

# INTERREG III B CADSES RESULTS

## ADVANCING NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-OPERATION

- COOPERATION IN A WIDER EUROPE
- PLANNERS NETWORKS
- VITAL EUROPEAN CITIES
- BROWNFIELDS VERSUS GREENFIELDS
- CHANCES FOR FORMER MINING AREAS
- INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES



## Editorial

The closure of the CADSES Programme stands in the focus of the year 2008. Ongoing projects are finishing their work on their Final Conferences. The potential to continue and further develop CADSES results in possible follow-up projects within the framework of the Territorial Cooperation Programmes CENTRAL EUROPE and SOUTH EAST EUROPE is evident. The need to promote these results is still there as the first CADSES Results Brochure, published in September 2007, shows, which has been and is still well in demand.

Thus, the Joint Technical Secretariat compiled further project results in a second brochure, which you are holding in your hands now. As the cover picture shows, this issue is focussed on aspects regarding the Neighbourhood Approach the CADSES Programme has been following since 2004.




We would like to thank all Project Partners who supported the development of this brochure by giving us useful information about their projects' work and results. Altogether the CADSES Programme contributed to the exchange of knowledge and experiences among all participants on project and programme level. We hope that the CADSES Results Brochures demonstrate this and help to support ideas as well as to initiate further projects and contacts within the framework of the New Territorial Cooperation Programmes.

**Margarita Jančič**  
*Chair of the Monitoring  
and Steering Committee*

**Fabio Croccolo**  
*Managing Authority*

**Ulrich Graute**  
*Joint Technical Secretariat*

## Contents

<b>Editorial</b> .....	2
 <b>Cooperation in a Wider Europe – Bridging the gap between Member States and Third Countries</b> .....	3
<b>Planners, let's network for common strategies!</b> .....	8
 <b>How to keep European cities vital and liveable?</b> .....	14
<b>Brownfields versus Greenfields, fighting for investors</b> .....	19
 <b>Former mining areas – Chance for perfect landscapes or moonscapes without perspective?</b> .....	24
<b>Small and medium-sized enterprises – more innovation and competitiveness through transnational business networks</b> .....	29
<b>CADSES in brief</b> .....	35
<b>Imprint and Contact</b> .....	39

# Cooperation in a Wider Europe – Bridging the gap between Member States and Third Countries

Ulrich Graute

For the implementation of a European programme it is always good to have stable framework conditions. However, instead of being stable the development in Central and South-Eastern Europe has been very dynamic in recent years. For the CADSES NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME in the framework of the Community Initiative INTERREG III B it was already a challenge to set up a common management structure within short. Nonetheless, the far bigger challenge was the need to cope with a changing political framework.

## Dynamic development in Central and South-Eastern Europe

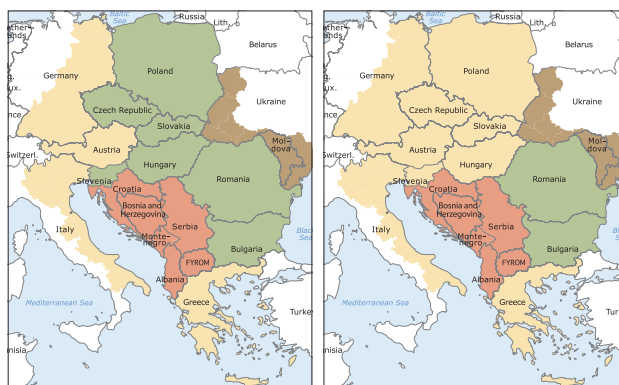
For the CADSES area the EU enlargement in 2004 meant that with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia five partner countries joined the European Union. This was a major step ahead because project partners from these countries have now been eligible for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). To adapt CADSES to this new situation all programme documents and parts of the management had to be revised.

As a consequence of the enlargement, the Eastern border of the Union moved further eastwards: In 2004 countries like Ukraine, Romania, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro became direct neighbours sharing a land border with the European Union. In spite of these positive aspects of European integration, the area still suffered from consequences of the last wars in and about former Yugoslavia. Prevalent frictions between states and ethnic groups were exactly the opposite to the transnational and partnership approach of programmes like INTERREG III B CADSES. There was no doubt that it would be difficult for CADSES Partnerships to flourish in this context but one could also argue that the transnational partnership approach is exactly what this area needed as a contribution to overcome limiting borders. There were already a number of support programmes for individual countries, regions and institutions but what had not existed yet was a funding programme encouraging transnational cooperation across the borders in the South East. This was stressed by CADSES partner states and therefore they were open to integrate them fully into the CADSES Programme. What was needed was just another amendment of the policy and funding framework.

## The Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union

On European level, the enlargement of the Union led to the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In March 2003 the Commission launched the Communication "Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours". This Communication proposed that "the

European Union should aim to develop a zone of prosperity and a friendly neighbourhood ... with whom the European Union enjoys close, peaceful and cooperative relations." As one element of this Wider Europe policy, the Commission prepared a Communication focussed on the possibility of creating a New Neighbourhood Instrument supporting cross-border and regional/transnational cooperation along the external borders of the Union. Another Communication, published on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 under the title "Paving the Way for a New Neighbourhood Instrument", introduced the concept of "Neighbourhood Programmes" for the external borders of the enlarged Union for 2004–2006. This Communication had an immediate impact on the preparation of INTERREG programmes on those borders (either for brand new programmes, or already amended ones) to take account of the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union in 2004. CADSES faced the challenge of two amendments: the first was due to the increased number of EU Member States and the second was required to develop and integrate a Neighbourhood Dimension for Central and South-Eastern Europe into the programme. While the programme was amended with respect to the enlargement in due time to allow partners from new Member States to apply for funding in 2004, the development and integration of the Neighbourhood dimension took another year.



Funding until 2004

Funding since 2004

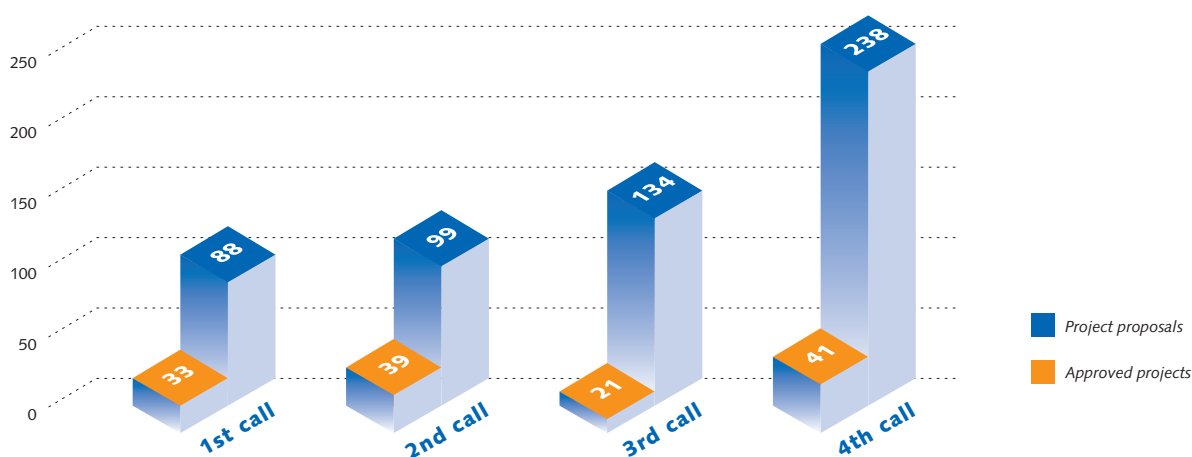
EU Funds available for CADSES Projects 2000–2006

ERDF	PHARE	CARDS	TACIS
------	-------	-------	-------

## Will it be possible to apply with only one form for five different funds?

Although Communications and Strategy Papers of the Commission had paved the way, the CADSES Programme faced a challenge difficult to cope with. Equal partnership in a funding programme means access to funds by all partners. Unfortunately, the main source of INTERREG funding – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – is designed for use within the Union only. Beneficiaries outside of the Union are not eligible. Of course, it could not be expected that partner countries like Ukraine, Moldova or the Non-Member States of the Western Balkan would be able to provide major amounts from own sources to co-finance transnational cooperation in the area. So, Member States and the European Commission were aware of the problem and searched for a solution.

The basic solution was found when the Commission decided that existing EU funding instruments for external cooperation with neighbouring countries should be matched with ERDF funding. By implementing this idea the CADSES Programme not only became a programme of nine Member and nine Non-Member States. It also contained now for the first time financial allocations for both – regions from Member States as well as third countries participating in the programme. For the first time calls for project proposals became possible covering funds for both sides of the Union's border. Moreover, compared with the usual scope of external funding, INTERREG programmes offered the possibility to expand the range of cooperation activities. Certainly, what may sound simple and logical, in practice requires flexibility and intensive cooperation not only between CADSES Partner States and management bodies, but also between all related General Directorates and relevant Delegations of the European Commission.



Number of applications per call

The first practical change in general conditions came with the preparation and implementation of the first Neighbourhood Call under CADSES. While other INTERREG programmes faced the challenge to include one External Fund (TACIS CBC, PHARE or CARDS) into the programme, in case of CADSES four funds became relevant. Beside the ERDF the Programme now also covers PHARE funds for Romania and PHARE funds for Bulgaria, TACIS CBC funds for Ukraine and Moldova, and CARDS funds for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. At the beginning, preparations were focussing on TACIS CBC and CARDS but during the year 2005 PHARE authorities responsible for Romania and Bulgaria also decided to provide funds for CADSES cooperation and to link the selection process with that of the ERDF side of INTERREG. Although not all necessary financial agreements to formally provide related funds were signed by the end of 2005, it became clear that some 15 million Euros were available from External Funds for the CADSES Neighbourhood Programme.

From an administrative point of view, this had the consequence that Programme bodies also have to coordinate the cooperation with ten Contracting Authorities responsible for the External Funds. The related challenge for the management could be mastered during the 4<sup>th</sup> call for project proposals. An immediate positive effect on this cooperation was that from early 2005 on all 18 countries have already participated actively and intensively on programme level. National delegations and CADSES Contact Points of Non-Member States increased their activities considerably. In that way CADSES turned into a true Neighbourhood Programme already one year before External Funds were made available.

In general, the integration of the Neighbourhood Dimension is a success in the CADSES Framework. Meanwhile the contracting of the ERDF side of approved projects has been finished, the state of play for the External Funds is still at different stages. It has to be mentioned that the introduction of the Neighbourhood Dimension in the last call for projects generated a tricky situation due to the following

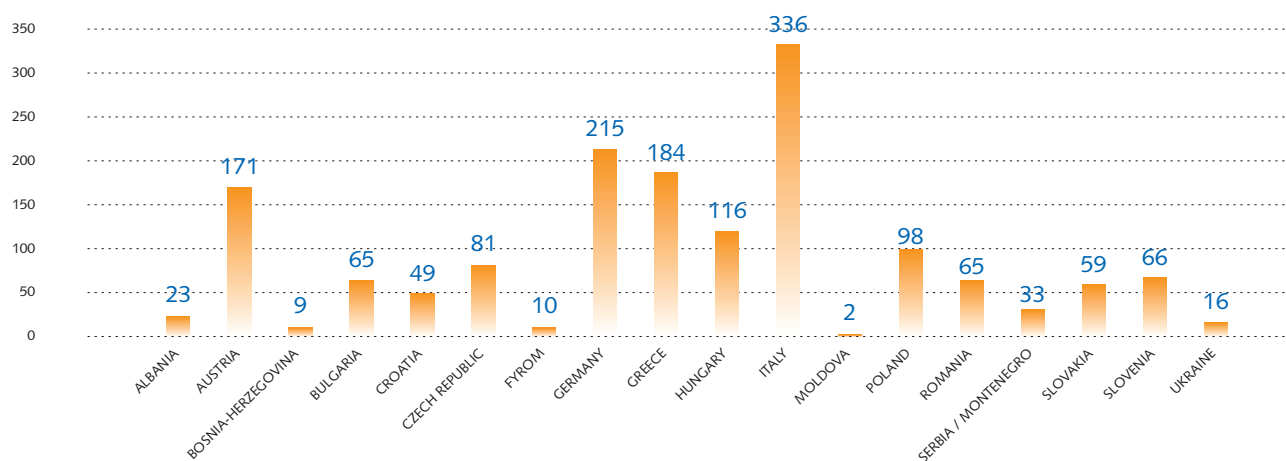
reasons: CARDS, PHARE and TACIS funds can be committed for the first time using the entire budget allocated to the programme; ERDF funds were limited to the budget available after three calls. For all funds together there was the challenge to commit financial resources under consideration of project budgets as they were applied for.

## Success of the first Neighbourhood call for project proposals

To underline the importance of the Neighbourhood Dimension for the final phase of the programme it was decided as a principle for decision-making by the Steering Committee to focus on partnerships between Member States and the countries eligible for CARDS, PHARE and TACIS funding. This principle was maintained in a way that at the end of the selection process the budgets of all funds were committed to a very large extend. Only relatively small amounts, not sufficiently high to approve additional projects, were left. The objective was now achieved: The CADSES Programme had proved that it was possible to integrate five different funds and to allow a common application and selection process.

Another positive result becomes visible when looking at the increased number of applications. The first Neighbourhood call was the 4<sup>th</sup> call in the framework of CADSES and thanks to the increased funding opportunities, the interest in CADSES cooperation expanded significantly. While under the 2<sup>nd</sup> call already 88 applications of transnational partner networks were submitted, this number raised up to 238 under the 4<sup>th</sup> call.

After the 4<sup>th</sup> call about 1,600 partners cooperated in 133 projects. Outstanding is not only the high number but also the fact that now all Member States and all other partner countries of CADSES are actively involved in projects. The relatively small number of partners from Moldova (2), Bosnia-Herzegovina (9) and FYROM (10) can be explained with the small size of the countries and the fact that the first two are the only partner countries without a common border with the European Union. Furthermore, it can be considered to be outstanding that Serbia and Montenegro reached 33 partnerships – a number which nobody could have imagined at the beginning of programming, when a war was still going on in and about former Yugoslavia.



Number of project partners per country

## CADSES Neighbourhood Programme – a ticket to Europe

Although many of the projects from the 4<sup>th</sup> call are still running, the main achievement of Neighbourhood cooperation is already visible: Thanks to the matching of different EU funds more than 1,600 partners from all over Central and South-Eastern Europe could participate in this European cooperation on equal footing. The programme could help to overcome the negative effects of existing borders and provided partners from outside of the Union with a ticket to join partnership networks and share the advantages of European cooperation. Vlad Melnic from Chisinau, Moldova, puts it this way: "Before participating in the CADSES Programme we were actively involved within the Romania-Moldova Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. Although we have great experience within that programme I must mention that transnational cooperation gives a better exposure to

the participating partners, helps to establish wider contacts and brings some solutions to problems which at the end are in many aspects similar to all countries (it is only an issue that different countries have different starting points within a process)." Vlad Melnic is Director of Plai Resurse, a private consulting company from Moldova participating in the CADSES Project HIST.URBAN. In this project 19 partners from nine Central and South-Eastern European countries have come together to support the development of attractive and competitive small and medium-sized historic towns, using the potential of the built-cultural heritage as a development factor for an integrated, sustainable urban development. Thinking about the benefits, the Moldavian partner underlines: "For us it was particularly important:



- ▶ to be included in the network of historical towns and to benefit from the existing experience in other countries on how to strengthen small and medium-sized historic towns using the built-cultural heritage as an asset for integrated and sustainable urban development;
- ▶ to benefit from transferable strategies and tools for integrated revitalisation of built-cultural heritage (to link urban revitalisation with heritage preservation);
- ▶ to benefit from recommendations on how to influence urban policy in terms of integrated revitalisation strategies;
- ▶ to get acquainted with innovative pilot projects and preparation of investments in the partner cities."

