

15 YEARS OF **INTERREG**
PROGRAMMES IN POLAND



15 years of Interreg programmes in Poland

Warsaw, August 2020

“Cooperation” is the key to deciphering what Interreg is

For over 30 years, the European Union has been investing in the integration of communities divided by national borders, in international projects allowing for the development of own potential. Interreg is also an opportunity to take up challenges together, because it is often easier to find a solution to a problem in cooperation with a foreign partner than alone.

Polish beneficiaries have been participating in Interreg programmes for over 15 years.

Local governments, educational and cultural institutions, research and development units, police, fire brigades, non-governmental organisations and many other entities have been successfully implementing projects in an international environment.

This publication shows only a small part of what Interreg can boast of with the participation of Polish beneficiaries. The presented projects have a various scope and subject matter. From cultural, cross-border meetings integrating the local community, through ideas for the tourist development of border regions, increasing the safety of residents, or improving the communication infrastructure. There are also many interesting ideas for innovative solutions.

We would like to thank all our former and current beneficiaries for their involvement in international projects, for their openness to cooperation with foreign partners and the willingness to take up various challenges which this cooperation brings.

In the new edition of Interreg programmes for 2021-2027, we are waiting for further projects which can bring the best sustainable development effects. We are sure that we will not run out good ideas for cooperation. We invite everyone, especially those who have not experienced this adventure yet.

Team of Interreg enthusiasts
Territorial Cooperation Department
Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland



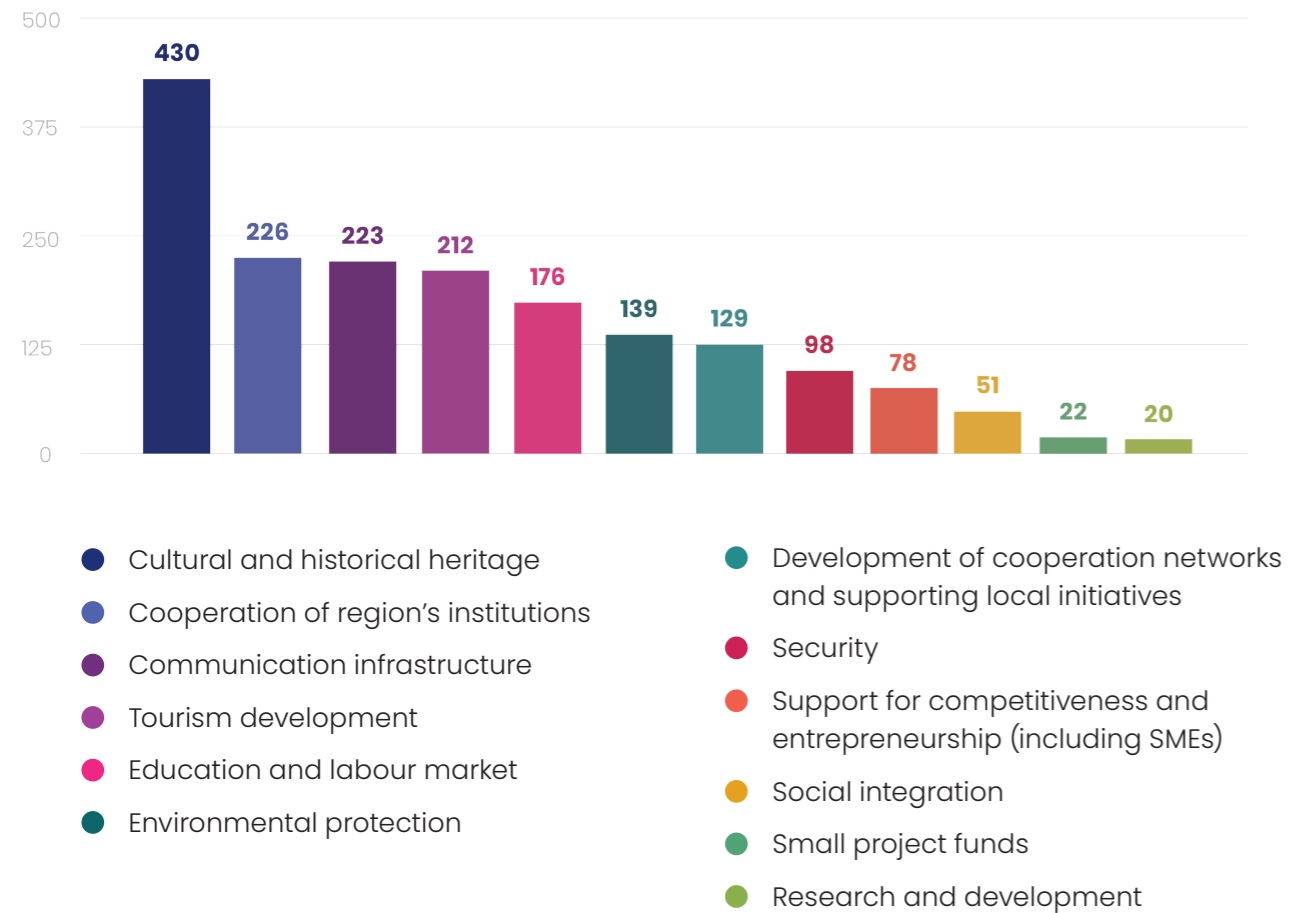
Interreg



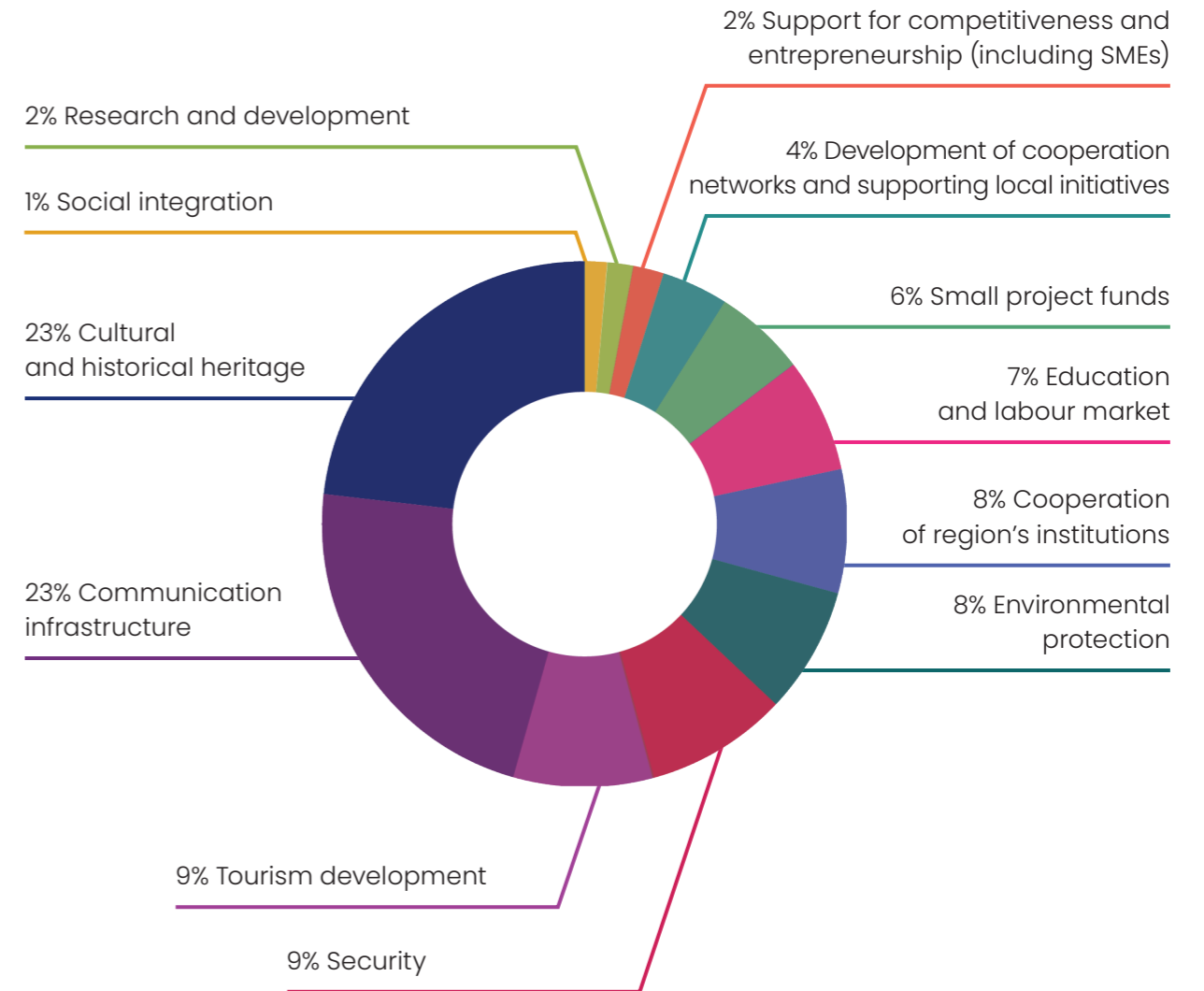
30 years
together

Themes of cooperation in the Interreg cross-border projects in 2007–2020

Total number of projects is 1804



Total amount of funds is PLN 2 billion



Effects of Interreg cross-border programmes in 2014-2020



5 448 people learned the neighbour's language
28 014 participants of international education or training programmes which supported cross-border employment



3 774 entrepreneurs received support for international cooperation



395 thousand people attended international meeting
4 193 meetings of local communities, including: cultural and musical events, festivals, study visits



505 joint international operations of border authorities, customs authorities, rescue services, police and fire services



557 km of new or modernised roads in border areas



916 pieces of new specialised medical equipment in medical facilities in the border region



44 investments in environmental protection



600 renovated and provided cultural or natural heritage sites



3 269 km of tourist trails: new, modernised, better marked ones

**Interreg
Germany / Mecklenburg-
Western Pomerania /
Brandenburg-Poland**



www.interreg5a.info



Photo: Tomasz Ambroszczyk

Project was implemented by: Usedomer Bäderbahn (UBB), UBB Poland.

Railway which connects

Świnoujście is the only Polish town located on islands – a few large and as many as several dozen ones. The Usedom Island, through which the Polish-German border runs, is the biggest. The name of the Usedom Spa Rail Link comes from that island. Its origin dates back to the 19th century. However, until recently Polish enthusiasts of journeys by train have had to leave empty handed. Railway tracks on the Polish side were dismantled at the turn of the 1950s and the 1960s.

But now residents and tourists may enjoy the rail link at will. In 2008 Świnoujście was reconnected with the German part of the island. In the summer trains run to the other side of the border every half an hour and in the winter – every hour. The reconstruction of the rail link was enabled by the Interreg programme and the partnership cooperation of both regions.

Interreg Germany / Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania / Brandenburg-Poland 2004-2006



Photo: Damian Garecki / Pomeranian Dukes' Castle in Szczecin

Project was implemented by: The Polish-German Pomerania Youth Orchestra.

Polish-German youth orchestra

The Polish-German Pomerania Youth Orchestra was established in October 1998. It consists of students of Polish and German music schools who meet during workshop sessions two or three times a year.

Young musicians prepare a repertoire under the eye of experienced teachers and instrumentalists. Each session is followed by concerts during which they have the opportunity to present it. The Polish-German orchestra is an important component in the education of young talents of the border region.

Interreg Germany / Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania / Brandenburg-Poland 2004-2006, Interreg Germany / Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania / Brandenburg-Poland 2007-2013, Small Projects Fund



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Medical University in Greifswald (leader), Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald, Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Independent Public Clinical Hospital No. 1 of the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Charité Medical University in Berlin, Institute of Mother and Child in Warsaw, The Children's Memorial Health Institute in Warsaw.

Cooperation of Polish and German physicians

Very few centres in Europe carry out newborn screening tests for birth defects of metabolism and hormone-related disorders. Most frequently, these defects are not diagnosed and treated as early as possible, in particular, if there are no symptoms in the first days of life. They may result in multiple organ dysfunction in newborns or even their death.

This problem was jointly addressed by the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin and the Medical University in Greifswald. In 2012 they started to carry out screening tests in children. Since then a total of approximately 186 thousand newborns on both sides of the border have been examined. After some time, new partners from Berlin and Warsaw joined the project.

