

**A kis- és középvárosok
szerepe a határon átnyúló
együttműködésben a szlovén-
osztrák és a
magyar–horvát
határtérségben**



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Content

- Introduction – significance of cross-border cooperation;
- General overview of cross-border cooperation between Austria-Slovenia and Hungary-Croatia;
- Overview of the two analysed 2007-2013 cooperation programmes;
- Methodology of the comparative analysis;
- Comparison of performance patterns in the analysed programmes and the target areas;
- Conclusions

Introduction – significance of cross-border cooperation

- Growing number of border regions within the EU.
- Euroregions, pre-accession programmes in the early 2000s – tools for Europeanisation (Popescu, 2008; Scott–Liikanen, 2010).
- INTERREG (1990) – Objective 3 of the Cohesion Policy (2007)

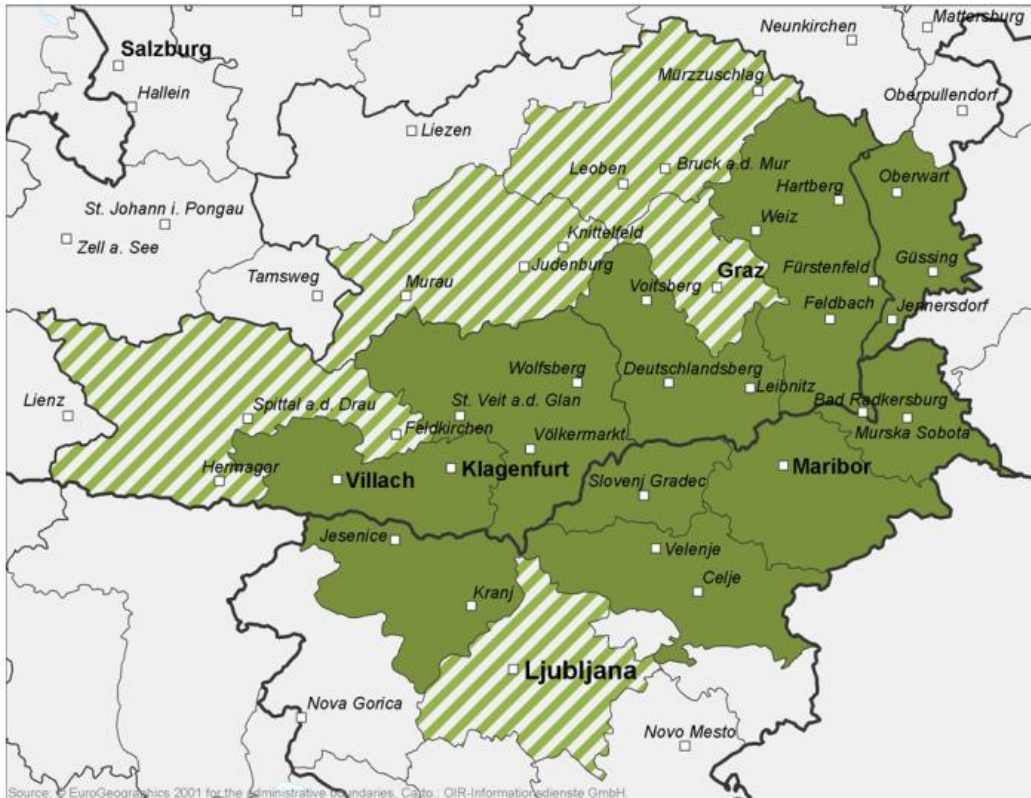
Cross-border cooperation between Slovenia and Austria

- Strong historical ties (Habsburg empire).
- Slovenia: active cooperation on regional level within the SFRY.
- Independent nation state brought centralisation.
- Failed regional institutionalisation attempts of CBC.
- Slovenia: lack of medium tier – statistical units have development role.
- Austria: asymmetric governance structures: federal units vs. bottom-up regional development bodies.



Cross-border cooperation between Hungary and Croatia

- Strong historical ties.
- Natural borders, isolation policies in the 1950s and 1990s war events hinder cooperation.
- Enthusiastic start after the war, institutionalisation brought „half success” (Euroregion).
- Failed regionalisation in Hungary, re-strengthening of weak countries.
- Emerging countries in Croatia, with strengthened local development capacities.

