

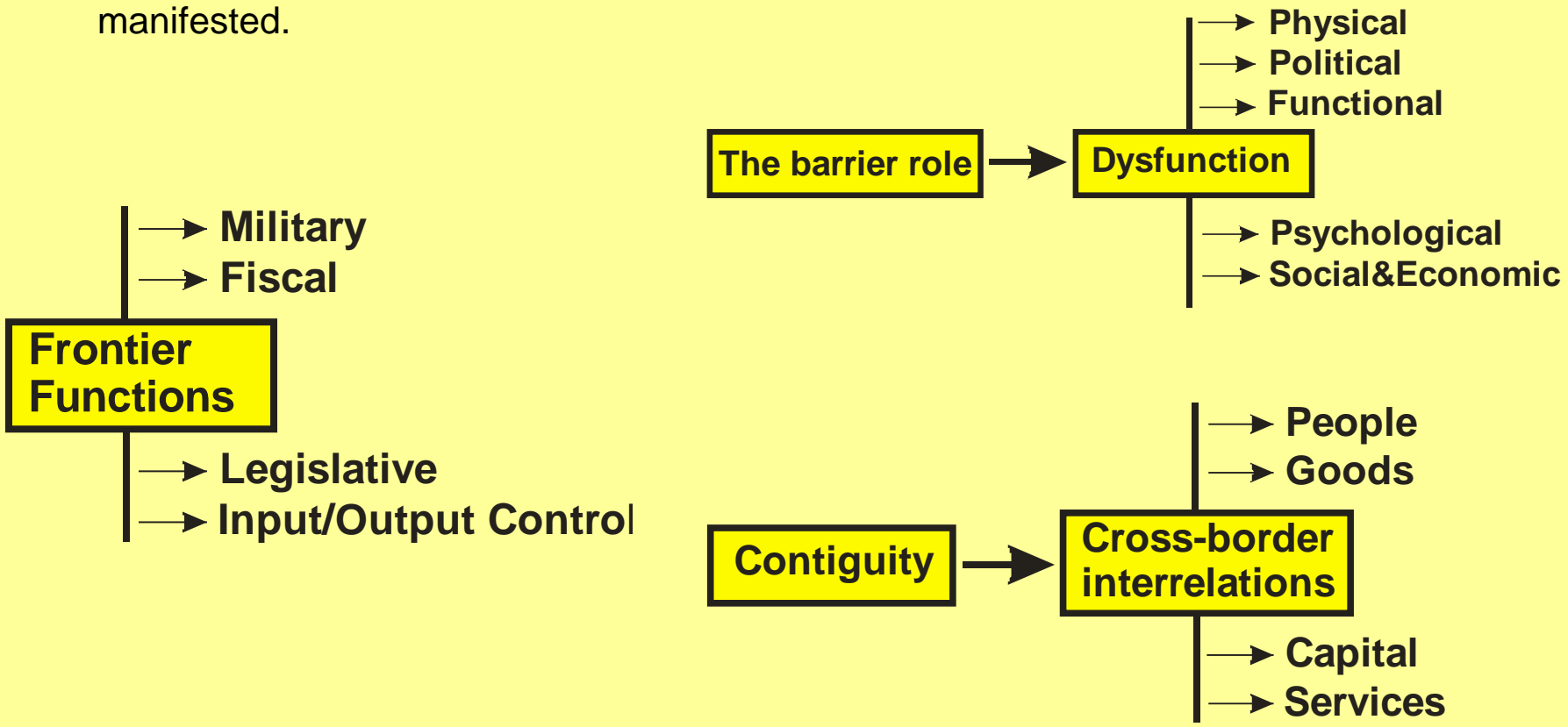
**The Cross-Border Regions-Strips of Contiguity and
Dysfunction at the Eastern Border of the European
Union. The Case of Romania**

Nicolae Boar, Sorin Kosinszki, Alina Simion

**Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
Faculty of Geography
Sighetu Marmatiei Extension
Maramures County
Romania**

The frontier

- The frontier is the limit determining the spatial form of the state, up to which its integrity and sovereignty is manifested.