Thanks to it, young patients gained the access to modern diagnostic methods. Children with complex immunological deficiency syndromes and increased concentration of blood glucose may also count on faster diagnosis and specialist treatment.

Interreg Germany / Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania / Brandenburg-Poland 2014-2020



Photo: From the collection of the Landscape Parks Complex of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship

Project was implemented by: Landscape Parks Complex of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship (leader), Barnim-Oderbruch association of municipalities.

Historic border bridge

Since the end of the 19th century the old railway bridge has been connecting two banks of the river Odra. It is a cultural monument and a witness of history. However, it was closed for 75 years. Why was it revitalised? To revive tourism in this part of the Polish-German borderland in an unconventional, but very attractive way.

Tourists will definitely appreciate such an attraction, unique on a European scale. Both pedestrians and cyclists will be able to use the 660-metre-long bridge connecting Siekierki and Neurüdniz. Currently the cross-border foot and cycling path connecting Polish and German cycling trails is being prepared.

Not only recreational value, but also views are the advantages of the bridge. Their admiration will be facilitated by a two-level viewing platform as well as leisure and recreation space. And there is a lot to admire. Wild, natural floodplain of the river Odra is known to nature enthusiasts on both sides of the border. It even gained a name: the Lower Odra Unique Valley.

Interreg Germany / Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania / Brandenburg-Poland 2014-2020



Photo: Szczecin

Project was implemented by: Szczecin (leader), West Pomeranian Maritime and Polytechnic Education Center – Teacher Training Center in Szczecin, Western Pomerania – Greifswald district, Uckermark district, Regional Agency for Education, Integration and Democracy (RAA) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, University of Greifswald, Gramzow Association of Municipalities.

Learning the neighbour's language

A comprehensive approach to learning – this method was introduced in schools and preschools in Szczecin as well as in institutions on the other side of the border in Mecklenburg and Brandenburg. Of course, it is about learning the neighbour's language. The classes started in the places where they have not been carried out so far. In the places where children and youth have been already learning the language – their level was raised. A few thousand students on both sides of the border have already benefited from the project.

Furthermore, children and youth mastered their language skills in practice. They participated in meetings with peers, neighbours on the other side of the border. This was also the opportunity to get to know a neighbouring country and its citizens. Teachers also benefited a lot. Not only did they increase their competences but also they learned new methods of teaching foreign languages. A specially designed information campaign was to encourage parents and show them the benefits of learning a foreign language by their children.

Partners implementing the project also dealt with the curricula. They developed a joint cross-border concept assuming the continuity of learning the neighbour's language: from preschool to the completion of school education. It was tested in around sixty educational institutions on both sides of the border: preschools, elementary and secondary schools.

Interreg Germany / Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania / Brandenburg-Poland 2014-2020

Pomeranian Medical University as the leader of cooperation with Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin is one of the leading universities in Poland. Its researchers and students are very successful in the field of genetics, cancers as well as stem cell research. Furthermore, cardiac, digestive and hand surgery are substantial clinical achievements. The university maintains scientific relations with renowned foreign centres. It also willingly participates in international projects.

Since 2004 the Pomeranian Medical University has participated in as many as eleven undertakings from very different areas. Many trainings were held in the field of modern methods of experimental haematology. The inter-hospital data base for the development of innovative medical solutions was created as well. Such a joint data base enhanced the circulation of information between various facilities. This obviously translated into higher quality of treatment. The residents of the Polish-German cross-border region may also benefit from telemedicine solutions. This is particularly vital for the patients from beyond large urban centres.

Such close cooperation with foreign centres brought many benefits. It resulted in a model of newborn screening tests which is unique on European scale. Ophthalmological diagnostics improved as well. Furthermore, Polish and German specialists work together all the time in the field of paediatrics, children's oncology and haematology. All these undertakings came into being thanks to two Interreg programmes: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern-Brandenburg Poland and the South Baltic.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Interreg Poland-Brandenburg, Brandenburg-Poland



www.interregva-bb-pl.eu



Photo: Gubin

Project was implemented by: Gubin (leader), Guben.

The Guben-Gubin green trail

In the past Guben and Gubin constituted one urban organism which was artificially divided after 1945. For decades Guben and Gubin functioned and developed independently of each other. The challenge now is to strengthen their bond as part of reviving twin cities and restore urban coherence.

These objectives are supported by, inter alia, the project co-financed by Interreg. It consists in connecting the most important tourist destinations of Guben and Gubin by a pedestrian and bicycle path. The path not only shows monuments and the centre of twin cities but also brings residents of both parts together and creates possibilities to spend free time in an active way, also for tourists. The trail is equipped with new resting points and information boards. This obviously makes moving on both sides of the river Lusatian Neisse easier and allows to plan sightseeing in a better way.

Interreg Poland-Brandenburg 2007-2013



Photo: Renewable Energy Center in Sulechów

Project was implemented by: Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus (leader), State High School in Sulechów.

Alternative sources of energy

Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and use of alternative sources of energy are urgent challenges of today. These issues were discussed by research partners in the Polish-German project.

Experts examined properties of obtained biomass, its usability for heating and fertilising as well as they tested the operation of special boilers. Furthermore, a number of tests were carried out in Poland and in Germany. It was checked whether the developed technology may constitute an alternative for expensive heating fuels. The research on bioash and its use as a fertilizer was another interesting theme. The Interreg programme also helped to fund an international information centre for the use of bioenergy in the region.

Interreg Poland-Brandenburg 2007-2013



Photo: Nowa Sól

Project was implemented by: Nowa Sól (leader), municipalities of: Bytom Odrzański, Sulechów, Krosno Odrzańskie, Słubice, Kostrzyn nad Odrą, Górzycy, Marina Winterhafen Sportboot Frankfurt (Oder) Association, Eisenhüttenstadt, Frankfurt (Oder).

The border river Odra for tourists

For many years the Polish-German border on the river Odra was closely guarded. Due to this fact, the access to the river was impossible, just as the development of tourism in this area.

In recent years Polish and German towns located at the middle Odra have decided to attract tourists to these areas. The common aquatic trail is to serve this aim. Towns also took care of port and tourist infrastructure. Two tourist ships were purchased. Tourist guides, maps for boaters and albums concerning the nature of the river Odra were issued.

Now enthusiasts of water journeys may go for a cruise on the river Odra and benefit from the tourist offer of the Polish and German bank of the river.



Photo: Torsten Kleinschmidt

Neighbour's catering

Discovering the secrets of the neighbour's cuisine? This is a huge inspiration for the future chefs. This is what the joint project of Polish and German vocational schools is going to do. For their students it is an excellent opportunity to expand their knowledge about the neighbour's cuisine and catering market. This aim is achieved by study visits, conferences, workshops, vocational trainings, including linguistic ones.

Also teachers may exchange their experience. They can plan further cooperation for the best interest of learning a profession. Employers participate in the project as well. Furthermore, the project covers the extension of the Culinary Arts Secondary School in Gorzów Wielkopolski. A conference room together with modern catering facilities was created. It serves the students from both sides of the border as the Polish-German Education Centre.

Gubin as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Brandenburg

Gubin and Gubin-Guben twin cities have been already mentioned. Until 1945 both towns constituted a one organism. Later, when the Polish-German border on the Lusatian Neisse was set, they were artificially divided. It does not mean that the contacts between towns ceased. They have been developing for many years on many planes of everyday life. An example of that would be the joint festival "Spring at Neisse" held for several decades. It combines various artistic, cultural and sport events.

At the end of the 1990s towns initiated the common concept of development of the Guben-Gubin Euro-Town. It is based on two centres and the main focus is put on joint restoration and recovery of the urban compositional and functional order. Since 2015 the local authorities from both sides of the border have been cooperating with one another as part of the independently established joint commission. Since the 1990s both sides have been also implementing common undertakings which are of great importance for residents, the example of which is a common waste water treatment plant.

Due to their location, Gubin and Guben use Interreg funds for their cooperation. The Teatralna Island located on the Lusatian Neisse was connected with a German bank by a footbridge. Furthermore, the island was revitalised and now it is a place of Polish-German meetings. The so-called green path connecting green areas and the largest attractions of towns on both sides of the border was created. Twin cities took care of the surrounding of the railway station used by residents of both towns. Town halls, community centres and health centres cooperate as well. Residents may participate in many cross-border sport and cultural events.



Photo: Krzysztof Zdobyłak

Interreg Poland–Saxony, Saxony–Poland



www.plsn.eu



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Pieńsk municipality (leader), Neißeauë municipality.

Footbridge through the border river

For many years the municipality of Pieńsk has been cooperating with German municipalities located on the other side of the river Lusatian Neisse. The lack of direct border crossing point was a big obstacle for these neighbouring contacts.

In 2004 a new border crossing point Pieńsk – Deschka for pedestrians and cyclists was added to the agreement on border bridges concluded between Poland and Germany. A new footbridge on the river Lusatian Neisse – using the already existed pillars – was planned in the place of a bridge demolished in 1947. The investment was financed from the Interreg programme. Local residents and tourists have been using a one hundred-metre-long footbridge already since mid-2007. And they use it often, in particular cyclists, because the footbridge is located within the network of cycling trails of a picturesque basin of the river Lusatian Neisse.

Cross-border contacts are frequent. Each school in Pieńsk has a German partner school. Sports clubs cooperate with one another in a similar way. A Polish-German preschool was established on the German side. The Polish residents have an easier access to the culture and entertainment park located nearby in Zentendorf, while residents of small village Deschka come to Pieńsk to do shopping.

Interreg Saxony-Poland 2004-2006



Photo: Jakub Purej

Projects were implemented by: Żarski district (leader of the 1st and the 3rd stage), Zgorzelec municipality (leader of the 4th and the 5th stage), Görlitz district (leader of the 2nd stage), town of Zgorzelec, Bad Muskau, municipalities of: Pieńsk, Żary, Krauschwitz, Łęknica, Zgorzelecki district, Kulturinsel Einseidel association, Lipinki Forest District, Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Görlitz, Görlitz collections of history and culture.

Down the border by canoe

Almost a half of the Polish-German border runs along the river Lusatian Neisse. Nowadays also those who like an active rest can find here a lot of attractions, thanks to the Interreg funds and a long-term cooperation of local self-government units. Recently, canoeing trip down the river on its whole length is possible. Canoeists are provided with appropriate infrastructure on the both sides of the river. Cyclists and pedestrians can count on new cycling and hiking trails, while horse lovers have horseback routes on their disposal.

The network of trails combines numerous tourist attractions on both sides of the border. One of them is the 19th-century Muskau Park divided by the river Lusatian Neisse which includes nature and English garden art. As the largest Polish park in this style it was listed in the UNESCO World Heritage site. "Adventures of Nysa" is a tourist brand which integrates tourism in the Lusatian Neisse region.

Interreg Saxony-Poland 2004-2006, Interreg Saxony-Poland 2007-2013, Interreg Poland-Saxony 2014-2020



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Multidisciplinary Hospital – Independent Public Healthcare Institution in Zgorzelec (leader), Görlitz City Clinic.

Healthier in Zgorzelec-Görlitz twin cities

Comprehensive treatment of patients on both sides of the border, including patients after severe traumas? It is possible thanks to the excellent cooperation of hospitals from Zgorzelec and Görlitz which was supported by financial resources from the Interreg programme.

Polish and German specialists may quickly send radiological examination results for diagnosis through broadband internet connection. They also developed common procedures of providing assistance in the case of emergencies. The hospital in Zgorzelec was equipped with a modern computer tomography scanner with cardiac and vascular option as well as software together with the equipment for teleradiology connection. The clinic in Görlitz received a CT scanner, X-ray equipment for the emergency ward and a device enabling the provision of teleradiology services.

Interreg Saxony-Poland 2007-2013



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Pieńsk municipality (leader), Neißeau municipalty.

One water source

Supply of drinking water to residents – the Polish and German municipalities decided to address this issue together. Thanks to the money from Interreg programme, a water treatment plant in Pieńsk and a water supply network in Neißeau were modernised. Next, the Polish station was connected to the German network.

Everyone benefited from it. Germans drink water treated by Poles, thanks to which the German municipality avoided an expensive construction of its own installation. As far as the Polish town is concerned, it can count on emergency water supply from Görlitz. Owing to these investments, residents of both municipalities drink higher quality water.

