Dear Readers,

Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 enables the partners from both sides of the border to achieve their common goals and to share their experience and ideas. It brings different actors – inhabitants, institutions, organisations, enterprises and communities of the cross-border area closer to each other, in order to better exploit the opportunities of the joint development.

In 2015 all the 117 projects co-financed by the Programme shall complete their activities. This publication will give you an insight into their main objectives, activities and results within the projects. It presents stories about cooperation in different fields, examples of how partner towns, villages or local institutions can grow and develop together. It proves that cross-border cooperation is a tremendous force stimulating the development of shared space and building ties over the borders.

I wish all the partners involved in the projects persistence in reaching all their goals at the final stage of the Programme and I would like to congratulate them on successful endeavours in bringing tangible benefits to their communities.

This publication will give you a positive picture of the border regions and I hope that it will inspire those who would like to join cross-border cooperation in the next programming period.

Marceli Niezgoda
Undersecretary of State
The Ministry of Infrastructure and Development
THE PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1.
Increasing competitiveness of the border area

Measure 1.1. Better conditions for entrepreneurship
Measure 1.2. Tourism development
Measure 1.3. Improving access to the region

PRIORITY 2.
Improving the quality of life

Measure 2.1. Natural environment protection in the borderland
Measure 2.2. Efficient and secure borders

PRIORITY 3.
Networking and people-to-people cooperation

Measure 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building
Measure 3.2. Local communities’ initiatives
The European Commission approved the joint operational programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 on November 6th 2008.


Completion of all activities within the projects – till December 31st 2015.

- November 2009: Call for proposals announced (PBU 1)
- May 2011: Call for proposals announced (PBU 2)
- February 2012: Call for proposals announced (PBU 3)
- December 31st 2015: Contracting period
In total 117 grant contracts were signed: 9 large scale projects (direct award procedure) and 108 submitted within the three calls for proposals: PBU1, PBU2, PBU3 (out of 835 applications in total).

**TOTAL VALUE OF THE EC CO-FINANCING**

174 073 935.86 EUR
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

ALLOCATION PER PRIORITY / EC CO-FINANCING

**PRIORITY 1**
- 40 PROJECTS CONTRACTED
- 55 110 014.79 EUR

**PRIORITY 2**
- 26 PROJECTS CONTRACTED
- 76 506 321.74 EUR

**PRIORITY 3**
- 51 PROJECTS CONTRACTED
- 42 457 599.33 EUR
### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

**POLAND – BELARUS – UKRAINE 2007-2013**

### PROJECTS ACCORDING TO PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

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**TOTAL NUMBER**

- **PL-UA**: 74
- **PL-BY**: 29
- **PL-UA-BY**: 14
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

**DRIVING ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- New workplaces created (after the end of the project) workplaces: 467
- Business development organisations created: 12
- Entrepreneurs/companies serviced within the project: 1,014
- New entrepreneurs/companies, registered due to support within the project: 453

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**
- Improved cultural and historical sites: 52
- Tourism information centres/points created: 31
- Construction/labelling/marking of touristic routes/bicycle routes/water routes: 1,875 km

**INVESTMENT IN THE BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE**
- Border crossings constructed/reconstructed: 10
- Increased border crossings’ capacity in vehicles: 29,865 vehicles per day
- Increased border crossings’ capacity in persons: 48,800 persons per day

**INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE RELATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Cross-border meetings/conferences/working groups/trainings/seminars/events: 1,729
- Festivals/sports events/other public events events: 751
- Joint science/research studies studies: 186
POLAND – BELARUS – UKRAINE 2007-2013

INVESTMENT IN OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Modernised buildings: 71
- Length of roads newly built or reconstructed: 116,5 km

INVESTMENT IN SAFETY

- Cars purchased (police, firebrigades, medical): 246
- Emergency equipment (e.g. police, firebrigades, machinery for roads maintenance): 349

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

- Households/public buildings connected to constructed/modernised water supply system: 2,365
- Households/buildings: 750
- Constructed/modernised wastewater treatment plants: 15
- Constructed/modernised sewerage: 90.8 km

PROMOTING HEALTHCARE AND INCLUSIVENESS

- Medical examinations/tests/treatments: 1,048
- Initiatives organised for disabled events: 24
MEASURE 1.1.

BETTER CONDITIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE MODEL OF CROSS-BORDER USE OF ZEOLITE TUFFS

IPBU.01.01.00-06-570 /11-00

LEAD PARTNER: University of Management and Administration in Zamość (Poland)
PARTNERS: Lviv Polytechnic (Ukraine), Bohdan Dobrzanski Institute of Agrophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Lublin (Poland), Lublin University of Technology (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – May 2015
In the Transcarpathian region, there are enormous zeolite tuff deposits, estimated at more than 1 billion tons and used in many industries. However, these resources are not sufficiently exploited due to the lack of complete knowledge about their properties and innovative processing technologies. Thanks to cooperation between the institutions and enterprises from the Polish-Ukrainian cross-border region, it is possible to exploit the existing potential and create a unique scientific, research and implementation networking.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen cooperation and streamline the flow of knowledge between research institutions and enterprises in the Polish-Ukrainian cross-border area. The institutional form of implemented cross-border co-operation networks will be Cross-Border Cluster of Zeolite Tuffs. It will fill the gap between laboratory testing stage and the application of zeolite tuffs in the production. Therefore, the role of the Cluster will be, on the one hand, promoting the use of known properties of tuffs, and on the other hand, their study and implementation for new uses in the economy.

The programme of studies for new applications of tuffs is extensive. They concern the use of these minerals as substitutes for cement in building mortars, renovation plasters and concretes, in the environmental engineering as sorbents of oil products, sorbents of heavy metals and ammonium ions originating from industrial waste, in LECA production, in agriculture for the remediation of soil and preservation of soil moisture at permanent level as well as in the manufacture of bituminous mixtures. The task of the Cluster is to analyse legal requirements for the protection of industrial and intellectual copyrights in the field of the above listed technologies. The declarations of participation in the cluster zeolite technology have already been signed by more than 20 companies, including Kruszywa Niemce company, which is the largest producer of construction materials in the Lublin region.

The idea to create a network of cross-border cooperation in the field of innovative use of zeolite tuffs and activate the interested circles is supported by numerous meetings, organised by the project partners. These are the study visits to research and development units, individual research stays in partner scientific institutions, international conferences and seminars. As a result, twelve publications will be published in scientific journals. These publications, translated into three languages (Ukrainian, Polish, English), will be available in electronic form on the website of the project.

At the end of the implementation of the project, Zamość University will organise Innovative Technology Cross-Border Fairs. They will present overall achievements of R & D project and the companies – cluster members interested in the implementation of developed technologies.

“DO ZEOLITE TUFFS CONSTITUTE A CHANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS AND ATTRACTIVE JOBS

M. Sc., Eng. Andrzej Lygas, project coordinator

www.zeolity.wszia.edu.pl
CREATING CROSS-PLATFORM BIZNESTRANS PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING COOPERATION BETWEEN BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DIRECTION OF BETTER LINKS

IPBU.01.01.00-06-717/11

LEAD PARTNER: Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska (Poland)

PARTNERS: A. Pushkin Brest State University (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – November 2015
The bottom-up initiative of the higher education institutions from Biała Podlaska and Brest meets the needs and expectations of Polish and Belarusian entrepreneurs operating in the border areas. The measures taken in the framework of a joint project will enable the entrepreneurs to establish cooperation with foreign partners, and local authorities to encourage residents to undertake economic activities.

Tightening of the Polish-Belarusian border after Poland’s accession to the European Union and the lack of agreement on local border traffic have caused a decrease in economic exchanges and contacts between companies, higher education institutions and local governments in the neighbouring areas. The entrepreneurs mainly lack information about potential partners in business and business environment on both sides of the border. They also expect support to promote their companies and products, without which it is difficult for them to enter the market in foreign countries. However, until now there have been not only readily available sources of such information, e.g. in the form of guides and websites, but also the statistical database regarding the number and profile of the companies.

In the first stage of the project implementation, experts from both institutions conducted a survey of 200 entrepreneurs and 60 business environment institutions in the areas covered by the project in order to identify the knowledge and attitudes of the entrepreneurs in the field of cooperation with foreign partners. The report based on the surveys constitutes the basis for the preparation of ‘Cross-border guide for entrepreneurs’, containing the information on how to establish and run economic activity on both sides of the border.

The guide will be available in Polish, Belarusian and English on Biznestrans.pl portal. It is one of the elements of cross-border cooperation platform, created by the project partners. It promotes the project and, at the same time, the companies interested in establishing international contacts. It includes trade and investment deals, presentations of companies, general information regarding the conduct of business economic activity in Poland and Belarus, useful addresses, news about current events and changes in regulations.

The second element of the platform is the Entrepreneur’s Service Centre, acting in both institutions. The task of the Centre is widely understood substantive assistance in the conduct of business, including information on planned and ongoing investments in the border areas, formal and legal requirements to potential investors, characteristics of the local government units – the arrangement of particular issues related to the planned investment intention, organising consultative meetings with entrepreneurs, cooperation with labour market institutions and other entities supporting entrepreneurship, analysis of interests of entrepreneurs and investors in the planned investment.

Both elements of cross-border cooperation platform are permanent – they will operate after the completion of the project and stimulate the economic development of border regions.
LEAD PARTNER: Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (Poland)

PARTNERS: Western Regional Centre for Innovative Development in Lviv (Ukraine), Malopolska Institute of Economics in Rzeszów (Poland), Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2012 – August 2013

IPBU.01.01.00-18-151 /10

SCIENCE AND EXPERIENCE FOR BUSINESS
The idea of the project was to activate SME entrepreneurs in the Polish border regions, Ukraine and Belarus to cooperate through the dissemination of knowledge about the conditions of doing business and creating platforms for the exchange of experiences and networking. 450 businesses and 30 business environment institutions from Hrodna and Lviv Oblasts and Przemyśl sub-region received direct support.

After the end of the project, business support programme in the border areas is continued by www.cooperation-pl-by-ua.eu portal, whose administrator is Rzeszów Regional Development Agency. It includes a separate area for cross-border cooperation, where interested companies post their business portfolios and offers. The institutions supporting the companies from the SME sector – higher education institutions, associations, local governments and non-governmental organisations can also benefit from the programme.

As part of the project, Malopolska Institute of Economics in Rzeszów was responsible for investigating the current situation and the needs for development of entrepreneurship in three regions covered by the project. 300 enterprises (100 in each region) were surveyed. The results and conclusions were compiled by experts in the document entitled ‘The analysis of the potential of entrepreneurship in three regions,’ published in 900 copies in the partners’ languages.

The second major publication, which constitutes a permanent result of the project, is ‘Practical guide for the development of entrepreneurship’. It includes such issues as: building promotional-informational strategy of the company, development of innovativeness and competitiveness or the use of modern information technology in the development of the company. The CD containing information about the conditions of doing business in Ukraine, Belarus and Poland has been attached to the guide.

The institution responsible for implementation and progress of the project was Lviv Centre for Investment and Development.

A fruitful part of the project very well evaluated by the entrepreneurs was training seminars organised for the companies in the SME sector. Their organisation was entrusted to Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno. They were devoted to deepening the knowledge about doing business in the cross-border market and identifying the real benefits of international cooperation. The presentations focused on marketing and trade competencies, innovation and competitiveness development management of the companies, customs and visa policies of the European Union and the protection of intellectual property.

Three specialised seminars designed for business environment institutions involved the management of cross-border entrepreneurship. Liaison with business partners was introduced by three cooperation exchanges, organised in each of the regions and attended by 97 people.

The project has created a basis for further development of entrepreneurship in the border regions, which, in the long run, will result in increase in their economic competitiveness as well as raise the standard of living of the community.

DESPITE MANY DIFFERENCES EXISTING BETWEEN THE THREE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE BEYOND BORDERS

Marek Duda, Director of the Centre for Training and International Cooperation, Rzeszów Regional Development Agency

EU CONTRIBUTION

BUDGET: EUR 185 010.79

EUR 166 509.72
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MAKING INVESTMENT AREAS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUBACZÓW ACCESSIBLE AND THE RECULTIVATION OF DEGRADED AREAS OF YAVORIV AND NOVYI ROZDIL DISTRICTS

IPBU.01.01.00-18-486/11

LEAD PARTNER: Lubaczów Municipality (Poland)
PARTNERS: Commune Lubaczów (Poland), Yavoriv Raion Council (Ukraine), City Council of Novyi Rozdil (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – November 2015
Making investment areas available and development of joint strategy of attracting external capital is also an opportunity for the development of entrepreneurship among local communities and creating new jobs. This idea of cities and municipalities on the Polish and Ukrainian side of the border is the axis of their project written out for a number of common actions.

Polish and Ukrainian partners have similar problems: degraded infrastructure, in particular the one which is relevant for economic growth. The biggest need of Lubaczów city and commune is development of investment areas. Yavoriv Raion and the Town of Novyi Rozdil on the other hand need most urgently recultivation of degraded post-industrial (sulphur) areas. The discovery of sulphur deposits in the areas of Yavoriv in the 60s led to the rapid development of industry there, devastating natural environment.

Another problem noticed by all of the partners is a lack of professional and specialised staff in terms of attraction and service of external investors and promotion of investment offer.

Within the framework of the project in Lubaczów commune roads leading to investment areas will be created. While in Ukraine cleaning and recultivation of lands with an area of 120 hectares is planned. At the same time works on analysis of external investors’ expectations and potential of the city and Lubaczów commune areas are in progress, and on the Ukrainian side works on development of strategic documents which would make it possible to determine the directions of development of these areas and to provide further financing necessary for this project.

In Novyi Rozdil and Yavoriv investment areas management centres will operate. While in Lubaczów a municipal and communal Agency of Local Development will be created. The result of joint Polish and Ukrainian action will be the Polish and Ukrainian Cluster for development of the eastern border areas of the European Union.

Tasks provided for in the project will be complemented by trainings for employees of municipal and commune offices, non-governmental organizations and from business environment in terms of activity of economic zones, attracting external investors, relations with investors, public and private partnerships and joint numerous promotional activities, such as publication of guides for investors, creating websites presenting the investment offer.

Due to implementation of the project, integrated product in form of an investment offer for external and internal business entities will be created. Joint investment offer will meet the expectations of investors seeking both areas located within the EU as well as outside them, i.e. in Ukraine.
CREATIVE CENTRES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SUWAŁKI AND HRODNA

IPBU.01.01.100-20-591 /11

LEAD PARTNER: Maria Konopnicka Public Library in Suwałki (Poland)
PARTNERS: E. Karasi Grodno Oblast Scientific Library in Grodno (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – December 2015
The library as a place of training of personnel for science and modern sectors of the economy? Such initiatives are especially valuable in the regions where education is not adapted to the changing requirements of the labour market, and the vast majority of young people do not even have access to the Internet. The inhabitants of Suwałki and Hrodna will have a chance for a better start in their professional life owing to creative centres.

They will be equipped with high-tech multimedia equipment and educational programmes (electronic panels, special keyboards, three-dimensional teaching aids, computer software, and network databases). Young people will be able to, among others, create films and animations, music, learn languages, learn about the operation of solar, wind and hydropower plants, program mini robots, and the youngest children, through games and puzzles media, will learn, for example, traffic rules.