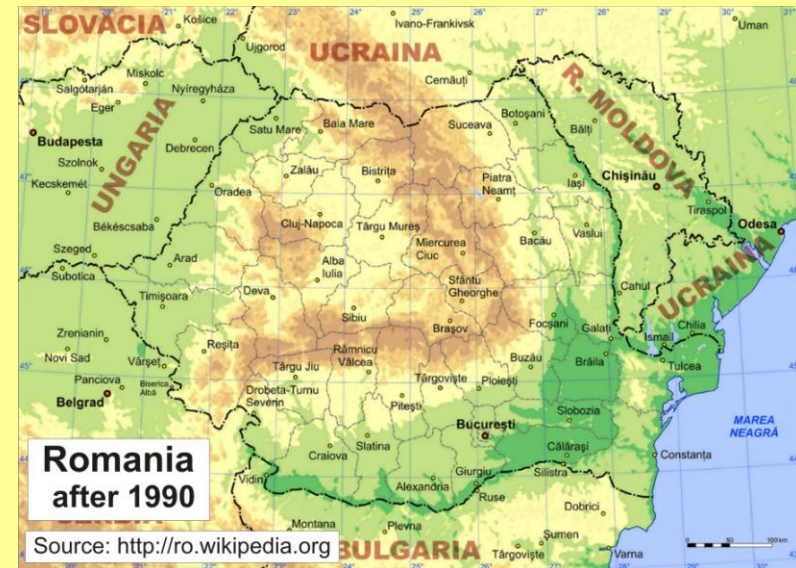
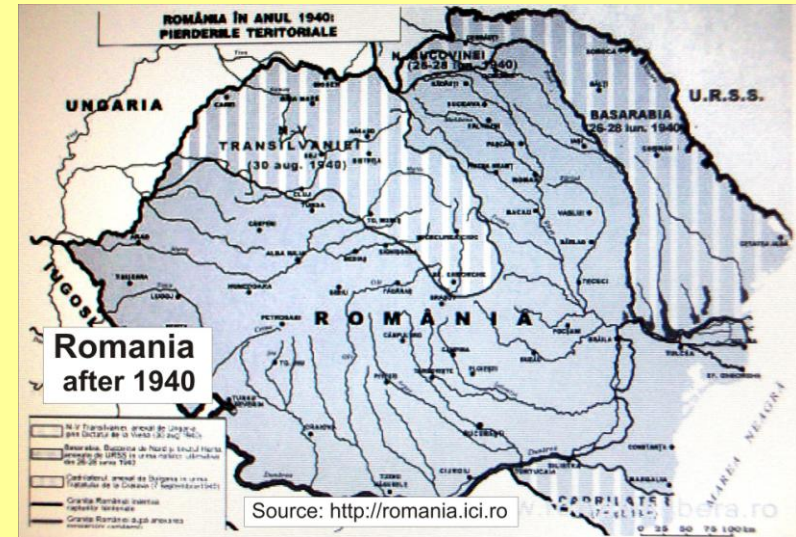
The cross-border regions

- The cross-border regions are strips of contiguity and dysfunction on both sides of the frontier, between which spontaneous cross-border interrelations occur.
- The legal framework of cross-border relations is set by the agreement between the two countries, stating that, at the border there is only one cross-border region.

The romanian – ukrainian and romanian-moldovan border – segments of the eastern EU border



The evolution of the frontier in time and space



Financing the Cross-Border Cooperation

The Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine 2004-2006 - 29 million euros
The Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Moldova 2004-2006 - 30 million euros | → PHARE CBC

Funds allocation → 2004-2006
Application and contracts signing → 2005-2008
Projects implementation → 2006-2010

The Priorities of The Neighbourhood Programme

Priority 1: Social and Economic Development

Priority 2: Developing an Integrated Infrastructure System in the Cross-Border Region

