

# The Budapest Platform

- ▶ MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND KINGDOM RELATIONS, THE NETHERLANDS
- ▶ WORKING COMMUNITIES GALICIA-NORTE PORTUGAL AND NORTE PORTUGAL/CASTILLA Y LEÓN
- ▶ MISSION OPÉRATIONNELLE TRANSFRONTALIÈRE
- ▶ CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES





# The Budapest Platform

The Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives, jointly with the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, as well as the Initiatives France-Hongrie association, held an international conference in Budapest on 9–10 December 2010. The conference was a preparatory event for the Hungarian EU presidency and focused on institutionally based cross-border initiatives, under the patronage of Pál Schmitt, President of Hungary.

The speakers at the conference titled *Regional development through innovation in multilevel organised cross-border cooperation* addressed the following topics:

- The role of supporting national level professional organisations in strengthening cross-border initiatives
- The role of the EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) in the elimination of borders in Central and Eastern Europe
- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea and the Danube Region
- Development prospects for high speed railways in Central and South-east Europe.

## The mission statement of the conference

The World Bank's report 2009 on the development of the regions underlines that three criteria are decisive for development or lack of development of the regions in the world – the 3 “D”-s are:

- Density
- Distance
- Division.

A minimum of **density** is essential for the rentability of services to the population and so a key for their attractiveness, especially in more **rural areas**. Concerning cities, the criteria of density is

linked to high-level metropolitan functions and through that to their competitiveness on a global scale. In areas as the Central European states and the Balkans, the cities – even the capital cities – are not as huge as in other parts of the world: to compensate this lower size and global visibility, these cities should develop the complementarity of their high-level functions, then enhance the accessibility (e.g. high-speed rail connections) among them in order to take profit of synergies and to bring together the requested critical mass. This responds also to the criteria of **distance**.



The answer to the criteria of **division** is lowering the effects of borders by cross-border co-operation and adaptation of laws and regulations when they are identified as obstacles. Especially in the Balkan area, more fragmented than others and with the necessity to rebuilt confidence after the conflicts of the 90's, with problems related to the integration of minorities, cross-border cooperation can be a very practical way to overcome old barriers and to improve the regional and economic development in the whole area. In more and more countries of the world, **cross-border cooperation** represents an operative approach to solve daily problems of the citizens living in border areas, to overcome barriers in the development of concrete projects and to activate the whole potential of economic development of the border regions.

Especially in Central Europe and the Balkans, co-operation is not an "exotic" issue at all – it's more and more a **key issue**: In the Balkan area (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Hungary, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo), the total border lengths represent 6 560 km and 34.5 million inhabitants (24% of the total population of these countries).

The development of these huge border areas is a key for the development, even if they are more rural or if they include mid-sized or bigger cities. Although geographically peripheral, the Balkan Danube area represents a key region for the European social, political and economic development process, especially in terms of integration and security.

Due to historical changes, this part of Europe has a high density of capital cities and urban poles. Most of them are located in border areas (Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, Skopje, Belgrade, Zagreb) and the need of exchanges between them is very important (economic exchanges, high speed mobility, etc.). Linking these capital cities and regional development improved by cross-border cooperation can be a successful development strategy for this whole area.

It seems to be more and more necessary for these countries to develop co-operation and coordination structures and methods in order to work together on these three "D". The mentioned examples (adaptation of laws, creating main infrastructures etc.) show that this approach needs to integrate the local, the regional and the state level: this means, that tools of coordination **among the countries are required at each level and that the coordination must be organized between the levels**. Such a co-operation architecture (a multi-level governance of cooperation) is the appropriate answer to these challenges.

This means concretely, that the Central European and Balkan States should develop their capacity to solve the remaining problems in citizens' life and those related to the realization of infrastructure projects. Local authorities and the central state have to cooperate in order to achieve that aim, as the knowledge of concrete problems and the capacity to solve legal problems have to come together. This model of organizing cross-border cooperation in a systematic way already exists in some European countries (France, Portugal, the Netherlands) and has just been created in Hungary (the CESCO). Even if the central organized states are the first that are confronted with the problem of the necessity to deal with many different frontier-situations when an adaptation of the state-wide legislation is required, the need of having **supporting structures for cross-border cooperation at the national level** appears in more and more countries, even the federal organized ones.

