



# **Development study of the region Gemmer – Malohont - Novohrad**



© M.E.S.A. 10 – Center for Economic and Social Analyses, 2000  
Hviezdoslavovo nám. 17, 811 02 Bratislava  
tel.: 07-544 35 328, +421-7-544 34 009  
fax: 07-544 32 189  
e-mail: mesa10@mesa10.sk  
Internet: [www.mesa10.sk](http://www.mesa10.sk)

The following participated in the study elaboration:

Janka Červenáková, M.E.S.A 10

Peter Pažitný, M.E.S.A. 10

Peter Rusnák, Rudohorská rozvojová spoločnosť (Rudohorie Development Company)

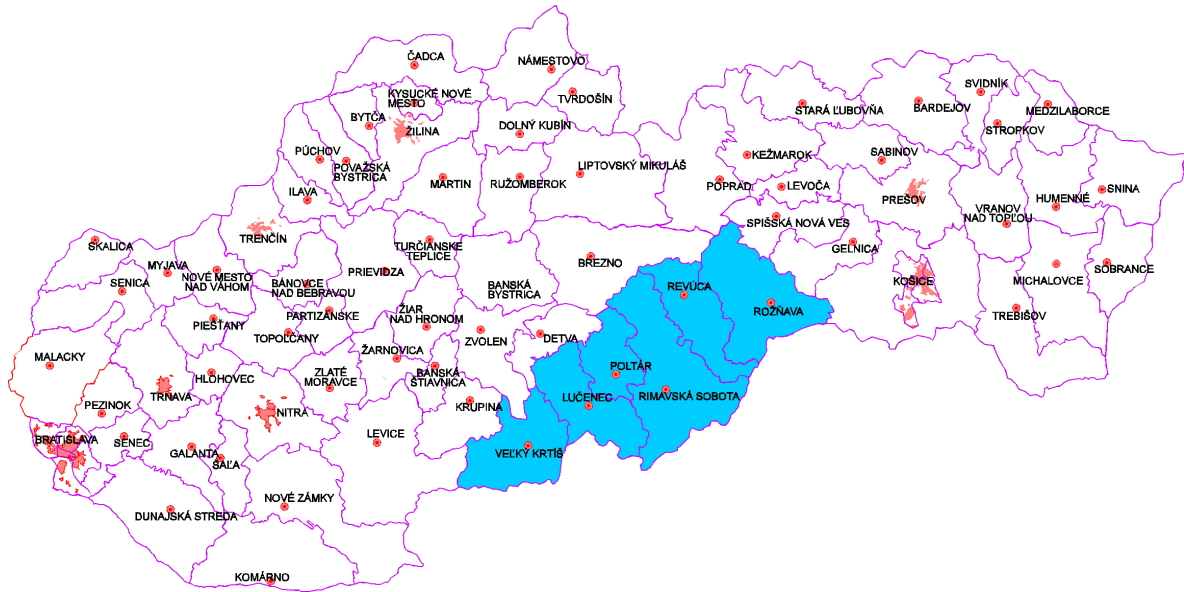
We acknowledge the following for assistance in elaboration of the study and useful advices and comments:  
Representatives of state administration of the respective districts – all the heads of District Offices and chairpersons of District Labor Offices  
Mayors of cities and villages of the region  
Representatives of the third sector at the region  
Representatives of entrepreneurs of the region

Elaboration of the study was possible thanks to a kind support of:  
the U.S.A. – through Small Grant Program administrated by the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia

# CONTENTS

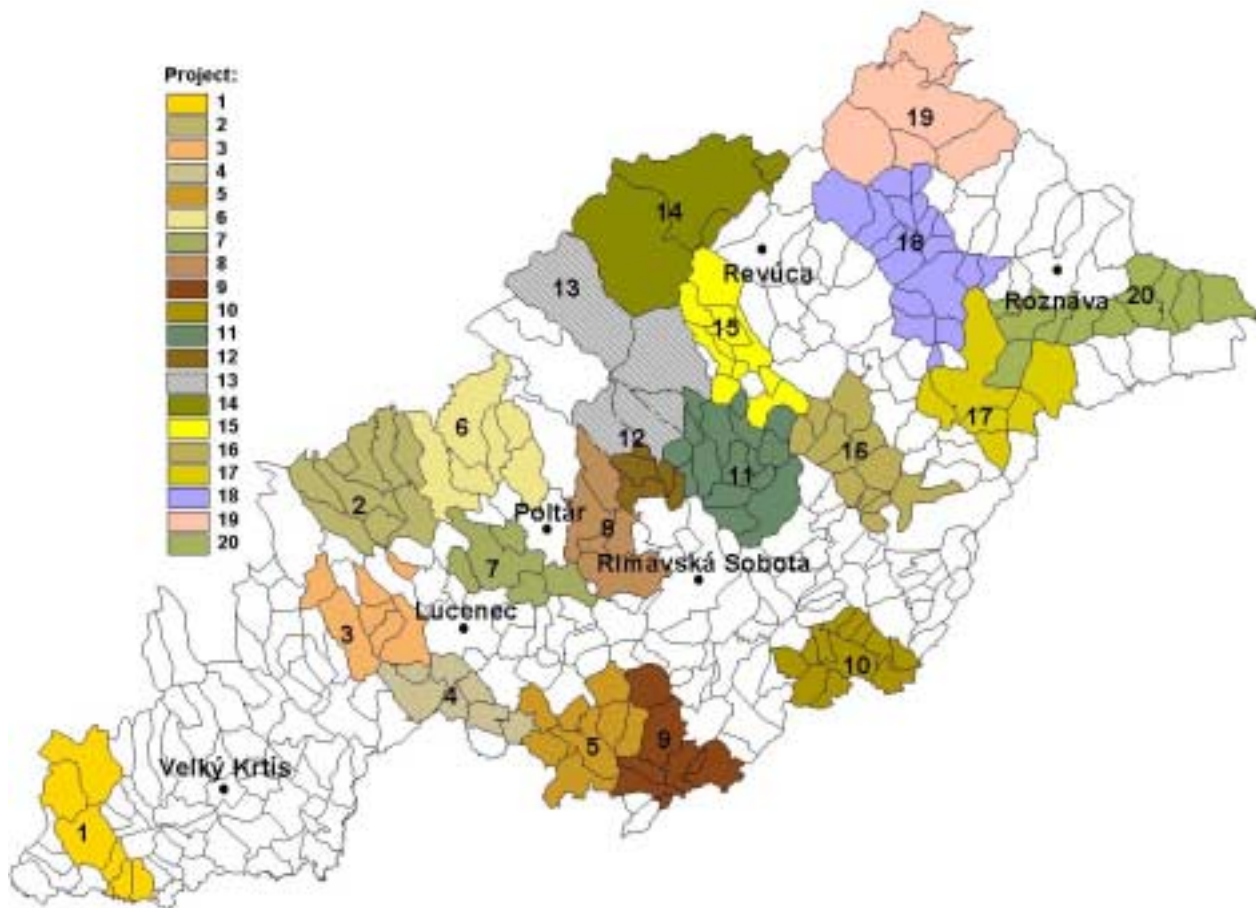
<b>CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. EVALUATION OF THE REGION GEMER – MALOHONT - NOVOHRAD</b> .....	<b>5</b>
1.1 RESTRAINTS .....	5
1.2 OPTIONS .....	9
<b>2. OPPORTUNITIES (PROJECTS AFFECTING ENTIRE REGION)</b> .....	<b>10</b>
2.1 PROJECT WATER .....	10
2.2 PROJECT COORDINATORS .....	10
2.3 PROJECT HERITAGE .....	11
<b>3. PROJECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO-REGIONS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
3.1 PROJECT „VEĽKÝ POTOK” .....	12
3.2 PROJECT „JAVOR“ .....	14
3.3 PROJECT „NOVOHRADSKÉ PODZÁMČIE“ .....	16
3.4 PROJECT „VELICKÉ JAZERÁ“ .....	18
3.5 PROJECT „OBRUČNÁ“ .....	20
3.6 PROJECT „HORNOHRAD“ .....	22
3.7 PROJECT „HÁJ“ .....	24
3.8 PROJECT „SUCHÁNSKA DOLINA“ .....	26
3.9 PROJECT „MEDVEŠ“ .....	28
3.10 PROJECT „CHANAVA“ .....	30
3.11 PROJECT „TEPLÝ VRCH“ .....	32
3.12 PROJECT „RÍMAVA - RÍMAVICA“ .....	34
3.13 PROJECT „SINEC“ .....	36
3.14 PROJECT „MURÁNSKA PLANINA“ .....	38
3.15 PROJECT „RATKOVSKÁ DOLINA“ .....	40
3.16 PROJECT „TURIEC V GEMERI“ .....	42
3.17 PROJECT „DOMICA“ .....	44
3.18 PROJECT „ŠTÍTICKÁ DOLINA“ .....	46
3.19 PROJECT „DOBŠINÁ“ .....	48
3.20 PROJECT „ČREMOŠNÁ“ .....	50
3.21 OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTION IN THE REGION .....	51

**Map 1: Position of Region Gemer-Malohont-Novohrad (shaded area) in the Slovak Republic**



Source: M.E.S.A. 10

**Map 2: Gemer-Malohont-Novohrad region according to Microregions development projects**



Source: M.E.S.A.10

# 1. EVALUATION OF THE REGION GEMER – MALOHONT - NOVOHRAD

Meetings and discussions with representatives of the region brought about a number of inquiries that cannot be abstracted when evaluating the region as a whole and searching for further options of its development.