Priority 3: "*People to People*" Activities

Priority 4: Technical Assistance

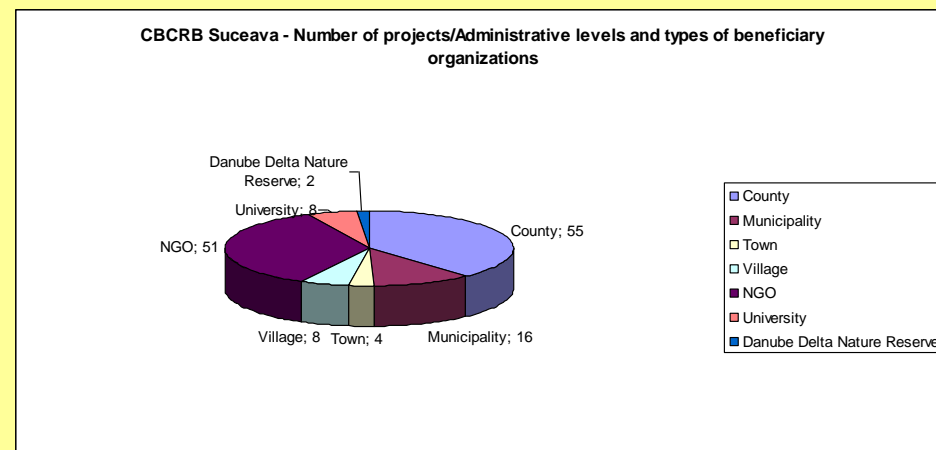
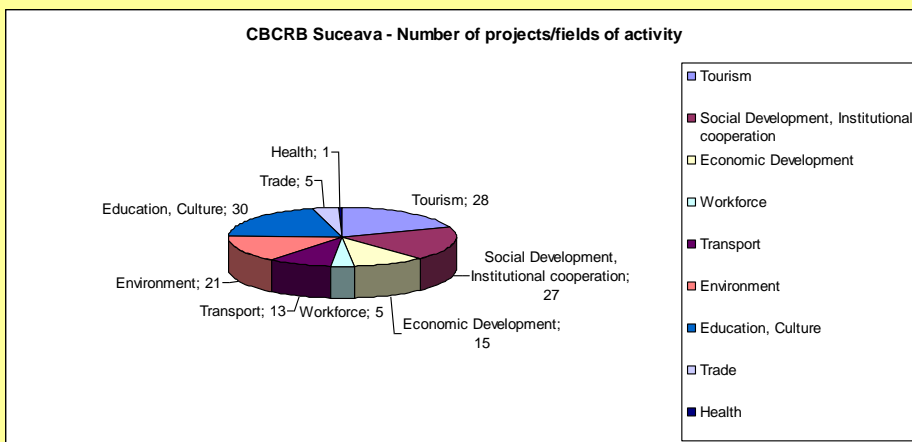
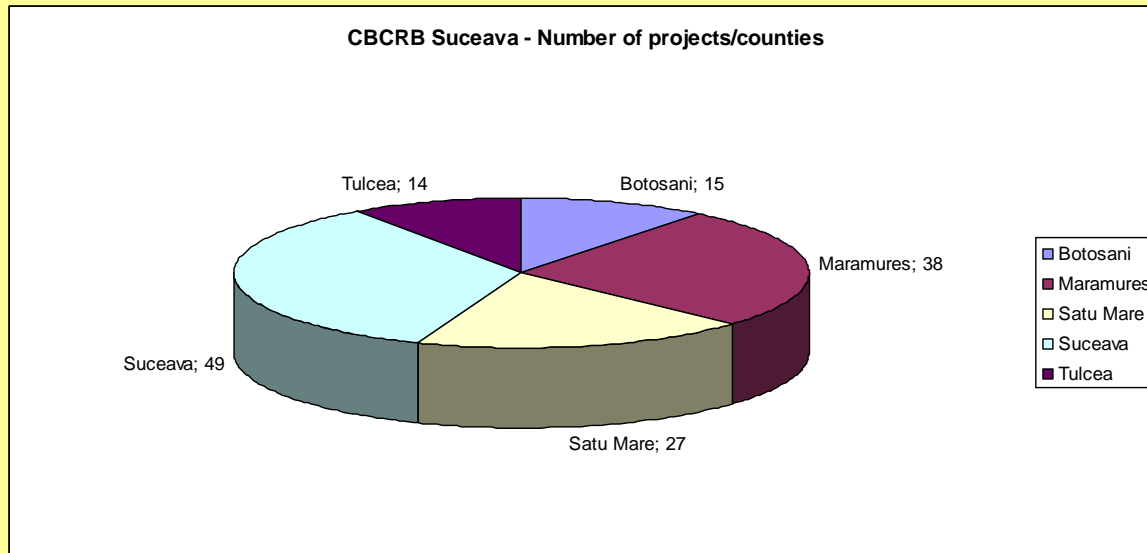
Small Projects - 10.000-50.000 euros

