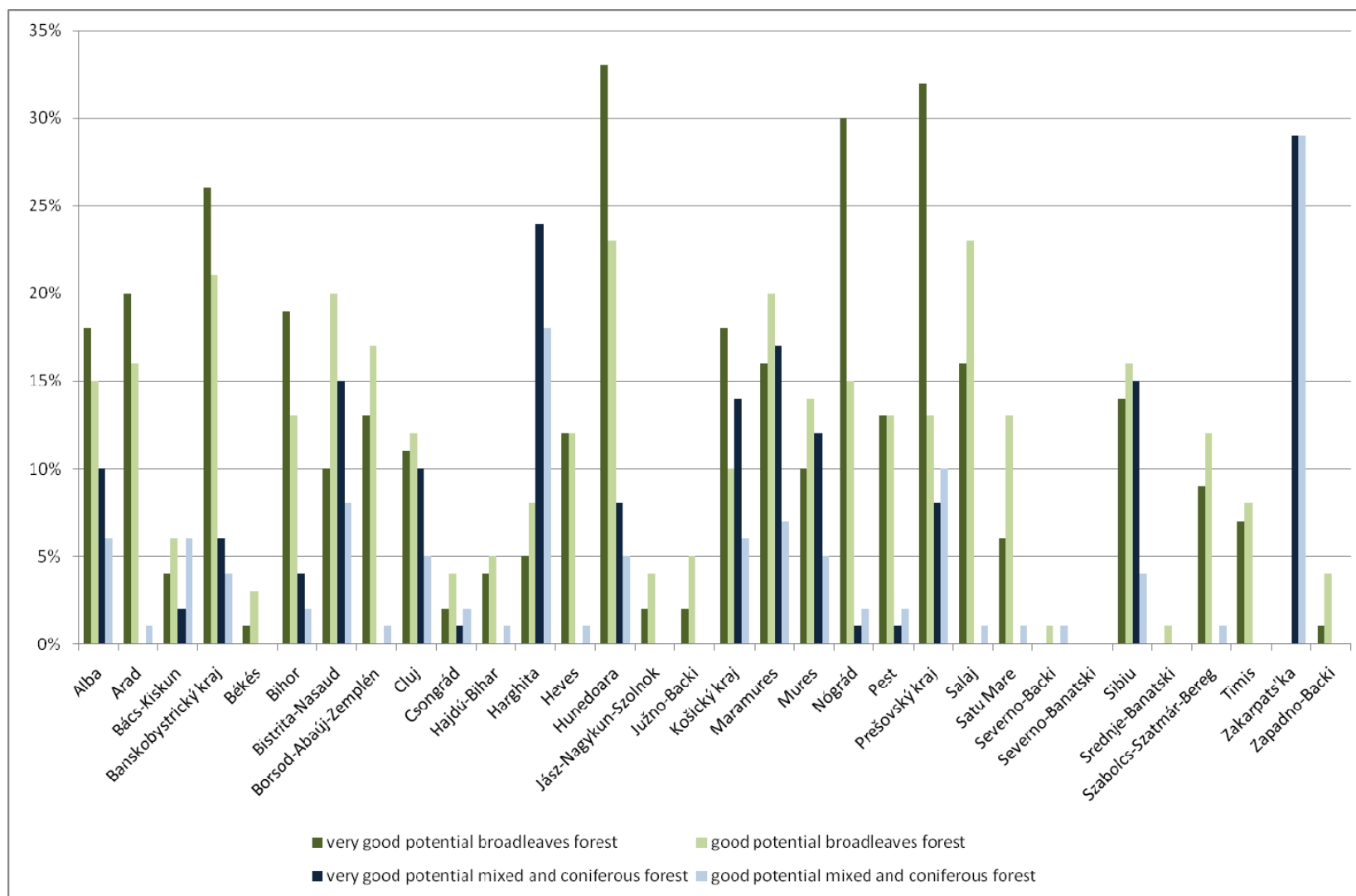








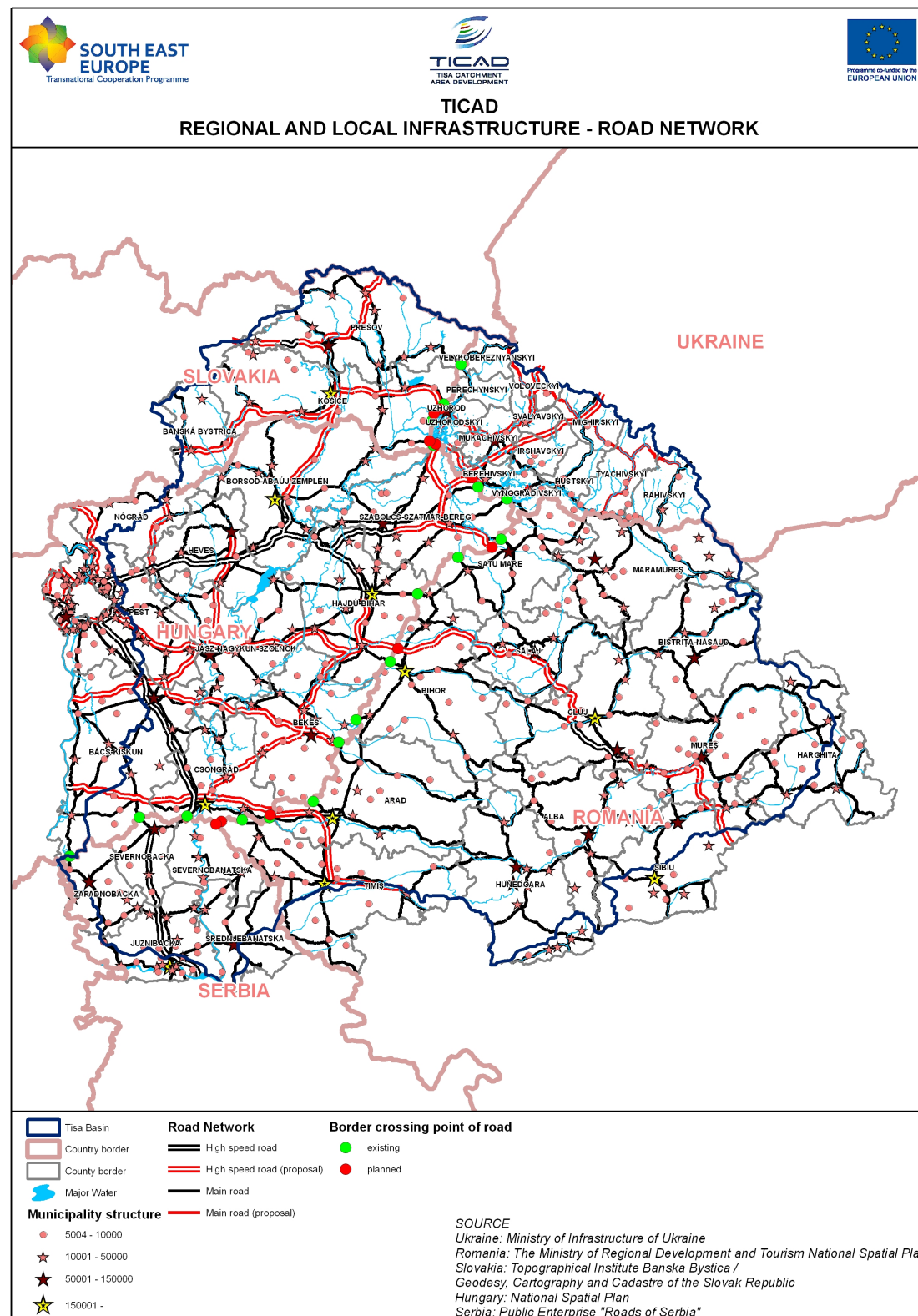


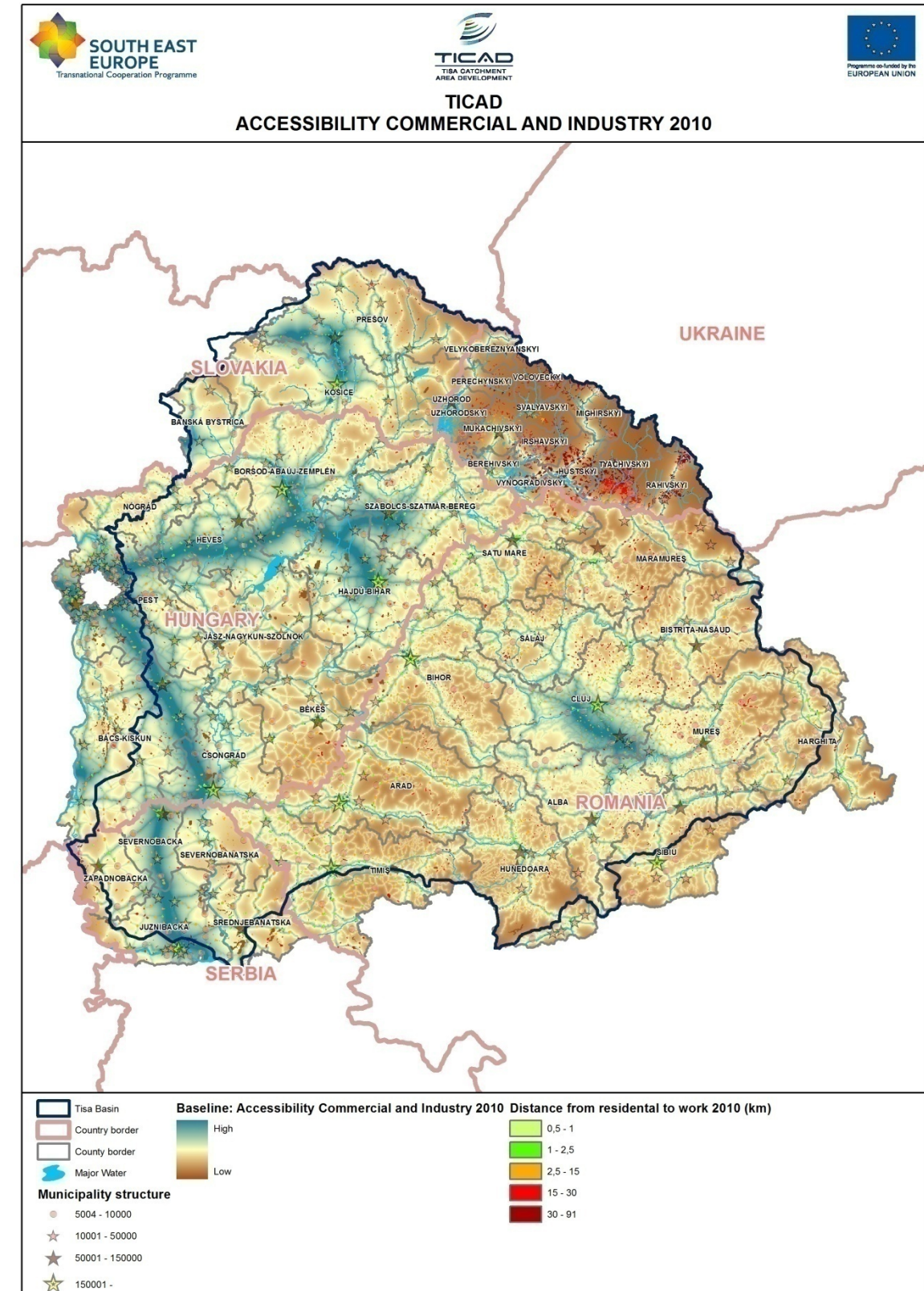
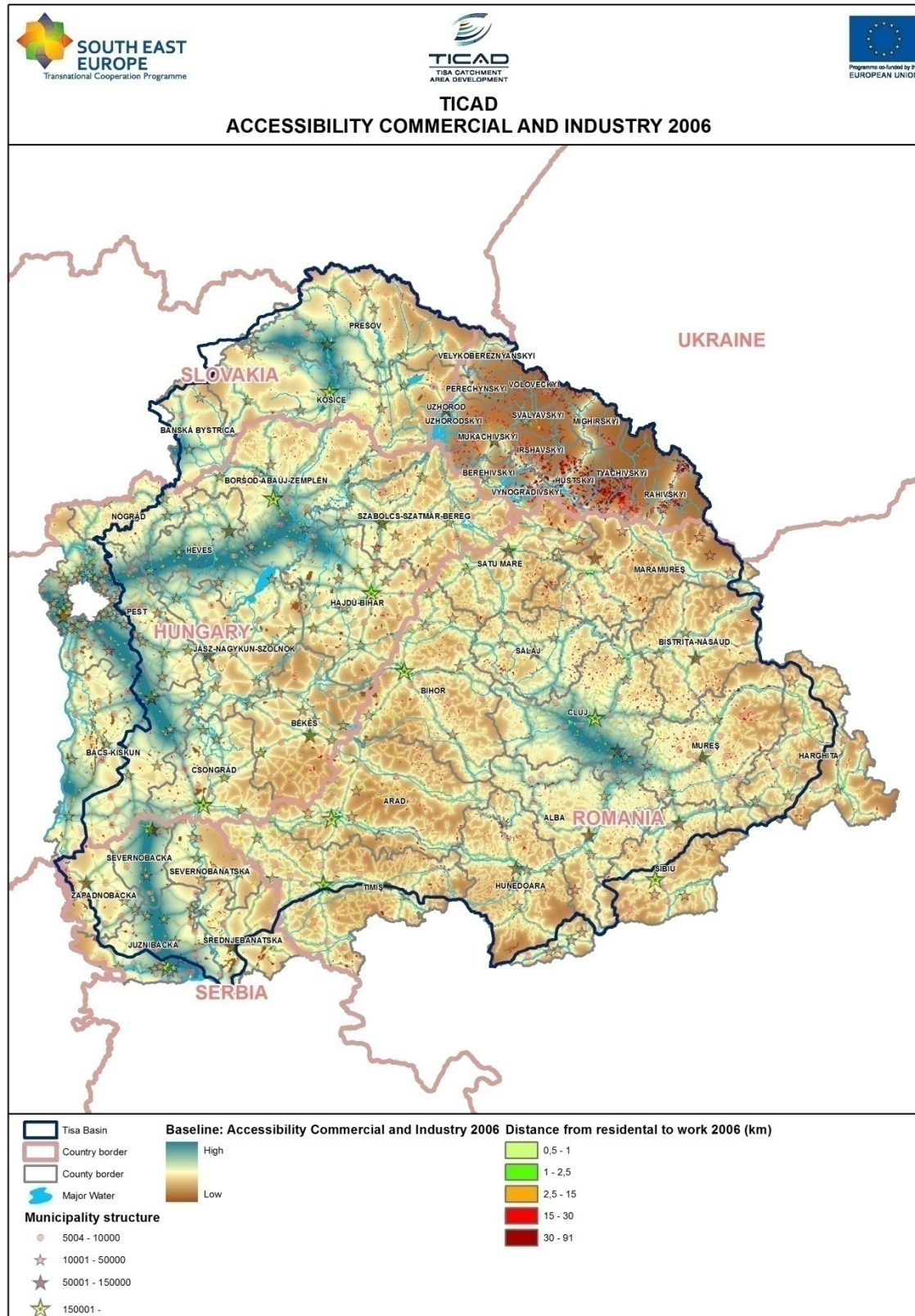


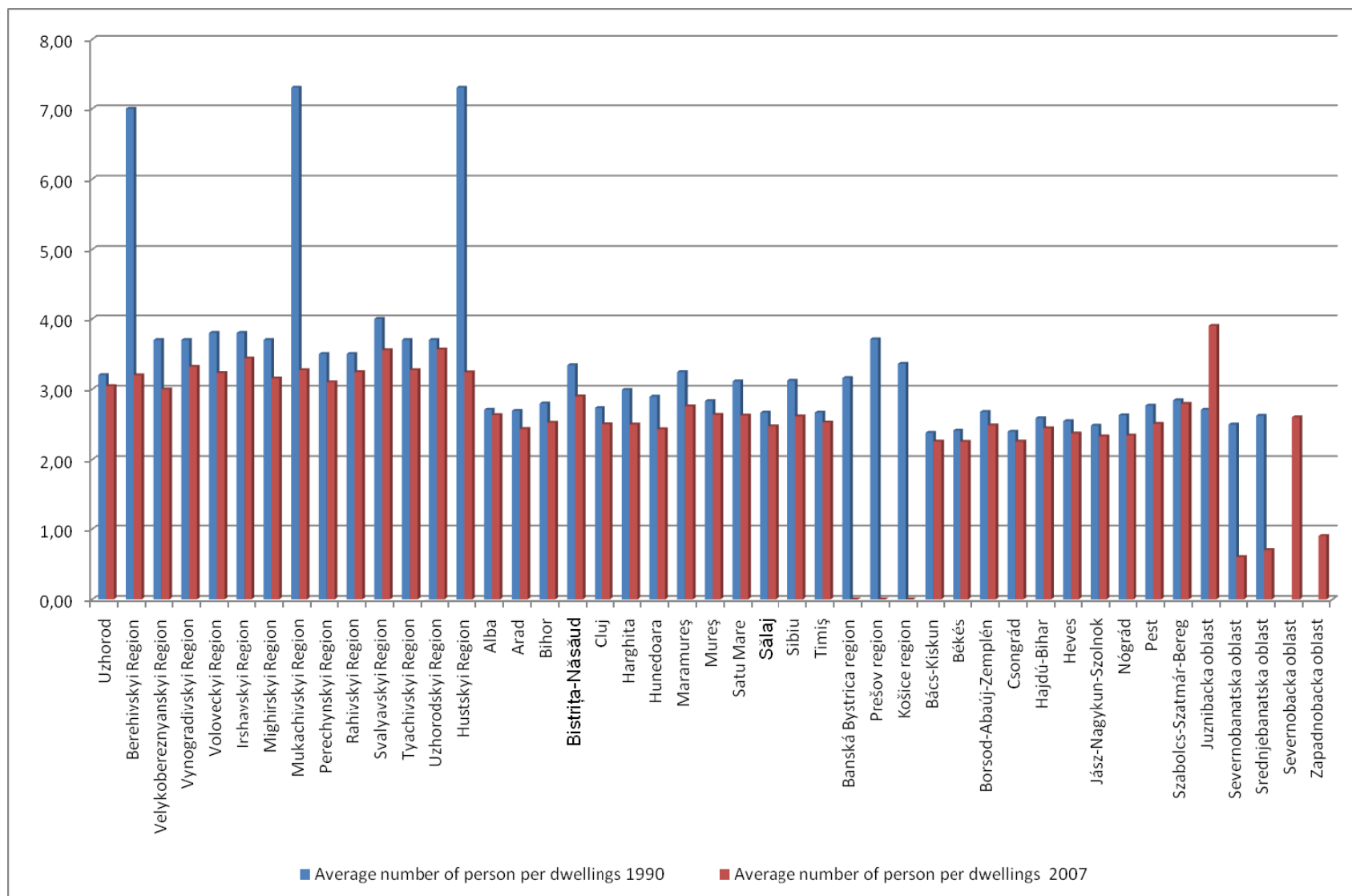
IV.5. Infrastructure

For the assessment of the level of infrastructure development accessibility, the rates of housing and public utility supply and the rate of security from flood hazards have been explored. The conclusions are the following:

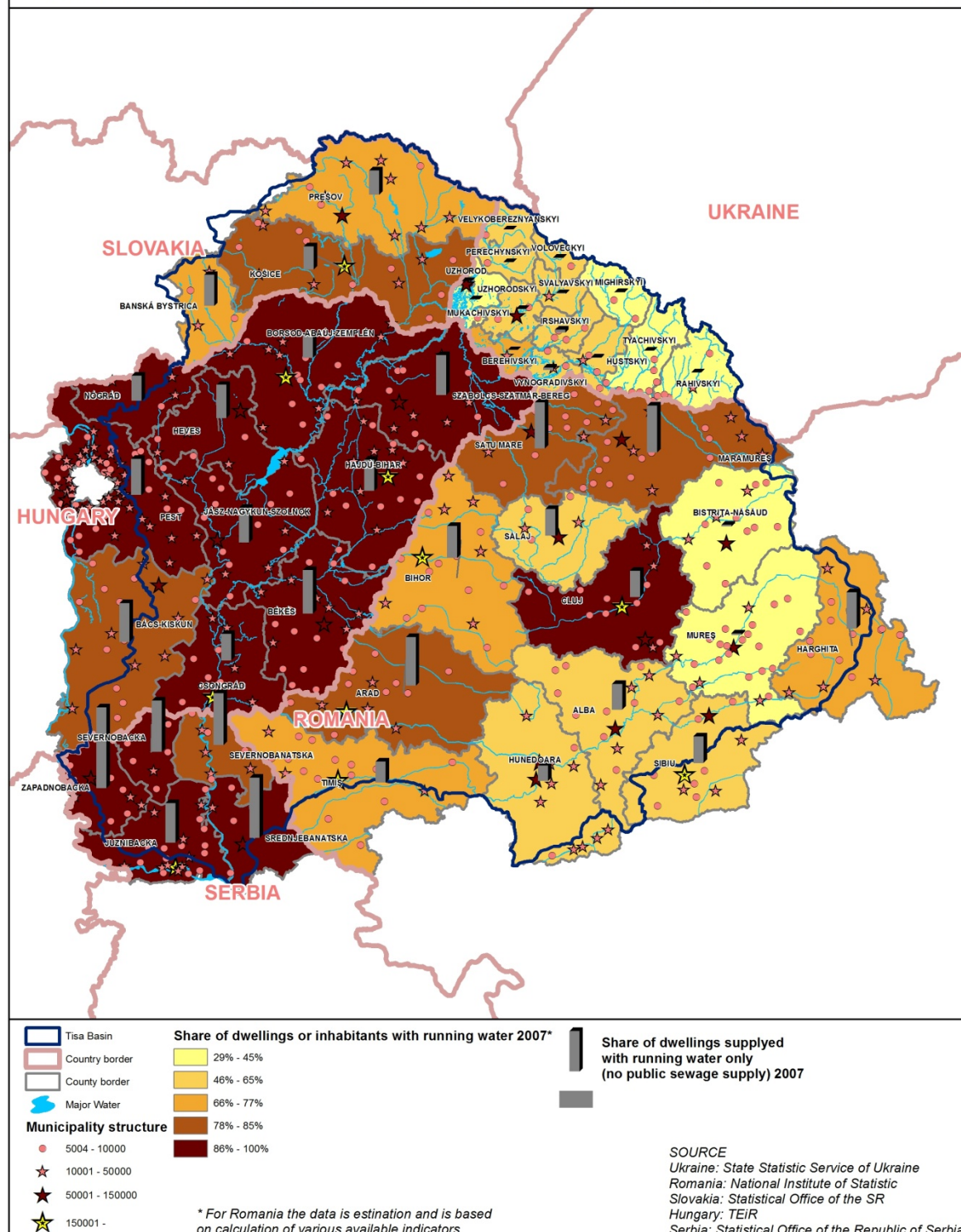
- There are extensive peripheral areas in counties of Ukraine, as well as in Békés, Arad, Timiș, Harghita, Hunedoara, Sibiu and Maramureș.
- There are somewhat smaller peripheries (accessibility) in Banat counties in Serbia, in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (Hungary), Košice, Prešov (Slovakia), Bihor, Satu Mare, Mureș, Bistrița Năsăud (Romania).
- Lowest is the supply of housing in Slovakia (though here the data are old) and in Ukraine.
- The supply of drinking water is good in the counties of Hungary and Serbia and in Cluj County, but sewage treatment is inadequate at several places. In the other counties the gap between water supply and sewage treatment is less. The worst rate of public utility supply occurs in rural areas where water supply is the lowest in Bistrița-Năsăud, Mureș and in the mountains of Ukraine.
- Security from flood hazards is the lowest, where high quality areas are flood prone, in Ukraine as well as in counties Prešov and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén as well as in great part of the counties of Romania, Cluj, Timiș, Mureș, Sălaj, Sibiu, Maramureș, Bistrița-Năsăud.

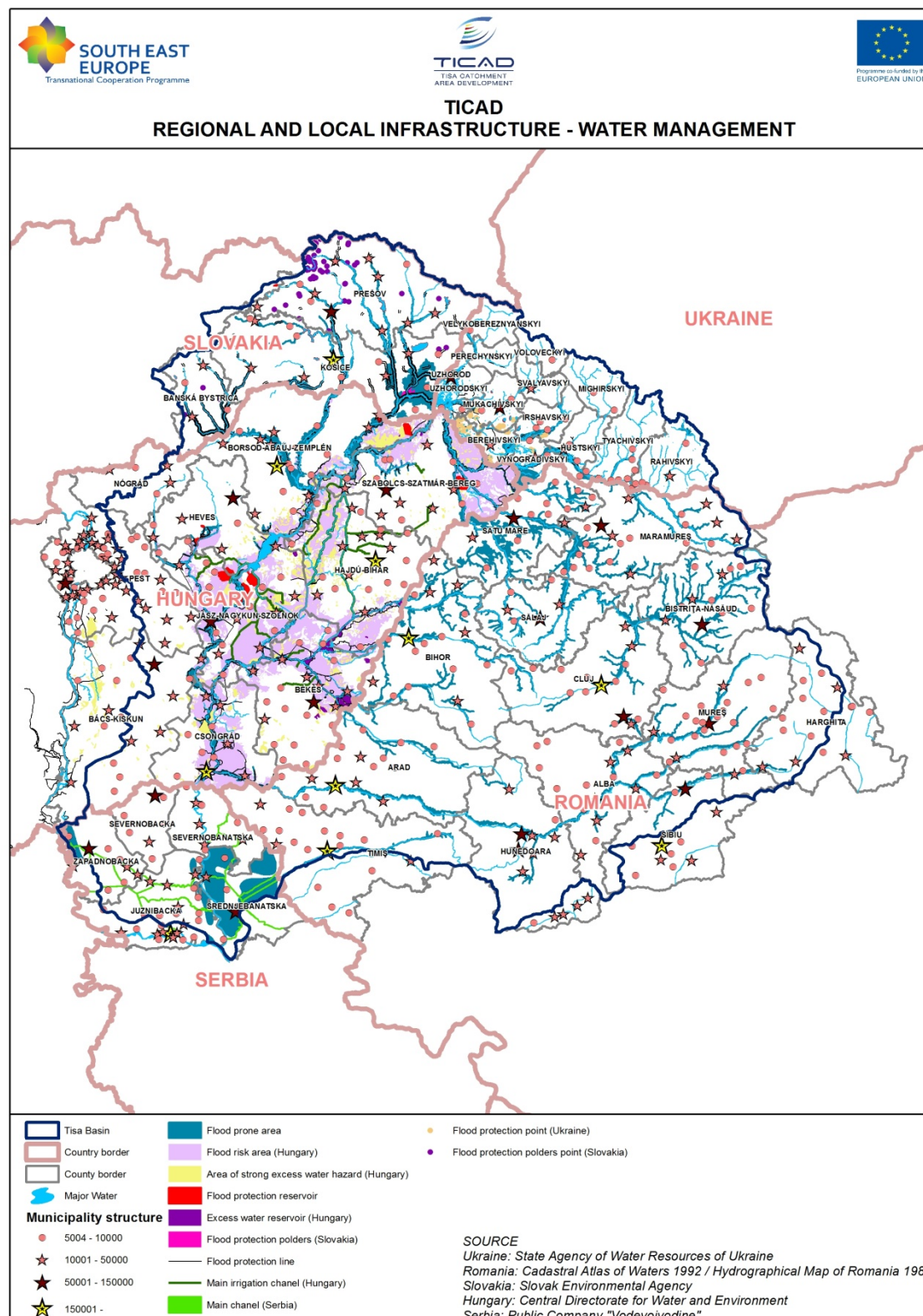




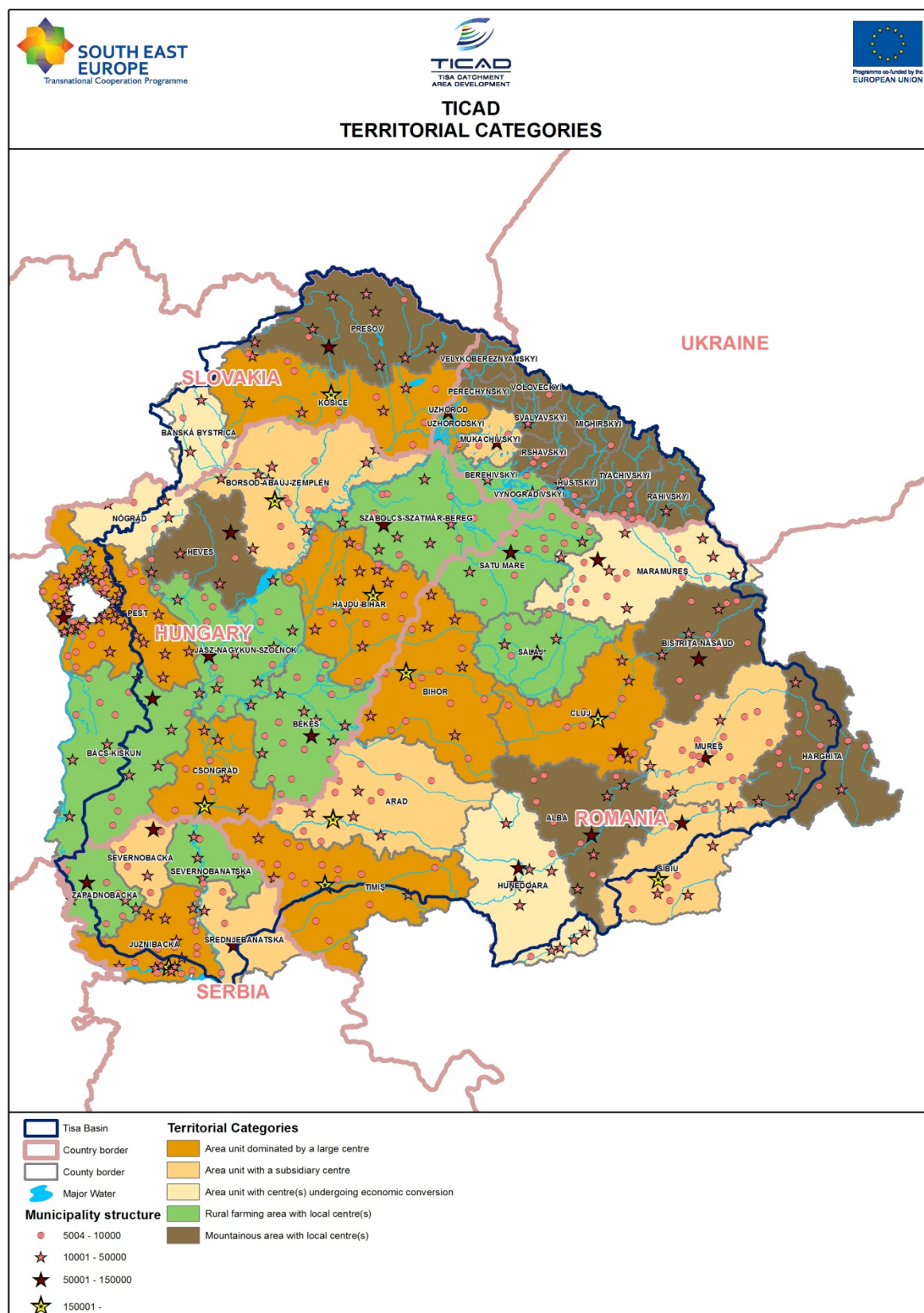


TICAD
REGIONAL AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE - RUNNING WATER SUPPLY, PUBLIC SEWAGE SUPPLY





IV.6. Territorial categories



Area unit dominated by a large centre

Pest, Hajdu-Bihar, Csongrád, Južnobačka, Timiș, Bihor, Cluj, Košice, Uzhorod + Uzhorod Oblast.