In both libraries, 25 double educational stations with Internet access have been installed. The classes in the centres enrich school programmes with modern science technology, developing students’ abilities and interests. More than 6,000 people in the target group, or the pupils from middle and primary schools, will benefit directly from the interactive science and technology centres during the year.

The centres will also be available for adults. The authors of the project think especially about attracting teachers and unemployed persons who wish to acquire new skills, and retirees. They will be supported by professional staff of these institutions. In both cities, eight people have been trained and offered jobs.

The centres are located in the buildings adapted to new functions as part of the actions set out in the project. In Suwałki, the building needed overhaul. In Hrodna, arrangement works were carried out in one of the rooms of the library. The works involved refreshing the room, installing blinds and air conditioning system. Thanks to the installed lifts, both centres are accessible to people with disabilities.

The opening of the centre in Hrodna will be combined with the international conference on the role of the information society in improving the competitiveness of the regions. It will be a two-day event attended by local and regional authorities, representatives of the world of culture, science and business from both countries. The conference and the opening ceremony will be attended by 80 people. The centre inauguration in Suwałki will also be of a solemn character. It will be attended by the representatives of the Belarusian partner.

Interactive Science and Technology Centres on the Polish-Belarusian border areas will support the development of Poland-East Science and Technology Park in Suwałki, associated with the development of information technology and services in the field of ‘information society’. This initiative will reduce the disparities between the regions by strengthening their scientific and innovative potential.

“INFORMATION SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR RAISING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE BORDER REGIONS

Maria Kołodziejska, project coordinator

www.bpsuwalki.pl
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC COOPERATION OF BIAŁYSTOK-SUWAŁKI SUBREGION AND HRODNA OBLAST IN BELARUS AND ALSO OF KROSNO-PRZEMYŚL SUBREGION AND ZAKARPATTIA OBLAST IN UKRAINE

IPBU.01.01.00-20-636 /11

LEAD PARTNER: Bialystok Personnel Training Foundation (Poland)

PARTNERS: Fund of transborder cooperation and special economic zones development (Ukraine), Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – April 2015
Border location of the regions may be advantageous. The peripheral problems can be overcome if cross-border economic cooperation is developed. The initiation and use of this potential is owed to the project inspired by Białystok Personnel Training Foundation in cooperation with partners from Ukraine and Belarus.

As part of the project, the basis for the development of the activities was to identify the barriers that inhibit cross-border cooperation of enterprises and local governments in the four border regions. It was found out that individual municipalities do not have adequate strategic and operational programmes. The actions undertaken are random and uncoordinated. The entrepreneurs have no knowledge about the possibilities of cooperation, no contacts, do not know the best practices, and, above all, do not trust the partners on the other side of the border.

The development of models for cross-border cooperation in the scope of potential, needs and expectations of each region will be the most important outcome of the activities of the partners of the projects. These models will consist of a set of analyses of the current conditions for cooperation within the area covered by the project and other border regions.

The starting point for each operational programme is to analyse the situation of the above-mentioned specific areas. It is carried out by surveying small and medium-sized businesses, operating in the border areas. The survey will include 100 companies from each region (Białystok-Suwałki subregion, Krosno-Przemyśl subregion, Hrodna and Transcarpathian oblasts). The results will be published in the form of five reports – one report dedicated to each studied area and summary report, including findings arising from comparative analysis and recommendations. Owing to this, individual municipalities, at minimal cost and effort, will be able to attract and co-create professional cross-border cooperation programmes, based on the results of current analysis, relevant to their own situation and accepted by social partners.

The project can be promoted in the business community and local government circles during the four conferences dedicated to the presentation of research results and models of cross-border cooperation, as well as the presentation of the offer of municipalities, towns and companies in the exhibition pavilions.

The measures activating local governments and traders to benefit from the border location for the purpose of economic cooperation will translate into raising the quality of life of local communities. In fact, the measures will result in increase in employment, GDP growth, and reduction of the development gap between the border regions, as compared to the central areas in their countries.

"WE HAVE CREATED THE BASIS FOR FUTURE POLISH-UKRAINIAN-BELARUSIAN PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION OF THE ENTERPRISES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS"

Magdalena Ficner, the coordinator of the project

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 141 683.76

BUDGET: EUR 157 426.40
LEAD PARTNER: Volyn Oblast Business Support Fund (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Innovation and Development Promotion Centre (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – May 2015

CROSS-BORDER SYSTEM OF INVESTOR ACQUIRING POLAND-UKRAINE

IPBU.01.00-78-677/11

LEAD PARTNER: Volyn Oblast Business Support Fund (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Innovation and Development Promotion Centre (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – May 2015
The project partners have jointly undertaken the task to promote Podlaskie Voivodeship and Volyn Oblast as attractive areas for foreign investors. The activities related to the implementation of this plan will be coordinated by the established Cross-Border Investment Agency (TAI).

Foreign investors have for years bypassed the areas located on the eastern border of the EU. The reason for this is that, inter alia, they do not have access to interesting and professional offers originating from these regions. Also, they are discouraged by the unfriendly investment climate. Although the employees of the central and voivodeship institutions have relevant expertise and experience, there is no suitable personnel to handle potential investors when dealing with municipal offices.

The activities carried out under the project are aimed primarily to mitigate such barriers through the education of personnel in the local government units and simultaneous creation of a database of current investment offers.

The Cross-Border Investment Agency was set up to deal with these tasks. Its employees, being in direct contact with local government units interested in cooperation, assist the officials of municipalities in creating or updating investment offers and organise trainings in the scope of investor’s service standards, friendly image building of the municipality and the principles of creation of comprehensive investment offer.

The developed database with offers will be placed on the Agency’s website in three languages (Polish, Ukrainian and English). The publication will be available in the TAI office in an electronic form (CD). The portal will also include basic information for those interested in investing, for example, legal basis and links to appropriate authorities.

TAI will still work as a representative of local governments in dealing with investors after the completion of the project. Its role will be to find a potential investor, present investment offers of cross-border regions, select the most favourable locations, organise local inspection, present basic information about the municipality and, in the case of interest, make appointments with the authorities of the municipality and assist in negotiations. The office of the Agency will be formed in Volyn. It will employ the experts from both countries, and its area of activity will include both border regions.

According to the authors of the project, tangible socio-economic benefits for Volyn and Podlasie will appear within five years after the implementation of the project. It is expected that the value of investments in these regions will increase up to 204 million euros (in 2010, it was 170 million euros). This means the emergence of new jobs, change of the structure of employment and improvement of the quality of life of inhabitants.

The functioning of the common agency for attracting investors in the cross-border area constitutes an important platform for strengthening cross-border cooperation and implementation of future projects. Partners envisage the extension of its area of influence.

"THE BENEFITS FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT WILL BE FELT BY THE ENTIRE SOCIETY OF CROSS-BORDER AREAS"

Shvorak O.O., project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 302 718.73

BUDGET: EUR 336 354.14
“TIME FOR BUSINESS” – CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS OF THE VOLYN REGION OF UKRAINE AND THE LUBLIN VOIVODESHIP OF POLAND BY MEANS OF DIVERSIFYING THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

IPBU.01.01.00-78-791/11

LEAD PARTNER: Gorokhiv District Council (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Volyn Region Charitable Foundation “European Vector” (Ukraine), Public organization Volyn Agricultural Advisory Service (Ukraine), Lublin Agricultural Advisory Centre in Korskowola (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: September 2013 – April 2015
The project supports the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas of Volyn Oblast and Lublin Voivodeship through training of farmers in the introduction of new, profitable crops, use of modern technology and creation of a system of cross-border flow of information about markets for agricultural products.

Already the first months of the project have shown that the project meets the needs of agricultural producers. The conference devoted to the presentation of the project was attended by 108 people. Polish farmers took the opportunity to invite the Ukrainian participants to visit their farms. In addition, the Association of Farmers and Landowners of Volyn and Lublin Chamber of Agriculture agreed to sign a cooperation agreement. After the conference, 20 agreements on cooperation between Lviv ‘Szuwar’ wholesale market and Volyn rural councils were signed. The agreements foresee reduction of the cost of services for farmers, allowing them to increase their income.

As part of the project, the activities focus primarily on increasing the farmers’ knowledge about modern cultivation and provision of updated information about the current trends and prices in agricultural markets in Poland and Ukraine. To this end, on both sides of the border, the market information system border newsletter is published. The Ukrainian partner runs the website ‘Time for business’, which monitors and updates the prices of agricultural products every two weeks. Five brochures on production technology of vegetables, growing vegetables in greenhouses and under glass, cultivation of crops in the open and closed area, technology of establishment of garden and ecological farming. Brochures are also distributed among farmers in the printed version.

By the end of April 2014, 8414 users registered on the portal. It proves that the target group is greatly interested in the information contained on the website. It was estimated that 14 500 visitors will be present during the whole period of the project.

To familiarise the largest possible number of agricultural producers with the offer of the project and encourage them to participate in trainings, two thousand leaflets in Polish and Ukrainian languages have been distributed. 15 thematic workshops have been conducted for the volunteers from Volyn and 10 seminars on ‘Direct sales, processing of agricultural production’ have been organised for the farmers from Lublin Voivodeship. In Poland, the workshops entitled ‘Best Practices’ have been held for the five groups of the inhabitants of Volyn rural municipalities. The courses have awoken surprisingly large interest. 197 people have participated in them.

In the long term, the desired outcome of the project will be to increase the competitiveness of farmers and their income.

THE PROJECT IS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES

Kozak N.B., project coordinator
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RIVNE AND LUBLIN

IPBU.01.01.00-88-784/11

LEAD PARTNER: The Executive Committee of Rivne City Council (Ukraine)
PARTNERS: The Municipality of Lublin (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: May 2013 – October 2015
The activities under the project will contribute to the establishment of a permanent dialogue between the representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises and the administration of Rivne. The election of local authorities of Lublin as a partner for the project will allow the Ukrainian side to use Polish experience, as well as facilitate the entrepreneurs of both cities to establish business contacts, establish the companies and develop trade exchange.

An important result of the implementation of the project is the establishment of Business Service Center for Rivne City Council. The employees of the Center provide consultation on the rules and procedures for starting and running a business, as well as organise ‘Round table’ meetings of entrepreneurs and representatives of the city administration on the barriers to business development. So far, nearly one thousand people have used the BSC services. More than 200 people were consulted during the twelve ‘Days of institutions giving permission to conduct businesses. The basis for the successful achievement of the objectives set in the project is the Protocol on Cooperation, signed among the Executive Committee of Rivne City Council and the Tax Inspection of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Revenue in Rivne Oblast, Rivne Customs Office, the Department of DSN, Registration Service of the Department of Justice, the main Directorate of Sanitation Department, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Health and Safety Territorial Board and the Employment Center in December 2013. Rivne and Lublin’s cooperation, conducted as part of the project, runs at the level of representatives of administration in both cities and the entrepreneurs. A dozen representatives of Rivne City Council were hosted by the City Office of Lublin. During the meeting, the partners exchanged experiences in promoting entrepreneurship, as well as information about the economic potential of the cities and opportunities to develop cross-border cooperation.

The partners have organised for the entrepreneurs presentations of business potential of each city, as well as seminars on business activities on both sides of the border and practical skills needed for establishing cross-border cooperation.

In Lublin, three exhibitions for SMEs have already been organised. During those events, 186 entrepreneurs from Rivne and Lublin started negotiations on establishing cooperation.

The positive attitude of entrepreneurs towards cross-border cooperation is evidenced by the fact that language courses organised for the target groups of the project were successful. So far, 12 SMEs representatives from Rivne have reached a basic level of Polish during a three-month course, and 24 people from Lublin have participated in two three-month courses of the Ukrainian language.

Recent statistics confirm the effectiveness of the measures implemented. The number of joint ventures between SMEs of Rivne and Lublin increased by 400 percent in 2013 percent, as compared to 2012. The number of cooperation agreements has increased by 500 percent at the same time. The value of exports of small and medium-sized enterprises from Rivne to Poland increased by 380 percent in 2013 (up to 85 million dollars), as compared to 2011.

For the Executive Committee of the Rivne City Council, implementation of the project constitutes extremely valuable experience. For the first time, the implemented project was funded by the European Union as a lead partner.
MEASURE 1.2.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
BIKE TRAIL – IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BUG RIVER SECRETS

IPBU.01.02.00-06-252/10

LEAD PARTNER: Pope John Paul II State Higher School in Biała Podlaska (Poland)

PARTNERS: Alexander Pushkin Brest State University (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2012 – May 2014
From Miedzyrzec Podlaski in the Bialskopodlaskie County to Kamianiets in Brest Oblast, through the most beautiful environmentally and fascinating with the multi-culturalism areas of the Polish-Belarusian border area, leads a marked bike trail with a length of 600 km. It was inaugurated by the international bicycle rally, which was attended by lecturers and students of the university of Brest and Biela Podlaska – project partners.

Active forms of recreation, including cycling tourism, are gaining more numerous legions of followers. The project area has exceptional natural conditions for the development of this type of recreation. Białskie County landscape is dominated by vast plains variegated by rivers. Nature on the left bank of the river Bug Valley is kept intact and protected as a Landscape Park „Podlasie Bug Gorge“. In Belarus, the most precious natural areas are the Białowieża Forest and Biosphere Reserve „Polesie Nadbużańskie“.

No less advantage of the Bug river areas is their multicultural heritage. They were created by the Orthodox Belarusians Podlasie Uniates, Tatars, Dutch settlers called Olêders, and Jews. The attractiveness of the trail increases its cross-border nature. It connects 125 towns, villages and interesting places – 68 in Bialskopodlaskie, 57 in the regions of Brest and Kamianiets. Cycling and Bug river landscapes lovers will be led by a carefully designed, marked with illustrations tourist guide, published in Polish, Belarusian and English. The trail was divided into four routes, one of which, with a length of over 200 km, runs along the right bank of the Bug river valley from Domaczewo through Brest and Wysokie to Kamianiets. In Stawatyce two Polish routes combine, leading to Biela Podlaska and Janów Podlaski. The third route leads from Miedzyrzec Podlaski to the county capital, Biela Podlaska.

The guide is a very interesting reading. Descriptions of all the destinations on the routes contain practical information, e.g. about accommodation, catering, communication, tourist information points, about cycling service and distance to the next point on the route, as well as a brief history of the village and tips on what to see, what sights to visit. Each route was marked on a typographical map 1:50 000. Maps are an integral part of the guide. A very useful part of the publication is guidance on the rules for crossing the border and guide „First aid at the accident site on the road“. The guide is easily accessible. It can be downloaded from the project website www.szlak-owerowy.pswbp.pl. Bug River bike trail is not only an attraction for tourists. Its formation is of great importance for the people of regions through which it runs. The revival of tourism will create new jobs, increase the income of entrepreneurs, providing catering services, accommodation and much more. For project partners joint action on its development and implementation is a valuable experience. It will be conducive to further cooperation and the creation of new tourism products, promoting Polish-Belarusian borderland.