In addition to technical support structures with expertise and specific knowledge, a **common work-program** is needed (based on the systematic identification of remaining obstacles), which should be co-ordinated in terms of content and periodicity with the European policies and programs.

This would be a good basis for a **common development strategy**, as the Danube Strategy and the next period



of cohesion policy (after 2013). In the same time, cooperation between the national support structures is needed in order to organize a common feedback to the European Commission and the European Parliament when bi- or multilateral treaties cannot solve the remaining problems. This regular exchange can lead them to the creation of a network or national support structures for cross-border co-operation.

Finally, it would be helpful if they would have a **clearly identified person in charge of these questions in Brussels**. This would complete the whole cooperation architecture and allow the European states and their regions to give an adequate answer to the three "D": density, distance and division.

The cheapest, most sustainable and effective way of regional development, as it uses the potential of European diversity in an intelligent and peaceful way.

As a finale to the conference, the signing of the Budapest Declaration took place in the presence of László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly.

## BUDAPEST DECLARATION

### Taking into account

- ❖ the increasing role of the European Territorial Cooperation within the Cohesion Policy of the EU;
- ❖ the recommendations included into the White Paper on the multi-level governance created by the Committee of the Regions;
- ❖ the efforts made by the EU, the Council of Europe as well as the national governments for the closing up of border areas thus the decreasing of territorial differences;
- ❖ the potential force of the innovative solutions provided by the EC Regulation 1082/2006 and Protocol No. 3 to the Madrid Outline Convention (Council of Europe Treaty Series 206);

### recognizing

- ❖ the facilities provided by sharing knowledge and experiences accumulated in the different professional bodies;
- ❖ synergistic effects given by cooperation as well as
- ❖ other advantages being inherent in a cooperation within the frame of a network

the undersigned as representatives of organizations supporting cross-border cooperation signing this declaration express their intention

- ❖ to create professional supporting network on European level ;
- ❖ to share experiences acquired during their operation;
- ❖ to use these experiences for a common benefit;
- ❖ to harmonize their professional activities;
- ❖ to realize common initiatives, professional programs and projects;
- ❖ and through the above mentioned activities to develop in a complex way the border areas of the countries represented by those organizations.

Budapest, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010



Dr Hans-Günther CLEV  
Director of the Mission  
Opérationnelle Transfrontalière



Nuño ALMEIDA  
Coordinator of the Working Communities  
Galicia-North Portugal  
and Castilla y León-North Portugal



Dr György KOCZISZKY  
President of the Central European  
Service for Cross-border Initiatives



Auke VAN DER GOOT  
Senior Adviser  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands



# Members of the Budapest Platform

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND KINGDOM RELATIONS, THE NETHERLANDS

**Established:** In 2009 our ministry established – in close co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – a network of stakeholders from respective ministries as well as local and regional authorities

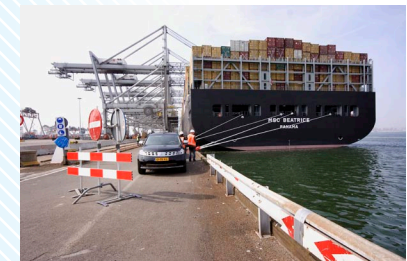
### The main objectives of the organisation:

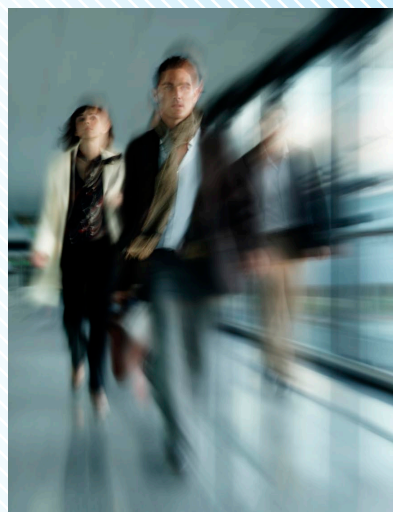
- Identifying legal and other obstacles that hinder effective cross-border co-operation at local and regional level
- Trying to remove those obstacles as possible
- Promoting good examples of cross-border co-operation
- Establishing strategic cooperation with other European networks in CBC, incl. MOT and CESC.