The area is characterized by the dominance of a large centre concentrating the majority of the inhabitants. The city with its workplaces and services is of good accessibility from the surroundings. Migration gain is a feature of demography. GDP per capita is relatively high compared to the national figures, and employment rate is higher than average. Industry and services are dominant sectors of employment. With the exception of Košice, the terrain is flat; the landscape is varied, with share of agriculture, semi-natural landscapes and forests. Side by side with the concentration of a wide range of services (including cultural, medical, financial, engineering, etc.), the supply of technical infrastructure is adequate.

Area unit with a subsidiary centre

Arad, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Sibiu, Mureș, Mukachivskyi, Srednjejbanatska.

In this category the central city is medium size or large (Miskolc, Sibiu) and is a dominant core of the area, although the extent of population concentration is lesser than in the former category. In and out migrations are balanced. Agriculture is an important economic activity in the hinterland. The protection from flood is, however, generally inadequate. The concentration of services includes various types and levels of education partly as independent institutions and partly faculties belonging to large university centres. The accessibility of the centres is suitable but needs to be improved especially in the eastern areas.

Area unit with centre undergoing economic conversion

Nógrád, Banská Bystrica, Maramureș, Hunedoara.

The centres in this territorial category are medium size or relatively small and declining. The areas are losing population through out-migration, though the age structure of population is fairly young, due the relatively high share of Roma population and short life expectancy. A typical feature of economic structure is the dominance of heavy industries, of coal and metal mining in the process of decline or actually reviving. This form of employment and industrial activity has a marked impact on the landscape and environment. The natural landscape is at the same time rich in attractions with the hills, mountains and forests and semi-natural elements. Accessibility is generally inadequate.

Rural farming area with local centre

Sălaj, Satu Mare, Békés, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Bács-Kiskun, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Zapadnobačka, Severnobańska, Berehivskyi, Vynohradivskyi.

The spatial pattern is characterized by medium size or small urban centres as well as minor local centres and the spread of rural communities. The demographic structure is ageing; migration loss is a typical trend. The general feature of the morphology is floodplain with scattered small forests and semi-natural landscapes of meadows and extensive farmland. The plough land and the settlements are generally, more or less safe from flood hazards. Accessibility is good or fair considering the scattered settlement pattern. Agriculture as well as services are the main forms of employment. GDP as well as employment rate is low. Though overwhelmed by problems due to uncertainty and low productivity, farming (including processing and farm-based manufacturing) is a great tradition and promising future potential of the area.

Mountainous area with local centre

Heves, Prešov, Alba, Harghita, Bystrița Năsăud, Velykobereznyanskyi, Volovecky, Irshavskyi, Mighirskyi, Perechynskyi, Rahivskyi, Svalyavskyi, Tyachivskyi, Hustskyi.

A general feature of this territorial category is the dramatic, varied geographical morphology with high mountains and step valleys covered by woodland and semi-natural areas with scattered pastures and some arable land. The settlement structure is scattered with medium size and small centres and little villages. Accessibility is usually difficult. GDP is low (exception: Heves), employment rate too. The age structure is young in Ukraine and in areas with large Roma population. The supply of services and public utilities is poor in the rural areas. The rural peripheries suffer from the shortage of infrastructure and services but benefit from the abundant natural beauty.

V. Detailed description of the SWOT elements

The Tisa Catchment Area is not homogenous. The internal features and processes (strengths, weaknesses) show territorial differences and can be classified by territorial categories. The strengths and weaknesses will be presented therefore separately for each territorial category. To define the necessary strategies, account has been taken of the internal features (strengths and weaknesses) for the different territorial categories.

External positive and negative processes (opportunities and threats) are affecting the Tisa/Tisza River Basin all units. Because of their general relevance they are discussed first.

V.1. Opportunities¹

General introduction

The EU policies, directives as well as financial instruments related to and supporting regional development have been identified as opportunities for the Tisa Catchment Area. The opportunities indicate development trends of the Tisa regions mobilising the internal strengths and mitigating the weaknesses.

The scope of regional development is determined by the EU cohesion policy and the relevant financial instruments. For the ongoing elaboration of the TICAD strategy the regional development instruments for the current 2007-2013 period could be considered. The new policy instruments to be introduced from 2014 are not clarified yet. The priorities which they serve can be derived from the document entitled "Europe 2020 Strategy".

Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - European Social Fund (ESF) - Cohesion Fund:

As part of the cohesion policy for 2007-2013, this Regulation ((EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006) defines the common rules, standards and principles applicable to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund. It allocates a total of EUR 347 billion, equivalent to approximately one third of the European Union's budget.

The aim of the Regulation is to strengthen economic and social cohesion in order to promote the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the European Union (EU) regions for the period 2007-2013. European cohesion policy aims to respond to the challenges linked to economic, social and territorial inequalities, the acceleration of economic restructuring and the ageing of the population. A total of EUR 308.041 billion were allocated to financing regional policy between 2007 and 2013, to work towards the three cohesion policy's objectives: Convergence; Regional Competitiveness and Employment; European Territorial Cooperation.

- The aim of the **Cohesion Fund** is to strengthen economic and social cohesion with a view to promoting sustainable development. The Cohesion Fund finances action on: the environment; the trans-European transport networks.
- The objective of the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** is to help reinforce economic and social cohesion by redressing regional imbalances. This is achieved by supporting the development and structural adjustment of regional economies, including the conversion of declining industrial regions.
- The use of **European Social Fund (ESF)** funding allows the following to be facilitated: adapting to change, transitions after job loss and the social integration of those who are most vulnerable to long term unemployment (older people, minorities, the low skilled).

¹ www.ec.europa.eu

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD):

The Commission has laid down the conditions and specific rules for financing expenditure under the common agricultural policy (CAP). Two new funds were created: the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) aims at strengthening the EU's rural development policy and simplifying its implementation. The Fund contributes to improving: the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry; the environment and the countryside; the quality of life and the management of economic activity in rural areas.

Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policies after 2013

Current regional funding programmes will run until 2013. Options for cohesion policy after 2014 are already being discussed. This discussion is linked to the broader context of the EU budget and the Europe 2020 strategy. Legislative proposals for the future cohesion policy will be discussed by the Council and European Parliament during 2012-2013. The new Regulations should enter into force in 2014.

Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation

INTERREG²

Interreg is an initiative that aims to stimulate cooperation between regions in the European Union. It started in 1989, and is financed under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The current programme is Interreg IV, covering the period 2007–2013. Interreg is made up of three strands: Interreg A, Interreg B and Interreg C.

- Strand A: Cross-border cooperation between adjacent regions aims to develop cross-border social and economic centres through common development strategies. The term cross-border region is often used to refer to the resulting entities, provided there is some degree of local activity involved. The term Euroregion is also used to refer to the various types of entities that are used to administer Interreg funds. In many cases, they have established secretariats that are funded via technical assistance: the Interreg funding component aimed at establishing administrative infrastructure for local Interreg deployment. Interreg A is by far the largest strand in terms of budget and number of programmes.
- Strand B: Transnational cooperation involving national, regional and local authorities aim to promote better integration within the Union through the formation of large groups of European regions. Strand B is the intermediate level, where generally non-contiguous regions from several different countries cooperate because they experience joint or comparable problems. There are 13 Interreg IVB programmes.
- Strand C: Interregional cooperation aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks). This is financially the smallest strand of the three, but the programmes cover all EU Member States.

European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)

The objective of EGTCs is to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation between its members. An EGTC is made up of Member States, regional authorities, local authorities and/or bodies governed by public law, as the case may be.

The competencies of the EGTC are laid down in a binding cooperation convention established on the initiative of its members. An EGTC may be entrusted with implementing programmes co-financed by the Community or any other cross-border cooperation project with or without Community funding.

² www.en.wikipedia.org

Its scope is limited to the field of cooperation chosen by its members, and it sets out their responsibilities.

Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010/245)

The Digital Agenda presented by the European Commission forms one of the seven pillars of the Europe 2020 Strategy. It proposes to better exploit the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in order to foster innovation, economic growth and progress. Its main objective is to develop a digital single market in order to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe. For this purpose it promotes to open up legal access to online content by simplifying copyright clearance and management and cross-border licensing, to unify telecommunication services, to improve R&D as well as education in ICT.

EU guidelines for the development of the Trans-European Transport Network (661/2010/EU)

The development of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) is a key element in the relaunched Lisbon strategy for competitiveness and employment in Europe and of the Europe 2020 Strategy. It aims to contribute to the smooth functioning of the internal market and the strengthening of economic and social cohesion. The TEN-T will comprise transport infrastructures (road, rail and inland waterway networks, motorways of the sea, seaports, inland waterway ports and airports), together with the corresponding traffic management systems and positioning and navigation systems networks. The priority projects are projects of common European interest that fulfil the following criteria:

- are intended to eliminate a bottleneck or complete a missing link on a major route of the trans-European network,
- are on such a scale that long-term planning at European level contributes significant added value,
- present potential socio-economic benefits,
- significantly improve the mobility of goods and persons between EU countries,
- contribute to enhancing the territorial cohesion of the EU by integrating the networks of the new EU countries,
- contribute to the sustainable development of transport.

Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010/133)

The EU strategy aims to improve the economic and social integration of Roma in the European Union (EU). For this purpose the strategic decision is to improve all existing initiatives for social integration and cohesion to attain that they are

- better coordinated,
- implemented better at local level,
- accompanied by awareness-raising actions for Roma communities and the Roma population as a whole,
- guided by desegregation policies,
- included in more general policy strategies, such as those for education, employment, health and territorial development.

Support is to be ensured for multisectoral, national and European strategies for tackling the marginalisation of Roma communities. The European Commission will support the development of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion; assess policy implementation; enable the Roma to access the political process. Intervention approaches will be developed to respond to core socio-economic needs, such as employment and self-employment, education, housing and health.

Natura habitats (92/43/EEC)

Natura 2000 was set up as an ecological network of special protected areas to ensure biodiversity by conserving natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in the territory of the Member States. The network comprises special areas of conservation with sites hosting natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in each of the nine EU biogeographical regions (the Alpine region, the Atlantic region, the Black Sea region, the Boreal region, the Continental region, the Macronesian region, the Mediterranean region, the Pannonian region and the Steppic region). The Member States are responsible for the conservation of habitats for avoiding their deterioration with the possibility of EU co-financing. The Natura 2000 network represents around 18% of the EU's terrestrial territory.

Major accident involving dangerous substances (82/501/EEC; 96/82/EC; 2003/105/EC)

The Council Directives intend to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit their consequences for man and the environment, with a view to ensuring high levels of protection throughout the Community. They are applicable to any establishment (processing, storing, mining, quarrying) where dangerous substances are present.

The directives set detailed obligations for notification, prevention, safety, emergency, precaution regarding location as well as information, inspection, prohibition.

Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The European Union (EC) has established a framework for the protection of inland surface waters; groundwater; transitional waters and coastal waters.

This Framework-Directive has a number of objectives, such as preventing and reducing pollution, promoting sustainable water usage, environmental protection, improving aquatic ecosystems and mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

Its ultimate objective is to achieve "good ecological and chemical status" for all Community waters by 2015.

Member States have to identify all the river basins lying within their national territory, to assign them to individual river basin districts and designate a competent authority for the application of the rules provided for in this Framework-Directive.

By 2004 at the latest, each Member State had to produce an analysis of the characteristics of each river basin district. This analysis must be revised in 2013 and every six years thereafter.

In 2009 management plans were produced for each river basin district. These plans cover the period 2009-2015. They shall be revised in 2015 and then every six years thereafter.

The management plans must be implemented in 2012. They aim to:

- prevent deterioration, enhance and restore bodies of surface water, achieve good chemical and ecological status of such water by 2015 at the latest and to reduce pollution from discharges and emissions of hazardous substances;
- protect, enhance and restore the status of all bodies of groundwater, prevent the pollution and deterioration of groundwater, and ensure a balance between groundwater abstraction and replenishment;
- preserve protected areas.

Member States shall encourage participation by all stakeholders in the implementation of this Framework-Directive, specifically with regard to the management plans for river basin districts.

From 2010, Member States must ensure that water pricing policies provide adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and must introduce arrangements to ensure that effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties are imposed in the event of breaches of the provisions of this Framework Directive.

Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC)

The Directive covers all types of floods, both along rivers and in coastal areas as well as urban floods and sewer floods.

The proposed prevention and management measures are organised by river basin districts (which may cover several river basins), as established by the Water Framework Directive. The measures include the preliminary assessment of risks and the establishment of maps of areas at risk and flood management plans.

The preliminary assessment of risks for each river basin district had to be carried out by the end of 2011. On this basis the river basins had to be categorized according to potential flood risk. Member States must prepare and implement flood risk management plans for each river basin district. Where the area concerned extends into several countries, the Member States must cooperate in preparing joint management plans.

Management measures must focus on reducing the probability of flooding and the potential consequences of flooding. They must cover prevention, protection and preparedness and must take account of relevant aspects, such as water management, soil management, spatial planning, land use and nature conservation.

European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005/84)

The action plan provides a coherent framework for forest-related initiatives at Community level. It also serves as an instrument for coordinating Community initiatives with the Member States' forest policies. The action plan is centred around four objectives: improving the long-term competitiveness of the forestry sector, protecting the environment, improving the quality of life and fostering intersectoral coordination and communication. In order to achieve this 18 key actions have been recommended, to be implemented by the end of 2011.

In the action plan the multifunctional role of forests is emphasized. From an economic point of view, the forestry sector constitutes a not inconsiderable source of income for Europe. Environmentally forests are essential to preserving biodiversity and combating climate change. Lastly, socially and culturally they are attractive, provide opportunities for recreational and healthy activities and represent considerable cultural heritage.

The action plan has set four main objectives:

- improving long-term competitiveness,
- improving and protecting the environment,
- contributing to a better quality of life,
- fostering coordination and communication.

These objectives translate into a series of 18 key actions. The Commission will carry out an overall evaluation in 2012.

Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC)

This Directive establishes a common framework for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources.

Each Member State has a target calculated according to the share of energy from renewable sources in its gross final consumption for 2020. This target is in line with the overall '20-20-20' goal for the Community.

Moreover, the share of energy from renewable sources in the transport sector must amount at least 10 % of final energy consumption in the sector by 2020.

The Member States are to establish national action plans which set the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in transport, as well as in the production of electricity and heating, for 2020. These action plans must take into account the effects of other energy efficiency measures on final energy consumption (the higher the reduction in energy consumption, the less energy from renewable sources will be required to meet the target). These plans will also establish procedures for the reform of planning and pricing schemes and access to electricity networks, promoting energy from renewable sources.

Member States can “exchange” an amount of energy from renewable sources using a statistical transfer, and set up joint projects concerning the production of electricity and heating from renewable sources.

Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU)

Council guidelines provide direction for the coordination of national policies of EU Member States, based on the Europe 2020 strategic objectives.

The guidelines for employment policies are associated with the broad guidelines for economic policies; together they form integrated guidelines for the Europe 2020 strategy.

The EU has set itself the target of increasing the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64 to 75 % by 2020. In order to meet this objective, Member States are to promote the labour market participation of young people, older workers, low-skilled workers and legal migrants.

The national policies must in particular promote the principles of flexibility, worker mobility and work-life balance. They must promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, foster job creation, including in the areas of care and green employment.

Measures must ensure quality of initial education and lifelong training opportunities. Training must be open to low-skilled or highly skilled workers, and be organized in cooperation with social partners and enterprises.

By 2020, early school leaving is to be reduced to less than 10 % and at least 40 % of 30-34 years-old are to have completed tertiary or equivalent education. This target means investing in the quality of education and training systems.

Member States should pay particular attention to the employment of those furthest away from the labour market. Measures taken must empower people, but must also combat in-work poverty and support the social economy and social innovation, fostering equal opportunities and combating discrimination.

The Agenda for jobs and workers’ skills seeks to ensure that the objective of the 75% employment rate in Europe by 2020 is met. It provides for a series of key actions and support measures aimed at improving the functioning of labour markets, workers’ skills, the quality of work and working conditions, and at creating jobs, in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy.

"A renewed EU Tourism Policy - Towards a stronger partnership for European Tourism" (COM(2006) 134)

The rapid growth of the tourist industry has been driven by globalisation, demographic changes and the evolution in transport. The job creation rate in tourism is above average compared to other sectors, and tourism creates in particular highly diverse jobs, often part-time, thus contributing to the employment of women, young and less-skilled persons. Sustainable tourism also plays a major role in the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage, and contributes to local development in an increasing number of less-favoured regions. It also contributes to a better understanding among peoples. The European Union is proposing a new tourism policy to meet the challenges facing this sector and fully exploits its potential. Changing demography, global

competition, concern for sustainability and the demand for specific forms of tourism are all challenges which Europe is faced with today.

The specific actions which the Commission intends to take to support the sustainability of tourism include:

- the exchange of good practice at national and international levels to support SMEs and in the area of 'tourism for all',
- evaluation of the economic impact of better accessibility in the tourism sector,
- publication of a handbook on 'How to set up Learning Areas in the Tourism sector',
- the study of employment trends in coastal and sea-related tourism sectors,
- assessment of the implications of e-business on the tourism industry,
- tackling at all levels the sexual exploitation of children by tourists,
- improvement of the collection of statistics in the area of tourism at European and national levels (Eurostat and Tourism Satellite Accounts),
- promoting European tourist destinations via a portal providing practical information for tourists travelling in Europe (transportation, places to visit, activities and when they can be done, weather, etc.) and drawing attention to the impact which cultural and sporting events organised by European cities and regions can have on SMEs,
- organization of Annual European Tourism Forum.

Increasing commitment to sustainability (COM(2001) 264)/ Sustainable Development Strategy – A platform for action (COM(2005) 658)

The European Union has formulated a long-term strategy (the Gothenburg Strategy) to dovetail the policies for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development, its goal being sustainable improvement of the well-being and standard of living of current and future generations.

It rests on four separate pillars – economic, social, environmental and global governance – which need to reinforce one another. The economic, social and environmental consequences of all policies thus need to be examined in a coordinated manner and taken into account when those policies are being drawn up and adopted. The EU also needs to assume its international responsibilities with regard to sustainable development, whose various aspects – including democracy, peace, security and liberty – need to be promoted beyond EU borders.

The strategy is based on the following guiding principles: promotion and protection of fundamental rights, solidarity within and between generations, the guarantee of an open and democratic society, involvement of citizens, involvement of businesses and social partners, policy coherence and governance, policy integration, use of best available knowledge, the precautionary principle and the polluter-pays principle.

In the strategy measures are identified for responding to the key challenges: limiting climate change and its effects, limiting the adverse effects of transport and reducing regional disparities, promoting more sustainable modes of production and consumption. Objectives are set for the sustainable management of natural resources, for limiting major threats to public health, to combat social exclusion and poverty and mitigate the effects of an ageing society, strengthening the fight against global poverty.

Intersectoral measures are identified for knowledge society, financial and economic instruments and communication. The strategy provides for a review of its objectives by Council decision no later than 2011.

Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries

In the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU; Rome Treaty effective since 1958) Part 3 on policies sets the principles of the free movement of goods, free movement of people, services and capital. Since 2004 and 2007 the accession of the current EU Member States of the Tisa Region to the European internal market most of the barriers of the movement and expansion of firms, flow of investments, goods, capital, as well as people and information have been lifted. Thereby new possibilities have opened for transnational economic and social cooperation. It depends on the willingness, institutional capacities of these countries as well as of the neighbouring countries and their people and organisations to take benefit from these changes.

V.2. Threats³

General introduction:

The threats are external effects confronting the European Union and thus the Tisa Region too in the process of policy implementation. Regional development aims at mitigating these harmful effects in the area under its responsibility by means of the mobilization of internal strengths and of the elaboration of crisis strategies.

Elements

- *Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment*

The environmental quality of air, soil and water are diverse across Europe and air and waterpollution cause serious health problems. In certain cases it correlates with social inequality. Disparities in the access to clean air, water and soil do not only appear between countries and regions but also between urban and rural areas as well as inside cities.

- *Impacts of climate change*

The increased drought, desertification, floods and other natural hazards calls for territorially different responses. The challenges of climate change draw attention to the territorial coordination of policies, especially climate, energy, water management, agriculture, housing, tourism and transport.

Cohesion policy can play an important role in supporting efforts to adapt to future climate change and minimise the negative impacts at regional level. It can support adaptation measures in new infrastructures or retro-fitting in existing infrastructures. It supports eco-innovation, environmental risk protection measures and clean enterprises, and can create market opportunities for businesses.

- *Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups*

Ageing and depopulation will bring about changes in many regions in Europe, including rural and peripheral regions and lead to severe impacts for social and territorial cohesion, public service provision, labour market and housing. Other regions have growing populations and face other pressures especial in urban areas.

Exclusion from the socio-economic circuit definitely has a strong territorial character. The risk of exclusion is higher in areas with low accessibility, weak economic performance, lack of social opportunities or other particular territorial circumstances. Vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities often end up concentrated in certain urban and rural areas and their integration is hindered as a result.

³ **Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020** Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions agreed at the Informal Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development on 19th May 2011 Gödöllő, Hungary II. Challenges and potentials for territorial development

- *Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness*

Certain European regions face challenges of security in energy supply, as they are heavily dependent on fossil fuel imports or specialized in energy intensive activities. Significant imports from third countries vulnerable to economic or political instability increase problems for energy security. Rising energy prices and emissions draw attention to the need for sustainable energy solutions such as realising the potential of renewable energy resources and shifting towards greener, low carbon economic activities. Insufficient energy infrastructure and dependencies created by existing networks call for diversification of energy production and supply, as well as development of energy market and integration. Some territories such as remote and sparsely populated areas can be more susceptible to energy shortages and rising prices, while urban sprawl contributes to high, unsustainable energy consumption rates.

- *Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis*

Accelerating globalisation and growing vulnerability to external shocks have been experienced by local and regional communities. In some cases even the prosperity, sustainability and stability of cities and regions have been threatened. The effects have been even more visible during the recent financial and economic crisis. As the long-term effects of the crisis on development opportunities vary territorially, the timing of recovery and the range of possible policy responses differ across regions. The crisis, however, provides an opportunity for a transition towards more sustainable and resource efficient economic structures if appropriate actions are taken

Globalization can bring about important territorial consequences at EU, national, regional and local levels. Metropolitan and other urban regions, international and global gateways are assets for the development of the whole European territory, provided that other regions benefit from their dynamism and are connected through networks. Local endowments and territorial characteristics have growing importance for regions in order to cope with and recover from external shocks.

- *Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage*

Natural and cultural heritage are parts of territorial capital and identity. Overexploitation of these resources to provide for increasing demand, as well as industrial hazards can cause serious damage and may threaten territorial development. Urbanisation, intensification of agriculture and fisheries, transport and other types of infrastructure development, particularly where they take place in a territorially uncoordinated manner, can cause severe environmental problems. Changes in landuse, urbanisation and mass tourism threaten cultural assets and landscapes and may lead to fragmentation of natural habitats and ecological corridors. In historic and cultural environments, as well as in areas for new development or constructions, attention paid to the character of the place can improve the coherence and quality of the built environment.

- *Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions*

Changes in one part of Europe can have effects in other parts of the continent due to the growing interdependences of regions. The challenge of the core-periphery division is still present, even on the national scale. Cohesion at the external borders is crucial, as disparities and differences in legal, social and political systems have important consequences especially in terms of migration and trade. The growing interdependence of regions generates demand for better connectivity at global, European and national level. Integration barriers at local and regional level can result in the underutilization of human, cultural, economic and ecological resources of the border regions and increase their peripheral position and social exclusion.

- *Macro-economic and fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources*

The Great Recession that began in 2007 appears to be bottoming out, although unemployment continues to increase and numerous small banks and households still face huge problems in restoring their balance sheets, and unemployment has combined with sub-prime loans to keep home for enclosures at a high rate. The national economies of the TICAD countries have been gravely hit by the global crisis. From the emerging markets of these countries investors pulled capital and caused values of stocks and domestic currencies to decline. Because insufficient sources of capital substantial external help is needed for these countries from the European Union and foreign banks for structural readjustment and development of their economies.

- *Inappropriate use of EU funds*

IPA and other EU funds serve to accelerate convergence and integration. In the framework of the assistance, under “Convergence” objective the poorest Member States and regions are eligible interventions such as the promotion of public and private investments helping to reduce regional disparities. The neighbouring countries receive funding to prepare them for meeting membership criteria in the political, economic and legal realm.

The financial and socio-economic consequences of transfers to poorer regions are below the expected rates of efficiency.

The inappropriate use of EU funds is due first of all to administrative and institutional “bottlenecks” which divert funds away from productive investment use. Further institutional development is needed to integrate the Structural Funds into the public investment system and link the use of the funds to economic development or indigenous cohesion policies.

Rent-seeking, a process of negotiations for financial resources involves high social cost as it benefits individual or group interests rather than the societal good. It develops between the national governments and Brussels, between the central governments and regions and local governments and between the governments and the private sector. Rent-seeking is less rewarding and can thus be reduced or mitigated when the transparency of the transfer system is higher.

Time related problems such as the long time lag between project design and actual implementation and the neglect of the maintenance of existing stocks in order to satisfy co-financing requirements, involve the risks to frustrate growth potential.

The setting of multiple priorities leading to sub-optimal choice, when economic growth is not the sole priority of a recipient national or regional government, particularly when they pursue other considerations, such as redistribution for social aid and to avoid social dissatisfaction and political instability.

- *Increasing brain drain*

The emigration of a large number of well qualified, skilled people especially of the young age groups is a great concern in the TICAD regions. The departure of educated or professional people for better pay or living conditions involves the danger that the TICAD region, especially the peripheral areas will lose the human capital which is indispensable for economic and social recovery. In light of the current social-economic conditions the exodus is likely to continue.

External support as well as strenuous effort at the regional and local levels is needed to create a social and economic climate attracting entrepreneurial young educated people to stay or move to locations of promising future.

V.3. Strengths and weaknesses in the different territory categories of the Tisa Catchment Area

V.3.1. The whole area

When **delimiting the target area of the project**, the natural border of the Tisa catchment area was determinative. An agreement was accepted by the partners in shaping the common methodology, stating that the territorial unit of the assessment will be level NUTS3. Ukraine and Serbia NUTS categories are not yet in use⁴, therefore the corresponding Serbian “oblast” and the Ukrainian “regions” (districts) are used, though the latter are smaller than the NUTS3 categories.

Based on those mentioned above, the planning area concerns 45 NUTS3 regions in five countries. The whole territory is 175,818 km².

Brief characteristics

The consideration of general approach in assessment of the catchment area based on the fact that all environmental and natural processes affect the entire region and are interconnected. The arising problems regarding environmental, water management, landscape and nature conservation issues have to be solved horizontally and in a synthesised way.

Another aspect of the general approach is that the Tisa Region economic and social ability have similar characteristics in the entire catchment area. The dominance of agriculture in economy, the high share of rural population and the rural areas are dominant in the whole region.

Strengths

The **scenic value of the landscape** all over attracts tourism and of high ecological significance. The **share of natural and semi-natural areas is significant** in the whole area. The national parks and of course a range of Natura 2000 areas are also available and easily accessible. **Sites of cultural heritages** are in great number and extension both in the historic cities and villages. **The significance of natural and cultural heritage lies – over and above tourist attraction – in the enhancement of territorial identity and integrity and in the attraction of quality industries** (speciality products).

The River Tisa and its immediate surroundings, even in its present form, is one of Europe's most natural rivers. The Tisa River and its tributaries serve as a **green corridor network**.

The availability and quality of **freshwater and sub-surface water resources** is vital. The water resources of the Tisa River Basin are mainly used for public water supply, irrigation and industrial purposes, but also for other agricultural uses, such as fishery, and recreation.

The total population of the target area, 15.5 million people, live in 3,572 settlements. Over 40 % of the settlements (with a population of 22.64% of the total) are of the category of 1000-5000 inhabitants. In Romania 75 % of the settlements are in this category. These 753 settlements comprise 33 % of the population of the Romanian catchment area. In Slovakia and Hungary a substantial ratio (80% and 40 % respectively) of settlements are micro villages each with less than 1000 inhabitants. The highest ratio of population living in micro settlements (24 %) is in Slovakia. 6 % of the total population of the Tisa Catchment Area lives in micro villages.

Weaknesses

The border areas of the catchment area are mainly **underdeveloped rural areas with low social and economic status** that can be ascribed to historical reasons. By the end of the 19th century, a series of

⁴ Serbia has officially adopted NUTS categories in December 2009, after the TICAD workshop where this issue was decided. “Oblast” equals to NUTS 3 level.

regional development areas started to form, which could have become real regions in time in case of unhindered development. In addition to the new state borders, a significant lack of urban centres appeared on the Hungarian side, in comparison to which Budapest became an “overweight” centre in the network of settlements. As a result of the extension of the European Union in 2007, the role of the border region is re-evaluated, and the economic relations with the former urban centres are strengthening, and the border can represent a possibility of breakthrough.

The so-called internal **peripheries (isolated crisis areas, far from urban and other regional centres, mountainous villages)** are characterized by long term economic recession, employment crisis, poor infrastructure, difficult access.

While the rural hinterland undergoes depopulation, urban – rural migration is characterised by the movement of young, qualified groups from the rural areas. The result is **increasing difficulties of social service for the aging and of the exclusion of deprived groups (Roma minorities)**.

The low educational levels and outdated skills of the labour force are general problems.

The poor educational level and low level of internet accessibility causes that in the rural and periphery areas the level of **benefiting from information and communication technologies is very low**.

The appropriate accessibility fails not just in the periphery, but the whole area because of the **poor quality of the existing road networks** as well as the **railways**.

In the field of tourism the **qualitative and quantitative conditions of guest reception are still incomplete**. The levels of the present product supply, the accommodation structure and its quality, as well as the performance of hotel and catering services are just satisfactory.

The exquisite quality of **cultural and national resources is threatened by the lack of upkeep and maintenance** involving the risk of the decay of these resources.

High percentage of the **natural water flows** are **below the good ecological level**. The **water bodies are at risk** mainly due to hydro-morphological alterations and nutrient pollution followed by organic pollution and hazardous substances. **Hazardous substances**, however, were the main reason for the classification of tributary water bodies as ‘possibly at risk’ (especially in Romania, Hungary and the Slovak Republic). The hazardous substances are mainly heavy metals and cyanides from Romanian mines, chlorides from Ukrainian mines as well as mercury. Tisa water bodies at risk due to nutrient pollution were classified mainly in Hungary and Serbia. The main reason for failing the WFD objectives for nutrient pollution is the **incomplete implementation of the urban wastewater treatment directive and diffuse nutrient pollution from agriculture**. Nutrient pollution in Romania is caused by diffuse pollution sources from human settlements, especially in rural areas where a small part of the population is connected to sewage systems and wastewater treatment plants. The high risk of tributary water bodies due to **hydro-morphological alterations is related to the frequent presence of bank reinforcements, canalisation and transverse river structures for flood protection and urbanisation**.