CREATING UNIQUE TOURISTIC PRODUCTS IS A CHANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDERLAND
Jarosław Żbikowski

“EU CONTRIBUTION

BIAŁA PODLASKA

BREST

BUDGET: EUR 304 908.92

EUR 274 052.14

www.szlak-owerowy.pswbp.pl
THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP

IPBU.01.02.00-06-395/11

LEAD PARTNER: Łaszczyw Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: Town Council of Zhovkva (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – October 2015
The aim of the project is to improve the tourist infrastructure of Łaszczów and Zhovkva, develop tourism services and promote historic values of the towns. Although small and peripherally located, the towns have a hundreds years’ history, which has left valuable treasures.

Łaszczów is located in the Lubelskie voivodeship, on the border of the Roztocze region and the Lublin Upland, in the area of uniquely picturesque and unspoilt nature. It was granted a town status already in 1549 and held it until 1869 (the town status was repossessed by Łaszczów on 1 January 2010). Since 17th century until the Second World War it was inhabited by a large Jewish community, reminded of by the ruins of the synagogue. The commune is a region of vegetable production and every year the festival of broccoli and cauliflower is held in its capital, with tasting of dishes prepared by local housewives as greatest attraction.

Zhovkva is a town located in the region of Lviv and its monuments are associated with Polish history. The castle, built by the founder of the city, Hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski, in 17th century became a favourite residence of the Polish King Jan III Sobieski. The Baroque Sobieski Palace has undergone full restoration financed with EU funds. The most attractive monuments of the town include also 17th century collegiate church of St. Lawrence, wooden church of 1705, the synagogue, as well as three hundred year-old townhouses at the Market Square. The joint project is the result of many years’ cooperation between the authorities of Zhovkva and Łaszczów commune, who already in 2008 concluded an agreement. The investment project was primarily based on the promotional activities aimed at tourists. These include compilation and production of albums depicting the cultural and historical heritage, preparation of sponsored radio and newspaper articles, as well as advertising items, such as mugs, postcards, banners, t-shirts, prints.

The Ukrainian partner is preparing a film about the past times of Zhovkva, its monuments and offer of tourist services, and will organize historical exhibition and purchase audio guides for visitors, as well as will mark the monuments with information boards. The tower of Zhovkva town hall, built in 1932 in neo-baroque style, will receive the renovated viewing balcony.

The task of Łaszczów in the framework of the project consists in mapping out tourist thematic paths within the commune and placing information boards along the route. The town centre has already received a beautiful square with a fountain, with an area of more than 3.5 thousand sq. m.

The project results significantly increase the importance of the borderland region as an attractive place for tourists, and offer opportunities for the residents to initiate and develop business activity.

Working meeting of partners during project implementation works facilitate the exchange of experiences and inspire to take further steps towards economic and cultural development of the towns, as part of the broadly understood cooperation of the residents and institutions.

THERE IS ONLY ONE KING! JAN III SOBIESKI TRAIL AS A TRANSNATIONAL TOURIST PRODUCT

IPBU.01.02.00-06-477/11

LEAD PARTNER: Spiczyn Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: Town Council of Zhovkva (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – December 2015
The places in Poland and Ukraine, where the King Jan III Sobieski was born and where he resided, hunted, fought, visited friends, where he left behind a tangible witnesses of life, will be connected by tourist trails with numerous attractions. The idea of the Trail will unite local communities in the area from Lublin to Olesko in their efforts to improve tourist attractiveness of their regions and promote their cultural heritage.

The Jan III Sobieski Trail is a wide concept of regional development, initiated in 2008 by the Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Adaptation, which has been systematically developed by six partner communes of the Lubelskie voivodeship, in cooperation with the Tourist Information Centre in Zhovkva and non-governmental organizations in Poland and Ukraine (e.g. Lion Society of Lviv, UNESCO Ecological Club). It is an interdisciplinary project, ranging geographically from Olesko - the king’s birthplace - to Vienna - the place of his most famous war victory.

The project “There is only one King!” is the next step in the process of developing the idea in the cross-border perspective. The main objective of the project is to establish cooperation with another ten local governments on both sides of the border, and then develop together four cross-border tourist routes - walking, cycling, horse-riding and driving route - to follow the heritage trail of the king and his dynasty. The routes will be planned in a way so as to cover the territory of partners who will join the JIII Trail project.

The routes are being developed by a team of eight experts from Poland and Ukraine. They are preparing a map of 480 key locations with tourist, historical and cultural attractions. These places will be photographically recorded and visualized on the Internet.

The first stage of the project implementation resulted in the design of small architecture structures (including advertising stands, souvenirs kiosks, advertising poles, solar street lamps), as well as promotional items, which are to ensure a visual identification of the Trail. The Trail will be promoted in the film with 3D elements, depicting the King John III Sobieski and the period of 17th century, promoting neighbourly relations of Poland and Ukraine. The film will be addressed mainly to young audience in the Lubelskie voivodeship and Lviv region. The use of 3D animation in the film will allow to use new technologies to explain the relation between the present and the past in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

The Trail may constitute a cross-border idea that stretches across East-Central Europe and initiators of this initiative intend the Trail to be recognized by the Council of Europe and awarded a title of European Cultural Route. For this purpose the International Operations Centre of Jan III Sobieski Trail was created. Its functions are performed by Jan III Sobieski Trail Think Tank Foundation (www.szlaksobieskiego.org.pl) that develops and monitors the standards of cooperation. The Centre will also ensure equal access to the knowledge on JIII Trail for institutional partners, it will facilitate communication between the partners and it will work towards the promotion and further expansion of the Trail.
SHTETL ROUTES. VESTIGES OF JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE IN CROSS-BORDER TOURISM

IPBU.01.02.00-06-594/11

LEAD PARTNER: “Grodzka Gate – NN Theater” Center (Poland)

PARTNERS: Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus), Navahrudak Museum of History and Regional Studies (Belarus), Centre for Social and Business Initiatives in Yaremche (Ukraine), Rivne Marketing Research Centre (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – November 2015
Shtetl, a unique village inhabited by Jews and Christians of many nationalities, with a variety of architecture and customs, were for many years the landscape characteristic of Eastern Europe. The idea behind the project is to document the history and drawing to it the attention of international communities through the development of cultural tourism in the Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian borderland.

Cultural tourism in the footsteps of the Jewish heritage in the project area has great potential. United target audience is the Jewish diaspora throughout the world, which has its roots here. An obstacle to the development of touristic traffic in these areas is the lack of knowledge about the material and non-material heritage of Eastern European Jews, and thus the lack of a specific tourist offer. The purpose of the project partners is to create a unique touristic product in the form of three trails leading through 60 villages from Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian border areas (20 places in each country) and one common cross-border route. Preparation of documentation for the delineation of routes is made by research expeditions, looking for traces of history, making a description of the towns (including consideration of existing infrastructure and tourism opportunities, establishing the feasibility of directions, GPS coordinates), they document film and photographic documentation of monuments. Their task is also to search in towns for witnesses of multicultural past of these places and write memoirs. Each project partner undertakes to query sources, results and records regarding the Jewish heritage in the region. This applies to the Lublin, Podkarpackie and Podlaskie provinces in Poland, Brest and Hrodna Oblasts in Belarus and Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Rivne, Ternopil, Volyn and Zakarpatska Oblasts in Ukraine. Thus acquired knowledge will serve not only to develop maps for hiking, but also to create a common computer database and promotion desk. Trails in the graphic and descriptive form will be placed on the portal „Jewish villages of Eastern Europe” in five languages (Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, English, Hebrew). The portal will also be present virtual mock-ups of selected localities and practical tips for travelers on how to independently explore and discover their history. Visualization of the non-existing today material heritage of the borderland will contribute to a better understanding and ideas of history of the village. Also a traditional tourist guide will be released.

For tour operators trainings on the touristic potential of individual places on the trails developed as a part of the project are conducted. 135 travel guides will participate the training cycle. A valuable cross-border impact of the project is the activation of a number of research and cultural institutions from the three countries to work for the use of cultural heritage in tourism and the development of local communities.

"Grodzka Gate – NN Theater” Center together with its partners is planning to continue raising funds and executing new undertakings, extending the geographic scope of the project.
MODERNIZATION OF ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN ZAMOŚĆ AND LUTSK AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A RECREATION ZONE IN RZESZÓW IN ORDER TO DEVELOP CROSS-BORDER QUALIFIED NATURE TOURISM

IPBU.01.02.00-06-690/11

LEAD PARTNER: The Town of Zamość (Poland)

PARTNERS: The City of Rzeszów (Poland), The Executive Committee of the Town of Luts’k (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – October 2015
The Zoological Garden in Zamość is the only facility of this kind in the eastern part of Poland, and the zoo in Lutsk is the only zoo in the region of Volyn and one of the few in the western part of Ukraine. The facilities, which were rebuilt and modernized as part of the project, have become a real attraction for tourists and local communities, and the living conditions of animals have become more similar to the natural ones.

The zoo in Zamość is one of the oldest zoos in Poland. Since 2009, it has been undergoing a modernization, financially supported by the EU funds. Another project, developed jointly with the authorities of Lutsk in Ukraine, will include the construction and arrangement of new enclosures – for tapir, pygmy hippopotamus and capybara, with paddocks and cascading ponds, as well as three winter pavilions with duck ponds. Monitoring equipment and multimedia system will be installed (hot-spots, multimedia boards, multimedia guides).

Also the zoo in Lutsk, where most of the structures were fit for demolition, is undergoing major changes. New enclosures for bears and lions are being created, the whole area will be developed for comfort of the visitors.

In total, nine animal enclosures will be created in both gardens on the area of 4,602 m², as well as 1,700 meters of roads and pedestrian pathways.

The project will result in the creation of a brand name tourism product, based on two zoological gardens

Marcin Grabski, project coordinator

The project included meetings and study visits, training for the Lutsk zoo personnel in the management of the zoo, its promotion and organization of qualified nature tourism, promotional activities and conferences to summarize the project activities.

The third part of the project is based on the development, including the elements of technical documentation, of the recreational zone concept in Rzeszow, encompassing zoological garden. The residents of Rzeszow got involved in the process of concept development. They had an opportunity to submit their proposals in the survey as well as during public consultations.

Modern zoological gardens in Zamość and Lutsk, created as a result of the project, may become an important advantage in the competitive fight for tourists, not only for Zamość and Lutsk, but also for the entire cross-border area, covered by the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme “Poland-Belarus-Ukraine”. The project partners estimate that the number of people visiting the zoo in Zamość will increase to approximately 139 thousand, and in Lutsk to approx. 35 thousand people, within 1 year after the completion of the works scheduled.

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 2,296,899.83

BUDGET: EUR 2,580,786.33
POLISH-UKRAINIAN COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN THE BORDER AREA

IPBU.01.02.00-06-709/11

LEAD PARTNER: Municipality Leśniewice (Poland)

PARTNERS: Rural Council of Hushcha (Ukraine), Municipality Wojstawice (Poland), the Municipality of Żmudź (Poland), the Municipality Dorohusk (Poland), Association of Local Action Group „Ziemia Chełmska” (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – August 2015
In summer 2015 four Polish municipalities and one Ukrainian, situated in the border regions, will have a new interesting offer for those who prefer agritourism to the popular and noisy holiday destination places. As a result, the implementation of the cross-border project on the natural bays in the Chełm county and over the lake Hushcza recreation infrastructure facilities and access roads to them will be built. At the end of 2014 investment in Polish villages Husynne and Wojsławice was put to use. In Husynne (municipality Dorohusk) a road to the water reservoir was built, a bridge by the lagoon, equipment and facilities for the development of the surroundings were purchased. A promenade, children’s playground and place for artistic performances (in total 2350 m²), a walking bridge together with bridges for vessels, as well as wooden shelter for grilling were created over the lagoon in Wojsławice. Pontoons, pedal boats and canoes were purchased. Dębowy Las Lagoon in Wołkowiany (municipality Żmudź) is a paradise for anglers. As much as 27 bridges, including two with a length of 25 m were built for them. In addition, there will be two pitches for volleyball, a campground will be developed, sanitary buildings will rise, shelters, barbecue areas, solar lanterns will be installed. You can already reach Dębowy Las on a paved road. Maczuły lagoon in the village Horodysko (municipality Leśniowice) is being developed with the thought of safe family holiday over the water. A pier and beach are under construction there, walking paths over the banks of reservoir are developed. Canoes and pedal boats will be waiting for tourists in the rental place, a slide will be built for children. The safety of campers will be ensured by a lifeguard featuring a speedboat and life jackets. The investment project also includes the upgrading of municipal roads and parking lots. Well equipped sports and recreation center is also under construction on the other side of the border over the Hushcza lake. It will have a fenced, lit and guarded campsite with social and sanitary infrastructure, large parking, beach and pitches.

The creation of the project was made possible thanks to the long-term cooperation of Polish municipalities Dorohusk, Leśniowice, Wojsławice and Żmudź, which in 2007 formed the association „Local Action Group of Chełm Land” in order to better use its tourist, cultural, historical assets. The association invited the hosts of Hushcza municipality which is in the neighborhood with Dorohusk municipality to participate in a cross-border project. Both communities for years have been connected by cultural, educational cooperation and good-neighborly relations between the inhabitants. The project provides a lot of activities aiming at the integration of inhabitants of border communities. Five common outdoor events were planned to promote the newly established holiday resorts on the bays. The facilities for the organization of the cross-border events is a Meeting House „Na pograniczu kultur” (eng. “On the border of cultures”), created next to the primary school in Kumów Plebański in Leśniowice municipality. Renovation of the building and equipment of the House was funded from the budget of the project.

“THIS PROJECT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE SO FAR UNUSED TOURIST POTENTIAL OF OUR MUNICIPALITIES”

Pawel Mróczkowski, Association of Local Action Group „Ziemia Chełmska”

www.turystyka-pl-ua.eu

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 2 605 970.31

BUDGET: EUR 2 926 576.89
LEAD PARTNER: The Town and Commune of Łosice (Poland)

PARTNERS: Executive Committee of Rayon Ivanava (Belarus), Culture Centre of Łosice (Poland), Executive Committee of Peremyshlyany City Council, „Halychany” Foundation

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – November 2015
In the Belarusian village Worocewicze, in the border area region of Janów, a museum of the artist Napoleon Orda born in there in nineteenth century is under construction. The museum will be a part of the Centre of Cultural Dialogue. Project implementation of the Belarusian partners will be supported by the knowledge and experience of Polish specialists from the commune Łosice. It is also a place where a Center arises that will serve the cultivation and promotion of culture of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border area.

