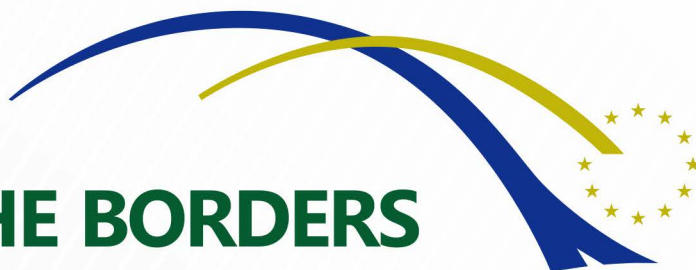


Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives
European Institute of Cross-Border Studies



CROSSING THE BORDERS

Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case Study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Croatian border

CBC between twin towns Subotica and Osijek

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1. Introduction

This case study is dealing with the cross-border cooperation between the towns of Subotica from Serbia and Osijek from Croatia (shown on figure 1), illustrating a good example of institutionalised cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border. Such forms of collaboration intensify cross-border relations, a kind of local identity can be dedicated to their area; moreover, the participants succeed in exploiting development funds, and their objectives contribute to socio-economic development of the affected region.

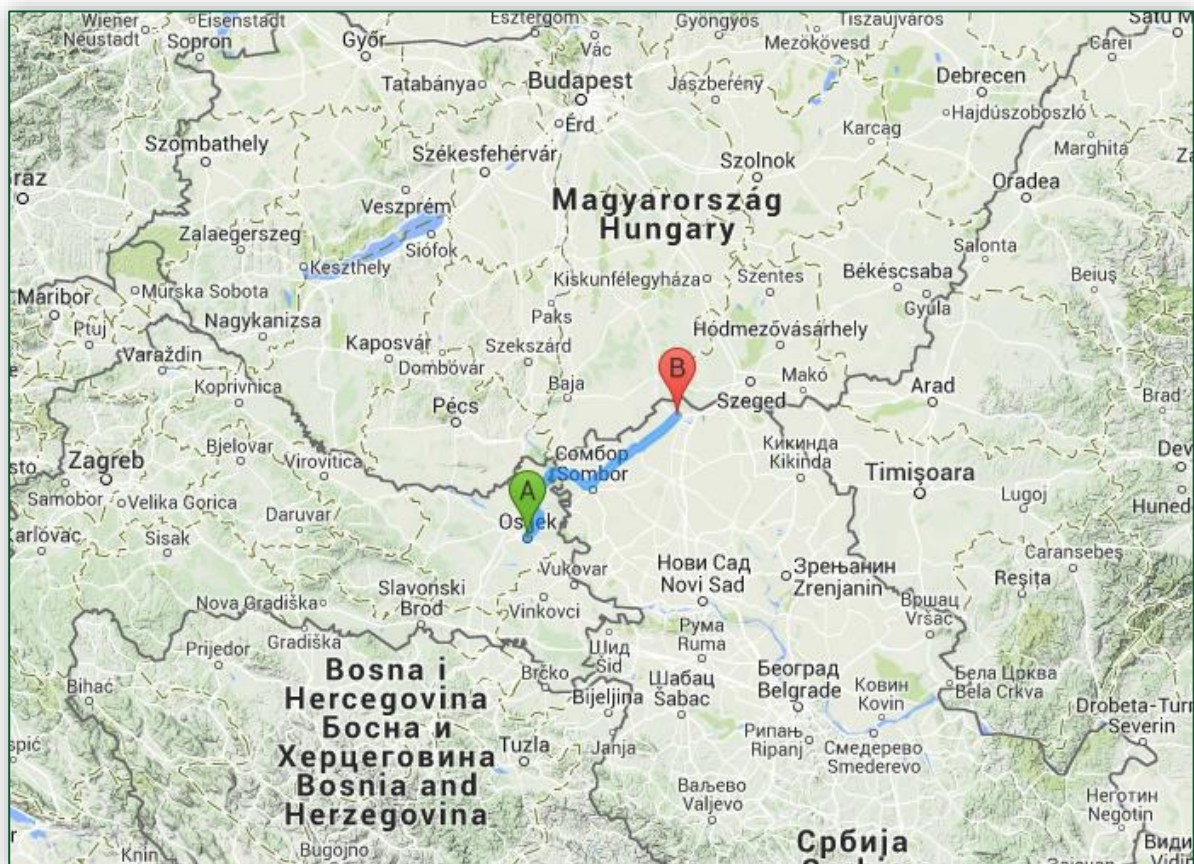


Figure 1: Geographic position of the twin towns Osijek and Subotica in their macro regional environment

Source: maps.google.com

The study tries to reveal the extent of relations between these two towns after the disintegration of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in 1992, with respect to the similar ethnic structure in Subotica and Osijek. It also examines the potentials for developing cross-border relations, as well as the effects of Croatia's EU accession of 2013 on promoting and substantial improvement of the relations between these two towns.

Concerning the question of cross-border cooperation between Subotica and Osijek, the explanation should be based on their geopolitical position, similarities in their history, ethnic diversity of their inhabitants – namely the presence of Croatian, Serbian and Hungarian population – and their common cultural needs, as well as on their potentials for economic development.

Relation between these two towns is based on historic facts, since both of them became border towns during the 20th century, after decades of being in the inland of the same country, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On the other hand, there are similarities in their economic structure, and an intensifying regional and cultural cooperation between them.

The first substantial change happened after the World War I and with the Treaty of Trianon, which divided the Austro-Hungarian Empire into several smaller nation-states driven by the idea of national self-determination. Hence, Subotica (Szabadka) and Osijek (Eszék) found themselves in a new state frame, specifically, in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later called as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. As a result, the Hungarian population became a minority group in the new country.

After dissolution of the second Yugoslavia in 1992, Osijek remained on the eastern periphery of Croatia. The town, lying along the Drava and the Danube, is the most eastern gate of Croatia towards the Carpathian Basin. Due to the changes of the region's geopolitical orientation, it became a peripheral area with increasing backwardness (producing 5.4% of the GDP of Croatia in 2010) compared both to the capital Zagreb and the seaside-towns with attractive tourism magnetism (Faragó – Rácz 2010). Despite their peripheral position at country level, Osijek, together with Vukovar, can make new cross-border connections with Sombor, Subotica and Novi Sad from Serbia and Pécs from Hungary.

Table 1: Number and proportion of nationalities in the population of Subotica and Osijek

Nationality	Subotica		Osijek	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Total	141,554	100.00%	108,048	100.00%
Hungarians	50,469	35.65%	979	0.91%
Serbs	38,254	27.02%	6,751	6.25%
Croats	14,151	10.00%	96,746	89.54%
Bunjevci	13,553	9.57%	-	-
Yugoslavs	3,202	2.26%	-	-
Albanians	-	-	437	0.40%
Germans	-	-	263	0.24%

Sources: Census 2011: Population - Ethnicity (http://popis2011.stat.rs/?page_id=2162) and Stanovništvo prema narodnosti po gradovima/općinama, popis 2011, www.dzs.hr

The diversity of cultural relations between the minority-majority groups of the towns is an important and appreciable feature of cooperation between Subotica and Osijek. It is evident that while certain nationalities form the majority on one side of the border, they are a minority group on the other side, and vice versa. So according to the last census from 2011, the ethnic structure of the population in Subotica and Osijek was quite similar in many respects (see Table 1). While in Subotica, the majority is formed by national minorities (the proportion of Hungarians, Croats and Bunjevci is more than 55%, while the share of Serbs is only 27%), in Osijek only every tenth inhabitant is not Croat (the total proportion of Serbs, Hungarians, Albanians and Germans is around 8%).