## 1.1 Restraints

Subjective perceptions of some facts directly by the residents of respective regions often differ from reality. It is necessary to objectively evaluate all the information and disinterestedly assess their real influence on the future development of region.

1. Transportation – the representatives of the region pointed out a relative inaccessibility of the region with qualitatively comparable structure of road network as for instance the Považie region to be one of the major disadvantages of the region opposite to other regions of Slovakia. Development of transportation infrastructure does not have to be a priority in terms of the region development. In the past, the region had been neglected for a long time and it really lacks a highway or some speedway in east-west direction. However, the funds put into construction of such a speed transportation infrastructure do not necessarily mean a boom of the region development. Moreover, invested funds do not have to generate such developmental impulses as if the money were put into other projects (construction of closed water supply circle, construction of communication highways, increase of the production finalization, development of human potential and development of small and medium enterprise).

Due to the sensitivity of the statement above, mainly in relation to publicly presented opinions of the representatives of the region, we supplement it by the analysis of comparison the transportation and developmental potentials. The transportation coefficient reflects density of road network, location of region, accessibility of the centers of development via highways, railways, waterways and air transportation. Four categories of the districts according to transportation infrastructure are the result of such an evaluation:

D1 – highly developed infrastructure

D2 – developed infrastructure

D3 – more complicated access to the region from the centers of development

D4 – very poorly developed infrastructure causing severe access problems

Development coefficient accounts economic, human, and demographic potentials and social and technical infrastructure. It resulted again into four categories of districts:

R1 – developed regions

R2 – regions with potential to become developed

R3 – less developed regions with certain problems regarding development

R4 – lagging regions

Such areas where development potential is in higher category than transportation potential are important for development of infrastructure. This is not the case of any of the districts (Table 1). Transportation infrastructure therefore is not a key limit of development. At the same time, we do not insist on that it is not important; only the hearths of restriction of the region development are rooted in other areas.

**Table 1: Comparison of development and transportation potentials**

District	Development potential	Transportation potential
Lučenec	R3	D3
Rožňava	R3	D3
Rimavská Sobota	R4	D3
Revúca	R4	D4
Veľký Krtíš	R4	D4
Poltár	R4	D4

Source: Study „Regióny Slovenska“ M.E.S.A.10 Consulting Group (Regions of Slovakia)

Upon these facts we do not consider transportation accessibility being a critical restraint of the region development. In terms of transportation we consider the following to be more important: to improve the quality and widening the options of transportation access to Hungary rather than to improve connections with other parts of Slovakia, since development of cross-border cooperation can be one of the major developmental impulses in the region.

2. Water. The biggest problem of entire region is drinking water not only for the household use, but also for agricultural and food production. Despite a relatively sufficient number of built quality water sources (water reservoirs Málinec, Klenovec, Hriňová), the issue of drinking water is not well addressed.

The issues are grouped into two sets:

1. Quality: in some places water is contaminated by heavy metals and nitrates; according to latest information, oil contaminations are found in the water that come from military training area Lešť
2. Accessibility of water from quality water sources: finished water distribution is missing; technical infrastructure: water cycle water supply network – sewage system – wastewater treatment plants is not closed.

**Table 2: Number of people and settlements connected to water supply and sewage system**

Basic characteristic	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Number of settlements	Number of settlements with water supply	Number of people connected to water supply	Number of settlements with sewage system and wastewater treatment plants	Number of people connected to sewage system and wastewater treatment plant	Number of settlements connected to gas line
Lučenec	771	55	20	49,000	4	42,000	28
Poltár	505	24	13	16,000	4	7,000	9
Revúca	720	42	23	32,000	3	15,000	10
Rimavská Sobota	1,471	107	52	54,000	5	36,000	18
Veľký Krtíš	848	71	34	28,000	4	15,000	23
Region total	4,315	299	142	179,000	20	115,000	88

Source: District Offices

According to available information, in some regions the quality of drinking water manifested not only directly in agricultural production but also in the illness rate of population.

Due to presented data, it is obvious that the problem of drinking water is a problem of the entire region. It is a real limiting factor in development of agriculture, food industry, tourism as well as a problem profoundly limiting every-day quality of life.

During meetings in the region, majority of proposed solutions focused on solving the drinking water issue via finishing water supply networks from existing sources of surface water sources. Such a complex solution of this issue demands hundreds of millions crowns, is over the economic capacity of entire region and will probably be impossible without outstanding financial contribution of state.

During thorough studying of information on the region the renewal of research on possibility of local water sources from so-called artesian wells arose as an alternative solution. In certain parts of the region, there are conditions for such a solution that is not at all as demanding on financial funds as the finishing of distribution networks from water reservoirs. Despite sustain shortage of financial funds from the state sources, significant progress could be accomplished in relatively short time period via targeting of the solution of this issue.

3. Third key problem of the region is poverty. The poverty stems from a significant drop of employment due to recession and low effectiveness of agriculture, nontransparent privatization, low quality of management of enterprises and inappropriate allocation of some industries. A lost production ability and low competitiveness of enterprises (low rate of finalization) are the consequences of these factors.

Hence, economically inactive population (retired, children and unemployed) collecting on some form of state pension, allowance or contribution dominates to region. The poverty accounts for migration of prevalingly young people from the region to large centers. Housing construction stagnates, there are no jobs and majority of population cannot, due to objective reasons (shortage of loans, high taxation and mandatory payments), start their business under current conditions. Outflow of educated population and brain drain is the result of such situation.

The unemployment rate in the region with its attributes (unemployment rate, average length of unemployment, amount of the support in unemployment, structure of the unemployed, etc.) tremendously invaded the balance in some sociologic parameters.

Increasing socio-pathological phenomena such as alcoholism and crime are negative collateral effects of growing poverty. The poverty significantly decreases the spending power of population and consequently seriously hampers conditions for development of trade, services and tourism.

4. The allocation ability of labor market fails. Unfavorable qualification and education structure of labor force does not allow its realization and generates an increased pressure upon the supply of labor. Dominance of supply over demand depresses the price of labor constantly lower and lower. On the other hand, insufficiently restructured industrial base creates a demand for mainly cheap labor force and “work in wage”. Paradoxically, however, even this demand is not satisfied, since the offered wage is very similar to a minimal wage. The labor force therefore rather chooses the option to remain in the “welfare net”.

Moreover, professional structure of labor force is not compatible with the requests of foreign investors. A re-qualification of labor force, very problematic in some professions (for instance miners – re-qualification of this group is unsuccessful in 90% cases), will have to occur. A territorial structure of unemployment is not appropriate as well, when the look at the structure of unemployment by territory evolves misleading picture of average unemployment rate in district. There are some areas (sometimes entire valleys) with an over 90% unemployment rate in the region; even some villages with a 100% unemployment.

Impossibility to prove illegal work is a separate type of problem. The Labor Offices do not have financial funds or staff to expose illegal work.

**Table 3: Structure of human sources in terms of labor force**

	December 31, 1997	December 31, 1998	December 31, 1999
Labor force	128,939	127,196	130,410
Registered unemployed	30,511	38,718	44,198
Registered unemployment rate	23.66%	30.44%	33.89%
Average registered number of employees in the region (kraj)	66,861	50,534	46,282

Source: National Labor Office

6. Low wages do not increase a motivation to work. The average wage slightly deforms a wage level of the region since the state is the largest employer (60% - 70%) via state administration, hospitals, schools, etc. At the same time, there is a very small difference between minimum and median wage at the region. Moreover, the benefits of “welfare net” (support in unemployment, fully covered health and welfare insurance by state) along with the factor of spare time very often used for illegal work make the regular employment very unattractive. In real, even the reported volumes of wages are not paid on time and the wage is often supplemented by in-kind payments by the employer.

**Table 4: Development of average monthly wage in the region (SKK)**

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Lučenec	7,204	8,156	8,923	8,760
Poltár	6,099	7,747	8,224	8,412
Revúca	7,277	9,175	10,055	9,691
Rimavská Sobota	6,828	8,438	8,875	8,670
Veľký Krtíš	6,814	7,632	8,019	8,118

Source: National Labor Office

7. The loss of the regions attractiveness. The region is short in human capital in form of university-educated population. A higher level of communication, organization and management is missing at the same time. Since the population prefers advantages of “welfare net” to employment, human capital coming from centers, carrying progressive thoughts, know-how and higher life standard will be a developmental impulse.

8. The ownership structure of properties is not settled. Unsettled ownership relations are then a burden in the preparation of appropriate locations for investors. At the same time, there is a problem concerning the marking properties suitable for mining (registered and unregistered).