The idea behind the project is to encourage cultural initiatives in the border area, close-up inhabitants through their participation in international meetings, presentation of cultural diversity and similarities connecting Polish culture and its eastern neighbors. Another important goal is to promote project areas as attractive tourist destinations. Proximity of the border makes it an area suitable for business meetings, trainings and conferences. Emerging Centres of Cultural Dialogue in Łosice and Varacevičy will create the conditions for organizing cross-border projects. Cultural pearl of the borderland will be the museum of Napoleon Orda, whose life and work is related to Poland and Belarus. Born in 1807 in Varacevičy, participant of the November Uprising, he returned to his native village from emigration in 1856. In numerous travels through the countries of the former Republic of Poland he immortalized in his drawings, watercolors and lithographs more than a thousand historical buildings and noble residences. From the funds of the cross-border project renovation and reconstruction of the building intended for the museum and the Centre of Cultural Dialogue is funded. It will include exhibition hall and performance-conference hall, sanitary and social facilities (with beds for visiting artists, and kitchen facilities), as well as the center of tourist and cultural information. After opening of the museum every year a scientific and practical conference dedicated to a better understanding of the cultural heritage of artists such as Napoleon Orda, composer Stanislaw Moniuszko or writer Józef Kraszewski, who contributed to the strengthening of relationships of Belarus, Poland and Ukraine will be held. It is estimated that every year the museum will be visited by at least 10 thousand tourists from Belarus, Ukraine and Poland.

The oldest building in the city with an area of 1.4 sq m will be adapted for the Centre of Cultural Dialogue in Łosice. In the basement you will find an entertainment hall, conference rooms, and kitchen facilities. On the ground floor exhibition halls are provided. These surfaces will be used as an art gallery, and for the organization of events of an intimate nature. On the first floor guest rooms will be located. The center will also operate a tourist and cultural information point. Thanks to that both visitors and inhabitants will have access to information on cross-border cultural and tourist offer. Activity of cross-border Centres of Cultural Dialogue will positively affect the perception of cultural and tourist potential by the inhabitants of the border area regions of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine, and will contribute to overcoming mutual prejudices. The project partners will acquire new competencies in the scope of cross-border cooperation, joint development of projects and raising funds for their implementation. Further cooperation will bring an increase in revenues from tourism and raise the standard of living of local communities.
LUBACZÓW-YAVORIV TWO POTENTIALS, JOINT OPPORTUNITY

IPBU.01.02.00-18-054/10-00

LEAD PARTNER: Lubaczów Municipality (Poland)
PARTNERS: Yavoriv City Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: July 2011 – November 2014
Polish and Ukrainian city, each with interesting history and unique “borderland climate”, have created joint touristic portal, on which they promote each other’s attractions and services for tourists. It is one of effects of their cross-border cooperation, supported by funds of the European Union.

In straight line both cities are separated hardly by 30 kilometres. However, they have a lot more in common than border crossing Budomierz-Hruszew. They are comparable when it comes to area (26 and 23 km2) and population (about 13 thousand). Their history reaches early Middle Ages. First mention about Lubaczów comes from XIII century, and the name Jaworowa appeared in documents written in XIV century. As an interesting fact it is worth mentioning that in XVII century the city was property of King John III Sobieski and became one of his favourite place to stay. Lubaczów is placed in the centre of Roztocze, region with clean air and lush nature, with plentiful of bicycle and hiking routes. Natural advantage of Yavoriv are picturesque ponds supplied by Szkło river.

Administrators of both cities acknowledged that treasures of culture and nature which they have, can and should draw much more tourists. In order to use this potential they have to improve information service of tourists, strengthen the promotion, but also invest in revitalization of historical centres of those places. All of those tasks were included in the jointly developed project. The project started with a reconstruction and modernisation of the historic parts of cities. In Lubaczów Market Square has been renovated, roads, sidewalks, drainage improved, new lighting and monitoring installed, elements of small architecture and colourful fountain appeared. At that time renovation works also took place on the Yavoriv market. In addition, the Ukrainian partner modernised National House building and summer scene.

Next step was the creation of the Tourist and Economic Information Centre on both sides of the border. This meant not only equipment of two offices, or publication of joint tourist and information folder. Care was taken also to conduct training of staff for tourist service. For specialists and tourism animators from Lubaczów and Yavoriv it was a great opportunity to get to know each other and cooperate.

Permanent effects of the project are also promotional activities on the Internet. Both cities have created a touristic portal on their official websites. It promotes tourist qualities of partners, suggests touristic routes, describes monuments, invites to cultural and sports events, among which there is a growing number of cross-border events, such as f.ex. Roztocze Marathon Lubaczów-Yavoriv (Roztoczański Maraton Lubaczów-Jaworów).

"We would like the centers of both towns to be a meeting place where we can organize various events for the resident communities and tourists"

Andrzej Kania, project coordinator

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PARTNER PROJECT OF DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON TOURISM BASED ON NEW YOUTH SPORT AND LEISURE CENTERS

IPBU.01.02.00-18-155/10

LEAD PARTNER: Krosno County (Poland)
PARTNERS: Uzhhorod City (Ukraine), Baranynci County (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: May 2012 – November 2015
In the Wola Michowa village in Komaricza county in Bieszczady a cross-border tourist and recreation centre for youth was established. This is the first of three centres, the construction of which is planned in the project. Next ones are being created on the Ukrainian side in the Baranynci village and in the town of Uzhgorod, the capital of Zakarpattya region. The purpose of these investments is to enrich tourist offer in border areas.

Krosno and Uzhgorod have a significant impact on the development of the area of the Polish and Ukrainian borderland in Subcarpathia and Zakarpattya region. For those regions tourism is one of the most important sectors of economy. This is facilitated by the location of cities at important transport routes, proximity of borders, highly developed small business, neighbourhood of health resorts, large number of monuments and proximity of areas with attractive landscapes.

An important obstacle for the development of tourism is unsatisfactory technical condition of recreational infrastructure and its low variety. An important problem is also poor promotion of the tourist attractiveness of these cities and their surrounding areas, especially on the Ukrainian side of the border.

Measures taken together already benefit. Scout campsite in Wola Michowa increased its possessions by a new building with a total area of 209.85 m², with a collector power, in which there are showers, changing rooms, cloakrooms and bathrooms, which is what was missing for safe and comfortable camping.

On the occasion of transfer of the building for use in October 2013 Youth Tourism Festival was organised in Wola Michowa, during which took place i.a. sport competitions. 118 people from Poland and Ukraine participated in it.

Works connected with the construction of sports and recreation centre in Baranynci are in the course of implementation (stadium along with a complex of administrative buildings, equipped with stage and grandstand, which will complement the existing sports infrastructure at the site). A cycle route will lead from Baranynci to Uzhgorod. In Uzhhorod tourists will be able to rent bikes, tents and mats in the Tourist Information Office. Within the framework of the project 10 cycle tourism guides will be trained. Upon completion of these investments in Uzhgorod and Baranynci every year Youth Cycling Tourism Days will be organised.

Recreational sports events were intended as elements of promotion of cities and their new tourist offer, but also as an effective way to integrate young people from Poland and Ukraine. Authors of the project estimate that the new infrastructure will be used annually by about 6000 people.
GEO-CARPATIANS – THE CREATION OF THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN TOURIST TRAIL

IPBU.01.02.00-18-203/10

LEAD PARTNER: State Higher Vocational School in Krosno (Poland)
PARTNERS: Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2012 – June 2014
The lovers of hiking, apart from beaten paths, can explore the Carpathian Mountains on the new trail leading through the Polish-Ukrainian border region, including the region of Przemyśl and Krosno as well as Lviv – Ivano Frankivsk Oblasts. The expected increase in tourism is a chance for people to earn income in a service industry.

The trail offers a total of 700 km of paths and 28 points (12 in Poland and 16 in Ukraine), where the tourist can enjoy the beauty of geological changes that have occurred over millions of years, and the effects of which take a variety of shapes, colours and forms.

An additional objective set up by the partner universities was to present heritage of the oil industry, which was born in today’s Ukrainian-Polish border. The intention was to determine the places where the oil was extracted and processed in the earliest history of global industry, ranging from Bóbrki and Krosno in Poland to Borysław and Lviv in Ukraine.

The research team including the experts in blazing a trail from Poland and Ukraine with the support of research and promotion specialists started to investigate the area. From Krosno to Yaremche approximately 15 thousand of square kilometres of land was examined. More than 120 points of interest in terms of geology and more than 60 catering establishments and accommodation sites used by tourists were located and described. The members of the project team visited many unknown places of the unusual geological attractiveness, but undiscovered by tourists.

At each point of the trail, there is now a plaque informing about the geological phenomena occurring there. Also, two vantage points have been arranged. The first users of the trail were the guides from Poland and Ukraine, who underwent trainings regarding the course and attractions of the trail, as well as the students of both higher education institutions. Information about the trail in Polish, Ukrainian and English languages, along with the map, a detailed description of the activities as well as accommodation and gastronomy facilities situated along the trail, are easily accessible at www.geo-karpaty.net.

An extremely valuable result of the project is the integration and interoperability of academic circles from Poland and Ukraine. Two hundred students from both higher education institutions attended or were involved in the preparation of the events as part of the project. Publications, especially the guide and conference materials, were reviewed by the researchers from Poland and Ukraine, highly valued by geologist circles.

GEO-CARPATIAN TRAIL GIVES THE VISITORS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH WILD NATURE, AUTHENTIC CULTURE AND THE UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS PART OF THE CARPATHIANS

Rafal Rajchel, project coordinator
THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPA TOWNS HORYNIEC-ZDRÓJ AND MORSHYN
CHANCE TO ACTIVATION OF THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER

IPBU.01.02.00-18-353/11

LEAD PARTNER: Commune Horyniec-Zdrój (Poland)
PARTNERS: Agency of Regional Development and European Integration (Ukraine), Morshyn Town Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – December 2015
Two spa towns in the border regions of Poland and Ukraine with extraordinary valuable resources of therapeutic mineral waters have taken action to attract more visitors and tourists. The new attractions to be created through the joint project are primarily based on the revitalization of spa parks.

Both Horyniec-Zdrój, located on the southern edge of the Roztocze region, and Morshyn town, located in the region of Lviv amidst thousands square meters of clean forests, have perfect climatic and natural conditions for rest, recreation and various forms of tourism. For more than a hundred years both towns have offered opportunities for treatment of many diseases with mineral waters and peat baths.

Despite their undeniable advantages, these spa towns do not use their full potential. Tourist infrastructure and promotion of an offer addressed to potential visitors from both countries need to be improved. Implementation of investments in this regard has been possible with subsidies from the European Union cross-border cooperation funds.

The investment in Horyniec-Zdrój includes construction of a year-round mineral water well-room, amphitheatre and fountains. The park will be adorned by a hedge maze and a trellis at the fountain with relaxation seats. The renovated avenues will receive new lighting. Additionally, the project includes the removal of unhealthy and self-sown trees, the maintenance of tree stand as well as new plantings. The planting project aims to increase the natural and aesthetic value of the park by reference to the style of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century prevailing in the vegetation planning of spa parks.

The park in Morshyn is a monument of landscape architecture. The investment plan of the town consists in the renovation of the historic water well-room, as well as the construction of sewers, reconstruction of stylish lighting, installation of fences, construction of walking paths, reconstruction of the main avenue in the park, layout preparation and outfitting of recreational facilities, construction and assembly of small architecture elements (benches, litter bins, sculpture elements), construction of an open air stage and new greening planting.

Both parks will receive recreation and sports facilities such as tennis courts, Nordic Walking routes and skate parks.

Joint activities of partner cities will contribute to the exchange of experiences and transfer of „best practices“. This will facilitate complementarity and development of new joint projects in the future. For local communities, the improved exploiting of resort, tourist and historic potential of the towns will provide opportunity for the generation of new workplaces and income increase in the local sectors of culture, tourism and indirect tourist services. The expected number of visitors following the completion of the project was estimated at 57 thousand people per year.

Tourism offer of Horyniec-Zdrój and Morshyn is promoted through a joint website.
JAROSŁAW – UZHHOROD: COMMON INITIATIVE FOR IMPROVING THE TOURISTIC ATTRACTIVENESS OF HISTORICAL PARTNER CITIES

IPBU.01.02.00-18-354/11

LEAD PARTNER: Municipal Commune Jaroslaw (Poland)

PARTNERS: Executive Committee of Uzhhorod City Council (Ukraine), Poviat of Jaroslaw (Poland), Centre for innovation development, investment and tourism Agency of Uzhhorod (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: September 2013 – December 2015
Every year in mid-November, Polish and Ukrainian wine makers from the Carpathian region invite the residents of Uzhhorod and the tourists to the festival of young wine called „Zakarpackie Bożole”. This is one of the tourist attractions, created as part of the cross-border project.

The wines from trans-Carpathian region have a long tradition. In the eighteenth century they were exported to Poland, Prussia and Russia, where they were valued not less than the Hungarian Tokay. In those days, many buildings in Uzhhorod served as wine storehouses. One of these buildings located in the town centre, today called „Owl’s Nest”, has been renovated with the project funds and adapted for social, cultural and tourist purposes. The basement of this building is where the wine tradition has now been revived. Those who participate in the festival can also visit the permanent exhibition of wine. The second floor comprises folk crafts exhibition rooms, art gallery, conference room and Tourist Information Centre. Jarosław partner city has also received a unique tourist attraction thanks to the project. It is an underground passage under three historic townhouses in the Market Square. The route runs through the cellars, which in the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries served as merchant warehouses, as Jaroslaw was located on the merchant trail and was famous for its fairs which attracted numerous merchants from Europe and Asia. The history of these fairs is presented in one of the multimedia exhibitions in the cellar. There are also exhibitions presenting the history of Jaroslaw and Uzhhorod.

The works associated with the preparation and implementation of the project turned out to be inspirational for the partners. Already at the stage of working meetings, the ideas were presented to organize joint cultural events, e.g. folk crafts presentations, workshops of disappearing crafts, food festivals, local product markets, art and photographic exhibitions of young artists from Poland and Ukraine.

Promoting and facilitating access to cultural heritage is not only conducive to the development of tourism, but also stimulating for economic initiatives of cross-border communities. The project will contribute to satisfying their need of recreation, entertainment and cultural aspirations. Strengthened sense of identification with local tradition may prevent young people from migration to large cities.
TREASURES OF THE CROSS-BORDER AREA
– PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

IPBU.01.02.00-18-373/11

LEAD PARTNER: Society of Jesus Monastic Home in Stara Wieś (Poland)
PARTNERS: Brzozów Commune (Poland), National Historical and Architectural Reserve of Zhovkva City (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – December 2015
The treasures of cross-border area, which thanks to the joint Polish-Ukrainian project will become must-see spots on tourist routes, include the Jesuit monastery complex with the late Baroque basilica in Stara Wieś in the Podkarpacie region and the seventeenth-century Zhovkva castle in Lviv region. The large investment project, co-financed with European Union funds, aims to preserve the historic architecture of the castle and create tourist and pilgrimage centre in Stara Wieś.

The basilica in Stara Wieś towers over the area for 350 years. According to the Inventory of 1729, the church had a new altar with the painting of „Dormition and Assumption of the Virgin Mary”. This painting, created probably in 15th century, caused Marian devotion to develop in Stara Wieś. The painting was burned up by so-called unknown delinquents in 1968. Its true copy was crowned by Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland. Although the celebration ceremonies of the Assumption (15 August) and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 September) still attract 7 to 15 thousand of pilgrims, the place is rarely visited by the tourists. Tourism development is impeded by the lack of infrastructure.

The investment plans include car park with 68 parking spaces. „Jesuit centre for dialogue and history” is being created for the visitors, including restaurant and shopping complex and information desk. The area around the basilica will be developed into squares and gardens with the elements of small architecture, to emphasize the qualities of the baroque structure.