Both Subotica and Osijek are centres of sub regional areas. Osijek connects eastern Croatia with Zagreb and Western Europe through the motorway and its international airport. On the other hand, Subotica lies along the Budapest–Belgrade motorway (the Pan-European Corridor X).

It is important to underline that these two towns have achieved considerable results in exploiting EU funds. Firstly within the framework of Hungary–Croatia and Hungary–Serbia INTERREG and IPA CBC programmes, but lately also in joint application to calls for proposals of the Croatia–Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme. Namely, Osijek-Baranja County has realised the highest number of IPA CBC projects (75) within the whole of Croatia (Sumpor et al. 2013). On the other hand, the City of Subotica has implemented several projects within Hungary–Serbia INTERREG IIIA-CARDS and IPA CBC programmes.

In this case study we give a short presentation of the development of relations between Subotica and Osijek. It is followed by the description of the border section between Serbia and Croatia, as well as of the analysed twin towns. After that we present the functioning of their cooperation, and illustrate it with a list of projects and activities realised by actors from these towns or their local municipalities. The SWOT analysis of the cross-border cooperation of Subotica and Osijek precedes the description of the future potentials of their relations. Finally, we summarise the findings of this case study. In the annex there are shown two documents, the charters of cooperation between Subotica and Osijek, as proof of its institutionalisation.

To achieve the necessary information for analysing the cross-border cooperation of Subotica and Osijek, we conducted interviews with the representatives of these two municipalities. In case of Subotica, the respondents were Mr László Horváth, the Head of the Protocol Office of the Mayor, and Erika Kudlik, the Head of the Office for Local Economic Development, as well as Siniša Babičković, the town councillor for international relations and regional cooperation. From the Croatian side we contacted Romana Radić, the Head of the Sub Department of International Cooperation along the Department of Economic and European Affairs in Osijek. Moreover, we examined the published documents about international and cross-border cooperation projects of the institutions and the involved municipalities of Subotica and Osijek. Finally, beside statistical data, we also used the strategic documents of the towns.

2. The development of the cross-border cooperation

Subotica and Osijek were cities in the same country until the wars in the '90s. During this period there was no actual need for establishing special partnership between the towns because they were parts of the same internal state frame. However, disintegration of the former Yugoslavia meant a huge change for the region and several cities suddenly found themselves within new spatial space. Croatian people living in Vojvodina lost their direct contacts with their motherland. Nevertheless, the biggest "weight" was caused by the bloody Yugoslavian war and by the tragic events following it, subsequently, contacts and relations have become even harder with the newly established independent Croatian state.

Breakup of Yugoslavia resulted in several new state structures, however, the ethnic structure of the Yugoslavian territory was not homogenous, hence several ethnic minorities found themselves living in other states. The most significant population of Croatian and Bunjevac ethnic minorities lives in and around Subotica, consequently, it is obvious that Osijek, as the nearest bigger town in Croatia, presents a natural "umbilical cord" with their motherland. The Croatian minority has always played an important role in the local municipality of Subotica. In the time of the former Yugoslavia, they took part in leading the town, while from the country's disintegration to the beginning of the 2000s, they led the municipality of Subotica together with the Hungarian national parties of that time.

Therefore the cooperation between Subotica and Osijek is the direct result of the efforts of the Croatian minority to make contacts with their homeland. Right after the war, some officials of the self-government bodies established individual contacts with Osijek. Subsequently, these initiatives were necessarily and naturally followed by institutionalised contacts between the municipalities.

During the nineties, there had been several reciprocal visits of the representatives from Subotica and Osijek; however, these events still cannot be treated as legal form of cooperation. The first institutionalised cooperation happened in 2004, when the Mayors of Subotica and Osijek signed the charter of good-neighbourly relations. In this document, the parties declare that they are ready to "cooperate in the fields of society, culture, education, science, sports and economy", what is more, this cooperation involves an institutional framework too. The parties pay special attention to the "questions of human rights and civil liberty, the development of self-governments, environmental protection, youth and regional development". All these cooperation activities should be performed in accordance with the European values.¹

¹ The document can be found in the annex.

The memorandum from 2004 was replaced by the charter of friendly relations and cooperation in 2010, which was signed by the Mayors Saša Vučinić from Subotica and Krešimir Bubalo from Osijek.² Practically it means a town twinning (see the Annex). The content of this document remains the same in comparison with the document from 2004, nevertheless, it places the cooperation to a higher level. The charter on town twinning deals with the following areas:

- cooperation between self-governments,
- economic cooperation,
- educational cooperation,
- cultural cooperation,
- cooperation in the field of social affairs,
- civilian cooperation.

² The document can be found in the annex.

3.1 The Serbian–Croatian border

The border between Croatia and Serbia³ is 239 km long and runs south from the junction with Croatia, Hungary and Serbia to the junction with the Bosnian border. The central stretch along the Danube is the oldest border section between Serbia and Croatia, established in the Karlowitz Treaty between the Austrian and the Ottoman Empires in 1699, while the northern stretch was set in 1954 as the border between the Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Serbia. The Baranja region on the right riverbank of the Danube was assigned to Croatia. Other deviations from the river course are based on ancient municipal rights.

The border dividing Croatia and Serbia became international since the recognition of Croatia in 1992. Osječko-Baranjska and Vukovarsko-Srijemska counties constitute the administrative units of the border area on the Croatian side. On the Serbian side there are the three districts of the autonomous and multi-ethnic province of Vojvodina: West Bačka, South Bačka and Srem.

The E-70 road represents the most important infrastructure axis, which connects Serbia and Croatia. It is a motorway that is utilised daily by thousands of people who cross the border between Serbia and Croatia for business, leisure and family reasons, often travelling further east or west. The E-70 motorway is part of the backbone of transport Corridor X, linking Croatia and Serbia to the European Union as part of a longer connection that goes from Slovenia in the north to Greece in the far south.

3.2 Osijek from Croatia

Osijek is a town in eastern Croatia. It is located on the right bank of the Drava River, 25 kilometres from its confluence with the Danube and 30 kilometres from the borders between Serbia–Croatia and Hungary–Croatia. The elevation of the city is 94 metres. Osijek is the seat of Osijek-Baranja County. It is the industrial, administrative, judicial and cultural centre of Eastern Slavonia and the fourth largest town in Croatia.

Osijek is the most eastern point of the Split–Rijeka–Zagreb–Osijek axis that connects the regional centres in Croatia (Reményi, 2000). Though its position within Croatia is quite peripheral, Osijek is near the vicinities of the Serbian towns Sombor and Subotica in the east, and the Hungarian Pécs in the north.

³ The description is based on the work: Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (I.S.I.G.) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 210-213.



