

Original scientific paper

**CULTURAL PROJECTS FROM ACROSS THE BORDER
SPATIAL FEATURES OF TENDERING VERTICUM OF THE
NATIONAL CULTURAL FUND'S PUBLIC EDUCATION COLLEGE
BETWEEN 2007-2011**

**KULTURÁLIS PÁLYÁZATOK A HATÁRON TÚLRÓL A NEMZETI
KULTURÁLIS ALAP KÖZMŰVELŐDÉSI SZAKMAI KOLLÉGIUM
PÁLYÁZÁSI VERTIKUMÁNAK TERÜLETI JELLEMZŐI 2007-2011
KÖZÖTT**

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Keywords: public education, financing culture, call for proposals, settlement, region

Abstract:

In my study I investigate the spatial characteristics of applications received during a five year period between 2007-2011 by National Cultural Fund's Public Education College.

In the recent study, within my research topic I deal especially with the tendering activity and effectiveness of settlements populated by Hungarians beyond the border, mainly based on quantitative data.

Considering the five-year period - according to my hypothesis - the tendering activity has become one method of "staying alive" to the cultural institutions and organizations. However, the proposal writing potential and innovative capacity, which is necessary for efficient resource acquisition, is not necessarily accessible everywhere, especially in small communities and from several aspects disadvantaged regions.

Regarding Serbia, exploring these experiences may help calling in EU funds.

Keywords: közművelődés, kultúrafinanszírozás, pályázat, település, térség

Abstract:

Kutatásom során a Nemzeti Kulturális Alap Közművelődési Szakmai Kollégiumához a 2007-2011 közötti ötéves időszakban beérkezett pályázatok területi jellemzőit vizsgálom.

Jelen tanulmányomban a kutatási témámon belül kiemelten foglalkozom a határon túli magyarok települések pályázati aktivitásával, eredményességével, főként a kvantitatív adatokra építve.

Az ötéves időszakot tekintve – hipotéziseim szerint – a pályázati aktivitás a kulturális intézmények, szervezetek „talpon maradásának” egyik módjává vált, ugyanakkor nem feltétlenül adott mindenütt, különösen a kistelepüléseken, illetve a több szempontból is hátrányos helyzetű térségekben az a pályázatró potenciál és innovációs készség, ami az eredményes forrásszerzéshez jutáshoz szükséges.

Szerbiát tekintve az Európai Unió források lehívásához segítséget nyújthat e tapasztalatok feltárása.

INTRODUCTION

For a long time – as I was and still I am active in community culture – I am dealing with the issue of financing culture. First, because both the institutions and NGOs are trying to align resources of community initiatives behind their activities in some way and I am also an active participant in it as a tender writer. On the other hand, examining a different aspect, I believe that financing of culture, as well as education funding, is a social investment that definitely returns in longer term.

'The economy is part of wider culturein short term, niche culture depends on economy, ... financing and operating cultural sector. In longer term, the economy and the broader culture are defined by a narrow culture.' (Koncz, 2004.)

I narrowed my investigation on spatial characteristics of applications received during a five year period between 2007-2011 by National Cultural Fund's (NKA hereinafter) Public Education College. Within this, the present study shows especially the tendering activity of Serbian municipalities, particularly processing and analysis quantitative data.

For me, the topic is especially relevant because in addition to the proposal writing practice, lately I had the possibility to teach proposal writing and project management skills on several occasions – partly on accredited courses and non-formal education too. During these courses, I personally experienced that the needs and intent of fund acquiring is associated with the lacking of knowledge, often mystification and sometimes rejection of application methods.

I had the possibility to learn about the applications of NKA Public Education College from another approach. As a delegate of the Association of Hungarian Adult Educators I was involved in the evaluation of tenders as a board member between 2009-2011.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The concept of this study is the following:

I present quantitative characteristics of the applications received by NKA Public Education College in the investigated period. Concentrating on Serbia – with the comparative analysis of some key data – I present the spatial characteristics of the period 2007-2011 and of course touch upon the effects influencing and affecting public education. Although collectively I mention as Serbian applications, on the NKA's calls for proposals all Hungarian abroad organizations were invited to submit project plans, so obviously the research aims at this segment.

Since the data collection is finished, but the majority are still waiting for analysis, I intend to present my study goals and methods outlining further research directions.

Research objective and hypotheses:

My goal is to study the funds acquiring potential of community education, concentrating on analyzing the spatial aspects of the applications received during the five year period between 2007-2011by NKA Public Education College. In addition - though it is not directly pertinent to the study of regional differences, I planned to analyze the calls for

applications and applications received, setting in focus innovation, novelty, and ability to react.