Already in autumn 2015, the first pilgrims and tourists coming to Stara Wieś will have the opportunity to visit another extraordinary garden. Walking on its alleys, they will be able to view the subsequent scenes of biblical events. For example, „Crossing the Red Sea” will consist of two three-meter tall walls, with water flowing down with great impetus to the corridor to the length of 5-6 m. The crossing will lead on a dry path, and the visitors will be able to feel the breeze of the flowing water.

Zhovkva Castle is a reminder of the common history of Poland and Ukraine. Built at the turn of 16th and 17th century by the Great Crown Hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski, the castle became the residence of the Polish King Jan III Sobieski.

The two world wars have brought the priceless monument to the brink of ruin. Due to the lack of funds to preserve the building, the planned renovations could have not be moved forward.

Within the project, the priority tasks include the completion of the roof reconstruction in the Sobieski Palace, the main structure of the castle, the reconstruction of the courtyard along with installations, as well as the reconstruction of the western tower and the restaurant adjacent to the gallery, completion of restoration works on the eastern tower with the adaptation of rooms to accommodate the museum exhibition, and the creation of the visitor centre.

In the future, the palace is to regain its former splendour of the Royal Residence. Period interiors will be restored. An agreement has been concluded with the Lviv Gallery of Fine Arts to restore hundreds of exhibits to the palace. Future image of the palace is being created by the specialists from Lviv, supported by Polish partners from the Museum-Palace in Wilanów, the University of Warsaw, Cracow University of Technology and the National Institute of Warsaw Heritage.
Polańczyk and Schidnycja – Let’s make use together of our tourist and cultural potential for the improvement of competitiveness of the Bieszczady region

IPBU.01.02.00-18-703/11-00

Lead Partner: Solina Commune (Poland)

Partners: Schidnycja Town Council (Ukraine)

Project Duration: August 2013 – November 2015
The calendar of international cultural events organized in the spa towns of Bieszczady region will be enriched by two new events – Bieszczady Cultural Encounters in Polańczyk and „Summer in Schidnycja“. The will be held every year in the amphitheatres built in both towns with the cross-border project funds.

Polańczyk, the capital of Solina commune, is the most popular spa resort in the Podkarpackie voivodeship, situated on a peninsula of Lake Solińskie, called the Sea of Bieszczady. On the other side of the Polish-Ukrainian border, near Drohobych, the picturesque Beskid valley accommodates Schidnycja, the most famous resort in Ukraine next to Truskawiec. Three types of therapeutic waters on a small area make it a unique spot. Solina Commune is visited annually by approx. 150 thousand tourists and spa visitors, and Schidnycja and its surroundings by approx. 824 thousand visitors.

Both resorts have excellent natural conditions for the development of tourism and hydrotherapy. With modern amphitheatres, these towns will be able to offer a wider range of cultural cross-border events, which will be their additional advantage.

The amphitheatre in Polańczyk was completed in August 2014. The audience can seat 500 people. The stage is equipped with professional technical facilities and sound system. The area around the amphitheatre has been organized and cleaned up. Access road, internal road with manoeuvring area and pedestrian paths have been constructed. The facility received a swage system (with sewage pump station) and water supply system.

Facility opening was accompanied by a two-day festival “1st Bieszczadzkie Cultural Meetings“. The program included, among others, tasting of regional dishes, performances of folk artists from Bolkowszczyzna and folk groups from Podkarpacie,

Schidnycja, Drohobych and Boryslaw. Bieszczadzkie Meetings have a chance to become a flagship event – constant, highlight event in the tourist attraction calendar of Solina commune. The amphitheatre in Schidnycja will be completed in the second half of 2015. It will be a multi-purpose structure with the audience for 530 people.

In summer, the concrete arena (with the stage) with the dimensions of 20x40 m will host spectacular events, concerts and sporting competitions. In winter, it will be converted into ice rink.

Opening of the amphitheatre will be a great attraction for the residents, spa visitors and tourists. It will become the centre of many events planned in the framework of the international festival „Summer in Schidnycja“. The artists from Ukraine, Poland and Slovakia will be invited.

The festivals organized in the amphitheatres of Polańczyk and Schidnycja will be a great opportunity to present and promote the tourism and holiday resort offer of the entire region of Polish and Ukrainian borderland. It will be beneficial for entrepreneurs, owners of small and medium-sized companies of many service sectors.

**JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS STRENGTHENS THE REGIONAL IDENTITY OF BORDERLAND COMMUNITIES**

Adam Orłowski, project coordinator

AN INTEGRATED PROJECT OF SUPPORT FOR TOURISM SECTOR OF POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND

IPBU.01.02.00-20-728/11

LEAD PARTNER: Town Commune of Hajnówka (Poland)

PARTNERS: Municipal Unitary Multisectoral Production Enterprise of Housing Maintenance and Utilities Services “Kamianiec ZhKh” (Belarus), State Scientific Establishment “The Polesie Agrarian Ecological Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus” (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – May 2015
The town of Hajnówka and the region of Kamianets have been cooperating for many years as part of Bialowieza Forest Euroregion. Over time, the cooperation has extended to new fields – sports, culture, environmental protection. Cross-border location of Bialowieza Forest has naturally contributed to the development of cooperation also in the field of tourism. The jointly implemented project linked the investment projects to non-investment activities, promoting the concept of sustainable tourism.

The border divides the Forest and restricts tourism in the region, however, crossing the border and visiting the neighbouring country is also an attraction. Nevertheless, the project does not offer any specific tourism products, apart from simple hotel and restaurant services, and the facilities of tourism and recreational infrastructure are scarce and scattered. There is no uniform policy of promotion and cooperation between the borderland institutions for the creation of a common and coherent vision for the development of cross-border tourism. This diagnosis served as the basis of the development of the „Programme for the development of border tourism products”.

It is a result of workshops and study visits, attended by the representatives of tourism industry and local governments from Poland and Belarus. The priority was given to the projects which can be implemented together or at least simultaneously on both sides of the border. They include revitalization of urban parks in Vysokaye (Brest region) and Hajnówka (Podlaskie voivodeship).

The park in the town of Vysokaye is a major tourist attraction of the Kamianets region, as the oldest surviving park in Belarus. The existing elements of small architecture – the gate, fence and stairs – have been renovated.

Two ecological paths were built, to the total length of 9 km.

The cycling route of 10 km of and waterway of 15 km have been mapped out.

Construction works were accompanied by the activity of experts for the assessment of potential and tourism revitalization of the park, development of park tour programs, as well as scientific, technical and environmental recommendations for the administration. The investment in Hajnówka consists in the preparation of technical documentation for the urban park and construction of the roofing over the audience area in the amphitheatre.

For the efficient implementation of the “Program”, both parties to the project concluded an „Agreement for sustainable cross-border tourism.” The Joint Committee for Sustainable Tourism was also established, with the aim to coordinate and monitor the implementation of both documents. The agreement also includes the work regulations and a plan for the activities of the Committee, which at the annual meetings will analyse the progress made in the implementation of common decisions also after completion of the project.

THE GROWTH OF TOURISM WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE BIAŁOWIEZA FOREST REGION AND TO INVIGORATE LOCAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Barbara Dmitruk, project coordinator

"EU CONTRIBUTION EUR 840 349.22
BUDGET: EUR 936 383.12"
LEAD PARTNER: Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus)

PARTNERS: The State Gudevichi Museum of Literature and Local History (Belarus), State Educational Institution „Gymnasium №1 named after academic E. Karski” (Belarus), Suwalki Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: March 2012 – December 2014

IMPROVEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER REGION ATTRACTIVENESS THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF ENTHNO-CULTURAL RESOURCES INTO THE TOURIST ACTIVITIES (A TRIP TO THE ETHNIC FAIRYTALE)

IPBU.01.02.00-58-089 /10
The charms of untouched nature and rich multicultural history are the advantages of the places searched by more and more tourists. The border regions of Suwałszczyzna and Hrodna Oblast are attractive in this regard, but their tourist potential is not yet translated into a particular tourist offer. The idea to create and popularise new cross-border route has become an inspiration to develop a joint project in the Polish-Belarusian partnership.

After more than two years of implementation of the project, a five-day trip was organised for the Polish and Belarusian journalists to present the effects of implemented actions. In Hrodna, the guests visited E. Karski ethnographic museum. One of the museum buildings was rebuilt owing to the project funds. The exhibition hall was rebuilt. It will also serve as a place of lectures for pupils and students of tourism on ethnic culture local resources. The second institution, which has become more attractive owing to the project, is a public literary and sightseeing museum in the village of Hudziewickie. Eight rooms were renovated as well as lighting and sanitary facilities were upgraded. In the ethnographic part of the museum, among others, the interior of the eighteenth-century cottage was created. It also hosts exhibitions of traditional crafts.

In Suwałszczyzna, the journalistic tour was named the “Journey to ethnic fairy tale”. The route led through fairy villages, inspired by children’s books by Maria Konopnicka, regional legends and fairy tale motifs. Each village is dedicated to a different theme, has its own patrons, a separate package of games, animations and lesson plans for children and youth.

On the opening of the route in Suwałki, the Festival of Tales and Legends of the East was organised. The folklore groups and artisans from Belarus were invited to participate in that event, which will regularly be organised on both sides of the border.

For tourism management animators, training sessions on cultural tourism, tourism marketing and historical-cultural resources of the cross-border regions, as well as internships for 48 students studying tourism from Poland and Belarus, were organised.

The partners of the project also undertook to issue encyclopedic handbook on cultural objects, tourist guide for the cross-border area and tourist maps with marked objects of cultural tourism.

EU CONTRIBUTION

BY

Gudevichi

BY

Hrodna

PL

Suwałki subregion

**THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT ARE THE OWNERS OF AGRI-TOURISM FARMS, ARTISTS, ARTISANS AND TOUR OPERATORS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER**

Vital Karnialiuk, project coordinator

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**EU CONTRIBUTION**

**EUR 1 143 276.05**

**BUDGET: EUR 1 270 306.72**
LEAD PARTNER: Mountains Guides Association "ROVIN", (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Lviv Oblast Control-Rescue Service of the Ukrainian Tourist and Sport Union, Polish Tourist Association of Country Lovers, Department named after M. Orlowich in Przemyśl (Poland), Association „Lviv Tourist Board“ (Ukraine), Mountains Volunteer Rescue Service, Bieszczadzka Mountains Voluntary Rescue Group (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2013 – December 2014

STIMULATION OF THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION BY TOURIST’S SERVICE AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENT

IPBU.01.02.00-76-044/10
In the village Długie in Lviv Oblast a training centre for guides and mountain rescuers was created. Two 10-day training camps took place in there with the participation of 50 people from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. It was one of the tasks planned in the project, aiming at strengthening the number and professionalism of mountain rescue services and guides in the Carpathian region, and also establishing cross-border cooperation.

Trainings concerned the rules for safe organization of mountain trips and conducting search and rescue actions. Participants listened to lectures of Polish and Ukrainian speakers inter alia about touristic geography of Carpathians, history and organization of mountain tourism in the Eastern Carpathians, environment protection, tourism in the border areas, mountain guidance, first aid, psychology of tourist group.

Polish rescuers from the Bieszczady Group GOPR as a part of a project organized free internships for colleagues from the Lviv Oblast at the rescue points in Poland. Ukrainian rescuers participated in patrols together with Polish GOPR rescuers, familiarized themselves with equipment of GOPR points. Moreover they visited the Przemyśl Fortress and Ethnographic Park in Sanok, which is one of the most beautiful outdoor museums in Europe, where on the area of 38 hectares the culture of Polish-Ukrainian borderland is presented.

Participants of the training were able to experience in person, how mountain tourism is promoted in Poland, how the routes are marked, and what kind of equipment is used by the rescuers. Joint trainings have contributed to the exchange of experiences, transferring of information about European standards in providing help in the mountains to the Ukrainian partners.

Another result of the project is the marking of Carpathian cross-border routes with boards containing information about the nearest units of mountain rescue service together with phone numbers of the rescuers. Communication with tourists on the both sides of the border is based on common guidelines, allowing for the easy understanding of behavior standards, safety definition and rules for the environment protection. In the future the effect of the project will be a positive image of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland as a region safe for tourists. The inhabitants of the borderland will benefit from it. The inflow of tourists is a chance for the development of small and average companies in the tourism industry.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT IS THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS FOR A HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM ON THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN CARPATHIAN ROUTES

Ivan Gorbatso, project coordinator
LEAD PARTNER: Office of Historical Environment Preservation of Lviv City Council (Ukraine)
PARTNERS: Municipality of Rzeszów (Poland), Local Government Institution of Culture Center “Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN” (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2011 – May 2015

UNDERGROUND CITY: DEVELOPMENT AND POPULARIZATION OF CROSS-BORDER TOURISM
BY THE CREATION OF CROSS-BORDER TOURIST ROUTE IN THE UNDERGROUND ROUTES OF LVIV, RZESZÓW, LUBLIN

IPBU.01.02.00-76-243/10
The project partners want to contribute to the enhancement of competitiveness of the tourist offer of Lviv, Lublin and Rzeszów based on the development of cross-border tourism products. The history hidden in the underground labyrinth of rooms, corridors and cellars has been adopted as the common unique element of what the three cities have to offer. For the lead partner, the most important result of the project would be the creation of design and cost estimate documentation by the city of Lviv to enable the future construction of an underground tourist route modelled on the existing „Rzeszowskie piwnice” Underground Tourist Route and Lublin Underground Route. The Ukrainian specialists could consult with Poland both technical solutions for ventilation and electricity supply as well as learn about innovative methods used for the archaeological heritage studies and protection. The project will result in the creation of a comprehensive scientific publication devoted to Lviv underground. The Lviv underground route is to lead from the Royal Arsenal, under the City Hall, to the exit near the Jesuit Church. Modeled on the Polish exhibitions, the route in Lviv will present the city’s history starting from the Middle Ages and earlier. The website (www.underlviv.com.ua) and promotional logo of the route has already been created.

The aim of the Polish partners is to increase the number of visitors to the city underground by improving the availability and quality of tourist information. The funding will make it possible to create additional promotional tools: multimedia programs to enable a virtual walk through the underground routes (www.wirtualne-podziemia.rzeszow.pl and www.teatrnn.pl/podziemia/spacer) and two booklets – one dedicated to Lublin route, the other – to Rzeszów route, both published in five languages: Polish, Ukrainian, English, German and French.