Interreg Saxony-Poland 2007-2013



Photo: Tomasz Szeremeta

Project was implemented by: State Office for Schools and Education of Free State of Saxony (leader), districts of: Zgorzelecki, Lubański, Bolesławiecki, Żarski.

Active youth in the Polish-German borderland

Student Tourist Agencies – they were founded in four Polish secondary schools and three Saxon gymnasiums thanks to the Interreg programme. They help young people to become the ambassadors of a modern and open region and hence – to co-create its brand.

Students under the watchful eye of experts learn how to manage tourist and cultural projects, set up their own companies or promote a product. They also organise concerts, exhibitions, literary evenings and cultural festivals. They participate in tourist fairs. They learn how to jointly organise cultural life in the borderland. They show local communities the cultural and tourist potential of these areas. Future graduates will be able to use the skills obtained in this way on the positions of a regional tourism manager or a manager of culture.

Interreg Poland-Saxony 2014-2020



Photo: Jakub Sochoń

Project was implemented by: Foundation Memory, Education, Culture / Foundation Centre for Entrepreneurship Support in Zgorzelec (leader), Meetingpoint Music Messiaen Association, Zgorzelec municipality.

Memory of past wars

Not all topics concerning the common history of Görlitz and Zgorzelec were well-examined and described. And not all of them are known to the local community. These include, for example, the topic of prisoners of war and prisoners-of-war camps.

Thanks to the Interreg programme, residents of Görlitz and Zgorzelec could have learnt about the history of the prisoners-of-war camp Stalag VIIIa – Görlitz Ost which was constructed by the Polish prisoners of war of the September Campaign of 1939. The project partners took actions for the commemoration of the former prisoners of war from Stalag VIIIa. This is the beginning of the archive concerning the prisoners of this camp.

The municipality of Pieńsk as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Saxony

The western border of the municipality of Pieńsk on the distance of around 30 km overlaps with a state border and follows the Lusatian Neisse. On the other side there is the German municipality of Neißeau and the town of Rothenburg with which the municipality of Pieńsk has been cooperating for years. Before Poland entered the European Union, they implemented the infrastructural project of cross-border importance. A mechanical and biological sewage treatment plant used by residents of the municipality and three localities from the German municipality of Neißeau (Deschka, Zodel and Groß-Krauscha) was constructed. The investment was funded by the European Union and the Saxon Ministry of Environmental Protection.

Many projects were implemented thanks to Interreg and cooperation with Germany. They all facilitate Polish-German contacts and at the same time improve living conditions on both sides of the border. A footbridge on the border river was one of the first investments. Furthermore, the sports infrastructure which is used by youth from both sides of the border was extended. The cultural centre, which is currently engaged in the Polish-German project concerning cultural heritage of the Upper Lusatia, was modernised.

The project regarding common water treatment station for Polish and German residents was unique on a European scale. Polish and German fire fighters implemented a joint threat notification system. Tourist infrastructure was extended and marking of tourist routes was enhanced. Furthermore, canoeists can enjoy the charms of the Lusatian Neisse, while cyclists and pedestrians from both sides of the border can benefit from trails in the Lower Silesian Forest, one of the larger forest complexes in Europe.



Photo: Pieńsk municipality

Interreg South Baltic



www.southbaltic.eu



Photo: Generation BALT

University of Rostock (leader), Klaipeda Science and Technology Park, Klaipeda University, Polish Chamber of Maritime Commerce, Gdańsk University of Technology, University of Szczecin, University of Business and Administration named by Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski in Gdynia, Linnaeus University, Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Rostock, German Association for Marine Technology, Foundation Gdynia Academic Initiative, Maritime Institute in Gdańsk, Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Pomeranian Cluster of the Sea and Vistula Basin, Union of the Baltic Cities in Gdańsk, Baltic Fishing Fleet State Academy Kaliningrad, Baltic University Programme, Marine Centre in Simrishamn municipality.

Innovative curriculum of maritime studies

The South Baltic has a powerful potential for becoming a maritime economy development centre. Maritime economy develops in completely new directions. Next to traditional fields of shipbuilding industry, navigation, fishery, a completely new maritime sector develops. What is it? This is, for example, offshore energy, aquaculture or maritime spatial planning.

New needs enforce the creation of a new education model. The knowledge-based economy needs highly qualified specialists and entrepreneurs open to innovations. The development of such a model was possible thanks to the cooperation of industry and higher education. Their common project educated and promoted such people.

Universities and maritime business associations from Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and Russia pooled their resources to boost innovation-based maritime economy in the region. They carefully analysed the forecasts of future trends on the labour market in selected sectors of maritime economy. The main project activity was a common curriculum of postgraduate studies the BALT Generation. It included 5 weekend courses and summer school which were designed around maritime sectors with a highest development potential.

Interreg South Baltic 2007-2013



Photo: Evelina Valaitytė / South Coast Baltic

Project was implemented by: Economic Development Corporation Vorpommern in Germany (leader), Tourism Association Vorpommern in Germany, Municipality Ostseebad Heringsdorf in Germany, Marina Network Association in Germany, Union of Ports and Yacht Harbours – Local Tourist Organization of the West Pomeranian Sailing Trail, Żegluga Szczecińska company in Szczecin, Maritime University of Szczecin, Darłowo, Union of Cities and Maritime Communes in Gdańsk, Pętla Żuławska company in Elbląg, Gdańsk University of Technology, Administration of Klaipeda District Municipality, Sventoji Tourism Association in Lithuania, Bornholm Regional Municipality in Denmark.

More pleasant sailing in the Baltic Sea

The South Baltic region is full of life. These border areas are absolutely perfect for nautical tourism. This is why, as part of Interreg, the group of partners once again took care of its promotion in this context.

Marinas, sailing associations and other stakeholders exchanged their knowledge and experience in this field. The sailors' needs analysis was carried out – all that to improve the quality of services. Also those who manage marinas had an opportunity to increase their competences. The measures were supported by information campaigns.

It is important to note that the project engaged various groups in cooperation, including in particular operators of marinas, charter companies, tourist agencies. The participation of authorities of local, regional and central level was vital. Furthermore, sailors visiting the southern coast of the Baltic Sea and journalists interested in the topic were involved.

Interreg South Baltic 2007–2013, Interreg South Baltic 2014–2020



Photo: Piotr Kendzierski

Project was implemented by: BioCon Valley GmbH from Germany (leader), University of Rostock – Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Aquaculture and Sea-Ranching, Danish Technological Institute, Maritime Institute in Gdańsk, University of Gdańsk, National Marine Fisheries Research Institute from Poland, Klaipeda Science and Technology Park.

Development of innovative Baltic aquaculture

Aquaculture consists in extraction of food from the water environment. It is the transfer and development of this technology in the entire region of the South Baltic that the project partners dealt with. Small and medium entrepreneurs, among others, benefited from it. They had easier access to cutting-edge technology, know-how, expertise and funding models. Taking into consideration the results of the previous joint projects, particular emphasis was put on environmentally friendly aquaculture systems. Their innovative combinations, e.g. with plant production or renewable energy production, were developed.

Project partners identified the best practices of environmentally friendly aquaculture systems. They also evaluated their agri-economic and environmental impact. They developed and implemented a package of services for enterprises which included, inter alia: trainings, study visits, innovation assessment tools, participation in events related to adjustment to new standards. Furthermore, four aquaculture pilot actions were implemented. Participants of the projects could see themselves the regional potential of various aquaculture systems. Obviously – those innovative and environmentally friendly.



Photo: Christian Kaehler

Project was implemented by: University of Rostock – Chair of Geotechnics and Coastal Engineering (leader), World Maritime University, Maritime University of Szczecin.

Protecting the Baltic Sea against pollutions

The Baltic Sea is characterised by high movement density. Due to this fact, there is a high probability of accidents and consequently – oil spills polluting water and maritime environment.

This is why project partners constructed the system for fighting against oil spills. It consists in the use of absorbents which absorb oily substances present in water. Absorbents are discharged from the plane to the sea and then they are collected by means of an oil pollution boom placed out from a rescue ship. This system may be used in all weather conditions.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Region Blekinge in Sweden (leader), InnoBaltica Ltd in Gdańsk, Association for Promotion of Hanseatic Institute for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development at the University of Rostock, Hanseatic City of Rostock, Guldborgsund Municipality in Denmark, Klaipeda Public Transport Authority, Blekinge Institute of Technology in Sweden, Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic, Viimsi Municipality in Estonia.

Friendly public transport

Car traffic reduction on the South Baltic coast – this is the idea that joined the partners. How to achieve it? Make public transport respond to the passengers' needs. Regional and cross-border journeys should be easy and attractive. Additionally, a larger number of joint tickets for combined travels and better access to information have to be introduced.

Partners designed and tested innovations in public transport planning and management. They engaged a broad range of various stakeholders. They developed programmes, which help to manage public transport across borders on many levels, obviously taking into consideration the need of cross-border compatibility. These programmes can be used in many places.

Gdańsk University of Technology as the leader of cooperation in the South Baltic area

Gdańsk University of Technology actively benefits from the South Baltic Interreg programme from the very beginning. So far it has been involved in over a dozen projects, the majority of which concerned green technologies. It actively cooperates with foreign partners from the South Baltic countries. On what?

For example, on the use of renewable fuels for marine propulsion, disposal of waste and treatment of sewage, rainwater and soil. Furthermore, experts jointly work on heat and energy recovery technology, pure energy production. They also deal with the examination of pharmaceutical substances discharged to the Baltic Sea.

Gdańsk University of Technology is active in the field of transport as well. In one of the projects it promoted the application of electric mobility on a large scale. In the other – production and use of electric boats and ships in the Baltic Sea. It also willingly participates in international projects regarding nautical tourism in the Baltic Sea.

The university is also engaged in initiatives for the cooperation of local communities and entities in the region. It participates in the project which, on the one hand, strengthens the cross-border cooperation between youth from the Baltic countries, while on the other – it increases competences of officials in the local self-government units so that they could be more engaged in the civil dialogue with youth.