Hypotheses are as follows:

- The most disadvantaged regions have poor skills in involving sources.
- More than 50% of distributable funds was used by cities (mainly by county seats), small municipalities submit applications in small numbers, and they are often inefficient.
- Involving grants are essential for the professional activities of institutions and organizations
- Project ideas are given to organizations, but the quality of the applications submitted justifies the encouragement and support of proposal writing courses
- Public education's statistical indicators show a correlation with the number and quality of applications in the examined settlements

RESULTS

Serbia, including Vojvodina's relevant data

According to census data of 2011, the country's total population is over 7 million, and within that the number of people declaring its nationality to Serb is nearly 6 million. The remaining one million is formed of 22 ethnic groups. 3.43% of the population not stated its nationality or have unknown affiliation. Considering the total population of Serbia, Hungarian minority is the biggest one in the country with 3.53%. Traditionally Hungarians are living in Vojvodina (251.136 people), very few of them in Central Serbia (953) and Belgrade (1.810 people).

In Vojvodina, in 107 municipalities (about 1/5th of the settlements) the proportion of Hungarians is 20%, within this in 72 locations are in absolute majority. (Skilled has the future; Editor: Dr. Gábrity Molnár Irén, 2008)

Table 1. The largest settlements inhabited by Hungarians in Vojvodina

Name	Hungarian inhabitants	Total population	Ratio
Szabadka	34 983	99 981	34,99%
Zenta	15 860	20 302	78,12%

Table 1 (continued). The largest settlements inhabited by Hungarians in Vojvodina

Name	Hungarian inhabitants	Total population	Ratio
Óbecse	11 725	25 774	45,49%
Nagybecskerek	11 605	79 773	14,55%
Újvidék	11 538	191 405	6,03%
Topolya	9582	16 171	59,25%
Magyarakanizsa	8825	10 200	86,52%
Ada	8744	10 547	82,91%
Temerin	8187	19 216	42,61%
Csantavér	6632	7178	92,39%

Source: <http://vajdasag.rs>

'Vojvodina has deep cultural tradition' – draft the authors of 'Skilled has the Future', and display that more than 400 amateur cultural associations cherish folk art traditions of local people, nationalities, national and ethnic minorities. 12 professional theaters, 14 amateur theater troupes, 30 museums, 25 cinemas, 36 radio stations, 6 television stations enrich the cultural opportunities and 311 academic, school and public libraries contribute to it with their activities. (Skilled has the future; Editor: Dr. Gábrity Molnár Irén, 2008)

National Cultural Fund

About the National Cultural Fund in brief - based on the NKA's website historical retrospective

The National Cultural Fund (NKA) was created by the Hungarian Parliament in 1993 adapting the Act. XXIII of 1993 with a complex set of objectives:

- From its special resources the Fund provides support primarily on creating, preserving, and promoting domestic and cross-border distribution of national and universal values.
- This organization working 'within reach' but also independently from the State, provides support on realizing cultural programmes through tendering procedure by operating a socialized system of Board of Trustees.
- As a separate fund, this important element of financing culture is not exposed to annual budgetary debates and pressures. (Briefly about the NKA)

The NKA temporarily lost the status of a separate state fund between 1999-2006, and was integrated in a subhead of the central government ministries chapter as a chapter handled targeted appropriations but since 2006 was once again a fund. The main source of income of the NKA has changed several times. Since the dissolution of the cultural contribution, the 90 percent of taxation of the lottery gambling game provides the basis for it. (Act. XXIII of 1993 on the National Cultural Fund)

The organizational structure of the National Cultural Fund during the examined period

The power to dispose of public funds was allocated to the competence of the Minister of Culture by the Act. XXIII of 1993 on National Cultural Fund. The Minister shall establish the National Cultural Fund Commission for adoption of principles, managing and coordinating decisions. Permanent and temporary professional colleges decide about the use of the Fund's resources. The Fund is managed by the NKA's Directorate functioning as a fiscal body, which is responsible for the legitimacy of the preparation and implementation of Commission's decisions, as well as completing tasks related to the Public Finance Act, and managing the NKA. (Act. XXIII of 1993 on National Cultural Fund, Deed of Foundation of National Cultural Fund Directorate)

This was the way how the NKA was functioning during the examined period, and works today too. Although there have been significant transformations, which mainly affected the professional colleges and the application method.

