

Slogan or real potential? Cross-border co-operation and local economic development in East Central Europe: the case of Debrecen

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I. Introduction

1. border location – two types of regions

a., external borders – they divide states

b., internal borders – they divide counties within a country

2. external borders

a., underdevelopment, backwardness

- distance from the economic centres

- poor accessibility

- unfavourable age composition and qualification of inhabitants

b., potential advantages of border location

- more developed regions on the other side of border

- underdeveloped regions on the other side of border

- co-operation between settlements located along two sides of border

II. Aim of our presentation

III. Materials and methods

1. economic development concepts of Debrecen (6)

2. promotional brochures of Debrecen (8)



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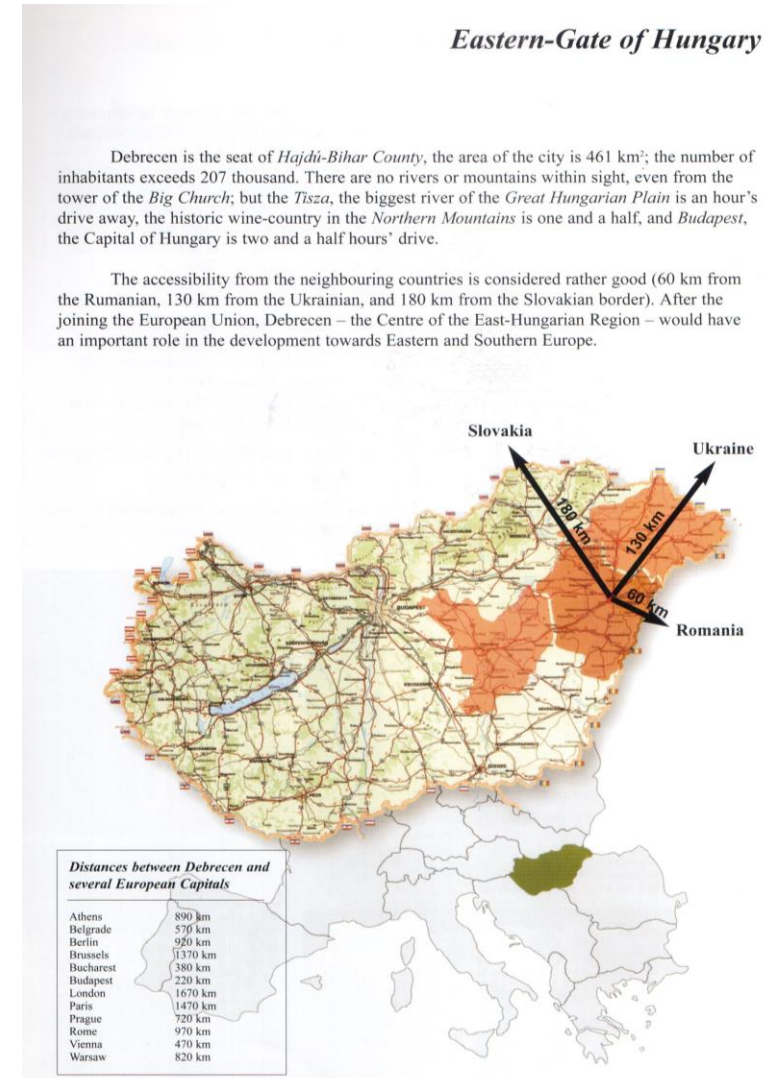


IV. Results

1. geographical location: Debrecen is the regional centre of eastern part of Carpathian basin
 - a., - „Relying on the values of the past and in order to respond the challenges of the future, Debrecen shall become the regional centre with an outstanding spatial forming power of the Northern Great Plain Region and the region beyond the state border” (vision of Integrated Urban Development Strategy – 2007)
 - „To make the city a regional centre and knowledge centre with influence way beyond the state border relying on its geographical location” (general aim of Local Settlement Development Concept - 2014)

b., changes in approach

- former approach: gateway function of Debrecen
 - bridge between Hungary and Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine
 - ideal point of departures for the development of commerce in Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine
- current approach – diminishing role of this function of Debrecen



2. transport connections of Debrecen to neighbouring countries

a., international and national main roads: they ensure connections to

Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine and Serbia

b., Debrecen: very wide range of relations

with the cities playing important

role in the economic life of

neighbouring countries

c., good transport connection → international

logistic function of Debrecen



3. catchment area of Debrecen

a., Debrecen serves the surrounding areas

- education: “The *educational role* of the city goes way beyond the borders of Debrecen and Hajdú-Bihar county, some of its educational institutions (notably the University of Debrecen) have national and even international catchment areas” (2007)

