

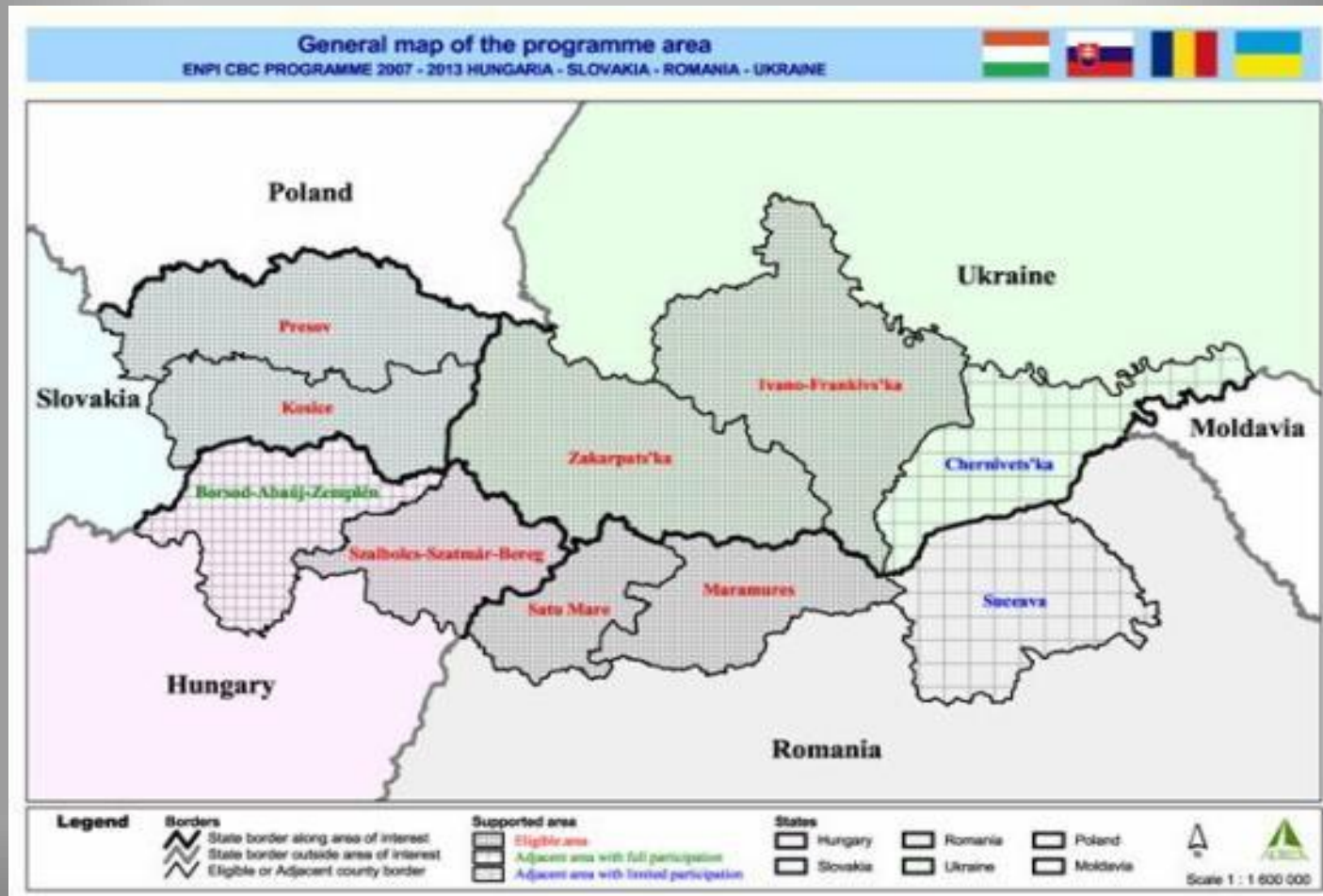
Regional case study for the Effective use of INTERREG funding in cross border care

Marianna Péntzes MD
Hungary



„PARTNERSHIP WITHOUT BORDERS”