Between 2007-2011, 17 permanent professional colleges carried out their work. Their members could enter into the advisory boards as delegates of social and professional organizations and by designation of the Minister. The membership charge took 4 years.

National Cultural Fund's and Public Education College

In the study period 2007-2011 one of the 17 technical college was the College of Public Education (hereinafter CPE), in which I was curator for three years. The membership term was originally 4 years, but with the reorganization of the NKA on the 1st January 2012 all appointed curators' mandate ended and colleges also changed considerably. The continuity of the colleges' values during the examined period were provided by a rotating system, which enabled the exchange of members so that they never simultaneously changed everybody, but always had members who were representing the permanency and training

new members on working methods and evaluation principles. The work of colleges was led by its Presidents, and was not always visible, but one of the Directorate's employee, who was acting as secretary of the college, assisted in significant organizational and administrative background tasks.

Among the nine -member college members there were director of educational institution, managing director of nonprofit Ltd, NGO's official, local cultural referent. During the examined period two consecutive President directed the college's work, Csatlósné Komáromi Katalin, director of the Community Center in Sáropatak, and she was followed by Dr. Koncz Gábor, who was director of Hungarian Culture Foundation.

The National Cultural Fund Committee prepared its strategy in 2010, and to join in this, the professional colleges, including public education college, also formulated their own strategy. The strategic objectives focused on the three main tasks (these were also in the center of the objectives of the National Cultural Fund Committee), creation, dissemination and preservation of culture. Among the priorities there was reducing regional disparities, encouraging and supporting domestic and cross-border cultural collaboration, supporting cultural-community socialization issues among the children and youth, promoting professional innovation, supporting human resource services to promote professional development of public education. (Strategy of the National Cultural Fund's Public Education Vocational College, 2010).

Available resources of National Cultural Fund's Public Education College

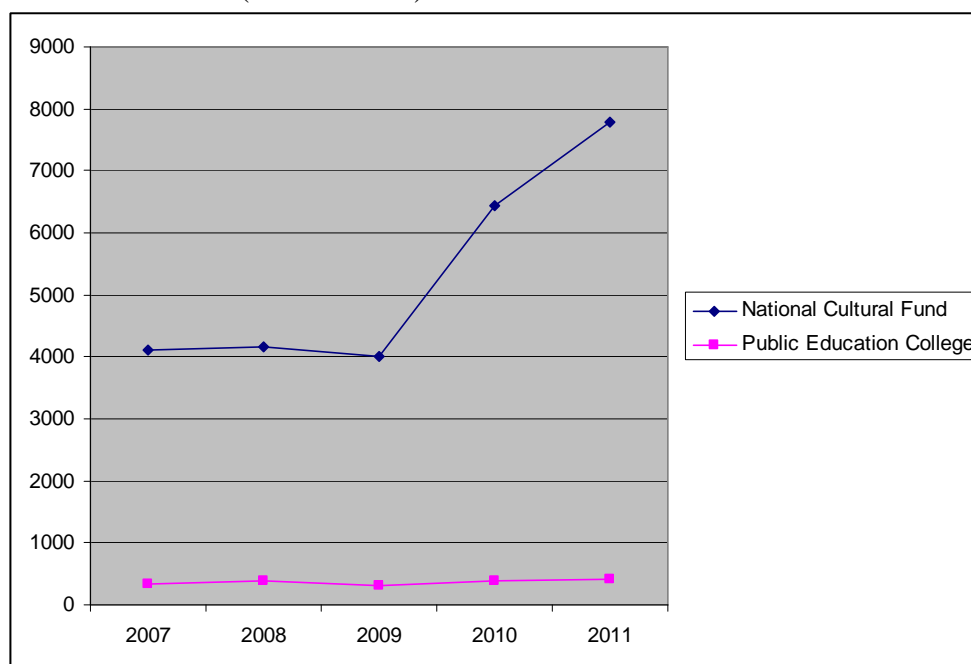
In terms of available resources in the examined period it is seen that the annual funding was increasing in 2008 and declining in 2009 if we compare it with 2007. Although it is clear that the NKA sources in 2010 and 2011 show a significant increase, but the available sources of Public Education Vocational College have not increased in the same proportion. (table 2; figure 1)

Table 2. Available resources of National Cultural Fund and Public Education College between 2007-2011 (million HUF)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
National Cultural Fund	4.117,1	4.155	4.003	6.435	7.784
Public Education College	330	380	323	377	406

