



Debrecen (HU) – Oradea (RO) partnering

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**The potential of small and medium cities
in cross-border polycentric regions**

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Geo an political background



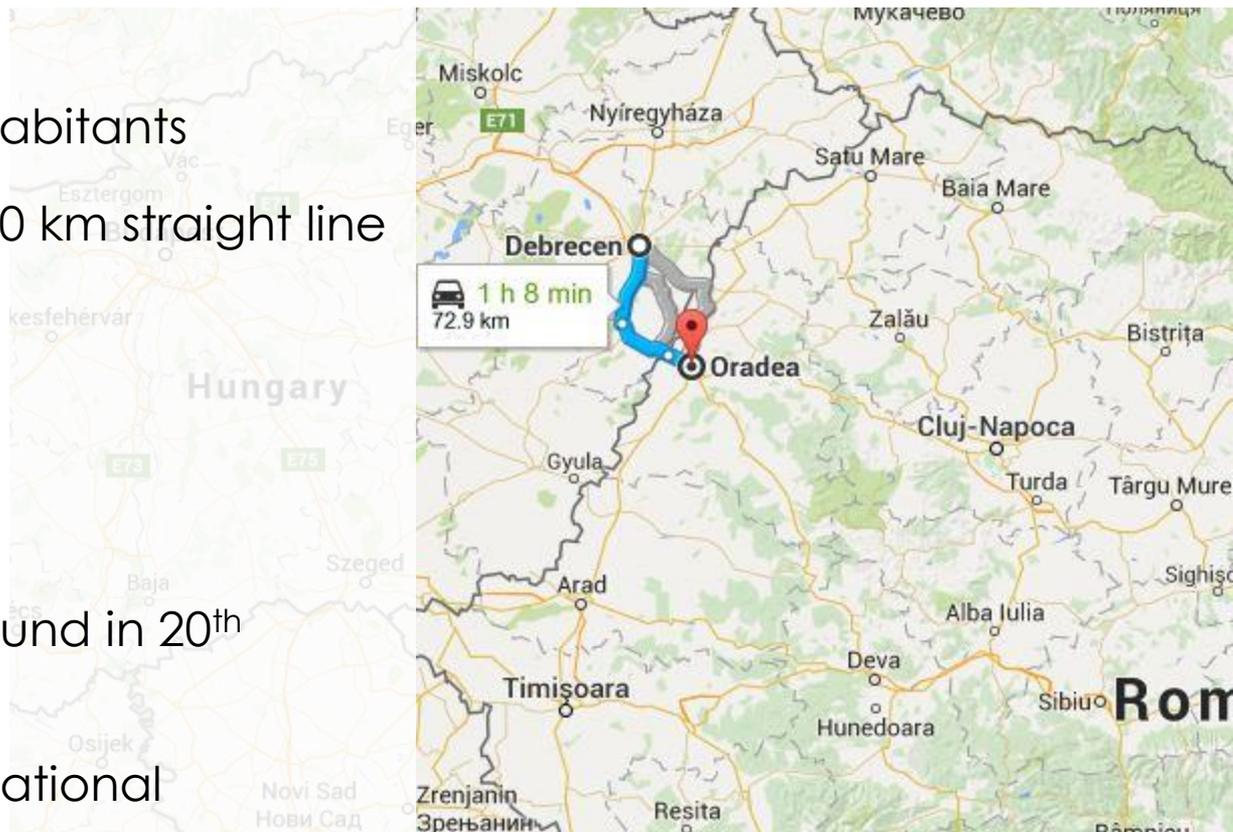
Geo data

Population: both ~ 200m inhabitants

Distance: ~70 km on road, 40 km straight line

Political background

- Sister cities
- Difficult historical background in 20th century
- Limited cultural and educational connections





Cross border cooperation - past



EU pre and post joining program helped

- 2004 – 2008 pre joined funds
- Since 2008 – HU-RO cross border funds available
 - Slow success
 - Mostly local programs with small cooperation
 - It takes long time re-build the personal and business connections

Difficult transportation connection did not help

- Relatively long distance one lane road
- No direct train connection



Challenges



Economic Development

- Relative high unemployment rate (~7%)
- No major large international companies present – diverse industry
- Both cities have International airport – rivalry
- Strong University which potential is underutilized

Social Development

- Both cities want to position as regional center
- There is a political, economical need to be more cooperative, more international, more European



Potential



Economic Development

- Highway connection 2020
- Position as one 500 m inhabitants region, rather than 2X250
 - Better for big companies to invest
 - Better for small companies to find the right talents
- Cross acceptance of employment
- English as common language



Thank you for your attention

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