The **environmental awareness** of the population and the business sector is **low**.

In the project area various kinds of renewable energy sources are available, but their **exploitation is at a very preliminary stage**. Renewable energy resources in use, with varying degrees of efficiency in the project area, are hydropower energy, solar energy, geothermal energy, wind energy and the energy resulting from burning and, possible decomposing the biomass. The use of renewable energy sources is particularly beneficial not only for the improvement of air quality and natural environment

protection but also in economic and social terms, through promoting energy security/independence, providing employment and contributing to business development.

The lack of appropriate water management results **flood hazards, inland water stagnations and draught** frequently side by side of closely following each other. **Increasing of extreme weather phenomena** consequences of climate change will lead to increased water level variations, especially flood events. Therefore the implemented flood protection measures along the major courses solve the security of the citizens and business in the concerned counties. In the Tisa Valley, organised, systematic flood protection started in the mid 19th century. The backbones of these works are the flood protection dikes along the main river, but also include river training works, bank protections, flood retention reservoirs and polders. At this time drainage systems with pumping stations were also built.

The **maladapted land use and ownership structure** cause not only increasing natural and environmental risks, but also economic disadvantage.

Description of the measures

Break through (offensive) strategy (most realistic measures)

- Supporting local actions for enhancement of territorial identity and integrity.
- Promoting joint/cross-border institution arrangements in cultural and education activities, programs, festivals.
- Encouraging the cooperation of farmers supporting the processing and marketing of agricultural produce.
- Extending the ecological network along the surface waters.
- Strengthening the logistic centres and multimodal transportation systems.
- Improving the quality of agricultural products, local produce and farm-based manufacturing.

Opportunities strategy (measures for overcoming the weaknesses and disadvantages by using opportunities)

- Strengthening the technical flood protection and control, strengthen the cross-border cooperation in flood forecasting.
- Coordinating flood protection actions and implementation of water management plans in the frame of a transnational cooperation.
- Enhancing the restoration and management of the cultural monuments.
- Promoting the socially sensitive basic education.
- Improving human and social services including alternative and mobile solutions in rural areas.
- Elaborating minimum standards of public utilities and services in rural and peripheral settlements.
- To urge the qualitative development of transport network.
- Promoting model solutions of social integration and development.
- Networking and cooperation in the field of tourism services and programmes.
- Promoting the qualitative features of information society.
- Promoting alternative employment possibilities
- Promoting development of local and small scale renewable energy production.
- Harmonising the spatial planning.
- Developing transnational interconnection of the energy system network.
- Promoting acquisition of skills and trainings.
- Strengthening the attractiveness of the area.

Defensive strategy (measures for mobilizing the strengths to overcome the threats)

- Supporting environmentally aware farming.
- Introducing the legal, technical and financial regulation to promote the rational use of natural water resources.
- Protecting, enhancing and mobilizing the existing capacities of local communities with the help of LEADER and other rural development programmes.
- Controlling development actions for protecting the forests and other precious natural sites; strengthening nature protection activities.

Crisis strategy (measures for minimizing the negative affects, mainly nationwide problems and measures)

- Strengthening environmental awareness of the population, to promote environmental educational trainings at all levels (NGO as well).
- Strengthening the legal environment, extension of regulatory powers, improvement the effectiveness of controls.
- Developing the local social policy network of civil initiatives to assist and care for the deprived social groups.
- Consistent involvement of inactive and aging people in public activities (social care).
- Introducing the land regulation measures (land consolidation, land use and spatial planning, support system).
- Improvement and implementation of national climate strategies (financial and regulation background).
- Institutional cooperation on the field of environmental risk management.
- Improving the accessibility of isolated rural areas.

V.3.2. Mountainous area with local centre(s)

(Ukrainian Oblasts: Velykobereznianskyi, Perechinskyi, Voloveckyi, Svalyavskyi, Mighirskyi, Irshavskyi, Hustskyi, Tyachivskyi, Rakhivskyi; **Romanian counties:** Bistrița-Năsăud, Harghita, Alba; **Slovakian county:** Prešovsky; **Hungarian county:** Heves)

Brief characteristics

The mountains are of dramatic landscape, outstanding natural beauty, great natural resource and tourist attraction. This great asset of the region needs special care and protection. It follows from the morphological features that in these areas the density of population and settlements is lower and the supply of conventional infrastructure is scarcer. Protection and wise management of the natural as well historic heritage deserve here special attention. Restoration of the natural environment is also needed, as the shrinkage of the woodland is taking already dangerous dimensions.

Strengths

The area is characterised by varied, unique and valuable landscape units with **large proportions of quality forests** and **high share of protected areas, NATURA 2000 network**. The share of area covered by forests is the highest (above 58.1%) in the eastern part of Zakarpatska Oblast in Ukraine. The ratio of protected areas is high (over 20%) in Slovakia and in Heves County in Hungary. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's area is located in Rakhivskyi, Tyachivskyi and Hustskyi Regions in Ukraine. Also a part of Uzhnitskyi Park is introduced into the World Network of UNESCO within the framework of trilateral Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine).

The **diverse landscape and cultural features offer excellent potentials for active and health tourism**. The almost contiguous zones of natural beauty though of diverse character can be identified all over the area: dramatic mountainous landscapes, peaceful hillsides. The towns, cities and several rural

municipalities are cultural centres with high class activities as well as folklore events. For example, Zakarpatska Oblasts tourist potential occupies one of leading places in Ukraine. The main recreational resources include its climate, therapeutic mud and brine of lakes, mineral waters, forests, water bodies, landscape peculiarities.

The **geological diversity of the mountainous area is a basis of the mining industry**. The **leading mining centres** are occurs on the mountainous territories of Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania. Salt mines are located in Solotvyno in the Tisa Floodplain (at the Ukrainian-Romanian reach of Tisa), golden and poly-metallic in Muzhievo village in the Verke River Sub-basin. Gold resources in the Romanian Alba County are mainly concentrated around the cities of Baia de Arieş and Zlatna. In the target area of the Prešov region there prevail deposits of industrial minerals like zeolite, rock salts in Prešov, calcareous clays and construction materials. The lignite at Visonta (Hungary, Heves County), exploited by a joint-stock company by means of strip mining is the base of the largest coal-fired power plant in Hungary, the Mátrai Erőmű with an installed output of 836 MW.

The **hydro-geological diversity** of the area constitutes its huge renewable energy potential. There are hydro-power stations, plants primarily in the Slovakian Prešovski Kraj, in Zakarpatska Oblast and in the Romanian mountainous counties.

In the isolated mountainous areas is formulated **strong local community cohesion**.

The **high percentage of traditional subsistence farms** helps the solving of livelihood problems in the rural areas as self-employment potential.

Weaknesses

In the mountainous area the accessibility and standard of public services are poor. **Public utilities are not fully built and accessible**. The **supply of drinking water and sewage system is limited** primarily in the Ukrainian, Romanian and Slovakian mountainous areas. They are characterised by **low quality subordinate road network lacking connections and railway branch lines** of poor condition which increases the **isolation of some rural areas**.

Unemployment is above the national average and the **proportion of the inactive population is extremely high**. This is partly due to the centres with a limited ability to attract employees, to **industrial crisis areas and to the outdated industrial structure**. In several small settlements the only employment is offered by the public sector (local government, school, etc.). The share of employed people is at a low level in the Ukrainian, Slovakian and Hungarian mountainous areas. In field of unemployment rate, some of the Ukrainian, Slovakian, Romanian and Hungarian areas are under the average of the Tisa Catchment Area.

The innovative groups of society **turn their back to the peripheral areas** of typically small scattered villages. Therefore the **educational level of the population is low**; the number of business enterprises and employees is very small and the **income level is permanently low**.

The lowest range category concerning enterprise density (1.4 – 14.6) is composed by Zakarpatska Oblast from Ukraine, the Slovakian regions, the least developed Romanian counties (Bistrița-Năsăud and Alba). **Undercapitalisation and the low level of effective demand pose** an obstacle to the evolution of business enterprises. The existing landscape and **natural features cannot be exploited** because of the **underdeveloped tourist infrastructure**. In spite of the broad and varied tourist potentials, very low turnover was recorded in Heves County in Hungary, Alba and Harghita in Romania. Tourist accommodation and weekend homes are in the greatest number in the Slovakian regions and in the mountains. The provision of accommodation is fairly low in the Romanian mountainous areas.

Inappropriately selected land uses (for example deforestation) **increase soil degradation and flood risk**. As a consequence of climate change it is experienced a rapid increase in the frequency of **flash**

flood events. The spread of built up areas in the flood prone areas and ownership constraints in the implementation of flood prevention measures are problems to be solved.

Description of the measures

Break through (offensive) strategy (most realistic measures).

- Economic exploitation of forest in a sustainable way (forest management).
- Developing the rural, active and health tourism (attractions, marketing, service).
- Improving the marketing and trade network of local farm products.
- Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by taking into account the hydrological effects.
- Promoting the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources (new and environmentally conscious technologies, to reduce accidental risks to minimum level).

Opportunities strategy (measures for overcoming the weaknesses and disadvantages by using opportunities)

- Promoting acquisition of skills and trainings.
- Strengthening water retention capacity, mitigation of runoff conditions by taking into account the hydrological effects on the lower river section.

Defensive strategy (measures for mobilizing the strengths to overcome the threats)

- Widening nature management activities (strengthen protection, development the visitor, environmental education and research centres).
- Involving young people in local community activities

Crisis strategy (measures for minimizing the negative effects, mainly nationwide problems and measures)

- Significant reduction of flood risk and potential impacts of climate change by means of afforestation.
- Introduction and application of restrictions regarding land use to prevent landslides.

V.3.3. Rural farming area with local centre(s)

(Ukrainian oblasts: Berehivskyi, Vinogradivskyi; **Romanian counties:** Satu Mare; Sălaj **Hungarian counties:** Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Békés, Bács-Kiskun; **Serbian counties:** Zapadnobačka, Srednjebanatska, Severnobańska)

Brief characteristics

There are rural farming areas in several NUTS3 units, also in those dominated by one or another urban centres, and there are NUTS3 areas, where the rate of concentration in the urban centre is less dominant. The rural farming areas are important though not always appreciated assets of the Tisa catchment area. Their productive capacity is still an untapped resource, so are the local skills, traditions and ecological treasures and historic monuments. They need sensitive assistance to recover after a long period of abuse and neglect. The towns and cities of these areas are of high cultural value.

Strengths

The counties are characterised by **good agro-ecological features:** a high proportion of arable land (the share of agricultural land use in the affected counties is over 60%) with appropriate **production capacities** and **traditional industrial processing of the various agricultural produce.**

The **conditions** are excellent for **renewable energy** utilisation based on the high potential of - geothermal, solar, wind and agricultural waste – resources. In the plains of the Tisa Catchment Area, in West Plains of Romania, Great Plain of Hungary and the plains of Voivodina the geothermal gradients are double of the global average. Exploitation and use of the solar energy is, however, at a very early stage. There are suitable sites on the plains of the catchment area too, with 3-4 m/s wind power, but the potential is used in Hungary only. These unique resources are not exploited as yet in any of the countries, but one can expect the increasing use of geothermal energy in the future.

The **unique** and valuable **landscapes** in the area together with many cumulative **touristic attractions**: architectural monuments, ethno-folklore and spiritual-religious heritage, protected natural and scenic values (farmstead regions) and traditional wine regions are excellent conditions for water, village and ecotourism. This completes the above mentioned rural market towns' traditions, local products, gastronomy and trades crafts as well. At the local level the most effective way is to link a couple or more potentials and activities, like excursion and country walk with rural farming and the sale of local farm products or paddling and canoeing with cycling and riding, eco tourism and cultural festivals etc.

Weaknesses

Among the affected counties are some areas with frequent social problems. In many settlements the proportion of the **inactive population** is high, the **age structure** can be described as ageing and proportion of the **Roma population** is on increase which imposes a major social burden on local governments. These settlements are characterised by **outward migration of the innovative groups** of society, by **low educational level** and by **recurrent employment problems**. These rural, through its low accessibility level **isolated areas**, are characterised by **poor conditions of public utility services**. They are peripheral zones mostly along the country borders for example - in case of rural farming area - the Hungarian / Ukrainian and Hungarian / Romanian one where based on traditional development policies they become back warded (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Békés counties, Zakarpatska Oblast). Some rural areas are characterised as inner peripheries because the lack of the necessary transport links (micro region Tiszafüred in Hungary).

Generally the **service level is underdeveloped** mostly due to the low effective demand of the local population. It is the reason for **insufficient facilities and low quality of tourist services** also. In the most of affected (especially in the Ukrainian, Romanian and Serbian) counties in the rural farming area it shows a low number of accommodation beds and accordingly the tourist guests nights.

The profitability of the agricultural sector as well as its ability to provide livelihood for the population are weakened by the two-pole land structure (**fragmented land, with low average farm size and large estates**), by **land uses (and the homogenous crop structure)** not in conformity with landscape features, by low local added value and by the **lack of cooperation in production**.

The low profitability of the agricultural sector is aggravated by the high **risk of floods and excess waters and by draught**. There is a marked decrease of subsoil water levels in the sandy ridge between the Danube and Tisa, in Nyírség and in the thermal karst area of the Plain. The **spread of build up territories in the flood prone areas** increases the risk factor for human and economic assets.

The characteristics include the standard and **poor state of surface and subsurface waters** and their vulnerability as well as **environmental pollutions arising from infrastructural deficiencies and diffuse agricultural (nitrate) pollution**.

The **average farm size** is very low and the **farm structure** is **fragmented** in general in the entire catchment area.

Description of the measures

Break through (offensive) strategy (most realistic measures)

- Enhancing rural tourism based on the unique local attractions.
- Improving the marketing and trade network of local farm products.
- Improving local, multifunctional, area specific, landscape sensitive and divers agriculture.

Opportunities strategy (measures for overcoming the weaknesses and disadvantages by using opportunities)

- Involving young people in local community activities.

Defensive strategy (measures for mobilizing the strengths to overcome the threats)

- Improving environmental performance of farms (to decrease the diffuse pollution from agricultural area).
- Promoting technologies of low energy/ renewable energy consumption in farming and processing.

Crisis strategy (measures for minimizing the negative effects, mainly nationwide problems and measures)

- Supporting wetland and floodplain restoration.
- Promoting land use change at territory endangered by water inundation.
- Promoting diversity and ecological adaptability/suitability in agricultural land use.

V.3.4. Area unit dominated by a large centre

(Ukrainian oblast: Uzhorodskyi; **Romanian counties:** Timiș, Cluj, Bihor; **Slovakian county:** Košický; **Hungarian counties:** Pest, Hajdú-Bihar, Csongrád; **Serbian counties:** Južnobačka)

Brief characteristics

NUTS3 units with large urban concentrations: cities around or over 200 thousand population (largest of all is Timișoara with over 300 thousand inhabitants) surrounded by an urbanized belt, with links to transport nodes and corridors. The central cities concentrate a significant ratio 40 % or more of the population in the region and represent by far the highest output (GDP), highest employment in industry and number of enterprises. The cities are centres of higher education, scientific research and cultural activities (media, arts, performance). They have the highest rate of people with advanced (tertiary) education. Therefore they have the potential of being engines of growth in the region. The communities outside the cities are either directly dependent on the centre cities (in residence - workplace or direct productive relationship) or they are of rural character.

Strengths

The **migration gain, relatively high ratio of young age-groups** and of **qualified work force** are conditions for further development of the knowledge base, demanding workplaces both in manufacturing and services. Population growth in these regions is particularly visible from the turn of the centuries (since 2000), when the majority of the TICAD areas, and the whole macro region underwent population decrease. The main component of population growth in this area category was and has been **migration towards a more promising direction** (western in Romania, central in Hungary, northern in Serbia) and also **migration from rural to urban areas**. In other words this process may also be called rural exodus. This latter tendency of migration and population growth is of particularly strong attracting growth from broad areas even from beyond the NUTS3 boundaries.

The central cities themselves are the main poles of attraction with the possibilities of a range of workplaces in manufacturing and service. In the national context they are second level (following the capital cities) **national poles with metropolitan potential and transnational influence**: Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca (over 300000 inhabitants), as well as Oradea, Košice, Debrecen, Szeged, Uzhorod, Novi Sad are highly attractive centres, **located on major transportation axes, with high economic potential, well-defined historic and cultural identity, which can develop tertiary services, with influence in Europe**.

The leading position of these units in social and economic terms is interconnected with their (accessibility) **nodal position in the transport network**. The international railway lines connect all major cities. Motorway access is only available for the units in Hungary and Serbia (M5 and M3, Budapest - Szeged and Budapest – Debrecen). The former goes up until Novi Sad. The upgrading of railways and roads and the construction of motorways has been on the agenda and still is. Mention is deserved by the airports available in all of the urbanized units, the largest is the one in Timișoara.

The central cities have all the characteristics **to justify the need to promote education at all levels** by their delegated responsibility for the cultural advancement and extension of education and qualification to all those living and moving into the area (county).

The relatively recent phenomenon in this territorial category is that population growth tends to extend beyond the administrative boundaries of central cities and affect the surrounding small cities and former rural communities, and in this process more or less views of these continuous urbanized areas are evolving around the central cities and along the major transport accesses. This is a marked tendency around Timișoara, Košice as well as Debrecen and Szeged, though in the latter cases the development of conurbations – intensifying links between the central cities and the surrounding smaller towns is a typical process. County Pest in Hungary (with the exception of the south-eastern corner) is actually the urbanized belt around the capital city Budapest. **This suburbanisation process indicates intensifying interconnections between central cities and their surroundings** and the development of both traditional residence – workplace relations (commuting to the workplaces in the central cities) as well as new, more decentralised form resulting from the spread of workplaces in the evolving urban regions.

Migration and **the attraction of a variety of workplaces and educational facilities** have favourable impact of the changing age structure in this territorial category. In contrast to the overall demographic structure of the TICAD region, the ratio of young age groups is fairly high and growing.

The occupational structure is dominated by services, and particular important in this regard is education. **Higher education is essential and dominant**. The universities in each of the central cities have over 10 thousand students affecting the social and cultural climate. Significant is the ratio of other **educational services** (schools, training programs), **cultural facilities** serving both the local and regional population as well as domestic and international tourism. Significant is the role of **medical and services taking care of the local population as regional and community centres**. The link between medical services, research and education has a tendency to grow in Debrecen, Szeged and Cluj.

Trade (shopping centres, warehouses) and business services (financial, managerial, legal services) are outstanding, employing a growing number of people and operated increasingly by foreign companies.

Manufacturing is also essential economic activity, and the central cities as well as their subsidiaries are major concentrations. Steel processing and energy production are dominant is Kosice still preserving its heavy manufacturing role in Slovakia. In the other areas of this category heavy manufacturing has progressively given way of string, logistics and the manufacturing of machinery, electric and electronic products as well as chemical and textile industries and food processing. In manufacturing production technological modernisation is in progress in Košice, and innovative products are released at small scale by the enterprises of Debrecen, Miskolc and Szeged. In Uzhorod wood processing is also noteworthy. In Timișoara foreign investments (US, German, French, etc.),

especially in high-tech sectors (mobile telephony) and chemicals (detergents) have been determinant. In Oradea furniture, textiles and clothing, footwear and food are the main industries. The decline of the manufacturing sector is a marked tendency in Voivodina, including South Bačka, just like in the whole of Serbia. In Szeged (with various food industries and petrol chemistry) and Debrecen (pharmaceutical industry and manufacturing of medical instruments) there is a tendency to promote cooperation between manufacturing enterprises and R+D pursued at academic and other centres, there are similar initiatives in Košice and Timișoara too.

Tourism is a major and growing activity, undertaken both as main occupation and part time and main of supplementary economic activity in all areas of this territorial category. Tourism as well as **tourist infrastructure is concentrated in the urban centres** where both the services and the attractions are available. Tourism, however, is spreading to small towns and rural communities too, as interest in folklore, rural landscape and sports is growing among the domestic and international customers.

Although agriculture is on decline all over the TICAD region (with a possible exception of Zakarpattia), it is not to be underrated in this territorial category, with **special regard to the exceptional farming potential of the plains** (Csongrád, Hajdu-Bihar, Pest, Timiș, part of Bihor, South Bačka).

Forest cover is rather low in this territorial category, the exception is Košice County. Although human intervention is considerable in this populated territorial category, **the share of natural and semi-natural areas is significant** in districts Košice and Uzgorod. Areas under nature protection are of special national interest in counties Csongrád, Hajdu-Bihar and Košice. **The scenic value of the landscape all over attracts tourism and of high ecological significance.** So are the water bodies and wetlands along the middle and lower courses of River Tisa (Csongrád, South Bačka).

Sites of cultural heritages (ancient palaces, churches, castles, archaeological sites, rural monuments, etc. like the Baroque civic and clerical monuments of Oradea, 18th and 19th century architecture of Timișoara, ancient churches, public and civic monuments of Košice, castle, ancient churches and monasteries of Uzhorod, Vladičin dvor and the remains of the fortification of Novi Sad, elegant urban architecture along the squares and avenues of Debrecen and Szeged) are in great number and extension both in the historic cities and villages. The small but exquisite gems of architectural history in small towns and villages (Lugoj, Salonta, Csongrád, Gödöllő, etc.) deserve special mention. The national parks in this territorial category include the Slovak Karst National Park (Košice kraj), Hortobágy (in Hajdú-Bihar County), Apuseni (partly in Bihor), Mureș Valley (partly in Timiș), and of course a range of Natura 2000 areas are also available and easily accessible. **The significance of natural and cultural heritage lies – over and above tourist attraction – in the enhancement of territorial identity and integrity and in the attraction of quality industries** (speciality products).

The units of the urbanized territorial category are above the TICAD average in terms of infrastructure like water supply, sewage disposal, electric and electronic networks. **The supply of public facilities** (childcare, schools, medical and social services, waste collection, public safety, sports grounds and open spaces, etc.) **is also above average, particularly in the cities.**

All these favourable features (“strengths”) need, however, qualification. The figures above the average of the catchment area (in terms of GDP, educational level, quality of services, nodal position, etc.) do not indicate actual high qualities. Even the highest figures are below the acceptable European standards.

Weaknesses

The **economic performance** of all of the urbanized territorial units (though themselves are relatively better situated than the other units and of course than TICAD region average), with the exception of Pest County linked to the Hungarian capital city, **is below the EU average in terms of GDP per capita.** This figure in the GDP per capita in purchasing power standards is over 11.2 thousand in Pest and

Csongrád, over 8.7 thousand in Hajdú-Bihar County and Košický Kraj. In the Romanian units (Cluj and Timiș) it is somewhat lower, in Bihor as well as in the Uzgorod and South Bačka even lower).

From among the infrastructural conditions of progress and advancement - particularly deficient are the ones of accessibility. The **delay of motorway development** in the neighbouring countries and regions imposes difficulties even in Hungary.

This risk is aggravated by the **general lack of environmental awareness** and by the **inadequacies of various environmental actions** like air and water pollutions, deficient infrastructure for waste management, sewage management.

Although tourism has been recognized as an economic activity of high potential, **little – if any - integrated action has been taken to promote it**. The tourist potential of the waterways is hardly and poorly exploited. The lack of cycle routes is an obstacle of eco- and rural tourism and also of the flexible inter-community and cross-border movement of people.

The major resource of this area, land and water is generally underused and abused. This is why the most attractive landscapes and **natural and cultural heritage are threatened by uncontrolled land use and construction activities**.

The **flood hazards affect the highly valuable built up areas**, endanger their state and even the survival of some of the precious element of built heritage and new developments.

The effectiveness of the knowledge base of the cities is restricted because of **the weak cooperation between business and education/research activities**. The output of scientific efforts may gain recognition, but is not made of practical use in the local urban context. Furthermore, the qualified workforce released from the institutes of higher education and special training does not find appropriate employment and is either bound to take less demanding jobs or moves to more attractive employment outside the region.

Description of the measures

Break through (offensive) strategy (most realistic measures)

- Strengthening the cross-border cooperation in investment action, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation (Debrecen - Oradea, Szeged - Timișoara).
- Mobilising local innovation capacity for knowledge based / new technology economy.
- Strengthening local food supply chains to the centre cities (local market, local chain stores, marketing).
- Enhancing the cross-border and national cooperation between education and research centres.
- Strengthening cross-border communication and cooperation between touristic centres by development of joint programs and marketing.

Opportunities strategy (measures for overcoming the weaknesses and disadvantages by using opportunities)

- Strengthening the tourism cooperation between the cities and the surrounding rural areas (program packages, "guest table", promote active tourism).
- Decreasing the urban and industrial pollutions (waste water treatment, waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change, decrease the emission by using new technologies, environmental sustainable transport development).
- Harmonising the development of major route of the Trans-European Network (corridors and bypasses), lifting the barriers of the cross-border transport connections.
- Developing the knowledge society through the cooperation between business and education/research institutes.

Defensive strategy (measures for mobilizing the strengths to overcome the threats)

- Harmonised and controlled suburbanisation process and the development of human services and supply systems.
- To support the technical and regulatory tools of reduction of the energy consumption.

Crisis strategy (measures for minimizing the negative affects, mainly nationwide problems and measures)

- Controlling urban development (land regulation, improvement of spatial planning, strengthen the protection of natural areas, contain the uncontrolled urban growth).
- Harmonization of flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas.

V.3.5. Area unit with a subsidiary centre

(**Ukrainian oblasts:** Mukachivskyi; **Romanian counties:** Mureş, Sibiu, Arad; **Hungarian County:** Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén; **Serbian counties:** Severnobačka, Srednjebanatska)

Brief characteristics

NUTS3 units of this category are centred by large cities, which however are somewhat behind the former group. They also concentrate a large part of the district population, are centres of industrial employment and culture, but the local industries are mainly assembling plants (foot-loose enterprises). Their role in culture and education is important and may follow suit the bigger centres in terms of the development of an active and productive knowledge base. There is a greater than average gap between the cities and their hinterlands. In spite of the relatively high development level of the central cities the rates of the NUTS3 regions are low due to the deteriorating impact of the indices of the rural peripheries.

Strengths

The characteristics of **manufacturing are determined by the availability of abundant raw material**. In the Romanian Tisa Catchment Area, there are the most important deposits of natural gas (methane gas, respectively associated gas), methane gas deposits being located particularly in Mureş County as well as in adjacent County Sibiu. Natural resources in Arad are worthy to be taken into account as there are oil and associated gases, points of extraction in the west of the county, molybden mines, marble quarries, and uranium deposits in different part of the county. In the north-western part of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County there are some potential coal extraction areas and some special silicate mines. In Severnobačka of Serbia there are many oil and gas wells – more than 100 gas wells and 8 oil fields in Vojvodine.

The towns in the region are **long-established industrial, mining and commercial centres**. The predominant industries in Mukachivskyi and the Romanian counties are the machine and automotive components, construction materials, food industry, textile industry, wood industry. Dominant is heavy industry (electricity, chemical and heavy engineering) in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. In Subotica the traditional diverse manufacturing industry is characteristic. Economic growth is indicated by the high ratio of commercial, transport and communication services in the cities of Mukachivskyi, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Arad, and Sibiu counties.

The great centres of higher education and research are in the large cities. Nevertheless, these **subsidiary cities are also locations of education and research**. Due to their industrial and economic relevance, it is important to mention the Nanotechnology Research Institute (Nanotechnológiai

Kutatóintézet) and the Logistics and Production Engineering Institute (Logisztikai és Gyártástechnikai Intézet) in Miskolc. In Zrenjanin of Srednjobanatska, Serbia all levels of education are present. There are different university programs (branches of The University of Novi Sad) and the number of programs is expanding. It concentrates high-school and university students from the vast area around and therefore makes it dominant cultural hub in the district.

The economic importance of the subsidiary centres is enhanced by **the access to the European transport corridors**. Arad is connected to Route IV of TEN-T. There is an east-west access to international E highway at Mukachevo via E50 and E58, at Târgu Mureş via E60, at Oradea and Sibiu via E68. Highways E71 and E79 are accesses for Miskolc, highway E75 for Subotica. Zrenjanin is an important transportation node in Serbian part of Banat. It is set on the cross-point of the Magistral road M7 (links Timișoara with the Pan-European corridor 10) and the Magistral road M24 (north-south transportation corridor).

The **semi-natural and unique landscapes and cultivated areas**, thermal water resources and the rich cultural heritage **outstanding tourist features**. Although the main destinations are the big cities (Mukachivskiyi, Miskolc, Sibiu, Târgu Mureş, Subotica) as they offer a great number and diversity of architectonic and cultural-historical attractions as well as many events and cultural activities. In the rural area the diverse landscape and cultural features offer excellent potentials for active and health tourism (e.g. the stalactite caverns from Aggtelek, Tokaj-hegyalja historical wine-region, Ocna Sibiului, Bazna and Miercurea Sibiului, Sovata, Palič, Păltiniș mountain resort).

The rate of tourist turnover (number of nights spent by tourists) was high (more than 500 000) in Mureş and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, but Sibiu is outstanding as well. The relevant data were not accessible for Serbia and Ukraine. As for the capacity of tourist accommodation the rate of County Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is outstanding.

The most **important areas of agriculture** are the traditional wine districts (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Arad counties), forestry is of high importance in Mureş and Sibiu, whereas arable land is of high quality in Severnobačka. Srednjobanatska has strong agricultural profile, embodied in the collective memory of the people as typical Banat landscape.

In the rural areas the natural conditions are pre-eminent especially the valuable landscapes and semi-natural biotopes. Some of the **rural areas are surrounded by vast protected natural areas**. Over 20 % is the ratio of protected nature conservation areas in Mureş, Sibiu and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén counties (with large woodlands), and over 10 % in Arad and Mukachevo. The designation of nature protection areas in Serbia is in delay (Natura 2000 areas are not designated yet), the ratio there is therefore low. The most significant protected nature conservation areas are the Aggtelek National Park, Bükk National Park, Zemplén Protected Landscape (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County), Defile of the Upper Mureş (Mureş County), Mureş Floodplain (Arad County), Ludas Lake (Severnobačka).

Weaknesses

Distribution of population in these NUTS3 Regions is polarised. Density is high in the central cities of Miskolc, Mukachevo, Sibiu, Mureş, Arad, whereas it is low in the rural peripheries. The difference is even greater in terms of population change. There is some growth in certain cities (Mukachevo, Arad), while **the rural hinterland undergoes depopulation. Urban – rural migration is characterised by the movement of young, qualified groups from the rural areas.** The result is **increasing difficulties of social service for the aging and of the exclusion of deprived groups (Roma minorities).** A significant ethnic minority are the Roma. They themselves are a mixture of different nationalities; speak the language of their place of living as well as one of their own languages. In the

catchment area of highly mixed nationality the ratio of Roma population is the highest in counties Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Mureş. A high concentration of Roma in the total rural population at the county level is also recorded in Sibiu (8.6%). In the rural areas of low educational and employment levels of the Roma minorities are especially great concerns.

