

Establishment of the Institute of Studies in Federalism and Decentralisation in Hungary

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Principal: VATI Hungarian Public Nonprofit Ltd. for Regional Development and Town Planning

Partners:

- HAS RCERS Institute for Regional Studies (lead partner)
- Graduate Institute of European Studies of the University of Geneva (IEUG), Switzerland

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Website: http://isfd-tpa.rkk.hu/index_en.html

Summary:

The project has double aim: it is to establish longer term collaboration between a Hungarian and a Swiss research institute, the institutional framework of which will be the establishment of a common (at first mainly virtual) research centre. This institution will be based on the similar and at the same time complementary scientific profiles of the two research institutes and will help Hungary with common research, exchange of researchers and knowledge in progressing towards decentralisation and in the modernisation of the state and public administrative structures.

Therefore the preliminary target of the project is to establish a virtual research centre, the Institute of Studies in Federalism and Decentralisation (ISFD). The facilitation of the ISFD will launch at the same time a new Swiss-Hungarian cooperation between the initiator of the project the Swiss resident Graduate Institute of European Studies of the University of Geneva (IEUG) and the host institution of the new education and research centre the HAS Centre for Regional Studies. This cooperation will result in the establishment of a new virtual institution with the main objective and mission to reduce the social-economic backwardness of Hungary in comparison to the other EU member states and to force back the social and economic inequalities within the country as well as to create and strengthen the territorial and social cohesion. The new institute will process and synthesize from the Hungarian aspect the Swiss structures and the experiences of their operation, but it would also offer these results for the Western-Balkan countries.

The second, and shorter term target of the project is to be resumed during the 15 month project period and within the geographical action space of the priority 1 of the Swiss-Hungarian Cooperative Programme and is aimed at the implementation of objective 1 (Regional initiatives in the peripheral and disadvantaged regions). This action will assist the strengthening of decentralised structures and the development of micro-regions and settlements. This means concrete networking within the frameworks of the project between the Swiss organisations of development policy, actors and the founder organisation. The transfer of experiences will take place in Hungary in the form of workshops with the participation of the decision makers of the local and micro-regional tiers. A further product of the first phase of the project will be the assembling of a handbook serving the transfer of the Swiss theoretic and practical experiences. All these will implement the capacity development and building of the human resources of Hungarian public administration and a knowledge transfer for Hungarian decision-makers.