

// CSOs and Cross-Border Networks in the Western Balkans

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Introduction

Cross-border cooperation

Social Network Theory

Research Hypothesis

Introduction // Cross-border cooperation

- Cross-border cooperation as a policy and development tool for bringing bordering regions together;
- As of early 2000s EU launched cross-border cooperation programmes with non-member neighbouring countries;
- As of 2007, EU supported cross-border cooperation programmes between neighbouring countries in the Western Balkans;
- Cross-border programmes have created a social network that brings together different actors from public and private sectors, including civil society organisations;

Introduction // Social Network Theory

- A social network is a structure composed of a set of actors, some of whose members are connected by a set of ties depicting their interconnections;
- Stipulating that connections exist among network actors does not require that all members of the network have a direct link to all actors;
- In reality, social networks exhibit intermediate structures in which some actors have more extensive connections than others;
- Social network analysis seeks to uncover the set of theoretical mechanisms by which social relations affect social entities, and to identify the conditions under which specific mechanisms operate in a particular empirical context;

Introduction // Research Hypothesis

- Social actors can benefit from serving as intermediaries between others who are not directly connected;
- Through such intermediation, they can potentially broker the flow of information and synthesise ideas arising in different parts of the network;
- Bridging “holes” provides opportunity for socially entrepreneurial actors;
- Research hypothesis: civil society organisations are the most successful group of actors in providing brokering opportunities to bridge the structural holes between different actors in cross-border cooperation programmes regardless of the programme measure

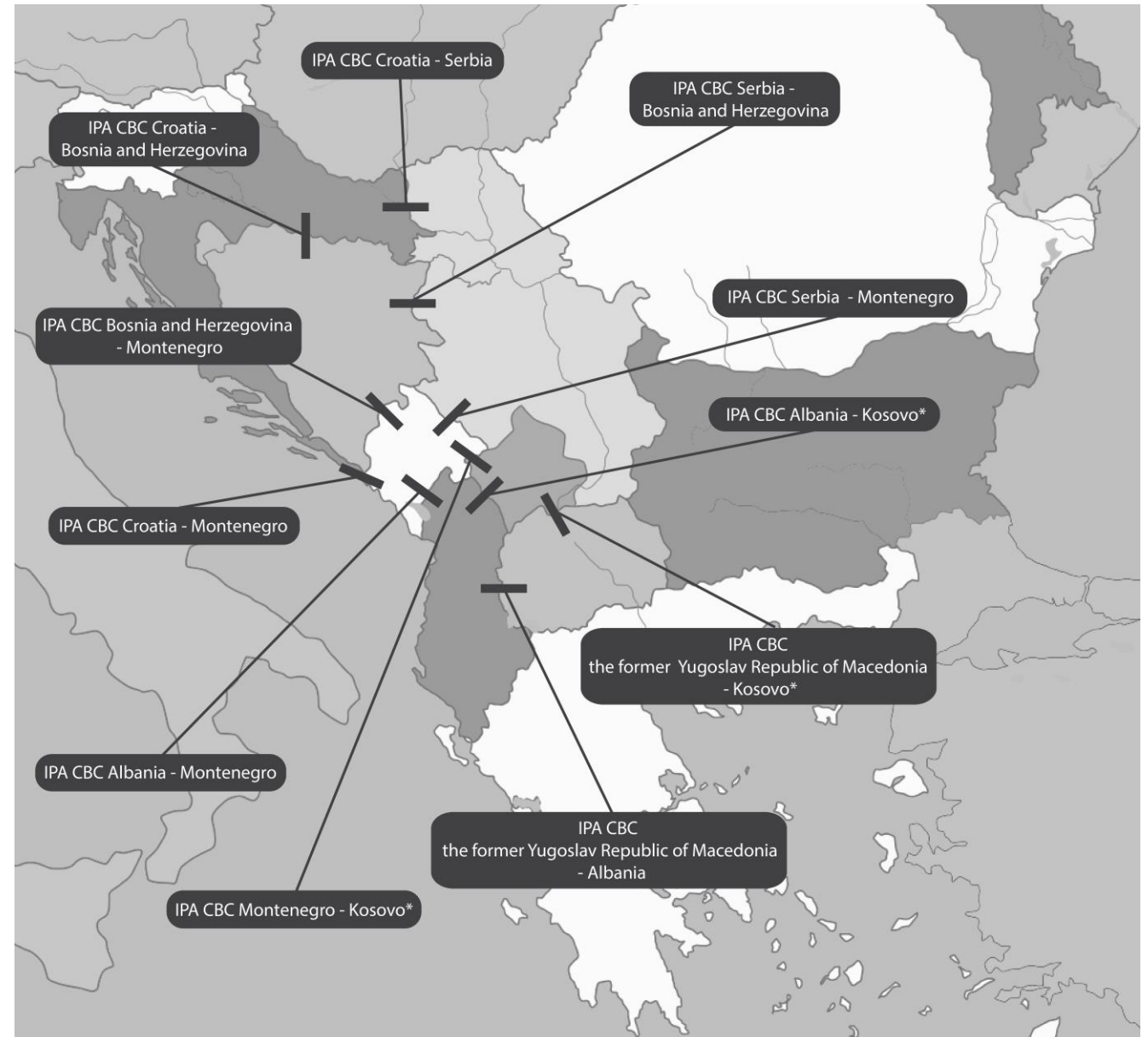
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Cross-border cooperation programmes in the Western Balkans