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importance of widening cross-border educational co-operation in secondary and higher education

- health service: “The *catchment area of the health care* in Debrecen goes way beyond the borders of the county, but the University of Debrecen Clinical Centre covers a regional, and in some cases even national or cross-border, catchment area” (2014)

- culture: „The *cultural role* of Debrecen goes way beyond the borders of the region, the city can be confidentially described as one of the determining cultural centres of Hungary and of the Carpathian Basin” (2014)

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project for European Capital of Culture 2010:

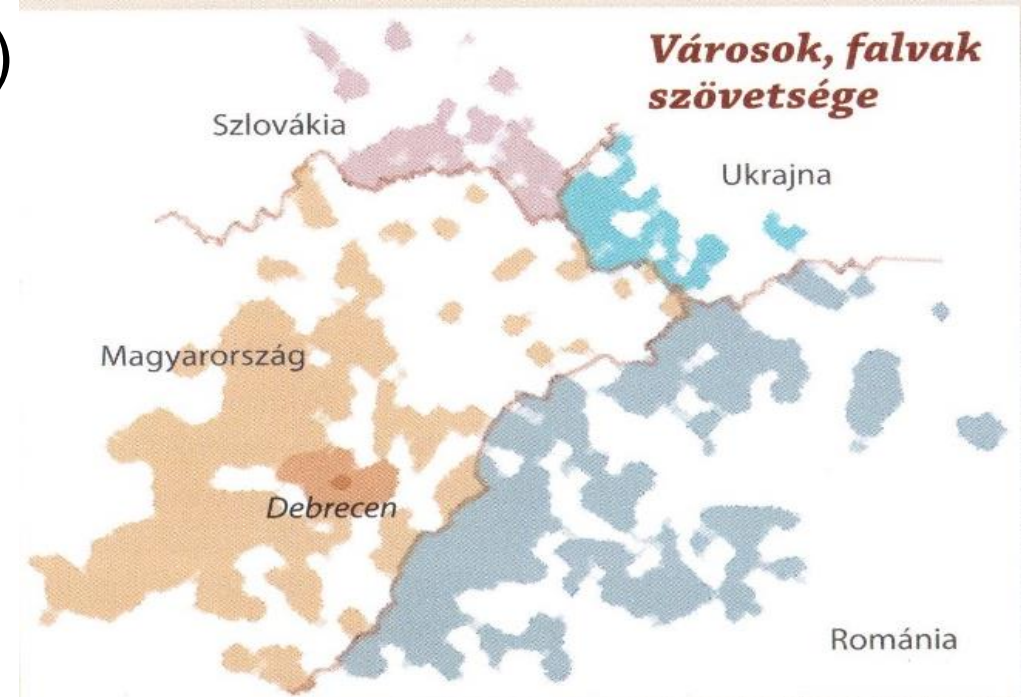
- the establishment of

Allience of Towns and Villages (2005)

- IUDS (2007):

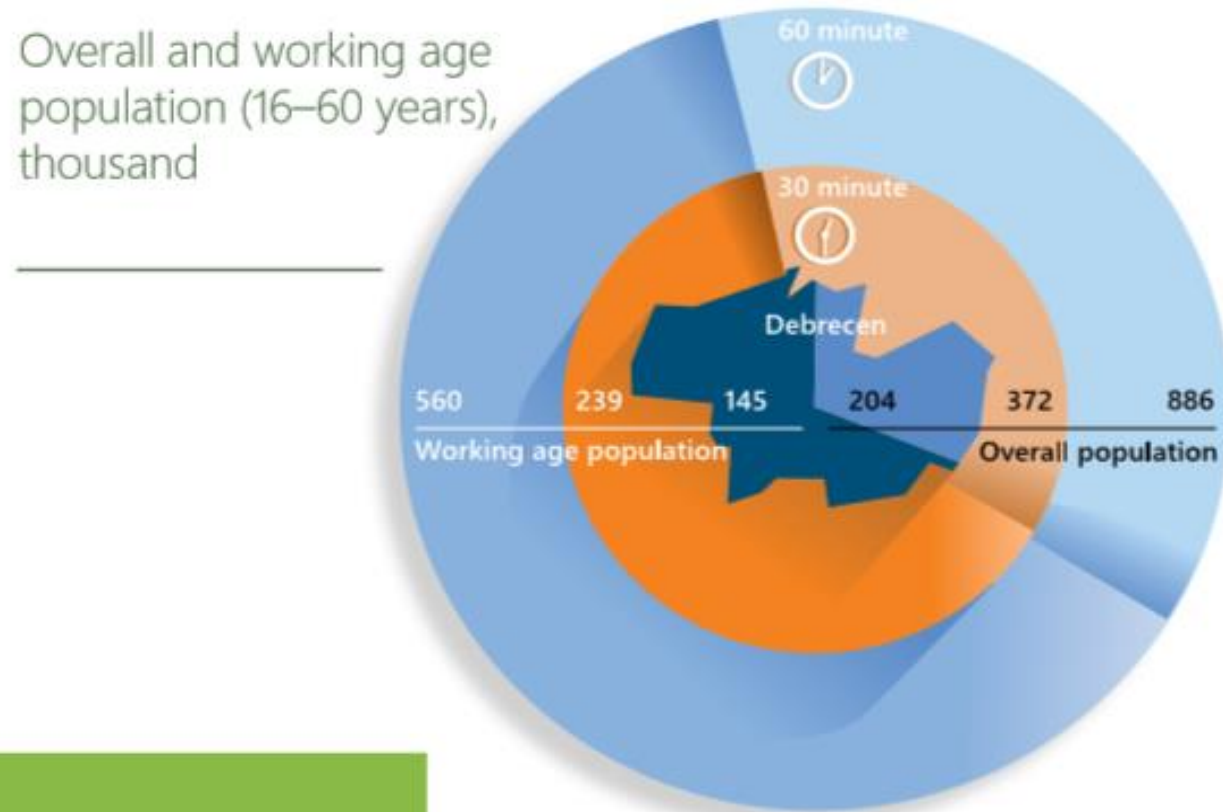
importance of creating a cultural
network