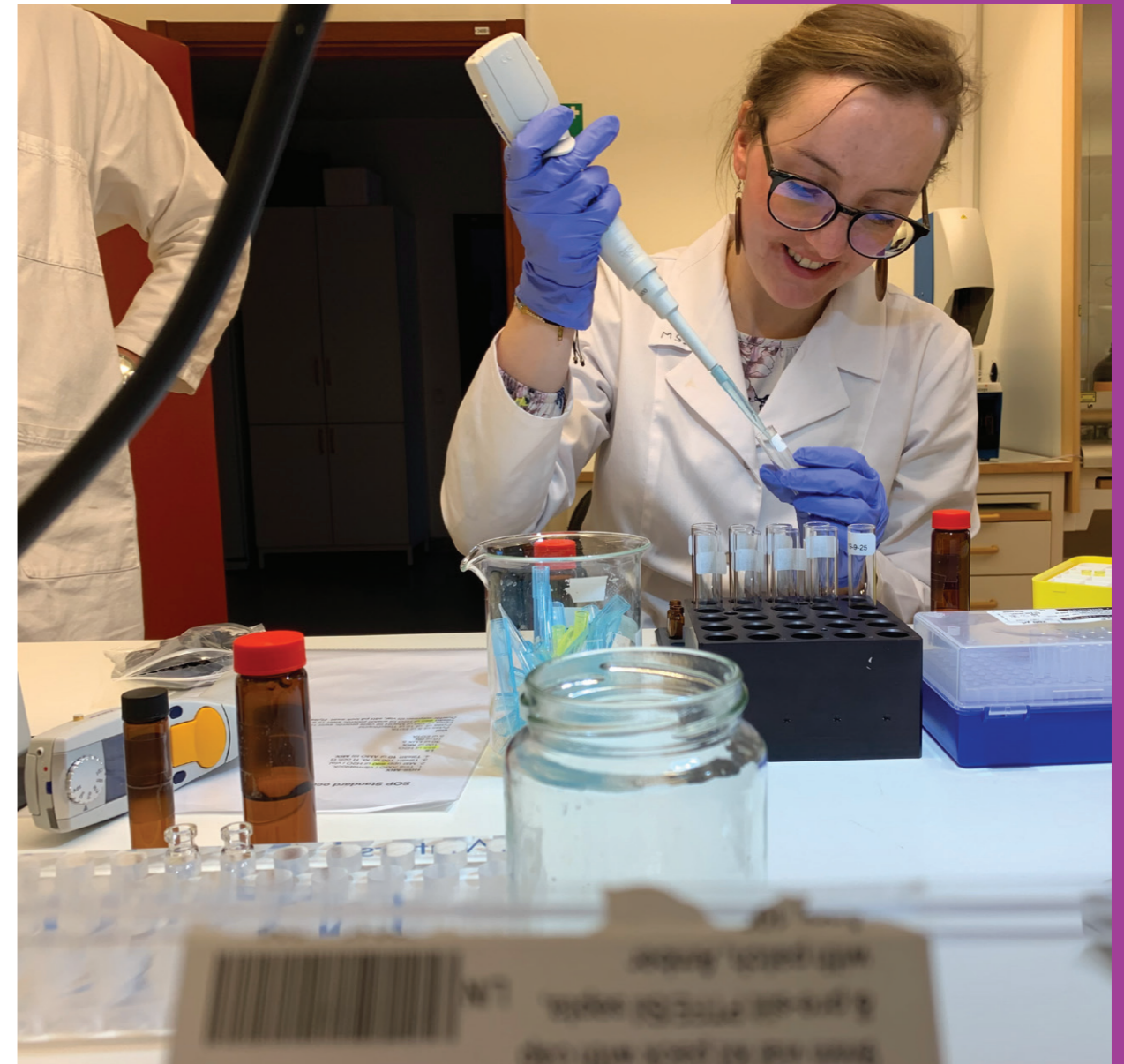
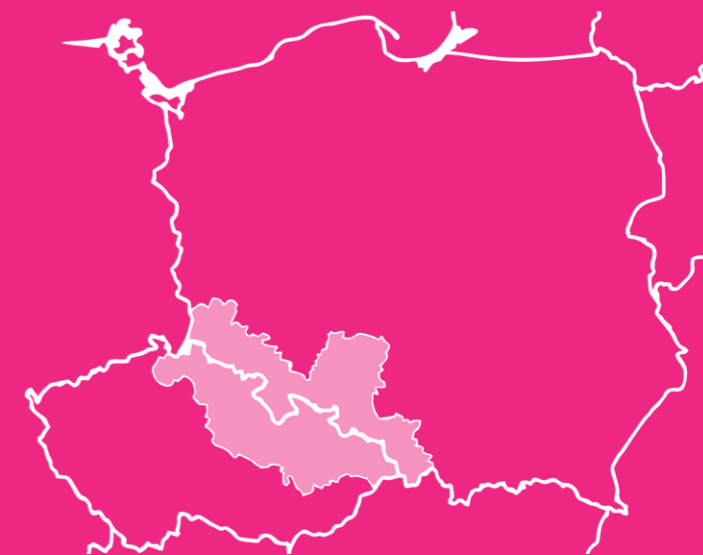


Photo: Erland Björklund

Interreg Czech Republic–Poland



www.cz-pl.eu



Photo: KnG / Wojciech Wandzel

Project was implemented by: Association "Kultura na Granicy" in Cieszyn (leader), Social and Cultural Center "Střelnice" in Český Těšín.

Film festival "The Cinema on the Border"

Is it possible to watch a film on a silver screen which is displayed in the other country than that in which the audience sits? Yes, it is. The first in the world cross-border projections were held at the river Olza. The audience and the projector were in Czech Cieszyn, while the screen was on the Polish side.

Such an idea was initiated during the 11th film festival "The Cinema on the Border" which was organised at the turn of April and May 2009. It was a real treat for cinema-goers. They had an opportunity to watch 81 films representing both classics and new films of the Central European cinematography. Film screenings were accompanied by lectures, meetings with directors and fairs of producers and distributors.

The film festival "The Cinema on the Border" has been held every year since 1999. It gives residents and visitors from both countries the opportunity to get to know each other and build good neighbourly relations.

Interreg Czech Republic-Poland 2007-2013



Photo: Jindřich Berounský

Project was implemented by: Lower Silesian Voivodeship – Lower Silesian Road and Rail Service (leader), Railway administration in Czech Republic.

Railway link Szklarska Poręba–Harrachov

The railway link Szklarska Poręba Górna (Poland) – Harrachov (Czech Republic) was closed for passenger transport for over 60 years. This 14-kilometre-long distance is a part of the so-called Jizera Railway, i.e. the railway link Jelenia Góra – Szklarska Poręba – Kořenov which was established at the beginning of the 20th century.

The railway link was modernised and passenger services were resumed at the end of August 2010. It is willingly used by residents of the borderland and tourists, who go for mountain trips and cross-country skiing in the winter. The journey on this picturesque, mountain route is an attraction in itself. It is located above the altitude of 700 m above sea level. Its highest point – Szklarska Poręba Jakuszyce station on Szklarska Pass (886 m above sea level) – is the highest railway station in Poland.

Interreg Czech Republic–Poland 2007–2013



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: TV Studio Ostrawa, Polish TV Branch in Wrocław.

TV cross-border adventure

“The Polish-Czech Talks” is a series of programmes broadcast in the public media from Poland and the Czech Republic. They showed neighbour-to-neighbour relations. In a word, what unites us and what divides us, common and separate history, linguistic similarities and differences and everyday life in the cross-border region. In the next common project a series of documentaries devoted to the entire Polish-Czech border was prepared. The authors showed that the current contacts between the citizens of both countries are natural, mainly due to open borders.

They present stories from various places of the border region, in which the past intertwines with the present. Documentaries were based on real events of the 20th century, stories of people and places. The town of Cieszyn is an example. Changes of boundaries caused that destinies of Poles, Czechs, Germans and Jews were intertwined. Both the Czech and Polish Cieszyn have their unique atmosphere, languages intermingle and people meet in historic places with more than 200 years of tradition.

Another place shown in this series was the Peatland near Zieleniec. It is located at an altitude of almost 800 meters above sea level and accumulates peat deposits with a thickness of over 8 meters in some places. This is where the river Dzika Orlica has its source. At the distance of about 30 kilometres, the river marks the Polish-Czech border, and then it turns through the so-called Earth Gate into the Czech Republic.

Interreg Czech Republic-Poland 2007-2013



Photo: Karolina Krawczyk

Project was implemented by: Jizerská – a public benefit organization in Bedřichov (leader), association Stowarzyszenie Bieg Piastów in Szklarska Poręba.

Cross-country skiing across the border

Important cross-country skiing centres have been operating for several decades on both sides of the Jizera Mountains divided by the border. The total length of Polish and Czech trails amounts to around 250 km.

Organisations responsible for their maintenance and development, thanks to the support of the Interreg programme, modernised some of them and created new ones. Furthermore, they purchased the equipment for preparing cross-country skiing trails. Tourists and skiers may enjoy secure recreation in more comfortable conditions. Cross-country skiers from both sides of the border could also participate in two Polish-Czech sports events. These investments are important for the development of tourism in the summer season, when the trails are used by pedestrians and cyclists.

Interreg Czech Republic-Poland 2007-2013



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Public Health Institute in Ostrava (leader), VSB Technical University in Ostrava, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute – Ostrava branch, Institute of Meteorology and Water Management in Warsaw, Central Mining Institute in Katowice, Institute of Environmental Engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Do you know what you breathe?

Air pollution in the borderland of Silesia and Moravia belongs to the highest in Europe. Thanks to Interreg, the air quality information system was established in this highly industrialised area. It also takes into consideration pollution of the so-called suspended particulate matter. Thanks to the common platform, movements of pollution can be monitored. Scientists from Poland and the Czech Republic may also predict high concentration of pollution in border regions. Thanks to cooperation, Polish and Czech scientists exchanged their knowledge and experience.

Having a better access to the air quality information, the administration may influence the local industrial plants. This helps to shape environmental policy of the region and improve the residents' quality of life in the long-term perspective.

Interreg Czech Republic–Poland 2007–2013



Photo: Higher Vocational Medical School, Medical Lyceum and Business Academy in Trutnov

Project was implemented by: Higher Vocational Medical School, Medical Lyceum and Business Academy in Trutnov (leader), Karkonosze State University of Applied Sciences in Jelenia Góra.

Cross-border education of students

Polish medical students and their Czech colleagues could jointly improve their skills of care of patients. They had the opportunity to find out what health care looks like on the other side of the border. This was an important experience for the future graduates looking for a job in the cross-border region. Medical students became also acquainted with the neighbour's language during off-site language courses.

Two-week internships in health care and social care institutions in neighbouring countries were a valuable element of education in practice. As part of a joint project, universities purchased equipment for learning paediatric care and anaesthesiological nursing as well as advanced simulators and phantoms for learning gynaecological care.

Interreg Czech Republic-Poland 2014-2020



Photo: Łukasz Nowak

Project was implemented by: Regional Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Opole (leader), Regional Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Wrocław and Katowice, Regional Fire Service of Liberecký, Královéhradecký, Pardubický, Olomoucký and Moravskoslezský region.

Safe Polish–Czech borderland

Hazards do not know borders. This is why good cooperation of fire brigade from Poland and the Czech Republic is so important. With the Interreg financial support fire fighters established a coherent rescue system supporting crisis management on both sides of the border.

Polish and Czech fire fighters jointly trained and practiced not only fighting fires but also water and flood rescue as well as rescue related to traffic accidents. In order to provide smooth cross-border cooperation, they learnt the neighbour's language, because in the fight against hazard messages must be read correctly.

Fire fighters had an opportunity to supply their brigades with the equipment for rescue teams or specialist vehicles. Thanks to partner cooperation, they managed to significantly shorten the time of response to hazard. It is the nearest available fire brigades that set out for action. They know what to do, they have equipment and understand commands in the neighbour's language.

Radków municipality as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Czech Republic

The borders of the Radków municipality overlap with the Polish–Czech border on the distance of 23 km. The Stolowe Mountains National Park constitutes a large part of the municipality's area. These are the mountains with a unique structure, cut across twice by the state border and protected also on the Czech side. Their highest peak is located in Poland but the most spectacular rock cities can be admired in the Czech Republic. The Radków municipality signed cooperation agreements with almost all Czech municipalities situated in this area.

Since 2004 the Radków municipality and its subsidiaries has been engaged in around 50 Polish–Czech projects of varied themes. More than one third of them concerned the development of tourism in the Stolowe Mountains. The municipality modernises roads running to the border. It supports entrepreneurship and social activities related to the cross-border cooperation. It organises many sports and cultural events integrating community from both sides of the border. It implements projects regarding the common heritage of the cross-border region. Not only the municipality office cooperates with the Czech Republic, but also school, library and fire brigade.

One of the recent tourist attractions created with the funds of the Interreg programme is a viewing platform on the Guzowata Mountain. It provides an impressive view on the Stolowe Mountains and the Radkowski Reservoir. A few hundred meters away there is a border with the Czech Republic. The platform is an element of the Czech–Polish Ridge Trail which is created in cooperation with over a dozen local self-government units on both sides of the border.



Photo: Patryk Sołtys

Interreg Poland–Slovakia

www.plsk.eu





Photo: Piotr Drożdż

Project was implemented by: Tatra Volunteer Search and Rescue Service in Poland (leader), Mountain Rescue Service in Slovakia.

Joint winter trainings of the Tatra rescuers

More and more tourists visit the Tatra Mountains also in winter. They develop new forms of tourism, for example ski-alpinism. In order to better prepare for providing assistance in winter conditions, Polish and Slovak rescuers underwent a series of joint trainings. What did they refer to? The avalanche hazard evaluation, tactics of running the rescue action in an avalanche and the winter topography of the Tatras. Trainings were held at the border, in places in which the probability of joint Polish-Slovak actions is the highest.

Furthermore, rescuers received specialised equipment which serves them both for trainings and for winter rescue actions. Thanks to these measures, rescuers got to know one another better and improve the coordination of their actions. Tourists in turn can feel safer on the Tatra Mountains trails also in the winter.

Interreg Poland-Slovakia 2004-2006



Photo: Róbert Adam

Project was implemented by: Astronomical Observatory in Humenné (leader), Gymnasium in Snina, Telescope Fund in Snina, Educational Center in Svidník, East Carpathian Tourist Association, Wiśniowa municipality, Władysław Anders Secondary School in Lesko, Podkarpackie Chamber of Commerce in Krosno, Jasielski district.