The Slovenia-Austria Cross-border Cooperation Programme



Programme area

-  Core programme area in line with article 7(1) of the general Structural Funds regulation
-  Extended programme area in line with article 21(1) ERDF regulation

Administrative boundaries

-  NUTS 0
-  NUTS 1
-  NUTS 2
-  NUTS 3
-  Cities

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- Generally low development disparities, except for near-border rural areas.
- Wide cooperation opportunities.
- 67 million EUR co-financing.
- Strong regional centres (Graz, Klagenfurt, Maribor)

The Hungary-Croatia Cross-border Cooperation Programme



- PHARE Pilot Fund, trilateral INTERREG with Slovenia.
- 54.8 million EUR co-financing.
- The biggest such programme that time in Croatia.
- Emphasis on environment and sustainable tourism.

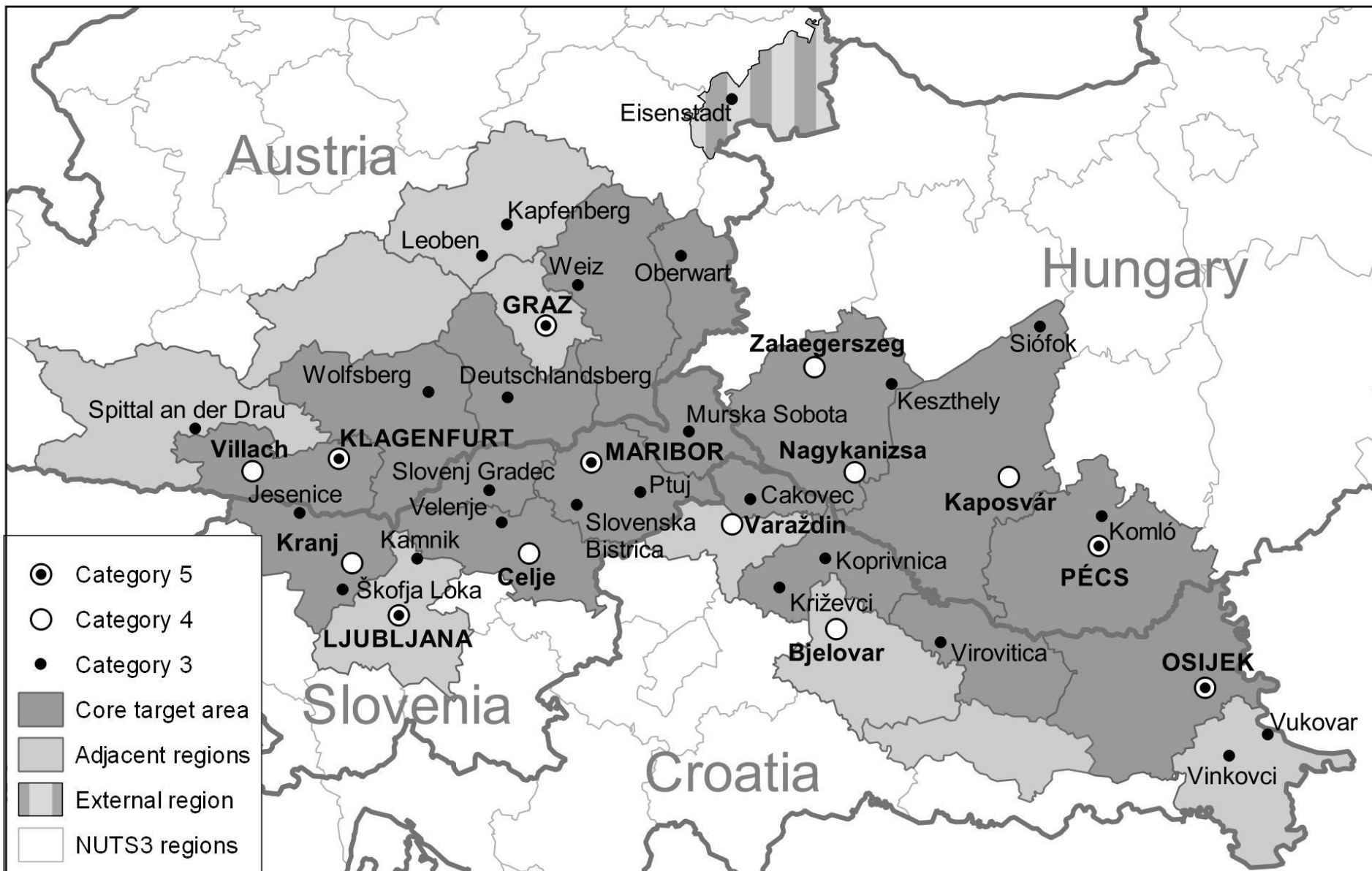
Methodology

- Breaking down of primary project-level performance data to LAU2 units:
 - Number of project partnerships (number of PPs);
 - ERDF funding paid and approved (funding realised).
- Focus on the programme areas: solution of the external regions' issue (Austria, Hungary).
- Definition of LAU2 units' Categories 0-5:
 - categories must be distinctive;