9. The Roma population is a separate issue, mainly their low social adaptability and dynamically growing population. There are different sources on the birth rate of the Romas in the region. The extreme estimates present a ratio 1:6 to 1:10 on expense of non-Roma population. Real estimates say 55 born children out of 100 are Romas. Even this figure is questionable though, when taking into consideration a 25% share of the Roma

population and an over 50% birthrate. Although there are no open conflicts, natural discrimination and prejudices against the Roma population still remain (not employing of even educated Romas is a typical example). At the same time there is entire number of socio-pathological phenomena within the Roma community itself, such as illiteracy, usury, and illnesses directly related to the living conditions, or a high share in small crimes. In spite of a broad financial support of the state, churches and third sector the effect on positive changes within the community is minimal. In order to solve their poverty, a work motivation must be found at the first place and this work must not expect a higher education.

10. Boiling relationships between certain groups at the region strongly restraining its further development are a significant weakness of region's development. Without any theoretical explanation of this phenomenon there is an unnatural rivalry among the representatives of individual administrative units of the region who in their public presentations notably cross the borders of the region. This rivalry is relevant weakness of region's development and its burden at the same time. The representatives of these groups waste their energy and attract the public attention to solution of pseudo-problems that are insignificant in terms of real improvement of the situation at the region. "Popularity" and attention, attracted to the region via this way are therefore prevalingly connected with negative experiences and emotions.

11. Low finalization of production causes a shift of production with higher value-added to other regions. The cycle agricultural primary production - food-processing industry is not closed. Insufficient communication and marketing account for low product consistency. It directly results in the export of agricultural production into other regions and the import of such a production for food processing industry that is not grown in the region.

Inappropriately set up subsidy policy causes that agriculture is not efficient and lacks investments into new technologies. At the same time, the capacities are not used and insufficient pace of the technological level increase generates low productivity of labor, high energetic severity and high overhead expenses of majority enterprises of processing industry. It results in low competitive enterprises handicapped by primary and secondary insolvency and high loan burden.

Due to fact under socialism this region belonged to the areas that experienced collectivization (1950s) as the first, today the inherited experiences and knowledge that would allow a renewal of originally privately working farmers do not exist. Large portion of agricultural land is not actively and not to say effectively used despite it is reported as plow land.



## 1.2 Options

### 1. The region has tremendous potential of raw materials.

Silicates are presented as the most perspective raw material source of the region. Despite the actually existing and mapped out amount and quality of these materials, realization of the project of the silicate use will hit a huge number of problems regarding exploitation rights, settling the properties ownership, a barrier of regulations concerning natural environment and a resistance of the self-governments of respective settlements. However, some articles of the silicate group represent a stable economic foundation for development of local industry even today (glass sands – districts of Poltár and Lučenec) establishing a local perspective to the future.

Timber – despite the fact its processing has not a long time tradition in the region, it constitutes a real raw material source. Currently, it is prevailingly exported and it is practically not touched in the region before its finalization.

Mineral and thermal water sources – despite the fact there is not a tradition of spas, the region owns a number of such an unused water resources. This helps mainly to development of local tourism.

### 2. Region has a huge cultural, historical and natural potential. Natural environment givens, crafts, tradition and individual architecture are unique at the entire region. Despite this fact it belongs to regions of Slovakia undiscovered by tourism. There are several reasons.

The conditions for realization of active tourism are very limited, some parts of the region do not have any lodging, catering and additional services. Rural tourism practically almost does not exist here. There is not a compact information source that would be dedicated to the region as a whole and a meaningful marketing of tourism is missing as well. People are not prepared to conform their life and privacy to small tourism, for instance in form of private accommodation.

Despite these facts it is the intactness of some areas of the region (they mostly overlap the areas with the worst unemployment) that gives them a unique chance for use. Even though tourism cannot be considered a medicament for everything, certainly it is not an avoidable opportunity for development of entire region.

### 3. Renewal of agriculture

Entire region has historically a long tradition regarding development of agriculture. Regardless all the restraints, a meaningful renewal of agriculture is one of the determining opportunities for entire region. In continuation of reform process in agriculture, the following facts should be counted.

The land is a production means and therefore any owner of the land should not be unemployed or left to “welfare net”. Welfare contributions paid via recent system to replace by subsidies in case of the landowners. Such subsidies would stimulate them to return to the work on land. Such a change would lead in this region, for instance, to profound changes in attitudes towards land, work and would have a tremendous impact on social situation in the region.

## 2. OPPORTUNITIES (PROJECTS AFFECTING ENTIRE REGION)

### 2.1 Project WATER

The objective of this project is to address a long-time, apparently suppressed problem of handicapped region, which would allow a relevant increase of the region potential in terms of agriculture and food industry as well as profoundly contribute to improvement of living standard of people.

Despite the fact that currently, we do not see any possibility to obtain sufficient funds for complex optimal solution of this issue at entire affected territory, meaningful approach, synchronization of individual steps and real phasing in a mid-term horizon could step by step lead towards the objective. Prepared changes of ownership settings in the system of enterprises administrating waterworks and sewages and possible entry of investors into these companies are necessary to take into considerations when drafting the project.

The region has a number of villages associations, corporations and physical entities aiming at addressing this issue along with their other goals. However, they operate uncoordinated and sometimes-opposite interests of these groups are often harmful for the result of their efforts.

Participants of the project: Self-governments, micro-regions, state administration and operators of respective infrastructure.

We are not familiar with real capacities of alternative solution via the used or artesian wells. It is at the interest of all participants to found some joint coordination committee that would really assessed the needs and options regarding this solution and determine the array of individual steps. Consistent operation will be most likely more successful mainly in terms of obtaining the funds from Structural Funds of the EU than individual group efforts.

Sources of financing: state budget, pre-accession funds, local budgets and private funds of operator

### 2.2 Project COORDINATORS

The objective of the project “Coordinators” is education and training of professionals from the region and increase of education and information level of the region. The source should be handy young people (mainly the civil military service persons) – the graduates of university or other school. They can be a determining factor in the development, mainly of rural areas.

Their advantages are:

1. foreign language proficiency (motivation factor)
2. computer and up-to-date technologies proficiency (PC, fax, email, internet)
3. they will probably have organizational skills

It is necessary to get them into micro-regions, while before that they should take a one-week training (led by experienced professionals). Their presence might have a significant influence on micro-regions, which can evolve into a developmental impulse.

It is not demanding on resources. The civil military service persons would be in accordance to payroll settings paid by the self-governments. Moreover, the projects of human potential development and communication and managerial skills increase are supported and funded by various foundations and citizen associations.

A ratio accomplished performance / invested funds might be very high in this case. All micro-regions of the particular area are suitable for this project (understand, demand for about 20 – 30 young people annually).

## 2.3 Project HERITAGE

The objective of project “Heritage” is use and activation of natural environment, cultural and historical potential of respective region present in wide spectrum and scope.

Almost all micro-regions can be included in project “Heritage” at low costs. The project is important mainly in terms of development of tourism and services.

Management of communication and marketing tools that can critically influence future demand for services will be extremely important. Project “Heritage” should primarily focus on:

1. activation of traditional crafts and their market use
2. accessing of valuable cultural and historical monuments
3. use of natural environment potential

Entire project “Heritage” could be segmented into several steps:

1. Inventorying of available services and activities appropriate form incorporation into the program
2. Marketing plan of the project (the right product mix of appropriate services and activities)
3. Elaboration of the plan of lodging (traditional accommodation), catering (traditional kitchen) and transport (traditional transport)
4. Offer of this product to travel agencies

Project “Heritage” will be successful only if following criteria will be met: cooperation of several micro-regions, and complexity and flexibility of services offer. Moreover, the cooperation will bring decline of operational costs of the project.

However, project “Heritage” will have several additional positive benefits:

1. Activation of population (renewal of the village, involvement in tourism, entrepreneurial thinking)
2. The region can acquire various grant funds for preservation of its heritage

### 3. PROJECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO-REGIONS

#### 3.1 Project “Veľký Potok”

Map 3: Microregion “Veľký Potok” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

**a/ identification data:**

Name: Micro-region Veľký Potok - Ipeľ

Number of villages: 6- Čelovce, Dolinka, Hrušov, Kosihy nad Ipľom, Veľká Čalomija, Vinica

Territory: 11,245 ha

Population: 5,042

Density: 45 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Vinica, District of Veľký Krtíš

Legal form: Association of legal and physical entities

Head /statutory body/: Zoltán Terebessy, the mayor of Vinica

Contact: OcÚ Vinica, Cesta slobody 466, 991 28 VINICA, phone: 0854/4891210

**b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region is situated in the western part of the district of Veľký Krtíš. It is spread at the Veľký Potok valley; it connects mountainous northern part and the lowlands of the south along the Ipeľ River. It has agricultural character; it is a border micro-region. Vinica is the location of significant food processing unit of cross-regional and potentially international importance. Unemployment and river pollution are the main problems of the micro-region.

The micro-regional association was established in 1999, aiming at addressing the issues of natural environment protection and economic development.

Pavel Bendík the mayor of Hrušov and the head of the Association is the key person of the micro-region. The entrepreneur Mr. Korčok, a director of freezing company Vinica, a. s. and production of ready meals Vinica – Gastra, a. s., is another relevant person of the micro-region.