Carpathian sky

Nowadays the endangered elements of the natural environment also include night darkness, which is polluted by artificial light in the majority of places on Earth. The Carpathians are one of the darkest corners of our planet. There are ideal conditions for observing stars, galaxies, mists and planets. It is very difficult in cities because night darkness is disturbed by light. The "Połoniny" Dark Sky Park and the "Bieszczady" Dark Sky Park are places of darkness protection but also of observance of space and astro shows.

A planetarium of the Astronomical Observatory in Humenne was constructed at Kolonické Pass in Slovakia. Secondary school students from Lesko may use their own observatory situated in the attic of their school. It is equipped with professional telescopes and binoculars. Similar facilities were also constructed in the gymnasium in Snina, in Rostoki and on the Lubomir Mountain in Wiśniowa.

Photos of space taken by students, the participants of the project, were published by NASA, while one of asteroids was named "Połoniny". Schools may participate in astronomy lessons as well as in dark sky shows and the Sun observation. All these facilities may be also visited by tourists.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Krośnieński district (leader), Administration and Maintenance of Roads of the Autonomous Region of Prešov, Jasielski district.

Better road connection of Poland and Slovakia

The route from Jasło in Poland to Bardejov in Slovakia was shortened by almost 20 km, thanks to the joint investment of Polish and Slovak partners. The border crossing point Oženna-Nižná Polianka was revitalised. It is of historical importance – an old trade route ran through it.

Not only residents but also tourists may use better roads. They were constructed in the area offering numerous tourist attractions. The most important ones include the Magura National Park in Poland and health resorts Bardejovské Kupele in Slovakia.

Interreg Poland-Slovakia 2007-2013



Photo: Łukasz Grudysz

Project was implemented by: Odrzechowa Experimental Station of National Research Institute of Animal Production (leader), Rymanów Forest District, Association of Polish Horse Breeders and Enthusiasts in Jasło, Association Local Action Group „Dorzecze Wisłoka”, municipalities of: Zarszyn, Niżná Sitnica, Oľka, Víťazovce, Association Andy from Slovakia.

Cross-border horse adventure

The Polish-Slovak Horse Tourism Centre is a place in which one can spend time in an interesting and active way. Horse riding lessons under the eye of instructors, horse rides, sleigh rides, hippotherapy – these are only some attractions for tourists. It is also possible to spend the night in the centre or hold a training there. When the weather is bad one can ride in an indoor arena.

Tourists are also very interested in horse-back trips by the Lemkos' culture trail (210 km) during which they can visit old Orthodox churches, roadside shrines and other historical monuments.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Jabłonka municipality (leader), Trstena.

Cleaner rives in Orava

The valley of the river Black Orava is the only part of Poland which belongs to the Danube River Basin. All surface water of this area flows to Slovakia. The river Black Orava ends just over the Polish-Slovak border, flowing into the Orava lake which is an important tourist centre.

In order to improve cleanliness of cross-border waters the sanitary installation was constructed with the support of Interreg programme in three localities: in the village Jabłonka Matonogi Góra, in Podwilk (the municipality of Jabłonka) and in the town Trstena. Additionally, on the Slovak side a storm water drainage was constructed, while in the Polish Podwilk – a sewage treatment plant.

Interreg Poland-Slovakia 2007-2013



Photo: Barbara Ogrodniczak

Projects were implemented by: European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Tatry (leader of the 2nd and the 3rd stage), Czarny Dunajec municipality (leader of the 1st stage), towns of: Nowy Targ, Spišská Belá, Stará Lubovňa, Liptovský Mikuláš, Trstená, Kežmarok, municipalities of: Nowy Targ, Szaflary, Łapsze Niżne, Hniezdne, Huncovce, Velka Lomnica.

Polish–Slovak route around the Tatra Mountains

The Tatra Mountains attract a lot of tourists, not only from Poland and Slovakia. Podhale, Spisz, Orava and Liptów which are located at the foot of the Tatra Mountains offer beautiful views of the mountains, but also many cultural attractions and historical sights. The route around the Tatras combines these attractions and improves their availability. Ultimately, this will be a 250 km long loop around the mountains including cycling, cross-country skiing and running routes through the lands of Podhale, Orava, Liptów and Spisz.

So far around 180 km of trails has been created. They can be used at any season of the year. Thanks to such initiatives, the Tatra Mountains stop being a barrier and became something which unites Poles and Slovaks. More information can be found on the project website: szlakwokoltatr.eu.

Interreg Poland–Slovakia 2007–2013, Interreg Poland–Slovakia 2014–2020



Photo: Monika Pasierbek

Project was implemented by: Association „Region Beskidy” in Bielsko-Biala (leader), Association Region Beskidy in Žilina.

Fighting against smog in the borderland

The Polish-Slovak borderland is full of exceptional natural and cultural attractions which is proved by the interest shown by tourists. Local residents love them as well. Unfortunately, during the autumn-winter period the air is heavily polluted. Smog not only deteriorates human health but also destroys architectural monuments, which are an important part of the borderland heritage.

Associations of municipalities from both sides of the border decided to make the local community aware of this problem. During numerous workshop meetings, addressed mainly to a young generation, negative results of smog were presented. Furthermore, it was debated how every resident can contribute to improvements to air quality. Teachers in Poland and Slovakia received professional materials to use during lessons and on the wall of the factory in Bielsko-Biala a mural promoting air protection was painted.



Photo: Małgorzata Pociask

Project was implemented by: Association for Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie „Pro Carpathia” (leader), Podkarpackie Region, Małopolskie Region, Highlanders Association in Poland, Association for Supporting Economic Initiatives “Delta Partner”, Fénix Children’s Organization in Snina, Regional Development Agency in Svidník, municipalities of: Oravská Polhora, Malatiná, Zázrivá.

Wallachian roots of the Carpathian highlanders

In the 12th century pastoral Wallachians came to the areas of the contemporary Polish–Slovak borderland from the south. They learnt the locals how to graze sheep in mountainous conditions. The economy and culture of today’s highlanders, both those from the northern and the southern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains, was shaped under their influence. The Wallachian Culture Trail is a project which restores the memory of spiritual and material traditions of mountain people. In many borderland localities one can participate in the entire series of pastoral events, try one’s hand in pastoral cuisine or at weaving machines.

The trail consists of a few routes modelled on original Wallachian wanderings. It covers all five regions of the Polish–Slovak borderland: the Żywiec Region in the Śląskie Voivodeship, Małopolska region, Podkarpackie region, Prešov Region and Žilina Region. Interesting information about the Wallachian culture and the offer of the trail can be found on the fan page of the Wallachian trail (www.facebook.com/szlak.woloski) and on the website www.szlakwoloski.eu. One can find there information concerning the current events related to the Wallachian culture: festivals, markets, transhumance, sheep-shearing, harvest festivals, watchfires.

Muszyna municipality as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Slovakia

On over a half of its length the border of Muszyna municipality is at the same time the state border. Its larger part follows the river Poprad. The municipality signed over 20 cross-border cooperation agreements with Slovak partners. Joint projects most often concern tourism.

The construction of a footbridge on the river Poprad was one of the important investments. It connects Żegiestów and Sulín. Tourists and local residents gained an additional passage of the river and a better access to trails on the other side of the border. Further projects allowed for connecting and expanding networks of cycling trails on both sides of the border. A cycling trail connecting health resorts of the borderland is under preparation. New resting places for cyclists and new footbridges on the river Poprad are being constructed.

Ruins of castles in Muszyna and Plaveč became the object of cooperation in terms of archaeological and historical investigation. Children and youth had an opportunity to participate in archaeological workshops. Thanks to Interreg, local residents and tourists also participated in Polish-Slovak cultural and sports events.

The expansion of a water supply and sewage network in a few localities of the Muszyna municipality and their Slovak neighbours was the investment significant both for tourism and for the improvement of living conditions of local residents. Thanks to it, the water in the border river Poprad is cleaner.



Photo: Konrad Rogoziński

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Photo: Jarosław Józef Jasiński

Project was implemented by: Šakiai district (leader), Cultural Center in Gołdap, Šakiai Office of Szeszupe Euroregion.

Polish-Lithuanian concerts and open air sessions

At the turn of June and July 2010 students of art schools from both sides of the border participated in joint summer painting, photography and music workshops. The town Reszel on the border of Warmia and Mazury as well as the nature at the river Neman near Jurbarkas were an outdoor scenery. Works were presented on exhibitions in Gołdap in Poland and in Šakiai in Lithuania. One can see them in a special catalogue available on the Internet.

Music workshops resulted in concerts of combined Polish-Lithuanian orchestra during Days of Šakiai and Days of Gołdap. Additionally, local cultural institutions drew up technical documentation, thanks to which it will be possible to improve working conditions of talented youth.



Photo: Wojciech Arasimowicz, District Museum in Suwałki

Project was implemented by: Alytus Museum of Ethnography (leader), District Museum in Suwałki.

Common prehistory of the borderland

Thanks to the cooperation of museums in Suwałki and Alytus, visitors can admire modern, permanent archaeological exhibitions which present the common borderland history in an attractive way. One can get to know it better also thanks to publications, including a map with description of the most interesting archaeological sites on both sides of the border.

History enthusiasts participated in open air workshops of experimental archaeology held on the outskirts of Suwałki, next to the forest nature reserve "Cmentarzysko Jaćwingów". The old craft, methods of fight and everyday life were demonstrated.

Interreg Lithuania-Poland 2007-2013



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: District Education Development Centre in Giżycko, Pedagogical and Psychological Assistance Centre in Alytus.

Taming autism

Giżycko in Poland and Alytus in Lithuania cooperate in the therapy of children with autism. Therapists completed internships in a partner institution on the other side of the border. They also jointly participated in trainings increasing their skills of working with children.

In Giżycko a therapeutic garden was created in which plants are used for activities with patients. The centre in Alytus, in turn, purchased equipment for work with the use of a biofeedback method – a non-invasive, painless brain training technique. The project helped to provide better care and development to Polish and Lithuanian children with autism as well as students with depression and difficulties in learning.

Puńsk municipality as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Lithuania

Puńsk municipality has just over 4 thousand people, the majority of whom are Lithuanians. There are only a few such municipalities, with a dominant non-Polish population, in Poland. The municipality is located at the north end of the Podlaskie Voivodeship. It has around 20 km long direct border with Lithuania.

Such a ultraperipheral location did not prevent the municipality from a very active use of European funds. In these terms Puńsk, as a rural municipality, came third in the nationwide ranking concerning the first 10 years of Poland's membership in the European Union.

For the last 15 years the municipality has participated in the implementation of as many as 32 cross-border cooperation projects with Lithuania, sometimes also with the participation of the Kaliningrad Oblast. In 10 projects it was a project lead partner. At the beginning Puńsk cooperated mainly with Alytus and Marijampole regions, directly bordering Poland. In further years – also with institutions located further from the border, in the regions of Kaunas and Taurage.

All these projects served for the joint solution of problems encountered on both sides of the border: improving the quality of roads, development of public services, tourism and entrepreneurship as well as cultural heritage protection.



Photo: Lukas Bernecki

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Photo: Provincial Rehabilitation Hospital for Children in Ameryka

Project was implemented by: Pediatric Orthopedic Sanatorium „Pioniersk” – State Institution of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (leader), Provincial Rehabilitation Hospital for Children in Ameryka.

Protecting children's health in the borderland

The Polish hospital and Russian sanatorium jointly created a programme of comprehensive prevention and treatment of posture disorders in children. A mobile orthopaedic laboratory was set up and it examined children from Warmia and Mazury as well as from Kalingrad Oblast on the spot.

Health professionals carried out 10 000 diagnostic tests for children from small towns and rural areas. A common data base with the information on posture defects and scoliosis in children was established. Medical personnel benefited from professional trainings.

Medical premises of the “Pioniersk” sanatorium and the hospital in Ameryka, in the municipality of Olsztynek, were modernised and equipped. 5 innovative algorithms of prevention and treatment of posture defects were developed.



Photo: Fotobank.PL / UMS

Project was implemented by: Sopot (leader), Mamonovo (leader), Tolkmicko municipality.

Cleaner border waters of the Baltic Sea

Three towns of the borderland: Polish Sopot and Tolkmicko as well as Russian Mamonovo jointly undertook a fight for cleaner water in the Baltic Sea. This is why they implemented two Interreg projects.