Urban – rural differences are great in terms of economic levels too. In the rural, especially **small communities there are narrow possibilities of livelihood**. In several cases the only employer is the local government with its educational and social services. The small farms serve for subsistence. Provision of employment is difficult because of **low accessibility due to the poor quality of secondary roads and the scarcity of public transport services**.

The low overall rate of communal services is due to the **scarcities of infrastructure in the rural areas**. In the Tisa Catchment Area 64 % of the total number of dwellings has access to communal water supply. The poorest is the supply (below) 45 % in the Ukrainian and Romanian counties, in the isolated mountain villages. 46 % of the dwellings of the project area are connected to the public sewage disposal systems. Less than 30 % is the supply in districts with extensive rural areas in Romania (Sibiu).

The impact of **economic restructuring after the change of the political system is still prevailing**. At the beginning of the 1990's the large manufacturing firm were closed down, the remaining were converted, reorganized and updated. The resulting large-scale unemployment led thousands of people to turn to start some sort of small business. In most areas the firm period of restructuring and related privatisation have been completed, at several places the second restructuring period has also begun involving the out movement of foot-loose multinationals (with low production of added value) further to the east.

One of the multiple causes which induce such vulnerability is **the structural imbalance, both at national and local level**. This imbalance may be found both in the internal fragility of the economic companies (level of technology, insufficient level of know-how, unconsolidated markets) and in the horizontal and vertical relations within the economy.

Service sector consists mainly of human services, productive tertiary sector is limited to larger towns.

In contrast to the significance of tourist attractions the capacity of accommodation is very poor (less than 20,000 beds) in the Romanian counties. The tourist services are even poorer in Ukraine and Serbia (less than 500 beds). In the field of tourism the **qualitative and quantitative conditions of guest reception are still incomplete**. The levels of the present product supply, the accommodation structure and its quality, as well as the performance of hotel and catering services are just satisfactory. Sales and communication activities are even weaker in spite of the fact that we encounter several touristic elements, but with regards to strategic planning, targeting, the exploitation of cooperative advantages, there is much room for improvement.

Description of the measures

Break through (offensive) strategy (most realistic measures)

- Strengthening the cross-border cooperation in investment actions, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation (Miskolc - Kassa, Subotica - Szeged).
- Enhancing the cross-border and national cooperation between education and research centres.
- Enhancing the cultural touristic activities in the historic centres.
- Strengthening the sales of local food products at the urban market (local market, local chain stores, marketing).
- Mobilizing local innovation capacity for the development of manufacturing industry.
- Promoting the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources.

- Harmonizing development of major routes of the Trans-European Network (corridors and by-passes), eliminating the barriers of the cross-border transport connections.

Opportunities strategy (measures for overcoming the weaknesses and disadvantages by using opportunities)

- Decreasing the urban and industrial pollutions (waste water treatment, waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change, decrease the emission by using new technologies, environmental sustainable transport development).
- Promoting entrepreneurship of young people.
- Developing the knowledge society through the cooperation between business and education/research institutes.

Defensive strategy (measures for mobilizing the strengths to overcome the threats)

- Harmonizing and controlling suburbanisation processes and the development of human services and supply systems.
- Supporting the technical and regulatory tools of reduction of the energy consumption.

Crisis strategy (measures for minimizing the negative affects, mainly nationwide problems and measures)

- Controlling urban development (land regulation, improvement of spatial planning, strengthen the protection of open spaces, contain the uncontrolled urban growth).
- Harmonizing flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas.

V.3.6. Area unit with centre(s) undergoing economic conversion

(Romanian counties: Maramureş, Hunedoara; **Slovakian county:** Banská Bystrica; **Hungarian county:** Nógrád)

Brief characteristics

These areas are characterized by persisting problems of industrial decline. Here the manufacturing and mining industries have fallen victims of economic restructuring and their recovery is still to happen. Their special difficulties are on the one hand social because of the large number of redundant workers of outdated skills and on the other hand environmental, because of the pollution and decay left behind by the company closures. The natural environment as well as the historic architectural heritage in and outside the cities deserves restoration and revival. This as well as thorough clean-up of the derelict sites could and should be the way towards consolidation.

The communities outside the cities are either directly dependent on the centre cities (in residence - workplace or direct productive relationship) or they are of rural character.

Strengths

The areas of this territorial category are traditionally prosperous with a magnificent history testified by the surviving architectural monuments and cultural traditions. They are mountainous areas with **forests, beautiful landscapes and the treasures of the earth**. In distant and recent history these treasures, the mineral resources were highly valued and exploited. The audacity to explore the treasures of the earth and turn them to promote material prosperity determined the fate of these areas. Coal in Banská Bystrica Kraj and Nógrád County and Jiului Valley of Hunedoara, gold and other precious metals in Maramureş as well as various other **mineral resources all over encouraged and urged the development and expansion of mining and gave rise to other heavy industries:**

metallurgy, power generation, engineering as well as the processing of timber available in abundance.

Mining and manufacturing were the chief sources of livelihood of these area units and **are likely to remain so in new circumstances, in new forms and technological conditions**, serving as **suitable sites for investment, with their strong industrial traditions and infrastructure**.

County Nógrád in Hungary (where GDP per capita is the lowest in the country), and especially the central micro regions of Salgótarján and Bányásztereny are typical examples of the victims of restructuring. The former coal mining and manufacturing centres (steel, machinery, glass) are still in the depth of des-industrialisation, where no local employment is available apart from those in services and small manufacturing firms. Somewhat more promising is the situation of the small towns and their micro regions. Balassagyarmat and Szécsény take efforts to capitalise from their historic traditions. The former has succeeded to attract multinational companies (cable factory and the production of compressors and other firms), Pásztó and Rétság.

In Slovakia, in the neighbourhood of Nógrád, in the two micro regions of the Banská Bystrica Kraj belonging to the Tisa Region there are large deposits of magnesite and limestone. Mining, quarrying and food processing are the main industries here amounting to more than 30% of the total employment. In 2007 unemployment was more than 30 % here, much higher rate than the Slovakian average.

In Romania there are two NUTS3 area units in this territorial category. Maramureş with centre Baia Mare is a traditional centre of mining metals like gold, silver, copper. The several century old mining activity accelerated and expanded in the 1960s' and 1970s' giving rise to related and associate industries and involving large scale growth of the city and the other surrounding communities and the arbitrary intervention into the structure of the landscape and the settlement system. Because of the technological catastrophe in 2000 the mines and the district gained bad reputation and sharp decline of mining and related activities followed. Recently recycling and rehabilitation of the dumps began and made profitable by extracting the refuse metal remains and by processing. Mining is thus likely to continue within new technological conditions. Trade and services are developing side by side with new industries contributing to diversification (production of furniture).

Hunedoara is the most southern unit of this territorial category. Here the main resource of industrial development was coal mining in the Jiul Valley. The region was heavily industrialised, but due to low efficiency, most of the mines have been closed down. The city of Hunedoara was the production center for iron and a market for the mountain regions nearby. During the 20th century, population increased to 86,000 inhabitants. The city contained the largest steel works in Romania (later Galaţi took the lead), but activity gradually diminished after 1990 due to the loss of the market. This was a blow to the overall prosperity of the town. Now there are efforts to recovery with new investments.

In the mountainous area the tributaries have the **potential hydroelectric power** which can be exploited in an environmental friendly way helping the utilisation of the remote rural areas.

Environmental and landscape upgrading is all the more important in view of the highly precious natural and cultural assets. Landscape rehabilitation, afforestation would be essential to restore the **particular natural beauty of these environments**. Rodna and Retezat Maramureş and Hunedoara, several areas in Banská Bystrica (e.g. Muránska Plain National Park) and also in Nógrád are officially recognized nature protection areas to be promoted through the indispensable repair and maintenance actions.

To promote tourism – both short and long term – is worthwhile in view of the **lively and rich local folklore and the unique historic monuments**, castles, palaces, fortifications and also of cultural artistic traditions.

Weaknesses

The single-minded industrial efforts by neglecting the environmental considerations led to controversial results especially because the **decreasing productivity of some of the mines and engineering industries** and the resulting redundancies created serious social problems, unemployment and poverty. In these **mono-industrial and outdated production zones the weight of high-tech industry and advanced production is extremely low.**

Social conflicts are serious in these areas. The **skills of the local labour force are missing or are outdated, the incomes are low**, and their future is uncertain and obscure. Particularly critical is the situation of the **Roma communities suffering of multiple deprivation as well as ethnic exclusion** involving sometime militant actions and sharp ethnic conflicts.

Population in these area units is steadily decreasing; the loss is mainly through out-migration. Especially high has been migration loss in the Romanian counties Sălaj and Maramureş.

Low educational level is a general problem and obstacle to revival in these areas. At varying but high is the ratio of population with only primary education and very low is the one of tertiary qualification (e.g. Nógrád, Banská Bystrica and Hunedoara).

Industry was and still is the main employer in these areas, though agriculture also has important part. Relatively low is the share of the service sector. **Decline and closure of industrial firms results the growth of unemployment** especially in Nógrád, Banská Bystrica and also in Hunedoara.

The environmental problems are associated with the ongoing operation of mines and other industrial firms causing extremely high load of hazardous substances around the mines and metallurgical plants, **water pollution** is far reaching and dangerous. No less hazardous and repulsive is the environment of derelict **mines, dumpsites and industrial sites left behind without upkeep and rehabilitation, like giants scars of the landscape.** Consistent intervention for repair is a very urgent task.

Revival and rehabilitation is also made difficult by the **relative isolation of these areas.** Accessibility by road and rail is difficult because of the **lack of high speed transport facilities and poor quality of roads and rails.**

Tourism has not yet adequately discovered the attractions of these areas. An **obstacle is low accessibility and of course the inadequacy of tourist services** similarly to **services of general interest.** Upgrading of services would contribute to a great deal to the improvement of general quality of life, to economic recovery and to the development of tourism.

Description of the measures

Break through (offensive) strategy (most realistic measures)

- Promoting the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources (new and environmentally conscious technologies, to reduce accidental risks to minimum level).
- Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by taking into account the hydrological effects.

Opportunities strategy (measures for overcoming the weaknesses and disadvantages by using opportunities)

- Involving young people in local community activities.
- Diversifying economic structure by tourism development based on the unique attractions.
- Introducing measures for the reclamation of derelict, polluted brown fields (dump sites, industry sites).
- Promoting accessibility by creating the connection to the European transport network.

- Promoting entrepreneurship of young people.
- Mobilizing the available labour force for environmental improvement.

Defensive strategy (measures for mobilizing the strengths to overcome the threats)

- Sustaining natural and semi-natural areas, forests; strengthening nature protection activities.

Crisis strategy (measures for minimizing the negative effects, mainly nationwide problems and measures)

- Harmonizing flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas.

VI. Pyramid of objectives

I. Priority: Cooperation

Specific objectives	Measures				
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion
I.1. Promoting clusters of innovative enterprises and activities			I.1.1. To strengthen the cross-border cooperation in investment actions, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation (Debrecen - Oradea, Szeged – Timișoara, Uzhorod-Košice)	I.1.2. To strengthen the cross-border cooperation in investment actions, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperations (Miskolc – Košice, Subotica – Szeged, Arad-Szeged)	
			I.1.3. To develop the knowledge society through the cooperation between business and education/research institutes		
			I.1.4. To enhance the cross-border and national cooperation between education and research centres		
			I.1.5. Strengthening cross-border communication and cooperation between touristic centres by development of joint programs and marketing		
	I.1.6. To protect, enhance and mobilise the existing capacities of local communities with the help of LEADER and other rural development programs				
	I.1.7. Strengthening the logistic centres and multimodal transportation systems				
I.2. Strengthening institutional cooperation	I.2.1. Harmonization in the field of spatial planning				
	I.2.2. Institutional cooperation in the field of environmental risk management				
	I.2.3. To coordinate flood protection actions and implementation of water management plans in the frame of a transnational cooperation				

Specific objectives	Measures				
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion
I.3. Promoting transnational and local transport connections			I.3.1. Harmonized development of major route of the trans-European network, lifting the barriers of the cross-border transport connections		I.3.2. Promote accessibility by creating the connection to the European transport network
			I.3.3. To urge the qualitative development of transport network		
			I.3.4. To improve the accessibility of isolated rural areas		
I.4. Cooperation in cultural activities and strengthening identity			I.4.1. To support local actions for enhancement of territorial identity and integrity		
			I.4.2. To promote joint/cross-border institution arrangements in cultural and education activities, programs, festivals		

II. Priority: Promote polycentric and balanced territorial development and innovative urban-rural relations

Specific objectives	Measures					
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion	
II.1. Increasing economic competitiveness and diversification of economic activities	II.1.1. Strengthening the economic attractiveness of the area					
	II.1.2. To improve the marketing and trade network of local farm products		II.1.3. Strengthening local food supply chains to the centre cities	II.1.4. Strengthen the sales of local food products at the urban market		
	II.1.5. To encourage the cooperation of farmers supporting the processing and marketing of agricultural produce					
	II.1.6. To support sustainable, risk preventing forest management	II.1.7. To improve local, multifunctional, area specific, landscape sensitive and divers agriculture				
	II.1.8. Improving the quality of agricultural products, local produce and farm-based manufacturing					
	II.1.9. To promote the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources			II.1.10. To promote the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources		
	II.1.11. Networking and cooperation in the field of tourism services and programmes					
	II.1.12. To develop the rural, active and health tourism (attractions, marketing, service)	II.1.13. To enhance rural tourism based on the unique local attractions	II.1.14. Strengthening the touristic cooperation between the cities and the surrounding rural areas (program packages, “quest table”, promote active tourism)	II.1.15. Enhance the cultural touristic activities in the historic centres	II.1.16. Diversification of economy structure by tourism development based on the unique attractions	
	II.2. Promoting R&D&I and their spill out effects			II.2.1. To mobilize local innovation capacity for knowledge based / new technology economy	II.2.2. To mobilize local innovation capacity for the development of manufacturing industry	
					II.2.3. To promote entrepreneurship of young people	
		II.2.4. To encourage alternative employment possibilities				

Specific objectives	Measures				
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion
II.3. To improve the living conditions to avoid migration of young people	II.3.1. Elaborate and issue minimum standards of public utilities and services in rural and peripheral settlements				
	II.3.2. To improve human and social services including alternative and mobile solutions in rural areas				
			II.3.3. Harmonization of agglomeration processes and the development of human services and supply systems		

III. Priority: Wise management of natural and cultural resources

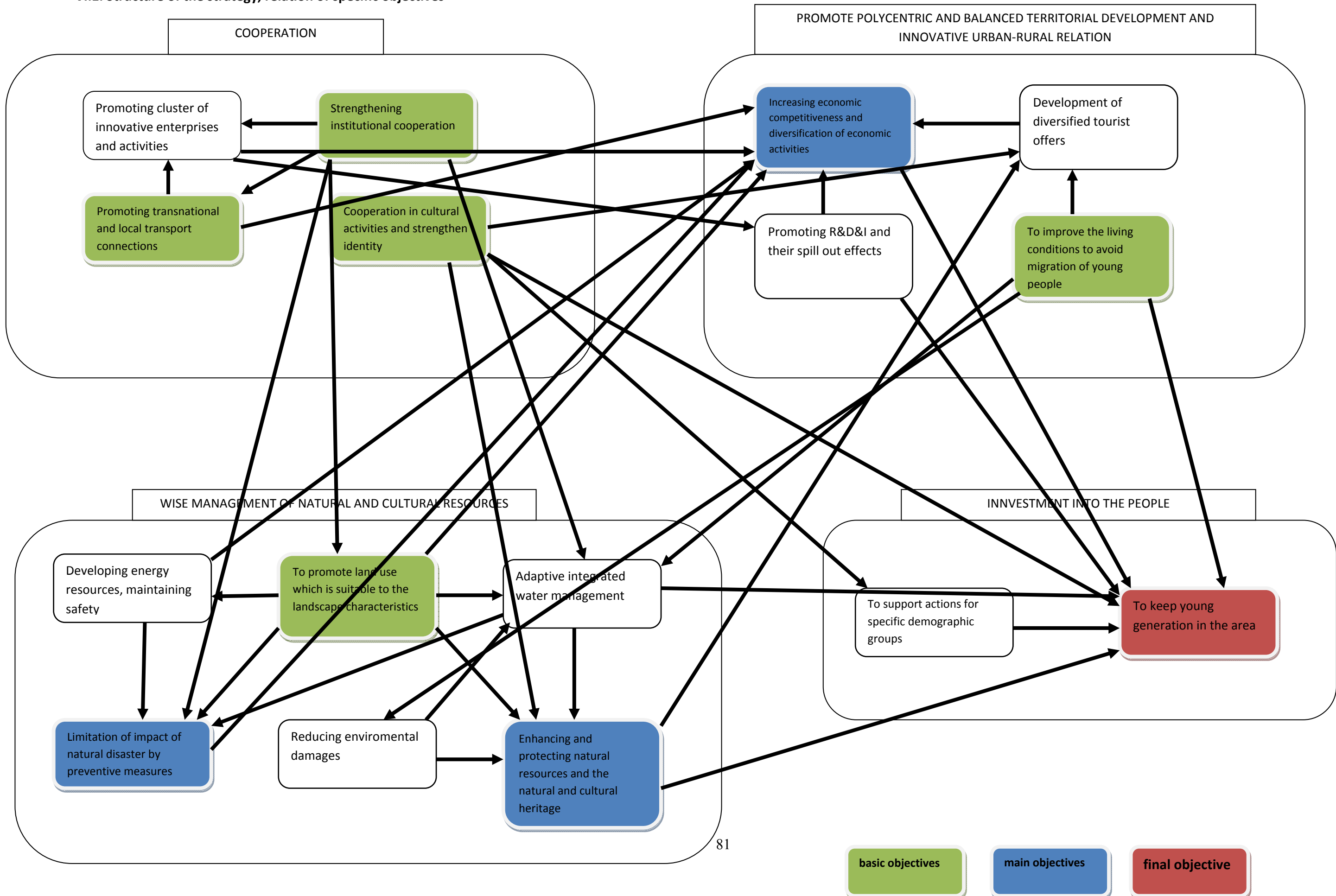
Specific objectives	Measures				
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion
III.1. Developing energy resources, maintaining safety	III.1.1. Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by tacking into account the hydrological effects	III.1.2. To promote technologies of low energy/ renewable energy consumption in farming and processing	III.1.3. To support the technical and regulatory tools of reduction of the energy consumption		III.1.1. Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by tacking into account the hydrological effects
	III.1.4. To promote development of local and small scale renewable energy production				
	III.1.5. Transnational interconnection of the energy system network				
III.2. To promote land use which is suitable to the landscape characteristics		III.2.1. To promote diversity and ecological adaptability/suitability in agricultural land use	III.2.2. Controlling urban development (land regulation, improvement of spatial planning, strengthen the protection of natural areas, contain the uncontrolled urban growth)		
	III.2.3. To support environmentally aware farming				
	III.2.4. To introduce the land regulation measures (land consolidation, land use and spatial planning, support system)				
III.3. Adaptive integrated water management	III.3.1. To introduce the legal, technical and financial regulation to promote the rational exploitation and use of natural water resources				
	III.3.2. To extend the ecological network along the surface waters				
III.4. Limitation of impact of natural disaster by preventive measures	III.4.1. Introduction and application of restrictions regarding land use to prevent landslides	III.4.2. To promote land use change at territory endangered by inundation water			
	III.4.3. Strengthening water retention capacity, significant reduction of flood risk and potential impacts of climate change by means of afforestation	III.4.4. To support wetland and floodplain restoration			
			III.4.5. Harmonization of flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas		

Specific objectives	Measures				
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion
III.5. Reducing environmental damage	III.4.6. To strengthen the technical flood protection and control, strengthen the cross-border cooperation in flood forecasting				
	III.4.7. Improvement and implementation of national climate strategies (financial and regulation background)				
		III.5.1. To improve the environmental performance of farms (to decrease the diffuse pollution from agricultural area)	III.5.2. To decrease the urban and industrial pollutions (waste water treatment, waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change, decrease the emission by using new technologies, environmental sustainable transport development)	III.5.3. To introduce measures for the reclamation of derelict, polluted brown fields (dump sites, industries sites)	
					III.5.4. To mobilize the available labour force for environmental improvement
	III.5.5. Strengthening the legal environment, extension of regulatory powers, improvement the effectiveness of control				
	III.5.6. To strengthen environmental awareness of the population, to promote environmental educational training at all levels (NGOs as well)				
III.6. Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural and cultural heritage	III.6.1. Widening nature management activities (strengthen protection, development the visitor, environmental education and research centres)				III.6.2. To sustain natural and semi-natural areas, forests; strengthening nature protection activities
	III.6.3. To control development actions for protecting the forests and other precious natural sites				
	III.6.4. To enhance restoration and management of the cultural monuments				

IV. Priority: Investment into the people

Specific objectives	Measures				
	Mountainous area with local centre(s)	Rural farming area with local centre(s)	Area unit dominated by a large centre	Area unit with a subsidiary centre	Area unit with centre (s) undergoing economic conversion
IV.1. To support actions for specific demographic groups	IV.1.1. To promote model solutions of social integration and development				
	IV.1.2. To develop the local social policies network of civil initiatives to assist and care for the deprived social groups				
	IV.1.3. Consistent involvement of inactive and aging people in public activities (social care)				
IV.2. To keep young generation in the area	IV.2.1. To promote skill-training				
	IV.2.2. To involve young people in local community activities				
	IV.2.3. To promote the socially sensitive basic education				
	IV.2.4. To promote the qualitative features of information society				

VI.1. Structure of the strategy, relation of specific objectives



VI.2. Description of the priorities

VI.2.1. I. PRIORITY: Cooperation, developing cooperative structures

Logic of intervention (overall and specific objectives, content, justification)

Cooperation as set in Priority 1 is a broad term and is a key principle of European policy for territorial cohesion. It implies coordinated response of several regions or countries and localities to prevailing or emerging issues. It also implies “the added value of partnership with a strong local dimension, which ensures that policies are designed and implemented with local knowledge”. Furthermore, another dimension of cooperation is the intention “to maximise synergies” by means of the better coordination with sectoral policies.”⁵

Developing cooperative structures aims

- to promote joint actions of regions, localities, institutions, authorities, people and individuals in various field of societal action (economy, culture, social service etc.),
- to enhance coordination and integration of different sectoral actions,
- to urge and support the development of the channels and infrastructure of cooperation.

The aim to “improve the co-operation between regions within the Union and with the neighbouring regions outside” is the heart of the TICAD project too. It is underlined by the transnational character of the project and therefore of TICAD strategy covering NUTS3 area units of new EU member states as well as neighbouring states all dedicated to “promote growth enhancing conditions and factors leading to real convergence.”⁶

The priority related to cooperation – and the dedicated effort of the TICAD project to promote cooperative structures – is justified by the urgency of this issue.

Promoting clusters of innovative enterprises and activities is related to economic objectives first of all. The purpose is to promote collaboration of enterprises, development of clusters based on the joint procedures of investment action or marketing or knowledge society or information or logistic services. There is a variety of potentials for the clustering of enterprises of the same or similar profile.

Currently fragmentation of enterprises and the rivalry of economic entities for external funds, multinational companies, for the market and for qualified labour force is more rather typical, although cooperation is a more efficient way for the attainment of competitiveness.

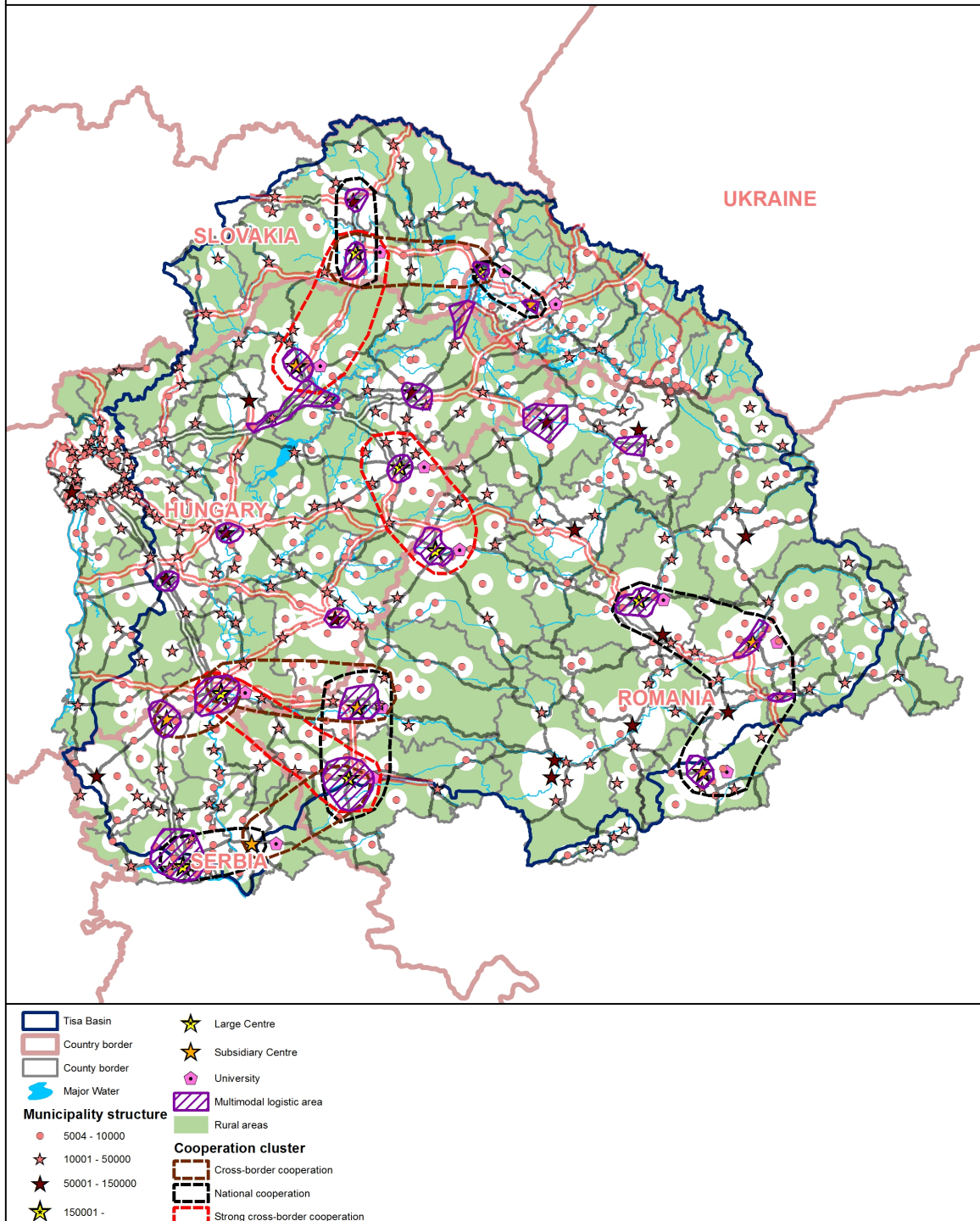
The cooperation of the centres of knowledge like universities, research institutes, secondary and vocational schools is an already recognized useful way of the advancement of learning. It is also essential to strengthen cooperation between research and implementation, that is, the capitalisation of scientific findings in the fields of practice and production. The cooperation of education and training with the market sphere is a condition of the release of appropriately skilled workforce from the schools and of the provision of the local and regional companies with suitable employees.

There are also great possibilities of inter-community, regional, cross-border cooperation in tourism by way of the preparation of joint programs, tourist routes, coordination of tourist offers, exchange of experience and cooperation in marketing and information.

⁵ http://europa.eu/pol/reg/index_en.htm

⁶ http://europa.eu/pol/reg/index_en.htm

TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
PROMOTING CLUSTER OF INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES AND ACTIVITIES



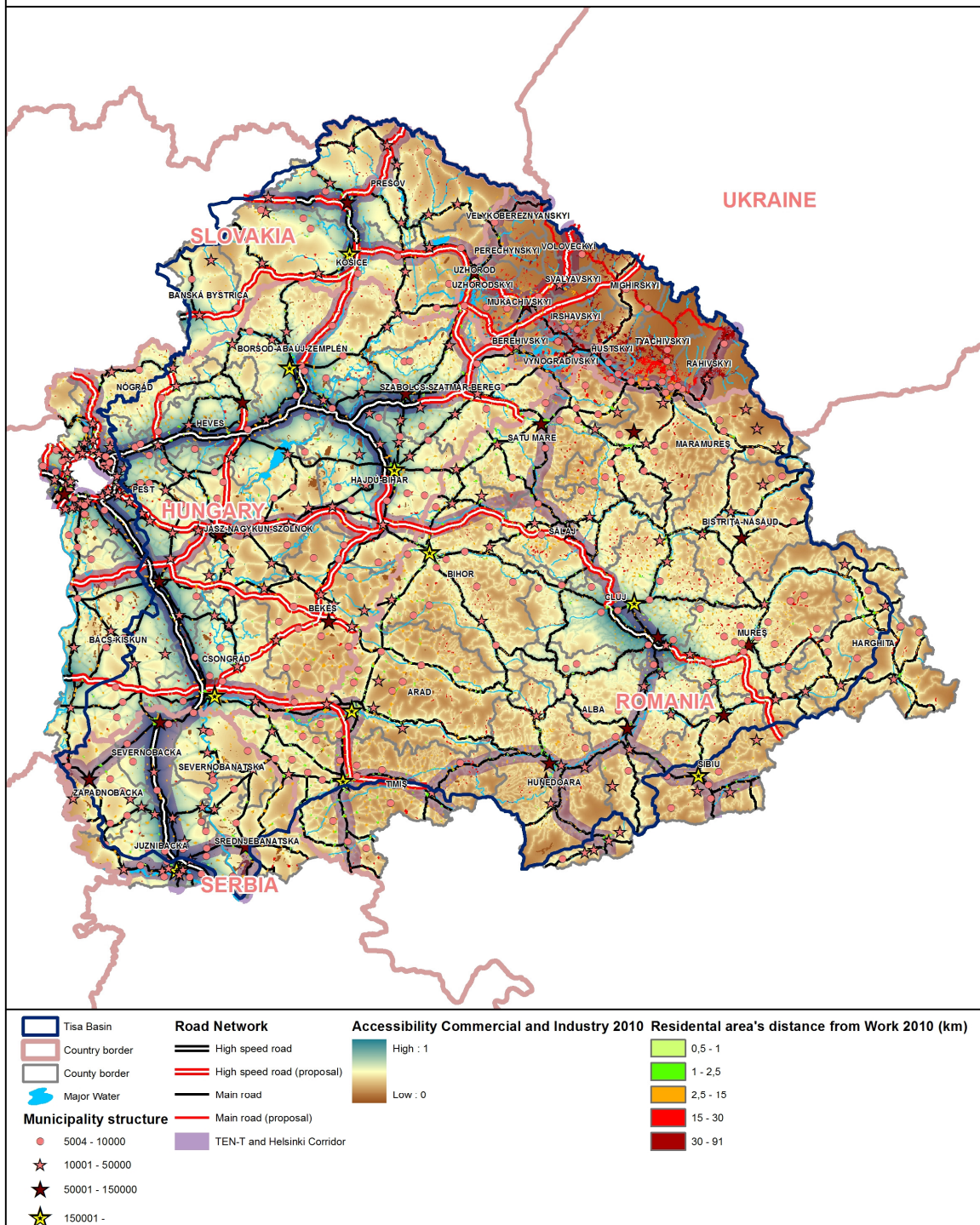
Strengthening institutional cooperation is an essential aim, the Tisa Catchment Area is a coherent territorial entity though divided by administrative - national and regional – borders.