 - functions in the settlement network and population were treated equally;
 - avoiding categories being empty in some countries;
 - number of local units in the different categories should be proportional

LAU2 categories

Category	Criteria	Austria	Slovenia	Croatia	Hungary	Total
5	strong NUTS2 regional centres cities with population above 90,000	Graz Klagenfurt	Ljubljana Maribor	Osijek	Pécs	6
4	functional co-centres of NUTS2 regions strong NUTS3 regional centres cities with population above 40,000	Villach	Celje Kranj	Bjelovar Varaždin	Kaposvár Nagykanizsa Zalaegerszeg	8
3	small NUTS2 centre (Austria) further NUTS3 administrative centres (HR) largest towns of non-administrative NUTS3 regions (AT, SI) further towns above 20,000 inhabitants (AT, SI, HU) functional co-centres of NUTS3 regions (HR)	Deutschlandsberg Eisenstadt Leoben Oberwart Spittal an der Drau Weiz Wolfsberg Kapfenberg	Murska Sobota Slovenj Gradec Jesenice Kamnik Ptuj Škofja Loka Slovenska Bistrica Velenje	Čakovec Koprivnica Virovitica Vukovar Križevci Vinkovci	 Keszthely Siófok Komló	25
2	further towns municipalities with rights of a town (AT)	14	13	11	16	54
1	municipalities with a population more than 2,000	13	22	22	1	58
0	municipalities with a population less than 2,000	15	3	4	22	44
Total		53	50	46	46	195