ENPI, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)



General aim of operative programme:

- to intensify and deepen the cooperation in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way between Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska and Chernivetska regions of Ukraine and eligible and adjacent areas of Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
- to eliminate social and economic disparities and to bring the population of these neighbouring countries closer to each other

Priority 4: Support people to people cooperation

Small scale “People to people” cooperation (4.2)

Crosscutting themes:

- Equal opportunity
- Sustainable development
- Territorial cohesion

Regional characteristics, connectional points

- strong historical and cultural connections (common cultural heritage and common religious traditions)
- many common geographical and ecological features
- Significant proportion of inhabitants of Carpathian region speak Hungarian
- Significant inequality in health regarding to the national, subnational/regional indicators in the partner country and between crossborder counties

Preliminaries

- Cooperation between hospitals and local governments
 - Development managing capacities
 - Improving quality managing in the inpatient care
 - Experience market focusing on some burning public health topics (CVD, TB etc)
- Small scale programmes (people to people cooperation, without bigger investments)
- Successes (awarded and finished projects) and failures (non-awarded project)

Healthy communities without borders

Reference number: HUSKROUA/0901/086

Overall objective of project:

Development of long term active cooperation with the bordering areas in order to ameliorate equity and living standards of people living there. To strengthen competitiveness by moderating different disadvantages and protecting environmental factors.

Specific objectives: A special, model-valued school community will be developed and will work efficiently on both sides of the border. A complex school-community development program will start on both sides of the border in one of the schools at both sides. An intensive cooperation will start between the different institutions and organisations for health improvement and sustainable development. The school –stage and members of the local community will actively take part in the completion of health development program,; their self-confidence and judicial faculty will improve and are motivated to broaden the cooperation

Healthy communities without borders

AlterEgo Association – Mukachevo / Izsnyéte

- Reasons: inequalities in health (bad health status, effects of social determinants, low level of health literacy, poor infrastructure in school and community settings, high rate of roma inhabitants)
- Actors: civic organisation and public administration
- Actual state of project: pre-contracting phase

Supporting factors

- Careful project planning based on needs
- Motivated, highly educated project management team with long term experience in international programmes at Hungarian partner
- Motivated crossborder partner (recently, after partner change)
- Balanced responsibilities, HR and financial resources

Inhibiting factors (obstacles)

- Collaboration culture
- Bad previous experience (lack of trust, less responsibilities with less money at Ukrainian partner, prejudice)
- Effective?! negotiation- discussion between experts and decision makers
- Lack of enough information regarding to the real decision making processes and „power-holder”
- Lack of knowledge of EU founded project’s procedures or „low” law-following behaviour at Ukrainian part
- Changes in political situation
- Very slow and multi-player contracting procedures (negative effects on planned timetable, expenditures etc.)

Reflections - recommendations

- Strong political commitments inevitable, it is the foundation of project
- Needs assessment, stakeholder analysis, and other planning instruments are recommended
- ***„find each other” – needs, demands, expectations from partner sides***
- Wide cooperation (experts, target groups, decision makers, contracting authority) necessary from the very early phase of project planning
- Effective communication key to success (beyond language!)
- Careful risk assessment (political, economic environment)
- Cooperation culture – trust – genuineness - fairness

Lessons learned

- The world is in continuous change
- Real contribution from partners and stakeholders is necessary – time, money, manpower (not only participation but contribution is needed)
- We have to break down or break through the wall if it is unavoidable or necessary for fruitful collaboration and cooperation (culture, prejudication, inequalities, gaps, customs etc.)
- Good skills: negotiation, project planning-managing, strategic thinking
- Do now but think for the future! (from the sending proposal until getting awarding letter, and the start of the project!)
- Be trustful but no blind!
- Never forget to study (learn?!) the general rules, specific conditions, procedures for using EU funds as well as the regulations, rules and „project culture” at the target partners
- In many cases you need skills for effective problem/conflicts/crisis management – but prevention of problems is more cost-time-effective!
- Never give up the positive thinking!