One of the milestones achieved by the project is a base-line study on best-practice/state-of-the-art of revitalisation approaches and an outlook of the applicability in historic towns, giving an overview and supporting the revitalisation approaches of the project partner. Before starting the project HIST.URBAN not much attention was paid to such issues in Moldova. Therefore, the studies on the state of five historical towns in Moldova as well as the base-line study were presented to interested stakeholders during a National Conference. According to the Moldavian partner, the studies did not only raise a lot of interest, but also have contributed to reinforcing discussions between Mayoralty and other relevant stakeholders regarding the future urban development plan, which foresees the construction of a new boulevard in the Chisinau city centre which could affect the historical centre negatively. The above mentioned document as well as the EU experts' presentations at the Conference helped to show alternative opportunities as they are applied in EU Member States for the development of city centres, in order to use the city built-cultural heritage as an added value for its economic development. This went beyond the project partners' expectations and it was agreed that such discussions should be continued at future public events.

*National Conference in Chisinau (Moldova) "The importance of revitalization of historical towns" in December 2007*



*The telecentre in Stambolovo (Bulgaria), carried out by the TELEACCESS project, has become a central meeting point for the local population and offers access to innovative services*

TELEACCESS is a project to support learning, entrepreneurship and access to information systems in isolated areas. Among its eleven partners there are the Recreation and Development Union, Haskovo, Bulgaria, and the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia. The project's Lead Partner reports that even from the first months of pilot operation of the so called telecentre by project partners, there are several positive outcomes indicating that telecentres are very useful for dealing with digital access problems in rural areas. This is even more clear and important for the cases of partners from Neighbourhood countries (Bulgarian and Croatian partners). The project offered them an opportunity to receive existing experience from other European countries in a feasible way, in order to deal with the problem of an increasing digital divide in their rural territories.

In Stambolovo (Bulgaria) the established telecentre has already become a "social centre" gathering the local population. The centre building is now the central meeting point of the Stambolovo municipality, providing the local people with opportunities to access innovative services which were not available before.

In the case of e-Croatia, the TELEACCESS project provided an initial path in order to further work and capitalize in the field of needed actions to overcome digital divide. A cooperation agreement has been signed with the administrative bodies hosting the telecentres, according to which telecentres will function for at least three years after the end of project. Additionally, in order to ensure follow-up results, they managed to incorporate a project in the IPA Operational Plan for Regional Competitiveness (IPA OPRC), consisting of financing an additional number of business advisory services which will provide e-business services.

The examples of HIST.URBAN, TELEACCESS and other CADSES Projects show that once projects were running, the exchange of information and experience was the main advantage for partners from Non-Member States. The same argument is known from the

first funding period (INTERREG II C CADSES 1997–1999) when even the partners from Member States underlined the key relevance of exchange of information and experience. The difference in the INTERREG III B funding period is that external partners are now enjoying this exchange to the same extent. Another difference is that partners and programme actors are no longer satisfied with pure exchange activities. Instead, projects are now combining the exchange

with the planning or even implementation of concrete investments and follow-up activities. In case of HIST.URBAN the planning of a boulevard became inspired by the transnational exchange of project partners. TELEACCESS invested in telecentres, analysed their impact on the local environment and even formally agreed that the centres will function for at least another three years after the end of the CADSES Project.

## **Irina Nicolaescu**

**Contracting officer for PHARE Romania and National coordinator of SEE programme for Romania (until 01/2008)  
External Funding Manager within the SEE JTS (since 02/2008)**

**As part of its preparation for EU membership Romania gained a lot of experience in European programmes. What was new when CADSES adopted the Neighbourhood Approach and offered PHARE funds to applicants from Romania?**

The INTERREG III B CADSES Programme was the first transnational experience of Romanian administration and project partners. The administrative bodies were faced with big challenges during the selection of the projects and the contracting of PHARE funds allocated to the projects. We were not entirely prepared for such a complex programme and aspects that had not occurred before needed to be handled now.



*Irina Nicolaescu*

The eligibility of the partners and expenditures had to be checked carefully and we had to respect the rules of the PHARE Programme as well as those of the CADSES Programme; the ex-ante approval of the EC Delegation was a long process since the Delegation was not familiar with the particular rules and procedures of the programme and because the Financing Memorandum for PHARE in Romania had to be modified in order to comply with the timetable

of the overall projects. We had two options: either to sign the contracts under a suspension clause or to lose about four months until the approval of the modification by the European Commission. We chose the first option in order to not affect the timely implementation of the projects' activities too much.

On the other hand, the Romanian project partners themselves faced a lot of difficulties due to a lack of information in the preparatory phase of the projects (e. g. they were entitled to 90% PHARE co-financing but they had only asked for 75%, which was the co-financing rate for ERDF); a delay of the contracting procedures and, last but not least, a lack of experience in the participation and coordination of such complex operations.

**Will it be possible for the programmes of the funding period 2007–2013 to continue and to build-up on the experiences gained under CADSES by now?**

For the new programming period 2007–2013 the CADSES Programme area was divided and two new transnational programmes resulted: Central Europe (CENTRAL) and South East Europe (SEE). Nevertheless, the challenges remain the same, at least for the SEE Programme, as the programme's eligible area extends to six Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, part of Italy, Romania and Slovakia), six candidate/potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and two external countries (Moldova and part of Ukraine).

**After 3 years of work as contracting officer for PHARE Romania and National coordinator of the SEE programme for Romania you started in February 2008 to work as External Funding Manager within the SEE Joint Technical Secretariat. What would you consider as the main added value of the CADSES experience for the new programme cooperation?**

In the new programme, it will again be the programme actors' responsibility to coordinate the funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), allocated to the SEE Programme. The added value is the availability of experience itself. We have the experience of CADSES and the actors preparing the new programme are learning from it. We put now, for example, a stronger emphasis on regulating all sensitive aspects relevant for the implementation of the programme right from the very beginning.

# Planners, let's network for common strategies!

Anke Hahn

After the EU enlargements, increased global competition and new challenges such as migration, growing disparities and demographic changes underline the necessity of an integrated European spatial development. Several political documents contain strategic options for a more sustainable and balanced way of spatial development in the whole Union. The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), adopted in 1999, was a first step towards a common guideline. Based on the ESDP principles as well as on the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, the participants of the informal ministerial meeting on urban development and territorial cohesion in Leipzig in 2007 concluded the Territorial Agenda, a document drawing the further way for transnational cooperation in spatial development matters. Six strategic priorities are listed on the Agenda, which are to be transformed into transnational projects. For more than 15 years, the European Community Initiative INTERREG played an important role in implementing those priorities and political options of the above mentioned documents.

The Programme area is characterised by a variety of socio-economic and political structures, cultural identities, traditions and languages. All these factors contribute to different working and communication cultures. Transnational cooperation in spatial development matters is therefore confronted with diverse planning methods that are embedded in various political-administrative systems in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Additionally, the EU enlargements as well as the Neighbourhood Approach have an impact on territorial conditions and generate new possibilities for cooperation.

Within the CADSES Programme, seven projects have fostered a stronger cooperation between spatial planning units and regional development agencies in terms of transnational networks and data platforms. Common development perspectives and a joint understanding of spatial planning issues were objectives of the projects PLANET CENSE, CONSPACE, MATRIOSCA-AAP and RDA-net CEDA2, while the projects DONAUREGIONEN, ISA-MAP and ESTIA-SPOSE dealt with joint data catalogues for transnational spatial planning activities.

## No common development strategies without transnational networking!

For integrative planning concepts, a common comprehension of spatial development issues and planning tools is necessary. But how can a stronger cooperation between planning institutions beyond national borders be achieved? The Planners Network for Central and South-Eastern Europe **PLANET CENSE** elaborated strategic instruments for a collective understanding of spatial development concepts and potentials by reflecting propositions of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and results of the Euro-

pean Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON). For instance, using the term "metropolitan regions" the project partners took up the concept of functionally integrated regions based on travel to work areas regardless of any administrative unit. "Thus", the project coordinator Friedrich Schindegger stated, "it was possible to apply the concept of 'Metropolitan European Growth Areas' (MEGAs)

Cooperation Network of "Metropolitan European Growth Areas" (MEGAs) in CADSES







*The Czech motorway D8 near Litoměřice is part of the European Transport Corridor IV*

developed by the ESPON 1.1.1 project in a common way and, further on, to analyse in a first step, what city networking as a manifestation of polycentric development really is about in terms of cooperation models and domains dealt with."

The project created a transnational cooperation platform promoting a mutual knowledge transfer between participating spatial development institutions of Western and Eastern Europe, of EU Member States and Non-Member States. Discussed spatial trends were brought together in the final strategic document "Mobilising the Potentials of Central and South-Eastern Europe". Those trends were, for example, the coexistence of dynamic and stagnating regions deepening the national disparities (outstanding economic growth of the capital city regions, considerable economic disparities at the borders between CADSES countries) and the preponderance of economic east-west over north-south integration.

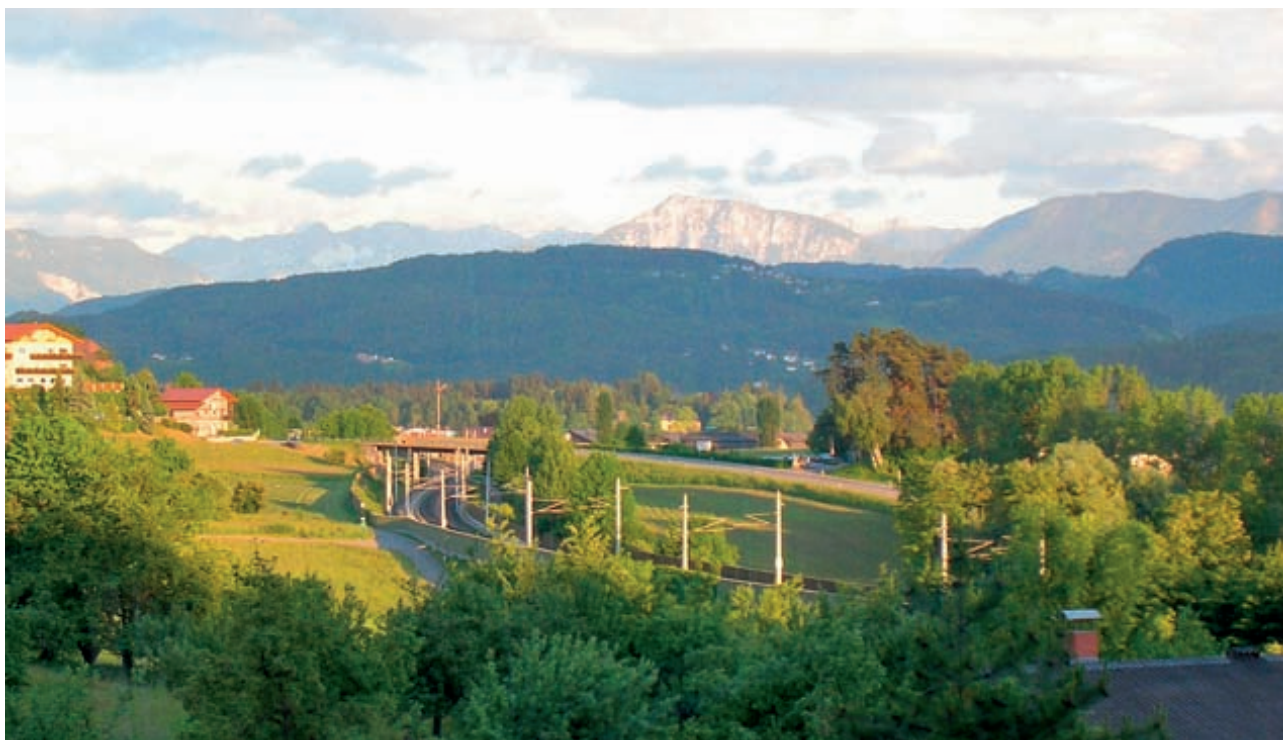
Furthermore, two pilot projects were carried out dealing with two central planning concepts of the ESDP: polycentric spatial development and transnational transport corridors. The analyses were focussed on metropolitan networks and links from the Baltic to the Adriatic Sea. Adolf Andel, director of the Lead Partner, the Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning, expressed further that "these links are part of investment plans of the affected countries and will be realised within the next 15 years." He further expressed that "the full integration of the former COMECON-States into the European Union has assigned new tasks to spatial planning. For instance, the region of the two adjacent capitals Vienna and Bratislava is to become a common metropolitan region serving as a new dynamic economic core zone of Central and South-Eastern Europe. Thus, common strategies in spatial planning and transnational cooperation are more important than ever before."

Within the two pilot projects, the planning tool of Territorial Impact Analysis (TIA<sub>n</sub>) could be applied. This tool assesses the impact of proposed single development measures, e.g. transport links or urban investment projects, against the integrated spatial policy objectives of an area. The basic idea was to apply the original approach of territorial impact assessment on a transnational level within PLANET CENSE.

Based on the project outputs further corridor projects and networks between metropolitan areas are aspired. The main political recommendations of the project are integrated into the Central Europe and South East Europe Programmes 2007–2013 and played a decisive role in the development of the Territorial Agenda. A follow-up project is of interest to the network partners, but as a new precondition it may have to bridge the division of the Programme area.

A common development perspective for the Alps Adriatic Danubian Space was a central objective of the **CONSPACE** project. Ten partners from national and regional spatial planning authorities in five participating countries launched common strategies firstly by the linkage of existing planning tools.

Eighteen pilot actions on regional level were executed within four project work packages. They gave an insight into planning methods in different countries. For example, project partners in Carinthia, Styria (both in Austria), Slovenia and the Italian Veneto Region elaborated regional datasets for a better monitoring of spatial development procedures. Therefore comparable regional, socio-economic and environmental indicators will make the exchange of experiences within the CONSPACE area much easier. In this context, the project could profit from spatial indicators and data sets of the CADSES Projects ISA-MAP and IPAM, which were implemented in the same transnational region.



*Cross-regional and Trans-European transport links are essential for an integrated spatial development in the Alps Adriatic Danubian Space*

Several partner regions compiled regional plans like in Veneto, where peripheral mountain areas were focussed. Outputs of this pilot action were analyses of settlement areas and the integration of spatial planning terms like transport, land use or industry to give planners support in decision-making processes. "The Styrian regional development concept", Christian Seidenberger from the Government of Carinthia cited a further example, "demonstrated an integrated planning process, which imbeds the assessment of effects (SEA) and thus could be a model for regions where the connection between the planning and the assessment process as well as civic participation are developed at present." Strategic environmental assessment is a procedure that takes environmental implications of planning intentions into account before decisions are made.

*The MATRIOSCA-AAP project aimed at transnational net-working for common strategies in the Alps Adriatic area. An own institution shall serve as transnational network interface, project development location and meeting point for project partners.*

The maintenance of cultural and natural heritage was another aim of the CONSPACE project. The County of Primorje and Gorski Kotar in Croatia worked for stronger preservation of historical urban centres. For this pilot action, the historical structure of the City of Kastav was taken into account. Revitalisation strategies were discussed in an international workshop and the participation of local and regional stakeholders was aspired.

Finally, in order to further integrate the measures of upgrading regional transport networks, another pilot action carried out by the Italian Province of Gorizia analysed the transport development in the cross-border area along the Vipava Valley line between Italy and Slovenia. The project partners identified necessary tasks to make best use of the existing infrastructure in the agglomeration of Gorizia-Nova Gorica. The valorisation of the rail line through its electrification as well as track converting and reconstructing actions have an immense impact on the regional development of the border area. Possible important connection strategies to the Trans-European Transport Corridor V from Lisbon to Kiev were also taken into consideration. "CONSPACE definitely made aware that more and better information, permanent availability and comparability of data of spatial structures and their development is a precondition for cross-border activities," summarised Seidenberger the project findings. Styria and Carinthia think about a follow-up project that should focus on the improvement of the data situation, on joint analyses and evaluation of spatial development. Moreover, the INTERREG IV A project proposal SUSPLAN is under preparation by the regions of Carinthia, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto.