Category 3–5 units

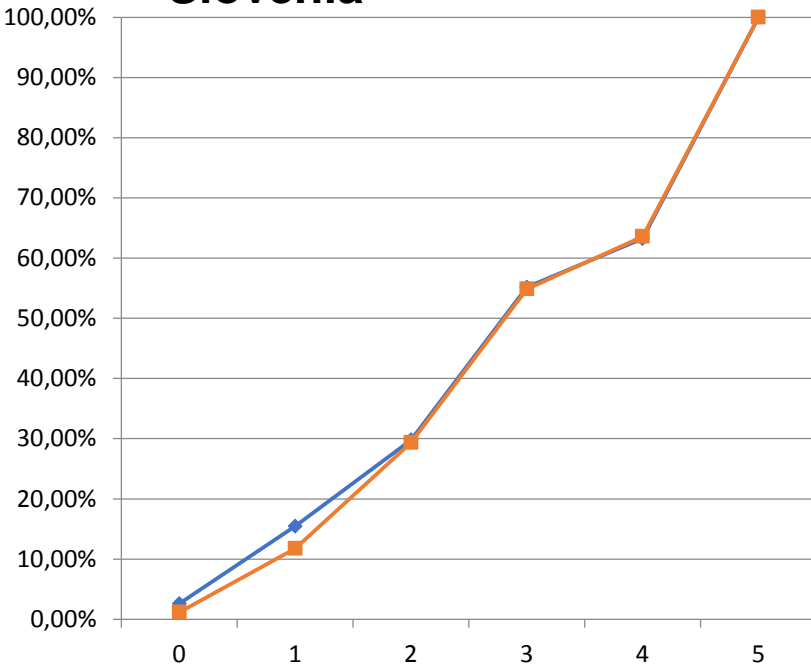


Most active LAU2 units in the four countries

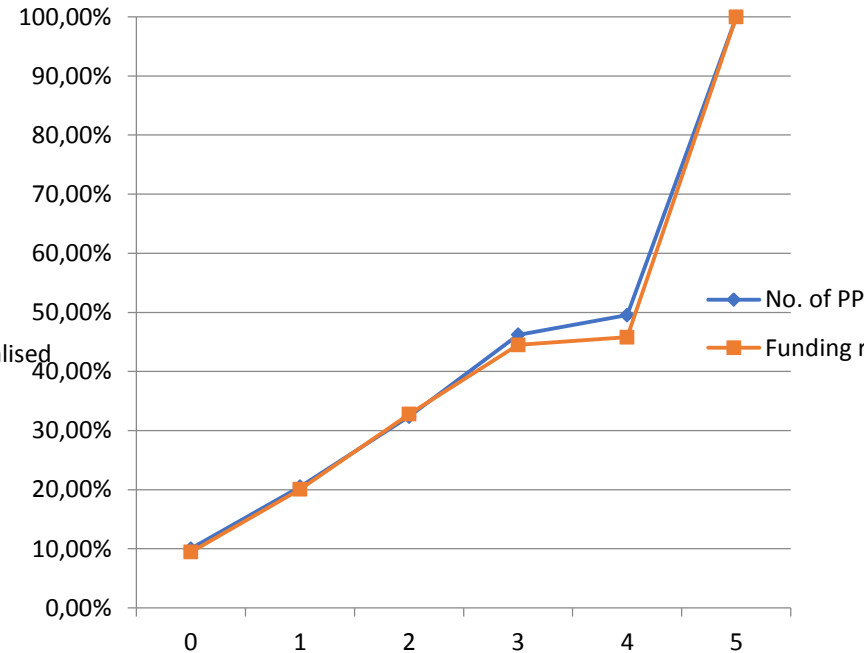
Number	LAU2	Category	Number of PPs	Realised funding (EUR)	Number	LAU2	Category	Number of PPs	Realised funding (EUR)
Austria					Croatia				
1	Klagenfurt	5	55	7 141 829,26	1	Osijek	5	86	9 550 153,50
2	Graz	5	51	9 426 167,37	2	Čakovec	3	39	3 777 773,72
3	Eisenstadt	3	8	1 013 209,13	3	Koprivnica	3	34	1 277 701,84
4	Villach	4	7	397 427,39	4	Virovitica	3	22	1 653 268,49
5	Großweifersdorf	0	5	1 085 146,61	5	Križevci	3	15	1 708 971,93
6	Spittal an der Drau	3	5	689 813,76	6	Varaždin	4	11	166 293,04
Slovenia					Hungary				
1	Maribor	5	54	6 234 918,56	1	Pécs	5	86	10 757 085,02
2	Ljubljana	5	46	4 171 901,35	2	Zalaegerszeg	4	26	1 108 233,78
3	Murska Sobota	3	26	2 775 859,28	3	Kaposvár	4	25	1 369 108,35
4	Kranj	4	17	1 860 583,02	4	Nagykanizsa	4	18	1 668 136,40
5	Ptuj	3	15	2 123 670,72	5	Szigetvár	2	10	491 535,88
6	Slovenj Gradec	3	13	1 085 170,92	6	Tótszerdahely	0	7	1 210 698,04

