

SOME ASPECTS OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION CARINTHIA - CHERNIVTSI CARINTHIA - LOCATION IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

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The article, by the example of regional cooperation Carinthia - Chernivtsi, reveals the practical dimension of cross-border cooperation in Europe

Key words: regional cooperation, Carinthia, Chernivtsi, cross-border cooperation, Europe.

In the age of globalization, the importance of regions as industrial and scientific areas is increasing dramatically. In these easily comprehensible units, also from a geographical point of view, it is the combined operations which promise success on international markets that are becoming effective. But regions are also distinguishing themselves by a strong social identification with their traditions and culture. With the increasing independence of the regions, the responsibility of politics is growing: positive ecological, economic, social and cultural development is creating an atmosphere of trust and a climate in which economic power and quality of life are flourishing hand in hand.

The location of Carinthia as a region with a promising future at the intersection of three cultures and as the bridgehead to Southern and Southeast Europe demands far-sightedness and strategic concepts. The foundations for the development of Carinthia as a technology, ecology, health, education and residential country have been laid. The politicians and public administrators as well as all Carinthians are aware of the responsibility of actively shaping their homeland.

Austria's entry to the European Union, the breakdown of communism in Eastern Europe and the political reorganisation of the former Yugoslavia have brought about huge chances for Carinthia.

The chances have increased enormously, new opportunities for combined operations have come into being and old partnerships are being revived. Carinthia provides strategic locational advantages, following on from its historical tradition as a junction of thousand-year-old traffic arteries and trade relationships between the North Sea and the Balkans, between Eastern Europe and the western Mediterranean countries. Where simple wagons once carted the famous Noric Iron to the Mediterranean Ports, high-ranking traffic links and data-highways today connect the metropolises of Central Europe.

Carinthia comprises an area of 9533 square kilometres and a population 563925. More than 1200 lakes alternate with mighty ice-covered peaks in the idyllic surroundings. And of course, the Großglockner, the highest mountain in Austria, is also genuine Carinthian.

Despite the great economic importance of tourism in Carinthia, it is still the industry and manufacturing trades which provide the greatest contribution to the gross regional product of Carinthia. Every second person in Carinthia lives directly or indirectly from the net produce on the field of industry.

Three million visitors come to Carinthia annually. Whoever wants to escape the dullness of everyday life may find a colourful mixture in variety and flair there. Carinthia – that is quality of life and of holidays. Southern Austria, full of the joys of life, offers 2000 hours of sunshine per annum and human warmth.

Carinthia is particularly proud of its human capital: Carinthian employees are sought after. International concerns appreciate their motivation and willingness to work. In the last few years the Alps Adriatic University Klagenfurt with its main focus on economics, informatics and cultural studies has developed into a modern educational centre.

The University of Applied Sciences in Klagenfurt, Spittal/Drau, Villach and Feldkirchen for construction, architecture, electronics, geoinformatics, medical IT, telematics and networking techniques, public management, as well as social and human management has proved to be a high-standard institute.

Politics and industry have recognised the region's potential and have invested jointly in the location of the future, Carinthia. Strategies are being developed in a continuing process to make Carinthia fit for the future as an economic and scientific area.

The Cooperation Carinthia – Chernivtsi: Example of a Partnership

As possibly known Austria has a common history with the Region of Chernivtsi. During the time of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy the Bukowina was part of the Empire. Walking through the City of Chernivtsi of today you come across the witnesses of the past – many buildings and even the German inscriptions on

channel caps remind of the common past. In the post-soviet era the Austrian Government successfully re-established partnerships between Austria and the independent Republic of Ukraine. The main intention of these partnerships has been to foster the political and economic stability of the newly independent state and to renew the neglected contacts.

Carinthia as a modern region in the heart of Europe has a lot of partnerships with similar regions all over the world. The cooperation with the Ukrainian Region of Chernivtsi is one with the most multiple and various fields of collaboration. It is an example for trans-border cooperation in Europe.

