

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

signed by and between

Košice Self-Governing Region (Slovakia)

Represented by: Zdenko Trebuľa, Chairman of Košice Self - Governing Region

Organisation ID No.: 35541016

Prešov Self – Governing Region (Slovakia)

Represented by: Štefan Biel'ak, Deputy Chairman of Prešov Self - Governing Region

Organisation ID No.: 37870475

Podkarpackie Region (Poland)

Represented by: Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region

Organisation ID No.: 690581324

Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government (Hungary)

Represented by: Török Dezső, President of the General Assembly of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County

Organisation ID No.: 15789271

Preamble

Podkarpackie Region, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Košice Self-Governing Region and Prešov Self – Governing Region

hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”

- declare that this Agreement has been made and entered into for the purpose of mutual cooperation in achieving the objectives of the Łańcut Declaration concerning the construction of the Via Carpatia, the shortest road from the north to the south of Europe, connecting Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece. The Via Carpatia will start in the Lithuanian port city of Klaipeda and lead through Kaunas, via the Polish cities of Lublin and Rzeszów, via the Slovak city of Košice and Presov, the Hungarian cities of Miskolc and Debrecen, the Romanian cities of Oradea, Lugoj, Calafat and Constanta, through the Bulgarian cities of Sofia and Svilengrad, and will finish in the Greek city of Thessaloniki,
- declare that they will act so that their participation in the construction of the Via Carpatia transport corridor, which will be beneficial for all regions through which the corridor will run, will increase the living standards of the citizens of the regions concerned,
- declare their joint participation, within their legal powers, in the projects and plans initiated by the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Via Carpatia, whose members are the Košice Self-Governing Region and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County,
- declare that they will act to encourage other regions located along the Via Carpatia to become parties to this Agreement strengthening the effectiveness of the actions undertaken, therefore this document has an open character.

Article I.
Subject of the Agreement

1. The Parties have agreed on the rules and principles of mutual cooperation in the realisation of activities that will result in meeting the objectives of the Łańcut Declaration i.e. construction of the transport corridor Via Carpatia.

Article II.
Main objectives of the cooperation

1. The Parties agree that main objectives of the cooperation are as follows:
 - a) activities leading to inclusion of the Via Carpatia corridor in its entire length into TEN-T network - main transport network of the European union (core network),
 - b) activities leading to completing the construction of the parts of the transport infrastructure that form the Via Carpatia corridor in the individual regions,
 - c) implementing projects to search for solutions for development of the region concerned using the potential of the Via Carpatia transport corridor,
 - d) encouraging other regions located along the Via Carpatia to become Parties to this Cooperation Agreement to strengthen the effectiveness of actions undertaken.

2. To achieve the objectives set, the Parties deem necessary as follows:
 - a) mutual cooperation of the regions lying along the Via Carpatia transport corridor,
 - b) signing the Cooperation Agreement between all the regions concerned, and demonstration of the interest of these regions to build the Via Carpatia transport corridor,
 - c) joint position of the affected regions in building the Via Carpatia declaring the initiative "bottom up",
 - d) supporting activities aimed at including the Via Carpatia transport corridor in its entire length into the TEN-T,
 - e) gaining a positive attitude from national governments to construct the Via Carpatia due to its strategic importance for the regions concerned,
 - f) building partnerships between the regions that the Via Carpatia traverses.

Article III.
Concept of cooperation realisation

1. The Parties agree:
 - a) to continuously monitor and inform each other about the possibilities of financing the realization of the objectives of the Agreement through European Union funds,
 - b) to jointly develop, implement and assess joint projects to achieve the objectives of the Agreement,
 - c) to jointly develop, implement and assess specific strategic documents and action plans to achieve the objectives of the Agreement,
 - d) to cooperate with the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation Via Carpatia, whose members are the Košice Self-Governing Region and the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County.

2. Details on individual ways of cooperation under the preceding paragraph will be adjusted by a separate addendum to this agreement or by separate agreements.

**Article IV.
Termination**

1. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period.
2. The Agreement may be terminated:
 - a) by written treaty of contracting parties,
 - b) by notice of either of the Parties with the notice period of one month starting on the first day of calendar month following the month, in which notice has been delivered to the other contracting Parties.

**Article V.
Final provisions**

1. The Agreement enters into force on the date of its signature by the contracting Parties.
2. Modifications and amendments to the Memorandum may be carried out only as written amendments which must be signed by authorized representatives of the Parties.
3. The Agreement has been executed in four copies, each copy in Polish, Slovak, Hungarian and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any contradictions, the English language version has precedence.
4. Parties declare that as the participants in this Agreement they are authorized to enter into this Agreement and their contractual freedom is not limited. The legal action is taken in the prescribed form. The Agreement has been drawn up according to their true intentions and based on correct information. The Parties have read the Agreement, understood its content, and in witness whereof they have hereunto set their hands.

Rzeszów, April 17, 2015



Zdenko Trebul'a
Chairman
of Košice Self-Governing Region



Štefan Biel'ak
Deputy Chairman
of Prešov Self-Governing Region



Władysław Ortyl
Marshal
of the Podkarpackie Region



Török Dezső
President of the General Assembly
of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County