CBC in the Western Balkans

11 CBC Programmes between countries of the Western Balkans;

- 2007-2013 HR - BA
- 2007-2013 HR - ME
- 2007-2013 HR - RS
- 2007-2013 RS - BA
- 2007-2013 RS - ME
- 2007-2013 BA - ME
- 2007-2013 MK – AL
- 2007-2013 AL – ME
- 2010-2013 MK – XK
- 2010-2013 AL - XK
- 2011-2013 ME - XK



CBC in the Western Balkans // # of Grant Projects

IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme	Number of Projects			
	1 st Call	2 nd Call	3 rd Call	TOTAL
2007-2013 Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina	14	20	10	44
2007-2013 Croatia - Montenegro	5	7	6	18
2007-2013 Croatia - Serbia	11	22	4	37
2007-2013 Serbia - Bosnia and Herzegovina	19	17	2	38
2007-2013 Serbia - Montenegro	13	16	5	34
2007-2013 Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro	12	10	13	35
2007-2013 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Albania	17	9	25	51
2007-2013 Albania – Montenegro	6	11	7	24
2010-2013 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Kosovo	6	-	-	6
2010-2013 Albania - Kosovo	7	-	-	7
2011-2013 Montenegro - Kosovo	9	-	-	9
TOTAL	119	112	72	303

CBC in the Western Balkans // Categorisation

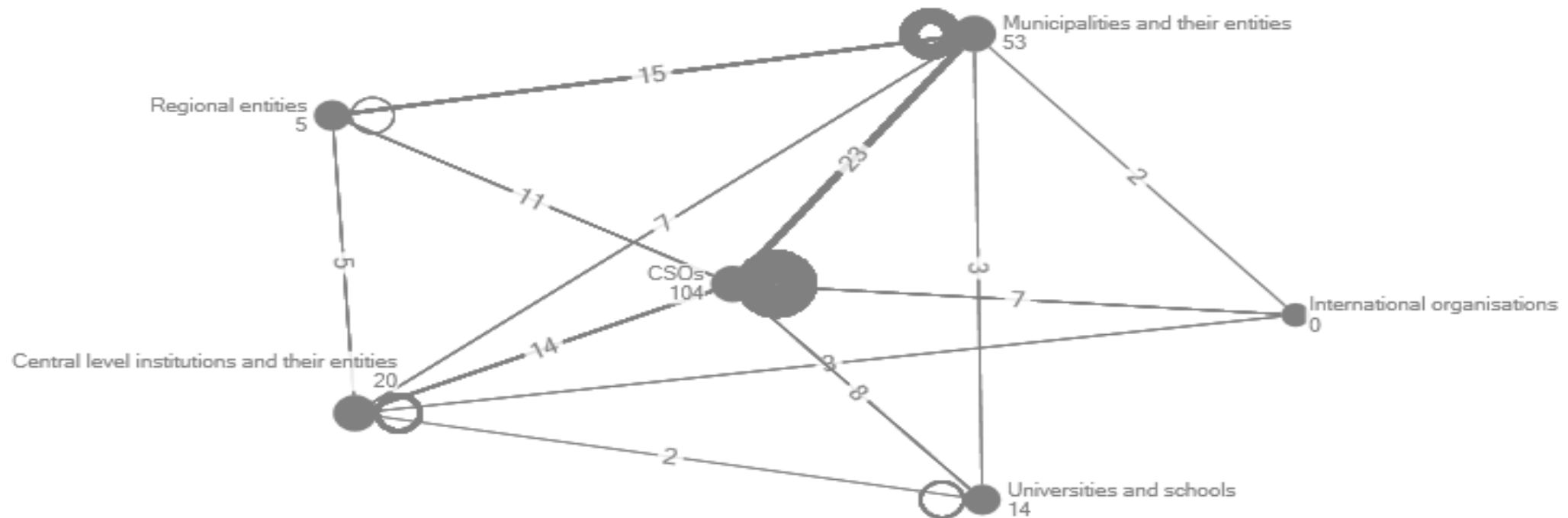
The project beneficiaries classified into six categories:

- Central level institutions and their entities;
- Municipalities and their entities;
- Regional entities;
- Universities and Schools;
- Civil Society Organisations;
- International Organisations.

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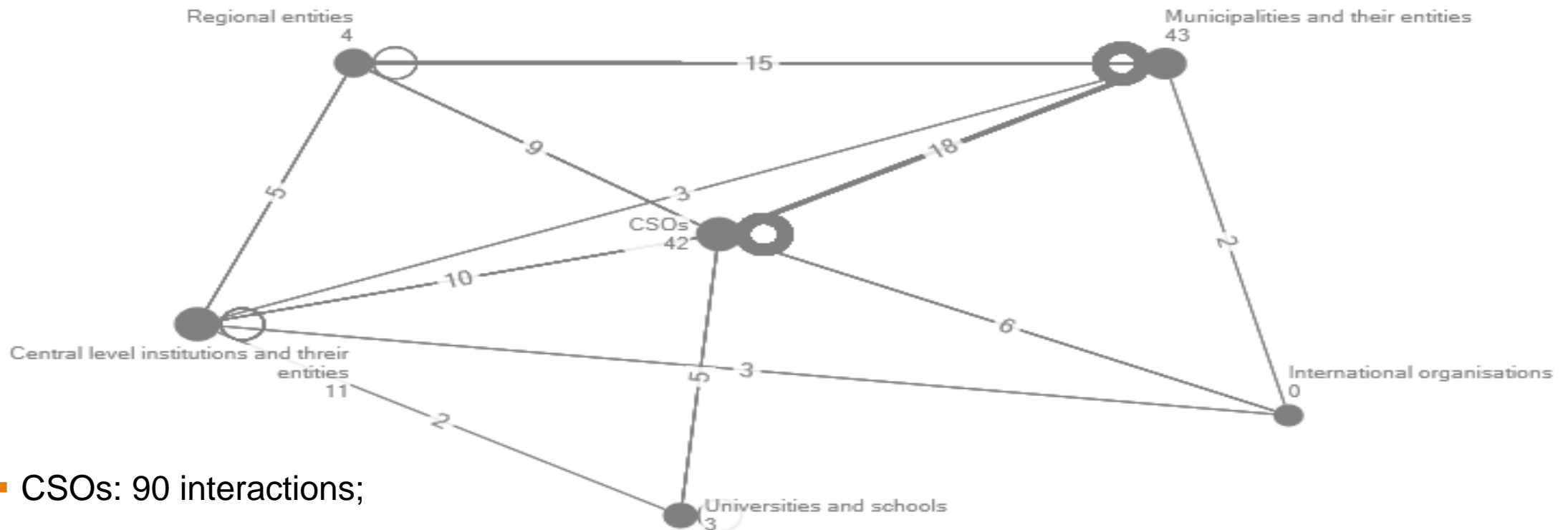
Social Network Analysis