Comparison of performance patterns – Slovenia-Austria

Slovenia

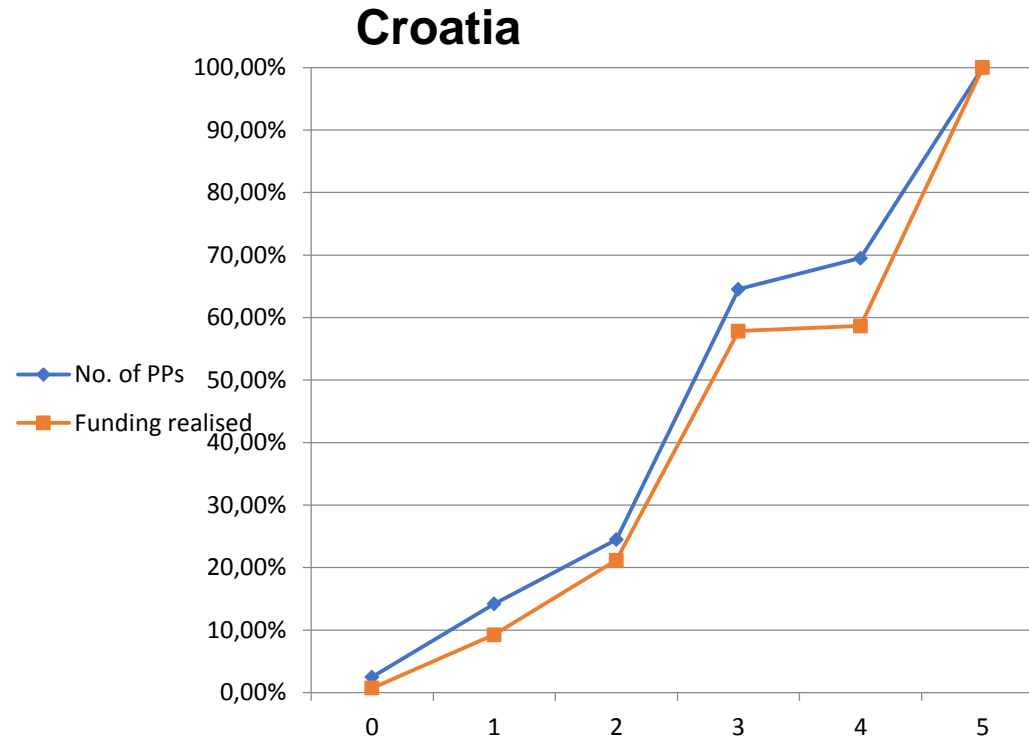
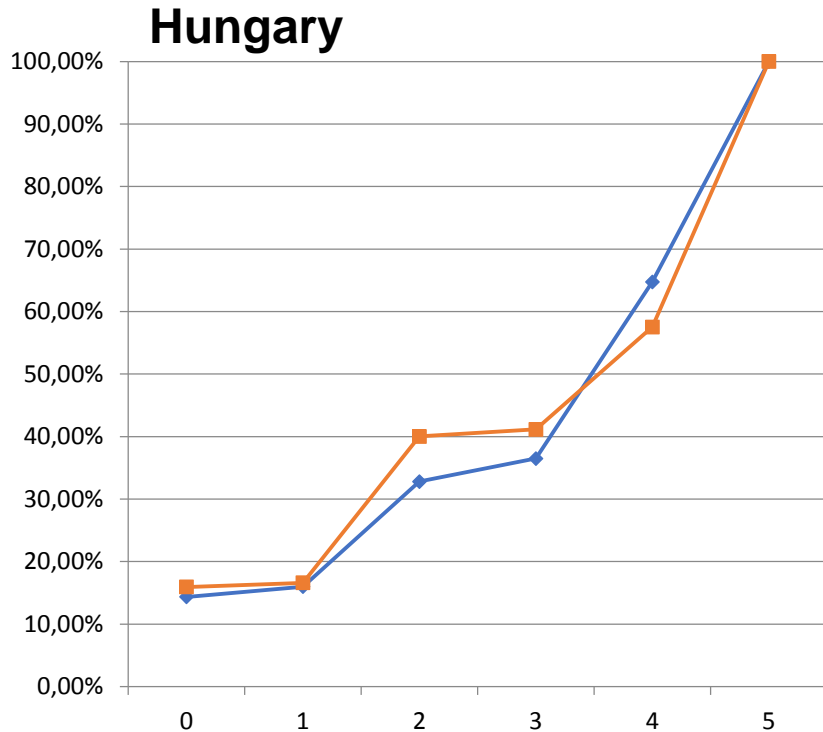


