



EURÓPA-KAPU ETT

Európa-ka pu Korlátolt Felelősségű Európai
Területi Együttműködési Csoportosulás

**Agricultural cluster - “Together without borders - partnership for economic
development of Gate to Europe territories”**



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About our initiative:

The Agricultural Cluster is a strong partnership that started in July 2012. The initiator of this program was the representatives of the local authorities of the EGTC. The mayors and the EGTC team realised that the development in the cross border area was possible only with the creation of a functional partnership between the actors who live in the localities within the EGTC.

As a results of these initiatives was established the Agricultural Cluster with the participation of 39 representatives of local SMEs, persons who work in production and distribution of agricultural products and mayors. The program is one of the permanent programs of the EGTC. Regarding the budget, we need to underline that we implemented the program without any costs.

We think this is the strength of our program. We proved through this initiative that we could help the development of economic partnership only by organizing meetings, presentations and showing to the actors the best practices that were implemented on the other part of the border. We think that helping the local actors-representatives of SMEs- we offer them new possibilities in a long-term cooperation that can be realised with help of EU funds or only maintaining the economic partnership. Our motto is "Together without borders".

Organizing the events, we did not need money: as the local authorities provided the place for our meetings and our partners assured the protocol (foods, soft drinks, etc.) as donation.

Implemented activities and outcomes:

Since July 2012 the followings actions have been implemented:

1. Many meetings in Újfehértó, Nyíradony, Derecske (Hungary) and Székelyhíd, Érkörtvélyes and Diószeg.
2. Setting up the working group for SMEs in Nyíradony
3. Elaborating the inventory of development opportunities
4. An international conference takes place in 2014 March.

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The program and the actions implemented, offer the support to elaborate a project that help to strengthen the partnership between the actors and at the same time to mediate our initiative. The project was submitted in December 2013 and we our project idea was financed.

Through this project, we accomplished the following: one inventory with the traditional agricultural products in the border area (published in Hungarian, Romanian and English language), one exhibition with the border products and one conference. The conference was entitled “The Hungarian-Romanian economy development in Gate to Europe EGTC territory.” The conference was organised in Satu Mare (Romania) and we invited representatives of European Union institutions, ministries from each involved countries, representatives of SMEs, civil organisations, local public administration, universities, etc.



Speakers-Satu Mare Agricultural Conference (27th March 2014):

- ✚ *Deutsch Tamás*, Deputy in the European Parliament
- ✚ *Winkler Gyula*, Deputy in the European Parliament
- ✚ *Pataki Csaba*, Deputy in the Romanian Parliament
- ✚ *Tasó László*, Deputy in the Hungarian Parliament, President of Gate to Europe EGTC

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Indicators of Agricultural Cluster program:

- 1 inventory with the agricultural products
- 1 study case, best-practice meeting realised at Zold-Kertész (Agricultural cooperative) in Szakolykert (Hungary)
- Number of organized meetings and working groups – 11 events
- Established professional network – 1 Romanian-Hungarian agricultural cluster
- 1 inventory with the developing possibilities – 8 project idea

The results indicators of the Agricultural Cluster program:

- Number of the participants at the events - aprox.150 person
- Number of the best practices presented at the meeting - 2 examples
- Number of experts involved in the works – 5 individuals
- Number of institutions affected by the elaborated plans, inventory, works – 60
- Inhabitants influenced by the economic development – 212.087 people who live in the localities of the Gate to Europe EGTC

European added value:

The program aim is to help the economic development of the border area. Thus, we do think that our initiative is in concordance with the provisions of “Europe 2020: Europe’s growth Strategy”. Our implemented program helps the economic development, therefore it creates new jobs, reduces the risk of social exclusion and offers new opportunities for the young school graduates. Our initiatives is sustained by the content of “Small business Act for Europe” adopted by European Commission. Within the framework of partnership, we created a multi-level system covering the following: 1.border level (SMEs, NGOs from the EGTC territory take part in the program), 2. Scientific and planning level (the institutions involved and the implicated counties, countries and EU strategies were taken into account) and 3.governance level (the task is to offer new perspectives and tools for cross border economic development). Involved institutions from local, county and regional level participated in the activities.

The program helps local firms to increase the profit level and to diversify their activities. The realised activities aim to create new jobs and help the families who are involved in agriculture to sell their products. The innovative approach in agriculture helps to offer new possibilities for the young people. The program helps to reduce the social exclusion. If the elaborated project idea is

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implemented the entire target area will develop. In this way, our accomplished activities are in concordance with the Europe Strategy 2020.

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