Social Network Analysis // All Beneficiaries



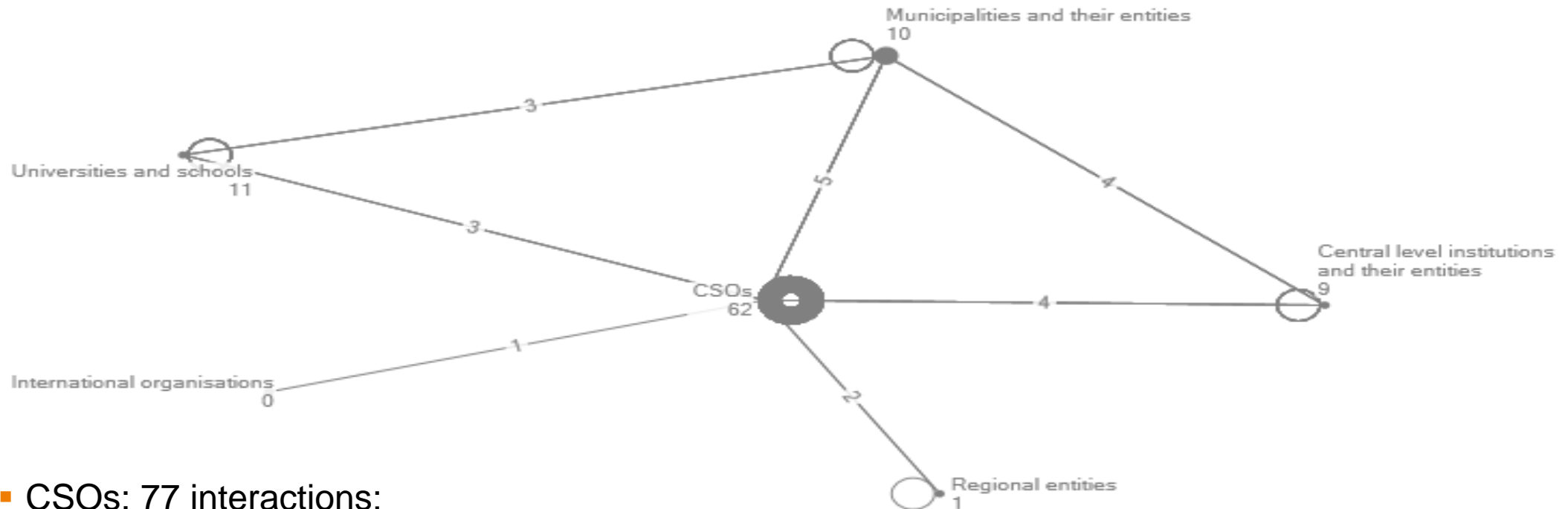
- CSOs: 167 interactions;
- Municipalities and their entities: 103 interactions;
- Central level institutions and their entities: 51 interactions;

Social Network Analysis // Sustainable Development



- CSOs: 90 interactions;
- Municipalities and their entities: 81 interactions;
- Central level institutions and their entities: 34 interactions;

Social Network Analysis // People-to-People



- CSOs: 77 interactions;
- Municipalities and their entities: 22 interactions;
- Universities and Schools: 17 interactions;
- Central level institutions and their entities: 17 interactions;



Conclusion

Conclusion

- Cross-border cooperation programmes in the Western Balkans brought a new dimension of interaction between different social actors;
- In the context of the Western Balkans, where structural linkages between countries and local communities were broken due to many circumstances, the research shown that CSOs were the key actors who used their brokering capacities for linking different actors together;
- The policy makers should recognise this role of CSO create instruments that will lead to better development effects;
- The policy solution might also include strengthening brokering potentials of other actors, i.e. municipalities or development agencies active at regional and local level, yet others too.

Conclusion

- Social Network Analysis should be extended to **project partners (not only applicants)**, as well as to **partnerships that are not awarded for funding**;
- Carrying out Social Network Analysis at the level of **individual actors** will give excellent insights on key actors in the Programme areas;
- Application to financial matters/contracting can give information on possible fraud;
- Combining Social Network Analysis with other quantitative and qualitative instruments might give more insights on impact of public policy or development interventions.



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Thank you

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