Austria



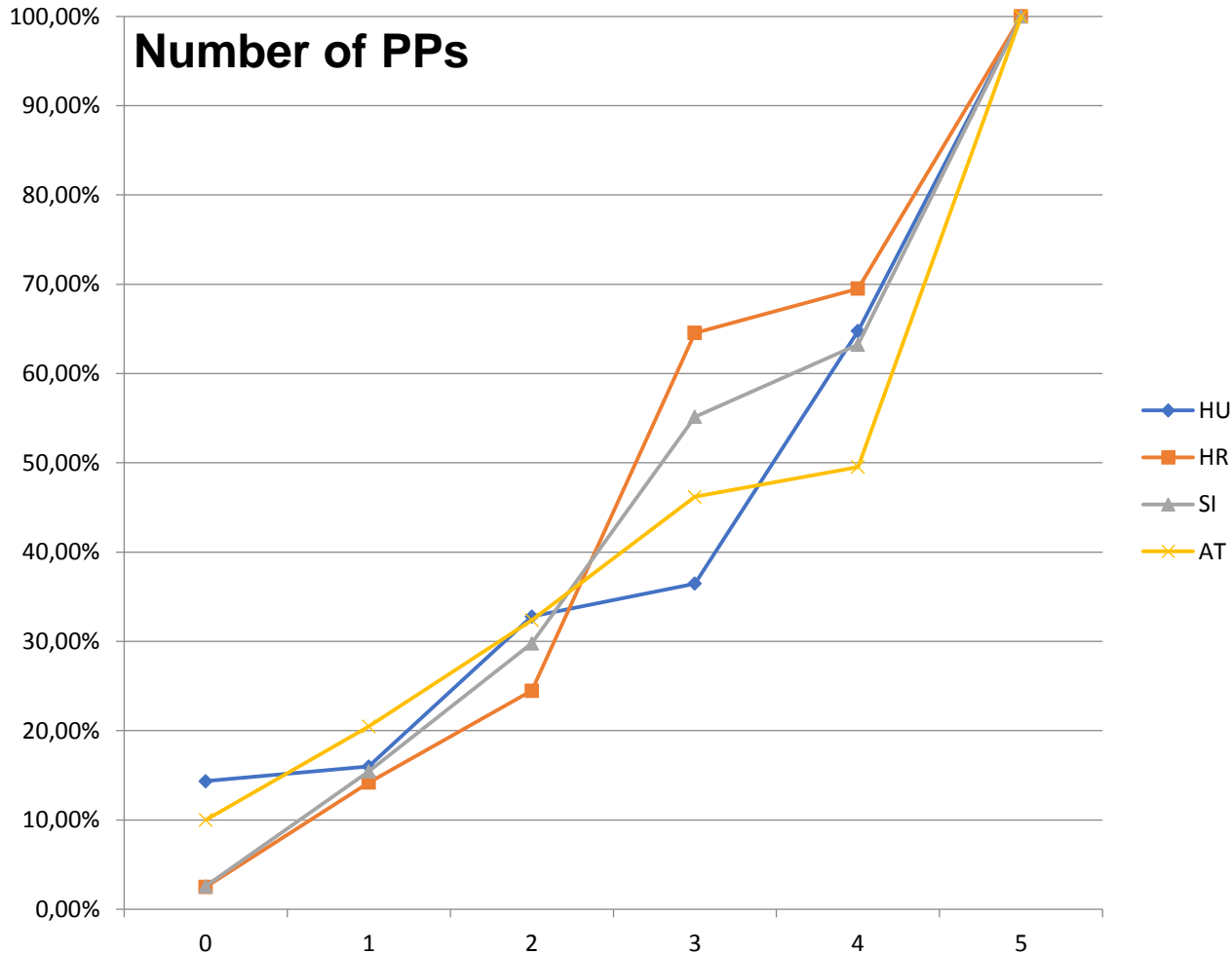
- No particular difference in project size;
- Strong small municipalities in Austria;
- Proportional concentration in Slovenia, dominating land capitals in Austria.