Source: Table compiled under the annual reports available on www.nka.hu

Figure 1. Changes of available resources of National Cultural Fund and Public Education College between 2007-2011 (million HUF)



Source: Table compiled under the annual reports available on www.nka.hu

Number of applications received by the National Cultural Fund and Public Education College during examined period

Total number of applications received in all colleges of the National Cultural Fund during the examined period of uneven, undulating (table 2). The reasons for the changes were probably caused by the fluctuation of NKA resources, changes in calls' requirements, but it is more likely that the socio-economic changes, institutional closures and contractions that occurred as a result of the economic crisis, also contributed to the low

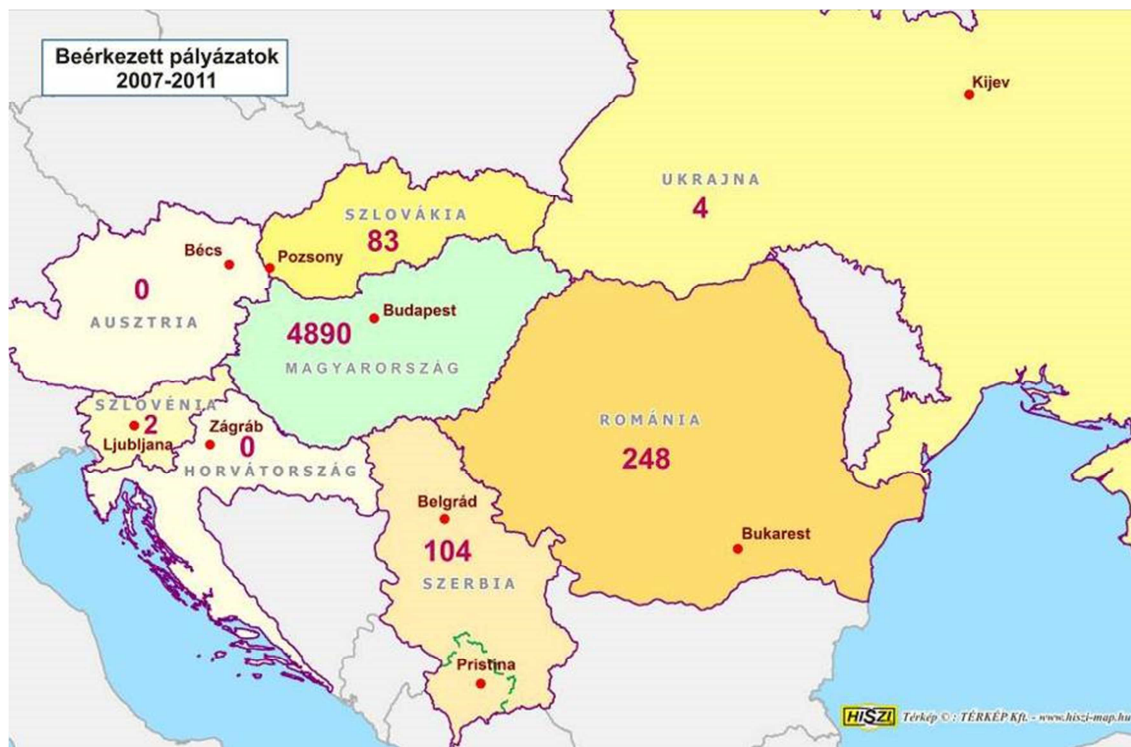
points. Narrowing of resources in the institutional or civil sector have a greater incentive on applications, so it may justifies the increase as well. It deserves a separate research, but the significantly transformed institutional system could make it more difficult. It is important to note that the applications involved in my research are pre-financed, application fee was not required by the National Cultural Fund during the examined period; it was introduced only in 2012. This means that in theory, all resources were available for all organizations.

Table 3. National Cultural Fund and Public Education College, number of applications received during examined period

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
NKA KSZK	1288	875	1142	992	1034	5331
Hungary	1184	821	1042	902	941	4890
Rumania	54	29	58	52	55	248
Serbia	21	15	25	20	23	104
Slovakia	26	10	16	17	14	83
Slovenia	1	-	-	1	-	2
Ukraine	2	-	1	-	1	4

Source: Table compiled under the annual reports available on www.nka.hu

Figure 2. National Cultural Fund and Public Education College, number of applications received during examined period



Source: Illustration edited by Térképtér Kft. based on data shown in table no.3.