Large Projects - 50.000-800.000 euros (with Ukraine)

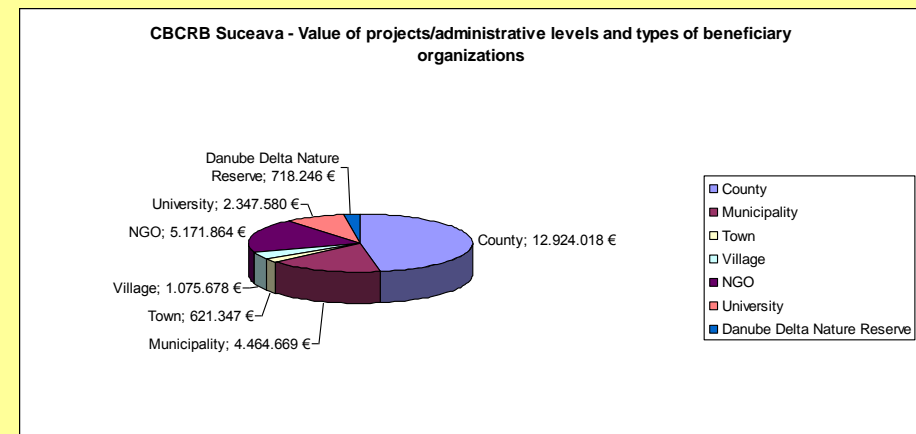
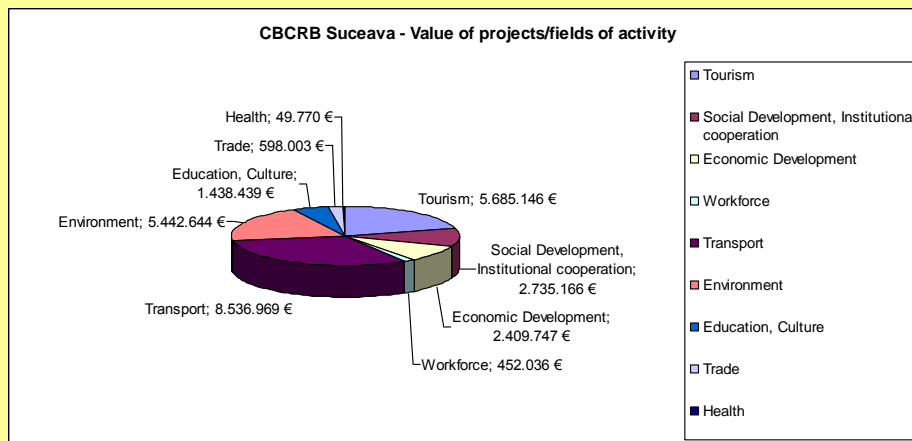
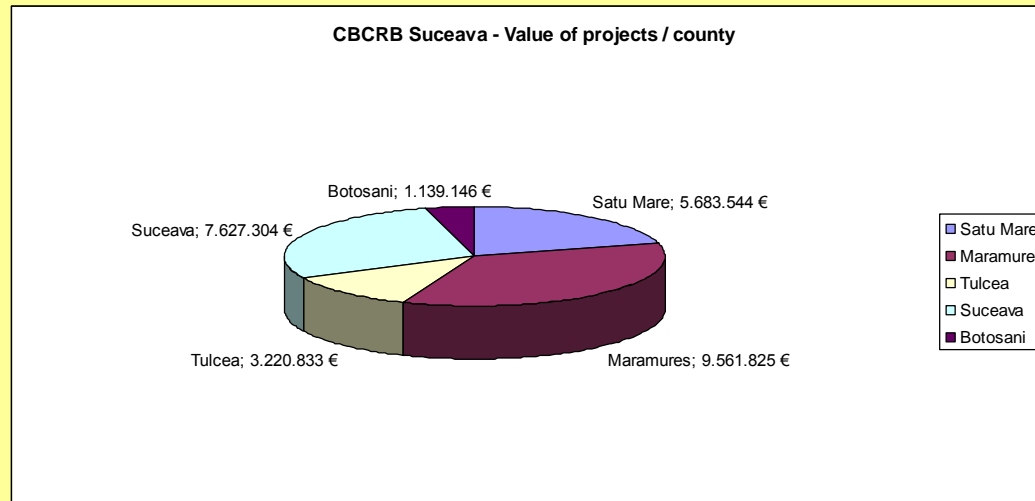
- 50.000-1.000.000 euros (with Moldova)