Consistent institutional cooperation is needed for overcoming this division. Coordinated spatial planning proposals and decisions are viable through the cooperation of planning agencies as well as authorities responsible for approving, adopting and implementing the plans. Such cooperation is particularly important in water management in view of the manifold interrelations and interactions of the various territorial components of the river basis.

Furthermore, the attainment of integrated strategies is feasible if the different sectors and disciplines are in interaction, exchanging views, willing to come into consensus about the crucial aspects of territorial management and development.

Promoting transnational and local transport connections is a fundamental condition of territorial cooperation. The transport system is incomplete and outdated and of low quality in the whole of the Tisa Catchment Area and especially in its eastern parts. There are plans for motorway developments all over, but the implementation of these plans is still in delay. Accessibility is difficult. The load of traffic is a great pressure even on the existing links. It is hard if at all possible to proceed on the narrow, low quality roads. Cross-border connections are acerbated by the shortage and narrow capacity of transit links. The railway system is if possible even more outdated, the rails are unstable, the parallel rails hardly exist, the width of railway tracks differs in Ukraine and other countries, personal and freight railway transport is expensive, inefficient, uncomfortable and slow thus imposing further burden on the highly vulnerable road system. The airports are also in need of modernisation, but the worst shortage is in the intermodal connections adding to the inefficiency of air transport.

TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
PROMOTING TRANSNATIONAL AND LOCAL TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS



Cooperation in cultural activities and strengthening identity

The manifold historic links, common traditions of lifestyle, work and culture offer a wide choice of potentials for cooperation in cultural activities. Sharing experience would lead to the discovery of several commonalities in cultural traditions, songs, poems, tales and legends and even common formulation of words, sayings verses and superstitions. The discovery of common heritage will then lead to the recognition of commonalities in views, visions, concerns and aspirations. Cooperation in cultural activities would then help to face and solve tensions, mistrust and misunderstanding. Such cooperation can be the beginning of mutual knowing each other. To discover the advantage of joint efforts is an important prerequisite for further cooperation in other areas.

There are already promising examples of cooperation in cultural activities both at the regional, inter-regional and cross-border, transnational levels. The joint initiatives and programs such as festivities, concerts, art workshops and exhibitions are indeed of great help in strengthening identity. The follow up to these initiatives can be joint educational and touristic programs exploiting the experience of joint activities the practical fields of production.

Measures and project examples

Strengthening cross-border cooperation in investment, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation

- The cross border areas, especially the central cities (e.g. Debrecen-Oradea, Uzhorod-Košice, Szeged-Subotica, Timișoara and Miskolc-Košice) and towns should exploit the potentials of coordinated and joint investment plans and policies (e.g. commercial and trade centres, transport infrastructure and traffic management).
- Creating common investment agencies.
- Establishing new forums of city leaders to harmonise interests and investments options.
- Developing territorial brands.
- Coordinating employment management in cross-border areas for mutual benefit.
- Joint development and management of services (trade, education, catering, tourism, etc.) can be upon local initiative and be of mutual benefit.

Project examples:

- Urban development corridors (e.g. Debrecen-Oradea, Miskolc-Košice).
- North Hungary Region and Košický Kraj: elaboration of a common map of administrative organisations and development potentials: discussion of common issues.
- Euroregional pollen information system (Szeged, Subotica).
- TRANS-URBAN – Updating the Development Strategy of Baia Mare Urban System through the integration of local development strategies of the component localities.
- Creation of common environmental centres in cross-border areas.

Developing the knowledge society through the cooperation between business and education/research institutes

- Coordinating vocational, secondary and higher education and training programs with the local and regional employment policies (especially in growth areas and conversion areas by means of establishment of continuous link and information exchange (operated by the local authorities with the help of civil organisations) between the schools and employment centres.
- Organising science fairs and conferences at the centres of learning to inform businesses about RDI outputs.
- Joint cooperation programmes/actions for universities and SMEs (assisting business planning, marketing, management, economic thinking etc.).

- Exchange of young researchers and practitioners.

Project examples:

- EPRAS – E-Laboratory Practical Teaching for Applied Engineering Sciences (University of Debrecen, University of Oradea).
- JOINTEC – Joint Entrepreneurship Culture for Youth of the Cross-Border Region (creating partnerships between high school students, teachers and schools in the field of entrepreneurial education.).

Related activities and projects based on the Hornad pilot results

Problem/issue: Weak correlation between the education and the real economic needs.

→Developing knowledge society through cross-border and national cooperation strengthening correlation between business and education/research

Project example: Developing education programmes and trainings (updated professional knowledge, practical and language) based on the needs of the local economic operators (e. g. entrepreneurs, industrial parks). Universities of the region (Kosice, Miskolc) should help to develop the supporting network for special training programmes.

Enhancing cross-border and transnational cooperation of the centres of learning and between education/research institutes

- To promote by means of joint programs the cooperation of universities of Košice, Uzhorod, Miskolc, Debrecen, Nyíregyháza, Satu Mare, Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Timișoara, Subotica, Târgu Mureș, Žilina, Novi Sad. The ongoing cooperation should be deepened and extended. European framework and EGTC programs should be exploited for this purpose.
 - Common research programmes and projects.
 - Scholarship, trainings, summer schools.

Project examples:

- “TICAD knowledge network” of the institutes of higher education will be of mutual benefit (exchange of professors, students, research personnel, joint elaboration of study modules).
- JED – Joint Educational Development (cross-border plan that promotes school exchanges, school development, the education of school staff, school assistantships)
- HURO Doctorates – Joint Complementary Development of Hungarian-Romanian Doctoral Study Programs

Strengthening cross-border communication and cooperation between touristic centres by development of joint programs and marketing

- Supporting common programmes, events, networking.
- Tourism Destination Management development.

Project examples:

- Ister-Granum EGTC, with partners from Hungary and the Slovak Republic. In the framework of EGTC the partners intend to realise joint broadcast and regional bilingual television, joint public transport management system, joint energy agency for using renewable resources, a regional health care system, joint tourist destination management and thematic routes.
- ECOTOUR – Transcarpathian tourism, with partners from Romania and Ukraine. The aim of the project is to establish a common framework for the development of tourism within the three regions characterised by large linguistic and religious diversity.

Related activities and projects based on the Hornád pilot result

Problem/issues: weak cross-border cooperation and low exploitation of tourism, eco-tourism potentials of the area due to the deficiencies of ecotourism infrastructure.

→ *Strengthening the cross-border tourism activities and infrastructure based on the natural and cultural capabilities*

Project example: Developing cross-border tourist infrastructure and services with special focus on ecotourism (good quality accommodation facilities, campsites, information system, small ports, resting sites, thematic and signposted routes). Developing cross-border bike trails, thematic trails in the Hernád/Hornád valley, cross-border rafting on the Hernád/Hornád river.

To protect, enhance and mobilise the existing capacities of local communities with the help of LEADER and other rural development programs

- Initiating small scale (LEADER, etc.) projects in micro regions, involving the local residents to discuss, outline and implement developments for processing farm produce, marketing products, provide for the conditions of rural tourism, etc. on the basis of joint local decision.
- Initiating local movements for nature or heritage protection.
- Community development, network building.
- Distribution of good practices.
- Initiating twin community arrangements.
- Establishing institutional framework for urban – rural cooperation (joint, policy, micro-regional authority of conference).

Project examples:

- *Joint project of the community of Fülek and the rural development activists of Nógrád County*
- *Abaúj – Abaújban: 14 Local and Regional Authorities from Hungary and Slovakia formed the EGTC in order to foster economic and social development in the region. The goal is to support cooperation and development between cross-border territories by strengthening economic and social cohesion.*
- *Karst-Bodva EGTC, with partners from Hungary and the Slovak Republic. Objectives of this EGTC are to support the cooperation and harmonic development with strengthening economic and social cohesion between cross border territories, to allow and assist the cooperation with purpose of strengthening economic and social cohesion between cross border territories.*

Harmonisation in the field of spatial planning

- Vertical and horizontal consultations (between development poles and between different territorial levels of planning documents).
- Exchange of professionals of development agencies and planning institutions.
- Awareness raising.

Project examples:

- *TICAD project.*
- *Elaboration of county development strategies.*
- *NEURON – Integration, coordination and monitoring network of the local development strategies in Maramureş-Zakarpattia-Ivano Frankivsk cross-border regions: the main objective is to set up a common network and a joint monitoring in cross-border area.*
- *Mapping 3D visualisations to support spatial planning.*

Related activities and projects based on the pilot projects' results

Problem/issues: The related occurrence of natural and environmental risks represents one of the major problems of the Someş and Hornad Catchment Area due to the absence of common forecasting, monitoring systems and of a very weak cooperation between regional and national authorities. Creation of common platform is recommended in order to stop and eliminate the spill-over effects as well as better preparation for the problems.

→ *Developing a common database regarding the flood-prone areas*

Project example: Elaboration of an Action Plan forecasting, protection and mitigation of flood effects within the Someş-Tisa Catchment Area. The specific objectives are the elaboration of hazard maps for flash-floods, elaboration of the action plan on the reduction of flash-flood effects, modernization of the warning and monitoring systems during the large amount of water which produces the flooding.

→ *Developing common transnational forecasting and monitoring systems in the flood-prone areas*

Project example:

- FLOOD-WISE – Flood Water Information System for Europe is an European funded project in which water managers from various countries exchange experiences on flood risk management. The objective of the FLOOD-WISE project is to improve cross-border flood risk management in six European river basins: Meuse, Rur, Elbe, Western Bug, Sotla and Someş through the transfer of good practices between river basins on flood risk assessment, maps and management plans.
- ION TISA (International Network TISA) – in process in Maramureş County – the aim of the project is to create a quality monitoring of the Tisa River and its tributaries, a common database, for the main existing pollution sources, purchase a mobile laboratory in order to make the measurements more easier and useful.

Recommendation: Improvement of the water management by creation of transnational partnerships.

Coordinating flood protection actions and implementation of water management plans in the frame of a transnational cooperation

- Building and maintaining common database, monitoring system, common protocols.
- Legal harmonisation.
- Common action plans about the implementation of the Integrated Tisa River Basin Water Management Plan.
- Transnational cooperation in water management.
- Harmonisation water framework directive, flood directive and spatial plans in the Tisa Catchment Area.

Project examples:

- ICPDR-Tisa Group Integrated Tisza River Basin Water Management Plan.
- Raising the management skills (book guides, website, forecasting system) in natural hazard cases within the border areas.
- DESWAT – (Destructive Water Abatement and Control). The project focuses on the elaboration of a strategy related to the optimal investments in the field of water management. The main objective of this project is to establish an integrated decision and informational system to forecast severe hydrological events such as floods, and thereby reduce water emergencies.

Related activities and projects based on pilot projects results

Problem/issues: Inadequate information on water resources in the Hornad valley (amount, quality), inadequate protection of drinking water resources, inconsistent cross-border information transfer, limitations of inter-sectoral cooperation (e.g. with agriculture, environment protection and urban and rural planning).

→ *Strengthening the cross-border cooperation in water management*

Project example: : Improving and exchange of the information base, coordinated planning of water resource protection cross-border exchange and consultation in the planning process, exchange of experience and techniques of monitoring, organisation of joint events to discuss water management issues, initiating cross-border integrated planning actions to enhance cooperation of water management with the relevant sectoral partners

Recommendation: access to national or EU funds, updating water management planning protocols.

Institutional cooperation in the field of environmental risk management

- Building and maintaining common database, monitoring system, common protocols.
- Legal harmonisation.
- Reducing accidental risks to minimum level by technical development, regulation, controlling.

Project examples:

- *Integrated flood prevention forecast system with the adaptation of GIS model.*
- *Creation of some environmental educational structures in cross-border areas in order to prepare the local communities for emergency situations.*
- *DEWIPS – Develop the excess water inundation prevention system on the Hungarian-Romanian border area. The main objective of this project is to increase the safety in areas close to the Mureş River by creating a digital map illustrating the inland water sites, the creation/modernisation of the infrastructure in inland protection lines.*
- *Development of the protection works against flood.*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot project result

Problem: The mining activities, the SEVESO or E PRTR objectives affect all environmental factors (air, water, soil) destroying the ecosystems, as well. For instance, the ecological accident that occurred in Baia Mare in 2000 is one of the most representative cases of industrial pollution.

→ *Enforcing the monitoring system and controlling systems in order to avoid the occurrence of environmental risks*

Project example: Transnational monitoring systems of the environmental radioactivity for all environmental factors and for all industrial objectives

Recommendation: Creation of transnational or cross-border partnerships in order to transfer good practices models related to the ecological reconversion of the sites affected by industrial pollution.

Harmonized development of major route of the trans-European network, lifting the barriers of the cross-border transport connections

- To promote the overall transport connections through obtaining regional, national and EU funding
- To urge the improvement of cross-border connections, establishment of border crossings

Project examples:

- TEN, TEN+ projects (TA recommendations).
- Improvement of the border crossing points between Ukraine and Romania.

Promoting accessibility by creating the connection to the European transport network

- To give priority to the improvement of the accessibility of isolated rural areas and in areas undergoing restructuring in regional, national and EU development policies.

Project examples:

- TEN, TEN+ projects (TA recommendations).

Strengthening the logistic centres and multimodal transportation systems

- To promote inter-modal transport links at traffic junctions with special regard to airports, train stations, motorway crossings.
- Software development.

Project examples:

- TEN, TEN+ projects (TA recommendations).
- TEN, TEN+ projects (TA recommendations).

Related activities and projects based on the Hornad pilot project result

Problem: The main roads are under the pressure of very heavy transit traffic (without producing added value).

→ Take advantage of the opportunity of the transport developments

Project example:

- Realization of the integrated transport system – interconnection of the city of Košice with the border SK/HU,
- Realization of the terminal of combined transport Košice.
- Development of new logistical centres (e. g. Hidasnémeti) along main roads, considering the proposed construction of M30/R4 high speed road.

Recommendation: improvement of the access to the national or EU funds

To urge the qualitative development of transport network

- Improving the quality secondary road system.
- Building new connections in the cross-border areas.
- Developing the transnational and cross-border public transport system including the earlier existing infrastructure elements (railway lines).

Project examples:

- Rehabilitation of the secondary road Baia Sprie (DN18) – Cavnie (DJ184) - Ocna Şugatag (DJ109F) – Călineşti (DJ185) – Bărsana (DJ185).

- *GRANITA MM – cross-border infrastructure development managements. The general objective focuses on raising the accessibility level in the cross-border area by developing the border infrastructure (Maramureş-Zakarpattia-Ivano Frankivsk regions).*
- *Costruction of the road between Ásotthalom and Backi Vinogradi.*
- *Rehabilitation plans for the Tiszasziget–Djula cross-border connecting road.*
- *DKMT railway – Elaboration of pre-feasibility study concerning Timișoara–Szeged line.*

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: Even if, most of the time, transportation network should be as developed as possible in order to ensure good connections both for people and for goods, in case of the ecological corridor the transportation should be as reduced as possible.

→ *Giving priority to non-polluting transportation alternatives*

Project example:

- Rehabilitation of railway networks and increasing the share of electric railways,
- creating bike routes and dedicated lines,
- facilitating the use of non-polluting boats,
- increasing the use of multimodal transport (better connections).

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds, updating space-planning documents towards a more environmental friendly position from the transportation point of view (at least for the territories affecting PIP3 area).

Related activities and projects based on the Hornád pilot result

Problem/issue: : The inadequate frequency and connections of public transport network makes internal and cross-border commuting and employment cumbersome to people living in rural settlements.

→ *Help people to reach workplaces in the border area*

Project example: :

- Make more cross-border public and private transport links,
- Cooperation in the realization of road border crossings and cross-border public transport,
- Establishment of small capacity connecting („feeder”) bus network to the workplaces (e. g. industrial park of Kechnec).

To improve the accessibility of isolated rural areas

- Initiating local actions of road surface improvement, cycle routes, local train / bus / taxi services.
- Initiating local actions for transport improvement in areas in need by mobilising material reserves and self-help capacities.
- Promoting urban – rural transport connections through obtaining regional, national and EU funding and also through local actions of road surface improvement cycle routes.
- Promoting innovative public transport arrangements to facilitate urban – rural transport connections.

Project examples:

- *HURO bus edu – Creating a standard Romanian-Hungarian complementary training syllabus for bus drivers to increase the possibility of employment in the border area.*

- *RURALINFRASTRANS – Improving the road transport infrastructure at the rural level of the cross-border area represented by Nojorid and Nagyrábé commune.*
- *Szeged (Szőreg) – Novi Knezevac bicycle road construction.*

Supporting local actions for the enhancement of territorial identity and integrity

- Creating local traditional/values register (Mountainous area with local centre and Rural farming area with local centre).
- Inventory of traditional land-use patterns and landscape values (Mountainous area with local centre and Rural farming area with local centre).
- Networking among cities with similar built structure/urban fabric in order to increase Central European identity (Area unit dominated by large centre, Area unit with a subsidiary centre).

Project examples:

- *Promotion of the “land”-type regions such as the Land of Maramureş, Land of Oaş, Land of Lăpuş, Land of Chioar, which have a specific heritage and identity (landscape, folk costumes, architecture and traditional customs).*

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: The strip along the Tisa has a special character and similarities can be found between countries; a good state of the heritage values could offer the possibility for thematic tours and for more tourists in the area.

→Rehabilitation and conservation of built and cultural heritage

Project example: Conservation of traditions and local traditional products (handicrafts, etc.); Planning and development of craft centres/workshops and setting up of sale points for handicraft, craft and souvenir products in the neighbourhood of these centres/workshops and also in other settlements in order to have a good marketing of the area;

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds, identification of local opportunities and taking over of the projects from the preliminary studies, preparation of EU-funded projects and their integration in the tourism offers (visit/purchase);

→Improving and monitoring the quality of accommodation

Project example: Harmonizing and informing about the rules regarding spatial parameters for accommodation units (maximum built surface, minimum green area/room area, minimum number of beds& parking places, distances between buildings, etc.)

Recommendation: Setting a joint system for classification of accommodation units.

Promoting joint/cross-border institutional arrangements in cultural and education activities, programs, festivals

- Establishing twinning arrangements, inter-community and cross-border meetings.
- Promoting exchange, mutual invitation and hospitality in the framework of cultural activities.
- Exploiting the potentials offered by the cultural activities for promoting tourism.
- Promoting local festivals.
- Enhance traditional handicrafts.
- Joint activities between schools (sports, culture, knowledge).
- Create and use different tools to improve knowledge transfer (common webpage, events etc.).

Project examples:

- *CBC Parliament – establishment of a common ICT instrument for making forum in border regions of Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine: establishing cross-border interactions in the border areas through a permanent exchange of information.*
- *Study of research and exploitation of the cross-border cultural heritage with partners from Romania, Hungary, Serbia and Ukraine.*
- *Creating interregional and cross-border digital news.*

Expected results and effects

The effects of the enhancement of cooperation and the development of cooperative structures will be first of the unfolding and upswing of activities. Cooperation will give rise to more and greater variety of joint actions in culture, education as well as trade, tourism and even manufacturing. Cooperation will mobilize the capabilities, talents capacities and willingness to act, do, work together and help one another. In the course of cooperation the actors will recognize the benefit of working towards common purposes.

The cooperative efforts will encourage the people to support mutually advantageous infrastructure development projects for the improvement of transport links, passenger and freight transport and communication networks. They will learn to elaborate joint projects for the development of education, RTD as well as tourism, trade, production services.

The synergies of cooperation will be recognized by small and medium enterprises and will encourage them to form clusters and make joint ventures in services, trade, marketing, tourist services. All these will be supported by joint information systems which will facilitate coordination in marketing, employment policies, mutual support and cooperation in risk prevention.

These cooperative structures of all kinds will contribute directly and indirectly to competitiveness, infrastructure development and improvement of economic conditions, prosperity and better social climate.

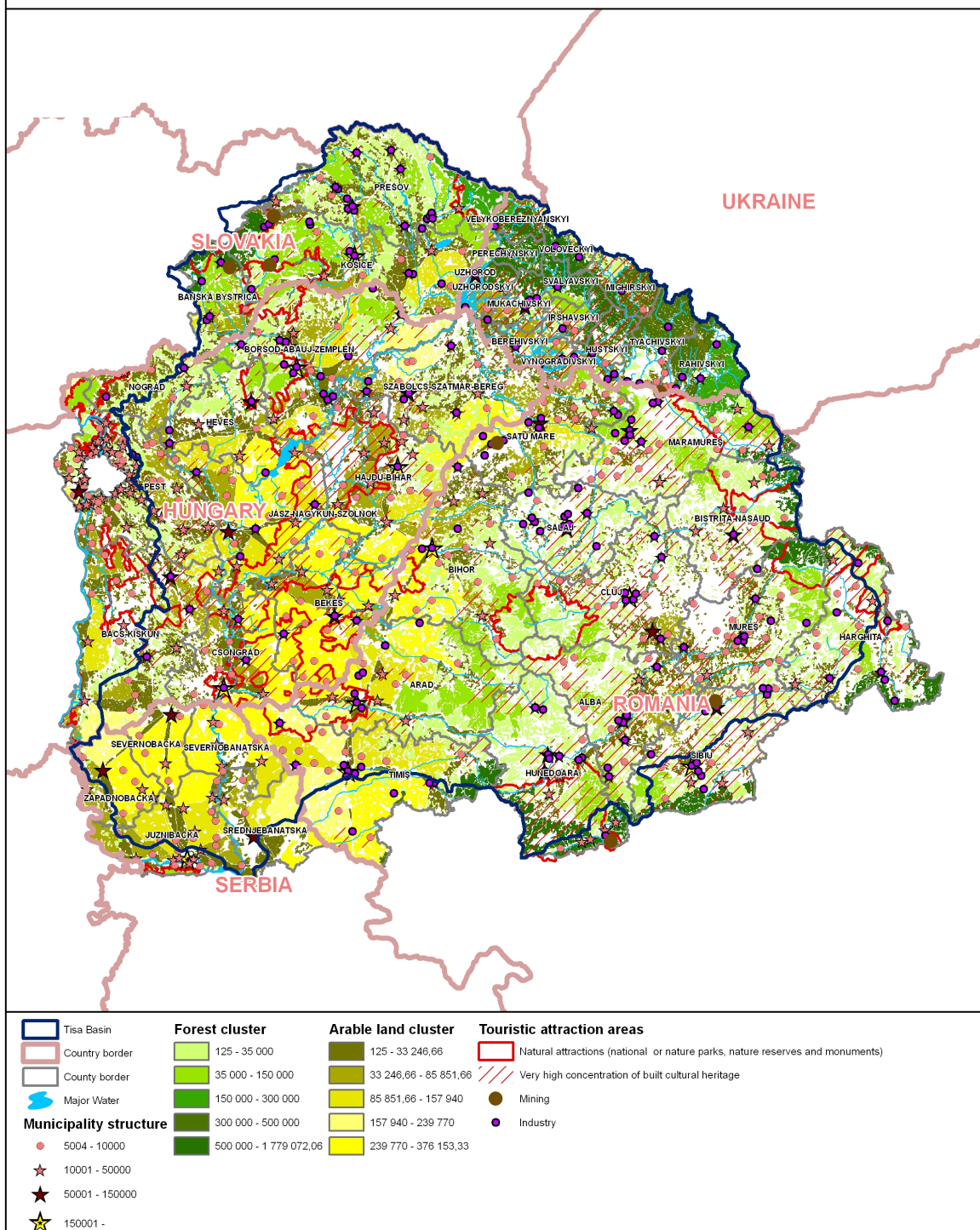
IV.2.2. II. PRIORITY: Promote polycentric and balance territorial development and innovative urban-rural relations

Logic of intervention (overall and specific objectives, content, justification)

One of the main problems of the Tisa Catchment Area development is urban-rural dichotomy. On the one side the rural territories have lost their economic-social diversity and it became vulnerable, declining areas; on the other: the cities, urban settlements have concentrated the main economic functions (labour market, processing industry, services, etc.), have attracted the qualified rural population and have become growing poles of infrastructure, general public service, etc. Social and economic decline of the rural areas may evolve side by side with unsound urban congestion, housing shortage, overcrowded public transport, dysfunctions of urban services and uncontrolled urban sprawl. To be able to save rural areas from depopulation and functional draining, to relieve excessive urban concentration and achieve a balanced territorial development, it is essential **to restore the mutual, equal and innovative urban-rural relationships**.

The diverse soil, landscape and cultural features are the traditional resources which offer excellent potentials for **increasing economic competitiveness and diversification of economic activities** based on local economic. In the current economic structures of the concerned countries profitability of the *agriculture* is low. In order to improve employment relations, increase and maintain profitability and protect the landscape the EU has adopted a CAP reform aiming at the creation of multifunctional agriculture, with in the technological development of farms, processing of farm produce as well as and sectoral – regional integration, cooperation. **Tourism, through its differentiated development** may become an additional source of income for both the population and the government. Therefore it is essential to save natural and cultural endowments and promote the development of tourism, provide the necessary infrastructure and improve services. Cultural heritage and intercultural dialogue are typically inter-related topics.

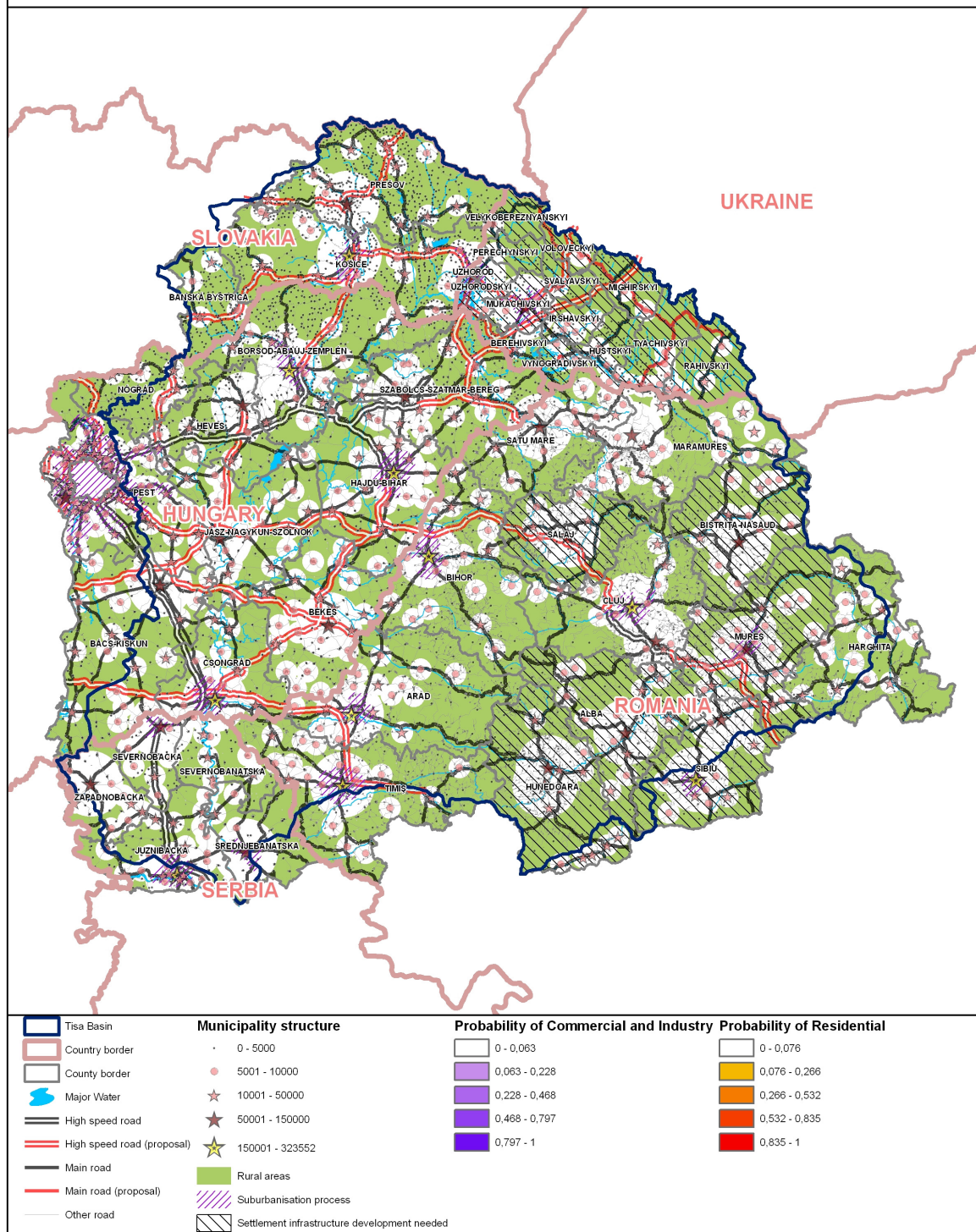
TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
INCREASING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES



Urban-rural differences are great in terms of economic levels too. Even the urban centres have experienced a significant difference as regards the ability to attract the labour market. We can find centres with major concentration of modern industrial technologically and centres still suffering from economic restructuring where the structural imbalance is due to both the internal fragility of the economic companies (level of technology, insufficient level of know-how, unconsolidated markets) and to the horizontal and vertical relations of the economy. So it is essential **to promote R&D&I and their spill out effects** through the mobilization of local innovation capacity and to support knowledge based economic development in the industrial centres and to promote alternative / flexible employment solutions in the rural area while strengthen the employment capacity of the local / rural centres. Although there has been remarkable development in communication, there are inadequacies in comparison with the EU levels. Progress in this field is necessary, and especially important is to ease and strengthen communication links in and with the peripheral communities. Advancement and improvement are urgent needs not only in the development and extension of electronic networks but also in the provision of sound and high quality information and programs with special regard to the fact that for the people living rural areas and urban peripheries the main sources of learning about the world and events are the radio and especially the television programs.

In the Tisa River Basin **the improvement of living conditions** requires effective interventions especially in the rural areas to avoid migration of qualified young people. Generally the service level is underdeveloped mostly due to the low effective demand of the population. Therefore this problem can be solved by means of alternative and mobile services. The poor conditions of public utility services in rural areas can be solved efficiently also by means of alternative, small scale, ecologically sound local solutions.

TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS TO AVOID MIGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE



Measures and project examples

Strengthening the economic attractiveness of the area

- Improving accessibility of the IT/transport/logistics.
- Improving accessibility of business services.
- Attracting investors (tax, industrial sites).

Project examples:

- *Incubator houses and industrial parks.*
- *Recultivating brownfields.*
- *MINI EUROPE (in progress in Maramureş County). The project highlights the cooperation and knowledge exchange between SMEs and knowledge institutes.*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Issue: The business environment and investments are unequally distributed in the Someş Catchment Area. The high values of these aspects are specific to urban areas in connection with the presence of enterprises, universities and financial resources of municipalities.