The modernisation of a stormwater drainage system and construction of storage reservoir improved the quality of coastal waters in the Gdansk Bay.

In the Tolkmicko municipality the integrated sanitary sewer system was established and in Mamonovo – a new water treatment plant. These investments reduced the amount of sewage coming into the lagoon (called Vistula Lagoon in Poland and Kaliningrad Lagoon in Russia).

It is beneficial both for residents and numerous tourists visiting the region.

Interreg Lithuania-Poland-Russia 2007-2013



Photo: Marek Skorupski

Project was implemented by: Borderland Foundation in Sejny (leader), Regional Museum in Kiejdany, Kaliningrad Union of Writers, Center „Borderland – Arts, Cultures, Nations” in Sejny.

Borderland Atlantis

The history of the borderland and ethnic minorities living there does not have to be boring. This is what youth from Poland, the Kaliningrad Oblast and Lithuania found out. Workshops concerning this theme were held in all three countries: photography, ceramics, collage, comic, word, poetry, reportage workshops, workshops devoted to nature tales, traditional crafts, theatre, song and dance. Every time they were carried out by local artists, cultural animators, historians.

Youth, teachers and cultural animators, persons carrying out workshops, had an opportunity to expand their knowledge about neighbours from the other side of the border. They learnt about ethnic and religious minorities, traditions of dialogue and tolerance of the Polish-Lithuanian-Russian borderland. The borderland guide created by the project participants and recordings of some meetings are available on the website: <http://borderlandatlantis.net>.

Interreg Lithuania-Poland-Russia 2007-2013



Photo: Wiesław Czerniawski

Project was implemented by: Theater of A. Sewruk in Elbląg (leader), Kaliningrad Drama Theater, Klaipeda State Music Theater.

Polish-Russian-Lithuanian theatre play

Theatres from these three countries prepared together a play "Romeo and Juliet". More than one hundred people: actors, members of theatrical staff, producers and coordinators were involved in the work on the play. Actors cooperated with one another also during vocal and fencing workshops as well as classes concerning the history of theatres of particular countries. Rehearsals lasted for 8 days.

Actors played in their mother tongues. The total of 15 performances, which were held in each country, were seen by around 10,000 viewers.

Interreg Lithuania-Poland-Russia 2007-2013

The Association of Municipalities “Polish Gothic Castles” as the leader of cooperation with Russia

The association brings together over a dozen municipalities where Gothic castles are located. With the Interreg support, the Association, together with Russian partners from the Kaliningrad Oblast, has been dealing with their promotion as tourist attractions for years.

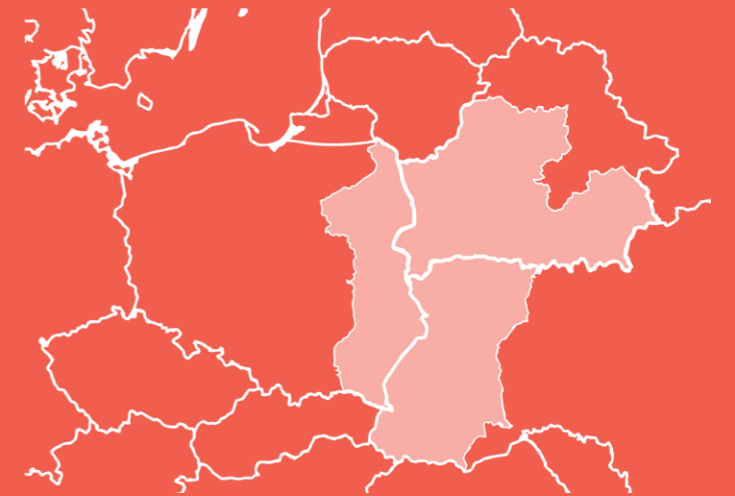
The cross-border cultural trail was created, which connects castles and museums on both sides of the border. Those who are interested may use the publication on borderland heritage. The book about Nicolas Copernicus and Immanuel Kant, among others, is available on the website www.zamkigotyckie.org.pl. The Polish experience served as the starting point for the strategy of tourist development for nine castles in the Kaliningrad Oblast.

Polish and Russian pupils participated in historical and sightseeing knowledge competitions as well as “live” history lessons in castles and museums in Poland and the Kaliningrad Oblast. Furthermore, partners engaged journalists, bloggers, employees of culture and tourism in the promotion of borderland heritage. Mobile applications and new publications are created. Local attractions receive more visible signs and comprehensive information boards.



Photo: Olsztyn

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Photo: Mariusz Chomicki

Project was implemented by: Hajnowski district (leader), municipalities of: Białowieża, Czyże, Hajnówka, Narew, Narewka, town of Hajnówka, Browsk Forest District, Hajnówka Forest District, Białowieża Forest District, UNDP Poland, Association of Local Governments of the Euroregion Puszcza Białowieska, National Park „Belovezhskaya Pushcha” in Belarus, District Executive Committees in: Kamyanyets, Pruzhany, Svislach, Local ecological fund „Euroregion Puszcza Białowieska” from Belarus.

Cross-border tourism in the Białowieża Forest

The Białowieża Forest is the last lowland natural forest in Europe. This is a place with a huge biological diversity where the largest population of wisents in the world live at large. Both in Poland and in Belarus the Forest divided by the border is the only biosphere reserve on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Thanks to the Interreg funds, Polish and Belarusian organisations jointly prepared an attractive offer for tourists and carried out a broader promotion of the Forest qualities.

Tourists and residents can use a cross-border cycling trail with resting places and information boards concerning tourist attractions. New tourist information points were established in which brochures and leaflets regarding the Forest trails and local tourist attractions were made available. A tourist hostel in Białowieża was modernised. Staff and tourist guides on both sides of the border were trained. Belarusians benefited from Polish experience in the field of standardisation and quality of tourist services.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2004-2006



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Podlaskie Region (leader), State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus (leader).

Extension of the border crossing point

Połowce-Pieszczałka road crossing point has been functioning since December 1993. However, for many years it was open only for movement of persons. Additionally, only citizens of Poland and Belarus could use it. Thanks to two projects, Interreg financed a part of investments making up a comprehensive modernisation of the crossing point on both sides of the border.

New buildings and new access roads were constructed. Thanks to it, the capacity at the border crossing point increased. The level of safety on the border improved as well. The crossing point acquired the status of international one and since 2015 citizens of all states have been able to use it. It resulted in revival of economic life in the area of the crossing point, as well as helped to increase employment in the region and to improve living conditions of residents.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Hajnówka (leader), Municipal Productive Enterprise of Communal-Housing Economy "Kamienieckie ŻKCh" from Belarus, National Scientific Institute "Poleski Agro-Ecological Institute of National Academy of Belarusian Sciences".

Better protection of rivers in the borderland

It is one of the projects jointly implemented by two towns: Hajnówka in Poland and Kamyanyets in Belarus. They are both located at the tributary of the river Bug, the river Leśna. Water purity in the river strongly depends on the quality of sewage treatment by urban wastewater treatment plants.

In Hajnówka the already existing one was extended and modernised, while in Kamyanyets a new one was constructed. The representatives of authorities, scientists and employees of sanitary enterprises participated in study visits and a scientific conference. Neighbours jointly monitor the state of water in the river Leśna on both sides of the border.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: "Grodzka Gate – NN Theater" Center in Lublin, Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, Navahrudak Museum of History and Regional Studies, Centre for Social and Business Initiatives in Yaremche, Rivne Marketing Research Centre.

Jewish heritage in the borderland

Shtetls are small towns inhabited mainly by Jews and Christians of many nationalities. In the past they were a typical element of the landscape of the present Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland. Research and documentation of this heritage may help in the development of cultural tourism in this area.

Project partners organised exploratory visits, during which they looked for traces of history, described localities as well as drew up photographic and video documentation of historical monuments. They also looked for witnesses of multicultural past of these places and wrote down their memoirs. Furthermore, they conducted the extensive query of sources, research results and archives concerning the Jewish heritage in the region.

Thanks to it, potential tourists, before they set out to the borderland, may benefit from virtual tourist trails covering 60 small towns of the borderland. One can see 15 virtual three dimensional historical models of small towns and use a tourist guide book of Jewish heritage sites. Just go to the website <http://shtetlroutes.eu>. The collected materials were also used to carry out trainings concerning the tourist potential of particular localities from which 135 tourist guide benefited.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013

Hajnówka as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Belarus

It is only relatively recently, thanks to wood industries, that Hajnówka has transformed from the Białowieża Forest ward settlement into a town. For many years the municipality and institutions subordinate to it have been cooperating with partners from Belarus in various fields. Hajnówka is also a member of Euroregion Puszcza Białowieńska, which brings together local communities on both sides of the border. Thanks to it, they jointly initiate many cross-border undertakings.

What were the main fields of cooperation? Revitalisation of tourist infrastructure, promotion of sustainable tourism, common cultural heritage and environmental protection. In terms of tourism Kamyanyets from Belarus was the first which started the cooperation with Hajnówka, thanks to which parks in these towns were revitalised. They also work together (additionally with the town Pruzhany) on urban promotional activities. Folders and albums presenting peculiarities of partner towns and boards – tourist plans were prepared. Entities related to tourism industry participated in the seminar regarding a professional approach to promotion.

Together with Kamyanyets, the problem of pollution in the river Leśna, at which both towns are located, was solved. Since October 2018 Hajnówka has been cooperating also with the town Slonim, which is located further from the border. The cross-border cooperation agreement between these two towns concerns tourism, local culture and history as well as promotion of Hajnówka, Slonim and border areas.



Photo: Adam Panfiluk

Interreg Poland–Belarus–Ukraine. Cooperation with Ukraine



www.pbu2020.eu



Photo: Society for Nature and Man in Lublin

Project was implemented by: Society for Nature and Man in Lublin (leader), Training Centre „Kamerton” in Novovolynsk.

Cemeteries of the borderland

Volunteers from Poland and Ukraine tidied up historic Orthodox cemeteries in Sobibór and Różanka as well as the old Jewish cemetery in Lublin.

The photographic documentation and information boards concerning over a dozen historic buildings (churches, Orthodox churches, cemeteries) in the Lublin region were created. In various localities the exhibition “Cemeteries of the borderland” was presented.

Additionally, the project integrated local communities. Apart from volunteers, also local residents got involved in rescuing cemeteries.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2004-2006



Photo: Centre of European Projects

Project was implemented by: Educational Initiatives Centre from Ukraine (leader), Social-educational association "Edukator" in Łomża, Foundation "Centre of Civic Initiatives" in Perechyn (Ukraine), Agency for Development of Radekhiv Region, West Ukrainian Regional Non-profit Public organization "Volyn Resource Centre" in Rivne.

Rural preschools in the borderland

Ukrainian pre-schoolers from rural areas could benefit from those methods of education or educational materials which have proved effective for their Polish peers. The cross-border project of a few organisations from both sides of the border served for sharing good practices. Teachers from Poland and Ukraine participated in various trainings, learnt new, interactive methods of work with small children and received new educational materials.

The preschool education development programme was established for eight districts in Ukraine. Thanks to information campaign, parents had an opportunity to learn more about educational needs of their children. The so-called "small" pre-schools were opened and equipped in forty eight Ukrainian villages. One thousand children were covered by care.



Photo: Centre of European Projects

Project was implemented by: Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin (leader), Board of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in Volyn district.

Cooperation of Polish and Ukrainian police

Polish and Ukrainian policemen at the border areas cooperate with one another in the fight against cross-border crime and smuggling. The better equipment, knowledge and skills they have and the better they communicate with one another, the greater effects the cooperation brings.

Thanks to Interreg, border police units in Lublin and Volyn region received altogether 80 passenger-off-road cars with specialist equipment. Policemen from both sides of the border benefited from joint training workshops. Furthermore, they developed and issued materials concerning cross-border crime and ways of cooperation in its combating. All these measures increase security in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013



Photo: Centre of European Projects

Project was implemented by: Odrzechowa Experimental Station of National Research Institute of Animal Production (leader), Regional Association of Horse Breeders in Rzeszów, Science-manufacturing Association „Plemkonecentr” in Solochyn.