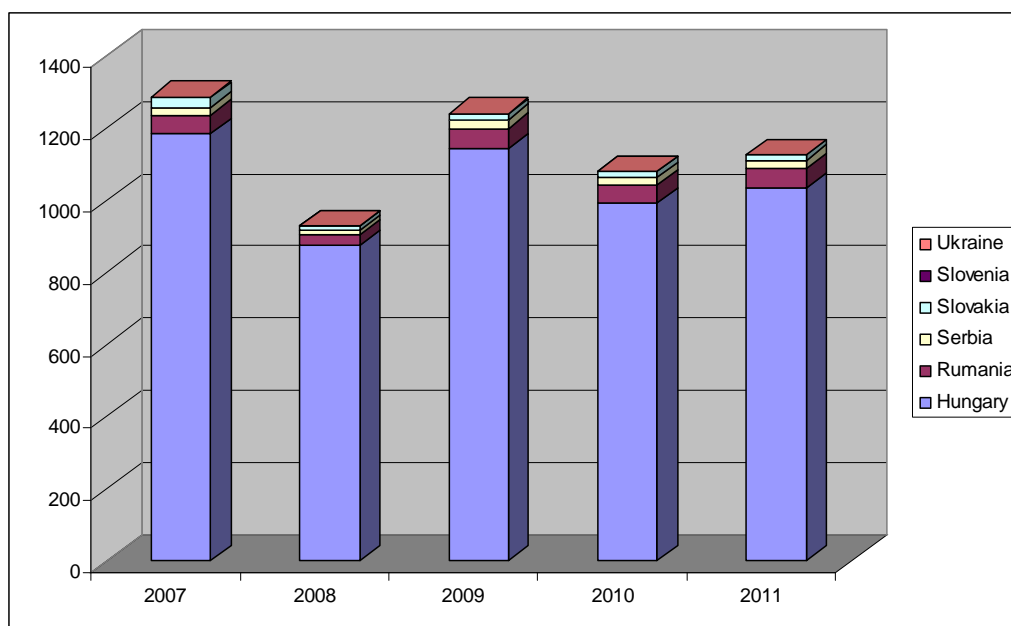
DISCUSSION

Applications submitted by Hungarians living in Serbia

Number and rate of applications

If we show on a chart the number of applications submitted during this period will be seen that the share of applications from across the border in each of the five years is between 8-10% (fig. 3). Not shown on the chart Austria and Slovenia, as from these countries did not receive applications for public education during the period. Insignificant proportions of the submitted applications were recieved from Ukraine and Slovenia. Romania represented the largest percentage among applications beyond the borders, which is more than twice the rate of subsequent applications from Serbia(fig. 2). It is true that there is a significant difference regarding the number of Hungarians living in these two countries. About 6.1% of Romania's population (1.227.600 people) declared itself Hungarian on the annual census in 2011. (MTI July 4, 2013)., while Hungarians in Serbia are only the 3.53% of the population (253 899 people).

Figure 3. National Cultural Fund Public Education College, number of applications received during examined period



Source: Figure compiled under the annual reports available on www.nka.hu

During the examined period Hungarian institutions and organizations in Serbia submitted a total of 104 proposals, and thus 60% (63 applications) were considered worthy for support by the Board of Trustees. All these projects were submitted by 30 organizations of 15 municipalities. If we take into account only the 107 municipalities in Vojvodina where the proportion of Hungarians is above 20%, it can be seen that a total of 14% of the municipalities used this opportunity (fig. 4).

Figure 4. Municipalities submitting applications to National Cultural Fund and Public Education College in the examined period



Source: the annual reports edited by Térképtér Kft.

Complicating factors in submission of applications from beyond the border

Although it was possible to submit applications without application fee for pre-financed sources cross-border organizations also could have difficulties.

To contract a financial management body was an essential requirement to submit application. Since municipalities submitting applications are located within 100 km of the Serbian-Hungarian border, I assumed that to contract their financial administrator they use their extant cross-border organizational relations. After studying the applications received, it was not what I experienced. Approximately one-third of organizations undertaking financial performance is registered office of in the South-Plain region, one-third in Budapest, and the rest one-third countrywide.

My experience as a curator confirms that cross-border candidates often had difficulties in understanding the range of potential candidates in the applications as far as the institutional network and classification of organizations are not identical in the two countries.

Complete attachment of obligatory legal documentation was also difficult because these documents of institutions and civil organizations not necessarily correspond to each other

in the two countries. Sometimes the Board helped with a fair decision to technically excellent, relevant and appropriate applications which had only this imperfection.