Similar to the CONSPACE results, the outputs of the **MATRIOSCA-AAP** project affect spatial development in the Alps Adriatic Area. Its partners tended to strengthen the transnational exchange of spatial planning strategies within the "EU Future Region Adria-Alpe-Pannonia", which was launched in 2002 by the Governor of Styria. The participants aspired to enhance the economic and living space of 17 million inhabitants in five different cultural areas.

Based on several surveys and comparative analyses of economic structure, growth and convergence in the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia Region, the project partners elaborated a common strategy for transnational cooperation. Four strategic priorities have been identified: territorial development and polycentric systems, large-scale infrastructures, knowledge networking and innovative SME clustering. The participating regional actors concluded a political agreement to incorporate these MATRIOSCA strategies into national and regional measures. "In order to avoid thematic overlaps, we screened already existing deliverables and findings of transnational projects in the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia Region and incorporated them into the MATRIOSCA strategy development", ensures Maria Elßer-Eibel, Lead Partner from the State Government of Styria. Intended actions within the strategic priorities should increase the cohesion of planning instruments, procedures and attitudes in the involved Austrian, Italian, Slovenian, Hungarian and Croatian regions. Infrastructure gaps should be closed by joint planning measures and lobbying. The cooperation of technology clusters and networks in the entire Adria-Alpe-Pannonia Region, which was also followed by the CADSES Project TECPARKNET, should foster the innovativeness and competitiveness of small businesses. With improved and coordinated information dissemination, the project partners strove for more international visibility of the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia Region.

A future institution for transnational project development is foreseen in form of a "European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation", as introduced by the EC Regulation 1082/2006. "A draft-statute for this institution has been created, so – as soon as the legal basis will be delivered – the project partners can establish this kind of instrument for transnational cooperation", said Elßer-Eibel. As stated in the Joint Strategy Document of the MATRIOSCA project, the future institution should provide a neutral ground for further cooperation activities and should improve the coordination of existing funding programmes. The institutional setting should further be used as a network interface within the implementation of joint projects and as a meeting point for all participating actors.

Six project proposals for the funding period 2007–2013 based on the four MATRIOSCA priorities were elaborated. For instance, an organic cluster shall sell qualitative organic products like "Adriatic organic figs" or "Pannonia pepper". A cluster for business success of SME in the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia Region is being planned and innovative methods for research-business-collaboration are being thought about. The project SUSEN is intended to support renewable energies. Currently, a project promoting transport infrastructure development for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is also under preparation. The elaborated MATRIOSCA Perspective summarises the future intentions of the project partners: a political commitment to concerted actions in the Adria-Alpe-Pannonia Space and implementation of transnational projects by a joint management and coordination unit.

Spatial and regional development also matters with regard to the education and working situations in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Currently many qualified workers migrate west in the hope for better job opportunities. Thus, the EU Member States and Accession Countries are facing the challenge to further develop their education systems and to offer attractive learning and qualification possibilities. The project **RDA-net CEDA<sup>2</sup>** targeted to avoid this brain drain and established a network of regional development agencies (RDA) in ten states. This network provides innovative tools for managing and implementing regional development projects in a transnational and cross-border context.

*The regional development agencies network shall improve the education possibilities, competencies of and knowledge exchange among workers. It tends to stem the still existing brain drain in Central and South-Eastern Europe.*

The partners established eight thematic work groups, which dealt with several regional development topics. These were, e.g., the impulses of new technologies in rural and de-industrialised regions, the chances and threats of industrial parks, the integration of recon-verted industrial and military sites, the development of innovative clusters and networks, and the establishment of sufficient training and education facilities. The acquisition of financial instruments for regional projects and enterprise start-ups as well as the meaning of sustainability in the different contexts of regional development also were considered. The project partners gained further knowledge about the framework conditions of regional marketing in a globalised world. One project action supported matchmaking processes and connections between the participating key actors within the thematic work groups and helped to elaborate and submit common project proposals. The budget of the second project activity PROCEDO was used for the implementation of micro-feasibility studies for common projects carried out by the thematic work groups. Further instruments were three virtual platforms that offered several learning activities and knowledge transfer (learning platform), promoted project aims and results (marketing platform) and facilitated the connection of project partners and the exchange of experiences (information platform).

Several staff exchange programmes gave participants of the RDA-network the opportunity to deepen their knowledge about different topics relevant for their daily work. For instance, officers of regional development agencies in Romania and Slovakia took part in a ten-day staff exchange programme in the Italian Marche Region to extend their understanding of managing and monitoring structural funds. Thus, the project partners got access to a broader knowledge on regional development policies and improved their skills in project management. The staff's qualities and competencies of the participating regional development agencies could be increased.



## Common data catalogues – a necessity for transnational spatial planning

Nearly 80% of all decisions in public administration related to spatial planning depend on the availability of geographical information. Thus, for the implementation of common transnational development strategies, planning authorities and agencies, especially in border areas, need joint spatial data they can correspond to. A cross-border transport route, for instance, could not be implemented without a common development plan based on joint spatial data.

The **ISA-MAP** project focussed on such a common geo-data set to improve spatial planning activities within the border triangle of Austria, Italy and Slovenia. The project partners set up a catalogue containing unified geo-data sets including relevant information, e.g. economic structures, environment or the transport infrastructures in the Italian region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Slovenia and Carinthia. The data is delivered in form of tables and graphics and can be handled with the ISA-MAP web viewer on the Internet. The implemented subproject HarmonISA aims at integrating the different classifications of land use and land cover data of the three border regions in one geographical information system. The result is an IT-based query tool for a transnational catalogue of land use types like settlement, agriculture or forests, and can be used on the Internet ([www.harmonisa.uni-klu.ac.at](http://www.harmonisa.uni-klu.ac.at)).

Planning authorities, not only in the Alps Adriatic Area, try to satisfy the need for common spatial datasets. The **DONAUREGIONEN** project purposed to overcome the lack of coordinated planning activities and insufficient information about planning intentions along the river Danube. The next step of the Danubian Spatial Planning Working Group “ARGE Donauländer” of the Danubian countries is to promote the collaboration among themselves and to force a sustainable development of the Danubian space. Ten project partners from countries along the river strove for a common development strategy and information basis from a spatial planning viewpoint, on which the public administration authorities can rely on when drafting regional plans and programmes.

One output of the project is the territorial development concept, which outlines the potentials of this transnational region concerning its natural and economic conditions, transport and technical infrastructures. Furthermore, the “EDP Data Catalogue”, a meta-information system developed in the framework of a former INTERREG II C project, could also be updated. It offers information about spatial planning activities in the Danubian regions and contains environmental and spatial data.

DONAUREGIONEN shall open a consultant partnership between participating authorities and planning agencies. The project results should be used for the coordination of investment activities and the promotion of qualities of the Danubian regions.



*A common development strategy and a data catalogue along the river Danube – here in Bratislava – were objectives of the DONAUREGIONEN project*

## Spatial Planning Observatory Network for South-Eastern Europe

How can abilities to cooperate in spatial planning issues be enhanced in South-Eastern? The project **ESTIA-SPOSE** elaborated a special tool for improving transnational cooperation. Partners from 13 states, especially universities, spatial planning associations and national ministries, established a network which operates a common Spatial Planning Observatory Platform (SPOP). A system of territorial indicators, the fundament of the observatory platform, is based on the framework and results of the ESPON. The indicators represent the socio-economic situations and conditions of polycentric growth, parity of access and management of natural resources on NUTS II (regions) and III (counties) levels within the participating states. The

*The common Spatial Planning Observatory Platform of ESTIA-SPOSE owns a huge set of territorial indicators*





data is stored in a comprehensive database with numerous geographical maps. With these indicators the users get a comprehensive view over spatial structures, regional potentials and classifications within South-Eastern Europe, such as the “Territorial Cohesion Potential” or the “Territorial Integration Perspectives”. Different regional planning institutions, selected by the project partners, tested and evaluated the usage and functionality of the web application of SPOP. The majority gave positive feedback regarding the answers provided to requests and the general capacity of the platform. The existence of a concrete database and spatial planning indicators for the entire ESTIA-SPOSE area, increases the potential for cooperation initiatives at different scales.

The carried out CADSES Projects provide an overview on possibilities how to ease the collaboration among spatial planners from different countries. Transnational planning methods and instruments will gain more attention as the necessity for cooperation beyond countries, regions and cities in spatial development processes is evident and, with it, the need for such tools. The Territorial Agenda can only offer

the framework for such processes, while planners and stakeholders need to network for implementing common strategies and ideas. The Territorial Cooperation Programmes 2007–2013 offer a chance to establish new networks or to further develop existing ones.

Both CADSES follow-up programmes 2007–2013 aim at the improvement of accessibility in Europe with own areas of intervention, wherein CENTRAL EUROPE aspires to improve interconnectivity (2.1) and multimodal logistics’ cooperation (2.2), while SOUTH EAST EUROPE strives for an improved coordination in promoting, planning and operation for transport networks (3.1). The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme also established areas of intervention 4.1. “Polycentric Development and Territorial Cooperation” and 4.2 “Territorial effects of demographic and social change on urban and regional development”. The SOUTH EAST EUROPE Programme tackles “crucial problems affecting metropolitan and regional areas” (4.1) and promotes “attractive and accessible growth areas” (4.2).

## CADSES Projects covered in this article

	Project Acronym	Full Project Title	Partner Countries Involved	Website/Contact
	PLANET CENSE	PLAnners NETWORK for CENTral and South East Europe	AT, DE, IT, SI, GR, AL, BG, BA, CZ, HU, HR, PL, RO, SK, SCG	<a href="http://www.planet-cense.net">www.planet-cense.net</a>
	CONSPACE	Common Strategy Network for Spatial Development and Implementation	AT, HR, HU, IT, SI	<a href="http://www.conspace.info">www.conspace.info</a>
	MATRIOSCA-AAP	MANagement Tools and Relations for Interregional Organisation to Strengthening Co-operation in Adria-Alpe-Pannonia	AT, HR, HU, IT, SI	<a href="http://www.matriosca.net">www.matriosca.net</a>
	RDA-net CEDA <sup>2</sup>	Regional Development Agencies Network in the Central European, Danubian and Adriatic Area	AT, CZ, DE, GR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK, SI, UA	<a href="http://www.ceda2.net">www.ceda2.net</a>
	ISA-MAP	Harmonisation of regional data resources for cross-border planning	AT, IT, SI	<a href="http://www.isamap.info">www.isamap.info</a>
	DONAUREGIONEN	The Spatial Development Concept of Interregional Cooperation in the Danube Space	SK, BG, DE, HU, RO, SCG	Mr. Ing Tibor Nemeth <a href="mailto:nemeth@build.gov.sk">nemeth@build.gov.sk</a>
	ESTIA-SPOSE	European Space – Territorial Indicators and Actions for a Spatial Planning Observatory in Southeast Europe	GR, DE, AT, IT, AL, BA, BG, HR, SCG, MK, HU, RO, SI	<a href="http://www.uehr.panteion.gr/estia-spose">www.uehr.panteion.gr/estia-spose</a>

# How to keep European cities vital and liveable?

Tina Uhlmann

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is for the first time in history that more people live in cities than in the countryside. Especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America the population in urban areas is increasing rapidly. However, the structure of the typical city has also changed to a great extent in Europe over the last 50 years. Areas covered by urban settlements have increased. Green fields outside of urban centres were often used to build new shopping malls or residential areas leading to a suburbanisation of towns. As consequences, traffic augmented and the environment as well as the quality of life in urban areas deteriorated. For some years now, a tendency towards a renewal and rediscovery of urban life and inner urban areas has become visible, meaning less urban sprawl and an ideal of an accessible, compact city with room for recreation and a high environmental and social quality. However, the internal restructuring of towns and revitalisation of areas remains a big challenge, which was tackled by numerous CADSES Projects.

The political changes in 1989 and the consequent structural changes had diverse effects on society, especially of the Eastern European Countries. Besides new liberty, the changes brought problems like mass unemployment and migration, which had been unknown in socialist times. The number of inhabitants in many big cities diminished caused by different reasons, such as an increase in prices for estates in city centres, suburbanisation, declining birth rate and movement of labour. The transformation from the centrally planned to the free market economy is still a dominant factor influencing the development of urban areas.

During socialist time cities were centres of industrialisation, since 1990 they face the process of deindustrialisation. At the same time, rules and regulations of the EU have to be considered. These are also valid for the cities in Western European countries, which did not have to overcome such abrupt changes but are confronted with problems caused by the enlargement of residential areas and an ever growing traffic volume.

*Decisions concerning harmonised development between a city and its surroundings are often uncoordinated and there is a lack of knowledge regarding the diversity of regional endogenous potentials.*

For many cities, strategies for a sustainable development of urban areas and their surroundings have to be implemented. Concepts for city marketing, urban economy and urban development are required. The quality of life also is to be improved by enhancing urban green space and ensuring accessibility for everyone. Several CADSES Projects were accomplished to achieve these goals and concrete actions were proposed to meliorate the conditions of urban areas.



*The City of Linz, partner of CITYREGIO*

## Developing “lighthouses” by the support of small and medium-sized cities

Whereas many Western European conurbations are already promoters of regional economic development for their surroundings, such functions of city-regions still have to be established in some areas of the CADSES Space. Decisions concerning harmonised development between a city and its surroundings are often uncoordinated and there is a lack of knowledge regarding the diversity of regional endogenous potentials. Firms, administration and politics hardly co-operate on an intra-regional level. This causes numerous negative consequences like the increase of settlement areas, a limitation of quality of life due to intensive land consumption and limitations of regional economic competitiveness. However, especially centres of second order, which are seen as driving forces for the future, can reinforce their function as “lighthouses” only in connection with their surroundings. In co-operation with their vicinity they can bundle their potentials to foster economic growth in the whole region.

To support such cooperation, three regions which are located apart from the “blue banana” and the capitals of the respective countries joined their forces in the project **CITYREGIO**.

The objective of the City Regions of Linz, Pilsen and Leipzig was to strengthen the formation of polycentric urban systems and to stimulate their economic development. This should be achieved by the development of clusters enhancing the competitiveness of the city regions. Furthermore, the partners evaluated their existing cooperation between cities and their periphery as basis for recommendations. The human factors, such as population density, migration, commuter streams and other statistical values, were analysed and compared. A regional business and location information system for investors was developed for all areas. This tool now provides data about estates available for investments and information about other existing businesses in an area for possible cooperation. By means of this system, the attractiveness of urban regions as a whole has been increased. For example, the logistic company DHL used this information tool to find a location for the new Main Trade Centre in the City Region of Leipzig. The related investment of 300 million euros will create more than 10,000 jobs until 2012.

Further on, the involved regions had to carry out specific activities. Among others, the City Region of Linz developed a network of firms for business cycles and the City of Leipzig established different clusters for automotive industry, health and renewable energies. Pilsen evaluated the regional location factors for clusters with a focus on strategic business locations, human resource potentials as well as their qualification and training. Therefore, a new Centre for Further Education was established and provided with equipment in cooperation between the Regional Development Agency of the Pilsen Region and the University of Western Bohemia. Teaching programmes were elaborated additionally and will be realised at the new training facility. Due to the high request for the results of the activities the follow-up project **CITYREGIO II** was implemented with further partners from other second-order cities and their peripheral surroundings, namely Varna in Bulgaria, Pécs in Hungary, Bologna in Italy and Gdansk in Poland. Such as in CITYREGIO, the focus was again on economic development support as well as on regional planning regarding industrial sites and infrastructure allocations. Feasibility studies and approaches for regional clustering were developed and selected locations were prepared for large scale investments.



