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NEEBOR (The Network of Eastern External Border Regions) network aims to increase the awareness of EU institutions, member states, regions and local authorities and the civil organizations on both sides of the borders of the weaknesses and strengths of the cross-border region. NEEBOR serves as a platform for open dialogue and coordination of joint actions and initiatives in order to promote the exchange of good practices and enhance cooperation and synergies in the region.

NEEBOR Interreg IVC project (Networking for Enterprises In the Eastern External Border Regions) is a project of 12 partners grown out from the network. The overall objective of the NEEBOR project is to exchange and exploit solutions for a more competitive and innovative SME sector while increasing the efficiency of regional SME development and innovation policies in the external border areas.

PREŠOV CONFERENCE

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the 5th NEEBOR Annual Conference. I am delighted that this year our region will host the annual conference, which will be held in Prešov, Slovakia from 7 to 10 September 2010. Each year NEEBOR organises an annual conference in a different region in order to provide its members, partners, and neighbours with specific issues and related EU policies.

This year the network plans to bring together innovation policy and external relations of the EU. The theme of the annual conference is *"Innovative regions in the context of EU Eastern external border."* The conference is structured into five thematic blocks dedicated to research, development, and innovation and their perception from European, national, regional, local, academic, and private sector perspectives. Indeed, the conference aims to interlink the areas, which are of a great development potential for NEEBOR members and neighbours.

It is of a great importance that universities from NEEBOR members and neighbours decided not only to participate in the annual conference, but also to support it by organising specially dedicated event. In fact, parallel to the annual conference on 9 September 2010 the Universities Round Table under the auspices of the Rector of the University of Prešov, Prof. René Matlovič will be held in Prešov. University representatives will discuss their cooperation in the 7th Framework Programme and a joint degree as base for the academic internationalisation.

It would be our honour to personally welcome you at the NEEBOR annual event 2010 in Prešov. We hope that together we will be able to bring innovation closer to peripheral EU regions, cities, and municipalities and their neighbours.

Mr. Peter Chudík

President of the Prešov Region



PREŠOV CONFERENCE VENUES

The NEEBOR Annual Conference will take place in the regional capital - city of Prešov.

City of Prešov

The city of Prešov is the third largest city in Slovakia. The city of Prešov (1247) encompasses a number of historically valuable monuments as the Cathedral of St. Nicolas, the Town Hall, the Rakoczy House, and The Klobošický Palace. The Jewish Synagogue belongs to the most beautiful ones in the Central Europe. There is also the theatre of Jonáš Záborský, Šariš gallery and museum, the centres of Ruthenian and Ukraine culture, observatory, planetarium, and the Prešov Salt-Mine "Solivar".

Prešov University

The Prešov University has been a stable player in the Slovak higher education. Some of its faculties have been active for more than a half of the century, others for several decades, and in the case of the younger ones – just several years. The Prešov University provides the academic education to Slovak and foreign students across a wide range of studies of humanities, natural, theological, and managerial sciences, health, and sports. At present, the University of Prešov consists of eight faculties, which are attended by 12,600 students.

Hotel Dukla

The Hotel Dukla will be the meeting place for the NEEBOR annual conference. The hotel and the Prešov University are in a close proximity, located at the same square. The Dukla Hotel is situated in the centre of the city of Prešov at the beginning of the pedestrian zone close to the theatre of Jonáš Záborský. Due to the excellent location of the hotel, it is easy to visit cultural and architectural sights in the historical heart of Prešov.

Cross border area of Stará Ľubovňa

The last day of the annual conference will be devoted to the cross border between Slovakia and Poland. The excursion will be organised to the historical town of Stará Ľubovňa. Stará Ľubovňa (1292) became the free royal town in 1364 under the Hungarian King Louis I. The Ľubovňa Castle facilitated to protect the trade route to Poland. The bloom lasted until 1412, when the Hungarian King Sigismund of Luxemburg gave Stará Ľubovňa as one of 14 towns in the Spiš region as a pawn to the Polish Crown. The history of the Ľubovňa Castle also records that in 1768 the king of Madagascar Móric Beňovský was imprisoned there. Today, the castle is a very active cultural, touristic, educational, and social player. From the 6th floor of the gothic tower of the castle there is a charming view on the beautiful surroundings of Stará Ľubovňa.