### The services provided by the organisation, main tasks:

The network meets at regular intervals to discuss with local and regional stakeholders obstacles in cross-border co-operation.

As a legal basis for cross-border co-operation at local and regional level, competent authorities can avail of the EGTC regulation and of the Benelux and Anholt Convention on Cross-Border Co-operation of Local and Regional Authorities.





### Members of the leadership:

Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Directorate General for local and regional governance and Kingdom Relations

### Types of members and partners:

- Types of members and partners:
- Specialised ministries
- Local and provincial authorities

### Information:

- Webpage: under construction
- Postal address: c/o Auke van der Goot  
Postbus 20011, 2500 EA Den Haag,  
The Netherlands
- Tel.: 00-31-70-426 7386
- E-mail: auke.goot@minbzk.nl

## WORKING COMMUNITIES GALICIA-NORTE PORTUGAL AND NORTE PORTUGAL/ CASTILLA Y LEÓN

### Established:

- 1991 for the Working. C. Galicia/ Norte Portugal (WCGNP);
- 2000 for the Working. C. Norte Portugal/Castilla y León (WCNPCyL)

### The main objectives of the organisation:

Promote regular meetings between Galicia and Norte Portugal, between Norte Portugal and Castilla y Leon, to:

- Discuss issues of common interest;
- Formulate proposals for cooperation among territorial institutions and entities;
- Prepare joint studies, plans, programs and projects, e.g. Strategic Cooperation Plans Galicia/Norte 2007–2013 and Norte/Castilla y León 2009–2013;
- Promote forms of relationships involving public and private structures, local actors and entities, that can contribute to the development of the Euro-region;
- Perform the tasks foreseen for this type of structures namely Cross-border Programs (Interreg);
- Participate in the creation process of new forms of cross-border cooperation organizations, with or without

legal personality, and establish co-operation mechanisms with others structures (EGTC's);

- Carry out other activities assigned to the Working C. by international policies and institutions regarding cross-border cooperation in Europe.

### The services of the organisation:

The two Working C. act the same way:

- *Presidency*  
The Working Community is chaired alternatively in a two years term by the President of each regional authority representative.
- *Plenary*  
The President represents the Working Community, calls and presides the Plenary sessions that put together all the institutional players, and sets the agenda. On behalf of the proposal of the coordination committee, the president can set agreements, adopt recommendations and create new sectorial groups.
- *Coordination Committee*  
The Coordination Committee of the Working C. is made up of the general coordinators of each region, appointed by both presidents.  
The functions of the Coordination Committee include: approving and monitoring the Strategic Plans; assessment of EU financial instruments dedicated to the cross-border







cooperation area; supervising the coordination and coherence of the activities carried out by the sectorial groups; preparing the elements required for drawing up the work programmes; determining the launch of studies and projects of interest for the Working Community and exchanging information between regions and providing support for the search for partners between entities on both sides of the border.

- *Sectorial and territorial Committees*  
Their task is to study the issues and build projects related to the following areas:

*For the WCGNP:*

- *Environment, Spatial Planning and Rural Development*
- *Competitiveness and Employment Cooperation,*
- *Socio-economic and Institutional Integration*
- *SME's*
- *Universities*

*For the WCNPCyL:*

- *Competitiveness, Training, Employment and Education*
- *Natural and Cultural Heritage, Tourism*
- *Douro-Duero Territory*
- *Institutional, Social and Political Cooperation*

### Services:

The Spanish and Portuguese Treaty for cross-border cooperation between territorial instances and entities (Valencia Treaty, 2002):

- Develop the principles of the European Outline Convention on Cross-border Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities of the Council of Europe (Madrid, 1980) having regard to the respect and identity of the 2 States in foreign policy issues;
- Define legal instruments for cooperation: Cooperation Protocols (to promote studies, plans, programs, of common interest; for infrastructures projects of public interest...);
- Create the Spanish-Portuguese Committee on Cross-border Cooperation (intergovernmental body, responsible for supervising and evaluating the implementation of this Convention as well as preparing, on a technical base, the annual bilateral political summit). The Portuguese members are: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also Ministries of Health, Transports, Environment, 4 Regions located in the border with Spain and the Financial Institute for Regional Development;
- Define the cooperation bodies, namely the Working Communities.



