

F.1. The impact of EU cohesion policy on planning and development activities that cross administrative borders

The Hungarian case

The need for a place based, territorially sensitive and integrated approach has become one of the most highlighted issues in the course of consultations on EU cohesion policy over the last decade. A number of EU documents have also supported the idea of creating a territorially more flexible regulatory and institutional framework. In practice, the EU legislation for the 2014–2020 programming period has initiated new tools to facilitate the delivery of integrated territorial strategies (CLLD, ITI) and created a new regulation on European territorial cooperation and on EGTC to promote cross-border cooperation. However, the recent developments have marginally affected the Hungarian development practice. Moreover, the overall impacts of EU cohesion policy on planning and development activities in functional regions that cross administrative borders have been clearly controversial. The presentation provides a historical overview of the Hungarian case, analyses the possible reasons of the failures (e.g. some elements of EU regulation, the lack of multilevel governance, poor cooperation culture) and highlights dilemmas concerning the planning and management structures in functional territorial units of CEE countries. In addition to literature processing and document analysis, the presentation relies on the results of field work of the ESPON COMPASS project and the project no. K109269 *‘Institutional and individual responses to state restructuring in different geographical context’* financed from NRD Fund Hungary.

⁴⁶ Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Science