

Inter-municipal cooperation - barriers and motivations: Slovak Republic

Prof. Ing. Juraj Nemec, CSc.

Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Faculty of Economics, Tajovského 10, 975 90 Banská Bystrica, Slovakia and Masaryk University in Brno, Faculty of Economics and Administration, Lipová 41a, 60200 Brno, Czech Republic

e-mail: juraj.nemec@umb.sk

Ing. Nikoleta Jakuš Muthová, PhD.

Faculty of Economics, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
Tajovského 10, 974 01 Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic

e-mail: nikoleta.jakusmuthova@umb.sk

[ORCID](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8700-5055): 0000-0001-8700-5055

prof. Ing. Beáta Mikušová Meričková, PhD.

Faculty of Economics, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
Tajovského 10, 974 01 Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic

Faculty of Economics and Administration, Pardubice University in Pardubice
Studentská 84, 532 10 Pardubice 2, Czech Republic

e-mail: beata.mikusovamerickova@umb.sk

[ORCID](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3187-9201): 0000-0002-3187-9201

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Abstract

In Slovakia, inter-municipal cooperation must face the fragmentation of the administrative system of local authorities. The country is formed of small municipalities, which finance are currently facing several challenges (COVID 19 crisis, energy crisis). Despite to the large level of independence, Slovak municipalities do not have any significant own revenues from own taxes, their main revenue is shared tax. The inter-municipal cooperation could be the way how, to achieve lower costs for service provision

while maintaining service quality (economies of scale). The aim of study is to identify the barriers and motivations that lead municipalities to use the concept of inter-municipal cooperation in Slovak condition. Study uses a qualitative research approach and is based on the Delphi method. The sharing the experience and knowledge were identified as motivations to intermunicipal cooperation. As the main barriers of it transaction costs (of different types); non-existent benchmarks (no regular comparisons of best solutions); and limited motivation to select the optimal mode of service provision were identified.

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