The project serves also as an additional platform for cooperation between the local governments. The officials from Lviv, Lublin and Rzeszów jointly participate in the conferences and seminars. They exchange experience in the fields of protection and use of underground urban architecture, discuss adaptation of tourism offer to different audience groups. The partners hope that additional, unique attractions, such as the possibility to explore the city underground, will help to increase the length of average stay of tourists both in Rzeszow, Lublin and in the future also in Lviv.

www.underlviv.com.ua
LEAD PARTNER: Volyn Oblast Council (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Biszcza Commune (Poland), Hremyache Village Council (Ukraine), NGO “Volyn association of scientists and innovators” (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – November 2015

DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF THE SPA AND HEALTH RESORT TOURISM IN THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDERLAND

IPB.U.01.02.00-78-484/11

LEAD PARTNER: Volyn Oblast Council (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Biszcza Commune (Poland), Hremyache Village Council (Ukraine), NGO “Volyn association of scientists and innovators” (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – November 2015
Kivertsi Raion of the Volyn Oblast and Błgoraj powiat of the Lublin Province have natural conditions favorable for the health tourism. The project jointly developed by the Village Council of Hremyache and Biszcz Commune will allow for the better use of this potential and give a new impulse for the economic development of both regions. Natural values, including above all existing deposits of mineral waters (sodium chloride little mineralized) and rich deposits of peat with medicinal properties, create the possibility of development of village Hremyache as major treatment, rehabilitation, biological renewal and recreation center. In the village there is a health resort of mother and child “Prolisok”, however it does not attract sufficient amount of patients due to the old infrastructure and lack of modern rehabilitation equipment. In order to attract tourists from other oblasts of Ukraine and Poland, the spa required modernization. Ukrainian partner did not have the experience in applying for European funds for the implementation of its plans. The problem of Biszcz Commune is the lack of a formal status of a spa, which makes it impossible to create a health resort, despite the fact that in the plan for the spatial development of the commune there is approximately 40 hectares for spa purposes. The lack of a spa status negatively influences the interest in the commune by the tourists and investors, and this in turn is an obstacle in applying for governmental funds for the development of infrastructure. Moreover Biszcz commune does not have experience in the construction and conducting health resort activities.

This situation influenced the hosts of Ukrainian village and Polish commune to cooperate in order to apply for financial support to carry out their plans from the EU cross-border funds and exchange of experience in the conduct of health resort activities. The project shall result in a modern hydrotherapy complex built in the village of Hremyache, equipped with advanced medical and healing equipment. Moreover, a tourist information center has been created featuring recreation equipment, such as bicycles, helmets, vests, rafts, paddles, inflatable boats, life jackets, tents, backpacks and sleeping bags. This equipment will be used by tourists and patients on new routes – walking, cycling and water – demarcated and marked as part of the project.

The partner focused its efforts on the development of the documentation necessary to apply for the status of spa commune. In the realization of this task a valuable asset were meetings with the Ukrainian partner, having extensive experience in the spa activities. Polish specialists trainings took place in the health resort „Prolisok”. 12 people from the commune Biszcz benefited from them. There was also a forum „Advanced experience in spa and health resort treatment” in order to exchange experience in running a health resort for professionals and experts from both sides. The project is the first joint undertaking of partners, but not the last. The parties have developed and signed an international document „Common strategy for the cross-border development of regions (Lublin and Volyn) in terms of using the tourism and health resort potential” that for at least five years after the completion of the project will be the basis for the tightening of cooperation and undertaking new initiatives.

"DEVELOPMENT OF SPA SERVICES WILL INCREASE THE ATTRACTION OF BORDER AREAS AS A GOOD PLACES TO LIVE, INVEST AND REST"

Natalia Melnik, Chairman of the Hremyache Village Council

www.sanatory-ua-pl.com
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INFORMATIONAL COMPLEX IN THE SPHERE OF CROSS-BORDER ECO-TOURISM IN THE EUROREGION BUG

IPBU.01.02.00-78-540/11

LEAD PARTNER: Public organization „Ecological Tourism Club” (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Brest Regional Agro-industrial Union (Belarus), Lublin Regional Tourism Organization (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – December 2015
The objectives of the project are: development of tourism infrastructure in the Euroregion “Bug” region, creation of an attractive offer and promotion of regional tourism products, improvement of the quality and diversity of services and training of experts in the field of eco-tourism. In order to achieve these objectives, the partners established the Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian tourism cluster.

The project serves as a response to common problems which hinder socio-economic development of the border areas and adversely affect the level of life in these areas. The problems include the poor exploitation of natural amenities of these regions for the purpose of ecotourism development. This is caused both by the lack of infrastructure and promotion of tourism products as well as the shortage of skilled experts who would be able to develop, organize and conduct ecological tours.

The agreement establishing the cross-border tourism cluster was signed in October 2014 in Luck at the conference „Development of tourism as a way to increase competitiveness of the region”, organized by the project leader, „Ecological Tourism Club”. The event was attended by the participants from Ukraine, Poland and Belarus, including representatives of project partners and experts in the field of eco- and agro-tourism in their regions. Among the guests, there were representatives of the Lublin Regional Tourist Organization, Polish National Park Polesye, Brest Agro-Industrial Union, Brest Cross-border information centre, Brest Regional Social and Cultural centre, owners of agro-dwellings and officials of Volyn Oblast State Administration. During the conference, the experts discussed tourism development in the three neighbouring countries and importance of cooperation in this field.

One of the tasks to be carried out within the framework of the project is the creation of five tourist information centres along with equipment rental shops. Three of them are to be established in Volyn national parks, one in Brest region and one in Lublin province. The information centres will offer folders and maps prepared by the project partners. Other plans include marking out of 17 ecological tourism routes, creation of cross-border cycle route, organization of international bike race through the national parks of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. The joint activities of tourist organization of the three countries, carried out as part of the project, will result in the development of promotion strategy and visual identification system for the international ecotourism brand of “Polesye”, connecting the regions of the Lublin province and Volyn and Brest oblasts, which are similar in terms of natural, cultural and historical potential.

The strategy for the development of “Polesye” brand and the promotion of the brand by the cluster members encourages local communities to take up business activity in the tourism industry.

― Oleksandr Kowalčyk, the head of the „Ecological Tourism Club” organization
LEAD PARTNER: Public organization "Tourist Association of Ivano-Frankivsk Region" (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Lublin Regional Tourist Organisation (Poland), Public Academy Foundation (Polska), Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankovsk City Council (Ukraine), Kolomyia City Hall (Ukraine), Tourism Office of the Department “Euro 2012” of Lviv City Council (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – August 2015

EASTERN EUROPEAN PEARLS: DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION
TRANSBOUNDARY CITY CULTURAL TOURISM PRODUCTS

IPBU.01.02.00-90-574/11
The project “Eastern European Pearls” marks the beginning of cooperation in the field of tourism promotion aimed to connect Lublin, Zamość, Przeworsk, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kolomyia. The joint action plan aims to create an attractive offer for individual tourists in each of the towns supported by mutual promotion of the offer by each of the partners. The six cities of Polish-Ukrainian border share a common history, but each of them has its own spirit, exceptional sights and local attractions, such as museums, festivals, fairs, and unique atmosphere. These include a total of more than three thousand monuments of high value, and the historical city centres of Lviv and Zamość have been entered in the UNESCO World Heritage List. For each of the cities, the development of tourism is a very important part of the socio-economic situation. On account of the rich historical and cultural heritage, and in the absence of large industrial enterprises in the regions, tourism could and should be a priority for the regional development.

The tourism industry of partner cities to a great extent focuses on the organized groups of visitors. The needs of individual tourists are not fully met. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, individual tourists represent 70 percent of the total number of tourists. Therefore, attracting them to the “Eastern European Pearls” can be a source of large profits for the tourism sector of the cross-border area.

The project partners have planned activities to make it easier for individual tourists to visit the cities and to encourage the tourists to stay “one day longer.” Audio guides in five languages will be prepared. They will be available on the websites to provide inspiration for potential tourists who are planning their trip. The audio tours will be accompanied by the correlated detailed maps of tourist attractions in the cities and tourist information boards placed on the tourist routes. The maps will be issued both in hard copies and electronic version – to be downloaded from the Internet free of charge. The partners will support each other in the promotion of tourist attractions on their websites. However, the information and promotion campaign has a much broader scope. This includes publication of guides, leaflets and posters, as well as sponsored articles in the local media. There will be tours for the journalists from Europe’s leading travel magazines as well as for foreign tour operators.

The next portion of activities planned in the project includes training for the representatives of travel agencies, entrepreneurs operating in the tourism industry, local authorities and social organizations. All project activities will culminate in a creation of a joint strategy for the development of cultural tourism in the partner cities, which will indicate the directions for further cooperation following the project completion.
MEASURE 1.3.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE REGION
CLEAN WATER AT THE BUG ESTUARY – A CROSS-BORDER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR HRUBIESZÓW AND VOLODYMIR VOLINSKYI – STAGE I

IPBU.01.03.00-06-161/10

LEAD PARTNER: Municipal Office of Hrubieszów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Municipal Office of Volodymyr Volynskyi (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: July 2011 – June 2013
Measures taken in the first phase of the project created the conditions for the expansion and modernization of water and sewage infrastructure of both cities. A Joint Long-term Investment Plan of Hrubieszów and Volodymyr Volynsksi has been developed in the field of water supply, as well as technical documentation for the most important investments.

Hrubieszów and Volodymyr Volynskyi are towns located less than 35 km from each other. Border and the border crossing in Zosin / Uściług is about 18 km away from Hrubieszów, and about 15 km away from Volodymyr Volynskyi. Both cities are centers of the lower Pobuże most similar to each other in terms of population, economic potential, and cultural, social and economic ties (including trade and services) are very strong. Common fundamental problem is the low availability of areas of Hrubieszów and Volodymyr Volynskyi regions for investors, relatively low standard of living, as well as small attractiveness for tourists.

One of the important reasons for this state is an obsolete water supply network. It is true that the degree of canalizing in Hrubieszów will soon reach 91 percent, and waterworks cover 96 percent of the area, however, more than half of the water supply system has more than 20-25 years. In a much worse state is the infrastructure of Volodymyr Volynskyi. The degree of canalizing is 51 percent, 64 percent of water supply system, and as much as 76 percent of water supply network has more than 25 years. The exploited network decreases the quality of drinking water in both cities and causes many failures of water and sewage system.

Combined efforts of the cities’ self-governments in order to solve these problems have brought positive results. As a part of the project, in 90 percent funded from the cross-border EU funds, a team of experts has been appointed in the first place, which has developed a planning study “Diagnosis of water supply infrastructure in Hrubieszów and Volodymyr Volynskyi and postulated courses of action in terms of its expansion and modernization”. It contains a full inventory of the state of waterworks and water treatment stations and description of their technical condition. On the basis of this documentation necessary investment activities have been identified in the perspective of the next five years (to 2016). A next step was the development of technical documentation of investments regarded as the most urgent. In case of Hrubieszów it consists of three packages of waterworks documentation with the total length of 23 km. In case of Volodymyr Volynskyi six packages of documentation have been prepared, including two for water treatment stations and for 10 km of waterworks.

For employees of local governments two two-day training seminars have been organized, concerning the implementation of investments, application of the newest materials and technologies, the most modern systems of drinking water quality measurements and cooperation with the departments of environmental protection and sanitation. The promotion of an economical use of water using information leaflets circulated among locals and sponsored articles in the local press has been also taken care of.

Cooperation in the field of improving the water supply in both cities will be continued in the second and third phase of the project. Valuable assets that will contribute to further joint activities are established personal contacts. During the implementation of the project key people on both sides of the border have met, who in most cases are not even policy makers and do not perform managerial functions, but they are responsible for the creation of new ideas.

The project positively changes the attitude of local communities to the cross-border cooperation

Wojciech Feliksia, project coordinator
LEAD PARTNER: Hrubieszów Poviat (Poland)

PARTNERS: Sokal District Council (Ukraine), Chorobriv Commune Council (Ukraine), Dołhobyczów Commune (Poland), Mircze Commune (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2014 – December 2015

IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF THE BORDER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE STAGE II
- REDEVELOPMENT OF THE 2ND SECTION OF THE POVIAT ROAD NO. 3432L
HRUBIESZÓW – KRYLÓW – DOŁHOBYCZÓW – THE STATE BORDER AND A REPAIR OF THE ROAD IN UHRYNIV

IPBU.01.03.00-06-318/11
The project is a part of the undertaking consisting in the complex redevelopment of the whole section of the poviat road no. 3432L Hrubieszów-Kryłów-Dołhobyczów with the length of 37 km, which has been started in 2006 in accordance with the planned construction of the new border crossing Dołhobyczów-Uhrynów. It has been opened in 2014. All stages of the investment are financially supported by the EU funds. A complete technical documentation and redevelopment of the section with a length of 680 m in the area of Hrubieszów was funded from funds of the Programme INTERREG III A Poland-Belarus-Ukraine. Another section with the length of 8.55 km has been modernized due to the grant from Regional Operational Program of the Lubelskie Province for the years 2007-2013. The discussed project concerns the repair of 10.24 km of this road, running along the border of Poland with Ukraine. It connects national road no. 74 carrying the transit traffic from the border in Zosin with the provincial road no. B44, leading to the Ukrainian territorial road T1408, which leads to the border crossing in Uhryniv. It runs through the town Kryłów, located at the border of countries where the border crossing Kreczów-Kryłów will be located. On the Ukrainian side the project concerns the repair of 620 m of the road in Uhryniv, directly next to the border crossing in Dołhobyczów.

Road works on the Polish side include strengthening of the surface, reconstruction of the existing and construction of new bus bays, building pavements, bicycle route, pedestrian and cycling routes, improvement of the state of dehydration of road, reconstruction of the existing culverts, creation of road signs, construction of a parking lot, reconstruction of intersections with communal roads.

Implementation of the project is an opportunity for the intensification of trade exchange and cooperation with neighboring Ukraine, overcoming the peripheral qualities of the Hrubieszów poviat and Sokal region. New communication routes create better conditions for the development of tourism, and following that also entrepreneurship of inhabitants. Good road infrastructure is also an important element of the investment offer, improving the interest of national and foreign capital with the economic activities on the terrains around the external border of the EU. The project will also contribute to the improvement the quality of life of the local communities, including handicapped people – the construction of bus bays, new pavements with lowered curbs will facilitate the movement on wheelchairs. The investment is environment-friendly – it will influence the reduction of exhaust emissions and road noise.
LEAD PARTNER: Rossosz Commune (Poland)

PARTNERS: Znamienka Rural Executive Committee (Belarus), Zabrody Rural Council (Ukraine), Wisznice Commune (Poland), Sosnówka Commune (Poland), Podedwórze Commune (Poland), Jabłoń Commune (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2014 – November 2015

IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE TOURIST AREA “ZIELAWA VALLEY” AND PARTNER COMMUNITIES ON THE BORDER OF POLAND, BELARUS AND UKRAINE

IPBU.01.03.00-06-439/11
The project consists in the construction and reconstruction of strategic local roads in five communes of the Podlaskie Province, creating an attractive tourist area “Zielawa Valley” and in partner rural councils of Znamienka in Belarus and Zabrody in Ukraine.

The entire project area has natural and landscape values, encouraging the relaxation and practicing active forms of tourism. Border location is an additional attraction and gives the opportunity for the development of international tourism. Barrier to the use of this potential is an unacceptable state of the roads, which makes it difficult to access the agritourism farms, access to border crossings and the surrounding towns. The poor state of the road infrastructure in communes is a serious impediment for freight transport, which in turn discourages potential investors to plan investments in this area. Communes of the tourist area „Zielawa Valley” and the partner rural councils in Belarus and Ukraine do not have a railway network. Transportation is carried out through the national, regional and local roads. All lanes of these roads were in very poor technical condition. For the most part they have a ground surface, and these hardened ones are destroyed. Movement on these roads was dangerous for motorists and pedestrians, increased emissions and vehicle operating costs.