Up to now activities were focused primarily on preparation of common project of solution of water management oriented towards cleanness of the river, protection and improvement of drinking water supply. So far, the micro-region has not acquired any funds; only Hrušov has obtained a subsidy from POD for master plan documentation at amount of SKK 80,000.

The micro-region has not developmental program elaborated; revival of local economy and increase of natural environment quality are its priorities. Primarily, the activities towards attracting investors for the furniture production are developed.

Agro-tourism and rural tourism are activities that present a potential of development in addition to food production. The most known activities are folklore festival “Hontianska paráda” at Hrušov and processing enterprises Vinica, a. s. and Vinica – Gastro, a. s.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

1. fruit production and vegetables production; low-tonnage crops, foundation of a cooperation association of producers and processors – support from the SAPARD program
2. development of rural tourism and agro-tourism in cooperation with the Association for Development of Rural tourism and Agro-tourism Hont and in coordination with the Hungarian side as a part of the CBC program
3. participation in regional project “WATER” as a part of the ISPA program

### 3.2 Project „Javor“

Map 4: Microregion “Javor” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Title: Regional association JAVOR

Number of villages: 9 - Budiná, Dobroč, Divín, Kotmanová, Lovinobaňa, Mýtňa, Píla, Ružiná, Tuhár

Territory: 15,751 ha

Population: 8,361

Density: 53 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Divín, district of Lučenec

Legal form: Association of legal and physical entities

Head /statutory body/: Ján Koza, the mayor of Divín

Contact: OcÚ Divín, Nám. mieru 654, 985 52 DIVÍN, phone: 0863/ 4397301

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is located in the northern part of district of Lučenec, spread around southern transportation axis at the area between Detva and Lučenec. It has agricultural to mountainous character featuring scattered “lazičnické” settlement in the north (Budín and Dobroč lazy – laz = special form of dwelling). Processing of magnesite in Lovinobaňa and recreational resort Ružiná – Divín with water reservoir Ružiná and the Divín castle are the main activities at the micro-region.

The micro-regional association was founded in 2000; coordination and cooperation for the sake of economic revival of rural areas are its main objectives and missions.

The key persons of the micro-region are the mayor of Divín Ján Koza, Ján Krnáč, the mayor of Dobroč and Ing. Pavel Greksa – the mayor of Mýtina.

Up to now activities were focused on cooperation with the villages of the larger vicinity for the sake of joint addressing the problem of the water supply and sewage system – establishment of Micro-regional Association of Villages of the Districts of Detva, Lučenec and Poltár for WATER. Individual villages participate in POD as well, however, only one of them, Divín, obtained a support of SKK 50,000 for elaboration of project documentation.

Elaboration of joint development program focused on evaluation of local potential for sustainable development is a primary task of the micro-region.

Besides processing of magnesite and existing tourism, other potential of development are the development of agro-tourism and rural tourism and biking at the areas of scattered settlement.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

1. diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – as a part of the SAPARD program
2. cross border cooperation concerning coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism in cooperation with Hungary – as a part of the CBC program and via Euro-region Novohrad
3. participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and HERITAGE”
4. participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.3 Project „Novohradské Podzámčie“

Map 5: Microregion “Novohradské Podzámčie” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region Novohradské Podzámčie

Number of villages: 7 – Gregorova Vieska, Halič, Lehôtka, Lentvora, Lupoč, Ľuboreč, Mašková

Territory: 9,264 ha

Population: 3,028

Hustota: 33 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Halič, district of Lučenec

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Vladimír Rehánek, the mayor of Halič

Contact: OcÚ Halič, Ul. Mieru 66, 985 11 HALIČ, phone: 0863/4392356

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region spreads west of Lučenec. The road of 1st category Tomášovce – Veľký Krtíš is its main transportation axis. It has agricultural to mountainous character and it is an outskirts of Lučenec with rich cultural monuments.

The micro-regional association originated in 1999 and its main objective is coordination and cooperation of villages in improvement of conditions for revival of micro-region based on the use of local potentials, mainly of cultural heritage.

The key persons of the micro-region are Vladimír Rehánek, the mayor of Halič, Marián Halgaš, the mayor of Mašková and the mayor of Lehôtka, Ján Bernát.



Up to now activities were focused mainly on acquisition of support for retrieval of cultural monuments in severe shape. These monuments are owned by state, which does not maintain them. So far, however, the micro-region has not been successful in obtaining any funds. Halič acquired a subsidy from POD for elaboration of the master plan in the amount of SKK 110,000.

The association currently deals with elaboration of joint development project that would coordinate activities of individual villages regarding finishing the infrastructure and protection of cultural heritage. At the same time, it tries to convince Ábelová, Polichno and Stará Halič to join the association that would create a compact socio-economic micro-region.

The potential of development is represented primarily by cultural heritage and development of agro-tourism, rural tourism and biking-tourism that would appreciate the existing good conditions.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – within the SAPARD program
- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism together with Hungary – within the CBC program via Euro-region Novohrad
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.4 Project „Velické jazerá“

Map 6: Microregion “Velické jazerá” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Micro-region by Velické jazerá

Number of villages: 8 - Jelšovec, Kalonda, Mučín, Panické Dravce, Pleš, Rapovce, Trenč, Veľká nad Ipľom

Territory: 10,218 ha

Population: 4,243

Hustota: 41 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Veľká nad Ipľom, district of Lučenec

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Jozef Gyeneš, representative, the mayor of Kalonda, phone: 0863/4398108

Contact: OcÚ Veľká nad Ipľom, č 86, 985 32 VEĽKÁ NAD IPĽOM, phone: 0863/4374102

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region is situated south of Lučenec, on both banks of the Ipeľ River. It has agricultural character; forms the hinterland of Lučenec and is a border micro-region.

The main activities are currently represented by agriculture and fishing and hunting resorts Velické jazerá (lakes) and Veľkodálovský les (forest).

The association was established in 1999. Its main mission is to coordinate the villages in revival of local economy.

After the resignation of the mayor of Veľká nad Ipľom, the following are the key persons of the micro-region: the mayor of Kalonda, Jozef Gyeneš; the mayor of Mučín, Vladimír Kumštár; and the mayor of Pleš, Dorota Molnárová as well as the secretary of the association Kristína Šinková.

Up to now activities were focused mainly on promotion and presentation of the attractions and conditions for tourism. The micro-region participated in the fair Región – Kontrakt (Region – Contract) where it presented folk crafts and gazdovské specialties (gazdovske – attributed to landowners at historical villages; referring to special meals). It has not succeeded to get support for its activities so far. Therefore, its main recent task – elaboration of joint development project, was not realized. Only the opportunities of individual villages were surveyed so far.

The priorities of the micro-region are oriented on economic revival and cooperation of villages regarding ecology, social events and culture.

The potential of development is primarily represented by development of tourism, fishing, agro-tourism, rural tourism and biking-tourism.

The micro-region would be appropriate to be extended by Lipovany, Trebel'ovce, or Mikušovce.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – within the SAPARD program
- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism together with Hungary – within the CBC program via Euro-region Novohrad
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.5 Project „Obručná“

Map 7: Microregion “Obručná” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region Obručná

Number of villages: 9 – Belina, Biskupice, Čakanovce, Čamovce, Radzovce, Ratka, Šíd, Šurice, Šiatorská Bukovinka

Territory: 10,182 ha

Population: 7,244

Hustota: 71 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Čakanovce, district of Lučenec

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Aladár Gášpár, the mayor of Čakanovce

Contact: OcÚ Čakanovce, 985 58 ČAKANOVCE, phone: 0863/4491280

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region, a rural hinterland of Fiľakovo, is located in western part of the district of Lučenec. It is spread along the main transportation axis Lučenec – Šalgotarján. It is a border micro-region. Agriculture is its main feature. Its southern part is filled by Protected Land Region (CHKO) Cerova vrchovina with the Šomoška castle. Recreational resort Obručná is situated in vicinity of the micro-region.

The association was founded in 1999. Coordination of villages in revival of local economy is the main mission of the association.

The key persons of the micro-region are: Aladár Gášpár, chairman; the mayor of Šurice, Ján Mag; and the mayor of Radzovce, Ing. Peter Gyorgy.

Up to now activities were focused primarily on search for partners for cooperation among domestic agro-businesses as well as for cross border cooperation. The association contacted the micro-region Karanc of Hungary. The objective of such cooperation is elaboration of joint development program.

Čakanovce obtained a subsidy of SKK 35,000 from POD for small realizations in 1999. Otherwise, the association funds its activities solely from private resources.

Development of agro-sector and tourism are the priority areas of cooperation.