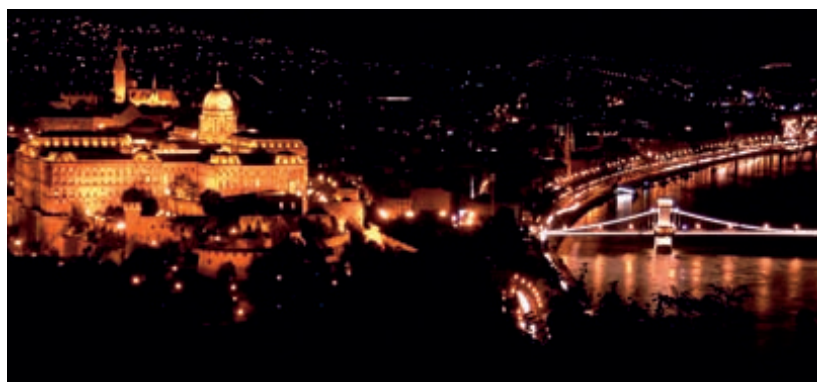
Uno-City of the City of Vienna

However, not only cities and their surroundings but also cities within a certain region need to be connected among each other. The project **DonauHanse** put this into practice by linking cities along the river Danube. These towns – all located in riparian countries of the river – already established business connections in mediaeval times and

*The Danube could be used as an economic potential in terms of transport, tourism development as well as business location development. Particularly the smaller cities are aware of these potentials and do not want to leave them unused.*

formed a federation. The aim of the project was to encourage this former cooperation also at the present in order to foster economic success. In 2003 the connection between them was very weak, although they all had a good basis for cooperation, namely a similar economic culture as a result of their position on the river. The Danube could be used as an economic potential in terms of transport, tourism development as well as business location development. Particularly the smaller cities are aware of these potentials and did not want to leave them unused. The project generated concrete forms of cooperation between the administrations and the business sectors of the cities in order to use these hidden potentials. For example, a tourism master plan was developed including analyses of infrastructure and tourist services along the entire river. Furthermore, a tourism marketing strategy was developed for the Austrian Wachau valley, which now represents a model for the creation of such strategies in South-Eastern Europe. Therefore, the key source markets Germany, Austria, Italy and Czech Republic were analysed to gain information about the image of tourism along the whole Danube river. Another output of the project was the publication of a tourist guide with descriptions of historic places and famous cities along the Danube between Regensburg and Budapest.

To support sustainable transportation in the cities, a market analysis of potential Danube freights was implemented to identify capacities and demands of shippers on the Upper and Middle Danube. Nadine Richter, Wolfgang Bartsch and Gerhard Jakisch from the Donau-Hanse Team Vienna stated that this study now serves as a decision-making instrument and implementation tool for logistics enterprises, freight companies and investors, but also for policy makers.



The Castle of Budapest

An internet information and communication platform was generated where tourists, potential investors as well as logistics companies can gain information about culture, economy, infrastructure, ports and general data of all the cities involved. To promote the cooperation and the results of the project, a concept for joint presentations of DonauHanse cities at trade fairs and cultural events (e. g. Expo Real) was developed. At the end of the official cooperation, the first DonauHanse Mayors' Conference took place and mayors and politicians from the partner cities signed the DonauHanse Resolution to continue, enlarge and deepen the collaboration, e.g. by means of workshops. To date, capital as well as small cities, e.g. Bukarest, Nuremberg, Sremski Karlovci, joined the cooperation. Since the beginning of 2008 DonauHanse is a registered trademark. The website [www.donauhanse.net](http://www.donauhanse.net) can be accessed on the Internet and the extension of the network of Danube cities continues. "Danube cities are asking for joining the network to benefit from the cooperation and the exchange of information in all fields," the Donauhanse Team Vienna reported.

Strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized cities in order to improve the living conditions was the aim of all the three projects described above. By fostering cooperation between towns and their surroundings, the economy could be stimulated and polycentric settlement structures were encouraged. The projects supported the creation of networks strengthening the exchange of knowledge, to develop clusters and to generate conjoint marketing strategies. Unified small and medium-sized cities can represent a counterpart to metropolises concerning attractiveness for economy, trade and tourism.

### Adapting urban technologies to EU-standards

At the HABITAT III conference, which was organised in 2006 by the United Nations' HABITAT World Urban Forum in Vancouver, cities committed themselves to create cooperation networks for the exchange of suitable urban technologies. Taking this engagement into account, several partners, mainly cities from Austria, Italy, Germany, Greece, Romania and Ukraine implemented the project **UTN II**. The objective of this project was to exchange knowledge and to improve the development of urban technologies in cities of Central and Eastern Europe. Especially in the Accession Countries exists a high need for project development because there were hardly any investments realised in urban services over the last decades. New framework conditions also have to be considered, like the need for the adaptation of urban services to EU-standards. Thus, cities of Western Europe supported cities from Central and Eastern Europe in the preparation of pilot cooperation involving private and public investors. It was aimed to enhance the investments in urban services and to improve quality of life in cities. Pilot cooperation projects for urban infrastructure, urban maintenance, restructuring of public space and buildings, as well as housing restoration were prepared.



*Urban technologies of Accession Countries are often not up to EU-standards*



*UTN II supports the development of urban technologies in cities of Central and Eastern Europe*

Together with all cooperating partners, project activities were approved under the condition that they had a transnational character, i.e. involvement of two to three countries, that they lead to large investments and that they cover a development process from the project idea to complete documents ready for financing and implementation. An example of such an activity is the cooperation between Vienna and Poreč in Croatia concerning waste water management. Until now, the waste water of the City of Poreč has been pumped into the Adriatic Sea after only a mechanical treatment – a procedure which does not meet the EU-standards and causes accretion of algae as well as annoyances due to malodour. To solve the problems, the two cities developed biological treatment solutions together and prepared technical, economical and ecological documents, which are the bases for action now.

In the context of UTN II, a network with 41 partner cities and regions was established. Sixteen of these partners are from Central and Eastern Europe and ten interested cities joined the project later. Several pilot cooperation projects developed adaptive tools like GIS applications for soil pollution monitoring or urban green area management. Four large scale investments have already begun during the project time. For example, scenarios for reusing a former military camp in Thessaloniki in Greece were analysed in cooperation with the City of Leipzig, and the construction of a football field and a park



is being realised there at the moment. Further on, the renovation of two empty Wilhelminian buildings in Leipzig has already begun and experimental housing concepts can be implemented there. These concepts are dealing with demographic changes – namely the decline of inhabitants in cities and the resulting problems for urban planning strategies. They are proposing solutions like the reduction of accommodation units as well as the building volume, the creation of green spaces and the promotion of private ownership.

### Large housing areas – eyesores ready for demolition?

The project **LHASA** was implemented to deal with the problems of house restructuring in urban residential zones, too. In this case, the partner cities and several associations addressed the problems occurring in large housing areas. Most of them were built after the Second World War on the periphery of cities to tackle a shortage of housing at that time and to provide the population with modern and efficient housing. Currently, more than 30 million people in Central and Eastern Europe live in such large housing areas. They are particularly vulnerable to processes of social segregation and decline, as the example of violent revolts from the suburbs of Paris shows. To prevent such social problems, cities throughout Europe try to integrate these districts into their urban development strategies in order to upgrade living conditions and to avoid further disparities between richer and poorer parts of towns.

Countries of Central Europe already have some experiences concerning this integration, whereas problems with large housing areas in the Eastern European countries have just started in recent years. The aim of LHASA was to improve the living conditions in these residential districts throughout the project area, e.g. by developing concepts for restructuring free urban spaces and technical facilities, as well as for recreating new employment possibilities. After the project start it was recognised that the initial situations of large housing areas strongly differ between Central/Eastern Europe and Western Europe and therefore various strategies had to be developed. Cities of Eastern Germany, for instance, have to face major problems with rising vacancy rates in these residential zones and therefore action plans for demolition of vacant houses were developed.

Whereas in Eastern Europe these areas have a higher social political significance, the percentage of freehold flats is higher and demolition projects of prefabricated buildings are not under consideration due to the existing scarcity of housing. For the cities of Budapest, Warsaw, Tychy in Poland, Pilsen in the Czech Republic and Banská Bystrica in Slovakia, an informal framework planning was created in cooperation with the Lead Partner from Berlin because national regulations do not contain any formal planning tools for spatial development in large housing areas. The informal framework can now contribute to a strategic preparation of investments and gives security to the investors as well as to the municipalities.

Additionally, concepts for financing and feasibility studies for the stabilisation of big housing areas via restoration were made. By renovating technical facilities like electrical installations, heating and insulation, the living conditions could be upgraded. Action plans for local employment were also created, but it was recognised that these concepts can only be implemented in connection with economic strategies for the whole city. Nevertheless, as a pilot project a centre for new entrepreneurs was established in Venice, which now provides 80 new jobs as well as space and equipment for training courses.

*Currently, more than 30 million people in Central and Eastern Europe live in large housing areas. They are particularly vulnerable to processes of social segregation and decline, as the example of violent revolts from the suburbs of Paris shows.*

Furthermore, for the enhancement of quality of life, strategies for urban planning were developed, which should avoid social segregation. These strategies mainly focused on designing public urban space. A pilot project was implemented in Leipzig/Grünau where in a large housing area of this German city a concept for green urban space was developed and realised in cooperation with all project partners. Such a concept was also designed for the area Vinice in Pilsen and should be implemented in the year 2009.



*The project LHASA developed feasibility studies for the stabilisation of big housing areas via restoration*

### A charter for friendly cities

The accessibility of a city is not only a key factor for tourist services but also important for the quality of life for all inhabitants – particularly for persons with special needs. The project **CARE** was accomplished by partners from Italy, Austria, Germany, Greece and Romania to assess the accessibility within cities but also between cities and their surrounding territory. To develop a standardised accessibility rating method, the first step of the project was to analyse the requirements of tourists and inhabitants. Therefore, more than

6,500 interviews among people with and without special needs were conducted to identify their expectations. From the results it could be derived what structures should be surveyed to assess accessibility. These structures are ranging from recreational services to quality of street furniture and are summarised in a manual, which now forms the basis for the evaluation methodology. Using this manual, 13 cities could evaluate the accessibility of their services along tourist itineraries in a non-subjective way. A group of surveyors, which was trained with the new CARE methodology, evaluated certain public buildings, hotels and restaurants in each city involved and the results were published in tourist guides. How the achievements of the project influenced the development of the cities, can be observed in Venice. A tourist card was designed there which functions as a “pre-paid” card for services like public transport and museums. Thanks to CARE this VENICEcard pays special attention to people with special needs, so that they can – according to their level of disability – benefit from some services for free. Furthermore, one of the main achievements of the project was the development of a „Quality Charter for Friendly Cities“, which con-

tains all the key principles that a city has to consider when it wants to join the CARE network of hospitable cities. After the end of the project, other cities can join this network. Additionally, the project developed a brand which has been registered and can now be used by all cities of the network.









*The registered brand of CARE stands for accessible cities*

For all partners of the described projects it was obvious that cities undergo several changes. For example, urban economy, traffic volume and standards of living of inhabitants vary continuously. Some of these changes are causing complex challenges for cities and the project partners developed methods to solve these problems. How manifold these tasks are is pointed out by the fact that the subjects of all the projects differ largely from one another. It also makes clear that further cooperation in the field of urban development and the support of projects is needed in the future.

The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area of intervention 4.2. “Addressing the territorial effects of demographic and social change on urban and regional development” addresses the issue of urban development. In the SOUTH EAST EUROPE Programme the intervention 4.1 “Tackling crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements” and 4.2 “Promote a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas” cover this issue as well.

## CADSES Projects covered in this article

	Project Acronym	Full Project Title	Partner Countries Involved	Website/Contact
	CITYREGIO	Regional Economic Development through City-Surrounding Co-operation	AT, CZ, DE	<a href="http://www.cityregio.net">www.cityregio.net</a>
	CITYREGIO II	Regional Economic Development through Cooperation within City-Regions	BG, CZ, DE, HU, IT, PL	<a href="http://www.cityregio.net">www.cityregio.net</a>
	DONAUHANSE	Network of Danubian Cities for Economic Cooperation	AT, BG, DE, HU, RO, SCG, UA	<a href="http://www.donauhanse.net">www.donauhanse.net</a>
	UTN II	Urban Technology Network II	AT, DE, GR, IT, RO, UA	<a href="http://www.utn.at">www.utn.at</a>
	LHASA	Large Housing Areas Stabilisation Action	CZ, DE, HU, IT, PL, SK	<a href="http://www.berlin.de/ba-marzahn-hellersdorf">www.berlin.de/ba-marzahn-hellersdorf</a> or <a href="mailto:ansgar.tesch@ba-mh.verwalt-berlin.de">ansgar.tesch@ba-mh.verwalt-berlin.de</a>
	CARE	Accessible Cities of European Regions	AT, DE, GR, IT, RO	<a href="http://www.interreg-care.org/site">www.interreg-care.org/site</a>

# Brownfields versus Greenfields, fighting for investors

Tina Uhlmann

Besides transformations in residential areas, changes within the industry, craft and trade can also influence the structures of urban districts. The disappearance of entire industrial sectors, company mergers and other factors are leading to a rising number of brownfields in city-centre locations. Additionally, the extent of these areas increased after the Cold War when more than 8,000 military sites were closed between 1990 and 2000. Idle areas can be found everywhere in Europe, causing numerous negative impacts for their surroundings like hampering the economic development, degrading the environmental quality due to contaminated sites, and dilapidation of dwelling houses.

Reusing derelict areas is a challenging task because investors often prefer to invest into greenfields, outside of developed areas. They do not want to spend money on brownfields, which often comprise complex structures, contaminated areas and obsolete historical buildings. Furthermore, their reuse requires high planning and financial efforts. Since brownfields are often located in central areas of cities with major significance for the city development process, public authorities need to have great influence on the planning of such sites. Usually, the challenge of reusing brownfields can be met by a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in an optimal way.



*PROSIDE developed strategies to promote communication between private investors and public bodies concerning the reuse of brownfields*

To initiate such cooperation and to find solutions for the reuse of brownfields and disused military sites were the objectives of several CADSES Projects.

*Size, current use, planned infrastructure, contact information and contamination of brownfields were identified as necessary information for investors. It was also discovered that financial backers want to get initial information from one source only.*

The project **PROSIDE** was implemented to ensure that plans for the reuse of brownfields by private investors are harmonised with municipal needs for a sustainable urban development. In the past, investments often failed because the ideas of investors were contradictory to those of municipal authorities. Different interests of municipal departments concerning commercial development, urban planning and environmental protection can intensify these conflicts. The partners of the PROSIDE project were aware of the fact that an effective remediation of brownfields is only possible in connection with private funds. On this account, they developed strategies to promote communication between all parties. Therefore, interviews with potential investors were made to figure out what specific information is essential for them to find an adequate location. Size, current use, planned infrastructure, contact information and contamination of brownfields were identified as necessary information for investors. It was also discovered that financial backers want to get initial information from one source only.

Taking the results of the interviews into consideration, the project partners designed a database, which gives an overview on development potentials in inner-city areas and offers information on brownfields for investors. This internet-based information platform was created in the three involved cities of Milan, Stuttgart and Budapest. In Milan and Stuttgart the database is already used frequently – mostly by private investors. Stuttgart counts about 150 users every day and some areas, which were presented at the website, are meanwhile being redeveloped. Among others, the former commercial area „Moehring Bahnhof“ is in residential use and the „Hedelfinger



*In Rimini the reuse of this ex-municipal slaughterhouse was examined by the project MISTER*

Schleife“, a former traffic area, is now occupied by a restaurant and a hotel. A contact point for investors as a “one-stop-shop” was established in St. Poelten in Austria providing information about potentials and limitations for the redevelopment of an area. “The Ecopoint St. Poelten is a good example how investors’ needs can be met on an organisational level,” reported Dr. Thomas Ertel from the German Office of Experts.