Figure 3: Osijek from aerial perspective

Source: <http://www.osijek.hr/en/content/view/full/3371>

In the 1st century BC when Romans had occupied the whole territory of Pannonia, they established the settlement of Mursa on the marshland right to the Drava River and built a bridge over the river. Due to its excellent geographic location and flourishing trade with its neighbourhood, the number of inhabitants had increased gradually, turning Mursa into the largest settlement in Southern Pannonia. The stone bridge and the road enabled good communication with the town of Aquincum, thus in 124 Roman Emperor Hadrian declared the old settlement of Mursa to a town with full power called Colonia Aelia Mursa. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the territory was conquered by the Huns who destroyed it.

In the 7th century, not far from the ruins of Mursa, some Slavic settlers established a village called Osijek. This crossing on the Drava River was first mentioned in historical documents in 1196, when King Emeric (1196–1204) confirmed the right of the Cistercian abbey Cikador to levy duties of customs and trade, as well as the ferry fare across the river. It proves that the town had already been an important trading spot in the 12th century, on the route of the old Roman Road, which connected the south-east of Europe with the Pannonian Plain.

Before the Battle of Mohács, Osijek became an important strategic point of the Ottoman conquerors, who rebuilt it in Ottoman oriental style. The Turks constructed a famous eight-kilometre-long wooden bridge of boats on the Drava in 1566, which was considered to be one of the wonders of the world of that time. This bridge gave key position to Osijek along the road from Istanbul to Buda. Osijek was liberated from the Ottomans in 1687, when the Habsburg Empire occupied the city and the Austrian authorities built a new fortress between 1712 and 1715.

A new development wave began in 1745 when Osijek became the seat of Virovitica County. Its favourable location and economic development led to population growth. The Habsburg Empire also facilitated the migration and settlement of German immigrants into the town and region. In 1792, some German settlers came here from Banat and Bačka, establishing the newer part of the town. During the 18th and the 19th centuries more and more immigrants arrived to Osijek from Styria, Carniola, Bavaria, Moravia and Italy, turning it into a multiethnic city. Osijek

was granted the title of Free Royal Town in 1809, thus it became the largest city of Croatia in the first half of the 19th century.



Figure 4: The coat of arms of Osijek

After the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918, Osijek became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, after 1929 the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. During World War II Osijek entered the Independent State of Croatia, while after that and until its disintegration, the town was part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In 1958, Osijek became connected with Zagreb and Belgrade by constructing a modern paved road. The new Drava bridge was built in 1962. Today Osijek is situated near the European corridor X and along the corridor V/c (Budapest–Pécs–Osijek–Ploče), thus it has direct motorway connection with Zagreb and Southeast Europe. However, this whole corridor is not as attractive as its section from Osijek to the Belgrade–Zagreb motorway, since its southern part through Bosnia and Herzegovina is poorly developed.

The airport in Osijek makes the city an integrative part of the Central-Eastern European and the Western Balkan airway system, and even the Serbian districts of West and South Bačka belong to its catchment area.

There is a quite traditional economic structure in Osijek, primarily oriented to its local area. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, in 2011, GDP per capita amounted to 8,271 Euros in Osijek-Baranja County and 10,325 Euros in Croatia. In 2014, the number of employees in the town of Osijek was about 46 thousand people, while the number of unemployed was more than 9,000.

In 2007, the town of Osijek, together with Osijek-Baranja County and through the Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja Ltd., opened the representation of Slavonia and Baranja in Brussels, which represents their interests in front of all the institutions in Brussels. Osijek has 11 twin towns, with which it has signed charters of friendship and cooperation or charters of good neighbourly relations. These cities are: Pécs from Hungary (since 1973), Pforzheim from Germany (since 1994), Maribor from Slovenia (since 1995), Tuzla from Bosnia

and Herzegovina and Ploiesti from Romania (both since 1996), Lausanne from Switzerland and Nitra from Slovakia (both since 1997), Budapest XIII District from Hungary (since 2001), Prizren from Kosovo and Subotica from Serbia (both since 2010), and finally Vicenza from Italy (since 2014).

3.3 Subotica from Serbia

Subotica is the economic, cultural and educational centre of North Bačka district located in the Pannonian Basin about 10 kilometres from the border with Hungary. It is the second largest city in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and the fifth largest one in Serbia. According to its spatial plan, Subotica is a regional-industrial centre with moderately complex industrial technology. Subotica is located in the vicinity of Lake Palić, which presents a potential for tourism development (spa, ecological, hunting and rural tourism) together with the utilisation of the cultural heritage (protected urban spatial-cultural-historical sites with cultural monuments) of Subotica.

The most important development factor of Subotica is its geographic location, which is determined by the closeness of the EU member Hungary, the significance of the north-south transport corridor X/b and the railway line between Budapest and Belgrade that will be modernised soon.



Figure 5: Subotica from aerial perspective
Source: <http://www.park-palic.rs>

According to archaeological finds, the territory of Subotica had been inhabited even in the Prehistoric Period. Between the 1st and the 4th century, the area was controlled by the

Sarmatian lazyges, who were occasionally allies and occasionally enemies of the Roman Empire. Since the Middle Ages, the region had been ruled by various other people and states, including Huns, Gepids, Avars, Slavs and Bulgarians.

The settlement was probably established in the 13th century, but the first historical document about a village called Zobotka originates from 1391. According to a document from 1429, Subotica was a free royal place at that time. Ten years later it was mentioned as an oppidum, i.e. market-town. The town went under Ottoman rule in 1543, which lasted until 1686. That year both Szeged and Subotica were liberated, so the inhabitants that were withdrawn in the surroundings, returned to these towns gradually. At that time, some Slavic settlers arrived as well. The Habsburg Monarchy sent Southern Slavic immigrants to this area, while some other settlers arrived from Serbia.

In 1779, Empress Maria Theresa of Austria proclaimed the settlement a Free Royal Town. At that time the inhabitants renamed Subotica as Maria-Theresiopolis. This act served as the basis for intensified economic and special development in the town, attracting many people from all over the Habsburg Monarchy, which led to a considerable demographic change with an increasing number of Hungarians and Jews settling in Subotica.



Figure 6: The coat of arms of Subotica

After the establishment of the Dual-Monarchy in 1867, there followed the so called golden age of Subotica. The railway reached the town in 1869, connecting it to Sombor, Osijek, Novi Sad, Zemun and Titel, but also to Szeged and Budapest. In 1896 an electrical power plant was built, further enhancing the development of the city and the whole region.

Subotica was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of World War I, after which it became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The economical and political circumstances had changed to that extent that the new border-town could never experience its former dynamic prosperity again, which was typical to Subotica on the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. It was an important industrial centre at that time, being the most populous city in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes right after its establishment. However, Subotica had gradually lost its leading position, mostly due to its peripheral location in the new country.

During World War II, Subotica was reannexed to Hungary from 1941 to 1944. After the war, it belonged to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, then to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1992, Serbia and Montenegro from 2003, and finally it has been in the independent Republic of Serbia since 2006.

Subotica has already signed six charters with partner cities, which relations are normally called town-twinning. The twin towns of Subotica are the following: Szeged from Hungary (since 1966), Oderhelen from Romania (since 1994), Dunajská Streda from the Republic of Slovakia and Olomouc from the Czech Republic (both since 1996), and finally Érd from Hungary and Osijek from Croatia (both since 2010).