Agriculture, processing of local products and development of agro-tourism, rural tourism and biking-tourism are primary potentials of development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – within the SAPARD program
- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism together with Hungary – within the CBC program via Euro-region Novohrad
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.6 Project „Hornohrad“

Map 8: Microregion “Hornohrad” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region Hornohrad

Number of villages: 6 – Cinobaňa, Hradište, Krná, Málinec, Ozdín, Uhorské

Territory: 15,751 ha

Population: 5,1290

Hustota: 32 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Málinec, district of Poltár

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Ing. Igor Čepko, the mayor of Málinec

Contact: OcÚ Málinec, 985 26 MÁLINEC, phone: 0864/4291121

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is situated in western part of district of Poltár, in the upper Ipeľ River water shed with its tributaries Ozdínsky stream and Banský stream. It has foothill agricultural - forest character with preserved original scattered settlement and folk architecture and crafts. Metallurgical and mainly glass traditions are rich as well. Málinec and Katarínska Huta have been the centers of glass and crystal production up until today. There is a water reservoir Málinec in the territory of the micro-region. The pond in Uhorske is used for recreational purposes.

The association originated in 1999 and securing of sustainable development of rural areas is its main goal.

The key persons of the micro-region are: the mayor of Málinec Ing Čepko; the mayor of Cinobaňa, Ing. Weis; and the mayor of Uhorské, Mr. Sakala.

The micro-region is included in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” at the line Lučenec – Poltár – Utekáč with the branch from Breznička to Katarínska Huta (Cinobaňa).

Up to now activities of association have been primarily oriented on securing the master plan documentation and small projects within POD. Málinec obtained a support from the Pro Slovakia Fund as well as a grant by the Dutch foundation. Uhorské, Málinec and Cinobaňa acquired a subsidy totaling SKK 276,000 for elaboration of master plan documentations from POD. In 2000, the micro-region obtained a subsidy of SKK 70,000 for elaboration of developmental document.

The priorities of development of the micro-region are targeted mainly at revival of agriculture, development of agro-tourism and rural tourism based on local cultural and natural environment heritage.

It would be positive to extend the micro-region by Rovňany and Mládzovo, eventually also Turičky.

Development of agro-tourism, rural tourism and biking-tourism are main potentials of development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and agro-tourism – support of entities from the SAPARD program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.7 Project „Háj“

Map 9: Microregion “Háj” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Mikro-region Háj

Number of villages: 5 – Breznička, Kalinovo, Nové Hony, Pinciná, Veľká Ves

Territory: 8,717 ha

Population: 3,891

Hustota: 44 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Veľká Ves, district of Poltár

Legal form: OZ

Head /statutory body/: Jozef Líška, the mayor of Veľká Ves

Contact: OcÚ Veľká Ves, č.53, 985 01 VEĽKÁ VES, phone: 0863/4487922

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is located in the southern part of district of Poltár, in between Lučenec and Poltár. It has agricultural - forest character with intensive plants production. Besides agriculture, production of heat-resistant (Kalinovo) and brick (Breznička) products are other major economic activities. The micro-region is known also for its game preserves (deer, pheasant - Petrovec).

The association was established in 2000 with sustainable development of countryside being its primary mission.

The key persons are: the mayor of Veľká Ves, Mr. Líška; the mayor of Kalinovo, Mr. Šárkan; and the mayor of Pinciná, Ing. Kováčik.

The micro-region is included in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” at the line Lučenec – Poltár – Utekáč via the Rudohorie Development Company.



Recent activities of the association are oriented mainly on elaboration of master plan documents and small projects within POD. However, it has not acquired any funding from POD so far.

The developmental program focuses on revival of agriculture, development of pottery production and rural tourism and agro-tourism based on local cultural and natural environment heritage.

Rich deposits of silicates and very favorable conditions for agriculture and rural tourism are major developmental potentials.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and agro-tourism – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- co participation in project “Silicate zone” within the PHARE + Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.8 Project „Suchánska dolina“

Map 10: Microregion “Suchánska dolina” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region Suchánska dolina

Number of villages: 4 – Hrnčiarska Ves, Hrnčiarske Zalužany, Ožďany, Selce, Sušany

Territory: 8,211 ha

Population: 3,745

Hustota: 45 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Hrnčiarska Ves, district of Poltár

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Mária Perželová, the mayor of Hrnčiarska Ves

Contact: OcÚ Hrnčiarska Ves, č. 237, 980 13 HRNČIARSKA VES, phone: 0866/5674317

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is situated east of Poltár, in the upper part of the Suchá stream and Selčiansky stream watersheds. It has agricultural-forest landscape with intensive agricultural production, preserved crafts and rich pottery tradition. Hrnčiarske Zalužany hosts a production cooperative Šamotka and the glory of past pottery craftsmen is maintained by its Keramická tvorba – Dana Bakšová (a company). Natural thermal water swimming pool Vápno is situated in between Hrnčiarske Zalužany and Hrnčiarska Ves. There are unused and abandoned mansion and pond in Ožďany.

The association was founded in 2000, having sustainable development of countryside based on local potential use a main mission.

The key persons are: the mayor of Hrnčiarska Ves, Mrs. Perželová and the mayor of Ožďany, Mr. Ďurčák.

The micro-region participates in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” at the line Poltár – Rimavská Sobota via the Rudohorie Development Company.

Recent activities of the association have oriented mainly on elaboration of master plans and small projects within the POD Program. So far, only Ožd’any has acquired a support from POD in the amount of SKK 50,000 for the study of the mansion use.

Developmental program of the micro-region focuses on revival of agriculture, development of agro-tourism and rural tourism based upon local cultural and natural environment heritage.

Developmental potentials are: deposits of brick and pottery material, mineral springs and sound conditions for development of agro-tourism, rural tourism and biking-tourism.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and agro-tourism – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- co participation in project “Silicate zone” within the PHARE + Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”

### 3.9 Project „Medveš“

Map 11: Microregion “Medveš” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region MEDVEŠ

Number of villages: 11 – Blhovce, Dubno, Gemerský Jablonec, Hajnačka, Nová Bašta, Petrovce, Stará Bašta, Studená, Tachty, Večelkov (RS) and Šiatorská Bukovinka (LC)

Territory: 13,800 ha

Population: 5,636

Hustota: 41 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Nová Bašta, district of Rimavská Sobota

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Magdaléna Farkasová, the mayor of Stará Bašta, phone: 0866/5680123

Contact: OcÚ Nová Bašta, 980 34 NOVÁ BAŠTA, phone: 0866/5691111

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is located in the southern part of the district of Rimavská Sobota in the Protected Land Region (CHKO) Cérova vrchovina. It has a mixed agricultural-forest character. It is a border micro-region.

The association was established in 1998. Its main mission is to coordinate the villages for the sake of sustainable development of micro-region in cooperation with other partners.

The key persons of the micro-region are: Agneša Szikorová, the mayor of Nová Bašta; Magdaléna Farkasová, the mayor of Stará Bašta and Zsoltán Farkas, the mayor of Gemerský Jablonec.

The operation of the association has been very abundant and active. Yet in 1998, the association acquired a grant of SKK 35,000 from the Ministry of Natural Environment of the SR within the Green Project Program for the liquidation of the landfill; it obtained a grant of EUR 45,000 within the PHARE-CREDO 98 program for expansion of educational trail to the Šomoška castle. In 2000, it acquired a support from the Ministry of Culture of the SR for the minorities' culture. Within POD, the micro-region obtained a subsidy of SKK 70,000 for elaboration of developmental document and Gemerský Jablonec SKK 30,000 for master plan proposal of the water reservoir zone.

The association has signed an agreement on cooperation with the micro-region Medves of Hungary and elaborated Objectives and Priorities of Development. At the same time, they submitted a project of construction of information agency to the CBC program.

Main potentials of development are development of agro-tourism, rural tourism and biking-tourism on the base of natural environment and cultural heritage use.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – within the SAPARD program
- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism together with Hungary – within the CBC program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.10 Project „Chanava“

Map 12: Microregion “Chanava” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Association of villages of group water supply Chanava

Number of villages: 12 – Cakov, Číž, Dubovec, Chrámec, Ivanice, Jarice, Lenártovce, Martinová, Orávka, Rimavská Seč, Vlkyňa, Zádor

Territory: 9,629 ha

Population: 5,287

Hustota: 55 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Rimavská Seč, district of Rimavská Sobota

Legal form: Association of legal entities in accordance to Business Code

Head /statutory body/: Marta Stubendeková, the mayor of Rimavská Seč

Contact: OcÚ Rimavská Seč, č.294, 980 42 RIMAVSKÁ SEČ, phone: 0868/ 5593101

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is situated southwest of Rimavská Sobota. It has agricultural-lowland character. It is a border micro-region. Besides agricultural production, the Číž spa is the main activity of the micro-region. Important railway border cross (Lenártovce) is located in its territory. Insufficient drinking water supply is the major problem of the micro-region.

The association was founded in 2000 aiming at improvement of drinking water supply.

The key persons are: the mayor of Rimavská Seč, Marta Stubendeková and the mayor of Číž, František Černecký.

Recent activities of the association were focused on preparation of joint project of drinking water supplying of the micro-region from the water source Chanava.

So far, the association has not obtained any financial assistance for its operation.

A shortage of funds hampers development of cooperation as well as other areas of socio-economic development.