In June 1992 representatives of the Regional Government of Carinthia and the City of Klagenfurt paid a visit to the Region of Chernivtsi. As a result of these dense contacts an Austrian Library has been established within the newly founded Bukowina Centre at the University of Chernivtsi and a partnership contract between the two cities Klagenfurt and Chernivtsi was signed.

In the year 1993 the Regional Government of Carinthia made a board decision on the future partnership with the Region of Chernivtsi. In 1995 a contract between the Regional Government of Carinthia and the Regional Parliament of Chernivtsi concerning cooperation in the field of economic, cultural and social issues was signed. Representatives of both regions and cities have paid a visit to their partners several times. Further intensive contacts, such as Euroregion Upper Prut, and the contacts between the City of Wolfsberg, Alps Adriatic University Klagenfurt, University of Applied Sciences and their partners in Chernivtsi, exceed the regional cooperation.

In 2001 Carinthia became partner of the Euroregion Upper Pruth. At this time the Region of Chernivtsi (UA), the Region of Belts (MD), the Region of Edinets (MD), the Region of Suceava (RO) and the Region of Botosani (RO) were members of the Euroregion Upper Prut.

In 1998 the “Georg Drozdowski Gesellschaft” in Klagenfurt was founded as one of the major partners of the cooperation. In 1998 the renovation and revitalisation of the Drozdowski Hall (Drozdowski Saal) in the former German National House (Deutsches Haus) was started. Nowadays it serves as a centre for events, congresses, workshops and exhibitions.

The regional cooperation of Carinthia and Chernivtsi comprises of historical, cultural, scientific, educational and social projects and humanitarian aid such as the project “Prostor II/Raum II” (equipping schools with IT and other technical devices) but also of projects supported by the European Union. Depending on specific events personal contacts and mutual delegations are on the regular agenda.

On the part of Carinthia Department 1 of the Carinthian Government is in charge of coordination of the cooperation. The major partners in Carinthia and Chernivtsi are

- “Verein Österreich Kooperation” in Vienna and Lviv
- the Austrian Lector in Chernivtsi
- Honorary Consul Dr. Horst Schumi
- “Georg Drozdowski Gesellschaft“ in Klagenfurt
- Chernivtsi Regional State Administration
- University of Chernivtsi
- Bukovina Centre at the University of Chernivtsi
- Bukovinian Youth Block
- Bukowina Phoenix
- “Boschstiftung”
- City of Chernivtsi
- City of Klagenfurt
- City of Wolfsberg.

The following sample of mutual projects may exemplify the variety of activities:

- official delegations to Carinthia and Chernivtsi,
- a lot of publications, scientific conferences, events, and exhibitions with partners in Chernivtsi and Carinthia,
- equipping schools with IT and other technical devices,
- art exhibitions and books about the Chernivtsi Museum of Arts
- social projects for old people, children and other persons in Chernivtsi in cooperation with various partners,
- a model of the Chernivtsi Theatre for “Minimundus” in Klagenfurt in cooperation with the regional administrations of Carinthia and Chernivtsi, the cities of Klagenfurt, Chernivtsi, and Wolfsberg, the “Verein Österreich Kooperation”, and the Bukovina Centre at the University of Chernivtsi,
- EU-projects with the City and the Region of Chernivtsi and the Euroregion Upper Prut.

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Платцер В., Пушиг У. Деякі аспекти регіонального співробітництва Каринтія – Чернівці. Каринтія – місце у серці Європи / Крайовий уряд Каринтії.

В статті, на прикладі регіонального співробітництва Каринтія-Чернівці, розкривається практичний вимір транскордонної кооперації в Європі

Ключові слова: регіональне співробітництво, Каринтія, Чернівці, транскордонна кооперація, Європа

Платцер В., Пушиг В. Некоторые аспекты регионального сотрудничества Каринтия - Черновцы. Каринтия - место в сердце Европы / Краевое правительство Каринтии.

В статье, на примере регионального сотрудничества Каринтия-Черновцы, раскрывается практическое измерение трансграничной кооперации в Европе

Ключевые слова: региональное сотрудничество, Каринтия, Черновцы, трансграничная кооперация, Европа