→ *Supporting creation of excellence centres for new industries*

Project example: Establishment of a Regional Centre of Excellence for creative industries – in progress in Cluj Napoca (Cluj County): development of a supporting business structure on creative industries, establishment of an exhibition centre

Recommendation: Taking into account the potential offered by universities and their research centres, the development of research-innovation partnership between educational establishments and different processors/SMEs will bring benefits for the industrial environment.

Improving marketing and trade network of local farm products

- Promoting the processing of farms products (fruit, vegetables etc.) and supporting their sales at the local markets.
- Developing local brands: To promote the attractive design of the products and the creation of local brands.
- Organizing information events about the revival of local traditional trades and craft.
- Developing distribution chains, local markets.
- Supporting public utilisation of food products and direct marketing.
- Developing common information or database supporting better access for market information.

Project examples:

- *Rural development initiatives.*
- *Wine production initiatives e.g. Heves County, Hungary.*
- *R.E.H.– Establishment of a regional fruit and vegetables food safety network and a common product market.*

Strengthening local food supply chains to the centre cities / Strengthen the sales of local food products at the urban market

- Promoting development of farming and rural services to supply the urban market.
- Developing local food store/chains (infrastructure, marketing).
- Developing urban agriculture.
- Developing agricultural logistic centres.

Project examples:

- *R.E.H.– Establishment of a regional fruit and vegetables food safety network and a common product market.*
- *SZETISA1 – Szeged–Timisoara axis for the safe food and feed.*
- *South Pannon Food Chain Network.*

Related activities and projects based on the Hornád pilot result

Issue: The Hornád/Hernád valley has lost its traditional economic position as the main source of farm products for Kosice and Miskolc („Pantry” of Kosice – Miskolc region). The consequences of this process are: the low rate of competitiveness of local enterprises due to lack of storage and processing capacities, low benefit from agricultural subsidies, low participation in subsidy schemes such as agri-environmental programmes, agricultural land use system does not fit to the agro-ecological conditions (high level of arable cultivation in flood prone and erosion prone areas) and the reduction of livestock.

→ *Promoting locally based, multi-functional, area specific, landscape sensitive and divers agriculture*

Project example:

- Stimulation of farming production and craft development.
- Strengthen the local, area specific marketing of Hornád valley agricultural and tourist products.
- Encourage establishment of agricultural producer organisations and assisting their operation.
- Encourage community-based agriculture, developing local agricultural production (animal husbandry), storage (cooling) and processing capacities.
- Supporting acquisition of skills and knowledge for farmers. Local loans and funds for business support for young people, education support and retraining, make common cross-border projects for rural development

Encouraging the cooperation of farmers supporting the processing and marketing of agricultural produce

- Awareness raising of farmers.
- Developing targeted activity of chamber of agriculture and extension services.
- Promoting the marketing of the local products (websites, participation in fairs, electronic and newspaper advertisements).

Project examples:

- *The Future of Agriculture - Joint Development of Young Farmer Co-operation Around the Border.*

Economic exploitation of forest in a sustainable way (forest management)

- Controlling of sustainability and meeting risk prevention requirements.
- Supporting the technological development of wood processing.

To improve local, multifunctional, area specific, landscape sensitive and divers agriculture

- Supporting the development of agricultural infrastructure, trainings, services.

Project examples:

- *Organic business cooperation in the cross-border area (promoting bio-farming and to strengthening business cooperation and knowledge transfer among organic farmers in the*

Hungarian-Romanian border area in the field of organic farming, co-operation and bioculture).

- *developing of curriculum on the principles and technologies of sustainable agriculture and its education for farmers in Nyírség and Satu Mare regions.*

Improving the quality of agricultural products, local produce and farm-based manufacturing

- Technological development and training.
- Supporting the establishment of local enterprises undertaking the use and processing of traditional resources (bio-products, stone, wood and straw etc.).

Project examples:

- *Creation of processing units for medicinal and aromatic plants.*

Promoting the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources

- To encourage the commitments to the sustainable (environmentally sensitive) use of the mineral and non mineral resources avoiding overuse, abuse and environmental hazards: organize environmental awareness sessions, courses for this purpose.
- Requalification of brownfield sites.
- Using environmental friendly technologies.
- Improving monitoring system.
- Elaborate and enforce the regulation and implementation control.

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: Even if the area is rich in tourism potential, it can not be developed without proper services.

→Developing skills for managing tourism activities

Project example:

- Setting standards for tourism managers and periodical testing; Organising periodical classes for improving language skills;
- Organising periodical workshops and fairs for tourism managers.

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds; harmonization of the legal framework.

→Good promotion of eco-tourism

Project example:

- Setting of transnational tourism associations;
- Elaboration of comprehensive guides (both on paper and web-sites) able to offer information both on local and on general scale;
- Organizing periodical meetings between stakeholders;
- Creating a transnational network of tourist info-points;
- Signposting of tourism trails, resting places, places for regrouping, panoramic sites, etc.;
- Creating web-sites for on-line booking of tourism packages;
- Partnership with tourism agencies, media and other stakeholders for mutual promotion.

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds; harmonization of the legal framework.

Networking and cooperation in the field of tourism services and programmes

- Joint planning and implementation of investments, programmes, events.
- Network of services.
- CBC cooperation in rural/green tourism.
- Development of marketing.
- Involving NGO's in improving the environment conditions.

Project examples:

- *Green tourism by the rehabilitation and approval of the European standards as regards the tourist destinations in Maramureş Region.*
- *Routes and adventures without borders in the DKMT Euroregion.*
- *Joint tourism development in Szabolcs–Szatmár–Bereg and Satu Mare counties built upon historical and natural resources.*
- *Harmonization of tourism development in rural areas of the Carpathian Region (Ivano-Frankivsk and Maramures county).*

Developing the rural, active and health tourism in the mountainous areas

- To promote the development of small hotels, pensions.
- To promote the conversion and expansion of the rural (villages, farmsteads) homes to comprise rooms and facilities (bathroom, showers) for visitors.
- To provide special, home/ local based services, entertainments for visitors (riding, country walks, fairs etc.).
- Development of marketing and networking.
- To create "Carpathia" image, trademark.
- To protect the traditional landscapes, villages and special buildings.
- To build and develop the active tourist attractions such as hiking route, local train-lines, adventure parks etc..
- Dissemination of good practices – exchange programs, study tours.
- To develop the quality assurance systems.

Project examples:

- *Wooden churches tours (Maramureş, Sălaj counties).*
- *Tourist tours along the Roman camps and the Dacian fortresses in the north-western part of Transylvania.*
- *"Ski in Romania" program (Magoşa, Isoarele resorts – Maramureş County).*
- *Maramureş Tourist Information Centre (located in Baia Mare).*

Enhance rural tourism based on the unique local attractions

- To offer programs for visitors like, riding, water sports, country walks, cycling, folklore and local history feasts, gastronomy and provide the appropriate infrastructure for these programs.
- To improve the local environments: cleaning, planting flowers, exhibiting local works of art etc..
- To organize markets of traditional craft products.
- Encourage the sales of traditional craft products at local festivals and to tourists, visitors.
- Development of infrastructure, services, marketing and networking.

Project examples:

- *Green tourism by the rehabilitation and approval of the European standards as regards the tourist destinations in Maramureş Region.*

- *Harmonization of Tourism Development in the Rural Areas of the Carpathian Region.*

Strengthening the touristic cooperation between the cities and the surrounding rural areas

- To promote resort and recreation capacities in the rural hinterland.
- To expand the programs offered, linking programs.
- To organise joint urban-rural events.
- To prepare joint marketing program, actions.

Enhance cultural tourist activities in the historic centres

- Linking the world-heritage sites promotion.
- To coordinate the cultural programs, develop program packages.
- Conservation and develop of built heritage.

Project examples:

- *Modernization of access roads in the historic city centres.*
- *Developing tourist and cultural activities in order to support the application for European Capital of Culture in 2020 (Cluj Napoca, Timișoara).*

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: The strip along the Tisa has a special character and similarities can be found between countries; the assets should benefit of good state of their physical state and of better promoting strategies.

→ *Encouraging the use of non-polluting travelling manners*

Project example:

- Transnational network of bicycle routes with possibility of using rent and drop system; Encouraging navigation using non-polluting crafts; Paragliding, parachute, hot air balloon; Horse riding and chariot routes; Leisure boat routes; Swimming.

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds, identification of local opportunities and taking over of the projects from the preliminary studies, preparation of EU-funded projects and their integration in the tourism offers (visit/purchase).

→ *Offering a wide range of circuits*

Project example:

- Establishing and signalling thematic routes (CULTURAL ROUTE: renaissance, secession, gothic; PILGRIMAGE; The tour of villages having a well-preserved specificity; The tour of wooden churches; The tour of monasteries; The tour of handicraft workshops; Wine route; Plum brandy route; Gastronomy route; Salt road);
- Setting up and development of ecological tourism farms based on local and regional specificities; Development of facilities for the practice of winter sports;
- Organizing thematic trips inside protected areas, for small groups, guided by specialists.

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds, identification of local opportunities and taking over of the projects from the preliminary studies, preparation of EU-funded projects and their integration in the tourism offers (visit/purchase).

Diversification of economy structure by tourism development based on the unique attractions

- To offer programs for visitors like riding, water sports, country walks, cycling, folklore and local history feasts, gastronomy and provide the appropriate infrastructure for these programs.
- To prepare joint marketing program, actions.
- Development of infrastructure, services, and networking.

Project examples:

- *Tourism in the Transcarpathian Region – Tourism promotion network in Maramureş, Zakarpattia and Ivano Frankivsk counties.*
- *Promotion of local tourist products.*
- *Creation of some information and tourist promotion centres.*

Mobilizing local innovation capacity for knowledge based/new technology economic

- Improving the economic relation and information flow between enterprises and innovation centres.
- Supporting SMEs to apply innovations.

Project examples:

- *Cross-border network for innovative development of economies and knowledge transfer.*

Strengthening innovation capacity for the development of manufacturing industries

- Enhancing the marketing of local know-how.
- Providing favourable economic environment to settle R+D activities.

Project examples:

- *HANDICRAFT – Tradition and innovation in handicraft industry.*

Promoting entrepreneurship of young people

- To support innovative experiments.
- To support eco-farming.
- To promote small community organisations, movements.
- Incubator houses.
- Favourable financial packages.
- Information network and regional work centre.

Encouraging alternative employment possibilities

- To establish cooperative urban – rural employment management services.
- Legal background.
- IT development awareness raising among employers.
- To promote telework and other mobile and flexible working methods to mobilize the currently redundant workforce.

Elaborating minimum standards of public utilities and services in rural and peripheral settlements

- To promote eco-friendly sewage treatment in villages.
- To promote the waste recycling (composting and other re-use).
- To support the development of electricity and drinking water systems in areas of ill supply, by using local, renewable resources as much as possible.
- Basic development of education and health services.
- Develop public and local transport.

Improving human and social services including alternative and mobile solutions in rural areas

- To involve the local inhabitants in homecare, mutual help.
- To organize periodical events for cleaning and tidying and embellishing the local environments.
- To develop and support the village caretaker systems.
- To develop electronic information supply to peripheral rural settlements.

Harmonization of agglomeration processes and the development of human services and supply systems

- Enforcing spatial development plans

Related activities and projects based on the Somes pilot result

Problem: The high percentage of people using their own cars affects on the one hand the environment because of the increase of air pollution and on the other hand it makes car travels more difficult. Using public transport represents an alternative which is not well managed yet.

→ *Supporting the local and eco friendly public transport*

Project example

- AD PERSONAM – Direct Marketing Programme for public transport in European medium-sized cities. The main objectives of this project are the reduction of the use of cars for home-to-work travels, increasing the number of citizens' using the public transport for the public transport system.
- Modernization of public transport infrastructure within the built-up areas

Recommendation: In order to reduce time costs, to optimize the time management and to relieve the urban agglomeration, the development of local public transport must be included in each programme and budget of the local municipalities.

Expected results and effects

The natural, traditional local conditions are increasingly appreciated worldwide and the global recognition of this should bring new possibilities for rural development. The growing demand for healthy food will motivate ecological management and stop the deterioration of ecological conditions and also the economic exclusion of people living in rural areas. Based on the varied assets areas can become economically more diversified through their wise use. This procedure needs more investment into the people by means of entrepreneurship of young people, behaviour change, and increase cohesion.

The local added value and growing impact of multiplier effect will contribute to the attractiveness of rural life, to the improvement of the quality of life of the farmers and other people employed in agricultural production and finally: it is an alternative strand of rural economy. In the fierce market competition new comparative advantages need to be introduced, most of which are based on the mobilisation of internal resources.

Through planned interventions the regions will be more capable to produce growing income and number of local enterprises, to modernise their technology and improve competitiveness. It will be possible to broaden cooperation and partnership. With the increase of the GDP of the region growth will take placing and this in turn will contribute to balanced territorial development, to improvement of employment situation and finally to maintenance of population.

Development of tourism will give rise to other economic activities too (local products, trades and crafts, specific services – gastronomy etc.), will have a multiplier effect in the rural areas. In consequence tourist accommodation, trade and catering facilities will get diversified cultural traditions will revive, and there will be conscious and active intentions to maintain and protect the natural and rural heritage.

The improving local economy and labour market will help the young qualified people to find their place in the local society. The rising standard of the living conditions can contribute to overcome the general feeling of exclusion and abandonment.

IV.2.3. III. PRIORITY: Wise management of natural and cultural resources

Logic of intervention (overall and specific objectives, content, justification)

The natural and cultural value-rich environment provides the long term development potential of the Tisa Catchment Area. The socio-economic development of the traditional agricultural area is heavily dependent on the ecological potential, the clean environment and the water resources. „*Regional development can only be sustainable if it respects the environment. EU regional policy therefore contributes to sustainability by promoting environmentally-friendly technologies, and sustainable transport, energy and infrastructure initiatives, as well as measures targeted at the protection of water, air, biodiversity and nature protection.*”⁷ The environment can be the source of economic growth, either by encouraging innovative clean technologies, fostering efficient energy use, building up eco-tourism, or by enhancing the attractiveness of areas through ensuring the protection of natural habitats.

Developing energy resources, maintaining safety

Technical and regulatory tools should be supported in farming, processing and construction to realise sustainable energy consumption. To establish wise environmental management of the material flow, resource management and waste-resource cycle issues have to be reviewed on regional, sub-regional and settlement level.

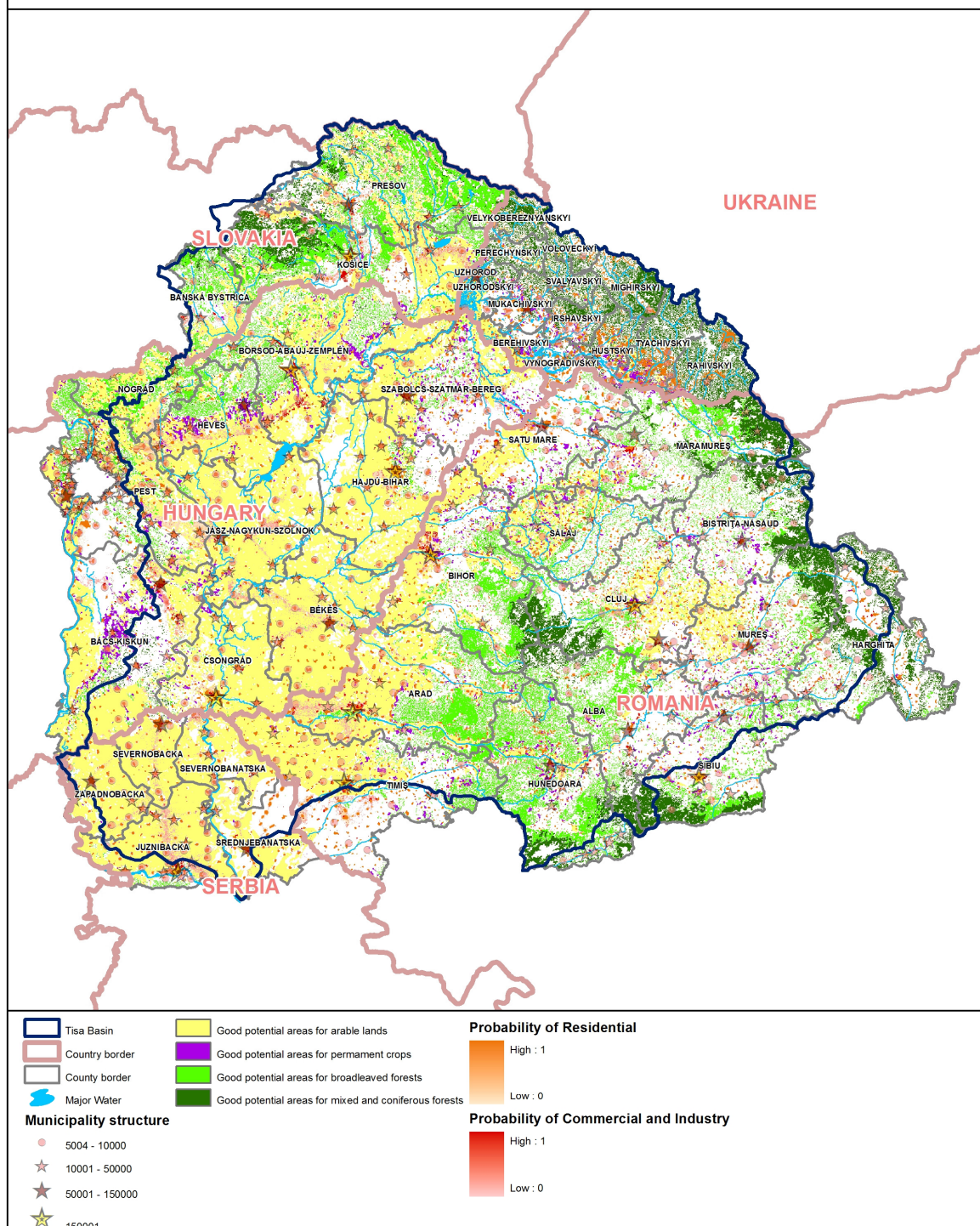
Along River Tisa there are abundant resources of renewable energy. There are opportunities to establish small scale local power generation systems for their use. Thereby the economic potential of the region would grow without irreversible interventions into the ecological capacities. The use of solar, wind, geothermic and biomass energy resources would restrict environmental pollution and facilitate regional independence in energy management. To ensure the long-term sustainability of energy and material resource management and the reduction of environmental and landscape damages it is essential to set rules and standards for the size and location of power plants using renewable energy sources. Assessments are needed of the hydrological impacts in the case of hydro energy systems, of the area size demands and the decrease of cropland of solar energy plants, the effects on the landscape and nature conservation of the wind turbines and wind farms. Biomass energy plants may depend on end or by products of agriculture or waste recycling.

Promote land use which is suitable the landscape characteristic

For regional stability it is indispensable to ensure the use of landscape in harmony with the fundamental natural systems. In consequence of the overwhelming use of landscape without regard of the natural systems the functioning of the natural system of the Tisa Basin has been upset, the sub-systems have suffered serious damages: water management is showing deficit, the climate and water fluctuation show more and more extreme symptoms, the ecological capacities are becoming exhausted. The social impacts of these processes are increasing water and natural hazards and while earlier had been prosperous, today it is hardly sufficient for subsistence. For the restoration of the compliance of land use to landscape characteristics it is needed to improve the environmental awareness of the farmers and to promote and propagate subsidy to land stewardship. An obstacle of productive and sustainable farming is the prevailing chaotic land tenure evolved without the regard to farming features and potentials. Furthermore the quality of landscape and the ecological conditions are at risks because of the growth of built up areas and of the fragmenting effects of infrastructure networks. In order to ensure liveable and sound environments it is necessary to undertake periodical revision of the spatial and development plans both at local and regional level and to promote the protective element of land use regulation.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/themes/environment/index_en.htm

TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
TO PROMOTE LAND USE WHICH IS SUITABLE TO THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTIC



Adaptive integrated water management

For the protection of strategic water resource the threefold tasks include the improvement of water quality through the reduction of pollution and hazards; promotion of sustainable use of water; and the improvement of the ecological conditions of the waters.⁸ The tasks of integrated water management are the following: to issue legal, technical and financial regulation to promote the sustainable use of waters; to attain the reduction of pollution and to maintain and protect the water based habitats.

Reducing environmental damage

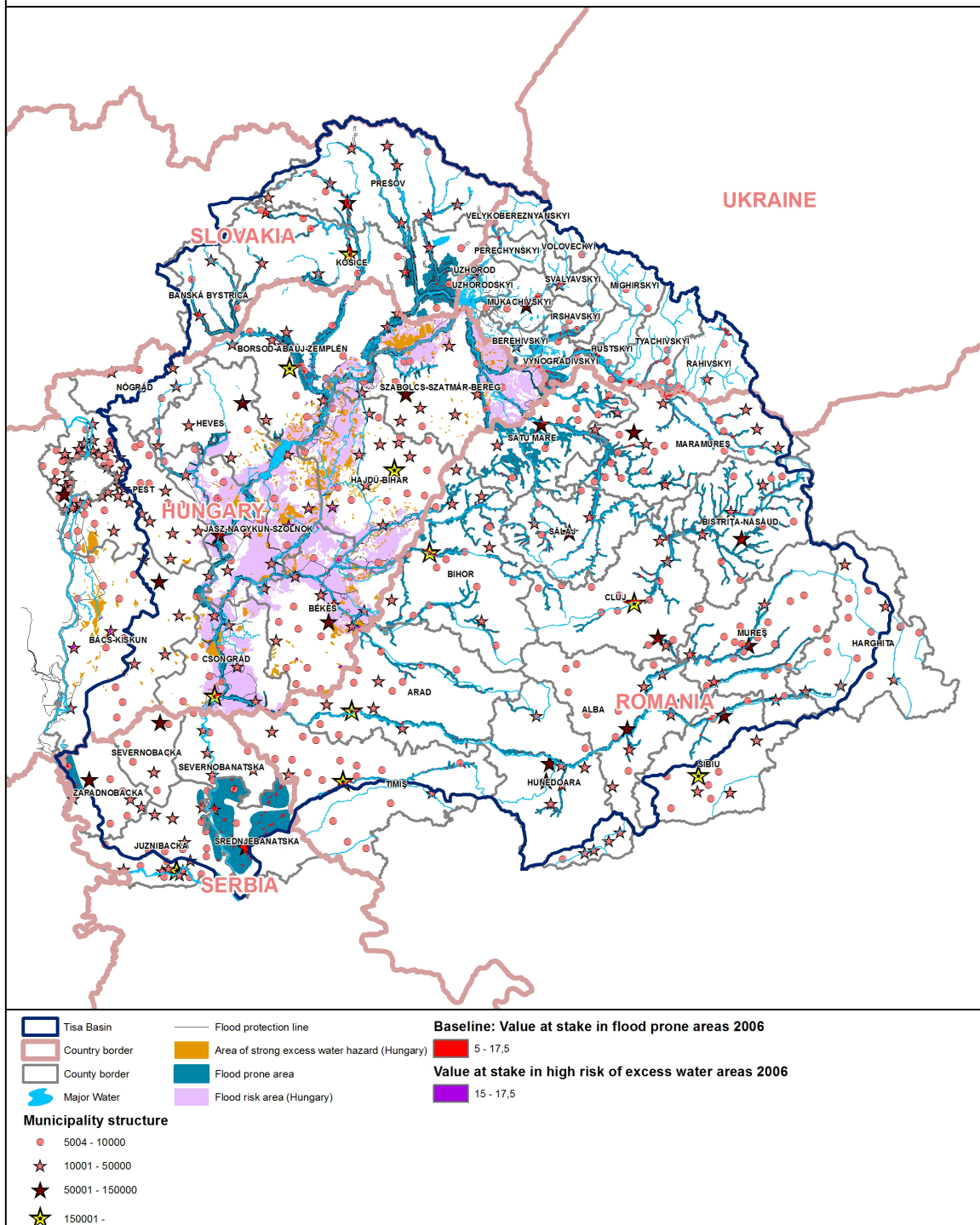
The sound development of society and economy demands harmoniously functioning, unpolluted natural environment. The development rate of the Tisa Space is thus influenced by the quality of environmental management and environmental infrastructure. For the mitigation of pollution it is an urgent task to reduce the volume of solid waste and sewage and to make progress in waste management and recycling. For this purpose it is necessary to enhance the environmental awareness of the people and to develop appropriate waste management systems. There is a great need for modern waste recycling and disposal infrastructure as well as dumpsites. The rates of water supply and sewage disposal systems must be levelled up and sewage treatment plants must be established. For the reduction pollution steps are to be taken to promote the recycling of agricultural waste, to control the use of chemicals and enforce the related regulations. Industrial waste can be reduced by means of technological development, intensive regulation and penalty. Major sources of air pollution are heating and transport. The improvement of energy conservation of the buildings is therefore an important issue. For the reduction of the pollution of transport it is essential to promote public transport and alternative transport means as well as the effective transport management schemes. The long-term solution of this problem is the reduction of the needs for transfer, shorter distances between residence and workplaces as well as goods and markets. This must be an objective of regional development programmes.

Limitation of impact of natural disaster by preventive measures

The human interventions into the environmental systems such as the regulation of rivers and the growth of built-up areas have increased more and more the exposure of large areas to environmental hazards. The models of climate change indicate that the environmental risks – likelihood of floods, landslides, draught and excess groundwater – are becoming more frequent and intensive. The means of protection from environmental risks is the control of land use first of all. The spatial plans and their regulations facilitate the control of development, the restriction of development in low-lying, flood-prone and erosion-prone areas. Thereby the intensity of future environmental damages can be reduced. It is also the task of land-use control to identify and delimit ecological buffer zones, that is, low-lying flood-prone areas, which can absorb overflowing water and facilitate water retention. Another important means of flood control is the further development of abatement technology, dykes and forewarning systems.

⁸ according to WFD

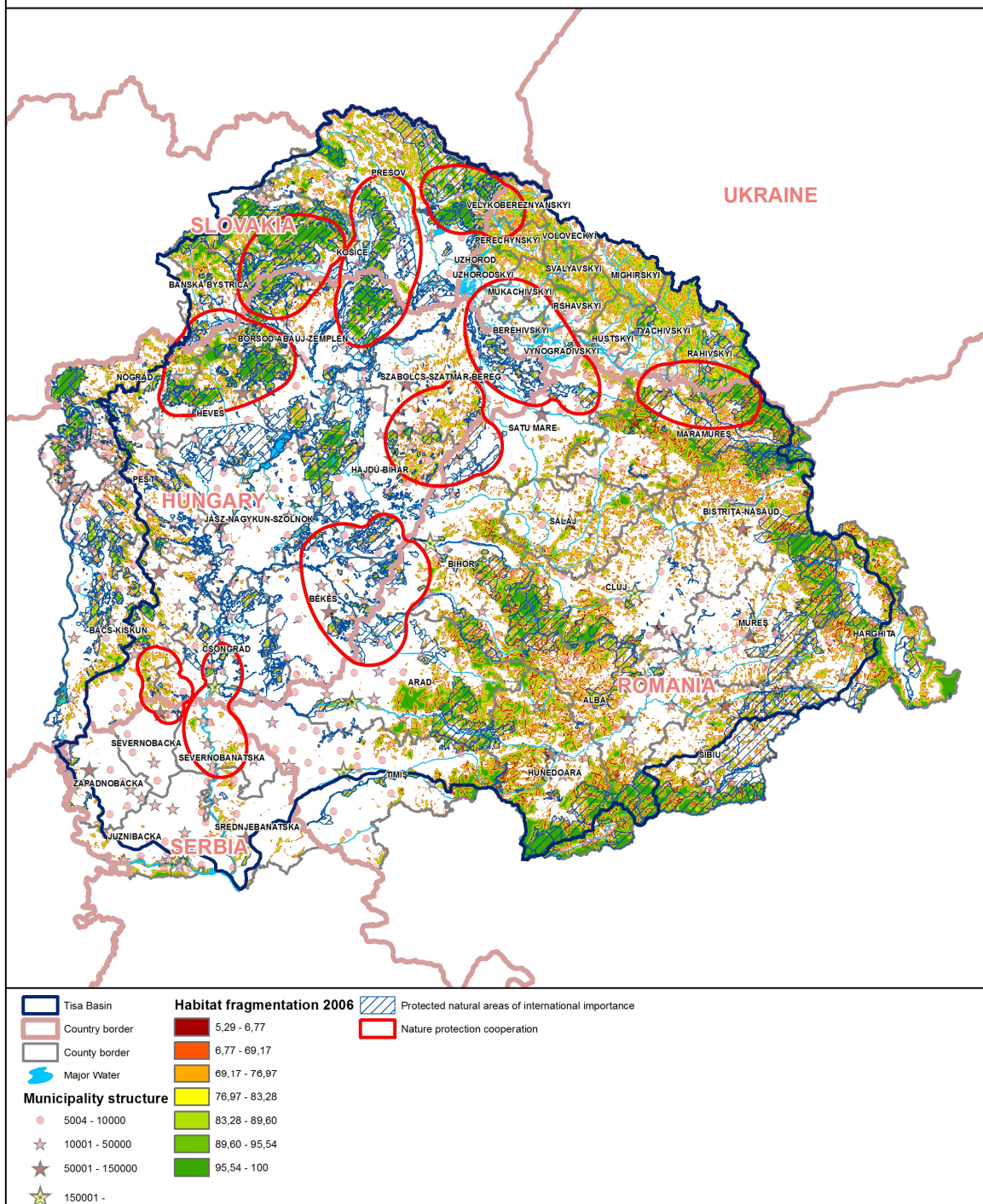
TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
LIMITATION OR IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTER BY PREVENTIVE MEASURES



Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural and cultural heritage

The greatest resource of the Tisa Catchment Area is the outstanding natural and cultural heritage. For the protection of these assets it is necessary to consolidate and strengthen the institutional system of nature conservation, to prevent the shrinkage and vanishing of natural and semi-natural areas. Nature conservation becomes more effective if the environmental awareness of local population improves, if the residents and the visitors become aware of the natural assets. For the protection of cultural heritage it is also necessary to consolidate and strengthen the institutional system, to promote the organisation of traditional cultural events, promote diversity, harmonize the events and enhance their role in the protection of local cultural traditions.

TICAD
TARGET AREA OF SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:
ENHANCING AND PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



Measures and project examples

Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by taking into account the hydrological effects

- Setting up small hydroelectric power stations (Satu Mare, Vișeu, Iza, Almaș, upper Mureș) protection against floods, water supply, energy production.
- Harmonization of the hydropower use in the basin (policy recommendation).

Promoting technologies of low energy consumption in farming and processing

- To promote the use of local material and self-sufficient supply (energy, farm products) in the local/ regional context to reduce the need for long distance transportation.