Cross border cooperation and development of agriculture and spas are primary perspectives of the micro-region. They are the largest potentials of the micro-region at the same time.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – within the SAPARD program
- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism together with Hungary – within the PHARE CBC program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.11 Project „Teplý Vrch“

Map 13: Microregion “Teplý Vrch” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Micro-region Teplý Vrch

Number of villages: 16 – Babinec, Budikovany, Dražice, Drienčany, Horné Zahorany, Hostišovce, Hrušovo, Kraskovo, Kyjatice, Lipovec, Lukovištia, Padarovce, Slizké, Španie Pole, Teplý Vrch and Veľký Blh.

Territory: 16,042 ha

Population: 3,571

Hustota: 22 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Teplý Vrch, district of Rimavská Sobota

Legal form: Citizen Association

Head /statutory body/: Pavel Nadok, the mayor of Teplý Vrch

Contact: OcÚ Teplý Vrch, 980 23 TEPLÝ VRCH, phone: 0866/5696255

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region is situated north west of Rimavská Sobota in the upper watershed of the Blh River. It has a mixed agricultural to foothill character. Development of summer recreation at Teplý Vrch water reservoir is a principal activity of the micro-region. Preserved folk architecture and rich cultural heritage with archeological sites Kyjatice and Španie Pole are the values of the micro-region. Very unfavorable demographic development and unfinished infrastructure are its major problems.

The micro-regional association was established in 1998 to revive economy while preserving identity and cultural and natural values.

The key persons are: Pavel Nadok, the mayor of Teplý Vrch; Mgr. Dana Cochová, the mayor of Veľký Blh and Ján Kúdela, the mayor of Lukovištia.



The micro-region participates in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” at the line Jesenské - Rimavská Sobota - Tisovec via the Rudohorie Development Company.

So far the activities of the association have been oriented primarily on coordination of villages in elaboration of developmental programs and improvement of natural environment. In 2000, the association acquired a grant from the MŽP SR for environmental education in Drienčanský karst in the amount of SKK 15,000. The micro-region received a subsidy from POD for elaboration of developmental document amounting SKK 60,000. Drienčany, Lukovištia and Španie Pole received a subsidy for small projects and realizations totaling SKK 135,000.

The micro-regional development program focuses primarily on the support of development of tourism based on local natural environment potential and cultural heritage.

Priorities of development:

- development of rural tourism
- preservation and development of cultural heritage and traditional crafts
- diversification of agricultural production

Development of agro-tourism and rural tourism based on cultural and natural environment heritage and existing water area and biking-tourism are the main potentials of development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “WATER”, “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”

### 3.12 Project „Rimava - Rimavica“

Map 14: Microregion “Rimava - Rimavica” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Association of villages Rimava and Rimavica

Number of villages: 8 – Hrachovo, Kociha, Lehota nad Rimavicou, Nižný Skálník, Rimavská Baňa, Rimavské Brezovo, Rimavské Zalužany, Vyšný Skálník

Territory: 11,781 ha

Population: 3,123

Hustota: 26 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Lehota nad Rimavicou, district of Rimavská Sobota

Legal form: Citizen Association

Head /statutory body/: Marta Pálešová, the mayor of Lehota nad Rimavicou, Janka Ďurišová, the mayor of Rimavské Zalužany

Contact: OcÚ Lehota nad Rimavicou, 980 53 RIMAVSKÁ BAŇA, phone: 0866/5495438

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region is situated between Rimavská Sobota and Hnúšťa. It has suburban character with prevailing agriculture, high unemployment, unfavorable demographic structure and without any significant activity and attraction.

The association was founded in 1999. Its main mission is to stop decay and revitalize the micro-region through mobilizing indigenous sources and cooperation of all sectors.

The key persons are: Janka Ďurišová, the mayor of Rimavské Zalužany and Július Golián, the mayor of Hrachovo.

The micro-region is included in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” at the line Jesenské - Rimavská Sobota - Tisovec via the Rudohorie Development Company.

Up to now, the activities of the association have targeted at mobilizing human resources for the sake of institutionalized inter communal cooperation. For this purpose it obtained a grant from NPOA in the amount of EUR 12,000.

Developmental program of the micro-region focuses on revitalization of human resources and landscape and structural interactive planning towards the overall spiritual and material renewal.

Favorable transport location between two urban settlements is a potential of development with regard to living in a quality natural environment featuring good transport accessibility.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional project “COORDINATORS”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA Program

### 3.13 Project „SINEC“

Map 15: Microregion “SINEC” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Micro-region Sinec

Number of villages: 5 – Hnúšťa, Klenovec, Lehota nad Rimavicou, Rimavská Baňa, Rimavské Brezovo

Territory: 21,560 ha

Population: 12,215

Hustota: 56 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Klenovec, district of Rimavská Sobota

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: JUDr. Pavel Struhár, the mayor of Klenovec

Contact: OcÚ Klenovec, Nám. K. Salvu 1, 980 55 KLENOVEC, phone: 0866/5484302

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region composes of the city of Hnúšťa and surrounding villages. It has foothill to mountain character. Mining and processing of talc are the main activities of the micro-region. Production has decreased and tremendously hurt natural and landscape environment. There is a water reservoir Klenovec situated in the territory that supplies drinking water into majority of the district of Rimavská Sobota.

The association originated in 1999. Its main mission is cooperation of villages in economic revival and development of cultural-social activities.

The key persons are: the mayor of Klenovec and the mayor of Hnúšťa.

The micro-region participates in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” at the line Jesenské - Rimavská Sobota - Tisovec via the Rudohorie Development Company. There is a bio-project elaborated in order to address the issue of the damaged territory due to mining and processing of talc and magnesite.

The activities focused primarily on promotion of the micro-region and its cultural heritage (video presentation) and organization of joint events. So far, the association has not acquired any support for its activities and provides them solely from private funds. It cooperates with the Slovak Biking-Club in the construction of biking Rudohorie artery.

Klenovec obtained a subsidy of SKK 50,000 from POD for elaboration of master plan documentation.

Its program and priorities are primarily oriented on:

- development of cultural heritage and its use for tourism
- finishing of infrastructure
- protection and revitalization of landscape
- revival of local economy

Development of agro-tourism and rural tourism based on use of cultural and natural environment heritage, stipulated by revitalization of damaged landscape are the main potentials of the micro-region development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and agro-tourism – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”

### 3.14 Project „Muránska Planina“

Map 16: Microregion “Muránska Planina” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Micro-region Muránska Planina

Number of villages: 6 - Muráň, Mur. Huta, Mur. Lehota /RA/, Michalová, Pohr.Polhora /BR/, Tisovec /RS/

Territory: 29,302 ha

Population: 8,865

Hustota: 30 people per km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Michalová, district of Brezno

Legal form: informal association under establishing

Head /statutory body/: Mgr. Jaroslav Berčík, the mayor of Michalová

Contact: OcÚ Michalová, Trosky 1, 976 57 MICHALOVÁ, phone: 0867/6199158

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The macro-region is situated between Brezno and Revúca around the National Park Muránska planina; it has mountain character (73% forested areas). Besides the National Park featuring odd fauna and flora, the following are the main attractions of the micro-region: rack railway, the Muráň castle and preserved traditional way of mountain agriculture including a local specific – free livery at Veľká Lúka and a typical scattered settlement. There are also very good conditions for winter sports in the resorts Predná Hora, Zbojská, Bánovo, Rejkovo and Brest-Michalová.

The villages have started the cooperation already in 1996. Coordination of events and edition of information and promotion materials about the micro-region were their first activities. In 1998, they organized Summer School for Development of Countryside in cooperation with the Association for Development of Countryside, supported by NPOA in the amount of SKK 125,000. In 1999, the villages acquired a grant from POD in the amount of SKK 85,000 for elaboration of the study “Conditions and Options of the Development of Micro-region”. The

document was interactively elaborated in participation of all sectors and set up main goals of development, principles of functional land use and role and function of individual settlements of the micro-region. The micro-region actively participates also in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside”.

The mayor of Tisovec is the key person of the micro-region.

Development of specific tourism oriented on use of natural environment and cultural heritage, ecologically sound rural tourism, forest-tourism, hippo-tourism and eco-products are the main potentials for revival of local economy.

Mission and objectives of the association: protection of natural environment heritage, development of ecologically sound agriculture and rural tourism.

Program and intentions:

- ecological education and information
- spatial information system
- museum of mountain agriculture (skanzen)
- eco-agro-tourism, hippo-tourism, biking-tourism, skiing
- rescue, preservation and use of rack railway

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and ecological products – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “WATER”, “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”

### 3.15 Project „Ratkovská dolina“

Map 17: Microregion “Ratkovská dolina” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region Ratkovská dolina

Number of villages: 10 – Hrlica, Krokava, Ploské, Potok, Ratková, Ratkovské Bystré, Ratkovská Suchá, Rovné, Rybník, Sása

Territory: 7,193 ha

Population: 1,688

Hustota: 25 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: district of Revúca

Legal form: before establishing

Contact: OcÚ Ratkovské Bystré, phone: 0865/5491218, OcÚ Ratková, phone: 0865/5491160

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is located in the western part of the district of Revúca in the upper watershed of the Turiec River. It has agricultural mountain character. Its main features are small villages with aged population but wealthy cultural-historical heritage. Demographic and economic decays are the main problems of the micro-region.