4. Operation of the cross-border cooperation

In this case study we present the cooperation of two twin towns; however, there is no room to talk about any kind of special institution or organisation behind this relation. The participating towns and their self-governments are the ones who implement all the activities of cooperation. In this chapter we give a description of the forms of cooperation, which are performed mostly through certain institutions.

Cooperation between self-governments

The cooperation of the municipalities of Subotica and Osijek is coordinated by the Charters that we presented in chapter 2. However, these documents are of protocol character, they are not obligatory for the partners, but rather provide a framework for their cooperation.

The delegations of the twin towns of Subotica and Osijek participate at all important celebrations of their partners and give honour with their presence. These meetings are often linked with negotiations beside their pure protocol character.

There is a regular contact between the municipality administrations, when the representatives of certain departments exchange their experience, consult with each other. The main objective of such meeting is to take over the good practices of the Croatian partner, which is an EU Member State; therefore Osijek can help Subotica and its administration in practical questions in terms of the EU accession.

The administrative system of Croatia and Serbia is quite similar, primarily due to their common roots, thus the experience from Croatia is especially valuable for the Serbian partner on its European path.

Among the future plans there is an initiative to organise a joint meeting of the General Assemblies of Subotica and Osijek, which could be the place for discussing further potentials in their cooperation.

Economic cooperation

The economic cooperation between Osijek and Subotica is determined by similar character and structure of their economic structure. The industry has suffered great losses in both towns due to transition and political transformation, thus solution to economic hardness also require similar activities both in Osijek and Subotica.

An important manifestation of their economic cooperation is their mutual appearance at business fairs in Subotica and Osijek, but also in joint participation at other fairs with a common

stand of the two cities and their business units. These activities are appreciated by economic operators and the inhabitants of the towns.

During the past decade, important cooperation was established between the following actors and business institutions:

1. Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Regionalna privredna komora) from Subotica and Croatian Chamber of Economy – Osijek County Chamber (Hrvatska Gospodarska Komora – Županijska komora Osijek) from Osijek
2. Business Incubator Subotica (BIS) and Poduzetnički inkubator BIOS from Osijek

The tourist organisations of the two towns coordinate their appearance at tourist fairs, thus the cooperation is also present in this field.

The municipal offices for local economic development have jointly developed several project proposals and applied for funds in cross-border cooperation programmes. The results of these activities are listed separately, in chapter 5.

Educational cooperation

The secondary school of economics Bosa Milićević from Subotica maintains good cooperation with two schools from Osijek, namely Ekonomska i upravna škola and Ugostiteljska i turistička škola. Within this cooperation, they have already cooperated student exchanges, excursions and competitions, but there were also examples of joint project development and implementation. Moreover, there is an institution in Subotica called Open University, which has also had cooperation with the similar institution from Osijek, embodied in the implementation of joint projects.

Cultural cooperation:

Culture is the most lively area of cooperation between the twin towns of Osijek and Subotica. Most of the cultural institutions from Subotica have some contacts with similar organisations from Osijek. The basis of this cooperation is the need of the Croatian minority to have contacts with their motherland, but there are some examples of cooperation between Hungarian minorities from Subotica and Osijek as well. Thus the smaller Hungarian community from Osijek may utilise these relations in making contacts with cultural institutions in Hungary.

There is a significant collaboration between the Serbian Popular Theatre (Narodno pozorište – Narodno kazalište – Népszínház) from Subotica, which also employs several Croatian actor, and the Croatian National Theatre (Hrvatsko narodno kazalište) from Osijek. They participate in the exchange of performances, make joint productions and often invite guest artists (actors,

directors, costume and stage designers). Subsequently, two productions are usually performed in the partner theatre every year.

Another example of cultural cross-border cooperation is between the children's theatres of Subotica (Dečije pozorište – Gyermekszínház) and Osijek (Dječje kazalište Branka Mihaljevića), as their cross-border interaction involves guest performances every year.

The Municipal Museum of Subotica (Gradski muzej Subotica – Szabadkai Városi Múzeum) has had contacts with Muzej Slavonije from Osijek for 15 years. This relation dates back to the former Yugoslavia, as part of a trilateral cooperation with Tuzla as the third partner. This collaboration has already resulted in several jointly organised and prepared exhibitions and there have been some guest exhibitions as well. Since the Municipal Museum of Subotica has considerable cooperation with similar institutions from Hungary, they often involve further partners in their joint projects. In 2012, two museums made a written confirmation of their cooperation, thus establishing a legal framework, hence the cooperation is no longer on ad hoc basis.

Moreover, there is a cooperation between the Municipal Library (Gradska biblioteka – Gradska knjižnica – Városi Könyvtár) from Subotica with its partner institution from Osijek (Gradska i sveučilišna knjižnica). Another interaction is between the historic archives from Subotica (Istorijski arhiv – Povjesni arhiv – Szabadkai Történelmi Levéltár) and Osijek (Državni arhiv), as well as among the art galleries like Galerija dr Vinko Perčić in Subotica.

Cooperation in the field of social affairs

The Gerontology Centre (Gerontološki centar) from Subotica has established good cooperation with the Retirement Home (Dom umirovljenika) from Osijek, which resulted in the implementation of a joint project financed by the European Union.

Civilian cooperation

This form of cooperation is also performed between actors from the towns of Subotica and Osijek. Their interaction represents a collaboration between Local Democracy Agencies within the frames of ALDA – Association of Local Democracy Agencies organisation, but it also involves several bilateral projects that were funded by the EU.

The entire cooperation between Subotica and Osijek is based on the individual needs of the Croatian minority living in Subotica. Thus the prime movers of all forms of cooperation have always been those officials and representative in the municipality of Subotica who belong to this national group. However, there is no special institution that is in charge of managing cross-

border cooperation between Subotica and Osijek, therefore there are no separate working organs, which would administer and oversee the cross-border interaction. The actual contacts and interactions are driven by individual personal contacts, hence they are generated by the leaders, colleagues and officials of certain institutions and organisations that want to cooperate with their partners from the other town.

The partner towns are not even planning to raise their cooperation to a higher level, since the adequate regulations are still missing from Serbian side. Namely, Serbia has not passed a law on joining EGTC, which could allow for state and local organs from Serbia to join any European territorial cooperation. As soon as this question would be involved in the Serbian legislative, which is also a prerequisite for Serbia's EU accession, there would be numerous new potentials for collaboration between Subotica and Osijek. From this perspective, the current, rather loose level of cooperation between the twin towns would provide an excellent basis for their future joint activities.

5. Joint activities of the twin towns

Subotica and Osijek have already had numerous joint project proposals, mostly as applications for grants from the European Union, but some other supporters as well. The partners have allocated funds also from the CARDS Programme, the neighbourhood programmes and the Europe for Citizens programme. Other, non-EU resources, like the Freedom House have also financed the interaction.

The territory of both towns belongs to the eligible area of the Croatia–Serbia Cross-border Cooperation Programme. Although Subotica does not have explicit border contact with Croatia, but it can participate within cross-border cooperation. Subsequently, these two towns, their local governments, their institutions and/or organisations have jointly applied for several funds. Beside cross-border cooperation projects, the cities have also applied for direct funds from Brussels together with other partners, e.g. the BETonEU project, which has been financed from the Europe for Citizens programme.

