



The Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza Euro-region is a regional cross-national institution, without legal entity, whose functioning relies on the common will of the parties involved.

As a cross-border institution, it is the result of a regional arrangement between Timis County in Romania and the Csongrád County in Hungary, reconfirmed in 1992 by bilateral cooperation arrangement.

In 1994 was signed the first version of *The Protocol* which added to the partnership, besides the counties of Timis and Csongrád, the Arad County in Romania, the Békés County in Hungary, and, unofficially at first, the Serbian province of Vojvodina.

In 1996, this was adjusted in the form of a new *Protocol*.

The present *Protocol of the Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza* regional cooperation, whereby other counties currently part of the DKMT euro-regional cooperation were included, was signed on November 21, 1997.

The parties now active in cross-border cooperation are: the Romanian counties Arad, Caras-Severin, Hunedoara and Timis, the Hungarian counties Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Csongrád, and Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, and the Serbian province of Vojvodina.

The *Protocol* defines the aim, objectives, institutions, and partners in the DKMT cross-border cooperation. The primary aim of this cross-national arrangement is to create a climate of trust that would in its turn facilitate the social and economic development of the regions involved, as well as of the entire area of cooperation. It also envisages the development of the relationship between the local communities and the regional authorities in the fields of economy, education, culture, science, and sports, and the collaboration towards integration in the modern processes of Europe.

The main objectives of the cooperation are to do with supporting the process of European integration, harmonizing the public programs and policies, setting up common economic programs and common information system, strengthening the mutual trust, and stimulating mutual knowledge between the communities on both sides of the frontier.

The center of power of the partnership in the *Forum of Presidents*, made up of the presidents of the Councils of the counties member and of autonomous province of Vojvodina. This body has extensive powers, dealing with both deliberative and executive aspects. The consensus based decisions regard modifications of the *Protocol*, admitting new members, approval of cooperation projects and programs, election of the President, measures meant to increase the efficiency of other cross-border bodies, and mediation of possible conflicts among members.

The *Forum of Presidents* makes its decisions on the basis of the documents and suggestions provided by a so-called *Consultative-Deliberative Body*, made up of leaders of authorities without regional responsibility: decentralized territorial departments and services, local and regional agencies, civic and non governmental organizations.

On May 24th 2003, on the occasion of the General was founded the *Public Utility Company* of the DKMT Euro-region, the first pragmatic initiative which will play a major role in strengthening the cross-border cooperation in the administrative and public policies fields.

The Project PROBITAS 2003 is an initiative of the West Foundation for Regional and Euro-regional Journalism Timisoara and is financed by



Project coordinator:
MARIAN ODANGIU

Co-ordinator Editor: VIOLETA FICARD
Finance Officer: MĂDĂLINA VĂDUVA

Editorial team: MARIAN ODANGIU, VIOLETA FICARD, MĂDĂLINA VĂDUVA
Printed by:
West Foundation for Regional and Euroregional Journalism Timisoara Romania
FVJ © 2003



Partnership Agreement

WFJ West Foundation for Regional and Euro-regional Journalism Timișoara - Romania, here represented by M. Marian Odangiu, President,

NSSJ Novi Sad School of Journalism, here represented by Mrs. Dr. Dubravka Valić Neleljcović, President of NSSJ Executive Board,

"Augusta Union Foundations" – "Tibiscus University", here represented by Mrs. Augusta Anca, General Manager,

Radio 021 Novi Sad, here represented by Mrs. Jovanka Zlatković, Editor in Chief,

West Radio Timișoara, here represented by M. Adrian Burdușa, General Manager,

"Libertatea" Editing and Publishing House, here represented by M. Nicu Ciobanu, Manager,

participants at the Media Meeting held in Timișoara, Romania, on May 18th – 19th 2002, taking into consideration that:

- the NGOs' and the public-private partnership is an essential condition for the development of the cross-border cooperation in all domains and that

- the events, the actions, the common projects, the joint programs, their results and the resources used by non-governmental organizations represent a significant and continuously growing weigh within all the activities in this form of collaboration,

have agreed to cooperate in the future by sustaining:

a) the mutual initiatives oriented to promote interdisciplinary research, dialogue, contacts and professional experience exchanges, with the final goal to set up an Euro-regional formal and/or informal journalistic network;

b) a joint coherent educational strategy dedicated to young journalists, with the goal to increase the importance of the role played by the young generation in founding decisions at all levels of the social and democratic structures;

c) the creation of a mechanism of information gathering and distribution, relevant for the increasing role of the civil society and of the NGO's networking in the cross-border cooperation;

The signatory parts agree to collaborate in increasing sustainability and funds raising of all common initiatives, programs and projects, regional partnership, NGO know-how and practices transfer.

Also, the signatory parts agree that all future joint activities will be based on the principles of innovation and creativity, transparency, respect of democratic values, human rights, ethnic and cultural diversity, with the ideal of peaceful coexistence, regional progress, prosperity and European integration.

Marian Odangiu
Dr. Dubravka Valić Neleljcović
Augusta Anca
Jovanka Zlatković
Adrian Burdușa
Nicu Ciobanu

PROBITAS 2003

III-rd Year
No.1
June 2003
Românești
Timiș County
România

Published for participants at the Inter-operational Project for Regional and Euro-regional Journalism Probitas – 3rd Edition – Românești Timiș

WHAT IS PROBITAS 2003?

"Probitas 2003 Multiculturalism against conflicts" represents the latest phase of a long term strategy launched, in 1999, by West Foundation for Regional and Euro-regional Journalism Timisoara.

