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## ITEM / TEIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

**The future of cross-border cooperation and mobility: horizontal integration and beyond**

Maastricht, 26-27 September 2024

### ABSTRACT

#### **Evaluation and the Future of Cross-border Cooperation in Hungary**

Since the last enlargements of the European Union, the importance of the European territorial cooperation evolving along the external and internal borders has been increasing. The horizontal dimension of the cohesion policy is getting more and more emphasis, new methods of governance has been developing to ensure a coherent framework for the interregional, transnational, and cross-border cooperation.

However, in the last few years, the most recent crises resulted in the re-bordering tendencies. Instead of the elimination of borders and border obstacles, securitization discourse has appeared as powerful narration, resulting in reclosing of borders.

The aim of the presentation is to examine the evolution of the legal framework and institution-building process of cross-border territorial cooperation in the European Union, with special focus on Hungary.

First, I will focus how the Council of Europe and European Union can support establishing preconditions with a sensitive and differentiating approach to regional and territorial policies and instruments. Second, I analyse the EGTC Regulation (No. 1082/2006/EK, revised in 2013), which have become a response to the lack of legal and institutional instruments of cross-border cooperations and ensured competencies for subnational authorities. The analysis has relevance on both EU policies and scientific research, especially in areas such as the revision of the EGTC Regulation, the development of further new legal solutions and amendment of the Schengen acquis. Finally, the presentation summarizes what responses and legal alternatives are possible to provide in order to increase efficiency of cross-border territorial cooperation.

#### **Zsuzsanna Fejes**

is an associate Professor at the Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies of the University of Public Service (UPS), Budapest, and at the International and Regional Studies Institute of the University of Szeged, Hungary.

She is the President of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI), and the Head of the UPS-CESCI Research Group on CBC.

In her research she focuses on the state theories and governance studies. Her research topics include legal framework of European territorial cooperation and cross-border governance. She is the author of several books and more than 80 articles.

She has participated in international research projects, such as Visegrad Fund (“Urban Post-COVID Recovery” 2023-2024; “Urban Policy System in the Strategic Perspective - from V4 to Ukraine” 2019-2021; “Legal Accessibility among V4 Countries” 2018-2019) and NEWGOV project (2007). She has participated in the scientific meetings of international organizations as TEIN, RSA, IAS and EGPA. She has held a membership or office in various academic associations, including Hungarian Association of Law and Political Sciences, European Regional Sciences Association, and Regional Science Association International.

She has participated in the editorial boards of scientific journals such as Glocalism, FORVM, Pro Publico Bono, De Iurisprudencia et Iure Publico.