Supplementary, three pilot actions were implemented to test an innovative planning tool under different conditions in these three cities. This tool allows the evaluation of different concepts regarding their impact on sustainable urban development, and it was created in co-operation with scientific institutions. Several teams were formed for these pilot actions in each participating country. They made proposals for the reuse of the brownfields concerned, putting emphasis on different targets like environmental aspects and balance between private and public interests. “The participation of international teams was an important added value, because the discussion of different planning approaches made it possible to introduce topics that would not be questioned otherwise,” informed Dr. Ertel. Especially in Milan, where the starting conditions were extremely difficult after ten years of fruitless negotiations between the city and private investors, the test planning procedure on the “Bovisa Gasometri”-site was successful. Fostering the communication between the city, the Milan Polytechnic and local Gas Company AEM, the discussion about the procedure shifted into a dialogue about contents and caused direct interaction. In conclusion it could be said that the PROSIDE tools can enhance the chance of realisation of private investments in urban areas. The exchange of experiences will be continued after the end of PROSIDE.

“Setting up a transnational net of practitioners united by the idea that reusing is better than a continuous consumption of greenfields”, was the basic idea of seven partners who implemented the project **MISTER**. This was stated by Monia Barca, head of the project for the Province of Ferrara. The partners from Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Italy, mainly municipalities, developed concepts to meet the common demand for models of Public-Private-Cooperation with the aim to redevelop brownfields and disused military sites. The objective was to strengthen urban economies, infrastructure and social systems by setting up new tertiary functions via reusing the existing stock of buildings on unused sites. Therefore, feasibility studies were implemented by each project partner to define functional reuse and to quantify the investments needed. For example, one study dealt with the reuse of an old beer factory for sport and leisure activities in Budapest. In the Italian city of Rimini the reuse of an ex-municipal slaughterhouse was examined. The revitalisation of this area will be introduced as a main priority in the City Strategic Plan.

Further on, each partner implemented a pilot project. Referring to Monia Barca, “all partner cities of the project tried to involve strong investors in these pilot actions by participating in international real-estate fairs (Budapest) or via international, national and local negotiations (Ferrara, Rimini, Velka Hledsebe in the Czech Republic, Kosice in Slovakia).” Besides the promotion of urban restructuring, transnational juridical-administrative and financial analyses were compiled in collaboration with the project partners in order to address new tools of Public-Private-Partnership concepts.

The project **CoUrbIt** developed new tools to revitalise brownfield areas with obsolete functions. Just as the other projects CoUrbIt also aimed at creating partnerships between private and public agencies that will reorient them towards new economic and social needs. Project partners were four municipalities, two provinces and two universities from Germany, Hungary, Italy and Poland. The scientific partners defined the regeneration model for brownfields, which is compatible with the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). This model interprets the process of urban transformations by analysing different elements of the idle areas and the framework conditions. All items identified by the scientific institutions were transferred to the public administration partners. Afterwards each municipality and province has selected a pilot area with obsolete functions, in which this managerial model was tested to improve regenerative activities. In order to respond to the different situations of each site, a set of different tools, including innovative but also established ones, was developed by the scientific institutions involved. To fill the gap between Western and Eastern European countries concerning the reuse of brownfields, the partners were instructed and taught to improve their skills in field regeneration. A follow-up of the CoUrbIT project is foreseen with the aim of improving the planning tool. “The model should also be tested in other countries and areas,” emphasised Prof. Remo Dalla Longa from the Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi.



All three projects described here are dealing with the redevelopment of brownfields or disused military sites. They advise the public and also the local authorities of the negative effects of devalued urban areas requesting them to cope with these challenges, providing them with new strategies and concepts as well. They all put a special emphasis on Public-Private-Partnerships, which appears to be the most efficient method to diminish negative impacts of disused urban areas.

### Urban green as a key for sustainable cities

Another project was implemented to address the problem of reusing abandoned urban areas, but rather dealing with the development of green urban spaces on these sites to provide healthy living conditions. The project **GREENKEYS** – carried out by 21 partners from seven different countries – promoted the development of urban green spaces as a key resource for sustainable cities and implemented concepts for sustainable urban development. Incentives for structural change in cities have been provided by offering possibilities for the improvement of open areas. To achieve this during the project time of three years, the partners developed “Urban Green Strategies” to meet community needs and to intensify the use of green space potentials in the twelve partner cities, taking into account their variable basic conditions like geographical situations, different policies as well as social and ecological aspects.

These strategies now provide a vision and action plans addressing the policy, as well as a general development plan. On the base of this work, some cities already plan investments or work on the implementation of detailed steps, but “as far as it is foreseeable, the cities still need support by the EU to finance these activities, especially the cities of Southern and Eastern Europe,”

stated Detlef Thiel, head of the Department of Urban Green and Waste Management of the City of Dresden. In addition, in each involved city one or two pilot projects have been implemented. These aimed to create a new or to improve an existing green area by upgrading its accessibility, social and recreational value as well as ecological efficiency.

Since citizen participation was aspired by the project, nearly all of the partners made a big step forward in kicking off new innovative means of participation and worked together with locals, e.g. by promoting design workshops and initiating different competitions. In Budapest inhabitants were involved in the design, construction and planting of the neighbourhood square ‘Mátyás tér’, which is located in one of the poorest districts of the town. “Besides its event character, the creative process gave the local people self-assurance and made them proud” reported Thiel.

A recommendation paper was developed, addressing city administration, national and EU levels and calling for more attention to green spaces development, in order to increase the political awareness of the benefits of green spaces. The conclusions of the insights gained and tools developed are compiled in the manual “GreenKeys @ your city - a guide for urban green quality”. This guide includes recommendations for green space policy, supporting tools and good practice examples in order to support a balanced development of free urban spaces. Besides the initiation of cooperation and exchange of knowledge between partners of Central and South-Eastern Europe, the project GREENKEYS triggered the process of inter-departmental thinking and started a strategy-building process for urban green spaces in the partner communities. Thiel is convinced that “without the project this would have been implemented much later or never.”

*The pilot project of GREENKEYS in Paunsdorf – Leipzig*





*The improvement of railway stations was the aim of the RARE project*

### Railway Stations – Centres of cities or places to avoid?

For a long time, railway stations have been the gates to vibrant city centres and a central notion of urbanity. Even in small towns and rural areas the typical assets of stations like ticket office, newsagent and the station's pub have been meeting points and centres of the local economy. By now, many railway stations and their surrounding areas have become primary concerns in urban development. Once the figurehead and pride of towns, many stations have deteriorated into blemishes – just a necessary evil to pass through and not a place to stay longer than necessary. RARE and REVITA are two projects of the CADSES Programme that address these issues. They worked for the improvement of railway stations and their surrounding areas by reconverting them into attractive locations.

*By now, many railway stations and their surrounding areas have become primary concerns in urban development. Once the figurehead and pride of towns, many stations have deteriorated into blemishes – just a necessary evil to pass through and not a place to stay longer than necessary.*

The aim of the **RARE** project was to upgrade former railway areas and to integrate them into their surroundings. Seven partners from Greece, Germany, Romania, Slovenia and the Czech Republic were involved, among them station operators and train companies. The RARE project analysed the legislative framework and the conditions for investors in the participating towns by defining and examining different indicators. As a result, a supportive shell for the development of Public-Private-Partnership concepts was provided through the comparison of approaches within several countries and through

the provision of “legitimation” within a European cooperation programme. Another aim of the project was to find solutions how railway areas can be developed in a sustainable way and how they can be integrated successfully into the neighbouring parts of the cities. There-fore, several feasibility studies were created and preparations were initiated which are now forming the basis for investments. For example, in Athens these studies were leading to the development of detailed terms of reference and a public call for tenders in January 2007. As a result, a private investor was nominated and entered a PPP with the project owner, the Hellenic Railways Real Estate Organisation GAIAOSE SA. Interest for a similar approach was expressed by the Romanian Partner, the National Railways Company ‘CFR’ S.A. To disseminate the project results, a guide for project development in former railway areas has been developed and is being distributed.

The project **REVITA** was concerned with station buildings as such and the services offered within them. The work of the project is particularly aimed at small and medium-sized railway stations in rural areas. The project's central objective was to introduce new functions to stations and to improve the services offered. The knowledge exchange between the involved States of CADSES was a central aspect of this cooperation. The project analysed the process how stations could be converted into service centres. The offered services should convince travellers to use the railway more often and should also attract more tourists. In the project areas in Slovenia, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece and Poland, local teams were formed to develop and apply models and ideas to revitalise their stations in a similar way, like the already revived stations in Southern Germany, Switzerland and South Tyrol.

Both projects, RARE and REVITA, initiated joint learning processes to pin down factors responsible for successful revitalisation or change of use of railway infrastructures in different countries. The projects provided a framework for knowledge transfer from more advanced partners to stations and railway areas that are still in need of improvement.







The great number of projects dealing with the problem of disused sites and buildings shows that there is a great demand for concepts and strategies to cope with the negative impacts of these areas. Besides general approaches for the redevelopment of derelict zones, special instruments are required which can ease the process of resettlement. Therefore, the projects described and created several strategies and tools. Furthermore, each project developed rehabilitation concepts for various pilot areas which can now be seen as examples for good practice. These should animate other cities to reactivate unused areas and buildings in their centres by developing concepts and financing plans in cooperation with private investors.



*The project REVITA focussed on the revitalisation of small and medium-sized railway stations in rural regions*

In the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme the area of intervention 3.1 “Developing a high quality environment by managing and protecting natural resources and heritage” and 4.1 “Tackle crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements” deal with the issue of brownfields. In the SOUTH EAST EUROPE Programme the area of intervention 2.2 “Improve prevention of environmental risks” tackle the described field of activity.

## CADSES Projects covered in this article

	Project Acronym	Full Project Title	Partner Countries Involved	Website/Contact
	PROSIDE	PROMoting Sustainable Inner urban DEVELOPMENT	AT, DE, HU, IT, PL, RO	<a href="http://www.proside.info">www.proside.info</a>
	MISTER	Military and Industrial SiTEs Reuse	CZ, DE, HU, IT, SK	<a href="http://www.mister-cadSES.org">www.mister-cadSES.org</a>
	CoUrbIt	COMplex URBan Investment Tools	DE, HU, IT, PL	<a href="http://www.courbit.eu">www.courbit.eu</a>
	GREENKEYS	Urban Green as a Key for Sustainable Cities	BG, DE, GR, HU, IT, PL, SI	<a href="http://www.greenkeys-project.net">www.greenkeys-project.net</a>
	RARE	Railroad Areas REclaim	CZ, DE, GR, RO, SI	<a href="mailto:a.sanopoulos@euroconsultants.com.gr">a.sanopoulos@euroconsultants.com.gr</a>
	REVITA	Development of Small and Medium Size Railway Stations into Multipurpose Local Service Centers	BG, DE, GR, PL, SI	<a href="http://www.revita-project.com">www.revita-project.com</a>



# Former mining areas – Chance for perfect landscapes or moonscapes without perspective?

Tina Uhlmann

In many European mining regions, the excavation of ores and coal has been suspended in previous decades. Long years of mining activities and, as a result, a mono-structured economy have a severe impact on the development of these regions - regardless of the mining taking place under- or aboveground. After the decline of the mining industries these areas now face the challenge to cope with structural transformation. Additionally, they often have to tackle huge environmental and social problems caused by the long-lasting exploitation of the regions' resources. Therefore, it is indispensable to generate strategies which will facilitate the affected regions to overcome their problems, to use the unique structures as valuable potential and to steer the transformation process. Projects like READY, REKULA, REVITAMIN and SURE have been supported by the CADSES Neighbourhood Programme in order to achieve these targets.



A former mining pit in Romania

With the change of the political system in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989/90 and the opening of the former socialist countries for the global market, parts of the Eastern European economies collapsed

*Most of the regions can rely on strong traditions as well as cultural assets shaped by the mining activities of the past. Moreover, open-pit and underground mining have created unique and interesting landscapes with values of their own.*

completely. The market for products from brown coal mining areas, for example, was entirely reorganised. As a result, many pits had to be closed because they were not competitive anymore and are lying idle now. Furthermore, there exist numerous not re-cultivated pits from the eighties. In those times land consumption was very intensive due to mining activities, and re-cultivation was neglected.

For these two reasons there is now a great demand for rehabilitation of devastated regions in several CADSES countries. Numerous areas affected by underground mining, like parts of the Ore Mountains on the Czech-German border that had been shaped by mining in the past lost their function and significance for the regional economy and are now heading for sustainable strategies to cope with the structural change.

At present there are many deficits in the treatment of disturbed and exploited landscapes. There is a lack of integrated approaches considering design and economic requirements as well as technical necessities for landscape restoration. Furthermore, the preservation of natural resources should be paid more attention. Besides the development of technical solutions for the revitalisation of devastated areas, new approaches for a sustainable spatial planning for entire landscapes are required, which allow to identify specific potentials of mining areas and apply these for their reutilisation. It also has to be considered that most of these regions can rely on strong traditions as well as cultural assets shaped by the mining activities of the past. Moreover, open-pit and underground mining have created unique and interesting landscapes with values of their own. By inspiring the creativity of the resident population and by raising the awareness of the policy actions should be initiated to upgrade the situation of the mining areas. Furthermore, enhancing the image of mining regions in the public with regard to a future tourist use is an important task, which needs to be addressed.

## Developing multifaceted perspectives for mono-structured mining regions

Particularly peripheral regions and small or medium-sized cities with a past in mining are not able to cope with the relicts from the mining



activities. Centralised policy-making in the former socialist states led to the formation of large, mono-structured industrial complexes. Negative results of this policy are today high unemployment rates, extensive environmental problems, oversized residential units, and an unsuitable infrastructure. The local authorities of small and medium-sized mining regions often have neither the capacities nor the knowledge to implement integrated and sustainable concepts for regional development. There is, for example, a need for strategies concerning the rehabilitation of environmental damages and concepts for the adaptation of the specialised infrastructures. Additionally, plans for the development of innovative industries and adequate educational structures are required.

Being aware of their problems and the fact that state support is required to remedy the legacies from mining, 18 affected small and medium-sized mining regions and other partners from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Romania and Slovakia joined forces and adopted a declaration of the Central and Eastern European Network of Mining Cities and Regions (MINEC) addressing national and European bodies. The following is postulated in this declaration:

- ▶ Greater attention needs to be given to Central and Eastern European mining cities and regions at all political levels and within the framework of international cooperation. The specific requirements of mining municipalities for support should be explicitly stated in the eligibility criteria of European Structural Policy as well as in operational programmes at national level.
- ▶ The funding of transnational cooperation between mining cities and regions has already brought significant benefits and should be continued.

The primary aim of the recommendations is to ensure that mining municipalities achieve similar starting conditions within the competition between cities and regions. The declaration is one of the most

outstanding results of the **READY** project, which was implemented in the CADSES Neighbourhood Programme from November 2003 till February 2007. According to Hans-Ludwig Richter, mayor of the City of Oelsnitz and Lead Partner of the READY project, such a transnational declaration could only be realised within the framework of an EU project. "Without support, the contact between the numerous participants would not have been established. The united mining regions can now represent their mutual interests focussing on national and EU levels and are able to create political attention for their problems", Richter pointed out.

Another focal point of the READY project was the enhancement of competitiveness of mining regions by offering information and stimulating the exchange of knowledge among these regions. Therefore, the permanent transnational network for mining cities, MINEC, was created, which is now freely accessible on the Internet. It provides information about results of cross-border projects dealing with post-mining development, planned projects as well as funding programmes. It disseminates innovative solutions, supports funding applications and works as a partner pool. The network is based on experiences of local activities implemented during the project period including the preparation of various concepts and feasibility studies with the objective to accompany structural changes.