Supporting the technical and regulatory tools of reduction of the energy consumption

Project examples:

- *Saving energy – Saving future (Ivano Frankivsk and Maramures county).*

Transnational interconnection of the energy system network (policy recommendation)

Promoting development of local and small scale renewable energy production

- To support the use of wind and solar and other renewable energy resources for self sufficient energy supply.
- Program for self-contain energy supply in villages with the use of renewable alternative energy sources (including waste).
- Workshops for local government employees (especially in spatial development) on the use of renewable energy.
- To develop solar energy plants (e.g. Csongrád County, Hungary).
- Proposal standards of low power renewable energy plants (solar, wind, hydropower).
- Information and training of the use of renewable energy.
- To promote solar energy for home use by training adults on benefits of renewable energy.
- Use forest waste for energy production.
- For the promotion of the wind energy use mapping of wind energy and regulation of the sitting of wind plants.
- Efficient and integrated capitalization of thermal waters and geothermal energy.

Project examples:

- *Use of the renewable energy resources through the transfer of good practices on energy policies (in progress in Maramureș County).*
- *MEIT Program – Energy without borders (Hungarian and Romanian enterprise development programme supporting the using and spread of renewable energy and innovation technology.).*
- *ITIAGBHB – The identification of innovative technologies for the utilisation of geothermal water in the Bihor–Hajdú-Bihar euroregion.*

Promoting diversity and ecological adaptability/suitability in agricultural land use

- Revitalization of the traditional orchards and vineyards according to ecological features.
- Reorientation towards ecological farming on the main agricultural areas: river corridors, plain, peri-urban areas.
- Change of the agricultural macrostructure to promote diversification and water retention.

Controlling urban development (land regulation, improvement of spatial planning, strengthen the protection of natural areas, contain the uncontrolled urban growth)

- Implementation and five yearly revision the urban and spatial plans.

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Issue: Already a general extended phenomenon, urban sprawl characterises all urban and preurban spaces. The Someş Catchment Area is not an exception to the rule due to the quick development of residential areas and to the weak control of the building permits.

→ *Correlation of spatial planning with the land regulation*

Project example: Utilisation of the GIS system for the creation of a common database or Cadastral Framework where all information about the land use and land regulation are included.

→ *Enforcement of the spatial planning documentations*

Recommendation: Identifying measures to stop and control urban sprawl in urban areas should be one of the main targets of the Someş Catchment Area development.

Supporting environmentally aware farming

- Awareness raising of environment friendly farming (by distribution of flyers to farmers at fairs and at local authority).
- Facilitating of environmental farming.
- Harmonization of support system and spatial plans: regulation by learning from good practices.

Project examples:

- *Trainings for the labour force organised between associations of farmers and different SMEs activating in agricultural branches.*

Introducing land regulation measures such as land consolidation, land use and spatial planning, land use change support system

- Policy for land consolidation with consideration of land utilization and with regard good practices.
- Information and explanation of the importance of land use regulation for avoiding natural and technological hazards (flood prone areas, landslides etc.).

To introduce the legal, technical and financial regulation to promote the rational exploitation and use of natural water resources

- To issue strict legal land regulation to protect the water resources.
- Elimination of the pollution of water resources.

Project examples:

- *Expanding and upgrading water and wastewater infrastructure (project in progress in Bistrița Năsăud County).*

Extending the ecological network along the surface waters

- Revitalisation of oxbows.
- Expansion of protected area.
- Supporting land use change towards enlargement of semi-natural areas.

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem: Either we refer to the agricultural pollutants or to the ones resulted from industrial activities, their discharge without respecting the water quality reglementations affects the quality of underground water bodies.

→ *Elimination of water pollution and monitoring the underground water bodies quality*

Project example:

- Integrating Nutrient Pollution Control project (in the settlements located in areas vulnerable to nitrate pollution). The overall objective is to reduce on long term the discharge of nutrients into water bodies, into the Danube River and the Black Sea through integrated land and water management.
- Harmonized Plan for forecasting and elimination of accidental pollution (for all areas affected by industrial pollution)
- Extension and rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructure (in progress in Maramureş, Cluj, Sălaj counties): water supply, rehabilitation of the treatment plants, rehabilitation of water adduction systems, new chlorination stations, rehabilitation of the pumping stations, extension of sewerage network, extension of main collectors and overflows, rehabilitation of waste water treatment plants.

Recommendation: In order to ensure the rational use of water resources for the next generations, we need to pay more attention to the use of natural water resources, the elimination of pollutants, and to develop different procedures for wastewater maintenance and underground water bodies quality.

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: Human activity generates overload upon the ecosystems; it cannot be removed, but at least more carefully managed.

→ *Better supervision of interventions into the habitats*

Project example:

- Prohibition of marketing of protected & rare animals;
- Common transnational legislation regarding the protected species, especially the protected fish where Tisa is border between countries.

Recommendation: setting common protocols, harmonizing the regulation regarding natural protected areas; access of the national or EU funds.

→ *Promoting innovative land issues*

Project example: Aquaculture farms (fish, frogs, water flowers)

Recommendation: harmonizing the regulation regarding natural protected areas; access of the national or EU funds.

Improving the environmental performance of farms to decrease the diffuse pollution from agricultural area

- Increasing the reuse of agricultural waste by creating a collection system of agricultural waste, composting plans.
- Implementation of waste water management programs in farming.
- Enhancing the reduced use of chemicals.

Decreasing the urban and industrial pollutions

- Protection of agricultural lands along the roads by creating green buffer belts.
- Development of water and waste water systems at local and regional level.
- Strengthening recycling industry.
- Public information about waste management.
- Public transport development.
- Widening cycle road network.
- Waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change.
- Decrease the emission by using new technologies.

Project examples:

- *Szeged(Szőreg)–Novi Knezevac bicycle road construction.*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem/issue: The low implementation of the Landfill Directive because of the high share of land filling in waste management, lack of separate collection systems and treatment facilities, high percentage of biodegradable waste, weak coverage with public collection systems in rural areas, very few collection locations for household waste, illegal dumping of waste.

→ *Promoting integrated system for collection-recycling-transport distribution of waste*

Project/activity example:

- Integrated management of the solid waste (in Cluj County): creation of integrated waste management facilities or even a waste centre including waste sorting plant, storage area and three waste transfer stations
- Closure of old, non compliant landfills
- Elaboration of handbooks and practical guides on the selective waste collection and their distribution to local communities by involving the NGOs and a high number of volunteers
- Monitoring the closure and post closure of landfills
- Establishment of the take back systems (for batteries, etc.)

Recommendation: In order to avoid and mitigate the air, water and soil pollution, it is strongly recommended that all responsible stakeholders should compete to respect the EU legislation on waste management, to harmonize the national and regional plans on waste and landfills and to urge the creation of some transnational systems for collection transport re-use of waste. Local communities must be also included in this process in order to ensure a better implementation of the waste management.

Introducing measures for the reclamation of derelict polluted brown fields (dump sites, industries sites)

- Development of industrial tourism in brown fields (Hunedoara, Banat).
- Development of entertainment and commercial areas on derelict industrial land.
- Recultivation of mine sites and brownfield requalification.

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: Human activity generates overload upon the ecosystems; it cannot be removed, but at least more carefully managed.

→ *Appropriate balance between water supply and sewage systems*

Project example: Extension / rehabilitation of water supply and sewage networks; Installation of treatment plants either individual (for low density areas) or common (for high density areas); Implementation and putting into service of water pre-treatment facilities resulting from hospitals.

Recommendation: setting common protocols; access of the national and EU funds.

→ *Waste disposal only in authorized ecological landfills*

Project example: Closing and recultivating of non-compliant landfills; Reclaiming the areas where waste was deposited illegally.

Recommendation: Review and enforcement of regulations related to pollution; access of the national and EU funds.

Mobilizing the available labour force for environmental improvement

- To promote public work in recultivation of industrial and mine sites.

Strengthening the legal environment, extension of regulatory powers, improvement the effectiveness of control

Strengthening environmental awareness of the population, to promote environmental education at all levels (NGO as well)

- Environmental education of young people at workshops and summer schools.
- Development of Tisa River identity by means of school programs for responsible future generation.

Project examples:

- *Management measures to increase awareness on the Rodna Mountains National Park.*
- *Trainings for and with the local community for a better management of emergency situations (project in progress in Maramureş County, Romania).*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem/issue: Even if the Someş Catchment Area deals with the occurrence of many natural risks (landslides, floods, flash floods and deforestations), people or the responsible authorities and institutions do not have an appropriate behaviour related to environment preservation. The low awareness of the local communities is amplified by the underdeveloped flood migration programmes.

→ *Raising the local communities awareness regarding the importance of biodiversity preservation*

→ *Improvement and mitigation of flood effects*

Project/activity: Trainings with local communities on the content of emergency plans and the behaviour to be adopted before, during and after the occurrence of floods

Recommendation: addressed to all national, regional stakeholders and local communities to develop and/or get involved into programmes and trainings on ecological awareness. The contents of emergency plans should be also strengthened at EU and national level.

Introduction and application of restrictions regarding land use to prevent landslides

- To control the expansion of built up area.
- Reforestation in the erosion risk areas.

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor result

Problem/issue: The number and impacts of disasters have increased in Europe in the last 10 years; as reasons for the increase in losses can be the higher levels of human activity and accumulation of economic assets in hazard-prone areas.

→ *Appropriate management of areas with unstable soil (in order to minimize the risk of flooding, landslides, soil erosion or slope erosion)*

Project example:

- Planting in areas with risk of flooding, landslides, soil erosion or slope erosion; Eliminating or reducing ploughing along the slope; Increasing the shares of forests (to the detriment of arable lands) in hill or mountain areas;
- More frequent and complex inspections in forest areas (if waste disposal exists, if trees are illegally cut);
- Strict regulation regarding the forest management (ex: during dry periods, preventing fire with fire);
- Making a better difference between economic (production) and welfare (qualitative aspect) forests and increasing the share of welfare forests.

Recommendation: Prohibition and enforcement of regulations related to deforestation; access of the national and EU funds.

Promoting land use change at territory endangered by inundation water

- Rehabilitation of the old water regulation systems in the areas with excess water.
- Supporting land use change.

Strengthening water retention capacity, significant reduction of flood risk and potential impacts of climate change by means of afforestation

- Reforestation for flood protection.
- Mitigation of runoff conditions by taking into account the hydrological effects on the lower river section.
- Building water reservoirs.

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor pilot result

Problem/issue: The number and impacts of disasters have increased in Europe in the last 10 years; as reasons for the increase in losses can be the higher levels of human activity and accumulation of economic assets in hazard-prone areas.

→ *Reaching an appropriate land use and maintaining it especially in the flood prone areas*

Project example: Widening the flood plain; Land use change between the dykes; Flood retention reservoirs on the flood protected areas; River bed reservoirs.

Recommendation: harmonization of the regional, national spatial plans and creation of joint cross-border action plans on flood management.

Supporting wetland and floodplain restoration

- Rehabilitation of wetlands.
- Land use change on the flood prone area.
- Increasing water retention capacity by land use change.
- Building reservoirs.

Project examples:

- VTT in Hungary.
- FENNREHAB – Sustainable rehabilitation programme for saline habitats and wetlands on protected territories through naturalization.
- Lakes and parklands along the border, revitalization of Szamos/Somes oxbows.

Harmonization of flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone area

- Controlling the expansion of built up area.
- Creating the flood risk maps and elaborating the legal background of flood risk prevention measures.

Project examples:

- Implementation of the appropriate infrastructure against floods in the Criş Catchment Area (Leşu Reservoir, the reservoirs on the Tărcăiţa and Şoimuş Valleys, Briheni Valley, Tinca, Tărcăia, Uileacu de Beiuş, Tăut areas, the reservoirs on the Gepiş, Izvor, Nimăieşti, Crăiasa, Dobricioneşti, Cuzop, Petrineli, Adona, Bistra and Crişul Mic Valleys).

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem: The weak cross-border cooperation between different institutions which activate on water and flood events managements is translated into the lack of forecasting and monitoring systems along the Someş River, where the main flood-prone areas are located, weak investments in protection works against floods and low accession of EU funds.

→Correlation of territorial planning and infrastructure projects

Project example: Implementing “no regret” measures realization of different embankment works along the Someş River

Recommendation: Accession of national or EU funds in order to implement different works against flood events in the flood-prone areas.

→Identification of degraded lands that may have other use

Project example: LUMASEC – Land Use Management for Sustainable European Cities. The main objective is focused on the elaboration and development of local action plans, establishing examples of land use management systems.

Recommendation: Harmonization of the regional, national spatial plans and elaboration of several joint cross-border action plans on flood management.

Strengthening the technical flood protection and control, strengthen the cross-border cooperation in flood forecasting

- Establishing low power water plants for flood protection.

- Transnational cooperation in setting up an operation of hydrology, calculation, remote sensing to monitor flood waves on rivers in order to take measures for construction of them in the upper sections.

Project examples:

- *Elaboration of forecasting, monitoring plans and mitigation of flood effects.*
- *Strengthening environmental partnerships in Maramureş-Zakarpattia-Ivanovo Frankivsk border areas by promoting different ecological campaigns and actions.*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem: One of the major problems of the Someş Catchment Area is related to the lack of the cross-border forecasting and monitoring systems, which is reflected in a very low management of the possible emergency situations. In addition, the lack of spatial planning regulations on water and waste management and the weak participation of the responsible institutions or authorities may affect the natural and environmental risk management.

→ *The monitoring of pollutants in waste waters discharged by users*

Project example: Harmonized plan for forecasting and elimination of accidental pollution (for all areas affected by industrial pollution)

Recommendation: Raising the stakeholders' awareness by enforcing the spatial planning regulations at different levels

→ *Assessing the impact of the hydropower plants for the achievement of a minimum impact on the ecosystems*

Project example: Management Plan for Tarnița Gilău Catchment Area (Cluj County): elaboration of a pollution forecasting and management, including the identification, the monitoring and the reduction of pollutant sources, promotion of an appropriate legislation, awareness raising, setting up of a functional system for results dissemination.

Recommendation: Raising the stakeholders' awareness by enforcing the spatial planning regulations at different levels and by developing transnational partnership for setting up the forecasting, monitoring and management systems along the Someş River.

Improvement and implementation of national climate strategies (financial and regulation background)

- Clarification of territorial regulations for spatial planning to adapt to climate change.

Project examples:

- *CLIMACT- promoting regions for environmental protection.*
- *ECLISE – Enabling Climate Information Services for Europe. Climate experts have strated to generate and provide information on future climate projections, efforts organized at national level. The main objective of ECLISE is to create a European Climate Service.*

Widening nature management activities

- Developing research centres and facilities for environmental education for public.
- Supporting ENGOS.

Project examples:

- *Management measures to increase the tourist awareness on the Rodna Mountains National Park.*
- *Sustainable management of the protected natural areas.*
- *Cross-border actions for nature protection.*

Sustaining natural and semi-natural areas, forests

- *Dividing larger arable lands by ecological corridors and forest stripes for connecting the surviving habitats.*

Project examples:

- *Assessment studies on biodiversity preservation for all natural protected areas.*

To control development actions for protecting the forests and other precious natural sites, strengthening nature protection activities

Project examples:

- *Management of the Rodna Mountain National Park and Natura 2000 sites in order to preserve their biodiversity.*
- *Cross-border cooperation within the Szatmár-Bereg Naturpark.*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem: Attracted by the financial gains, many persons and even local groups/economic agents have regarded the deforestation process as a perfect way to become ever more powerful, despite the local, national or European regulations related to environment protection. The presence of legal regulations for protecting forests does not present a guarantee to stop deforestation. It is compulsory to involve all forest administrations and develop common monitoring and controlling systems, besides the promotion of afforestation works.

→ *Strengthen the regulations and actions for protecting forests and improve the deforestation control*

Project example:

- Enforcement of strict regulations in order to stop the illegal wood cutting
- Monitoring system for forest management
- Creation of partnerships between forest authorities and policy in order to ensure an effective forest monitoring

Recommendation: to stop illegal deforestation and try to use all possible technical, financial or legal measures in order to maintain the forests ecosystems as long as possible.

Enhancing restoration and management of the cultural monuments

- *Protection of cultural heritage by means of regulation.*
- *Protection of the traditional and folklore of the region.*

Project examples:

- *HUROMUZEUM (common activities based on the restoration of the mobile cultural properties in Hajdú-Bihar-Bihar region, by creating new laboratories of restoration.).*
- *ECVESTRO – „Equestrian traditions without borders in Satu Mare”.*
- *Cradle of the folkloric culture (Elek- Santana- Graniceri).*

- *Our traditions – Learning and keeping our traditions near the border.*

Expected results and effects

The increasing use of renewable energy sources will mobilize the internal, endogenous resources of the region, will enhance energy security, will contribute to regional prosperity and will reduce dependence on external support. The development of local material and energy cycles (raw material – product – waste – energy – product) will contribute to economic sustainability and to the decrease of environmental pollution.

The interrelated implementation of nature compliant land use, integrated water basin management as well as flood abatement will involve the reduction of environmental risks, facilitate for the long-term the protection and supply of healthy water supply in appropriate quantity, and ensure the balance functioning of the landscape. The reduction of environmental pollution will result healthy environment.

The protection of natural and cultural heritage will contribute to the long-term supply of resources for local economic development, to the preservation of local identities and healthy living conditions. By means of the sustainable management of natural resources the natural environment and the favourable climatic conditions can be maintained, the local farming can be provided with soil and water of appropriate quality and quantity, the harmful impacts of environmental hazards can be reduced. The growth of economic productivity and security will be beneficial for social as well as rural development.

IV.2.4. IV. PRIORITY: Investment into people

Logic of intervention (overall and specific objectives, content, justification)

The development of human sources requires effective interventions especially in the rural areas in the Tisa River Basin. The outdated management skills of the agricultural population, the low educational level and lack in qualification of unemployment people, the training discrepancy and the outmigration of qualified people are all problems to be solved. To reduce economic vulnerability and social exclusion characterised this rural areas it is essential to support **investment into the people**.

In many settlements the proportion of the inactive population is high, the age structure can be described as ageing and the proportion of the Roma population is on the increase which imposes a major social burden on local governments. Therefore the strategy should **support actions for specific demographic groups** which promote further cultural and civil society cooperation and serve for development of local communities, strengthening identity and competitive skills to help formulating local economy.

In the mean time, in addition to improving living conditions and local economy (II. priority), should be emphasised **to keep young generation in the rural areas**. Projects oriented cooperation should act as a catalyst for exchange and close collaboration between such troubled areas and model solutions can help for extension of experiences.

Measures and project examples

Promoting model solutions of social integration and development for the deprived social groups

- Creating and applying new educational approach to adjust to the mentality of the young generation to specific societal groups.
- Presenting success stories about people rising from social deprivation in order to overcome prejudices (workshops, summer schools, articles, TV shows).
- Implementing special continuous convergence programmes for Roma children and youth to facilitate integration.
- Promoting the special talents of young Roma people (music painting, handcraft) and involve them in local activities.
- Training of Roma people in teaching, nursing, social works, police.
- Teaching people of special needs in crafts and arts for social integration.

Project examples:

- *Supporting transnational and interregional networks of after school programmes, for children and teenagers in order to prevent school dropout (in progress in the Romanian Nord West Region).*
- *Development of trainer network for promoting the social inclusion of the Roma population.*
- *Rehabilitation and modernization of several day centres aiming at the integration of Roma children and homeless persons into society (in progress in Cluj Napoca).*
- *Prison Fellowship Romania: modernization of the social infrastructure, specific and permanent facilities for the reintegration of the homeless people and for the reducing the phenomena of vagrancy, begging, recidivism, prostitution and school abandonment associated with it (Cluj-Napoca).*

Developing local social policies and network of civil initiatives to assist and care

- To involve the local inhabitants in homecare, mutual help.
- To encourage shared service (family kindergarten).
- To promote the social activity of the NGO's.
- To support and extend the village and farmstead caretaker systems.

Project examples:

- *Prison Fellowship Romania: the Angels' Network programme encourages the community members to do volunteer work for supporting the children having their parents in prison.*

Consistent involvement of inactive and aging people in public activities (social care)

- To organise summer schools in villages where the old people talk about their activities, practise and experience to young people visiting the village on holidays.
- To promote 'care in the community' schemes strengthening inter-generation links and integration of special needs people.
- To encourage the revival of the practice of traditional trades and crafts, training involving elderly and other proficient people.
- To take advantage of the latent resource of the inactive and aging people in tidying and embellishment of the local environment.
- "Granny network" taking care of children and teenagers.
- To encourage the compilation of oral histories - Collection of living memories.

Project examples:

- *Creation of a multifunctional health centre which offers services for elderly people*

Related activities and projects based on the Someş pilot result

Problem: The presence of university centres (Cluj Napoca, Baia Mare) in the Someş Catchment Area and the high quality formation of the students represent an essential baseline for the local economy, yet insufficient. Affected by the economic crisis, this region can solve its problems, at least the ones regarding the potential labour force, starting with a permanent exchange and transfer of competences from one person to another, from employers to employees, from public institutions to local communities.

→ *Encouraging the start up businesses and SMEs by the improvement of the labour force skills*

Project example: ASVILOC PLUS/ Agencies supporting the value of innovation systems in local and regional economies (North West Region). The project aims to increase the level of competences, skills and trainings of the personnel working for development agencies on innovation, to improve management through transnational planning and specific assessment of innovation services mainly addressed to and tested on SME's and to increase the institutional capacity at the local and regional level concerning policy implementation and programmes supporting innovation.

Recommendation: Even if we refer to all occupied labour force or to smaller communities (young people, graduated students in search for their first job, entrepreneurs, deprived social groups) it is very important to increase their competence and skills. By development programmes, trainings, information exchanges, each person should be involved in the community actions and connected to the economic environment.

Promoting acquisition of skills

- Support of young skilled workers with scholarship to participate in exchange programs.
- Training centres for young Roma people to learn old traditional crafts (to revitalized old crafts).
- To teach and support the young people to start businesses.
- To support the access of young rural people to higher education (hostels, mentoring).
- Skills training of rural poor to enable self supporting farming.

- Training and involvement of young people in local tourism information in villages (guides, cultural maps).

Project examples:

- *NEXT GENERATION RoUa project: vocational counselling of 80 young people and trainer formation of 20 teachers on both sides of the Tisa River.*

Related activities and projects based on the ecological corridor result

Problem/issue: Tisa corridor is not exploited at its full tourism potential, and one of the reasons is related to the poor capacity of managing high level tourism services.

→ *Developing skills for managing tourism activities*

Project example: Setting standards for tourism managers and periodical testing; Organizing periodical classes for improving language skills; Raising awareness among inhabitants regarding the tourism potential of their surroundings, in order to improve hospitality skills; Organizing periodical workshops and fairs for tourism managers.

Recommendation: access of the national and EU funds.

To involve young people in local community activities

- To promote and organize local events, feasts integrating traditional and modern arts, music and traditions (e.g. world music).
- To promote local (folklore, modern) dance, rhythmical sport events.
- To organize periodical events for cleaning and tidying and embellishing the local environments.
- To organize village feasts to commemorate local historic events or personalities.
- To organize information events about the revival of local traditional trades and crafts.
- To support young people with housing and etc. who undertake public service in peripheral areas.

Project examples:

- *New generation – our hope for a better life (Zakarpatska region, Maramures county).*
- *Young without borders – common intercultural opportunities and partnerships for the social integration and involvement of young into the community life.*

Promoting socially sensitive basic education

- Introduce subjects of local history and characteristic in primary schools.
- Training of Roma adults to read and write.
- To promote special needs education and training.
- English learning villages - To promote basic level foreign language training.
- Training programs to learn languages of the neighbouring countries (exchange teachers and children).
- Computer skills.
- To promote exchange programs for schools and training organisations.
- To establish language training programs for young people in cross-border area.

Project examples:

- *Society-oriented education, research and development (Ivano-Frankivsk and Kosice county)*

Improve the qualitative features of information society

- Development the maintenance of local websites, information portals.
- Regional and local information surfaces.
- Development and maintenance of regional and local television and radio programs.
- Exploitation of the possibilities of communication technologies for overcoming the isolations.
- To develop local, regional (cross-border) information systems and high quality, popular television programs with the purpose to promote the advancement of information society and bring valuable electronic information into every home.
- Web development and web-based internet applications (public and other services).
- To develop, extend and improve mobile phone networks and communication networks, local radio and TV services, local communication centres ("tele-houses") in peripheral areas in order to overcome their isolation.
- To promote e-learning through the provision of tailor-made, web-based teaching material.

Project examples:

- *ERIC: Media relationships in the DKMT Euroregion, news exchange programme and bilateral partnerships.*
- *ERNA – EuroRegional News Aggregator (developing a new, multilingual medium that surpasses the former Internet applications presenting cross-border information).*
- *CB MEDIA - Without Frontiers.*

Expected results and effects

The improvement of education and skills plays an essential role into adaptation of market requirements, increasing employment and reducing economic vulnerability. The adult trainings development and creation, expansion of alternative employment opportunities improves the prospects for social deprived rural areas in field of joining the economic bloodstream and labour market. If the interventions provide a development in networking form, it contributes the spatial expansion of opportunities. Maintain educated population and the strengthening civil society activates energies, creativity potential of culture. It contributes to completion of rural society, and through all these improves the enforcing ability and identity.

VI.3. Correlation between the TICAD transnational strategy and the relevant European spatial strategies

TICAD TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGY	CEMAT - INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TISZA/TISA RIVER BASIN	ESDP	TA2020	EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
Promoting clusters of innovative enterprises and activities				To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies
Promoting R&D&I and their spill out effects				
To support actions for specific demographic groups				To invest in people and skills
To keep young generation in the area				
Strengthening institutional cooperation				To step up institutional capacity and cooperation
		Polycentric development and urban-rural relations	Promote polycentric and balanced territorial development	
To promote land use which is suitable to the landscape characteristics	Development generated by urban functions, the relationship between the town and the countryside		Encouraging integrated development in cities, rural and specific regions	
To improve the living conditions to avoid migration of young people				
Increasing economic competitiveness and diversification of economic activities	Balanced social and economic development, improved competitiveness, promoting territorial cohesion		Contributing to territorial cohesion at cross- border, transnational, and inter-regional level	
			Ensuring global competitiveness of the regions based on strong	To support the competitiveness of enterprises

TICAD TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGY	CEMAT - INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TISZA/TISA RIVER BASIN	ESDP	TA2020	EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION
			local economies	
Promoting transnational and local transport connections	Promoting accessibility	Equal access to services and information	Improving territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises	To improve mobility and intermodality
Adaptive integrated water management	Reducing environmental damage			To restore and maintain the quality of waters
Reducing environmental damage				To manage environmental risks
Limitation of impact of natural disaster by preventive measures	Limitation of the impact of natural disasters by preventive measures			
Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural and cultural heritage	Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural heritage	Wise management of natural and cultural heritage	Managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions	To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils
Cooperation in cultural activities and strengthening identity	Enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor for development			
Developing energy resources, maintaining safety	Developing energy resources, maintaining safety			To encourage more sustainable energy
	Encouraging high quality, sustainable tourism			To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts
				To work together to tackle security and organised crime

VII. Policy recommendations

The policy recommendations are derived from the transnational TCAD strategy. They are recommendations for actions, legal measures, for initiatives to support and encourage cooperative structures and development activities. Several recommendations serve for preventing harmful processes and for facing and dealing with challenges.

The policy recommendations are addressed to national and regional authorities responsible for leading and controlling the implementation of the TICAD strategy.

VII.1. Urgently needed actions for transnational cooperation in the forthcoming 3 – 5 years (transnational and national level)

Strengthening institutional cooperation

Strengthening institutional cooperation is an essential aim. The Tisa Catchment Area is a coherent territorial entity though divided by administrative - national and regional – borders. Consistent institutional cooperation is needed for overcoming this division.

- For transnational cooperation ensuring the legal harmonisation in the field of spatial development:
 - Elaborating common/joint spatial plans for cross-border area (harmonised content and processes).
 - Fostering territorial approach in the field of cross-border urban system development.
 - The national governments are responsible for awareness-raising and publicity concerning spatial planning by defining and enforcing minimum requirements of public/social consultation as a compulsory element of spatial planning process; facilitating higher level of public participation, more intensive public/social consultation; fostering multi-sectoral approach, cooperation with or involvement of sectors/organisations.
- For institutional cooperation in the field of environmental risk management:
 - Enhancing the development and operation of trans-national data exchange, monitoring and warning system on pollution as well as elaboration and mutually enforcement transnational environmental agreements.
- For transnational coordination of flood protection actions:
 - Transnational coordination in the elaboration of the national flood risk maps following the EU Flood Directive.
 - Incorporating the results of risk mapping and flood prevention plans in the territorial and land use plans and regulations.
 - Enhancing the development and operation of trans-national flood forecast and prevention system, common standards and data exchange.
- For establishment of joint working groups of experts to coordinate actions and development in the area:
 - To set up inter-disciplinary groups of experts each focusing on specific strategic priorities; to explore the challenges, solutions and potentials from different angles.

Integrated water management adaptation

For the protection of strategic water resource the threefold tasks include the improvement of water quality through the reduction of pollution and hazards; promotion of sustainable use of water; and the improvement of the ecological conditions of the waters.⁹

- For the achievement of rational exploitation and use of natural resources:
 - Promoting the sustainable (economic) use of water resources by means of awareness raising.
 - The provided information for end users should include economic and ecological advantages of implanting water saving technologies, procedures and appliances.
 - For public institutions provide support to implant these measures and activities.
 - As a feedback develop high level monitoring systems as well as impact assessment methods for the effective realisation of environmental and economic impacts of water consumption.
- For ensuring the progressive extension of the ecological network, water absorption in the local area and preserve sufficient water quality:
 - Review of existing development and land-use plans along important surface water bodies and subsequently update these plans. In cooperation with universities (spatial planning, ecology, landscape planning) setting appropriate spatial and functional land-use restrictions.

Cooperation in cultural activities and strengthening identity

The discovery of common heritage will then lead to the recognition of commonalities in views, visions, concerns and aspirations. Cooperation in cultural activities would then help to face and solve tensions, mistrust and misunderstanding. Such cooperation can be the beginning of mutual knowing each other. To discover the advantage of joint efforts is an important prerequisite for further cooperation in other areas.

- For supporting local actions for enhancement of territorial identity and integrity:
 - Education of children and young people about their region, supporting local communities to preserve local cultures.
 - Promoting joint/cross-border institutional arrangements in cultural and education activities, programs, festivals.

VIII.3. Long-term¹⁰ transnational cooperation, coordination of policies, joint support of programs and initiatives by national governments (transnational and national level)

Promoting transnational and local transport connections

The transport system is incomplete and outdated and of low quality in the whole of the Tisa Catchment Area and especially in its eastern parts. There are plans for motorway developments all over, but the implementation of these plans is still in delay. Accessibility is difficult. The load of traffic is a great pressure even on the existing links. It is hard if at all possible to proceed on the narrow, low quality roads. Cross-border connections are acerbated by the shortage and narrow capacity of transit links.

- For the qualitative development of transport network:
 - Survey and evaluation of the road network (technical aspects, network coherence) and then preparation of conceptual framework for progressive renewal programme.

⁹ according to WFD

¹⁰ long lasting

- By means of differentiated support systems ensuring the optimal allocation of logistic centres along the corridors with consideration of the spatial capacity and optimal network (in view of sustainable development).
- Taking positive actions to harmonize the trans-European network with local requirements for corridor tracing.