Classification by purpose of the applications received

The National Cultural Fund's Public Education College displayed every year in the tenders the willingness to support traditional activities (events), amateur art activities and their tool demand and also cultural journals. It was important to support the renewal of the profession (professional publications, education and training). Cultural equality (cultural institutions and organizations of disabled people could present joint application), advertising, and public relations (preparation of spots on institutional activities and groups) appeared as innovative elements during this period. The last two calls only appeared in one year (2011).

The 50% of Serbian proposals aimed at implementing the events, and another 36% applied for support on amateur art activities and cultural communities. Nearly 9 % of applications were submitted to maintain Hungarian cultural journals beyond the border. These calls appeared annually, and with minimal changes in their requirements contributed to make the planning easier and strengthen tendering intention. At the same time there were not applications submitted from Serbia on the novel calls. (Table 4)

Table 4. National Cultural Fund Public Education College, number of applications received during examined period

Supporting events	53
Supporting value creating activities of amateur art communities	11
Cultural activities of small communities	27
Edition of professional publications	0
Supporting advertising and propaganda	0
Supporting cultural equality	0
Supporting tool purchase	2
Education, training, vocational training	2
Supporting journals – traditional and internet – with public education profile – edition of Hungarian journals	9
Other	2

Source: Table compiled under archive calls for proposals and recieved applications available on www.nka.hu

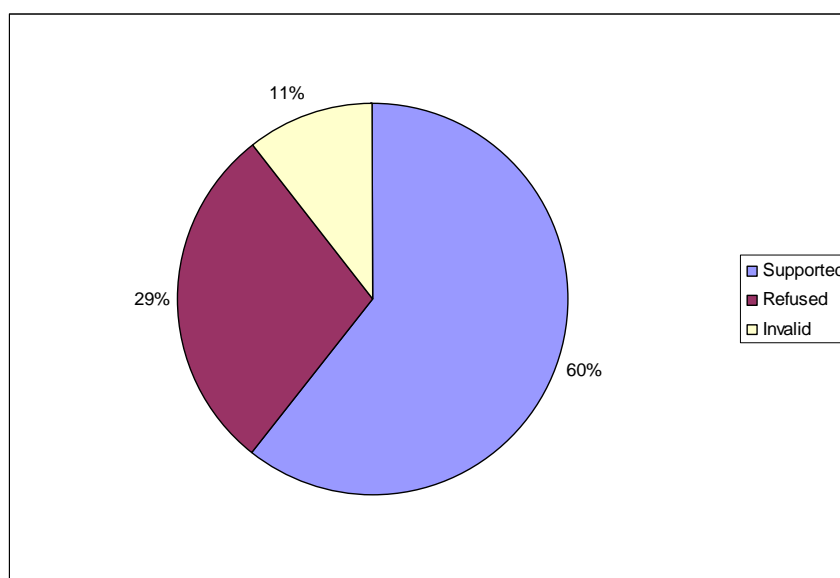
The effectiveness of the applications received

Among the 104 applications received 11% (11) were invalid, 29% (30) were refused, and 60% (63) were supported (fig. 5).

The reason for invalidity is due to the complicating factors as indicated previously, not adequate interpretation of eligible applicants and deficiencies of legal documentation. With applications submitted with financial organizer, it was necessary to attach legal documentation from both the applicant and the responsible entity which could include double error possibility.

In most cases, the reason for rejection was the lack of resources, since the demand in the applications received multiply exceeded the distributable source of the college.

Figure 5. Effectiveness of Serbian applications



Source: Table compiled under recieved applications

Referring to approved applications approximately the 29% of the support claimed was provided by the Board of Trustees (Table 5). This ratio is equal to, and sometimes better than the intensity of Hungarian counties (e gin case of Békés county it was 25.8%). Based on the Public Education College's strategy principles, the Board of Trustees paid attention to the fact that even they reduced by the amount the project could be implemented, if this is not possible, then they only supported one element of the project. Grant provided per application were 516.555 HUF.

Table 5. Support intensity

Total amount needed to achieve	233.619.396 HUF
support claimed	110.281.447 HUF
support provided	32.543.000 HUF

Source: Table compiled under recieved applications

CONCLUSION

Summary - Experience used during the EU integration

EU funding is a complex process because there are many different types of programmes which are managed by different bodies. More than 76% of the EU budget is managed by the Member States. The EU has strict rules for funding in order to exert tight control over the use of resources, and to prevail transparency and accountability in the spending of funds. (<http://europa.eu/>)

To obtain EU funds and get acquainted with the application methods, submission of simpler (in requirements and also documentation) Hungarian applications, realization of projects, accounting for grants and receive monitoring provides good practice.