In the cross-border project the redevelopment of over 12 km of local roads that run through the villages of Jabłoń, Wantopol, Podedwórze, Lipniki, Horodyszcze and Rossosz in Poland, Stradziec in Belarus and Yakushiv, Luchychi and Zabrody in Ukraine to major regional centers, 18 intersections and almost 5 km of sidewalks are planned. All selected for modernization sections are important – not only from the point of view of local consistency and communication mobility – not only for the commercial transportation, but also because of the social needs of inhabitants. Next to these roads important institutions, commercial entities and numerous buildings and farm households are located. New roads will increase the communication availability of the border area, which will reduce adverse processes of its social and economic marginalization, stimulate the development of entrepreneurship, improve the standard of living. Improving traffic is important for the protection of the environment, as it will reduce emissions and noise. Implementation of the project is the first stage of the partner municipalities’ and rural councils’ cooperation in order to improve the quality of living of the inhabitants on the borderland of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. Established contacts resulted in the development of a common development strategy for the years 2015-2020. Activities are planned to revitalize economic activities in the vicinity of new roads, including construction, agritourism, catering services, as well as cross-border trade and cultural exchange.

MODERNIZATION OF ROAD HAS A STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM
Kazimierz Weremkowicz, Mayor of the Rossosz Commune

EU CONTRIBUTION
EUR 2 352 078.51
BUDGET: EUR 2 636 671.12
www.rossosz.pl
LEAD PARTNER: Włodawa Poviat Road Authority (Poland)
PARTNERS: Shatsk Village Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: May 2013 – November 2015

IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF TRANSPORT NETWORK USERS IN THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN-Ukrainian BORDERLAND

IPBU.01.03.00-06-498/11

LEAD PARTNER: Włodawa Poviat Road Authority (Poland)
PARTNERS: Shatsk Village Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: May 2013 – November 2015
Włodawa Poviat Road Authority and Shatsk council purchased machinery and equipment necessary to keep the roads in good condition and improve the safety of their users. Road services also have the interactive map of infrastructure of Włodawa Poviat and Shatsk raion and GPS locators mounted on vehicles, which will increase their efficiency and effectiveness.

Development of cross-border project of upgrading road services of both partners is the result of common problems and urgent needs. Length of roads in Włodawa Poviat is 375.8 km. Approximately 80 percent of hardened surface is in insufficient or poor state and requires reinforcement and repair. Unpaved roads during periods of spring and autumn are often impassable. Putting them into the appropriate technical parameters requires comprehensive renovation works.

In the Shatsk raion the situation is even worse. At 217.4 km of roads 183.1 km are paved roads of category III, IV and V. Length of district roads (district equivalent in Poland) is 63.3 km, 69.8 percent of which are hard roads. Part of attractive touristically places, situated by the lakes, are connected with roads with the so-called “cobblestones” surface, or dirt roads. The budget for repairs in 2001-2010 was much too small for the needs. Large underinvestment causes permanent deterioration of roads and bridges, which, without urgent repairs lead to the inability to restore them to a satisfactory condition.

Thanks to the financial support of the project by the EU cross-border cooperation programme Shatsk commune gained a snowplough, sweeper, wood chipper, dump truck, sand spreader, passenger-commercial car and loader-excavator. On the other hand Włodawa Poviat Road Authority bought five snowplough, shoulder cutter with a conveyor belt, wood chipper, dump truck, sand spreader, snow blower for tractor, vibro-plate, passenger-commercial car, loader-excavator and self-propelled lawn mower.

The project has also created an interactive map of the road network of włodawskie district and Shatsk Raion, which will allow to manage the equipment more effectively and send vehicles where they are most needed at the moment, for example to remove fallen trees after a storm. Vehicles will be located using installed GPS devices which will allow continuous monitoring of their work. By providing information about traffic jams and hazardous locations, this system will also be useful for tourists visiting partner regions. On a sunny weekend by Lake Białe in Włodawa Poviat stays up to 50 thousand people, and for the entire season up to 500 thousand. Up to 550 thousand tourists arrive by lake Świtaź in the summer period. Long-term effect of the project will be the increase of availability of communication of the border area, improvement of business environment, increase of the attractiveness of tourism, and above all, raising standard of living. Shatsk Raion is inhabited by 18 thousand people, and włodawskie district by 40 thousand. Joint implementation of the project will create a firm basis for cooperation of partners in the future.

“Project improves the foundations of cross-border cooperation in the area of improving availability and safety on the roads”

Wiesława Kadrow, Director of Włodawa Poviat Road Authority

www.zdpwlodawa.bip.mbnet.pl
CLEAN WATER IN THE POBUŻE REGION
– WATER SUPPLY CROSS-BORDER SYSTEM FOR HRUBIESZÓW AND VOLODYMYR-VOLYNSKYI – STAGE II

IPBU.01.03.00-06-648/11

LEAD PARTNER: Urban Commune of Hrubieszów (Poland)

PARTNERS: Executive Committee of Volodymyr-Volynskyi City Council (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – December 2015
Aim of the project is the modernization and expansion of water supply system in the partner cities. In its first stage, teams of experts have made the diagnosis of the condition of infrastructure and designated the necessary investment tasks, and then technical documentation was drawn up. In the case of Hrubieszów there is water supply system documentation divided into three sets with a total length of 23 km, and in case of Volodymyr-Volynskyi there are six sets of water pipelines with the length of 10 km and two water treatment stations. Second stage of the project is the implementation of priority investments. Outdated water and sewage infrastructure was a common problem of cities located on both sides of the Polish-Ukrainian border, separated from each other by just 35 km. Although the waterworks cover 96 percent of Hrubieszów’s area, more than half of the water supply network has more than 20 years. In a much worse state is the infrastructure in Volodymyr-Volynskyi. Water supply network covers only 64 percent the city and as much as 76 percent of the installation has more than 25 years. The exploited network deteriorates the quality of drinking water and causes numerous breakdowns. The problem of supplying the towns with good quality water reflects negatively on the economic and social development of both. It inhibits the influx of investment and tourism.

Multi-layer PE pipes were used, and reconstruction was carried out with the use of directional drilling method, so there was no need to create open trenches. Implementation of the second stage of the project will bring tangible improvement of the situation. In Hrubieszów 44 sections of the network with a total length of approx. 17 km will be rebuilt, and in Volodymyr-Volynskyi 6 sections with a length of approximately 4 km. In addition, on the Ukrainian side one of the water treatment stations will be modernized. This investment includes the replacement of two deep-well pumps, modernization of water filtration technology, instance of a system of automatic control of water quality for human consumption, the use of new drinking water disinfection technology, the purchase and installation of equipment to the laboratory for quality control of drinking water.

The modernization of water supply system means raising the standard of living and safety for over 50 thousand of inhabitants of both cities, and increasing the availability of lower Pobuże region for tourists and investors. This is an opportunity for local communities for the emergence of new jobs, as well as for undertaking their own business activities. Activities in the development of water supply system in both cities will be continued in the III stage of the project (‘Clean Water at the Bug Estuary’). During the break between projects employees of the Joint Bureau shall be kept in constant contact with each other through meetings, e-mails and telephone contact. Thus, coordination of further work on the project will be maintained. Future cross-border cooperation is a natural continuation of both this project as well as the wide range of contacts between the two cities, which last for a very long time.
PARTNER COOPERATION DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVING CROSS-BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL WATERWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE IN GLINNE AND JANKOWCE IN POLAND AND IN KHUST IN UKRAINE

IPBU.01.03.00-18-550/11

LEAD PARTNER: Lesko Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: Executive Committee of Khust City Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – November 2015
At the end of 2015 inhabitants of villages Jankowice and Glinne in the Lesko commune and city Khust will receive a 24-hour access to running drinking water. This will be the result of construction and modernization of water supply network and water treatment plants, implemented in the context of a cross-border project.

Lesko Commune, called the „Gate of the Bieszczady Mountains” is located in the south-east corner of Poland at the border with Ukraine and Slovakia. Khust is a city in the Zakarpatya oblast, with over 30 thousand inhabitants. Outstanding natural, climatic values and multicultural history of these places is their greatest asset, which should be used for economic development and raising the civilization quality of life of inhabitants. However, this requires overcoming many limitations resulting in low availability of these terrains for tourists and entrepreneurs. A common problem of the project’s partners was the lack of developed sufficient water supply network and poor condition of the existing one, and the lack of funds for necessary investments in water infrastructure. A remedy for these problems has become a jointly developed project, which received funds from the European Union. Thanks to that in areas covered by the project almost 24 km of waterworks will be created supplying water to more than nine thousand people, including about a thousand in rural areas. Lesko commune’s task in the project is the construction of nearly 19 km of waterworks, water treatment plant and storage reservoir for the village Glinne and Jankowice, where people have not had access to running drinking water.

Ukrainian partner reconstructs the existing urban network with a length of almost five kilometers. It involves replacing steel and cast iron pipes with PE pipes. Worn out metal pipes were the cause of infiltration of surface water to the network. Therefore, it was necessary to use the disinfectant harmful to the health of water consumers.

In November 2014 a conference was held in Lesko, entitled „Implementation of infrastructure investments and development of water and sewage management in the Lesko Commune in Poland and in the city of Khust in Ukraine”, which was attended by representatives of the Lesko Commune, and partner city of Khust. The purpose of the meeting was to hand over to Ukrainian partner experience and knowledge of the Polish host in acquiring European funds and implementation and accounting of investments. During the conference past achievements in raising funds of commune Lesko was presented. The Ukrainian delegation had the opportunity to look at the on-site construction of water supply network and water treatment plant and see already implemented by means of EU investment. Of particular interest was the newly opened swimming pool „Aquarius” in which, thanks to funding from the EU, there was created a supply system with heat energy using renewable energy sources.

INVESTMENT IN WATERWORKS WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIVING OF INHABITANTS AND STANDARD OF OFFERED TOURISM SERVICES

Barbara Jankiewicz, Mayor of Lesko Town and Commune
ENHANCING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF BIESZCZADY AND STARYI SAMBIR COUNTIES
BY INTEGRATING THE ACTIONS IN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

IPBU.01.03.00-18-721/11

LEAD PARTNER: Bieszczady County (Poland)
PARTNERS: Staryi Sambir Urban Council (Ukraine), Staryi Sambir Regional Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: May 2013 – November 2015
In October 2014, a renovated important county road was completed in Bieszczady with a length of 11.395 km. In the Staryi Sambir in mid-2015 construction of four streets with a length of nearly 5.5 km will be completed, including sidewalks, parking lots and drainage system. Implemented under the project investments will improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the Ukrainian city and Polish county, the development of tourism and improvement of transport in the direction of the Polish-Ukrainian border. A rebuilt road on the section Jureczkowa-Arlamów is of great importance for the economic development of the Bieszczady county. Transportation of raw materials and products related to wood processing and acquisition of gravel aggregate takes place on it. In addition, it in Jureczkowa it connects with provincial road leading toward the border crossings with Slovakia and Ukraine.

Modernization of the streets in Staryi Sambir has become a prerequisite for further development of urban and economic development of the city. Their poor technical condition inhibited the construction of new public infrastructure, as well as single-family homes, which could be facilities for tourism. Next to the one of intended for repair roads there are bus and railway stations, to which tourists arrive for kayaking on the Dniester River.

Improvement of transport infrastructure in the Bieszczady county and in the Staryi Sambir area is one of the most important elements conducive to multilateral development in these areas. It will contribute to a better use of their tourism potential. Bieszczady County is one of the most beautiful regions of Podkarpacie. It lies at the confluence of the Polish borders with Ukraine and Slovakia. Interesting tourist facilities in the area include resorts, the shrine of Kalwaria Pacławska and ski bases.

Staryi Sambir, located in the south-western part of the Lviv oblast, can attract tourists with monuments, which are a testament to multiculturalism of Ukrainian border areas. These include historic Polish cemetery, Polish church and the Jewish synagogue, built in the late nineteenth century. In addition, ten kilometers away from the town, in the picturesque village of Ławrów there is an eighteenth-century Basilian monastery of St. Onufry, who is the target of pilgrimage tourism. Availability of the project area in the long term will also become its advantage to potential investors. The influx of tourists and investors is a chance to stop the ongoing depopulation to economically more developed centers in both countries.

**EU CONTRIBUTION**

**EUR 3,789,602.59**

**BUDGET: EUR 4,276,238.53**
LEAD PARTNER: Commune of Płaska (Poland)
PARTNERS: Hrodna Raion Executive Committee (Belarus), United Municipal Projecting – Repairing – Building Enterprise „Grodnoobłdorstroj” in Hrodna (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: July 2012 – December 2014

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AREA OF AUGUSTÓW CHANNEL

IPBU.01.03.00-20-008/10
The Augustów Canal is a unique waterway in Europe, leading through environmentally valuable areas of the Podlaskie province in Poland to the village Niarmnova in Hrodna Oblast in Belarus, with a river border crossing Rudawka-Lesnaya. Increased use of the tourist attractiveness of the areas around Canal by improving accessibility was the aim of partners of the implemented Polish-Belarusian project. Tourism development based on unique natural and landscape values of the Augustów Canal is for the Commune of Płaska the only chance of diversification of its economic structure. Obstacle to achieving this goal was the lack of paved roads for many years, which would communicate the trails at the Canal to the surrounding locations. The problem was for example the access to properties in these towns. Improving transport infrastructure became necessary also due to the planned construction of a new border crossing in Lipszczany which will result in enhanced vehicle traffic in the direction of Hrodna. The project assumes renovation and reconstruction of the traffic system of 12 local roads of a technical class VII (17.64 km in total). The new system connected most of the villages with the main road Augustów–Płaska–Kurzyniec, running along the Augustów Canal to Belarus, with a fork in the village Gruszki to the future border crossing. Inhabitants of the border areas of Hrodna Oblast had no asphalt roads leading the traffic towards the border with Poland to Hrodna. The project resulted in a rebuilt road Racičy-Hinavičy-Poĺnyja Bahatyry which „promoted” from the fifth to the fourth technical category. It was led avoiding built-up areas (villages Kulakouščyna, Kamisarava and Poĺnyja Bahatyry) in order to shorten the route and increase throughput and traffic safety.

Further cooperation on the development of the road network in the areas functionally related to the Augustów Canal on both sides of the border will be regulated by developed by the partners of the project „Strategy for the development of transport sustainable with border area environment.” It defines an integrated approach to planning in the transport sector, taking into account the needs of the movement of people and goods, while ensuring the safety of the border area ecosystems. „Strategy” contains eight developed concepts of joint cross-border projects, covering an area of 300 sq km. The development of the „Strategy” has created a sustainable platform of cross-border cooperation in terms of the flow of information and the harmonization of actions related to improvement of the communication availability and consistency of Augustów Canal area. It has adopted a form of the Standing Committee for the Sustainable Transport, established during the Polish-Belarusian conference to coordinate work on the implementation of strategic plans. The final beneficiaries of the project is nearly 8 thousand inhabitants, users of the new roads which create better conditions for undertaking economic activities, for cross-border trade, tourism and local border traffic development.