→ 10% national cofinancing

The romanian-ukrainian border. The numerical analysis of the projects.



The romanian-ukrainian border. The value analysis of the projects.

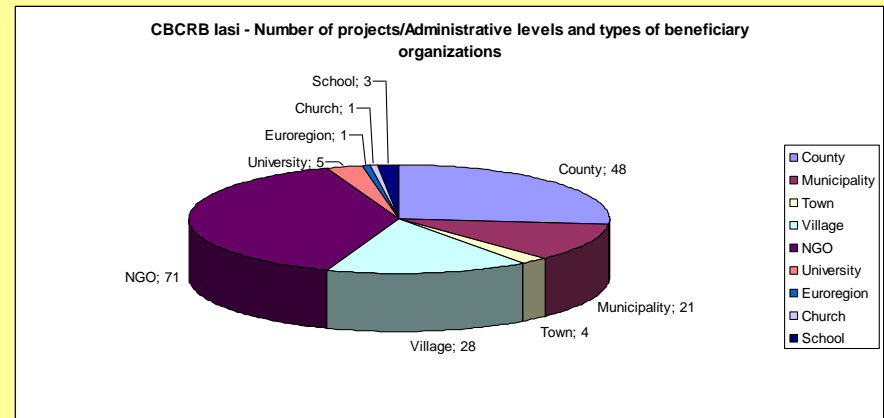
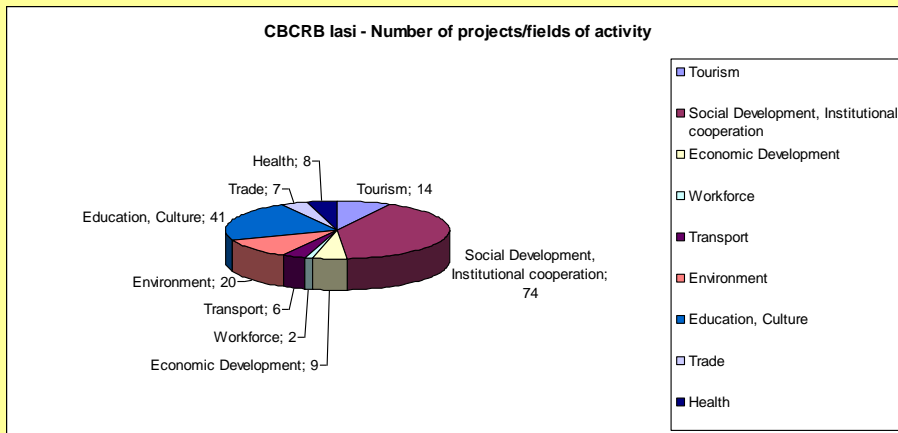
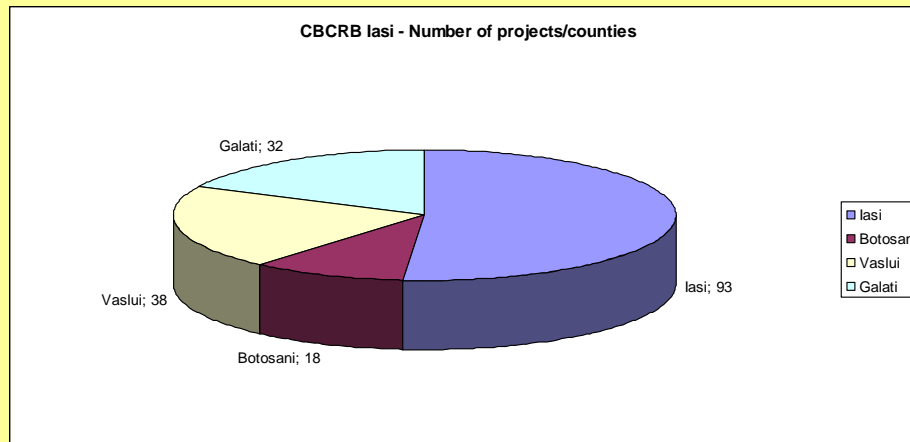