The following pages offer a brief description of joint projects, their development and implementation between Subotica and Osijek.

Project title:	Regional partnerships for intercultural exchange
Total value of the project:	285.510 EUR
Value of the donation:	228.260 EUR
Programme:	CARDS – EU, DG Enlargement
Acronym:	CARDS 2009/201-720
Period for the realization:	11/05/2009 – 11/05/2011
Partners:	ALDA LDA Subotica LDA Mostar LDA Osijek Lighthouse Wolverhampton
Description:	The overall objectives of the programme were to ensure wide participation of public and private members of civil society, to strengthen civil society organisations, i.e. to support civil society dialogue in the Western Balkans and enable civil society organisations to fulfil their role through joint actions: contributing to a consolidated democracy in the region, participating in the decision making process, encouraging effective intercultural exchanges and ensuring the protection of rights of persons belonging to a minority in the Western Balkans countries.

Crossing the borders. Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border
CBC between twin towns Subotica and Osijek

Project title:	Regional economic development without borders
Programme:	Croatia–Serbia CBC
Note:	Applied twice but it was not supported.
Partners:	Town of Subotica Osijek Fair NGO Open Perspective Town of Osijek Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Subotica
Description:	The basic idea of the project is fully consistent with the overall objectives of the IPA program: providing opportunity for a larger and more substantial occurrence in order to encourage cross-border cooperation, to enhance sustainable regional economy and to improve good neighbourly relations. Secondly, the project plans capacity building of local, regional and national institutions in order to develop an administrative/institutional structure which is able to implement EU programmes and EU structural funds. To achieve both objectives, local and regional partnerships are necessary.

Project title:	Towards communities that recycle in the Osijek-Baranja County and North Bačka District
Programme:	Croatia–Serbia CBC
Website:	http://www.otpad.eu/
Partners:	Zelena Akcija, Zagreb Association Centre for Ecology and Sustainable Development (CEKOR), Subotica Zeleni Osijek, Osijek
Description:	The planned activities are summarized as the following items: Development and implementation of a system for waste management in both municipalities (Osijek and Subotica). Installation of community recycling boxes, where they will perform selection of waste. Applicants will design and develop five recycling boxes that will serve for five buildings with 30 apartments 2-day international conference about promotion of best practices, with speakers from the EU 2-day workshops (one in each municipality) about the plans for waste management, available funds, legislation, stakeholders meetings with local governments, public enterprises and representatives of the business sector who are engaged in processing, storage and recycling of waste Training of “recycling officers” who will be in daily contact with the users of the recycling boxes analysis of the current waste management system in two municipalities promotional campaigns, educational materials

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Case study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border
CBC between twin towns Subotica and Osijek

Project title:	CB NET project – Innovative cross-border network of SMEs
Programme:	Croatia–Serbia CBC
Website:	http://www.cbnet-shop.com/
Partners:	Open University Subotica Poduzetnički inkubator BIOS Osijek Town of Subotica Town of Osijek
Description:	The overall objective of the CB NET project was sustainable economic development in the border area through effective utilisation of business potentials in the region. The specific objective of the project was to promote business cooperation, trade exchange, competitiveness and export of the enterprises from the border area, using modern technology, as well as with specific training.

Project title:	Balkans and Europe Together: Opportunity for a New Experience towards Unification! – BETonEU
Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Project duration:	01/05/2014 – 30/04/2016
Lead applicant:	City of Subotica, Serbia
Main partners:	ALDA City of Osijek, Croatia City of Ravenna, Italy
Partners:	19 individual subjects (local municipalities and NGOs) Municipality of Érd (HU), The Mountain Community Iezer Muscel Association (RO), International Platform for Citizen Participation (BG), Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA) (BG), Municipality of Knjaževac (SRB), Municipality of Zavidovići (BIH), Wolverhampton City Council (UK), Municipality of Lecce (I), Municipiul Odorheiu Secuiesc (RO), Municipality of Bijelo Polje (MNE), Municipality of Nikšić (MNE), Municipality of Szeged (HU), Municipality of Aerodrom (MK), Municipality of Novo Mesto (SLO), Municipality of Kumanovo (MK)
Project value:	148,000.00 EUR
Description:	A new project promoting EU enlargement in the Western Balkan countries has been approved: BETonEU a two year co-operation and twinning gathering 19 partners from 12 EU Member States and Western Balkans countries. The project is important considering the fact that ALDA Head of Development Unit, Marco Boaria, delivered training on how to prepare a successful application within another CBC Project – SNET.EU. The project has 19 partners - 12 partners are EU members and 7 partners are from the Balkans. It aims to represent an unbiased platform for exchanging, reflecting, debating, networking and acting for the future of Europe.

Crossing the borders. Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border
CBC between twin towns Subotica and Osijek

Project title:	Balkans and Europe Together: Opportunity for a New Experience towards Unification! – BETonEU
	<p>The main objective of the project is to promote European values, i.e. benefits of the EU membership. Moreover, the project was conceived as a series of international visits, informational meetings, workshops and media-educational activities that are individually or jointly implemented by the partners.</p> <p>The role of the City of Subotica is central, since it is responsible for the project, or it is the signer of the Grant Contract with the European Commission.</p>

Project title:	Pannonian route of peace – Strengthening cooperation and proliferation of institutions of higher education in the arts and ecology
Grant:	120,000.00 EUR
Partners:	Green Network of Vojvodina Green Osijek Association
Description:	<p>Pannonian route of peace is a bicycle route which is 80 kilometres long and it connects the cities of Osijek (Croatia) and Sombor (Vojvodina, Serbia). The route passes through the best preserved natural areas of midstream Danube: Natural Park Kopački Rit and Special Nature Reserve Gornje Podunavlje, linking the local multinational population which is preserving the rich traditional heritage. Taking this route, you will be able to experience and enjoy various indigenous culinary specialties, you will see displays and unique showpiece of handicrafts, cultural – historical landmarks, you can take boat and carriage rides, photo safaris etc. In Osijek, the bicycle route begins at the bridge across the Drava River, and in Sombor the starting point of the route is located at the monument of St. Florian in Batinska street.</p> <p>The Route was established as a part of the Cross-border cooperation and reconciliation project between Osijek and Sombor, which is financially supported by CRS and USAID.</p> <p>The idea was developed as a network of bicycle routes in the Pannonia region of Croatia, Serbia and Hungary – Pannonian route of peace/Via Pacis Pannoniaen launched by the Green Network of Vojvodina and the Green Osijek Association in 2004. The aim of the Road of Peace is to connect people, preserve natural and cultural heritage and a long-term sustainable development of the Danube. The Route is the third cross-border peace route in the world.</p> <p>Part of this project, among other things, is the installation of straw bikes that are placed along the bike route Osijek-Subotica.</p>

Crossing the borders. Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border
CBC between twin towns Subotica and Osijek