For the updated programme of the annual conference, registration, and practical information please visit the website of the Regional Development Agency of the Prešov Region <http://www.arrpsk.sk>

Arriving to Prešov via:

Košice, Slovakia (30 km)
Uzhorod, Ukraine (125 km)
Rzeszów, Poland (200 km)
Kraków, Poland (220 km)
Budapest, Hungary (300 km)
Bratislava, Slovakia (400 km)
Vienna, Austria (480 km)

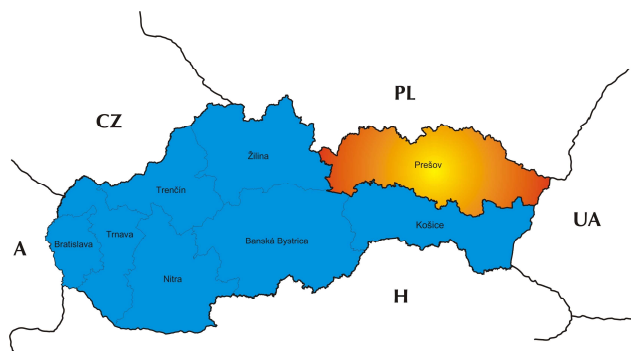
THE PREŠOV REGION

The Prešov Region is situated in the north-east of Slovakia and borders Poland and Ukraine. With 800,000 inhabitants the region is the most populous of all Slovak regions. Administratively, the region is divided into 13 districts and 666 municipalities including 23 towns.

A mountain and sub-mountain landscape is an essential attribute of the Prešov Region. The territory covers the High Tatras – the highest mountain range of Slovakia. The High Tatra Mountains (Vysoké Tatry) are the most northern and the highest part of 1200 km long Carpathian bow with the highest peak Gerlachovský štít (2,655 m). The three national parks belong to the regional highlights: the Tatra National Park, the Pieniny National Park, and Poloniny National Park. In fact, the Carpathian Beech Wildwoods were registered in the UNESCO list in 2007. The region is also rich in mineral and thermal waters used in spa and health resorts.

The Prešov Region comprises historically formed regions of Šariš, Upper Zemplín, and Upper and Central Spiš. The most important sights include the city of Bardejov (UNESCO), the city of Levoča and surroundings (UNESCO), the Kežmarok Castle, the Ľubovňa Castle, Spišská Kapitula, Spišská Sobota, and 26 ancient wooden churches. Indeed, four of the wooden churches were listed at the UNESCO in 2008. Interestingly, the city of Medzilaborce is becoming a place of pilgrimage for Andy Warhol fans in search of the artist's Eastern European roots in the Museum of Modern Art.

As for the research, development, and innovation, the main actors are: the Prešov University, the Technological Faculty of the Technical University, the Regional Advisory and Information Centre (RPIC), Innovation Partnership Centre, companies like SPINEA a.s., the cluster AR+T, European projects as RAPIDE financed through Interreg IVC.



NETWORK ACTIVITIES

On behalf of the NEEBOR network Mr. Zoltán Balogh, the regional representative of Eszak-Alföld Region in Brussels participated on the international conference “Regional development and territorial cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe in the context of the CoR White Paper on multilevel governance”. The conference was hosted by the University of Oradea, located in North West Romania Region, and supported by the Institute of Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debrecen. During the conference on 20th and 21st of May 2010 a presentation was held on the development and activities of the network with the title “The role of regional networks in multi-level governance. The case of NEEBOR network”.

Communication Officer

NEEBOR/Finnbarents

**Avenue Palmerston 24
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tlf: +32 493 790622
E-mail: neebor@ramk.fi**



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