

THE IMPACT OF DIGITALIZATION ON CROSS-BORDER
COOPERATION AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT:
ON THE EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
“HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA-ROMANIA-UKRAINE” PROGRAMS

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In Ukraine and the EU, both terms are also used in parallel – “digitization” and “digitalization”

UA

As for regulatory acts, in Ukraine the term “digitalization” is mainly used, in particular in the implementation of the digital portal “Diya”

EU

In the EU, the first Action Plan for the Digitalization of Education was approved in 2018

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The issue of cross-border cooperation in Ukraine is regulated by a special Law “On international territorial cooperation of Ukraine”.

Which, among other things, laid down the relevant principles for taking into account security aspects when implementing cross-border cooperation

However, it does not take into account digitalization tools in cross-border cooperation.

There are already successful examples of cross-border cooperation in the implementation of individual projects that take into account digitalization changes. We analyzed the projects supported under the two programs:

“Hungary-Slovakia-
Romania-Ukraine ENPI
Cross-border Cooperation
Programme 2007-2013”

“Hungary-Slovakia-
Romania-Ukraine ENI
CBC Programme
2014-2020”

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The study showed that under the program «Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme» 2007-2013 31 projects were supported (Transcarpathian region).

Only in 2 projects the university – State Higher Educational Institution “Uzhhorod National University” was involved.

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The
Hungary-
Slovakia-
Romania-
Ukraine
ENI CBC
Programme
2014-2020
provided
for 3
rounds of
calls

the analysis of all three calls showed that only 4 projects were selected in the 1 round of the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020, and none of them involved higher education institutions.

In the 2 selection of 46 projects supported under the programme, higher education institutions were involved in 9 projects, of which eight directly and one through a structural unit (Szabolcs Szatmár-Bereg County Hospital and University Hospital)

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Involvement
of higher
education
institutions in
projects

(located in the
program area)

from Romania were involved in 7 projects

(Babes-Bolyai University, Technical University of ClujNapoca, Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava, North University Center of Baia Mare)

from Hungary in 6 projects

(Budapest University of Technology and Economics, University of Nyíregyháza, University of Miskolc and the structural unit - University Clinic)

from Slovakia in 5 projects

(Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Technical University of Košice)

from Ukraine in 7 projects

(Uzhhorod National University, Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas, Institute of Geological Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

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In the 3
competition of
the «Hungary-
Slovakia-
Romania-Ukraine
ENI CBC
Programme
2014-2020»
out of 30
supported
projects,
higher education
institutions were
involved in 6:

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from Hungary were involved in 3 projects
(University of Miskolc and University of Debrecen,
University Hospital)

from Ukraine in 4 projects
(State University “Uzhhorod National University” and Ivano-
Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas)

Slovakia in 2 projects
(Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and
Technical University of Košice)

from Romania were not involved.

The analysis of four calls held within the framework of the *programs* "Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme **2007-2013**" and "Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme **2014-2020**" *showed positive dynamics*

«Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine
ENPI Cross-border Cooperation
Programme **2007-2013**»

2 projects with the participation of the
university were supported

«Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine
ENI CBC Programme **2014-2020**»

15 projects (first call - 0 projects,
second call - 9 projects,
third call - 6 projects)

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Statistical data,
as a percentage of the total number of supported projects

6.4% were supported under the “Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013” with the participation of universities

18.75% under the “Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI CBC Programme 2014-2020” (first call – 0%, second call – 19.56% of projects, third call – 20% of projects)

A substantive analysis of projects involving universities revealed that digitalization is still creating conditions for their proper organizational and technical support.

Since first the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the full-scale war in Ukraine, made adjustments to the free mobility of various project participants, both main performers, experts, and beneficiaries.

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The use of various digital tools, including platforms and services for online collective communication, seminars, and other events, allowed the successful implementation of these projects.

At the same time, the directions and goals of projects between higher education institutions are diverse. For example, the project “Introduction of new standards and technologies of surgical treatment of diseases of the central nervous system in the cross-border region “NSDNeuro” with the participation of the State University “Uzhhorod National University” and the University of Debrecen.

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At the same time, a substantive analysis showed that no project was aimed at the development of digital technologies in the field of cross-border cooperation,

the latest digital technologies became tools for the implementation of individual projects (creation of platforms, websites, promotion of events, etc.),

and also helped in organizational aspects of project implementation, initially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and agreements in the conditions of war in Ukraine.

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Thus, modern risks caused by possible pandemics, military operations, and other emergency situations lead to the intensification of the digitalization of cross-border cooperation,

there is a need to create a single expert online platform - interstate dialogue, exchange of experience at various sectoral levels.

At the same time, it is necessary to improve existing legal acts and norms of international treaties in order to guarantee proper security protection for all participants in cross-border cooperation.

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