enhancement of euroregional
potential of Debrecen

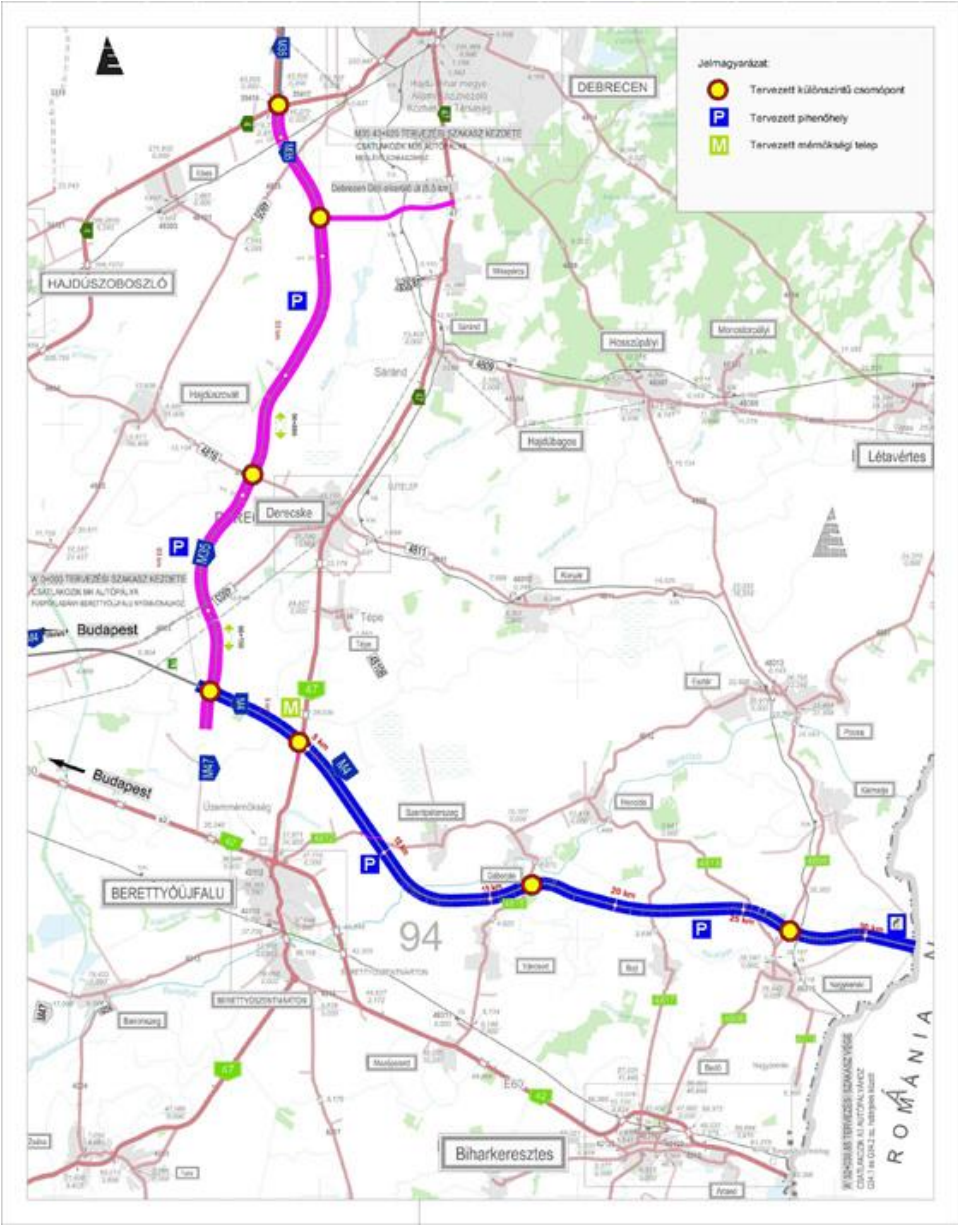


b., Debrecen - endowments of its surrounding area (2015)

- number of population
- number of working age population