The potential of mining areas for producing renewable energies as well as for mining tourism was examined and environmental damages were recorded in these studies. For example, in the Czech City of Horní Slavkov, where excessive uranium mining had taken place and historic buildings had been demolished regardless of any tradition of the town, concepts for the reuse of some preserved old buildings were developed. In the German City of Oelsnitz alternatives and technical requirements for the development of former mining dumps as urban recreation and tourism areas were analysed. On the base of this study, one of the twelve pilot activities was carried out. In addition to the already existing educational mining trail, a mining

*Brown coal mining pit in the Lower Lusatia (DE)*



path has been designed and constructed. These pilot activities were supported within the project on the condition that they prepare larger investments or are of an innovative character. The concepts and studies, which were developed by the individual partners with the help of the participating scientific institutions, are now forming the basis for target-oriented and harmonised future investments of the partners involved. Some of the suggested large-scale investments have already been planned in detail and may be realised after the end of the project. For example, the town hall of Oelsnitz should be supplied with geothermal energy gained from warm mining water or former slag heaps to promote the use of renewable energies. Analyses for this investment were made during the project time of READY.

The comparison between different development concepts of the mining regions located in the participating countries was another objective of the project. This accompanying research was carried out by scientific institutions which were also involved in the READY project. From this analysis could be derived that the success of the strategies strongly depends on the individual competence of the local and regional key actors as well as on the support of the government. The Economic Region Chemnitz-Zwickau in Germany prepares the follow-up project ReSOURCE, maintaining the internet platform and the connected MINEC network.

Similar to the approach of READY the **REVITAMIN** project created an Internet platform to strengthen the cooperation among mining regions. For this platform a transnational computer-assisted multi-criteria tool was developed as a decision aid in five languages by all project partners with the aim to ease the search for suitable development methods in post-mining areas. With this instrument the user can find out whether general possibilities for post-mining use would be suitable in other regions. The aid is based on data banks containing experiences with different strategies developed by the seven mining regions involved in order to reinforce competitiveness. "Especially the detailed information data bases and reports are used in several European mining regions to inform about case studies of revitalisation and to find new contacts for future cooperation," Ruth Fruehwirth from the German rural district Weissenfels reported. As a result of the information platform, several project partners are now working together at a transnational level and are preparing new projects in the fields of tourism, culture and renewable energies (e.g. cooperation between Styria in Austria and Burgenlandkreis in Germany, Styria and Slovenia, Saxony in Germany and Northern Bohemia in the Czech Republic).

Another aim of the project was to identify strengths and weaknesses of the regions involved by collecting information about their economic, social and infrastructural potentials. Concepts for a possible subsequent use of the mining regions like tourism, agriculture or industries were deduced and examined. This mode of operation helped these regions to develop a concept for their revitalisation taking into

account environment and economic development, social balance as well as their cultural identity. The concept of the „Central German brown coal road“, for example, which was established successfully in Central Germany, found the interest of other project partners and is believed to be suitable for transfer. The Austrian, Slovenian and Czech partners intend to work together in order to advance similar regional and cross-regional concepts, e.g. to use a former mining industrial building as a museum or as a cultural centre. Furthermore, a planning study in the brown coal field of the German region Zeitz-Weissenfels was generated. This model is a structural development concept with possible approaches and concerted actions for the future development of a limited mining location. Now, this study provides a basis for the preparatory planning of further communal and regional investment. As a synergy effect, several REVITAMIN project partners were involved in events with the purpose of knowledge exchange. They supported summer academies for school and university students in Central Germany and in the Austrian Region of Voitsberg with the aim to raise the awareness of young people for history and life in former mining regions.

### What kind of landscape should be created after mining activities?

Standing 75 meters above the ground, on top of the F60 – one of the biggest mobile overburden conveyor bridges in the world, located in the German Lower Lusatia – you can overlook an area appearing like the deserted moonscape. This is the closed opencast mining pit of Lauchhammer waiting for recultivation. What do people expect from the development and the rehabilitation of devastated landscapes after mining like this? Shall it be left to its own or shall attempts be made to develop a landscape similar to the original appearance of a region before the mining activities? In the past, the goal of restoration activities in regions with opencast mining was the regeneration of agriculture and forestry productivity. Later, the main objective was the development of recreation areas, for example, with artificial lakes. For this purpose, everything that reminded of former mining activities in the region was demolished and removed. The aim of more recent approaches is to create a multifunctional and diversified landscape where some of the old structures of the former mining activities are being preserved as well.

*F60 – mobile overburden conveyor bridge located in the Lower Lusatia*



Putting emphasis rather on aspects concerning the identity of mining regions, the project **REKULA** was initiated by partners from Italy, Poland and Germany including three mining regions, scientific institutions and regional planning offices. The aim of the project was to generate impulses and recommendations for public administration, organisations and project developers, who are involved in restructuring disturbed landscapes and who provide them with different solutions for reutilisation of devastated land. Pilot projects were implemented in three regions of the partner countries to develop a strategy for restructuring the landscape. Focal points of these projects were settlement, water management and renewable energy. The company settlement of Borsig in a quarter of Zabrze in Poland, for example, was examined and the project partners tried to find out what happens when the settlements lose workplaces. On the one side, these residential areas are witnesses of the history and traditions. On the other side they often have a bad image, they are remote from the infrastructures of inner cities and their inhabitants are overaged because young people move to other areas with better living conditions. Four different strategies were developed during the project's lifetime, namely concepts for rehabilitation, restructuring, renaissance of village centres, and the development of new forms of housing. These strategies recommend ways how company housing estates can be adapted to the needs of their inhabitants.

Each of the regions examined is facing a different phase of transformation, either growth, polarisation or shrinkage. New consensus-based types of action among actors from business, politics and science have been tested and methods as well as basic principles for managing landscapes were developed. These can now be used in landscapes throughout Europe – regardless what stage of transformation a region is in. Among others, approaches like creating public awareness, innovative organisational forms and utilising diverse financial models were tested and evaluated. The management handbook “Transforming Landscapes” published by the project is to be mentioned. It includes a summary of all project results, basic conditions for dealing with industrially disturbed landscapes and tools for managing landscape development. It points out that redesigning industrially damaged landscapes cannot function as a reconstruction of pre-industrial conditions. Advice is given on how a disturbed landscape can be reinvented within the context of its past, also fostering innovation. Part of the state from pre-industrial times should, for example, be reconstructed but components of the industrial landscape, like the F60, have to be maintained as well. Furthermore, the newly emerging nature has to be preserved because many biotope structures have developed as a result of the different particularities of a mining landscape and these structures are characterised by a minimum of destruction. Artificial sea- and landscapes should be designed for active recreation and space for the production of renewable energies should be allocated.

Like in the REVITAMIN and READY projects, the exchange of know-how had also been put in front of this project. Due to the fact that



*Area devastated by the construction of a road embankment*

the three projects were dealing with comparable topics they co-operated with the aim of exchanging their experiences. Additionally, they represented themselves together in public and shared information and communication activities at the EUREGIA 2007, an international congress and fair in Leipzig.

*The handbook of REKULA points out that redesigning industrially damaged landscapes cannot function as a reconstruction of pre-industrial conditions.*

### Improved techniques for creating ecological and economical benefits

Aiming for an attractive landscape, too, but focussing more on ecological and economic aspects, the project **SURE** was implemented from 2004 until 2006 mainly by research institutes from Austria, Italy, Germany, Greece, Czech Republic and Slovakia. The focal point of this project was on the rehabilitation and the restoration of areas devastated by infrastructure measures like opencast mining, ski slopes and road embankments. Especially in the Central and South-Eastern European States, an increasing number of infrastructure investments is expected, which will cause hundreds of square-kilometres of devastated surface.

As it could be demonstrated in previous research projects ecological restoration and improved application techniques lead to manifold



economic and ecological advantages. Therefore, the project aims at creating a new state of the art in sustainable restoration, leading to an attractive landscape with satisfying ecological value. For this purpose, several pilot projects were carried out and monitored with the goal to put principle strategies into practice and to discover optimum methods. During the pilot activities, data about ecological parameters like nutrient flow and soil loss, but also economic data such as full costs of set-up and maintenance were collected and analysed. The results gained from this work were then the basis for the elaboration of solutions adapted to the special regional conditions of each project partner.





Within the projects, the usage of sustainable seed material combined with optimised techniques was examined in order to reduce current and follow-up costs. It could be proved that by avoiding flora falsification and by enhancing biodiversity an augmentation of the ecological value can be reached. By developing sufficient and ecological methods of restoration, the creation of a multifunctional landscape can be achieved, taking into account the heterogeneous, dynamic and often nutrient-poor site conditions that are unique for different types of cultural landscapes. These special site conditions were often destroyed by traditional rehabilitation methods like reforestation of heaps with monocultures. The pilot projects' good results have already convinced other local authorities to use this knowledge and to implement similar restoration activities. For example, in Scandi-

navia the new state-of-the-art ecological restoration was adapted to the regional conditions. Results of the SURE project are now being used in the Russian City of Sotschi as well by companies for building up the necessary infrastructure for the upcoming Olympic Winter Games in 2014. "Generally spoken, in Austria, Switzerland, Germany and parts of Italy, the established standards are used in ecological restoration efforts, especially with the construction of ski runs, which is an important success of the SURE Project," reported Dr. Bernhard Krautzer, coordinator of the project SURE from the Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg – Gumpenstein in Austria. Instruments like a web platform and an expert network will enable all partners – especially countries where the awareness for these kinds of problems is just in its infancy – to benefit from already existing know-how. The platform will also guarantee a continual contact between the participating regions beyond the project period. A follow-up project is planned with the aim of deepening achieved knowledge and continuing the exchange of ideas.

The four project examples from the CADSES Programme show that transnational cooperation can play an important role in the field of rehabilitation of devastated landscapes. By forming connections and networks between mining areas affected by structural change, the political awareness was raised and the exchange of experiences could be fostered, an advantage from which especially peripheral mining regions benefit.

In the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme the area of intervention 3.1 "Developing a high quality environment by managing and protecting natural resources and heritage" deals with the issue of mining regions. In the SOUTH EAST EUROPE Programme the area of intervention 2.2 "Improve prevention of environmental risks" is dedicated to this field of activity.

## CADSES Projects covered in this article

	Project Acronym	Full Project Title	Partner Countries Involved	Website/Contact
	READY	Rehabilitation and Development in Mining Regions	DE, AT, CZ, IT, RO, SK	<a href="http://www.ready-network.de">www.ready-network.de</a>
	REVITAMIN	Revitalisation of Former Brown Coal Mining Areas/ Development of a Transnational Computeraided Multicriteria Decision Aid for Mining Regions	DE, AT, CZ, SK, SI	<a href="http://www.revitamin.net">www.revitamin.net</a>
	REKULA	Restructuring Cultural Landscapes	DE, IT, PL	<a href="http://www.iba-see.de/rekula">www.iba-see.de/rekula</a>
	SURE	Successful Restoration and Rehabilitation Accompanying Infrastructural Interventions	AT, CZ, DE, GR, IT, SK	<a href="http://www.sureproject.net">www.sureproject.net</a> or Bernhard.krautzer@raumberg-gumpenstein.at



# Small and medium-sized enterprises – more innovation and competitiveness through transnational business networks

Anke Hahn

After the Eastern enlargements of the EU the widening of the European Single Market has opened new possibilities, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Besides expanding their export activities they can use the framework of the Single Market for more transnational relations with companies in the same or in complementary sectors. Otherwise especially SME tend to cultivate their regional strengths within more localised connections and contacts. Anyway, the demand for more growth and innovation of a knowledge-based economy, make many small and medium-sized enterprises strive for further competencies on a transnational level. A series of CADSES Projects used the chance to attract transnational business cooperation within certain clusters and networks. An innovation-oriented and knowledge-based economy could not exist without the World Wide Web. Thus, communicating, informing, learning and financing via Internet are objectives of further projects described in the following article.

## Knowledge and contacts – SME entering innovative cooperation networks

Many small and medium-sized enterprises aspire an enhancement of their innovativeness and competitiveness through cooperation with other companies in the same or in related economic sectors. In addition, the raise of such innovative cooperation networks is not only attributed to the interests of SME. Also research and service institutions, development agencies as well as public authorities are taking part in the process of knowledge and experience exchange. A range of CADSES Projects regarded the network approach with different motivations, diverse points of view and communication instruments.

The **INCLUD** project created a network of industrial clusters aimed at a common research, innovation, production and marketing system of participating SME. Partners from seven countries, in particular regional authorities and economic development agencies, participated in the project.

At the beginning, an inventory of market organisations, competitiveness of local SME production systems, social conditions, and structures of public administrations in the participating regions was compiled. Eight potential production clusters in four partner countries were selected. These clusters belong to the industrial sectors of agro-machinery and food industry in Poland, of textile and wood furniture production in Romania, of food and wood processing in Bulgaria as well as of textile production and building industry in Hungary. The thus created institution-to-business web portal

(<http://i2b.includ.net/i2b/index.php>) disseminates key facts about the cluster regions, their potentials, financial and institutional environments. In Romania, a feasibility study of a cluster service centre was carried out. Main tasks of such centres are the further development of cluster structures by providing companies access to networks of experts and offering advisory services for the specific needs of cluster firms. Within a long-term cooperation of SME the clusters' competitiveness should be improved. Therefore 89 formal agreements between the INCLUD partners were concluded, which should ensure long-lasting contacts and joint participation to support SME.

*INCLUD established a network of eight industrial clusters in four European countries to provide participating companies access to wider business opportunities and networks of experts*



Further transnational business cooperation for innovation and technology transfer between SME could be established in the “EU Future Region”, which is marked by Austria, Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia. This region was created by the Government of Styria in order to enhance economic development in this area. Within the project **TECPARKNET**, partners from the above mentioned regions developed a network of industrial clusters, business support and innovation centres, science, research and technology transfer institutions. The project partners defined a joint understanding of an industrial cluster based on the definition by Michael E. Porter: “A cluster is defined as geographic concentration of inter-connected companies and institutions working in a common industry.” The added value for the partners is their regional and transnational cooperation not only in the field of knowledge exchange, but also in the field of business consultancy.

The established network covers a wide range of industrial clusters: Participating automotive clusters are located in Styria, Slovenia and West-Transdanubia in addition to tool-making, plastics and materials

clusters. Wood and furniture clusters can be found in the Austrian regions, Croatia, Friuli Venezia-Giulia as well as in Veneto. Carinthia and West-Transdanubia accommodate electronic clusters, while Slovenia and Styria are concentrating on ecology and energy sectors.

The project partners offer several services for technology transfer, which help the companies to learn about suitable technologic innovations on a transnational level. Projects in the fields of biotechnology, information and communication technologies, electronics and nanotechnology could be developed. The TECPARKNET project comprises 49 educational institutions, ranging from advanced technical universities and colleges with further business orientation to private research and development organisations. Thereby bi- and trilateral relations between scientific institutions and SME could be extended.

Entrepreneurs can profit from the TECPARKNET by receiving specific information about key industrial and service sectors, about national, regional and local business conditions. They also benefit from the

*Infrastructure potential of the TECPARKNET project*



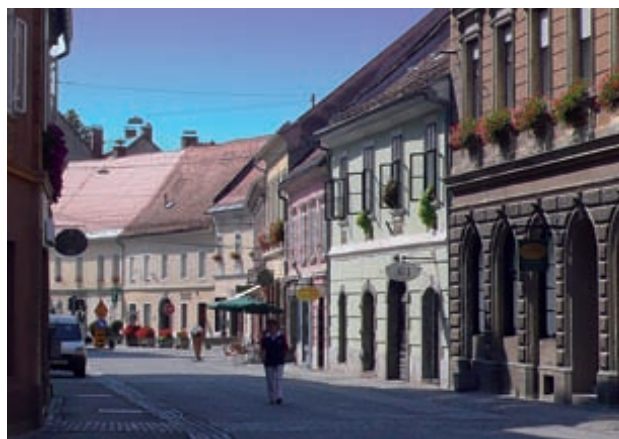
assistance offered by the project in locating and recruiting potential partners for joint ventures and other cooperative activities within the EU Future Region. Peter Perkonigg, Lead Partner from the Inno-finanz - Styrian Business Promotion Agency, stated that the project was an impulse sensor for further transnational projects: The Cexim-plast project, for example, strengthened transnational cooperation structures in the field of injection moulding. Another project led to the network establishment of Slovenian and Styrian SME and research institutions aiming at a common product development concept within the toolmaking industries.