During the reporting period about the applications received from Serbia in general can be formulated as follows:

Related to the low willingness to apply and small number of applications considering possibilities, we should raise that the first and most important is the exploitation of application possibilities. Regular monitoring of applications has special importance too.

Among the applications submitted to the National Cultural Fund Public Education College traditional and annually organized events are dominant, innovative, new initiatives are not, or only very small numbers were revealed. This may be due to the primary of conservation values but in the future is definitely thought-provoking phenomenon in my opinion.

The diversity of cultural and public education applications are good example of the sector and further on can appear as a comparative advantage in relation to EU Member States.

Reviewing the proposals received can be stated that the technical and financial elaboration of the proposals varies widely, many of them are brief, schematically formulated project and rough, not fairly detailed budget. In the future, brief, concise, straightforward presentation of project may be considered as positive, but in the case of EU

projects the budget justification and underpinning are specially emphasized, and thus particular care should be taken on planning and making it visible.

Organizations must put emphasis on demonstrating the organization's activities for the decision makers. Not replace the presentation of the activities with the annual work plan, from which may not be clear the organization's wealthy past, appearance of traditional and novelty items in activities structure or the references.

Relatively high proportion of invalid applications is a warning signal. If the applicant organization fulfills the terms and conditions defined in the calls and guidelines precisely, has the chance to get source to accomplish its project. The prescribed presentation of required attachments and documents is indispensable.

SUMMARY

In Hungary the National Cultural Fund as an independent fund supports cultural institutions, organizations and their projects via tenders. The National Cultural Fund was created by the Hungarian Parliament in 1993.

In the study period 2007-2011 it has 17 permanent colleges and one of them was the Public Education College. The Public Education College received 5,331 applications between 2007-2011, of which nearly 92% from Hungary and the other, approximately 8% came from the Hungarian-inhabited settlements of neighboring countries.

The National Cultural Fund set a triple target system: the establishment, preservation and dissemination of national and universal cultural values in Hungary and beyond our borders.

Since 2010, the dissolution of the cultural contribution, the 90 percent of taxation of the lottery gambling game provides its basis of revenues.

At the end of the period the sources of the Public Education College show a small increase, from 330 million to 406 million, although it doesn't mean a consistent growth.

Between 2007-2011 the number of applications received by the college is uneven, undulating, this might be caused by changes in the system of conditions.

One part of the tenders appeared in the following topics (which can be considered as traditional ones) year by year: supporting events, the expansion of the operating conditions of small communities and assist in the organization of vocational camps. Another part of the tenders was for purposes of events, trainings, courses and publications. And the third part was to encourage innovation, not a recurring grant targets such as cultural equality, institutional advertising and public relations. The number of applications received by the College was the highest in the first group, and the lowest in the third one.

The number of applications submitted by the Serbian Hungarian institutions and organizations during the five years was a total of 104. Much higher, more than double was the number of applications submitted by the Hungarians in Romania, although in Romania, according to the latest census data, the proportion of Hungarians is over 6%, compared to 3.53% in Serbia.

The 14% of Serbian settlements populated by Hungarians took the advantage of presenting applications. All applications from Vojvodina were submitted by 30 organizations of 15 settlements. This is quite low considering the 107 municipalities in Vojvodina, where the proportion of Hungarians is above 20%.

Today, they have to pay application fee to the National Cultural Fund, but this has not yet had in the study period, so it could not appear as a retentiveness. But it made definitely difficult the application for cross-border organizations that in Hungary they had to have financial administrator.

Among the 104 applications received 11% (11) were invalid, 29% (30) were refused, and 60% (63) were supported.

Referring to the approved applications approximately the 29% of the support claimed was provided by the Board of Trustees

Related to the low willingness to apply and small number of applications considering possibilities, we should raise that the first and most important is the exploitation of application possibilities. Regular monitoring of applications has special importance too.

Reviewing the proposals received can be stated that the technical and financial elaboration of the proposals varies widely, many of them are brief, schematically formulated project and rough, not fairly detailed budget. Occasionally, a list like work plan or programme plan replaces the presentation of the applicant organization. This and similar failures in the future, in the case of EU funds may signify an error in uncompletion of documents and may cause the rejection of the application.

Prior to EU integration the less bureaucratic and easier to tender opportunities, such as the National Cultural Fund in Hungary provided good practicing field to call in EU funds.