Project title:	New Horizons
Donor:	Freedom House
Partners:	Forum of Tuzla Citizens (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Association of Citizens for Transition – AlbertE (Osijek, Croatia) Open University Subotica (Serbia)
Description:	<p>New Horizons is a regional co-operation project realized in 2002, supported by Freedom House organization. The aim of the project was to connect cities of the former Yugoslavia. Three partners were included within the project. Local structures, like the field of economy, culture, education, small business, media, NGO, local and regional authorities were presented to the participants in the project.</p> <p>Direct co-operation and exchange of experiences were enabled between the representatives of local authorities of Tuzla, Osijek and Subotica, as well as between the representatives of media, economy, sports and non-government organizations. The main aim of the project was to generate joint cross-border initiatives, programmes and projects.</p>

Project title:	Regional Centre for education, prevention and physical rehabilitation of persons affected by stroke and multiple sclerosis	
Programme:	Croatia–Serbia CBC	
Partners:	Gerontology Centre Subotica, Serbia	Home for Elderly and Disabled Persons Osijek
Contract value:	41,439.36 EUR	35,399.81 EUR
Description:	<p>The project deals with the issue of two widespread diseases in our time. Subotica and Osijek provided a range of activities with the aim of investigating the causes and the ways in which these diseases manifest themselves, and taking certain actions to prevent their consequences.</p> <p>The target group of the project includes people with multiple sclerosis and stroke, especially the elderly and persons with disabilities; their families, and medical and other professional staff which is engaged in their treatment.</p> <p>The project foresees the implementation of a regional research on the causes and consequences of multiple sclerosis and stroke, through the foundation of the regional rehabilitation centre as an organisational unit of the Gerontology Centre, purchase of appropriate medical equipment for physical rehabilitation of patients, training of medical staff from Osijek and publication of research results, as well as publication of a manual that contains the instructions for living a healthy life, in order to prevent the occurrence of stroke.</p>	

Crossing the borders. Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border
CBC between twin towns Subotica and Osijek

Project title:	Support for networking and twinning at European level - SNET.EU	
Programme:	IPA CBC Croatia–Serbia	
Measure:	People-to-people	
Partners:	Local Democracy Agency, Osijek Croatian Institute for Local Government	Local Democracy Agency, Subotica Association of Local Democracy Agencies, France Open University Subotica
Contract value:	57,370.00 EUR	55,120.00 EUR
IPA contribution:	48,758.76 EUR	46,725.22 EUR
Timeframe:	17 September 2012	18 months
Description:	<p>The project aimed to build capacity at the local level in order to understand the active EU citizenship and the role of local government in the process of EU integration. It promoted cross-border twinning between towns through an active program of the EU citizenship, facilitated knowledge transfer in collaboration with local institutions and promoted citizen participation in policy making and decision making at local level.</p> <p>The project established twinning centres in Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem County in Croatia and Bačka and Srem areas in Serbia.</p> <p>Main activities: Capacity building - Seminars for LA and CSO on European policies and EU integration process, Training on developing of EU projects on town twinning; Resource centres for town twinning – Equipping, Opening and Functioning of Resource Centres for Town Twinning in Osijek and Subotica (Promotional workshops events); Networking between local authorities in Croatia and Serbia – Coffee House meetings.</p>	

6. SWOT analysis of the cross-border cooperation

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good historic relations • linguistic (Croatian and Serbian, formerly Serbo-Croatian), ethnic, cultural, historical and mental homogeneity • strong Croatian community in Subotica • Hungarian minority in Osijek • strong cultural relations • official contacts between the self-governments • economic cooperation • cooperation of the chambers • educational cooperation of the faculties of economics and secondary schools • religious cooperation • good road traffic connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • similar structure of the industry makes the towns rivals for potential foreign investors • indirect railway transport connection • the contacts are more on ad hoc basis, focusing on certain events • contacts between the inhabitants are not intensified enough

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint development financed by the EU • establishment of an EGTC • exchange of experiences • coordination of production capacities • joint appearance on the market • small distance between the towns after future road traffic modernisation • construction of direct railway line • coordination of higher education • sharing the experiences of EU accession • collaboration in the field of environment protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delayed EU accession of Serbia • sensitive political relations – after the war • unresolved question of the demarcation between Serbia and Croatia on a section of the Danube • lack of legal framework in Serbia for strengthening the cooperation

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• development of joint tourist thematic routes including Sombor• sustainable utilisation of cultural heritage and endowments• cultural cooperation of institutions and NGOs• cooperation between social and healthcare institutions• generating projects along the triple border of Croatia–Hungary–Serbia	

Based on the above, we could make the following conclusions:

- The situation analysis depicts the different development phases in the relations of the towns of Subotica and Osijek – shaped by historic changes.
- As it is visible from the SWOT table, there are disproportionally many strengths and opportunities behind this cooperation, which indicate the potentials of further development in the relations of these two twin towns, rather than stagnation of these contacts.
- In the long run, the minimisation of the current threats may make the separating function of the border more virtual. In order to improve cross-border cooperation, it is inevitable to resolve the question of exact border between Serbia and Croatia along the Danube, while on the other hand, the revitalisation of the public transport, especially of the railway connection between the towns is essentially important.
- This favourable process could be encouraged with more intensified neighbourhood policy in the course of Serbia's EU accession, materialised in newly developed relations and successful implementation of projects funded by the European Union, through INTERREG CBC and IPA CBC programmes.

7. Future potentials of the relations

Since the moment when the EU financed projects became available, new cooperation opportunities were opened between Subotica and Osijek. There was the already existing relation between the Croatian population of the towns and the former contacts between the municipalities, their institutions and some NGOs, which had been functioning even without external financing.

These well-developed relations brought their first results in the 2007-2013 programming period of the European Union with the implementation of joint projects (listed in chapter 5). The experiences of these make an excellent basis for the exploitation of newly available funds in the 2014-2020 programming period. Thus these two towns could be the drivers of economic development in the northern border region between Serbia and Croatia.

The programming document of the Croatian–Serbian neighbouring programme contains numerous items that can serve as potential cooperation opportunities of these two towns, and which can be utilised by them for their own development. This programme defines four thematic priorities:

- “Health and Social Care Services,
- Environment, Biodiversity, Risk Prevention, Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency,
- Tourism and Cultural and Natural Heritage,
- Competitiveness and Business Environment Development.”

Compared to the opportunities of the cross-border cooperation between Subotica and Osijek, the enumerated items of the SWOT analysis are in line with these priorities.

However, the future of the cooperation between Subotica and Osijek cannot only be based on the prospective funds accessible from the above described IPA CBC programme, but also on the specific objectives from the strategic documents of both towns.

Based on the analysis of the strategic plans of Subotica⁴ and Osijek⁵ it can be stated that there are numerous similarities, which could be exploited with collaboration and joint projects, and the synergy effects of such actions could lead to considerable development in both towns in the following decade.

⁴ Strategy for sustainable local development of the town of Subotica 2013–2022 (Strategija lokalnog održivog razvoja grada Subotice 2013–2022 http://www.subotica.rs/documents/slor/slor_sr.pdf Accessed: 12/02/2015)

⁵ Development strategy of the city of Osijek 2014–2020 (Strategija razvoja grada Osijeka 2014.–2020. <http://www.osijek.hr/index.php/cro/content/download/16115/124402/file/STRATEGIJA+RAZVOJA+GRADA+OSIJ EKA+2014.-2020.pdf> Accessed: 12/02/2015)

According to the vision of the sustainable development plan of Subotica, it will be a “modern city having satisfied, employed, healthy and open-minded inhabitants, with increasing living standards and quality of life, where the state, the private and the civilian sectors work in partnership, and where all citizens have equal opportunities and freedom ensured through fostering solidarity and humanity.”