### Members of the leadership:

*For the WCGNP:*

- Norte Portugal (CCDR-N- North Regional Coordination and Development Commission)
- Xunta de Galicia (regional government)

*For the WCNPCyL:*

- Norte Portugal (CCDR-N- North Regional Coordination and Development Commission)
- Junta de Castilla y León (regional government)

### Types of members and partners:

*Members:*

- CCDR-N is a decentralized body of the national government
- Xunta de Galicia and Junta de Castilla y León are regional authorities/ government

*Partners:*

- Services of public administration
- Municipalities and association of local authorities
- Local entities
- Universities
- Business Associations
- Local Associations
- Other stakeholders

### Operational branche of the WCGNP:

- The European Grouping for territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Galicia/Norte Portugal: [www.gnpaect.eu/](http://www.gnpaect.eu/).

### Information:

- Webpages: <http://www.ccdr-n.pt>; [www.galicia-nortept.org](http://www.galicia-nortept.org); [www.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/pr/pt/NORCYL/Page/NorcyLPlantillaMostrar- Seccion/1200492077179/\\_/\\_/\\_?asm=jcyl](http://www.jcyl.es/web/jcyl/pr/pt/NORCYL/Page/NorcyLPlantillaMostrar- Seccion/1200492077179/_/_/_?asm=jcyl)
- Postal address: CCDRN- Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte de Portugal  
*UCE-Strategic Cooperation Unit*  
*Rua Rainha D. Estefânia, 251*  
*4150-304 Porto Portugal.*
- Tel.: +351 22 605 01 22
- Fax: +351 22 607 30 45
- E-mail: [nuno.almeida@ccdr-n.pt](mailto:nuno.almeida@ccdr-n.pt)



## MISSION OPÉRATIONELLE TRANSFRONTIÈRE

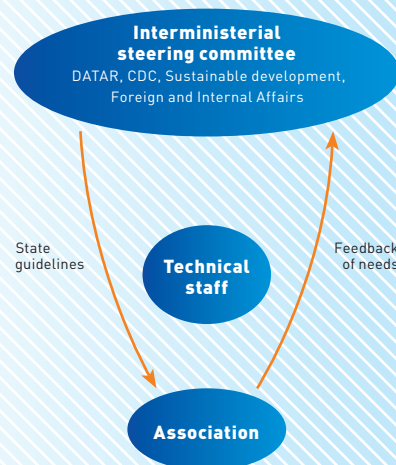
**Established:** in April 1997 the CIADT (Interministerial Territorial Planning and Development Committee of the French Government) established MOT (transfrontier operational mission).

### The main objectives of the organisation:

MOT was created by the the French state which became aware of the major issues of cross-border cooperation, assessed the needs of project leaders in terms of operational assistance and noted the non-optimum utilisation of INTERREG funds. MOT is an inter-ministerial structure supervised by the DATAR (Delegation for Territorial Planning and Regional Attractiveness), associated with five candidate pilot sites for experimentation.

The principal objective of MOT is to facilitate the emergence and the execution of structuring cross-border projects at local level, by favouring territorial integration on either side of the borders. Its dual legitimacy (inter-ministerial and as an association) enables it to encourage ongoing dialogue between national and community authorities and local project leaders. It plays its role in three areas: operational assistance, networking and help with the definition of overall strategies.

### Network's structure



### Services:

A MOT részének lenni az alábbiakat jelenti:

1. *Having access to a unique resource centre on cross-border cooperation*
- The members' space of MOT Internet site (French version) gives access to many resources on cross-border cooperation (press review, cross-border mapping, legal fact sheets, studies...)
- MOT has numerous communication tools on a European scale: website, monthly newsletter, MOT guides etc.
- A documentation centre on cross-border cooperation is about to be set up at MOT.

- A network of contacts connects experts on cross-border cooperation in Europe. Members can also benefit from the list of European dissemination of MOT to communicate about their events.

#### 2. *Exchanging with the stakeholders of other cross-border territories in Europe*

- Each year, the MOT organizes events for exchange of experiences and good practices: thematic working groups, seminars, conferences...