PROBITAS is a complex long term Euro-regional program focused on human rights and democratic education, aiming at creating a favorable framework to support and stimulate the formal and/or non-formal contacts and experience exchange between young journalists and young artists from Western Romania and Eastern Serbia (Vojvodina Region), in the so called Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisa Euro-region (DKMT).

Also, PROBITAS program aims at building up a solid non governmental organizations network in the DKMT Euro-region.

PROBITAS program was launched in 2001, with the First Edition. In the beginning it was only one Serbian Partner.

The Second Edition took place in 2002 and there were six partners involved in the project implementation.

The third Edition of the PROBITAS program ("Probitas 2003 - "Multiculturalism against conflicts" Project) is based on the *Partnership Agreement* signed on May 18th-19th 2002 by West Foundation for Regional and Euro-regional Journalism, West Radio Company, „Augusta” Foundations - „Tibiscus” University – Faculty of Journalism Timisoara (Romania), and Novi Sad School of Journalism, Radio 021 Novi Sad and Editing and Publishing House „Libertatea” Pancevo (Serbia & Montenegro).

Settled on such a large experience achieved in the field, the project "Probitas 2003 - Multiculturalism against conflicts" provides specific interdisciplinary journalistic and artistic team building activities as multicultural shows, documentary trips, a large training and exchange experience program (which includes work shops, debates on cross border cooperation in preventing regional violence, terrorism and conflicts, on the role of civil society, seminars on the culture and media, arts and culture role in solving regional tensions, in increasing public awareness on peacemaking).

The training and exchanging experience "Probitas 2003 – Multiculturalism against conflicts" project provides for the young journalists and artists from Romania and Serbia, representatives of specific minorities in the area (Serbian from Romania and Romanian from Serbia - Hungarian, German, Roma, Slovak from both countries as well), a large framework to live, to debate, to explore and to work together towards a common objective.

The final goal of all these activities is a future coherent inter operational journalistic and creative activity dedicated to consolidate the Euro-regional young community, to prevent regional violence, terrorism and conflicts, to promote human rights, mutual acquaintance and peaceful co-existence between minorities and majority and to find out jointly common realistic answers to multiethnic society problems, very specific for the geographical coverage of the project.

„Probitas 2003 - Multiculturalism against conflicts" project will respond to these by:

a) organizing professional meetings between young and/or experienced journalists and professional artists which will carry out basic and applied debates on the causes and potential conflicts in the region, on violence and terrorism sources and its motivations;

b) sustaining during the 2003 summer the Third Edition of PROBITAS program inter-operational training and experience exchange program dedicated to young journalists and young artists from Romania and Serbia, representing different ethnic communities from Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisa Euro-region, including a large area from Western Romania, Eastern Serbia and South-Eastern Hungary.

Background of the Probitas Program

On June 12th 1998, in Timisoara took place the first Euro-regional meeting of independent radio stations from Romania, Serbia and Hungary. Representatives from Radio West Timisoara, Radio 021 Novi Sad (Serbia) and Radio Media 6 Szeged (Hungary) signed an *Partnership Agreement* with the aim to stimulate the tri-lateral collaboration.

On July 4th 1998, at the end of a second meeting, in Szeged (Hungary), the representatives of the three independent radio stations signed a new *Agreement* stipulating the *Foundation of "Euro-media Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza"* project with the following goals:

a) to inform the public, media and international organizations about "Euro-media Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza" project;

b) to establish the most suitable ways to accomplish the technical needs in order to exchange the audio and other materials between the studios and to create the basis for further development of the technical mechanisms used for communication already debated at the first meeting from Timisoara;

c) to analyze and decide the structure and the deadlines of the audio materials which will be broadcasted as a part of the project;

d) to establish the basic elements of a unique marketing strategy;

e) to debate and elaborate a project to inform the European Community, the European Union and international organizations who support quick Euro-regional development about "Euro-media Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza".

On September 12th 1998, in Novi Sad, the participants signed *The Novi Sad Agreement* with the concrete activities for the first common Euro-regional radio program.

In December 1998, the first 60 minutes Euro-regional radio program "Euro-media Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza" was broadcasted simultaneously in Timisoara (by Radio West), Novi Sad (by Radio 021) and Szeged (by Radio Media 6).

The cooperation between the three partners continued at the beginning of the Kosovo war and in the 1999 summer, when representatives of the three radio stations participated at the *First Edition of the Summer School for the Regional and Euro-regional Journalism* organized by West Foundation and Radio West Timisoara in Sebis, Arad County.

The cooperation stopped in the 1999 Autumn, under the constraints of the Serbian regime hindering freedom of speech.

The Euro-regional cooperation was re-launched on April 5-7th 2001, on the occasion of the *Euro-regional Mass Media Meeting*, organized by CED in Timisoara.

The event aimed at bringing together journalists, press institution and media related NGO's and thus at increasing media's contribution to the establishment and/or consolidation of democracy in the region.

At this meeting had participated representatives from Radio 021 Novi Sad, VK Radio Kikinda & City Radio Senta, Radio Impuls Vrsac, Radio Pancevo etc. The debates focused on the results of "Euro-media Danube-Kris-Maris-Tisza" project. All participants agreed the initiative of the "Probitas" project as an important step for the promotion of cross-border cooperation.

During 2001 and 2002 summer, the First Edition ("Probitas 2001") and the Second Edition ("Probitas 2002") of the program implementation scored a great success, over 120 young and/or experienced journalists and artists from Romania and Serbia being involved in its lucrative activities.

The program "PROBITAS" was rewarded with "Best@Networking Award" on the occasion of the Third Edition of the "Regional NGO Fair" held in Timisoara, at the end of the year 2002.