The importance of the Neighbourhood Programme

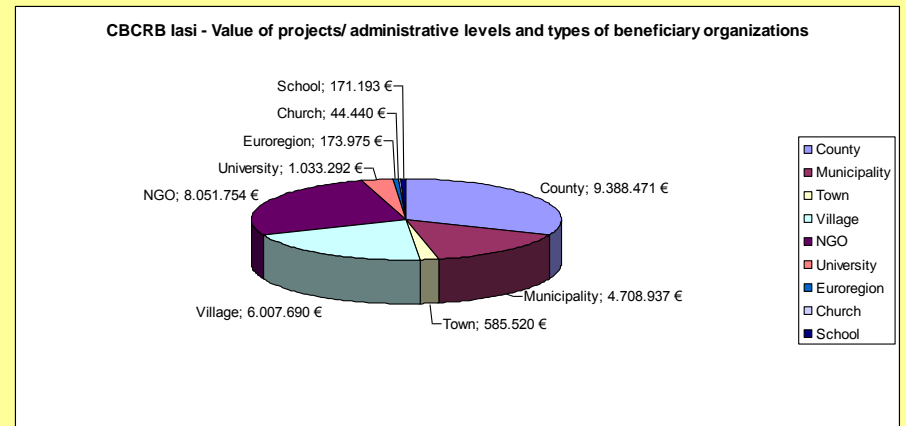
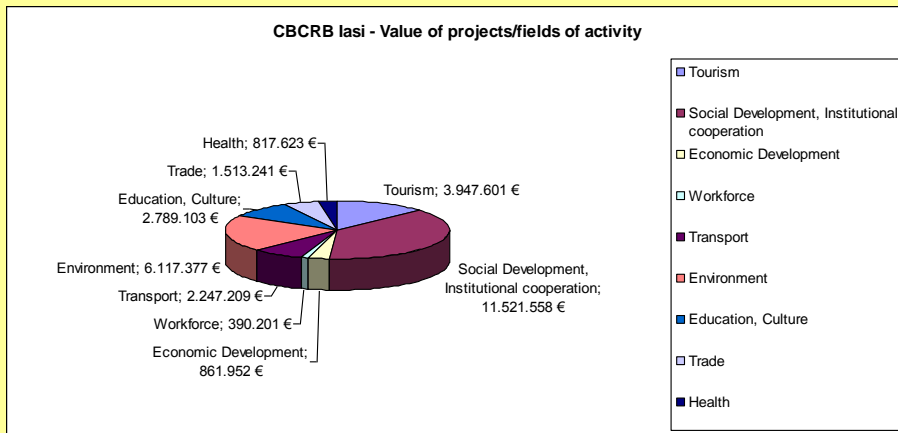
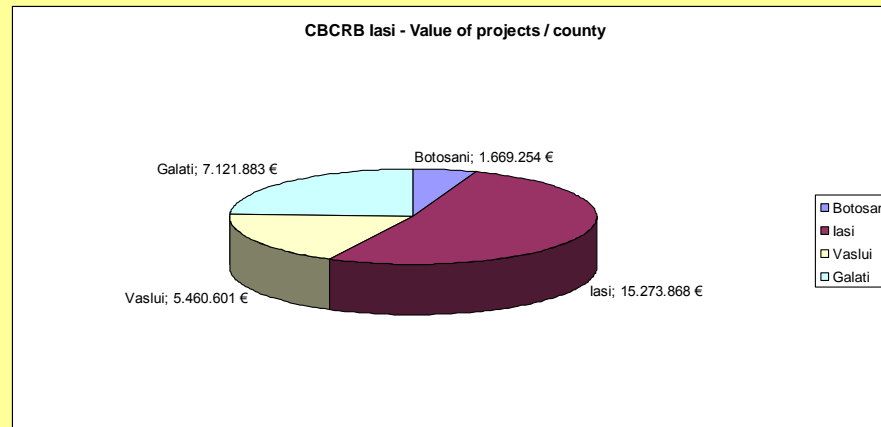
Romania-Ukraine 2004-2006