Use of renewable energy resources, maintenance of safety

Along River Tisa there are abundant resources of renewable energy. There are opportunities to establish small scale local power generation systems for their use. Thereby the economic potential of would grow without irreversible interventions into the ecological capacities. The use of solar, wind, geothermic and biomass energy resources would restrict environmental pollution and facilitate regional independence in energy management.

- For promoting development of local and small scale renewable energy production, interconnection of the energy networks and reduction of the energy consumption:
 - Initiating the analysis of area potential for effective exploitation of renewable energy resources.
 - Providing financial support for preparing and assessing the realisation of technical and regulation tools.
 - Initiating transnational projects with the financial support from national and EU funds aiming to create efficient and flexible energy networks supported by various energy resources.
 - Preparing nation-wide training and educational programmes for awareness raising in energy saving.
 - Encouraging new ideas and innovative technologies and promoting their application; introduction of innovative and alternative technologies by means of information and support of SMEs.

Reduction of the impacts of natural disaster by preventive measures

The human interventions into the environmental systems such as the regulation of rivers and the growth of built-up areas have increased more and more the exposure of large areas to environmental hazards. The models of climate change indicate that the environmental risks – likelihood of floods, landslides, draught and excess groundwater – are becoming more frequent and intensive.

- For strengthening water retention capacity, significant reduction of flood risk and potential impacts of climate change by means of afforestation:
 - Supporting local actions for flood prevention and protection.
 - Supporting the forest treatment reforestation programme.
 - Issuing obligations to review the local development plans to ensure flood protection of built up and farming areas.
- For introduction and application of restrictions regarding land use to prevent landslides:
 - Promoting the mapping of land slide areas.
 - Enforcing the application of land use restrictions in local development plans.
- For promoting land use change on territories endangered by inundation water:
 - Issuing and enforcing regulations for the protection of areas defined as inundation areas.
- For promoting the improvement and implementation of national climate strategies:
 - Ensuring the legal and financial background.
 - Implementing the national strategy on climate change: mitigation and adaptation (cross-sectoral regulations; monitoring of implementation).

Reducing environmental damage

The sound development of society and economy demands harmoniously functioning, unpolluted natural environment. The development rate of the Tisa Space is thus influenced by the quality of environmental management and environmental infrastructure. For the mitigation of pollution it is an urgent task to reduce the volume of solid waste and sewage and to make progress in waste management and recycling.

- For strengthening the legal environment, extension of regulatory powers, improvement the effectiveness of control:
 - Issuing legal regulations for the control and improvement of the environmental conditions.
 - Providing financial support for waste water treatment, waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change.
 - Taking legal actions for emission control and the use of new technologies.
 - Environmentally sustainable transport development.
- For strengthening the environmental awareness:
 - Promoting the preparation of educational courses and training at all levels of school curricula.
 - Promoting the spread of information on environmentally friendly technologies for municipalities and infrastructure providers.

Protecting and enhancing natural resources and the natural and cultural heritage

The greatest resource of the Tisa Catchment Area is the outstanding natural and cultural heritage. For the protection of these assets it is necessary to consolidate and strengthen the institutional system of nature conservation, to prevent the shrinkage and vanishing of natural and semi-natural areas. Nature conservation becomes more effective if the environmental awareness of local population improves, if the residents and the visitors become aware of the natural assets.

- For protecting the forests and other precious natural sites, control the development actions and widening nature management activities:
 - Revising and updating existing legal acts about protection of natural sites, country side, natural resources and protection of cultural heritage according to latest research in this field.
 - Allocating financial support for restoration and protection activities.
 - Enforcing the review of local development and land-use plans in territories with objects/sites or areas regarding special treatment due to extraordinary cultural or natural values as well as zone-regulations for protected areas.
 - Supporting the preparation, realisation and control of the measures for natural and cultural heritage. (training, financial support).
 - Supporting education in nature protection and ecology.
 - Providing administrative and financial support of research in specific areas.
 - Setting up visitors' centres for the public and for the awareness raising of locals.
 - Subsidising landscape friendly farming on the nature conservation areas.
- For the enhancement the restoration and management of the cultural monuments:
 - Creating suitable legal conditions for cooperation between universities, research centres and practice, cooperation with private investors for participating at the restoration process.

VIII.4. Rural development policies (national level)

Exploration and enhancement of local resources in rural areas

The diverse soil, landscape and cultural features are the traditional resources which offer excellent potentials for increasing economic competitiveness and diversification of economic activities based on local economic potentials. In the present economic conditions of the TICAD countries profitability of the agriculture is low. In order to improve employment relations, increase and maintain profitability and protect the landscape the EU has adopted a CAP reform aiming at the creation of multifunctional agriculture, with in the technological development of farms, processing of farm produce as well as and sectoral – regional integration, cooperation.

- For protection, enhancement and mobilise the existing capacities of local communities with the help of LEADER and other rural development programs:
 - Taking administrative actions for strengthening the territorial cooperation among LEADER local action groups in the catchment area for realization of the catchment strategy.
 - Encouraging (by means of information and promotion) the involvement of local communities in rural areas.
- For improvement the accessibility of isolated rural areas:
 - Facilitating border crossing (especially through natural barrier – rivers, mountains) and thereby improving accessibility for peripheral rural areas of range.
 - Initiating administrative measures for the harmonisation and development of cross-border public transport systems.
- For improvement the marketing and trade network of local farm products:
 - Encouraging by means of information and promotion the cooperation of farmers in processing and marketing of agricultural produce.
 - Promoting qualification courses, skills training to raise the awareness (activate human local resources with the aim to keep the knowledge source in region). These activities could be provided in cooperation with nation-wide educational and research centres (universities).
 - Amending the tax system for the benefit of local food production and consumption.
 - Encouraging and promoting simplified regulation for facilitating the establishment and running of local markets prepare qualification of local products (label, certificate), marketing and presentation of qualified products.
- For Improving the quality of agricultural products, local produce and farm-based manufacturing:
 - Promoting by means of legal and financial support technological development, quality improvement.
 - Meeting of safety and animal welfare standards.
 - Prioritising small scale production and processing.
 - Improving horizontal and vertical cooperation of the agriculture and food sector.
- For networking and cooperation in the field of tourism services and programmes:
 - Initiating programmes for the identification of local values.
 - Better coordination of tourist service development.
 - Cooperation and division of tourist functions, for the establishment of regional clusters or coordinating agencies and thus enhance more efficient marketing and management.

To promote land use in harmony with landscape characteristics

The intensive use of landscape without regard of the natural systems the functioning of the natural system of the Tisa Basin has been upset, the sub-systems have suffered serious damages: water

management is showing deficit, the climate and water fluctuation show more and more extreme symptoms, the ecological capacities are becoming exhausted. The social impacts of these processes are increasing water and natural hazards and while earlier had been prosperous, today it is hardly sufficient for subsistence. For the restoration of the compliance of land use to landscape characteristics it is needed to improve the environmental awareness of the farmers and to promote and propagate subsidy to land stewardship.

- For promotion diversity and ecological adaptability/sustainability in agricultural land use:
 - Initiating training and educational courses about environment friendly farming.
 - Encouraging and support adaptive agricultural practices by means skills training and finances.
 - Introducing land regulation measures (land use and spatial planning, support system).
 - Taking legal actions for land consolidation projects development.
 - Implementing the European Landscape convention (ELC) as well as for the relevant revision of regional and local development plans and land-use regulation.

To improve the living conditions to avoid migration of young people

In the Tisa River Basin the improvement of living conditions requires effective interventions especially in the rural areas to avoid migration of qualified young people. Generally the service level is underdeveloped mostly due to the low effective demand of the population. Therefore this problem can be solved by means of alternative and mobile services. The poor conditions of public utility services in rural areas can be solved efficiently also by means of alternative, small scale, ecologically sound local solutions.

- For improvement public utilities, human and social services including alternative and mobile solutions in rural areas:
 - Elaborating and issuing minimum standards of public utilities and services in rural and peripheral settlements.
 - Issuing land-use regulations to prevent the extension of subserviced built up areas.
 - Initiating programs for the provision of public utilities and services in deprived communities.
 - Promoting alternative, mobile, affordable solutions.

To support actions for specific demographic / social groups

The development of human sources requires effective interventions especially in the rural areas in the Tisa River Basin. The outdated management skills of the agricultural population, the low educational level and lack in qualification of unemployment people, the training discrepancy and the out migration of qualified people are all problems to be solved. To reduce economic vulnerability and social exclusion characterised this rural areas it is essential to support investment into the people.

- For development the local social policies network of civil initiatives to assist and care for the deprived social groups:
 - Promoting model solutions of social integration and development.
 - Initiating social, community development programmes promoting and supporting social integration and the interchange of relevant skills and experiences.
 - Establishing joint transnational organisations focused on Roma integration in the Tisza catchment area.
 - Promoting and supporting civic initiatives focused on social activities of deprived social groups.
- For promotion the socially sensitive basic education:
 - Devising alternative, socially sensitive educational programs.
 - Ensuring administrative support of alternative, tailor made educational programs.

- Spreading good practices.
- For involvement of inactive and aging people in public activities (social care):
 - Supporting and strengthening Life-long educational centres and initiatives via cooperation with universities (Third Age University).
 - Devising programs, meetings of the young and the elderly for the exchange of experience, sharing memories.
- For involving young people in community activities:
 - Implementing social awareness programs encouraging young people to participate in the process of decision making and highlighting their responsibility for the well being of the region where they live.
- For promoting the qualitative features of information society:
 - Initiating media programs of appropriate quality and discussion forums about actual problems.
 - Developing and maintaining E-points, together with training sites.
 - Supporting the development and maintenance of the websites of local governments and civil organisations.

VIII.5. Regional level policy recommendations

A. Regions / counties / dominated by a large and subsidiary centre (*Mukachivskiyi, Uzhorod + Uzhorod Oblast, Arad, Bihor, Cluj, Mureş, Sibiu, Timiş, Košice, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Csongrád, Hajdú-Bihar, Pest, Južnobačka, Severnobačka, Srednjebanatska*)

Cross-border, inter-city cooperation

- For strengthening the cross-border cooperation in investment action, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation (Debrecen - Oradea, Szeged – Timisoara, Uzhorod-Kosice and Miskolc – Kosice, Subotica – Szeged, Arad-Szeged, Timisoara – Szeged – Novi Sad):
 - Preparing joint economic development strategies (clusters, infrastructural preparation for investors, setting up business advisory service).
 - Setting up joint working groups for the implementation and impact assessment of the common strategy.
- For promoting cooperation between business and education/research institute:
 - Providing administrative and financial support in order to strengthen cooperation between higher education and business especially SME.
 - Enhancing the cross-border and national cooperation between education and research centres.
 - Initiating the cooperation of regional universities, higher education institutes and research centres.(student exchange, information and know-how exchange, joint workshops, conferences and research programmes, etc.).
- For strengthening cross-border contact and cooperation between tourist centres:
 - Launching cross - border and transnational cooperation projects in regional and local tourism (information interchange, cooperation in marketing and reciprocal presentation, organizing of joint programmes, joint websites, etc.).
 - Strengthening urban – rural cooperation in tourism (program packages, “quest table”, active tourism).
 - Promoting the development of week-end, short-term rural and sports tourism, recreation, visits, meetings, workshops in the vicinity of the urban centres.

- For mobilizing local innovation capacity for knowledge based / new technology in manufacturing industry:
 - Promoting awareness raising, trainings, information service to local SMEs and thereby encourage innovative activities.
 - Providing information for local manufacturers about the opportunities and benefits of cooperation with educational institutions.

Development control

- For controlling of urban growth:
 - Improving spatial planning and land regulation for protection of natural areas and hampering urban sprawl.
 - Promoting and enforcing the regulations and directives related to sustainability in the field of urban development.

B. Regions / counties / districts with centre(s) undergoing economic conversion (*Hunedoara, Maramureş, Banská Bystrica, Nógrád*)

Environmental upgrading

- For introduce measures for the reclamation of derelict, polluted brown fields (dump sites, industries sites):
 - To realize, with the support of the national governments as well as national and multinational companies the reclamation of brown fields, restoration of the environmental damages and rehabilitation of the natural environment.
 - To commission the mapping of existing brown-fields focused on their potential for further development.
 - Supporting the re-use of brown fields areas instead of using green fields.
- For mobilize the available labour force for environmental improvement:
 - Supporting and organising public and voluntary actions for environmental improvement.

C. Regions of mountainous areas with local centre(s) (*Hustskyi, Irshavskiyi, Mighirskiyi, Perechynskiyi, Rahivskiyi, Svalyavskiyi, Tyachivskiyi, Velykobereznyanskyyi, Voloveckyyi, Alba, Bystrița Năsăud, Harghita, Prešov, Heves*)

Sustainable use of natural resources

- For supporting sustainable, risk preventing forest management:
 - Promoting the application of innovative, sustainable forest management techniques in cooperation with the forest management authorities.
 - Issuing regulations for sustainable forest management.
- For promoting the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources:
 - Initiating EIA of mining operations.
 - To seek the support of the national governments as well as national and multinational companies to reduce and eliminate the harmful effects and apply environmentally cautious technologies.
- For promoting the utilization of hydroelectric power:
 - Prescribing the preliminary assessments of the long term impacts on the whole length of the river before the procedures of permissions, as required by the WFD.
 - Promoting small scale, landscape and environment friendly solutions of hydro-power generation for local electric supply.

Development of tourism

- For development services for rural, active and health tourism (attractions, marketing, service):
 - Preparing local / regional tourist development strategies integrating different recreation activities and preserving the landscape assets.
 - Promoting the development of services (accommodation, fairs, sports facilities etc) for rural, active and health tourism Sustainable agriculture.

D. Regions of rural farming areas with local centre(s) (*Berehivskiyi, Vynogradivskiyi, Sălaj, Satu Mare, Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Severnobańska, Zapadnobačka*)

Sustainable agriculture

- For promoting locally based, multifunctional, area specific, landscape sensitive and divers agriculture:
 - Launching training programmes in cooperation with local farmers focused on local particularities, providing know-how to exploit the potential of local conditions.
 - Promoting the improvement of the environmental performance of farms.
 - Disseminating information, documents, TV series and web sites about ecological farming.

Capitalisation of local assets

- For promoting rural tourism based on the unique local attractions:
 - In cooperation with educational institutions mapping the unique values of natural and cultural heritage; promote their protection and enhancement and their utilization for tourist purposes.
 - Preparing local / regional tourist development strategies integrating different recreation activities and preserving the landscape assets.
 - Promoting the development of services (accommodation, fairs, sports facilities etc) for rural

Annex 1: SWOT analyses

<p style="text-align: center;">SWOT analyses The whole Tisza catchment area</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significant of natural and cultural heritage lies - above tourism attraction –in the enhancement of territorial identity and integrity (sites of cultural heritages, gems of architectural history, national parks, Natura 2000 areas) • Tisa and its water network serve as a green corridor network • The availability of freshwater and sub-surface water resource is vital • Extensive rural areas, with diverse settlement and community structures 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are underdeveloped rural areas with low social (migration, depopulation, poverty and concentration of Roma communities) and economic status (characterized by long term economic recession, employment crisis). The peripheries have difficult access, poor infrastructure. • There are increasing difficulties of social service for the ageing and of the exclusion of deprived groups (roma minorities) • Low educational levels and outdated skills of the labour force are general problem • Low level of internet accessibility, low level of benefiting from information and communication technologies • Poor quality of the transport infrastructure (road networks and railways) • Insufficient facilities and low quality of tourist services • The exquisite quality of cultural and natural resources is threatened by the lack of maintenance • High percentage of the natural water flows are below the good ecological level (hazardous substance from industries and mines, diffuse nutrient pollution from agriculture, lack of the wastewater treatment and waste management, hydro-morphological alteration) • General lack of environmental awareness • Renewable energy exploitation is at a very preliminary stage • Increasing flood hazards • Flood hazards, inland water stagnations and drought may occur side by side at the same time • Maladapted land use and ownership structure compared to the ecological endowment
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Break through (offensive) strategy</p>	<p>Opportunities strategy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013): • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy after 2013: • Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation • Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010) 245) • EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (661/2010/EU) • Strategy for the Danube Region (COM (2010) 715) • Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010) 133) • Natura habitats (92/43/EEC) • Major accident involving dangerous substances (96/82/EC) • Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC) • European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005) 84) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support local actions for enhancement of territorial identity and integrity • To promote joint/cross-border institution arrangements in cultural and education activities, programmes, festivals • To encourage the cooperation of farmers supporting the processing and marketing of agricultural produce • To extend the ecological network along the surface waters • Strengthening the logistic centres and multimodal transportation systems • Improving the quality of agricultural products, local produce and farm-based manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the technical flood protection and control, strengthen the cross-border cooperation in flood forecasting • To coordinate flood protection actions and implementation of water management plans in the frame of a transnational cooperation • To enhance restoration and management of the cultural monuments • To promote the socially sensitive basic education • To improve human and social services including alternative and mobile solutions in rural areas • To elaborate issue minimum standards of public utilities and services in rural and peripheral settlements • To urge the qualitative development of transport network • To promote model solutions of social integration and development • Networking and cooperation in the field of tourism services and programmes • To promote the qualitative features of information society • Promoting alternative employment possibilities • To promote development of local and small scale renewable energy production

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU) Increasing tourist mobility Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries Increasing commitment to sustainability 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmonisation in the field of spatial planning Transnational interconnection of the energy system network To promote skill-training Strengthening the attractiveness of the area
Threats	Defensive strategy	Crisis strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment Impacts of climate change Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions Macro-economic, fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources Inappropriate use of EU funds Increasing brain drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support environmentally aware farming To introduce the legal, technical and financial regulation to promote the rational use of natural water resources To protect, enhance and mobilise the existing capacities of local communities with the help of LEADER and other rural development programs To control development actions for protecting the forests and other precious natural sites; strengthening nature protection activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen environmental awareness of the population, to promote environmental educational training at all levels (NGOs as well) Strengthening the legal environment, extension of regulatory powers, improvement the effectiveness of controls To develop the local social policies network of civil initiatives to assist and care for the deprived social groups Consistent involvement of inactive and aging people in public activities (social care) To introduce the land regulation measures (land consolidation, land use and spatial planning, support system) Improvement and implementation of national climate strategies (financial and regulation background) Institutional cooperation on the field of environmental risk management To improve the accessibility of isolated rural areas

<p style="text-align: center;">SWOT analyses Mountainous area with local centre(s)</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large proportion of high quality forests • High share of protected areas, and NATURA 2000 network • Diverse landscape and cultural features offer excellent potentials for active and health tourism • Geological diversity of the mountainous area is a basis of the mining industry (leading mining centres) • Hydro-geological diversity of the area constitutes its huge renewable energy potential • Strong local community cohesion • Traditional subsistence farms as self-employment potential 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public utilities and services are not fully (scarcely in the rural area) built and accessible, isolation of rural areas • Deforestation, increasing soil erosion hazard in mountain and sub-mountain areas • Unemployment rate and the proportion of the inactive population is extremely high • Industrial crisis areas and outdated industrial structure • Innovative groups of society turn their back to the peripheral areas (negative net migration, declining population) • Educational level of the population is low, income level is permanently low • Undercapitalisation and the low level of effective demand pose • Inappropriately selected land uses (increase soil degradation and flash floods events)
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013): • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy after 2013: • Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation • Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010) 245) • EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (661/2010/EU) • Strategy for the Danube Region (COM (2010) 715) • Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010) 133) • Natura habitats (92/43/EEC) • Major accident involving dangerous substances (96/82/EC) • Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC) • European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005) 84) • Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) • Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU) • Increasing tourist mobility • Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries • Increasing commitment to sustainability 	<p>Break through (offensive) strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic exploitation of forest in a sustainable way (forest management) • To develop the rural, active and health tourism (attractions, marketing, service) • To improve the marketing and trade network of local farm products • Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by taking into account the hydrological effects • To promote the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources (new and environmentally conscious technologies, to reduce accidental risks to minimum level) 	<p>Opportunities strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote skill-training • Strengthening water retention capacity, mitigation of runoff conditions by taking into account the hydrological effects on the lower river section
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment • Impacts of climate change • Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups • Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness 	<p>Defensive strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening nature management activities (strengthen protection, development the visitor, environmental education and research centres) • To involve young people in local community activities 	<p>Crisis strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and application of restrictions regarding land use to prevent landslides • Significant reduction of flood risk and potential impacts of climate change by means of afforestation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis • Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage • Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions • Macro-economic, fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources • Inappropriate use of EU funds • Increasing brain drain 		
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<p style="text-align: center;">SWOT analyses Rural farming area with local centre(s)</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good agro-ecological features: high proportion of arable land with good and excellent production capacities • Traditional industrial processing of the various agricultural produce • High potential of geothermal, solar, agricultural waste as renewable energy resources • High potential of agro-rural tourism 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of the inactive population is high, educational level is low • Outward migration of the innovative groups are high • Isolated areas (low accessibility level, poor conditions of public utility services, peripherals) • Service level is underdeveloped • Land uses (and the homogenous crop structure) are not in harmony with landscape features • Profitability of the agricultural sector are weakened by the low local added value and lack of cooperation in production and trade • Flood, inland water stagnation and serious draught may occur side by side at the same time • Marked decrease of ground water levels (in the sandy ridge between the Danube and Tisa, in Nyírség and in the thermal karst area of the Plain) • Spread of built-up areas in flood-prone areas • Fragmented farm structure (size of individual farms are too small for livelihood)
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013): • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy after 2013: • Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation • Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010) 245) • EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (661/2010/EU) • Strategy for the Danube Region (COM (2010) 715) • Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010) 133) • Natura habitats (92/43/EEC) • Major accident involving dangerous substances (96/82/EC) • Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC) • European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005) 84) • Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) • Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU) • Increasing tourist mobility • Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries • Increasing commitment to sustainability 	<p>Break through (offensive) strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance rural tourism based on the unique local attractions • To improve the marketing and trade network of local farm products • To improve local, multifunctional, area specific, landscape sensitive and divers agriculture 	<p>Opportunities strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To involve young people in local community activities
<p>Threats</p>	<p>Defensive strategy</p>	<p>Crisis strategy</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment • Impacts of climate change • Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups • Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness • Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis • Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage • Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions • Macro-economic, fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources • Inappropriate use of EU funds • Increasing brain drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the environmental performance of farms (to decrease the diffuse pollution from agricultural area) • To promote technologies of low energy/ renewable energy consumption in farming and processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support wetland and floodplain restoration • To promote land use change at territory endangered by water inundation • To promote diversity and ecological adaptability/suitability in agricultural land use
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<p style="text-align: center;">SWOT analyses Area unit dominated by a large centre</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of conurbations – intensifying links between the central cities and the surrounding smaller towns is a typical process (migration gain, favourable age structure) • High ratio of young age-groups and of qualified work force are conditions for further development • Higher education is essential and dominant (universities, researcher centres) • Significant role of medical and services • Trade and business services are outstanding • Manufacturing industry has major concentration (possible sites for investment, with industrial traditions and infrastructure) • Tourism as well as tourist infrastructure is concentrated in the urban centres (services and attractions are available) • Nodal position in the transport network (airports, road and rail infrastructure) • Exceptional farming potential of the plains (Csongrád, Hajdu-Bihar, Pest, Timiş, part of Bihor, South Bačka). • The scenic value of the landscape all over attracts tourism and is of high ecological significance • Supply of public facilities and public utilities is also above average, particularly in the cities • The central cities are the main poles on national and transnational level with the possibilities of a range of workplaces in manufacturing and service 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic performance is below the EU average in terms of GDP per capita. • Delay of motorway development • Cultural and natural resources are threatened by the lack of upkeep and maintenance • Inadequacies of various environmental actions (air and water pollutions, deficient infrastructure for waste management, sewage management) • Lack of tourism integrated action (cycle route, waterways, inter-community and cross-border cooperation) • Natural resources are threatened by uncontrolled land use and construction activities • Flood hazards affecting high value built up areas • Weak cooperation between business and education/research institutes
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013): • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy after 2013: • Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation • Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010) 245) • EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (661/2010/EU) • Strategy for the Danube Region (COM (2010) 715) • Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010) 133) • Natura habitats (92/43/EEC) • Major accident involving dangerous substances (96/82/EC) • Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC) • European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005) 84) • Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) • Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU) • Increasing tourist mobility 	<p>Break through (offensive) strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the cross-border cooperation in investment actions, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation (Timișoara – Szeged, Debrecen – Oradea, etc.) • To mobilize local innovation capacity for knowledge based / new technology economy • Strengthen the sales of local food products at the urban market (local market, local chain stores, marketing, food supply chain) • Improvement of the quality of agricultural products and development of processing • To enhance the cross-border and national cooperation between education and research centres • Strengthening cross-border communication and cooperation between touristic centres by development of joint programmes and marketing 	<p>Opportunities strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the tourism cooperation between the cities and the surrounding rural areas (program packages, “guest table”, promote active tourism) • To decrease the urban and industrial pollutions (waste water treatment, waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change, decrease the emission by using new technologies, environmental sustainable transport development) • Harmonized development of major routes of the trans-European network (corridors and by-passes), eliminating the barriers of the cross-border transport connections • To strengthen the technical flood protection, strengthen the cross-border cooperation in flood forecasting • To develop the knowledge society through the cooperation between business and education/research institutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries • Increasing commitment to sustainability 		
Threats	Defensive strategy	Crisis strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment • Impacts of climate change • Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups • Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness • Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis • Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage • Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions • Macro-economic, fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources • Inappropriate use of EU funds • Increasing brain drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonised and controlled suburbanisation process and the development of human services and supply systems • To support the technical and regulatory tools of reduction of the energy consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling urban development (land regulation, improvement of spatial planning, strengthen the protection of open spaces, contain the uncontrolled urban growth) • Harmonization of flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas

<p style="text-align: center;">SWOT analyses Area unit with a subsidiary centre</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing are determined by the availability of abundant raw material (natural gas, oil, mineral and non-mineral deposits) • Long-established industrial, mining and commercial centres • Locations of educational institutions and research centres • Access to the European transport corridors • Outstanding tourist features (semi-natural and unique landscapes, and cultivated areas, thermal water resources and cultural heritage) • Important areas of agriculture (wine region, forestry, arable land) • Unique areas are surrounded by vast protected natural areas 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rural hinterland undergoes depopulation, growing share of post-productive age group • In rural, small communities there are narrow possibilities of livelihood • Low accessibility due to the poor quality of secondary roads, railways and the scarcity of public transport service (isolated areas) • Scarcities of infrastructure in the rural areas • Economic restructuring after the change of the political system is still prevailing – economic structural imbalance • Qualitative and quantitative conditions of guest reception are still incomplete • Service sector consists mainly of human services, productive tertiary sector is limited to larger towns • Flood hazards affecting high value built up areas
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013): • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy after 2013: • Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation • Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010) 245) • EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (661/2010/EU) • Strategy for the Danube Region (COM (2010) 715) • Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010) 133) • Natura habitats (92/43/EEC) • Major accident involving dangerous substances (96/82/EC) • Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC) • European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005) 84) • Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) • Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU) • Increasing tourist mobility • Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries • Increasing commitment to sustainability 	<p>Break through (offensive) strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the cross-border cooperation in investment actions, employment and services with special regard to intercity cooperation (Miskolc - Košice, Subotica - Szeged) • To enhance the cross-border and national cooperation between education and research centres • Enhance the cultural touristic activities in the historic centres • Strengthen the sales of local food products at the urban market (local market, local chain stores, marketing) • To mobilize local innovation capacity for the development of manufacturing industry • To promote the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources • Harmonized development of major route of the trans-European network (corridors and by-passes), eliminating the barriers of the cross-border transport connections 	<p>Opportunities strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To decrease the urban and industrial pollutions (waste water treatment, waste management including recycling and consumption behaviour change, decrease the emission by using new technologies, environmental sustainable transport development) • To promote entrepreneurship of young people • To develop the knowledge society through the cooperation between business and education/research institutes
<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment • Impacts of climate change • Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups • Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness • Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the 	<p>Defensive strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonised and controlled suburbanisation processes and the development of human services and supply systems • To support the technical and regulatory tools of reduction of the energy consumption 	<p>Crisis strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling urban development (land regulation, improvement of spatial planning, strengthen the protection of open spaces, contain the uncontrolled urban growth) • Harmonization of flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas

<p>global economic crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage • Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions • Macro-economic, fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources • Inappropriate use of EU funds • Increasing brain drain 		
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<p style="text-align: center;">SWOT analyses Area unit with centre(s) undergoing economic conversion</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular natural beauty (forests, landscapes) • Mineral resources encouraged and urged the development and expansion of mining and gave rise to other heavy industries • Mining and manufacturing are likely to remain in new circumstances, in new forms and technological conditions • Tourist attractions: lively and rich local folklore and the unique cultural heritage • Hydroelectric potential • Suitable sites for investment, with industrial traditions and infrastructure (industrial parks) 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreasing productivity of some of the mines and engineering industries • Outdated skills of the labour force, low educational level is a general problem, low income level • Population loss is mainly out-migration and above regional average • Decline and closure of industrial firms results the growth of unemployment • Environmental problems are associated with the ongoing operation of mines and other industrial firms (extreme overload of hazardous substances in the surroundings of industrial areas, water pollution, mines, dumpsites and industrial sites left behind without upkeep and rehabilitation, giant scars of landscape) • Relative isolation of these areas is high (lack of high speed road facilities and poor quality of roads and rails) • Tourism has not discovered attractions (low accessibility, inadequacy of tourist services) • Inadequacy of service of general interest • Low weight of high-tech industry, low rate of advanced production, prevalence mono-industrial and outdated production zones
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy (2007-2013): • Provisions and instruments of regional and rural development policy after 2013: • Widening cross-border and transnational co-operation and harmonisation • Digital Agenda for Europe (COM (2010) 245) • EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (661/2010/EU) • Strategy for the Danube Region (COM (2010) 715) • Social and economic integration of Roma (Com (2010) 133) • Natura habitats (92/43/EEC) • Major accident involving dangerous substances (96/82/EC) • Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • Assessment and management of flood risks (2007/60/EC) • European Union forest action plan (COM (2006) 302) / The EU forestry strategy (COM (2005) 84) • Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC) • Guidelines for employment policies (2010/707/EU) • Increasing tourist mobility • Development of investment flows between neighbouring countries • Increasing commitment to sustainability 	<p>Break through (offensive) strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the sustainable use of mineral and non mineral resources (new and environmentally conscious technologies, to reduce accidental risks to minimum level) • Utilization of hydroelectric power according to Water Framework Directive and by taking into account the hydrological effects 	<p>Opportunities strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification of economy structure by tourism development based on the unique attractions • To introduce measures for the reclamation of derelict, polluted brown fields (dump sites, industries sites) • To involve young people in local community activities • Promote accessibility by creating the connection to the European transport network • To promote entrepreneurship of young people • To mobilize the available labour force for environmental improvement
<p>Threats</p>	<p>Defensive strategy</p>	<p>Crisis strategy</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing anthropogenic effects damaging the environment • Impacts of climate change • Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups • Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness • Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis • Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage • Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependences of regions • Macro-economic, fiscal and political instability, unfavourable allocation of resources • Inappropriate use of EU funds • Increasing brain drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sustain natural and semi-natural areas, forests; strengthening nature protection activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of flood management and town/spatial planning by means of regulation to control developments in flood prone areas
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