In relation to this, the vision of Osijek is the following: “a city of satisfied people where it is pleasant to live, where the potentials are realised in terms of sustainable development and social justice, economically developed, strong university and cultural centre of Osijek-Baranja County and of eastern Croatia, which is integrated into the contemporary European trends.”

With the comparison of the overall objectives of these two strategies, we find similar set goals.

In case of Subotica:

- Supporting and encouraging economic development
- Ensuring and promotion of social development
- Protection and improvement of the environment
- Consistent implementation of the concept of good administration

In case of Osijek:

- Working together (entrepreneurial city, intelligent city)
- Learning together (city of knowledge, a virtual city)
- Living together (attractive city to live in, the city of youth)

Beyond the overall objectives, we have selected those specific objectives that are present in the development strategies of both towns. Since they have defined strategic goals in these areas, there is a potential for joint actions in reaching these goals, through cooperation projects.

Subotica	Osijek
Developed mechanism of institutional support for the development of entrepreneurship and SME sector with the promotion of entrepreneurship and self-employment primarily in industries based on knowledge and skills	Development of technology infrastructure, development and implementation of new knowledge and technology Development of the manufacturing industry with particular emphasis on the food industry

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Subotica	Osijek
<p>Established a favourable environment for attracting new direct investments while retaining the existing ones, cooperation of the local economy and connection with educational and scientific research institutions for re-industrialisation of the city</p>	<p>Development of technology infrastructure, development and implementation of new knowledge and technologies Development of local sectoral clusters, networking of entrepreneurs and institutions Promotion of the city and of its economy</p>
<p>Market-oriented, sustainable agricultural production with developed capacities for processing and distribution with a growing share of organic production</p>	<p>Diversification of economic activities in rural areas Agricultural development</p>
<p>Improving the quality of education of citizens through greater integration of marginalized groups, increasing coverage of children in preschool and primary education, offering vocational and higher education as well as alternative and additional education and skills development in line with market needs</p>	<p>Increasing involvement in pre-school education Development of primary education through various programs Improving the system of scholarships for all levels of education Encouraging lifelong learning and competence development through formal and informal education</p>
<p>Improving the health of citizens through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and diet, disease prevention, combating health risk habits, early diagnosis and prompt appropriate treatment programs</p>	<p>Improving palliative and starting up hospice care Development of health programs beyond the standard protection Promotion of healthy lifestyles and prevention of addiction</p>
<p>Increasing the level of social protection, particularly of vulnerable groups of citizens through the introduction of innovative organisational forms and local social welfare services on the principle of cooperation and partnership between sectors and with the plurality of service providers, as well as active protection through social inclusion</p>	<p>Increasing the availability of social services Improving horizontal and vertical coordination and creating a network of social services Human resource development in the field of social welfare Implementation of the Strategy of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the City of Osijek</p>

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Subotica	Osijek
<p>Increased participation of citizens in cultural and sporting life through inter-sectoral collaboration and the development of sustainable mechanisms that will make the service available to all, as well as protection and fostering multiculturalism and interculturalism</p>	<p>Improvement of programs in culture Evaluation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage Infrastructure development in culture</p>
<p>Functioning of responsible government, along with participatory involvement based on consensus Providing effective and efficient services to citizens and businesses while emphasizing the importance of accountability in all circumstances</p>	<p>Strengthening administrative and human capacities to manage local development Increasing the availability and quality of public services</p>
<p>Ensuring sustainable development through spatial and urban planning; optimal use of the newly created values, management of natural resources and protected areas, waste management, encouraging the introduction of "green" technologies using the best available technology and technical solutions in the manufacturing processes, to ensure the achievement of a high level of human health protection and improvement of the environment</p>	<p>Strengthening capacities for the conservation and management of natural values Survey, inventory and monitoring of the component of natural heritage Implementation of measures to protect the landscape, natural habitats, habitats important for biodiversity conservation Evaluation of the natural heritage for sustainable development</p>
<p>Ensuring sustainable organisation of urban development by avoiding urban fuzziness, reuse and regeneration of abandoned areas and facilities by providing appropriate conservation, restoration and use of urban cultural heritage (especially architecture, namely architecture in Art Nouveau style), promoting high-quality architecture and building technology with increasing energy efficiency</p>	<p>Strengthening capacities in the field of spatial planning and environment management Well-balanced spatial development in compliance with the economic, social and environmental background Continuous implementation of spatial planning through monitoring the situation in space, planning spatial development, use and protection of space through physical planning documents Developing the urban design of the city by creating the conditions for the citizens to identify with their city</p>

8. Summary

This case study investigated the cross-border cooperation between the towns of Subotica from Serbia and Osijek from Croatia, and it intended to illustrate a good example of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian – Croatian border.

Osijek and Subotica are two towns with significant similarities, at a distance slightly more than 100 kilometres. Both cities strive to be the leading centres of their own regions, based on their historic traditions and geographic conditions.

Subotica and Osijek had been in the same country until the wars in the 1990s and the dissolution of Yugoslavia; firstly within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and then in Yugoslavia and its legal predecessors. Therefore the relation between these two towns is based on historic facts. On the other hand, there are similarities in their economic structure, and also some intensifying regional and cultural cooperation between them. But most importantly, the cooperation between Subotica and Osijek is the result of the efforts of the Croatian minority living Subotica in making contacts with their homeland. Some officials of the self-government in Subotica had initialised individual contacts with Osijek right after the war. These initiatives were necessarily and naturally followed by institutionalised contacts between the municipalities. The cooperation between Subotica and Osijek was developed gradually, and this relation was crowned with the signing of the Charter of Friendship Relations and Cooperation in 2010.

Cross-border cooperation between Subotica and Osijek is mainly driven by personal contacts and individual actions of leaders, organisations and/or institutions, hence the interaction lacks institutional framework, subsequently, it lacks separate/special administrative bodies/working groups whose task would be to manage the cooperation. Consequently, cooperation is mainly managed and directed by the general assemblies of the involved cities, therefore the decision-makers are those who can fill the cooperation with empirical content. The parts responsible for executing these decisions are the Mayors. The actual functioning of the partnership is entitled to certain departments of local administration and to specific institutions founded by the municipalities.

The motives for cooperation between these two twin towns do not resemble to any other similar town twinning initiatives. The closer cooperation does not date back to history, since there was no need for any official form of relations before, at the time when Osijek and Subotica were located in the same country. The decomposition of the former Yugoslavia at the beginning of the nineties created a situation for the gradual development of relations between these two towns. The cooperation has been fulfilled with more and more contents since then.

The cooperation between Osijek and Subotica has also encouraged the rapprochement of Serbia and Croatia. After the war there was almost no contact between the two neighbouring countries. This situation was changed by the representatives of Subotica and Osijek who first

initialised contacts with each other. Therefore these towns have considerable merit in this process with making such attempts in local that have later become normal in the relations between the two countries as well: constant cooperation and fostering good-neighbourly relations.