Comparison of performance patterns – Hungary-Croatia



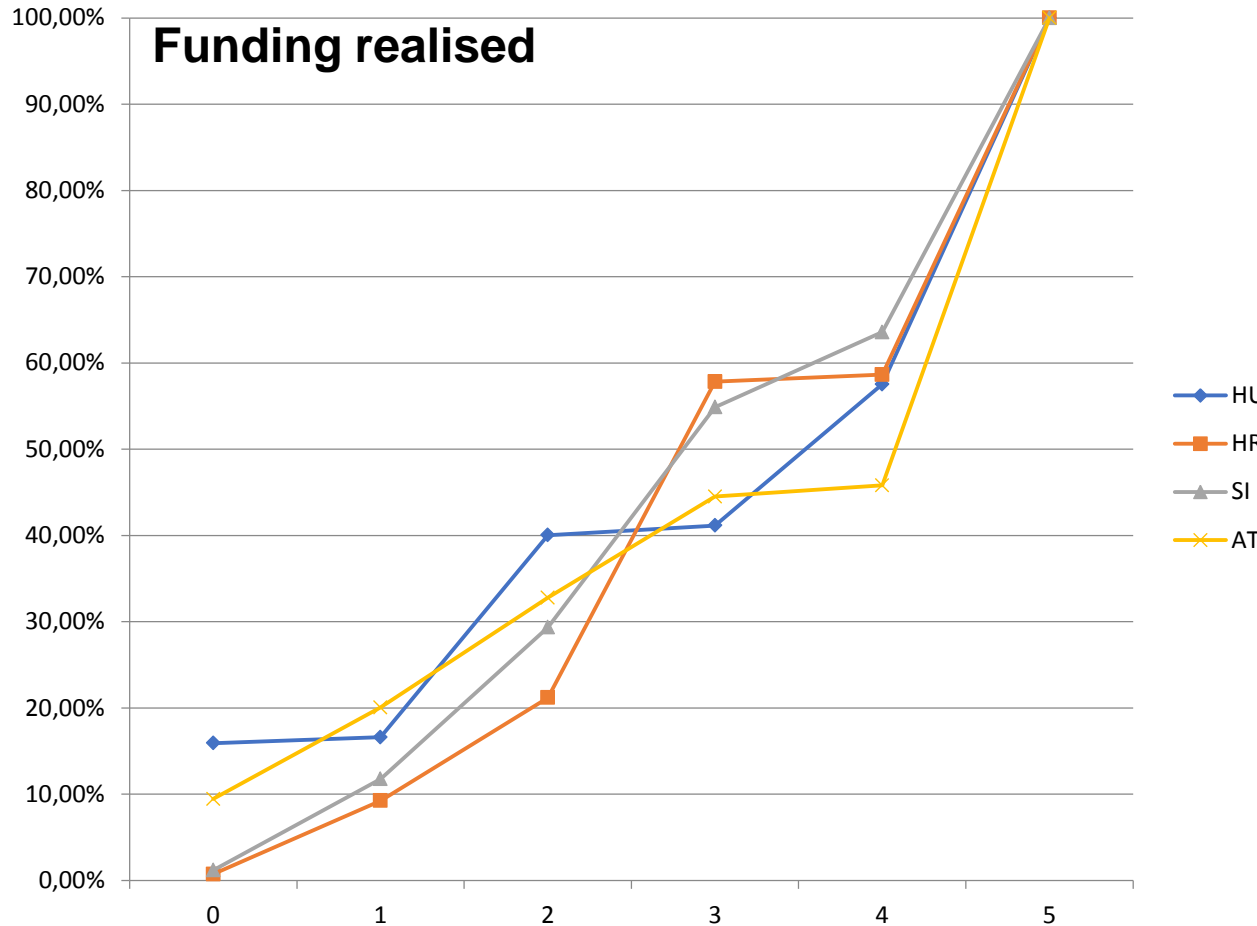
- Preference to „hard” projects in small units of Hungary;
- Small-town county seats make Croatia more decentralised;
- Symmetric performance of Pécs and Osijek (Category 1).

Overall comparison – number of PPs



- No particular differences in the activity of lower categories.
- Croatia and Slovenia are decentralised;
- Hungary with weak medium level;
- Austria is the most centralised.

Overall comparison – funding realised



- Various funding patterns in smaller units due to various project sizes;
- Croatia concentrates funding in Category 3 small towns;
- Similar centralisation patterns as for activity.
- Austria is even more concentrated in funding.

Conclusions

- Despite similar historical background premises of cross-border cooperation may be very different.
- Settlement network characteristics and territorial governance structures define activity patterns.
- Strong NUTS2 regions may centralise activity and funding.
- Lack of medium-tier governance and institutionally strengthened small towns generate decentralisation.
- Relatively strong funding share on lower level due to high number of hard projects – reliance on territorial cooperation funding.



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