In the **SEEDS** project, partners from five countries, primarily in South-Eastern Europe, intended to build up a comprehensive framework to support internationalisation strategies and joint development of a total of 70 SME.

Within the International Entrepreneurships Support Network (I.E.S. Net), which is the main output of the project, nine International Support Centres were established. "SME can benefit from these centres by receiving integrated support for starting or for enhancing its internationalisation process in specific countries", stated Dimitris Karydis, Lead Partner from the Business and Innovation Centre of Attika. The International Support Centres adopted a range of services for companies like strategic business planning, the organisation of appointments and international trade fairs or assistance in the establishment of transnational cooperation through an advanced partner search tool. Impacts of this partner search were listed by Karydis: "As examples for successful partner networks, for instance, the Greek ouzo distillery 'Patkas S.A.' concluded a partnership agreement with the Bulgarian company 'Begein Ltd.' for the distribution of spirits and liquors in Bulgaria. The Greek vinegar producer 'Vinegar Pan P. Zafiropoulos & Co Ltd.' also started to export its private label products to Romania. Furthermore, the company 'Masselos S.A.' from Greece has brought its homewear and lingerie collection to Romanian retail markets. After all, the Greek SME 'Former Soles S.A.' has established manufacturing capacities for shoe soles in Bulgaria."

The SEEDS project established a wide range of transnational cooperation between companies in South-Eastern Europe. The consulting services of the project helped entrepreneurs to extend their business activities beyond the borders of their home countries.

The rise of the service sector reflects the transition from an industrial to a more knowledge and information-based society in Europe. The technological equipment and the quality of service infrastructures in European regions are developed unequally. The innovation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises in the service sector remains mostly unused within the political and economic transformation processes in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Otherwise small enterprises are often not efficient enough to use market opportunities on their own. Therefore cooperation is a strategic option of SME to reduce their entrepreneurial risks and should be intensified – also in the service sector.



*More cooperation for smarter regions – alley in the City Centre of Ptuj (SI)*

The project partners of **Smart Region** encouraged cooperation potentials among service sector SME, spatial development agencies and local administrations. So called Knowledge and Information Managers (KIM) were adapted in four pilot regions in Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Germany. They acted as networkers and project developers, who analyse the needs of their home region through a status quo analysis of regional networks in order to identify interregional cooperation potentials. A common work basis for the managers was offered by Joint Action Plans, periodical evaluations and KIM meetings for the exchange of experiences and training activities.

*The regional and transnational relations among the partners of the Smart Region project were focussed on cross-cultural learning, project management and regional development potentials.*

The general aim of the cooperation networks carried out by the CADSES Projects was to support small and medium-sized enterprises. Participating SME could raise their economic opportunities through transnational knowledge transfer, sectoral and cross-sectoral clustering, new investment and business possibilities as well as the realisation of new technologies and innovations. All project partners therefore have good preconditions to cooperate further on with contacts they have gained within the CADSES Projects.

### Networking for common credit guarantee schemes

In the CADSES area exist different frameworks for SME receiving credit guarantees because credit guarantee organizations (CGO), if existent, operate with different schemes. The importance of guarantee fund schemes was pointed out by the EU Commission in 1991: Multi Guarantee Schemes are "systems of mutual guarantees consisting of joint actions of a number of independent undertakings in order to provide each other with the necessary securities, in the form of guarantees, to raise capital from commercial sources".



The aim of the **GO NETWORK** project is to allow SME a better access to financial and banking services by creating a common credit guarantee scheme or extend an existing one that relieves financiers from that part of the risk which is not covered by the SME itself. Particularly in Central and South-Eastern Europe flows of capital from commercial banks to SME have to be eased. A benchmark analysis was carried out, which investigated 18 countries, particularly in South-Eastern Europe, with regard to their guarantee organizations, SME systems, bank's credit policy structures, legal frameworks and regulatory bodies. A comparable analysis was difficult to realise because of missing and inhomogeneous information as well as different reference periods in a few countries. Based on qualitative and quantitative economic indicators the countries were classified into three peer groups: countries, which have been EU members for many years; countries, which recently entered the EU; and countries, which do not belong to any of the first two categories. A common platform stored and managed the details, economic and financial information on European companies, individuals, credit institutes, public bodies and associations. The project meetings supported an exchange of know-how and information about the national CGO structures and further partners.

*The partners of the GO Network developed new investment opportunities through several financial services like trans-national and national guarantee instruments.*

The "SME Guarantee Facility" (also operated by the European Investment Fund) and a Multi-Annual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship was extended to the Accession Countries. A campaign to raise awareness and training activities strengthened collaborative relationships between EU and non-EU guarantee organisations as well as public and private financial institutions. For instance, cooperation between the Istrian Development Agency and commercial banks in Croatia could be intensified and the first Croatian CGO "Istria 21" could be established.

The experiences made with the GO Network so far should now be used for further formations of credit guarantee organisations. The project partners aim at continuing the know-how transfer and think about pilot projects to increase the numbers of SME loans for private investments and company start-ups in the participating countries.

### **'Virtual economies' and the demand for information and communication technologies to stay in business**

The spatial distance between business partners lost its determining role as information and communication technologies, which are not attached to a certain place, are becoming more important. Virtual communication platforms accessible via the Internet are institutions, which create modern business and enable companies to get in contact without changing their location. These virtual platforms

contain a range of tools according to their area of application and the tasks they shall fulfil. The efforts of the following CADSES Projects were all dedicated to the installation of common information and communication tools which could be applied in the support of business cooperation.

Beside general tools, like instant messaging or e-meeting applications, which allow users to communicate directly, most of the realised platforms contained e-learning sections where users can improve their knowledge about certain innovations, technologies and improvements in their business sector. Participants can get information about other enterprises in their sector and realize potential business opportunities through virtual cooperation. Some platforms assisted SME to foster joint projects with potential partners they found through an offer and demand matching tool. Promoting knowledge exchange and synergies between SME, research and service institutions was a further aim of most information and communication platforms. The project **INSERVNET** addressed the innovation potential of SME in the service sector as the utilisation of this potential in certain regions of Central and South-Eastern Europe is still very low. The project partners pursued the strengthening of transnational links between companies, research, administrative and development institutions. Within a pilot study, an e-learning platform concept was elaborated which should develop and foster users' competencies and skills by means not only of the INSERVNET project but also from other experiences, for example made by the CADSES Project Smart Region. With the e-learning platform, a permanent space for long term dissemination of project results and best practises could be developed. A joint project development tool helped target groups like entrepreneurs, consultants or other regional stakeholders to coordinate the management of common interregional projects from proposal to their implementation. In another section of the platform, small and medium-sized enterprises developed services to raise their competencies and skills. For example, within the Interregional Network for Engineering and Service (I.N.E.S.), one of the INSERVNET case studies, four technical and economically oriented service enterprises intended to build up two joint production facilities. In a common training facility the companies' staff could acquire knowledge about renewable energies, virtual engineering and sustainable development.

The project partners of **INDE** also aspired an increased entrepreneurial cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies and a raised confidence among local and international investors. Therefore, a set of guidelines for the development of transnational virtual clusters was created. The adapted project committee promoted the INDE brand as a knowledge broker on internationalisation strategies and clustering approaches in mechanics, tourism, wood/furniture and plastics sectors.

Main result of the INDE project was the "CADSES Virtual Clustering Network" (<http://www.cavirc.net/index.asp>), a platform which is supporting cluster activities and virtual cooperation of small and



medium-sized enterprises in the above-mentioned sectors. For instance, companies within the mechanics sector organised the complete supply chain of a common product on the platform. In this way all activities from the design over supply actions of certain materials and production to the distribution of the product could be managed. Companies in one sector or along a product's value chain, like mechanical engineering enterprises as suppliers for automotive firms, can adjust their tasks and business relations on the virtual platform offered by the INDE project.



*The Business Cooperation Network of regional and local chambers of commerce aimed at the opening of market opportunities for SME in Central and South-Eastern Europe*

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) are organisations which support SME in expanding their business activities, disseminate information for funding and investment opportunities and promote the business, product and socio-economic profile of their regions. Within the CADSES area there are different frameworks and working methods of CCI. The **B-CROSS** project developed a Business Cooperation Network of local, regional and national CCI's in Central and South-Eastern Europe in order to reach an advanced business cooperation among them. Mr. Ousoultzoglou from the Chambers of Commerce Development Company of Central Macedonia gave an example: "Austrian industrial businesses subcontract small parts of their work with Greek businesses to reduce labour costs by using the Business Cooperation Network."

The "Business Cooperation One Stop Shop" on the project website [www.bcross.gr](http://www.bcross.gr), a virtual cooperation platform and main output of the project, opened new channels of collaboration between a huge number of SME, chambers of commerce and other organisations. A range of interregional connections between the users could be raised by several e-learning, e-conference and information tools. Mr. Ousoultzoglou mentioned that the platform could be used in the future as the base of a wider transnational business cooperation network: "The compatibility of the different chamber information

and communication systems can be achieved by adopting and using common European codifications. Thus, a community of European chambers of commerce should be realised, which will act as an intermediary between public authorities and SME". An extension of the B-CROSS Network, especially to the Balkan Area, the Middle East and the Black Sea countries, is planned for the future.

Enterprises from the agro-food sector are challenged by the boom of organic products and increasingly demanding consumers. There are high demands on food safety, quality and traceability, which require better collaboration between research institutions and local food producing SME. On the one hand, many scientists are often more tended to work internationally for big companies and do not address the needs of local producers. On the other hand, most SME are not accustomed to collaborate with research institutions.

The project **Agrobiotech Xchange** was targeted on supporting regional development and industrial competitiveness through a more intense cooperation between research institutions and companies in the biotechnologies and agro-food sectors. The Agrobiotech Xchange Platform (<http://www.agrobiotechxchange.eu/>), a virtual exchange market place, is an important result of the project. The Lead Partner Finlombarda S.p.A. illustrated the transparent procedure of the platform's partner search tool: "SME can fill in an online-form asking for specific information, proposing a project idea, or searching for collaboration. This form is sent to currently more than 200 registered platform users so that any member can reply to this request." In that way potential partners could cooperate and share common innovation strategies or project ideas within agro-business and biotechnology sectors. A couple of project proposals are on the move to be submitted to several European Funding Programmes. Furthermore, the platform gives information about funding opportunities as well as venture capital and supports SME raising their competitiveness by using innovative tools and technologies developed by universities and research centres, which are specialised on agro- and biotechnology matters.

*Higher claims for agricultural products require more intense cooperation between food producing companies and research institutions*



The project's participants came from agricultural regions in Italy and South-Eastern Europe with a high presence of the food processing industry. They are endowed with rich competencies in agribusiness and are responsible for the transfer of knowledge and experience to Eastern Europe and the Danubian countries.

The partners of the **WEFneT** project aimed at a local development through an increased participation of women in economic, political and social life. Today, the role of women in business in general can still be characterized as disadvantaged as it is more difficult for them to found enterprises and to get access to loans. In order to change this, ten new enterprises in form of Women's Resource Centres were established in Italy, Germany, Greece and Romania, offering managerial and financial support. A virtual Network of Women's Resource

Centres provided joint training activities and raised the exchange between women who want to improve their skills in setting up own businesses. The network coordinated all territorial actions and stakeholders engaged in gender issues and female participation.

Both CADSES follow-up programmes 2007-2013 have an own priority dedicated to innovation which illustrates the importance of the topic and the changed focus of the new programmes. The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme established area of intervention 1.1. "Framework Conditions for Innovation" and 1.2 "Diffusion and Application of Innovation". The SOUTH EAST EUROPE Programme covers "Innovation Networks" (1.1) and "Innovative Entrepreneurs" (1.2).

## CADSES Projects covered in this article

	Project Acronym	Full Project Title	Partner Countries Involved	Website / Contact
	INCLUD	Industrial Cluster Development	AT, BG, CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO	<a href="http://www.includ.net">www.includ.net</a>
	TECPARKNET	Science and TEChnology PARK Cooperation in EU-Future Region	AT, HR, HU, IT, SI	<a href="http://www.tec-park.net">www.tec-park.net</a>
	SEEDS	Sustainable and Effective Entrepreneurship's Development Scheme	BG, DE, GR, IT, RO	<a href="http://www.seedsproject.net">www.seedsproject.net</a>
	Smart Region	Knowledge and Information Management regarding regional development	AT, HR, DE, HU, IT, SCG, SI, SK	<a href="http://www.smart-region.net">www.smart-region.net</a>
	GO Network	Guarantee Organizations Network	AT, BG, HR, CZ, GR, IT, PL	<a href="http://www.gonetwork.info">www.gonetwork.info</a>
	InServNet	Interregional Innovative Services Sector Network of Excellence	AT, HR, DE, HU, IT, SI	<a href="http://www.inservnet.net">www.inservnet.net</a> <a href="http://www.inservnet.info">www.inservnet.info</a>
	INDE	INformation DEvelopment	AT, HR, GR, IT, SCG, SI	<a href="http://www.inde-network.org">www.inde-network.org</a>
	B-CROSS	Business Cooperation One-Stop Shop	AT, BG, GR, IT, RO	<a href="http://www.bcross.gr">www.bcross.gr</a>
	Agrobiotech Xchange	Virtual Exchange for Technology Transfer in the Agrobiotechnologies and Agro-food Sectors	BG, HU, IT, RO, SK	<a href="http://www.agrobiotechxchange.eu">www.agrobiotechxchange.eu</a>
	WEFneT	Women Engendering the Finance Network	AL, DE, GR, IT, PL, RO	<a href="http://www.wefnet.eu">www.wefnet.eu</a>

# CADSES in brief

Further information about different CADSES Projects is presented in this section in brief, underlining the variety of project activities. Additionally, statistics show the general characteristics of the project partners and the structure of available funds.

## TAQI - Transnational air quality improvement: A management tool for regional planning

Since polluted air does not stop at administrative frontiers, state governments, scientific institutions and environmental ministries of the partner countries bundled their knowledge and implemented the project **TAQI**. Aim of this project was to tackle the problem of air pollution caused by mobile and small stationary emission sources in the border region because it was recognised that national strategies in this complex field are not sufficient. Thus, project partners strived to develop cross-border concepts to keep the air clean and to coordinate spatial planning with regard to environmental and economic as well as health aspects.

One achievement of the project was the creation of an internet information platform providing access to up-to-date emission data and environmental information. The platform allocates data on radioactivity, dangerous hot spots, bio-meteorological parameters and other data collected from six national networks. Furthermore, a transnational data collection system was created in order to detect emissions from small, stationary sources. By linking spatial information with these data about air quality, the base can constitute an aid for regional cooperation in the field of atmospheric pollution and spatial planning.

The project, whose Lead Partner was the Austrian Environmental Expert Group AEEG, carried out various experiments to determine air quality. A remote sensing of vehicles took place in Austria, measuring the emission of 15,000 vehicles. Other field experiments were carried out to identify discrepancies in the results obtained from instruments of six different nations. These analyses were carried out in order to harmonise measurement methods and to provide comparable data for the database. Moreover, the Slovak and Austrian TAQI project partners conducted a study about air mass movements to come closer to a cross-border air quality alarm system.