Borderland Hucul ponies

Hucul ponies, one of the oldest horse breed described in Poland, are precious natural heritage of Polish and Ukrainian border areas. They are inseparably linked with everyday life and culture of the indigenous peoples of the Eastern Carpathians. They got their name from the name of the Hucul region, where they come from. The Interreg partnership project helped to rescue these horses from extinction and revive the tradition of their breeding in the Hucul region.

Odrzechowa in Poland and Solochyn in Ukraine created the conditions for the stableless breeding of Hucul ponies modelled on the traditional breeding. Paths for horse training were prepared. Stables, arenas and administrative buildings were modernised. Breeders and enthusiasts of Hucul ponies participated in trainings on both sides of the border. Partner dealt with promotion of these horses as a kind of tourist product. For this purpose they initiated the Festival of Borderland Cultures under the slogan “Hucul pony in the culture of the Eastern Carpathians” in Solochyn and Rudawka Rymanowska.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013



Photo: Magdalena Sudacka-Mołczan

Project was implemented by: Foundation SOS in Sanok (leader), Lviv Regional Control and Rescue Service of the Tourists Sports Association of Ukraine, Mountain Volunteer Search and Rescue Bieszczady Group, Ustrzyki Dolne municipality.

Cross-border mountain rescue

Carrying out search and rescue operations in the wild Bieszczady Mountains, divided by the border, is a real challenge for rescuers. When there are more and more tourists in the mountains, also the number of dangerous events is increasing.

Thanks to Interreg, mountain rescue centres are being established on both sides of the border. In a renovated building of a former school in Równia near Ustrzyki Dolne a training centre is being organised, in which Polish and Ukrainian rescuers will improve their skills together. In Slavsk in Ukraine a rescue office is being modernised.

Rescuers on both sides of the border are being equipped in modern rescue vehicles, medical and rescue equipment. They will be able to use GPS and software, avalanche and water rescue sets as well as drones with thermal imaging cameras. Both centres will also receive a new information system for coordination of cross-border rescue actions.

Interreg Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020



Photo: Sergiy Neupokoyev

Project was implemented by: Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University (leader), Bieszczady Group of the Mountain Voluntary Search and Rescue, Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, University of Warsaw.

Safer in the Carpathians

Mountaineering in the Carpathians is becoming more and more popular. The number of tourists on the trails is growing, which is why in the event of dangerous situations, such as: deterioration in the weather, accidents or health problems, they should be provided with quick and professional help.

A search and rescue point and a mountain rescue training centre are being created in the historical building of the Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory on the top of Pip Ivan Mountain (Ukraine). They will operate all year long. What is more, the search and rescue services from the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast and the Bieszczady Mountains received the latest rescue, monitoring and medical equipment. Rescuers will be trained in the use of modern equipment in various weather conditions. Polish and Ukrainian services will jointly develop the principles of cooperation and ways of reacting in situations of threat to health and life. Soon, tourists will be able to use a new tool thanks to which they will learn about safe hiking routes, weather forecast and safety measures in the mountains.

Lublin as the leader of cross-border cooperation with Ukraine

Among 45 foreign towns, which Lublin cooperates with, as many as 12 are Ukrainian. The authorities of Lublin, together with Ukrainian partners, implemented many projects funded by Interreg. For example, there was a joint promotion of Lublin and Lviv as great film locations. The materials prepared under the project aroused great interest during film festivals in Cannes and Gdynia.

Cultural cooperation remained one of the leading topics in the Polish-Ukrainian projects of Lublin. Thanks to it, residents may admire artists from a neighbouring country. Polish and Ukrainian cultural animators can benefit from specialised training. Together with Lutsk urban historic monuments are revitalised and experience concerning their restoration is exchanged. Residents of Lublin learnt the history of Lutsk during a performance presented by the theatre from Lutsk at the Festival of Legends in Lublin.

Public services are the second important field of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation. Thanks to common projects the quality of service in public offices has improved. In Lublin the first service point for foreigners was established and the information provided there is also available in Ukrainian. With cooperation with Lviv, the information campaign for residents was carried out and more containers for electrical and electronic waste were made available. Three Ukrainian towns: Lviv, Lutsk, Ivano-Frankivsk benefited from the Polish experience in combating the problem of stray animals.



Photo: Maciej Rukasz

Interreg Baltic Sea Region



www.interreg_baltic.eu



Photo: Anna Ostręga

Project was implemented by: University of Science and Technology in Cracow (leader) Upper-Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship Promotion Ltd., Lower Silesian Raw Materials Cluster in Wrocław, University of Örebro, Örebro Regional Development Council, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonian Mining Waste Management Society, Kainuun Etu Ltd. in Finland, University of Oulu, Educational Institution of Employers Association Saxony-Anhalt, European Institute for Innovation in Germany, University of Stavanger.

How to re-use mining waste

Mining waste is the common problem of the Baltic countries. The project examined the ways of recovering useful materials from mining waste. On the one hand, to reduce their amount and protect the environment. On the other, to re-use them in construction and environmental engineering. Partners also constructed and tested modern installations.

In the Laboratory of the University of Science and Technology in Regulice a sample installation for the production of aggregates from coal waste was constructed. It enables to obtain, inter alia, aggregate mixture for the road construction. Pilot actions showed how to recover secondary raw materials and thanks to it, to protect natural mineral deposits and environment better.

Institutions from six countries: research institutions, small and medium enterprises operating in the sphere of waste recovery and restoration, mining plants as well as local authorities and development agencies were involved in the project. Thanks to such a diversified partnership and international cooperation, the transfer of innovative technologies was possible.



Photo: Klaster LifeScience Foundation Cracow

Project was implemented by: Life Science Nord Management GmbH (leader), Stryker Trauma GmbH, University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein, University Medicine Greifswald, Klaster LifeScience Foundation Cracow, University Hospital in Cracow, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, ScanBalt association from Denmark, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu Biotechnology Park Ltd, Bone Index Finland Ltd, Bonesupport AB from Sweden.

Health care for seniors

Bone fractures constitute one of the main problems of public health. The state of bones deteriorates as people get older. In an ageing society the number of fractures increases. Partners from 7 Baltic countries carried out joint research, exchanged the expertise and analysed the demand of the health care sector for new services and medical products. An international register of bone fractures and the cooperation platform of, inter alia, hospitals, universities, clusters and health care companies were established.

The purpose was to develop innovative types of treatment of rare and difficult cases as well as to better manage the entire process of therapy. This, in turn, will help to improve the quality of health care and post-trauma rehabilitation.



Photo: WWF Poland

Project was implemented by: Municipality of Simrishamn in Sweden (leader), WWF Poland, Maritime University of Szczecin, Kolobrzeg Fish Producers Group Ltd, Institute of Logistics and Warehousing in Poznań, Keep the Estonian Sea Tidy, WWF Germany, Keep Sweden Tidy, Estonian Divers Association.

Cleaning the Baltic Sea

Fishing nets abandoned in the Baltic Sea, the so-called ghost nets, are a serious problem for the environment. They are a source of plastics and at the same time a death trap for marine animals. This problem was jointly tackled by partners from Sweden, Estonia, Germany and Poland.

In the Marelitt Baltic project they dealt with, inter alia, drawing up a map of lost nets, adjustment of Baltic ports to their collection, processing and further use. Furthermore, they worked in the sea with fishermen and divers in cleaning wrecks. It is an important aspect of cooperation for the cleaner Baltic Sea. It is estimated that in the Polish economic zone of the Baltic Sea there may be over 800 tonnes of waste. The WWF Poland Foundation cooperated in this scope with fishermen from Władysławowo.

During one cruise on the high sea almost 5 tonnes of fishing gear were caught! Project partners managed to catch almost 25 tonnes of ghost nets abandoned in the Baltic Sea.



Photo: Jakub Wittchen

Project was implemented by: Poznań University of Life Sciences (leader), Development Centre UMT from Denmark, Art Academy of Latvia, Ukmergė District, Tallinn University of Technology, Technical University of Munich, University of Skövde, Hanseatic Parliament, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, NTNU/Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Furniture for seniors

Partners of the BaltSe@nioR project dealt with the needs of elderly people. This is a larger and larger group in ageing societies. The project was implemented by specialists in the field of wood technology, design, information and communication technologies, robotics and marketing from 9 countries.

They jointly developed solutions for small and medium enterprises which allow for adjustment of an offer to the seniors' needs. They created, inter alia, prototypes of intelligent furniture. In this way they created new trends in furniture construction and elements of interior design. All methods and tools are available in a virtual library (www.baltsenior.com).

Such broad cooperation allowed for better understanding of the needs of seniors. Thanks to it, enterprises may provide them with better quality services. More products specially developed for seniors for sure will appear on the market.



Photo: Jerzy Pinkas / www.gdansk.pl

Project was implemented by: Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki (leader), Gdańsk, Forum Virium Helsinki (succeeded by Finnish Transport Safety Agency), Helsinki Region Transport Authority HSL, FLOU Solutions Ltd from Finland, Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn Transport Department, Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg, Zemgale Planning Region in Latvia, Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility from Germany, Municipality of Kongsberg in Norway, Municipality of Vejle in Denmark, Finnish Transport and Communications Agency.

Ecological public transport

The Sohjoa Baltic project promotes ecological and intelligent public transport. Towns from 8 Baltic countries test vehicles which so far have been absent on the roads – automated electric minibuses.

In Gdańsk an autonomous minibuss carried passengers to the urban zoo for a month. During this time it carried over 3 thousand people. The town took care of the safety of participants of the pilot action – every time a trained driver of the company Gdańskie Autobusy i Tramwaje was present in a vehicle.

In the future autonomous vehicles may reach the places in which a regular transport is hindered. And now they are already a supplement of a regular public transport.



Photo: Tomasz Wilk

Project was implemented by: University of Greifswald (leader), Michael Succow Foundation from Germany, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Polish Society for the Protection of Birds, Bialystok University of Technology, Aleksandras Stulginskis University in Lithuania, Lithuanian Fund for Nature, Vytautas Magnus University, Baltic Environmental Forum from Lithuania, Nature park “Vishtynetsky” in the Kaliningrad region.

Restoration of damaged peatlands to nature

The water of the Baltic Sea is subject to eutrophication – it is provided with too many nutrients. It is a negative phenomenon, detrimental to the local fauna and flora. In order to counteract it, institutions from Germany, Lithuania and Poland used the financial support first to prepare a project and then to implement it.

Partners focused on the Neman river. Rivers drain organic compounds coming from agriculture to the Baltic Sea. Peatlands, the so-called “kidneys” of the landscape, filter water and naturally improve the cleanness of rivers. This is why partners work on revitalisation of damaged peatlands and maintenance of the existing ones in the river Neman basin. These measures will also improve the quality of water in the Baltic Sea.

At the same time, the project supports protection of the nature resources, adaptation of the region to climate change and extreme weather events, such as droughts or flooding, related to it. Furthermore, partners develop a method which allows for economic use of plants growing on peatlands which like wetness. They could be used for example as renewable energy sources.

Institute of Oceanology in Sopot as the leader of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region Programme

Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences is the biggest scientific centre in Poland which examines natural processes of maritime environment. Since 2011 it has participated in 5 cross-border projects and coordinated 3 of them. Scientists jointly examined, for example, dumped munitions in the Baltic Sea. They checked whether there is threat of releasing chemical warfare agents and also what possible ecological consequences are. The aim was to minimise the risk related to underwater activity in areas in which chemical weapons were sunk.

Currently the Institute participates in the Land-Sea-Act project. Partners exchange knowledge and experience concerning better management of the coastal areas. The beach in Puck, in turn, was selected as one of the pilot places of the Contra project which will be implemented simultaneously on beaches in Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Sweden and Russia. Scientists look for the answer on a seemingly simple question: what to do with algae and plants lying on beaches which can effectively deter bathers? The results of the project achieved so far show that removal of algae from the beach not only does not damage the environment but also may be even helpful in removal of contaminations from the Baltic Sea.

Attention should also be drawn to the StarDust project, implemented by 35 public and private partners from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany. Thanks to cooperation, pollution assessment in the Baltic coastal zone was prepared. It was also estimated how much pollution can be reduced by improving sewage treatment plants as well as how to assess the state of the sea with the use of satellite images.