- the financial opportunities of the European funds allowed cross-border cooperation initiatives to emerge, which otherwise would have been very difficult to achieve without the financial support of The Neighbourhood Programme.
- The projects have identified the common interest fields of activity and the establishment of cross-border cooperation structures (bureaus, centres), as well as acquiring experience in the writing, management and implementation of future cross-border cooperation projects.
- The Programme presented a special opportunity that was taken by the regional authorities as well as the NGOs, education institutions, private agencies, etc.

The romanian-moldovan border. The numerical analysis of the projects.



The romanian-moldovan border. The value analysis of the projects.



The importance of The Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Moldova 2004-2006

- The main target of the projects was to turn the cross-border cooperation into an institutional cooperation, pointing out the negligible role that euroregions, although established in the last decade of the XX-th century, hold, even today, in the coordination of cross-border cooperation initiatives.
- The number of projects is larger, a fact explainable through the decisive role of the great university centre of Iasi, the source of intellectuals, instructing specialized personnel able to write, manage and implement cross-border cooperation projects.
- The Romanian-Moldovan political tensions explain the reduced importance that the frontier and transport infrastructure development projects hold in the value classification of the projects.

Conclusions

- The romanian-ukrainian and the romanian-moldovan frontier constitute a segment of the eastern EU frontier. This involves strengthening the barrier role of the frontier in order to prevent specific negative phenomena such as: illegal emigration, smuggling, introduction of dangerous substances and guns, drug traffic, etc. The romanian authorities must find means through which the strengthening of the frontier's barrier role should not affect the romanian minority ethnic group from Ukraine and the majority of population from Moldova, which do not benefit from the attribute of EU member citizenship (although they want it).
- In order to develop the frontier regions and to maintain good relations with the neighbours, the EU allocates specific funds for cross-border cooperation projects, at which a small percentage has to be the contribution of the applicants. The Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine respectively Romania-Moldova, each had a financial allocation of approximately the same resources (30 million euros) from the Phare CBC 2004-2006 Programme. An important number of beneficiaries from the border counties sought to take advantage of it. The approached fields of activity were varied, reflecting both the needs of the region as well as the regional specialists. The impulse of involving in cross-border cooperation activities was given by the 90% fraction of the EU grants, only 10% of the projects value being the contribution of the beneficiaries. In addition to reaching the target (cross-border cooperation stimulation) the projects also constituted complementary sources of income for the project team members.

Conclusions

- The fact that most of the projects had as a main target the establishment of centres, pilot centres, bureaus, networks of cross-border cooperation, prove the weak activity of the euroregions, which have become purely formal; in future a revival of such institutions is necessary, or the establishment of new ones, able to plan complex strategies, on three time terms (short, medium and long) to establish priorities, to interconnect different sources of financing in order to concentrate the resources on concrete objectives, clear, able to lead to the progress of the cross-border regions, able to prevent the waste of the resources allocated by the EU in this field.
- The participation at The Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Ukraine respectively Romania-Moldova has constituted good experience for the most active part of the social, economic and cultural environment, from the frontier regions, opening the way to more intense participation at the new ENPI Programme 2007-2013 (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) with a more generous fund allocation (126.718.067 euros).

Thank you for your attention!