ÖSSZEFOGLALÁS

Magyarországon a Nemzeti Kulturális Alap független pénzalapként támogatja pályázati úton a kulturális intézményeket, szervezeteket, azok projektjeit. Az alapot 1993-ban hozta létre a magyar Országgyűlés.

A vizsgált időszakban 17 állandó kollégiuma működött, közülük egy a Közművelődési Szakmai Kollégium.

A Közművelődési Szakmai Kollégiumhoz 2007-2011 között 5331 db pályázat érkezett be, melynek közel 92%-a Magyarországról, a további megközelítőleg 8% pedig a környező országok magyar lakta településeiről érkezett.

A Nemzeti Kulturális Alap hármas célrendszer tűzött ki: a nemzeti és egyetemes kulturális értékek létrehozását, megőrzését, terjesztését Magyarországon és a határainkon túl.

2010-től, a kulturális járulék megszűnése óta, az alap bevételeit az ötös lottó szerencsejáték játékadójának 90 százaléka biztosítja.

A Közművelődési Szakmai Kollégium forrásai a vizsgált időszak végére kisebb emelkedést mutatnak, 330 millióról 406 millióra növekedtek, bár ez nem egyenletes növekedést jelentett.

2007-2011 között a kollégiumhoz beérkezett pályázatok száma egyenetlen, hullámzó, ezt valószínűleg a feltételrendszer változása is okozhatta.

A kiírások egy része évről-évre hagyományosnak is tekinthető témakörökben jelent meg, mint a rendezvények támogatása, a kisközösségek működési feltételeinek bővítése, a szakmai táborok megszervezésének segítése. Egy másik csoportot alkotnak a szakmai célú események, képzések, továbbképzések, kiadványok. S a harmadik csoportba az innovációt ösztönző, nem rendszeresen visszatérő támogatási célok tartoznak, mint kulturális esélyegyenlőség, intézményi reklám és PR. A kollégiumhoz beérkezett pályázatok száma az első csoportban a legmagasabb, s a harmadikban a legalacsonyabb.

A szerbiai magyar intézmények és szervezetek által benyújtott pályázatok száma a vizsgált öt év alatt mindösszesen 104 db. Ennél jóval magasabb, több mint kétszeres a romániai magyarok benyújtott pályázatainak száma, igaz, Romániában a legutóbbi népszámlálási adatok szerint 6% feletti a magyarok aránya, míg ez Szerbiában 3,53%.

A szerbiai magyar lakta települések 14%-a élt a pályázási lehetőséggel. Az összes vajdasági pályázatot 15 település 30 szervezete nyújtotta be. Ez a vajdasági 107 település, ahol a magyarok aránya 20% fölötti, számához képest alacsony.

Napjainkban már pályázati díjat kell fizetniük a Nemzeti Kulturális Alap pályázóinak, ám ezt a vizsgált időszakban még nem kellett, így ez nem szerepelhetett visszatartó tényezőként. Az azonban mindenképpen nehezítette a határon túli szervezetek pályázását, hogy magyarországi pénzügyi lebonyolítót kellett felkérniük.

A beérkezett 104 db pályázat 11%-a (11 db) érvénytelen, 29%-a (30 db) elutasított, és 60%-a (63 db) támogatott.

A támogatott pályázatok esetében az igényelt források megközelítőleg 29%-át ítélte meg a kuratórium.

Az alacsony pályázási kedv, a lehetségeshez képest kevés számú Szerbiából beérkezett pályázat okán érdemes felvetni, hogy az első és legfontosabb feladat a pályázati lehetőségek kihasználása. Ehhez elengedhetetlenül fontos a rendszeres pályázatfigyelés.

A beérkezett pályázatok tekintve megállapítható, hogy a pályázatok szakmai és pénzügyi kidolgozottsága széles skálán mozog, sok a röviden, szinte vázlatosan megfogalmazott projekt, az elnagyolt, részletesen ki nem fejtett költségvetés. Esetenként felsorolásszerű munkaterv, rendezvényterv helyettesíti a pályázó szervezet bemutatását. Az ilyen és ehhez hasonló hiányosságok a későbbiekben, az EU-s források esetében hiánypótolhatatlan hibát is jelenthetnek, amelyek elutasított pályázatot eredményezhetnek.

Az EU integrációt megelőzően a kevésbé bürokratikus, egyszerűbben benyújtható pályázati lehetőségek, mint a Nemzeti Kulturális Alap Magyarországon jó gyakorlóterepet biztosíthatnak az EU-s források lehívásához.

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