The TAQI project won the 'European Regional Champions Awards 2007'. The prize – initiated by the

European Parliament Magazine in Brussels – was awarded to this project because it is regarded as one of the most successful INTERREG Projects due to its achievements in raising public awareness on an international level and due to the communication strategy implemented. ([www.taqi.net](http://www.taqi.net))

## Regional development along corridors and nodes

The **REDECON** Project Partners have striven for common tools supporting spatial planning and management of economic activities in the "EU Future Region", in the border region of Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia.

Based on an in-depth analysis with quality indicators, a transnational and regional ranking of locations was carried out which shows their suitability for industrial and commercial areas. A grid-



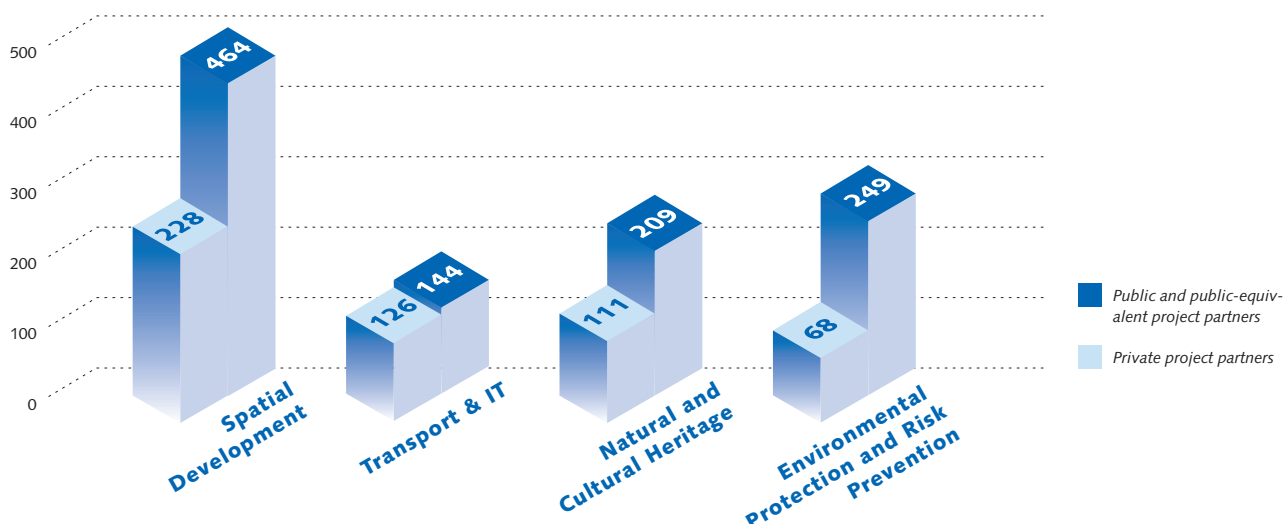
based GIS tool, including socio-economic, environmental and spatial data, is to help

public administrations and private companies to analyse potentials for future policy measures and to find optimal locations.

The GIS tool has been tested within three pilot actions: By a panel of companies in the Veneto Region assuming that regional advanced services can influence firms' decisions in favour of a certain location. The tool could further be applied within the elaboration process of a localisation strategy of SME aimed at optimised logistics operation, which was carried out by a consortium of the Italian municipalities and provinces of Modena and Bologna.

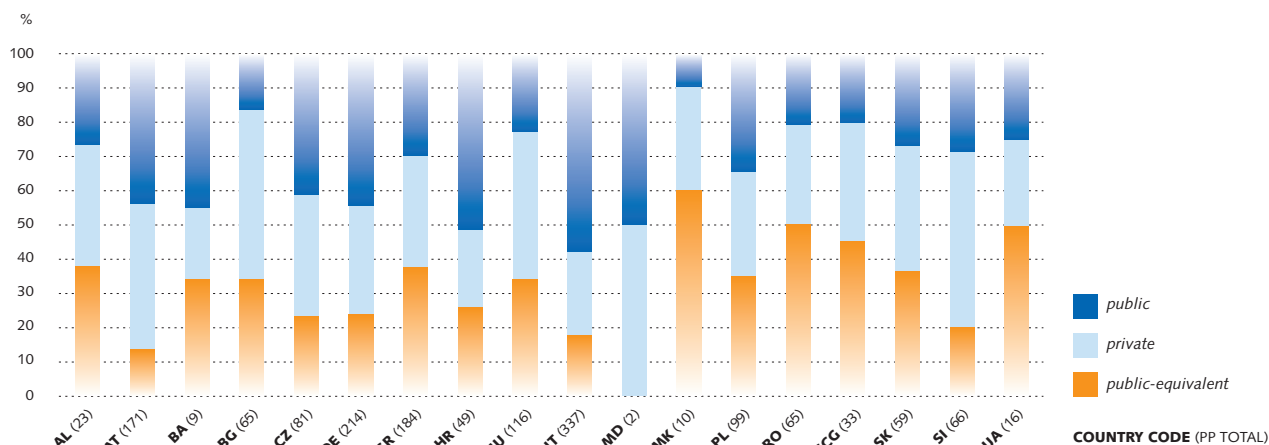
Moreover, an analysis of the current status of public transport demand and supply and the definition of transregional cooperation strategies was derived from the REDECON data set. The project's aim is a more efficient and competitive public transport in the EU Future Region. ([www.redeconproject.net](http://www.redeconproject.net))

## Legal status of project partners per priority and per country



The chart above shows how many public and public equivalent bodies (like universities or research institutes) as well as private project partners were involved in projects within the four different priorities. Public and private partners were almost uniformly distributed in projects

belonging to the second priority "Transport and IT". In projects of the other three priorities prevailed the part of public and public equivalent partners. The diagram below provides data about the distribution of public, public equivalent and private project partners per country.



Legal status of CADSES project partners per country



### Radio INTERREG „on air“

CADSES is also audible, since the German non-commercial radio station "Lotte Weimar" initiated Radio INTERREG in 1999. The intention arose out of the media partnership of several transnational projects within the Community Initiative. Radio INTERREG's aim is to communicate territorial co-operation activities and project results to a broader public.

The work and outputs of several CADSES Projects, for instance REKULA, Vital Cities or LHASA, are presented by temporary radio transmissions from final conferences or project workshops. A special radio-rickshaw provides a mobile studio where interviews could be held on site with project actors or with stakeholders of the relevant regional, national and European institutions. On the website [www.radio-interreg.de](http://www.radio-interreg.de) you can listen directly to the interviews in German and partly in English language. The website also includes information about the general INTERREG objectives and about the working procedures within several projects.



## Financial volume in CADSES per country and priority

CADSES Projects are partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by TACIS, PHARE and CARDS funds:

ERDF .....	143 million EUR
TACIS.....	1,4 million EUR
PHARE.....	3,5 million EUR
CARDS.....	2,8 million EUR

In the illustration below these four funds are summarised under

the category “EU Funds”. The national payments include also private co-financing. The circular charts show which part of the funds has been allocated to the different priorities in each country.



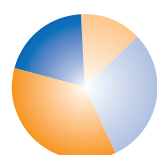
**PRIORITY 1:** SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

**PRIORITY 2:** TRANSPORT & IT

**PRIORITY 3:** NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

**PRIORITY 4:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RISK PREVENTION

### > 10 Mio



#### Austria

EU FUNDS .....	19.664.583 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	20.476.462 EUR



#### Germany

EU FUNDS .....	28.122.696 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	15.760.212 EUR



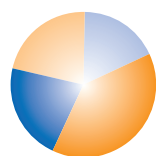
#### Greece

EU FUNDS .....	26.312.487 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	9.605.874 EUR



#### Hungary

EU FUNDS .....	6.707.350 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	4.273.039 EUR



#### Italy

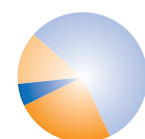
EU FUNDS .....	40.069.115 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	41.052.900 EUR



#### Poland

EU FUNDS .....	7.956.957 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	3.581.887 EUR

### 5-10 Mio



#### Czech Republic

EU FUNDS .....	4.549.414 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	3.222.464 EUR



#### Slovakia

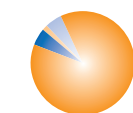
EU FUNDS .....	4.010.121 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	2.610.714 EUR



#### Slovenia

EU FUNDS .....	5.079.302 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	3.074.559 EUR

### < 5 Mio



#### Albania

EU FUNDS .....	658.908 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	356.991 EUR



#### Bosnia Herzegovina

EU FUNDS .....	232.380 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	109.050 EUR



#### Bulgaria

EU FUNDS .....	2.063.696 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	1.336.071 EUR



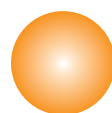
#### Croatia

EU FUNDS .....	790.580 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	2.091.624 EUR



#### FYROM

EU FUNDS .....	90.000 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	207.936 EUR



#### Moldova

EU FUNDS .....	266.400 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	44.600 EUR



#### Romania

EU FUNDS .....	1.485.903 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	1.284.947 EUR



#### Serbia

EU FUNDS .....	1.074.060 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	409.390 EUR



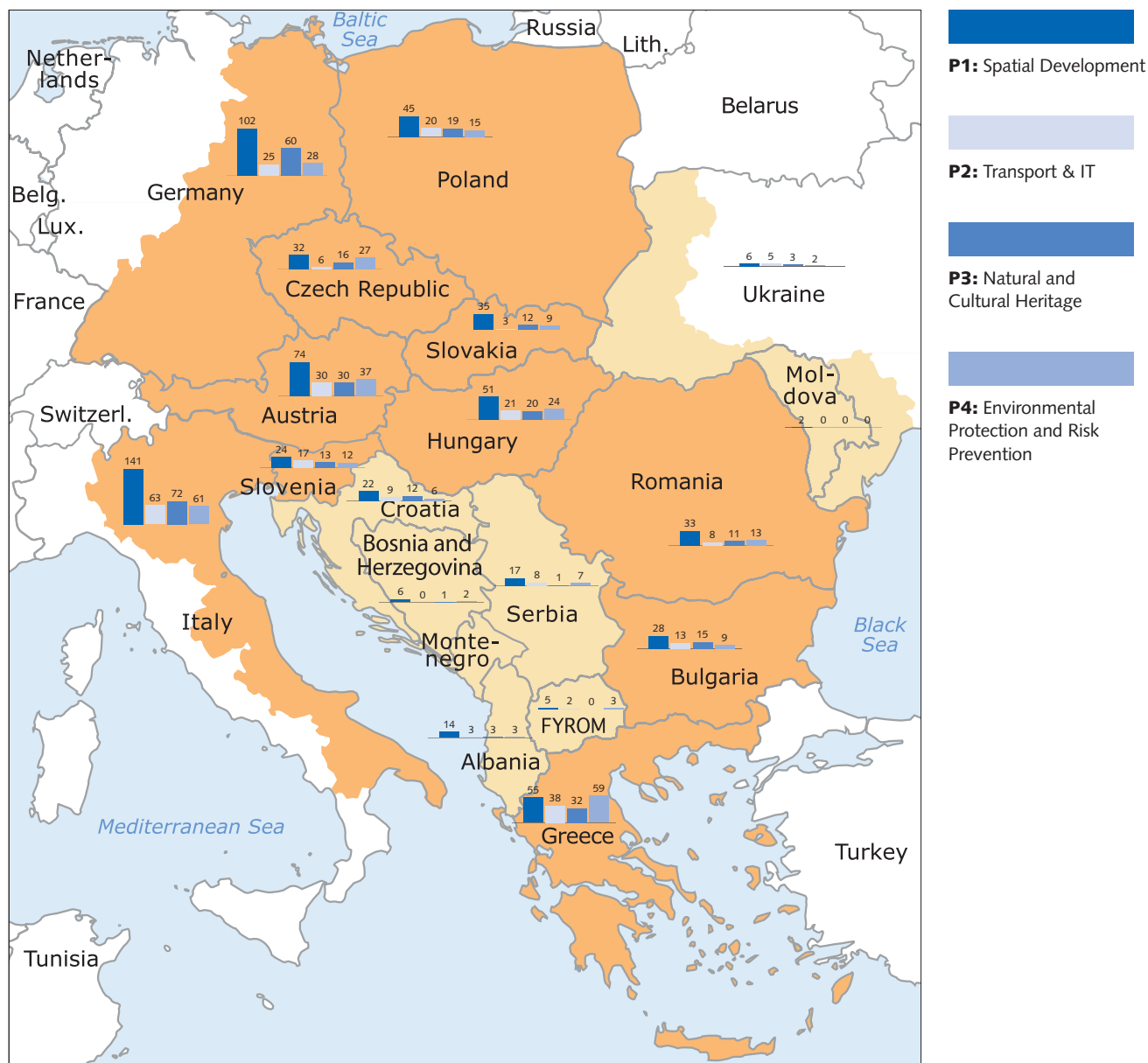
#### Ukraine

EU FUNDS .....	1.153.782 EUR
NATIONAL FUNDS .....	152.798 EUR

## Project partners per country and priority

This diagram shows how many partners were involved in projects of the four different priorities. In all CADSES countries – except of

Greece – the first priority “Spatial Development” clearly comprises the most participants. The rates of the partners of the other three priorities varies in each country.



### Neighbourhood Partner Seminar in Athens in 2007

The Neighbourhood Seminar brought together the project Lead Partners and representatives from the current and future programme institutions and it was organised by the CADSES Contact Point in Thessaloniki, supported by the CADSES Joint Technical Secretariat. The major concern of this meeting was to share experiences and to capitalise on the results of the Neighbourhood Policy. The seminar turned out to be a very good occasion to discuss and evaluate the Neighbourhood Approach. During workshops, speakers and participants underlined the fact that the start had been difficult and that contracting External Funds often lagged behind ERDF contracting.

Basically, the Neighbourhood Approach, as implemented in CADSES, is a success because 85% of the External Funds (PHARE, CARDS and TACIS) could finally be contracted. CADSES is the first and only Programme that successfully combined four different EU funds.

During the seminar the brochure CADSES Results (Issue 1) was presented to the public for the first time and the designated head of the new JTS of the SOUTH EAST EUROPE PROGRAMME gave an overview of the current Programme development.

## Imprint and Contact

### INTERREG III B CADSES RESULTS, Issue 2 Advancing Neighbourhood Co-operation



#### Editor

Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)  
Director Dr. Ulrich Graute  
An der Kreuzkirche 6  
01067 Dresden / Germany  
Phone +49 351 488 1021  
Fax +49 351 488 1025  
cadses@jts.dresden.de  
www.cadses.net

#### Editorial Staff

Anke Hahn, Tina Uhlmann assisted by Stephan Schoeps  
with contributions by Ulrich Graute

#### Proof reading

texttransporter, Dresden/Berlin

#### Composition, layout & production

Speck, Obst & Gemüse, www.spog.com

#### Images

Pictures have been kindly provided by the following projects:  
6 TELEACCESS, 6 HIST.URBAN, 10 PLANET CENSE, CONSPACE,  
14 ESTIA-SPOSE, 20 CARE, 21 PROSIDE, 22 MISTER,  
23 GREENKEYS, 32 TECPARKNET, 37 TAQI, 37 REDECON

The other pictures by: Wikipedia, Page 11+14 by Miraceti, 16 by  
Johann Steininger, 17 by omnidoom 999, 24 by Michael Sander, 25  
by Torsten Bätge, 31 by Villy, 33 by Peter Buck, 35 by Lee Wilkins,  
35 by David Monniaux; DG Regio, Page 7 / 18 / 19 / 26 / 29; LMBV,  
Page 27; JTS, Page 39 or private collection, Page 8 / 17 / 28

The content of this brochure has been researched and implemented  
carefully and thoroughly. However, the editor and the Managing  
Authority of the CADSES Programme exclude any liability for the  
content of this brochure. Contributions marked by name do not  
absolutely reflect the opinion of the editor.

© INTERREG III B CADSES  
May 2008

[www.cadses.net](http://www.cadses.net)

ISBN 978-3-9811921-2-4