The micro-regional association is about to be founded. The mayor of Ratkovské Bystré, Ján Javor and the mayor of Ratkova, Mária Hirková are principal initiators of cooperation.

The motivation for cooperation is the will to revive a decaying area. The absence of young, attractive people is the main problem; apathy and ownership relations are the barriers of activities.



Agro-tourism and rural tourism based on use of natural environment and cultural heritage are the main potentials of territory.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture – fruit production, low-tonnage crops, sheep breeding and agro-tourism – support within the SAPARD program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.16 Project „Turiec v Gemi“

Map 18: Microregion “Turiec v Gemi” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Micro-region Turiec in Gemer

Number of villages: 12 – Držkovce, Gemer, Gemerská Ves, Chvalová, Leváre, Levkuša, Otročok, Polina, Rašice, Skerešovo, Višňové, Žiar

Territory: 12, 658 ha

Population: 3,677

Hustota: 29 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Otročok, district of Revúca

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Marta Kovačová, the mayor of Otročok

Contact: OcÚ Otročok, č. 35, pošta 982 62 GEMERSKÁ VES, phone: 0868/5597538

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is located northwest of Tornaľa in the lower watershed of the streams Východný Turiec and Turiec. It has agricultural foothill character; it is a hinterland of Tornaľa. There is old, today-unused spa in Leváre. Decay of agriculture and insufficient and un-built infrastructure are the main problems of the micro-region.

The association was established in 2000. Economic revival of the micro-region is its main mission. The head of the association is the key person of the micro-region.

Recent activities have focused primarily on elaboration of joint developmental document and coordination of preparation of technical infrastructure development. The micro-region has contacted micro-regional association

of villages Orhegy in Ózd (Hungary). In 2000, it elaborated a project for the CBC program dealing with analysis of potential for development and revival of agriculture.

All recent activities and operations were funded solely from private sources.

Program and priorities of development:

- sustainable development oriented on the use of local resources
- revival of agriculture
- finishing of technical infrastructure

Agriculture, development of agro-tourism and rural tourism are major potentials of development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- diversification of agriculture, agro-tourism – within the SAPARD program
- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of agriculture and development of rural tourism together with Hungary – within the CBC program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “WATER”

### 3.17 Project „Domica“

Map 19: Microregion “Domica” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Association Domica

Number of villages: 7 – Ardovo, Dlhá Ves, Gemerská Hôrka, Kečovo, Plešivec, Silica, Silická Brezová

Territory: 15,395 ha

Population: 5,866

Hustota: 38 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Plešivec, district of Rožňava

Legal form: Association of legal and physical entities in accordance to the Act No. 83/1990 Zb.

Head /statutory body/: Ing. Juraj Ronec, the mayor of Plešivec

Contact: OcÚ Plešivec, Ul. Čsl. armády 1, 049 11 PLEŠIVEC, phone: 0942/7921135

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region is located in the southern part of the district of Rožňava, southwest of the city of Rožňava. It is situated in the territory of Protected Land Region (CHKO) Slovenský Kras; it has mountain character and it is a border micro-region. Plešivec is the beginning of regional railway lines Plešivec – Muráň and Plešivec – Slavošovce. Slovenský Kras is listed among the World Natural Environment Heritage. At the same time, it is a water management protected area. The Gombasek and Domica Caves, continuing to Hungary, are the main attractions of the micro-region.

The association originated in 2000. Revitalization of economy and development of tourism in cooperation with respective Hungarian region are its main objectives.

The key persons are: the mayor of Plešivec, Ing Juraj Ronec and the mayor of Dlhá Ves, Eva Kankulová.

The micro-region participates in the project “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the Rudohorie Development Company.

Recent activities have focused primarily on elaboration of intentions of joint coordinated development in the territory of Silická Plain. The association has contacted the union of villages Galyaság Idelepulésszövetség of Hungary and currently prepares a study on development of the micro-region. The study was supported by POD in the amount of SKK 64,000. Silica obtained a subsidy of SKK 60,000 for master plan documentation also from POD

Upon this document, major priorities of development focused on economic revival of the micro-region as a base for cooperation with Hungarian partner will be identified.

Development of tourism based on existing natural environment and cultural heritage and cross border cooperation is the main potential of development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of economy, tourism and natural environment heritage of Silická Plain protection within the CBC program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.18 Project „Štítnická dolina“

Map 20: Microregion “Štítnická dolina” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### **a/ identification data:**

Name: Micro-region Štítnicka dolina

Number of villages: 17- Brdárka, Čierna Lehota, Gočaltovo, Hankové, Honce, Koceľovce, Kunová Teplica, Markuška, Ochtiná, Petrovo, Rochovce, Roštár, Rozložná, Rožňavské Bystré, Slovoška, Slavošovce, Štítník

Territory: 20,002 ha

Population: 8,269

Hustota: 41 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Štítník, district of Rožňava

Legal form: Association of legal entities

Head /statutory body/: Ing. Katarína Zajacová, the mayor of Štítník

Contact: OcÚ Štítník, Nám 1. mája 1, 049 32 ŠTÍTNÍK, phone: 0942/7931120

#### **b/ objectives and options of development:**

The micro-region is located east of Rožňava in the Štítník River basin. It has a rich mining history and preserved structure of settlement with original architecture. Slavošovské papierne (paper mill) and agriculture are the core economic activities. The micro-region features a high portion of the Roma population. The Ochtinská Aragonite Cave is the main attraction. The village of Brdárka is known due to its activities in salvation of cultural heritage and revival of countryside as well.

The association was founded in 1999. The revival of economy while preserving identity and cultural and natural environment values is its main mission.

The key persons are: the mayor of Štítník, Katarína Zajacová, the mayor of Brdárka and Miro Timár of the Citizens Association Radzim of Brdárka.

Up to now activities of the association were primarily oriented on elaboration of developmental program. In cooperation with the Association for Development of Countryside of Banská Bystrica, the micro-region carried out the Summer School for Development of Countryside in 1999. In the same year, it elaborated an interactive methodology "Plan of the Countryside Development" awarded by an SKK 80,000 grant from the MŽP SR within POD. It received also another grant for adding the "action plan" in the amount of SKK 40,000 for the year 2000.

Hence acquired a subsidy in the amount of SKK 50,000 from POD as well.

The micro-region participates in the projects "Gothic Way" and "By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside" within the Rudohorie Development Company.

Program and priorities of development: - revival of manufacturing based on local potentials and sources

- development of rural tourism
- preservation and development of cultural heritage and traditional crafts
- diversification of agriculture production

Development of fruit production, rural tourism and use of cultural and natural environment heritage and local sources and potentials for the sake of revival of economy are the main developmental potentials.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of fruit production, rural tourism and crafts – within the SAPARD program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – "By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside" within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects "COORDINATORS" and "HERITAGE"
- participation in regional project "WATER" within the ISPA program

### 3.19 Project „Dobšiná“

Map 21: Microregion “Dobšiná” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Association for development of tourism at micro-region Dobšiná

Number of villages: 6 – Dedinky, Dobšiná, Rejdová, Stratená, Vlachovo, and Vyšná Slaná

Territory: 19,869 ha

Population: 7,605

Hustota: 38 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Dobšiná, district of Rožňava

Legal form: Association of legal and physical entities in accordance to the Act No. 83/1990 Zb.

Head /statutory body/: Stanislav Holienčík, principal of MsÚ Dobšiná

Contact: MsÚ Dobšiná, Ul. SNP 554, 049 25 DOBŠINÁ, phone: 0942/7941303

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is located in the northwestern part of the district of Rožňava being an entrance into Slovenský Raj from the south. Old mining and metallurgical history is maintained by ferrous ores mine Siderit in Vyšná Slaná. The micro-region has mountain character and the Dobšinská Ice Cave and recreational resort Dedinky are its main attractions.

The association was founded yet in 1996. Assistance and support of development of tourism is its main mission. The key persons are the head of the association Stanislav Holienčík and entrepreneur Mr. Madaras.

The micro-region participates in the projects “Gothic Way” and “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the Rudohorie Development Company.



The activities of the association have been primarily oriented on coordination of activities in development of tourism and mediation of necessary information regarding acquiring financial support. The own activities of association are focused mainly on promotion in form of promotion brochures and participation in fairs and exhibitions at home and abroad. All activities were funded from private resources of the members.

The association has a draft of “Concept of Development of Tourism in the Micro-region Dobšiná” and prepares cooperation with Telgárt for the sake of more complex use of potential for development of tourism in wider surrounding.