#### 3. *Better taking into account the needs of cross-border territories*

- MOT contributes to better taking into account cross-border territories in national and EU policies and strategies and relays the needs of its members:
- at national level by its link with its institutional partners
- at European level by its partnerships and positioning

#### 4. *Profiting of an expertise*

- MOT has developed legal and operational expertise on many cross-border themes.
- Each member at French border receives an annual voucher equivalent to a day's work of the MOT team.
- Beyond ad hoc advice MOT proposes a more specific assistance via its operational assistance services.



## Members of the leadership:

### President:

- Michel Delebarre, Former Minister of State, president of the COTER commission-Committee of the Regions, MP and mayor of Dunkerque, president of the Dunkerque Urban Community and the Syndicat Mixte de la Côte d'Opale

### Vice-presidents:

- Alain Lamassoure, MEP
- Martine Aubry, mayor of Lille, president of Lille Metropolitan Urban Community
- Joël Giraud, MP and mayor of l'Argentières-la-Bessée, vice-president of the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur Region
- Christian Dupessey, mayor of Annemasse, vice-president of Annemasse Agglo
- Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, community councillor and deputy mayor of Strasbourg, Strasbourg Urban Community

### Secretary:

- Christiane Eckert, deputy mayor of Mulhouse

### Treasurer:

- Marthe Steffann, Caisse des Dépôts



## Types of members and partners:

### MOT has more than 60 members, among them:

- Cross-border structures
- Municipalities
- Groupings of local authorities
- Regions, Counties, Cantons, Département
- States
- Companies
- Networks
- Associations
- Individuals

### Partners

#### (partnership agreements):

- Platform of Budapest
- CESCO: Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (founding member)
- CECICN: Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks (founding member)
- Euro-Institut located at Kehl (D)
- Euro-Info-Consommateur
- Association of European Border Regions
- Committee of the Regions

### Information:

- Webpage: [www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu](http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu)
- Postal address: 38 rue des Bourdonnais – 75001 Paris (FRANCE)
- Tel.: +33 1 55 80 56 80
- Fax: +33 1 42 33 57 00
- E-mail: [mot@mot.asso.fr](mailto:mot@mot.asso.fr)

## CENTRAL EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Established: in 2009

### The main objectives of the organisation:

- providing professional support for cross border cooperation along the Hungarian borders as well as in several other states of Central and South-eastern Europe
- incorporating the Euroregions, the EGTCs and the local and regional authorities participating in the cross border cooperation into a network
- promoting good examples from Western European initiatives
- establishing strategic cooperation with the competent decision making and decision preparing institutes of the European Union as well as with Northern and Western European networks created with the same purpose
- strengthening the internal cohesion and mutual rapprochement within the region by establishing partnerships between the nations of Central and Southern Europe.

### Services:

CESCO provides professional help primarily for EGTCs to be formed along the Hungarian borders.

#### The service portfolio of the organisation:

- Institutional development as well as project development consultation and coordination;

- Strategic planning, compilation of professional material;
- Project management;
- Organisation of courses, training and conferences;
- Mediation of partners for tenders;
- Participation in international projects, the generation of such projects;
- Publications, operation of professional portals..

## Members of the leadership:

### The Honorary Chairman of CESCO:

- Szilveszter Vizi E. Former President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

### The Chairman of CESCO:

- József Benedek Vice Dean of the University Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj (RO)

### The Vice Chairs of CESCO:

- Rudolf Bauer mayor of Košice West district (SK)
- Zsolt Borkai Mayor of Győr
- Árpád Mihalovics Vice Rector of University of Pannonia
- Iosif Matula Member of the European Parliament (RO)