Photo: Kajetan Deja

Interreg Central Europe



www.interreg_central.eu



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Central Mining Institute in Katowice (leader), Bydgoszcz, Katowice, Brno, Stuttgart, Institute of Town Planning and Development of the City of Pilzno, University of Leipzig, association of local governments Grüne Ring Leipzig.

Revitalisation of urban river spaces

Rivers in cities are often perceived as a source of problems and not potential benefits. This is a problem which was addressed by partners of the Reuris project. It is the issue which is a remnant of the industrialisation period, common for Czech, German and Polish cities. For many years rivers and streams were used to discharge sewage and they were regulated. Artificial materials were used, rivers became canals and they were often covered. At the same time riverside areas gradually degraded, losing their original nature. Nowadays more is done for recovery of cultural and natural resources and urban riverside spaces are managed. And it is good because this contributes both to the improvement of environment and the increase in the quality of life of residents.

Revitalisation measures require a consensus between all stakeholders: residents, planners, administrators of water resources. Project partners jointly developed, inter alia, tools, thanks to which revitalisation can be comprehensively planned. Next, they were tested and pilot actions were implemented in six cities.

In Bydgoszcz, as part of a pilot action, a section of the park along the Old Bydgoszcz Canal was revitalised. The Bydgoszcz Canal is the oldest artificial waterway in Poland. Above the revitalised section a friendly recreational space, open for residents, was created. Other cities, having similar problems, may adapt the developed model of revitalisation process for their own needs.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: MUSE – Science museum in Italy (leader), Regional Development Agency in Bielsko-Biała, Fabrication laboratory Ltd. in Hungary, Brno University of Technology, RogLab – Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana, Fablab – association for promoting digital fabrication in Croatia, Innoc – Austrian society for innovation computer science, Unternehmertum Makerspace GmbH in Germany, Slovak Scientific and Technical Information Centre.

Innovative laboratories for everyone

In the FabLabNet project a network of cooperation of fabrication laboratories (FabLab) from Central Europe was established. FabLab is a kind of a small workshop offering professional equipment and space where one can create his own projects, expand the knowledge and increase competences. Institutions from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Germany and Poland connected their laboratories in one network.

Partners focused on issues related to creative sector and industry 4.0. They made infrastructure and equipment available to one another. In such a way “Virtual Factory” was founded. It is available for residents and enterprises from regions participating in the project.

Furthermore, FabLab Bielsko-Biała developed innovative educational and training formats. Thanks to them, start-ups and entrepreneurs could increase competences in 3D printing and spatial modelling. Over 600 pupils from local schools learnt such printing. Students of the University of Bielsko-Biała had an opportunity to participate in a pilot reverse engineering course. Furthermore, the presentations of 3D printing were held in Bielsko-Biała and they attracted over 200 people. These measures contributed to boosting creativity and the increase in digital competences of residents of the region.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice (leader), Ruda Śląska, Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology, Links Foundation from Italy, Turin, EC Energy Center Lipizzanerheimat Ltd. in Austria, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Trnava, New Linkment of Settlements from Czech Republic, Moravian-Silesian Investment and Development a.s. from Czech Republic, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, Kranj.

Revitalisation of degraded industrial areas

Many towns of Central Europe has degraded areas and wastelands within their boundaries. They are dangerous for environment and people. How to minimize these threats and how to neutralize pollution in these areas? Partners of the Lumat project looked for an answer to this questions. Using their knowledge and skills, they tested methods and tools serving for it in practice.

In seven towns of Central Europe pilot actions and investments were implemented. In Poland this was Ruda Śląska. In the centre of this town there is a brownfield site – the left-over after zinc works operating until 1925. In the area of 6.5 ha the scientists from Katowice tested, inter alia, the method of retaining metals in soil. As a result, a utilitarian function was restored to the site.

Residents of Ruda Śląska gained a modern and safe park and recreation area in the centre of the town. They can use walking trails, a playfield and grill area.



Photo: Łukasz Siodlak

Project was implemented by: Central Mining Institute in Katowice (leader), Jaworzno, Stuttgart, Nový Bydžov, Technical University of Liberec, Lombardy Region, Technical University of Milan, Municipality of Parma, Geological Research Institute in Slovenia, Water supply company in Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil Engineering of the University of Zagreb, Vodovod company in Zadar.

Better quality of groundwater

In the Amiiga project partners from six states looked for an answer to the question how to fight groundwater pollution effectively. Many countries of Central Europe are severely hit by effects of the development of industry in the 19th and 20th century. The contemporary knowledge on the impact of hazardous substances on environment was insufficient and the consequences of this fact are long-term. Nowadays the former industrial areas are converted into residential areas. However, unsolved problems are still there – polluted lands and groundwater which is often the main resource of drinking water.

Project partners jointly created tools and tested innovative solutions. Public institutions are to be their recipients. Thanks to it, they will be able to effectively counteract further deterioration of groundwater quality. In particular regions, including Jaworzno, partners implemented pilot actions concerning, inter alia, biological methods allowing for the reduction of pollution. For this large Silesian city the pollution from the chemical industry is the biggest problem.

In Jaworzno an innovative method was tested. As a result, groundwater became cleaner. Furthermore, the city was equipped with the package of tools enabling further actions in the area of environmental protection. Public institutions can benefit from the integrated strategy of groundwater management developed by partners.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Geneva in Italy (leader), Warsaw, Bydgoszcz, Institute of Economic Research in Ljubljana, Regional Development Agency of the City Region of Ljubljana, Cultural Center in Nuremberg in Germany, Competence Center for Cultural Innovation in Hungary, Rijeka, Ústí nad Labem municipality, Fabbrica del Vapore industrial area in the Lombardy region.

Bringing architectural monuments into life

Non-used historic buildings, e.g. former factories, hospitals, schools, barracks are one of elements of the history of local communities. However, the memory about them fades away and they themselves have a negative impact on the lands surrounding them. Partners of the Forget Heritage project were unified by the idea of bringing such places to life. They jointly looked for ways of restoring their cultural value and economic potential. They wanted innovative and sustainable solutions.

Two cities: Bydgoszcz and Warsaw were Polish project partners. The city hall of Bydgoszcz tests public-private partnership. Thanks to the pilot action, the Centre of Creativity Young Craftsmen in the Old Town (the Makerspace Workshop) was established. The Workshop provides craft and technological places for persons who want to develop their skills and try their hand in running their own business activity.

Those who are interested may use specialized equipment purchased by the city (computerized embroidery machine, plotters for drawing and cutting foil, overprint press, 3D printers, etc.) free of charge. Furthermore, workshops (e.g. of modelling, 3D, tailoring, soldering) and meetings concerning running business activity based on creative industries are organised.

Central Mining Institute as the leader of cooperation in the Central Europe Programme

Central Mining Institute used European funds in its research and tertiary research projects many times. As a leader of international team, the Institute so far has implemented six Interreg projects, the majority of which concerned protection of underground water against contaminations. For this purpose, various innovative methods were developed. Scientists also engaged in revitalisation of urban spaces. For example, in Katowice a riverside recreational space of great landscape value was created.

In a few projects scientists from the Institute focused on innovations in air protection. Together with partners from Poland, Austria, Germany, Italy and Hungary, they work on methods which will allow to prevent critical level of air pollution. In Katowice additional sensors were installed. On the basis of the data, which they provide, the guidelines for adaptation activities are developed. The efficiency of sensors is assessed as well. Such projects improve residents' quality of life.



Photo: Dariusz Zdebik

Interreg Europe Programme



www.interregeurope.eu



Photo: Leszek Bartczak

Project was implemented by: Emilia-Romagna Region in Italy (leader), Poznań, Institute of Logistics and Warehousing in Poznań, Institute of Transport and Logistics in Bologna in Italy, Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative in Trieste in Italy, Transport for London (self-government unit responsible for transport), French institute of science and Transport Technology, Development and Networking (IFSTTAR), Paris, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, POLIS (Promotion of Operational Links with Integrated Services) Association in Brussels, Crete, Athens, Municipality Vratsa in Bulgaria, Celje Municipality in Slovenia, Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic, Czech Railways.

Improvement of urban logistics

Thanks to the Sugar project, cities from new member states of the European Union became familiar with practices concerning the transit of goods through the countries of the “old Union”. Poznań in Poland, Usti at the river Elbe, Celje in Slovenia and Vratsa in Bulgaria cooperated with the Italian region of Emilia-Romania, London, Paris and Barcelona. Also cities from Greece and Spain were interested in good practices.

Partners prepared for the introduction of innovations in urban logistics. They participated in joint trainings, study visits and workshops concerning, for example, creating plans for supplies and services. They learnt about particular solutions, for example characteristics of streets and the system verifying freight transport in London. They learnt how to introduce them in their own cities. City officers were supported by specialised partners, including, inter alia, the Institute of Logistics and Warehousing in Poznań. Poznań City Hall implemented solutions which are to reduce problems arising from the traffic of heavy trucks and delivery vans.

Thanks to introduced changes, urban logistics began to change into more friendly for the city residents.



Photo: Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Project was implemented by: Foundation of the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań, Poznań Science and Technology Park, Kalisz–Ostrów Wielkopolski Agglomeration Association, Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Valladolid in Spain, Grafschaft Bentheim District in Germany, Coventry University Enterprises Ltd.

Public transport tailored to the needs of residents

Partners of the PE4Trans project from Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Spain and Poland looked for ways to make public transport serve residents in a better way. They organised panels and workshops during which residents discussed this topic with representatives of the authorities. They could tell about their communication habits, problems related to the use of public transport, expectations and visions of sustainable transport.

This was the so-called civic panel. It was held in the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, among others. It was attended by a group of residents from Kalisz, Ostrów Wielkopolski and nearby municipalities, diversified in terms of age, education, sex and preferred manners of mobility. The first panel ended with the collection of opinions and ideas. Another panel allowed to take a closer look at values and personal beliefs of the residents of the region, which shape their attitudes in using public transport.

As a result, more ecological solutions, for example, more cycling routes, will be developed in the agglomeration of Kalisz and Ostrów Wielkopolski. More sustainable solutions in mobility are to be created as well. This will help to reduce the so-called carbon footprint.



Photo: TwoShots sp. z o.o.

Project was implemented by: Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council (leader), Zachodniopomorskie Region in Poland, Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland, Regional Development Agency for Western Romania Region, University of Applied Sciences in Brandenburg, Marche Region in Italy, Hauts-de-France Regional Development and Innovation Agency, Association of Local Authorities in Northern Ireland, Southern Denmark Region, Valencia Region in Spain, University of Valencia, Tralee Institute of Technology in Ireland.

Support for young entrepreneurs

In the iEER project partners from ten countries jointly develop and test innovative solutions for young entrepreneurs. They want to support a potential of a young generation, foster an entrepreneurial mindset, create favourable conditions for self-employment and facilitate the establishment of start-ups.

The Marshal Office of the Zachodniopomorskie Region tested a Spanish model of cooperation with the academic community. It organised workshops for lecturers, which prepared them for supporting entrepreneurship of students. During special events secondary school students could hear about artificial intelligence, occupations of the future and get to know companies from Zachodniopomorskie Region. In the Marshal Office itself the Centre of Economic Initiatives was established. It cooperates with business community and supports local entrepreneurs.

Rzeszów Regional Development Agency as the leader of cooperation in Interreg Europe

Rzeszów Regional Development Agency participates in 10 projects of cooperation within Interreg Europe Programme. These are undertakings which increase competition, innovation and quality of life in the region.

On the basis of international exchange of good practices, the Agency proposed new solutions for the Podkarpackie region. For example, nowadays public buildings which meet the requirements for passive buildings, reduce temperature losses, can be financed from the funds of a regional programme. The programme also supports creation of business parks which attract new investments, provide comprehensive services for enterprises and startups in sectors with large innovative and competitive potential. The region also develops social economy sector and increases the employment of persons with disabilities and from socially marginalized groups in this sector.

The Podkarpackie region is becoming increasingly popular backdrop for film and TV productions. At the same time, protected areas constitute 45% of its territory and environmental protection is of key importance for the region. In the Green Screen project partners look for solutions, thanks to which future film and TV productions will reduce the negative impact on the natural environment. The manual of green filming friendly for nature and budget of the production is being created. In the future the CO2 calculator for each film production receiving financial support in the region will be obligatory. Furthermore, the certificate for environmentally friendly films and TV series is being created.



Photo: Tadeusz Poźniak

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