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10. Annex

Charter of Good Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between Subotica and Osijek, signed in Subotica, 1 September 2004 (text in Croatian)

Sukladno ciljevima istaknutim pri uspostavi diplomatskih odnosa između Republike Hrvatske i Srbije i Crne Gore, a u namjeri da sudjelujemo u promicanju dobrosusjedskih odnosa i suradnje među našim državama i narodima, te unapređenju slobode i demokracije u Europi, potpisujemo sljedeću zajedničku

POVELJU

o dobrosusjedskim odnosima i suradnji između Grada Osijeka u Republici Hrvatskoj i Općine Subotica u Srbiji i Crnoj Gori

U našim međusobnim odnosima zalagat ćemo se za uspostavu i izgradnju dobrosusjedskih odnosa i suradnje među društvenim, kulturnim, znanstvenim, obrazovnim, gospodarskim, športskim i drugim institucijama i subjektima Grada Osijeka i Općine Subotica.

Osobitu pozornost posvetit ćemo zaštiti ljudskih i građanskih sloboda, razvitku lokalne samouprave i zaštiti okoliša, suradnji u području urbanog razvitka grada i poticanju drugih pitanja od interesa i značaja za lokalnu samoupravu, problemima i pitanjima mladih potičući njihove međusobne susrete kako bi se bolje upoznali i na ovim temeljima nastavili prijateljstvo i suradnju.

U međusobnim odnosima poštivat ćemo naše različitosti, razvijati međusobno povjerenje i toleranciju kao temeljne vrijednosti ujedinjene Europe.

Ovo potvrđujemo našim potpisom.

U Subotici, 01. rujna 2004. godine


Za Općinu Subotica
Gaža Kudsera
Predsjednik Skupštine Općine Subotica


Za Grad Osijek
Zlatko Kramarić
Gradonačelnik Grada Osijeka

Charter of Friendship Relations and Cooperation between Subotica and Osijek, signed in Osijek, 3 December 2010 (text in Hungarian)



Azzal a szándékkal, hogy részt vállaljunk a polgáraink, –
országaink és népeink baráti viszonyának és együttműködésének
előmozdításában, továbbá a szabadság és demokrácia eszméjének
fejlesztésében, aláírjuk az alábbi

MEGÁLLAPODÁST

Eszék Város és Szabadka Város baráti viszonyáról és együttműködéséről

A városaink közötti kapcsolattartásban törekedni fogunk az Eszék Város és Szabadka Város társadalmi, kulturális, tudományos, oktatási, gazdasági, sport, és egyéb intézményei közötti baráti viszony létesítésére és az együttműködés kiépítésére.

Különös figyelmet szentelünk az emberi és polgári szabadságok védelmének, ösztönözzük és fejlesztjük a társadalmi, kulturális, oktatási, gazdasági, sport és egyéb intézmények közötti baráti viszont és együttműködés.

Különös figyelmet fordítunk az önkormányzat fejlesztésére, a városfejlesztés minden terén megvalósuló együttműködés és az önkormányzat szempontjából jelentős egyéb kérdések serkentésére, valamint az ifjúsággal kapcsolatos kérdésekre, ösztönözve a fiatalok találkozását egymás megismerése, a baráti kapcsolatok létrehozása és az együttműködés érdekében.

A városaink közötti kapcsolatban tiszteletben tartjuk egymás különbözőségeit és erősíteni fogjuk a kölcsönös bizalmat, toleranciát és barátságot, mint az egyesült Európa alapvető értékeit.

Mindezt aláírásunkkal megerősítjük.

Eszéken, 2010. december 3-án

Eszék Város nevében

Szabadka Város nevében

Đerđimir Bubalo okl. közigazdász
Eszék Város polgármestere

Saša Vučinić
Szabadka Város polgármestere

Source: Protocol Office of the City of Subotica

Nationalities in Subotica according to 2002 and 2011 census

Nationality	Number in 2002	Proportion in 2002	Number in 2011	Proportion in 2011	Difference (2011-2002)
Total	148401	100.00%	141554	100.00%	-6847
Hungarians	57092	38.47%	50469	35.65%	-6623
Serbs	35826	24.14%	38254	27.02%	2428
Croats	16688	11.25%	14151	10.00%	-2537
Bunjevci	16254	10.95%	13553	9.57%	-2701
Yugoslav	8562	5.77%	3202	2.26%	-5360
Undeclared and undefined	6470	4.36%	11815	8.35%	5345
Montenegrins	1860	1.25%	1349	0.95%	-511
Roma people	1454	0.98%	2959	2.09%	1505
Regional affiliation	706	0.48%	2067	1.46%	1361
The others	1041	0.70%	580	0.41%	-461
Macedonians	495	0.33%	482	0.34%	-13
Unknown	168	0.11%	563	0.40%	395
Moslems	370	0.25%	334	0.24%	-36
Germans	272	0.18%	260	0.18%	-12
Albanians	256	0.17%	383	0.27%	127
Slovaks	168	0.11%	158	0.11%	-10
Bosniaks	98	0.07%	216	0.15%	118
Slovenes	158	0.11%	169	0.12%	11
Ruthenians	157	0.11%	172	0.12%	15
Bulgarians	67	0.05%	76	0.05%	9
Goranci	54	0.04%	151	0.11%	97
Russians	64	0.04%	76	0.05%	12
Rumanians	57	0.04%	67	0.05%	10
Ukrainians	44	0.03%	46	0.03%	2
Czechs	20	0.01%	0	0.00%	-20
Valachians	0	0.00%	2	0.00%	2

Source: Census 2011: Population - Ethnicity (http://popis2011.stat.rs/?page_id=2162)

Nationalities in Osijek according to 2001 and 2011 census

Nationality	Number in 2001	Proportion in 2001	Number in 2011	Proportion in 2011	Difference (2011-2001)
Total	114616	100.00%	108048	100.00%	-6568
Croatians	99234	86.58%	96746	89.54%	-2488
Serbians	8767	7.65%	6751	6.25%	-2016
Hungarians	1154	1.01%	979	0.91%	-175
Albanians	480	0.42%	437	0.40%	-43
Germans	291	0.25%	263	0.24%	-28
Slovakians	246	0.21%	261	0.24%	15
Bosnians	211	0.18%	257	0.24%	46
Macedonians	178	0.16%	189	0.17%	11
Others	360	0.31%	170	0.16%	-190
Montenegrins	175	0.15%	155	0.14%	-20
Roma	124	0.11%	136	0.13%	12
Slovenians	169	0.15%	118	0.11%	-51
Ruthenians	66	0.06%	58	0.05%	-8
Ukrainians	45	0.04%	54	0.05%	9
Czechs	39	0.03%	41	0.04%	2
Jews	24	0.02%	31	0.03%	7
Italians	13	0.01%	25	0.02%	12
Romanians	14	0.01%	21	0.02%	7
Russians	16	0.01%	19	0.02%	3
Poles	15	0.01%	14	0.01%	-1
Bulgarians	9	0.01%	13	0.01%	4
Austrians	18	0.02%	12	0.01%	-6
Turks	5	0.00%	2	0.00%	-3
Vlahs	3	0.00%	2	0.00%	-1

Source: Census 2011: Stanovništvo prema narodnosti po gradovima/općinama, popis 2011, www.dzs.hr

Crossing the borders

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