## Types of members and partners:

- self-governments
- associations
- research institutions
- individuals

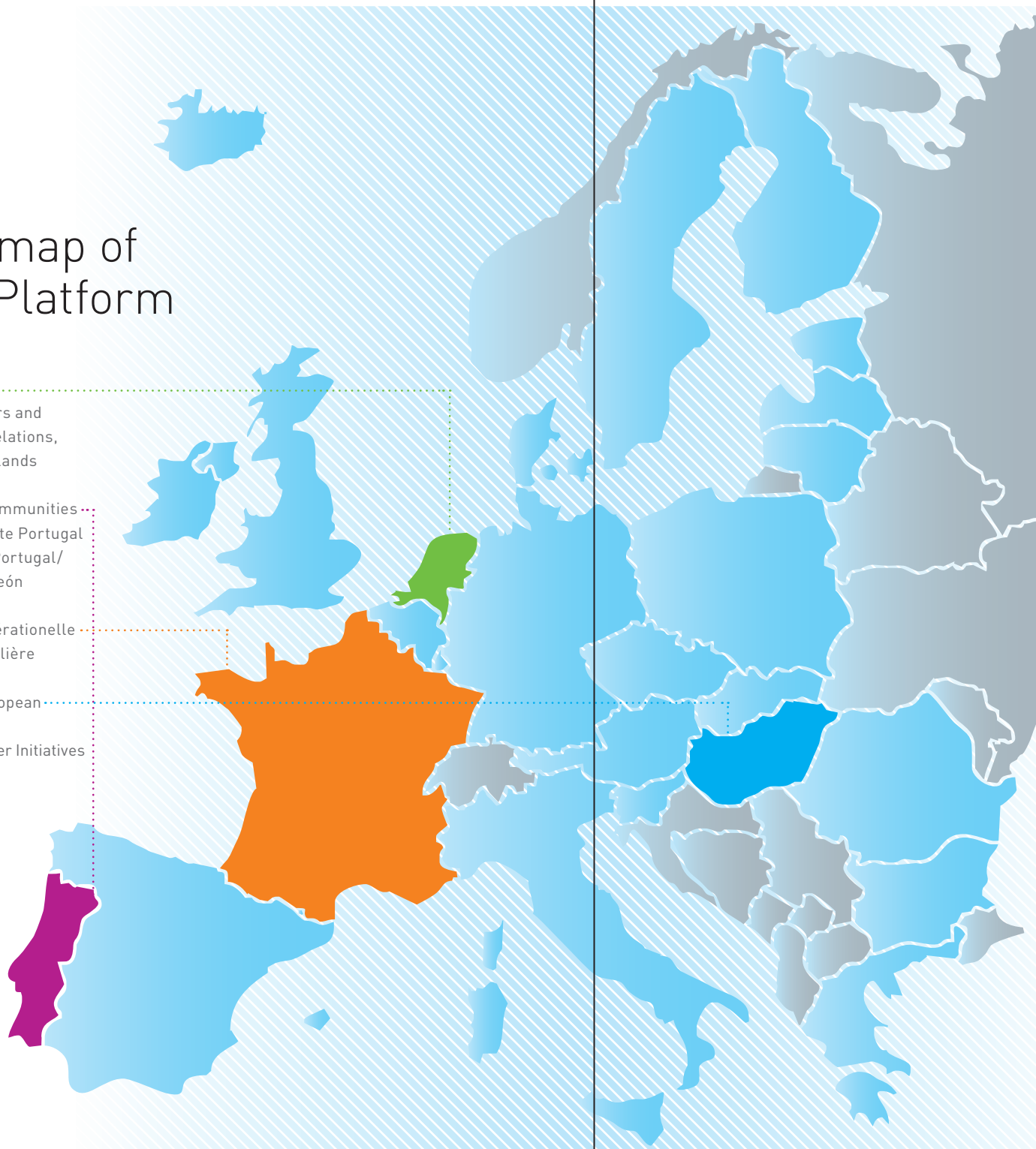
### Information:

- Webpage: [www.cesci-net.eu](http://www.cesci-net.eu)
- Postal address: 1024 Budapest, Káplár utca 10/b.
- Tel.: +36 1/32-12345
- Fax: +36 1/700-2352
- E-mail: [cesci@cesci-net.eu](mailto:cesci@cesci-net.eu)



# The map of the Platform

- ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands
- ▶ Working Communities Galicia-Norte Portugal and Norte Portugal/ Castilla Y León
- ▶ Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière
- ▶ Central European Service For Cross-Border Initiatives







HUN 1067 Budapest, Teréz körút 13.  
[www.cesci-net.eu](http://www.cesci-net.eu)

The organisation of the conference  
and publishing this brochure  
were co-financed by the  
Hungarian National Civil Fund.