Dobšiná has prerequisites to become an important entry tourist center into the area of Nízke Tatry, Slovenský Raj and Rudohorie, situated in the north-south transport connection Rožňava – Poprad that connects Poland and Hungary. Development of tourism based on use of local potential and natural environment and cultural heritage is the main potential of development. There are very sound conditions in the locality Stolica – Kohút for construction of a good sky center as a development node of entire territory of central Rudohorie.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and revival of crafts – support from the SAPARD Program
- co participation in the project of the Rudohorie Development Company – “By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside” within the PHARE + Program, or in coordination with Hungary within the CBC Program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.20 Project „Čremošná“

Map 22: Microregion “Čremošná” (shaded area)



Source: M.E.S.A.10

#### a/ identification data:

Name: Association of tourism Čremošná

Number of villages: 9 – Bôrka, Brzotín, Drnava, Jovice, Kováčová, Krasnohorská Dlhá Lúka, Kružná, Lúčka, Lipovník, Slavec

Territory: 16,126 ha

Population: 5,299

Hustota: 33 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Seat: Brzotín, district of Rožňava

Legal form: Association of physical entities

Head /statutory body/: Ing. Miroslav Boldiš, RDA Rožňava, phone: 0942/7331384

Contact: OcÚ Brzotín, č. 167, 049 51 BRZOTÍN, phone: 0942/7326890

#### b/ objectives and options of development:

The micro-region is situated southeast of Rožňava forming its hinterland. It is located in the Čremošná stream basin, Zádielska Valley and Rožňavská Valley. It has agricultural to mountain character. It forms a northeastern border of Slovenský Kras (Listed as the World Natural Environment Heritage).

The association was established in 1997. Support of economic development oriented on development of tourism is its main mission.

The key persons are: JUDr. František Bačo, the mayor of Brzotín and the head of the association.

Up to now activities were oriented primarily on promotion of the micro-region via promotion materials and organization of events. The micro-region organized the Days of Tourism, Rural Days and cooperated in the opening of the Krásnohorská Cave. It also deals with addressing the issue of social housing and recently also cross border cooperation (individual villages of the association).

So far, all activities have been carried out only from private funds.

Program and priorities of development:

- development of rural tourism
- cross border cooperation
- protection and preservation of natural environment heritage

Development of agro-tourism and rural tourism using natural environment heritage and local resources are the main potentials of development.

Recommendation of developmental projects:

- development of rural tourism and revival of crafts – support from the SAPARD Program cross border cooperation in coordinated development and revival of economy, tourism and natural environment heritage within the CBC program
- participation in regional projects “COORDINATORS” and “HERITAGE”
- participation in regional project “WATER” within the ISPA program

### 3.21 Other activities and institution in the region

Besides micro-regional partnerships oriented on addressing the issue of the revival of countryside economy, there are and operate also partnerships of urban communities and villages with entrepreneurs in the territory. These are primarily associations at district level in cooperation with District Offices:

**Citizen Association for Development of Region Velký Krtíš**, seated at Macháda St., 990 01 V. Krtíš,  
The head Mr. Matúška, phone: 0903 511 119

The association was founded in 2000 focusing on coordination of activities towards development of the district and cross border cooperation.

**The Poltár Region Mayor Club**, associating the mayors of all villages of the district, the mayor of Poltár and representatives of the District Office at Poltár. It has operated as informal association since 1996. Its main goal is to address the most important issues of the district development and to search for perspective and long-term solutions influencing economic, social and societal development in the district of Poltár.  
Seat: MsÚ Poltár, Železničná 489, 987 01 POLTÁR, phone: 0864/4222270.

**Association for Development of Region Rimavská Sobota**, seated at SNP St. 21, 979 01 RIM. SOBOTA head  
- Ladislav Sedmák, Tauris a.s.

The association registered yet in 1994. In 1995, it founded the Regional Development Agency (RDA, Ltd.) that has actively carried out activities towards development of the district. It has succeeded to acquire internal and external funds for such activities. The chairman of RDA and the secretary of the association at the same time is Ing. Ján Novotný, SNP St. 21, phone: 0868/5626754.

**Association of Region Rožňava**, seated at Šafarikova 29, 048 01 Rožňava,  
contact: Adrián Klincko, OÚ at Rožňave, phone: 0942/7321740

**Citizen Association for Economic Development of Gemer**, Šafarikova 29, 048 01 ROŽŇAVA,  
head Adrián Klincko, phone: 0942/7321740.

There has been the RDA in the district of Rožňava since 1996. The Association of Cities and Villages of Gemer, SPPK, local banks and ZPS, and the District Labor Offices at Rožňava and Revúca established the RDA. It focuses mainly on development projects, consulting and education for entrepreneurs. The chairperson is Ing. Miroslav Boldiš, Kóša Schopper St. 22, 048 01 ROŽŇAVA, phone: 0942/7331384.

However, there are also cross-district associations operating in the region prevalingly focused on addressing specific issues.

**Association of Rural Tourism and Agro-tourism Hont** focuses on development of rural tourism. It is seated at OcÚ at Hrušov; led by Pavel Bendík; established in 1994. It operates in the territory of the districts of Levice, Krupina and Velký Krtíš. Phone: 0854/4880122.

Towards development of tourism is oriented also:

**Association of Tourism Slovenský Kras**, seated at Nám. Baníkov 32, 048 01 Rožňava,

head Fr. Kardoš, the mayor of Rožňava, phone: 0942/7323215

The **Ipeľ Union** has been operating in the territory for a longer time as well. It was founded yet in 1993 and besides protection activities in the Ipeľ River basin, it focuses on development of region and cross border cooperation. It operates in the territory of the districts of Lučenec, V. Krtíš, Krupina, Banská Štiavnica and Levice and has its counterpart also in Hungary. It is seated in Šahy, Hlavné nám 1, 936 01 ŠAHY. The statutory body of the Union is Jozsef Wollent, phone: 0812/7413288.

The **Rudohorie Development Company** actively operating in the region registered in 1997. It is a citizen association of legal entities founded by regional associations of cities and villages, self-governments and the ŽSR Unions at Zvolen, in cooperation with the District Offices and ŽSR Zvolen working in the territory of seven districts - Brezno, Detva, Lučenec, Poltár, Rimavská Sobota, Revúca and Rožňava. Its main objective is the revival of countryside and preservation and revival of regional railways at Rudohorie via the use of natural environment and cultural heritage for the sake of development of sustainable tourism based on ecological transportation (By bike and in train through the Rudohorie countryside).

The association is seated in Tisovec, Nám Dr. Clementisa 1 and led by Ing. Peter Mináč, the mayor of Tisovec, 960 81 Tisovec, phone: 0865/5493267.

Several citizen actions and associations are dedicated to the Roma issue. Stemming from their initiative the **Regional Association of the Roma Initiatives (KARI)** was founded in cooperation with the Regional Office (KÚ) at the level of the Banská Bystrica Region seated in Banská Bystrica. The head of the association is Mgr. Nataša Slobodníková, KÚ, Nám.L. Štúra 1, phone: 088/4306331. KARI is a public-private partnership associating citizen associations, self-governments and the Roma entrepreneurs. Its objective is to roof and coordinate activities towards improvement of social position of the Roma communities within the society via the increase of their participation.

Several villages' associations deal with the issue of drinking water supply such as the **Fellowship of the Ipeľ River Basin** of the district of Veľký Krtíš grouping 32 villages. It was purposefully established in 2000 for the sake of addressing the drinking water supply of the territory [featuring poor quality and insufficient volumes of water resources] from the water reservoirs Hriňová and Málinec. It is seated in Opatovská Nová Ves, led by the mayor of this village Ladislav Jambor, OcÚ, 991 07 OPATOVSKÁ NOVÁ VES, phone: 0854/4894201.

In 2000, the **Micro-regional Association of Villages of the Districts of Lučenec, Poltár and Detva for WATER** was formed in the territory of 65 villages. Dobroč is the seat of the association and the mayor of Dobroč, Ján Krnáč is its head, 985 53 DOBROČ, phone: 0863/4397105.

Within five districts of the south of the Banska Bystrica Region (Veľký Krtíš, Lučenec, Poltár, Rimavská Sobota and Revúca) the **Cross Regional Council** was established. Since October 2000, the District Office (OÚ) at Poltár and the city of Poltár have assumed its rotating leadership. Contact: the principal of OÚ Poltár Ing. Víťazoslav Zákopčan, Železničná 2, 987 01 Poltár – phone: 0864 / 4210 201, 4223 100. Coordination of development of the southern districts and enforcement of their interests are the main mission of the Council.

Lately, the activities at the region are getting oriented towards cross border cooperation as well, resulting in gradual establishing of Euro-regions. The following are already registered Euro-regions at this territory:

**Euro-region Ipeľ** founded in 1999, the seat: Hlavné nám 1, 936 01 ŠAHY,

Head - JUDr. Ernest Zsolnay, the mayor of Šahy, phone: 0812/7411071

**Region Neogradienzis**, seated at MsÚ Lučenec, Novohradská 1, 984 01 Lučenec,

Head - MUDr. Jozef Murgaš, the mayor of Lučenec, phone: 0863/4325405.

The establishment of the **Euro-regionu Slaná** is being prepared. The regional associations of cities and villages of the districts of Rimavská Sobota, Revúca and Rožňava are its members by Slovak side.

Resources of inquiries and background:

- Regional Office Banská Bystrica,
- Slovak Agency for Natural Environment, Banská Bystrica
- Steering committee of the Countryside Parliament, Liptovský Hrádok
- District Offices at Poltár, Rožňava and Veľky Krtíš
- Regional Development Agency /RRA/ Rožňava
- Individual micro-regions and their chairpersons
- Súpis miest a obcí SR 2000 (Geotext)
- Concept of Regional Development of the Banská Bystrica Region (Rusnák, 2000)