Smart Specialization, innovation, and internationalization strategy of the region
- Role, responsibilities and activities of Hajdú-Bihar County Government

The county as a bridge between resources and economic actors

Melinda Tuska-Mátrai  melinda.matrai@hbmo.hu
Tünde Szabó  szabo.tunde@hbmo.hu
- Topic related role/activities of the county
- Overview of relevant cooperations
- Dedicated plans and upcoming tasks
Topic related role/activities of the county
Role of Hajdú-Bihar County Government

- Respective level of regional development in Hungary: county level
- County governments: *regional development, rural development, spatial planning* and *coordination* tasks
- Co-operations within OPs
- International projects/cooperations
  - Interregional
  - Transnational
  - Cross-border
Committed to its vision: „a prosperous, socially responsible county preserving its natural and cultural values while being the home for creativity and innovation.”

Classified as „knowledge region” by the S3 – relevant sectoral priorities:

- Healthy society and wellbeing
- Advanced technologies in the vehicle and other machine industries
- Clean and renewable energies
- Sustainable environment
- Healthy local food
- Agricultural innovation

Engaged to support SMEs located/working in the county (productivity, employment, internationalisation, etc.) using national/international sources
Activities of the business organisation of the county government Hajdú-Bihar County Development Agency Nonprofit Ltd.

- Project generation
- Consultancy for applications
- Development of proposals
- Development of plans, strategies and concepts
- Development of feasibility studies
- Elaboration of international projects
- Investment incentives
- Project management and related services (dissemination, marketing, procurement)

22 employees serve the aim to provide an efficient quality service for current and potential future costumers.

Beyond the above mentioned activities, the Agency intends to strengthen the cooperation with entrepreneurs and NGOs.
Overview of relevant cooperations
Projects granted by Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes

- Hungarian Grey Cattle Route (Oxenweg)
- Employment Pact
- Climate Strategy
- Development of human services with spatial approach
Economic cooperations - Employment Pact

- TSDOP 5.1.1. (grant awarded: 4.1 million EUR)
- Aims to improve employment, economy, efficiency of education, partnership cooperations
- County level employment cooperation (Pact) covers the whole county area with its objectives and activities
  - Inspire and support local employment and economic development related initiations
  - Acts as umbrella organisation ensuring county level coordination and monitoring local Pacts
- Focus areas
  - To enhance citizens’ qualification level, their potential to be employed
  - To increase the population retention capability of the county
  - To attract people from other regions
  - **To improve the productivity and efficiency of SMEs**
International projects

Aim to build international viable and well-operating partnerships and improve the efficient use of international sources

- **Participation** in international projects
- Supporting the **international activities** of other organisations
- **Capacity building** concerning international issues
- **Utilizing the experience** gained in former projects
- Increasing the rate of **international fund use**
- Increasing the participation rate of **county actors** in international cooperations
- Interreg Central Europe
  - CitiEnGov
- Interreg Europe
  - NIGHT LIGHT
  - CLUSTERS3
  - PURE COSMOS
  - OUR WAY
  - EUREGA
- COSME – Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
  - PRACTYCEIIII
- Interreg V-A
- Sachsen-Anhalt cooperation
CLUSTERS3
Leveraging Cluster Policies for successful implementation of RIS3

The project aims to improve cluster policies and the performance of cluster organizations having in mind their important role in the insertion of SMEs in global value chains.

**Duration:** April 2016 – March 2020

**Total budget:** 1,988,863 EUR

**Partnership:** 9 institutions from 6 countries (ES, PL, IT, LV, HU, UK)
The project focuses on the role public authorities can play in enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs by making the business climate more transparent and reliable supporting the needs of SMEs and promoting administrative modernization of public services. Improved governance is expected through IT administrative solutions, regional legislation review, simplifying processes and influencing funding calls for businesses.

**Duration:** April 2016 – March 2021

**Total budget:** 2,111,206 EUR

**Partnership:** 8 institutions from 7 countries (IT, HU, DE, UK, GR, CZ, ES)
PRACTYCEIII

Exchange programme for entrepreneurs run by a network of local contact points, including Chambers of Commerce, incubators and other organisations supporting businesses. Host Entrepreneurs (HE) can get input from the fresh ideas and new skills of a motivated new entrepreneur (NE) while having the opportunity to gain information and knowledge on other European markets and develop international relationships without moving from the office. At the same time, young entrepreneurs are offered the possibility to work alongside an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country and strengthen the skills needed to develop their own business.

**Duration:** February 2016 – January 2018

**Total budget:** 582,685 EUR

**Partnership:** 9 institutions from 8 countries (ES, UK, IE, SR, HU, SI, FR, BE)

**Lead Partner:** Asociacion de Empresarios Jovenes de Valencia (ES)

Hajdú-Bihar County Government acts as an Intermediary Organisation:
- Payments for new entrepreneurs (NE)
- Hosting NEs; preparational courses before travelling abroad (practical information)
- Monitoring professional exchanges: regular contact with NEs and HEs; visiting HEs; problem solution; validation of questionnaires on opinions; evaluation of experience gained by participants; evaluation of the direct impacts of professional exchange
Dedicated plans and upcoming tasks
Strengthening collaborations – enhancing internationalization

- Formulation of regional stakeholder group in specific themes
- Regular meetings of RSGs
- Elaboration of a regional Action Plan including issues on how to support SMEs’ internationalization (approved by the Ministry of National Economy)
- Development of the county’s Cluster Concept
Regional Action Plan

- Adopting good practices learnt through CLUSTERS3 partnership
- Timeframe: 2018 – 2020
- Actions defined:
  - Development of Cluster Concept (under finalization)
  - Establishment and regular sessions of Regional Cluster Platform
  - “Good Practice Database”
  - Capacity building of cluster managers
  - Online training tools for internationalization (agro-innovation, thermal-health sector, language trainings)
  - Self-assessment tool for internationalization (promotion of ESCA tool)
- Monitoring
Cluster Concept of Hajdú-Bihar County - background

- Clusters as determinant tools for the county’s knowledge based development including
  - High added value for enterprises and the wider society through innovation
  - International cooperations
  - New market opportunities
- Strengthening interaction between knowledge base and economic actors helps to
  - Create/stabilize new growth areas
  - Enhance socio-economic processes
- Results of Peer Review (2017)
  - County potential is good to create a competitive and successful economic vision
  - Existing cluster structure doesn’t ensure adequate dynamic and growth to affect county development
  - Engagement, more powerful entrepreneur innovation is missing
Cluster Concept of Hajdú-Bihar County – focus themes

- Creating/strengthening trust between economic actors, particularly SMEs
- Strengthening the innovation system of the county in accordance with national innovation ecosystem development
- Improving the entrepreneurships’ willingness/activity to innovate
- Encouraging networking/partnering of innovation actors in the county (RDI relation)
Cluster Concept of Hajdú-Bihar County - objectives

- Providing appropriate frames for the development of the county’ innovation ecosystem
- Optimizing the number of clusters
- Strengthening internationalization: widening the active international partnership, promoting enter into international markets
- Advanced efficient county and national cluster coordination
- Effective information flow and knowledge exchange between innovation actors
- Promoting cross-cluster collaboration
- Contributing to advanced, experienced and more successful cluster management
Cluster Concept of Hajdú-Bihar County – internationalization goals

- Promoting the elaboration of internationalization strategy of clusters
- Strengthening cross-border cooperations in terms of clusters
- Improving collaboration of institutions related to cluster policy and internationalization
Thank you for your kind attention!