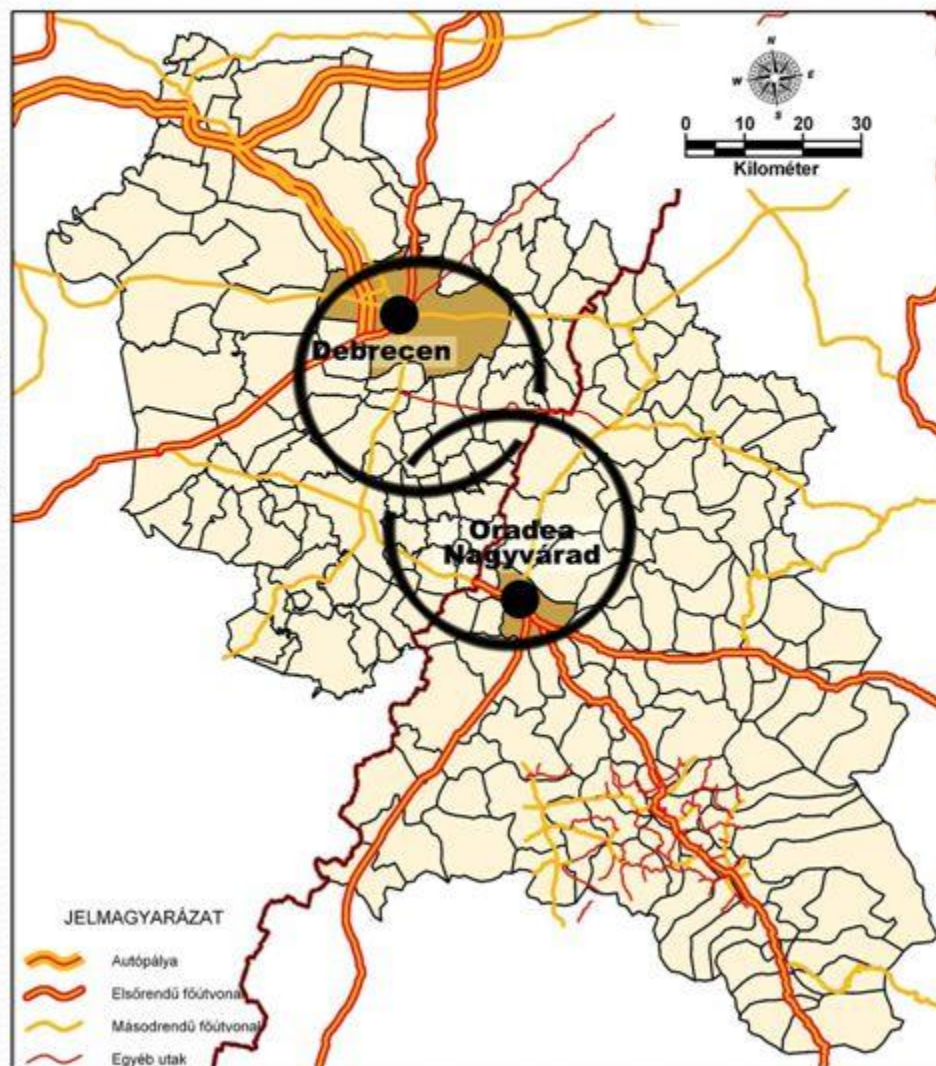
V. Future – two important developments



Debrecen-Nagyvárad határon átívelő agglomerációja (Hajdú-Bihar – Bihor eurorégió)



Debrecen
(Hajdú-Bihar)



Nagyvárad / Oradea
(Bihor)

Thanks you for your attention !