"INTERGRATION OF THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE AUGUSTÓW CANAL AREA WILL BRING AN INCREASE IN CROSS-BORDERED TRAFFIC, ESPECIALLY THE TOURISTIC ONE"

Wiesław Gołaszewski, project coordinator

www.plaska.pl
LEAD PARTNER: Mońki county (Poland)

PARTNERS: Hrodna Raion Executive Committee (Belarus), Municipal Projecting – Repairing – Building unitary Enterprise „Grodnoobłdorstroj” (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: September 2013 – October 2015

PROVIDING AVAILABILITY TO THE TOURISTICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE AREAS – IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD QUALITY IN THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND
As a part of the project, Mońki county has renovated 33-kilometer stretch of the county road known as the Tsar Route, and on the Belarusian side a reconstruction of a road section Hrodna-Racičy-Sapotskin with a length of 11 km has been planned. Both routes run through beautiful naturally and attractive historically areas of the Podlaskie province and Hrodna oblast.

The Tsar Route has been built at the end of 19th century in order to combine three tsarist fortresses: Łomża, Osowiec and Hrodna. Until recently the road was deformed on many sections, with full of holes and irregularities, which were difficult to miss while driving. Due to the lack of funds in the last several years, mostly patching the holes has been performed. As a part of the project, the section from Strękowa Góra to Osowiec has been renovated. This area is especially picturesque, because it runs through swamps and dunes of the Biebrza National Park, which is the biggest habitat of moose in Poland. The route is frequented by large numbers of tourists from entire Poland and abroad, employees of the Park, inhabitants of the roadside villages and other towns of the Mońki county. Participants of the traffic on this road are both cars, buses and cyclists, who were particularly vulnerable to the dangers caused by poor technical condition of the surface.

The area between Racičy and Sapotskin in Belarus is also attractive to tourists. It is located close to the Belarusian part of the Augustów Canal. On this section of the road to Hrodna a drainage system has been installed, a new surface has been laid, sidewalks for pedestrians were built.

Improving the quality of roads in the border area will increase the safety of transport, both in local and tourist traffic. The availability of these areas with a high potential for tourism will attract a much larger number of visitors, which will contribute to the economic development of the villages on the path, and consequently improve the standard of living of inhabitants. When preparing a joint project partners had in mind not only to increase the availability of valuable natural tourist areas, but no less to strengthen cross-border contacts.

Increasing the availability of border areas and popularizing their unique tourist attractiveness shall contribute to the development of the tourism industry, the emergence of new jobs and income growth of local communities.

FAST GROWTH OF CROSS-BORDER TOURISTIC TRAFFIC IS AN EXPECTED EFFECT OF THE PROJECT

Tomasz Perkowski, project coordinator

www.plaska.pl
RESTORATION OF THE E40 WATERWAY ON THE DNIEPER-VISTULA SECTION: FROM STRATEGY TO PLANNING

LEAD PARTNER: Republican unitary maintenance and construction enterprise „Dnepro-Bug Waterway”

PARTNERS: Brest Regional Executive Committee (Belarus), Local Foundation for Promotion of International Dialogue and Cooperation “Interakcia” (Belarus), Marshal Office of the Lubelskie Voivodeship (Poland), Association for regional and local development “PROGRESS” (Poland), Volyn Regional Department of Water Resources and Water Management (Ukraine), Public Organization Volyn Association of Scientists and Innovators (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – December 2015

IPBU.01.03.00-60-809/11
As early as in the seventeenth century the issue of joining the two seas, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea, was already discussed. The waterway was marked out in the next century, when the trade on the Black Sea became more important for the then Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Today, E40 international waterway leads from Gdansk through Brest to Kherson. With the system of water canals it connects Vistula River and Bug River with Pripyat River and Dnieper River. The waterway cannot fulfill its role because not all its sections are suitable for ship transport. It is necessary to plan and build various hydrotechnical equipment and restore navigability on the Bug River between Warsaw and Brest, or to designate an alternative section, on account of the protected areas in the valley of the Bug river which belong to the Natura 2000 network.

In this context, the main objective of the project is to determine and approve, at all decision-making levels, one optimal course of ship transport on the entire length of the E-40 waterway, considering the interests of all parties involved in the development of transport in the cross-border regions. The project resulted in the establishment of “Cross-border Commission on the development of the Dnieper-Vistula waterway” which consists of representatives of regional authorities, ministries, academic institutions, transportation and logistics companies and environmental organizations. The Commission, with additional support from the European Integrated Action Programme for Inland Waterway Transport (NAIADES), is to lead to the creation of the Technical and Economic Assumptions for the waterway reconstruction. Whether the revitalization of the waterway makes sense in economic, technical, environmental, financial and legal terms is to be clarified by the feasibility study prepared by a consortium of five companies, led by the Maritime Institute in Gdansk.

The initiators of the project hope that revitalization would make it possible to transport up to 4 ml tons of cargo per year. This would result in significant simplification of trade between Poland, Ukraine and Belarus due to fuel efficiency and ability to carry bulky cargo. One flap top barge with a capacity of 900 tons substitutes 18 railway cars with a capacity of 50 tons or 45 trucks with a capacity of 20 tons. What is more, the barges can travel hundreds of miles without a single drop of fuel. Inland water transport is one of the most environmentally friendly modes of transport. CO2 emissions from inland water transport are 1.5 times less than from railway transport and 5 times less than from road freight transport. Belarusian river ports can become a gateway to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Community. Revitalization of the waterway will also contribute to the development of river tourism. The project partners also point out that the next stages of the project, related to the construction of river infrastructure and maintenance of the waterway, will be an important stimulus for the development of cross-border regions. Therefore, they are lobbying the waterway reconstruction at many conferences, including the speech in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland or during the WaterWays Expo 2014 trade fair. One of the project supporters is the Department of Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

FOLLOWING THE RESTORATION OF E-40 WATERWAY, BELARUS AND UKRAINE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO USE NEW EXPORT CHANNELS, AND APART FROM THAT, ALL THREE COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRANSPORT TRANSITS

Nikolai Kotechij, General Director of „Dnepro-Bug Waterway“

The initiators of the project hope that revitalization would make it possible to transport up to 4 ml tons of cargo per year. This would result in significant simplification of trade between Poland, Ukraine and Belarus due to fuel efficiency and ability to carry bulky cargo. One flap top barge with a capacity of 900 tons substitutes 18 railway cars with a capacity of 50 tons or 45 trucks with a capacity of 20 tons. What is more, the barges can travel hundreds of miles without a single drop of fuel. Inland water transport is one of the most environmentally friendly modes of transport. CO2 emissions from inland water transport are 1.5 times less than from railway transport and 5 times less than from road freight transport. Belarusian river ports can become a gateway to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Community. Revitalization of the waterway will also contribute to the development of river tourism. The project partners also point out that the next stages of the project, related to the construction of river infrastructure and maintenance of the waterway, will be an important stimulus for the development of cross-border regions. Therefore, they are lobbying the waterway reconstruction at many conferences, including the speech in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland or during the WaterWays Expo 2014 trade fair. One of the project supporters is the Department of Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 821 281

BUDGET: EUR 912 657
MEASURE 2.1.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN THE BORDERLAND
LEAD PARTNER: Lublin Police Voivodeship Headquarters (Poland)

PARTNERS: Voivodship Division of the Union of the Volunteer Fire Brigades of Republic of Poland in Lubelskie Voivodship (Poland), Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in Volyn Region (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: July 2011 – July 2013
Three hundred police officers and firefighters from the Lublin Province and the militia of the Board of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine from Volyn Oblast participated in joint exercises and training workshops for rapid emergency response. One of the objectives of these activities was to shorten the response time of emergency and rescue services in cases of danger to life or health.

The need for cross-border cooperation of services in cases of natural disasters, environmental disasters and road accidents resulted from the high level of threat on both sides of the Polish-Ukrainian border. Due to its geographical location, Lublin province is an important cross-border road-railway junction. Major road and rail routes from Brussels, Berlin and Warsaw to Lviv, Odessa, Kiev, Minsk, Moscow lead through six border crossings. Border crossings in the region take nearly half of the passenger and freight traffic attributable to the entire Polish eastern border. In Koroszczyn one of Europe’s most modern terminals of cargo clearance operates and in Mataszewicze the biggest car and railway reloading port in this part of the continent. In the freight transport through the province area, dangerous substances are transported, the number of which is growing from year to year.

Climate changes, resulting in an increased frequency of natural disasters (floods, droughts, storms), cause an increase of risk of incidents threatening the health and life of the inhabitants of the region.

The risk of spreading of the consequences of ecological accidents and disasters beyond the Lubelskie province required cooperation and coordinated actions on the Polish and Ukrainian side in order to minimize the effects of dangers.

As a part of a joint cross-border cooperation project Polish and Ukrainian services responsible for safety and rescue undertook the task of developing a system of cooperation, which allows the combination of forces, rapid flow of information and agreeing on common actions.

Fast and effective actions in emergency situations are not possible without specialized equipment. Significant support in achieving the objectives set in the project is to provide services with modern vehicles. Due to the funding of the project by the cross-border cooperation fund of the European Union a total of 17 road rescue and technical vehicles have been purchased, of which 10 was sent to Municipal and City Headquarters of the Lublin province, 5 to the militia of the Volyn Oblast, and two was handed to the Voluntary Fire Brigade units in the Bialskie and Chełmskie districts.

Raising the awareness of dangers among inhabitants of the border regions was also taken care of. Through the leaflet action inhabitants of Lublin Province and Volyn Oblast have been informed about differences in road traffic regulations in Poland and Ukraine, as well as who to contact in an event of a life and health threatening situation.

In the long term, increasing the safety level should contribute to the growth of interest in the area by potential investors and tourists.

IPBU.02.01.00-06-048/10

LEAD PARTNER: Tomaszów District (Poland)

PARTNERS: Zhovkva District Council (Ukraine), Sokal District Council (Ukraine), Headquarter of Fire District Department in Tomaszów Lubelski (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: May 2011 – May 2013
Fire-fighters in three Polish and Ukrainian border area districts, who guard the safety of nearly 300 thousand inhabitants in the area of 4.5 thousand square kilometres, due to joint project received modern rescue and fire-fighting equipment and reinforced cooperation within the scope of reaction to the environmental hazards.

Valuable in terms of nature and attractive for tourists areas of Tomaszów, Sokal and Zhovkva districts are increasingly at risk of contamination and fires. The reason is a relatively high rate of economic development on the Polish side, and in Ukraine the location of economic activity burdensome for the environment (mines). In this situation, improving the system of alarming and warning about the risks, and increase of the effectiveness of emergency services' activities has become a challenge for local authorities.

Implementation of the project to improve the situation developed by three partners was completed in May 2013, thanks to the financial support of the EU, has brought the desired results. Working conditions of fire-fighters in Tomaszów Lubelski have been definitely improved. The seat of the District Headquarters of SFS has undergone a complete renovation and has been equipped with modern electronic notification and alert system in case of hazards. The installed system replaced the previously used, long-serving, and often breaking down. In addition, currently used DSE sirens allow to notify population not only with the use of alarm signals, but also with the use of loud voice messages facilitating the understanding of hazard by the locals. While the emergency services in Sokal and Zhovkva gained two new rescue and fire-fighting vehicles. The desired effect of this investment is faster and more effective reaction of services in the event of ecological hazard and safety of inhabitants.

The project also envisages raising the qualifications of emergency services and exchange of experiences between the Polish and Ukrainian firemen. This was the role of two international conferences, in Tomaszów Lubelski and Zhovkva, which was attended by nearly 300 people. During the conference, participants presented, among others, organisation of emergency services in Poland and in the Lviv oblast, as well as discussed the conditions and prospects of the cross-border cooperation.

Moreover, those meetings had integration value which is invaluable. They were attended by both representatives of district fire services and administrative authorities of districts.

Polish delegation included mayors of towns and heads of communes from Tomaszów district, supervisors of district services and inspections, as well as representatives of the District Office in Tomaszów Lubelski. Ukrainian side was represented by deputy governor of Lviv oblast and deputy chairman of the Lviv Voivodeship Council. The attraction of those conferences were fireman shows of possibilities of the purchased vehicles.
DEVELOPING A CROSS-BORDER SYSTEM FOR NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT AT THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER

IPBU.02.01.00-06-081/10

LEAD PARTNER: The State Fire Service, Voivodeship Headquarters in Lublin (Poland)
PARTNERS: The Executive Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Population Protection Against Chernobyl Accident Consequences in the Lviv Oblast (Ukraine), The State Fire Service, Voivodeship Headquarters in Rzeszów (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: June 2011 – May 2012
In October 2012, firefighters from the Lublin and Podkarpackie provinces met with Ukrainian rescuers from Lviv oblast on exercises improving the cooperation in situations of natural hazards. These exercises were the culmination of nearly a year of ongoing implementation of the objectives of the project.

The main objective of the project was to increase the effectiveness of actions aimed at environmental protection in the area of Polish-Ukrainian borderland through the development of cross-border risk management system. In order to achieve this it was necessary to create a sustainable institutional basis for cooperation of fire and rescue services in border areas, development of procedures, training of officers and equipment of units with modern equipment.

A Polish-Ukrainian working group was established that developed the diagnosis of the initial state and guidelines of the risk management system. A lasting result of the work of experts is a joint document that contains methodological instructions for Polish fire brigades and Ukrainian units laying down the procedures of giving and receiving rescue help. The possibility of dangers and cooperation rules of services at both sides of the border in association with football competitions taking place in both countries as part of the EURO 2012 were treated in detail in it.

Obtaining the funding by project partners from the cross-border EU funds in the amount of 90 percent of costs has also allowed the necessary modernization of the equipment of rescue units. For each of the parties of the project 2 fire and rescue vehicles were purchased and 3 altitude rescue vehicles for the Polish side. These vehicles for special tasks have been tested by Polish and Ukrainian rescuers during joint exercises organized in the Lviv Oblast. It was attended by 540 Ukrainian firefighters and rescuers and 23 officers of the State Fire Service from the Podkarpackie and Lublin Provinces.

A high value was given to the exercises by the present representatives of State administrative authorities. Ukrainian side was represented by the Chairman of the Lviv Regional State Administration, Governor Michal Kostiuk, adviser to the Prime Minister of Ukraine (Ukrainian Minister of Emergencies in the years 2002-2005) Colonel General Grigorij Rewa, Head of Territorial Department of the Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine in the Lviv Oblast Major General Siergiej Dmitrowskij. Polish side was represented by Vice Consul of Poland in Lviv Andrzej Drozd, Provincial Commander of the State Fire Brigade in Lublin senior brigadier MSc Eng. Tadeusz Milewski, Deputy Commander of Provincial State Fire Brigade in Rzeszow senior brigadier MSc Eng. Roman Petrykowski.

The project is of great importance for strengthening cross-border cooperation between institutions involved, but also for the interests of local communities. Strengthening the capacity of services to ensure the safety of inhabitants of border areas, contributes to increased attractiveness of the border area and thus to improve their living conditions and development of business activities.
PRESERVATION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE BUG RIVER VALLEY ON THE BORDER-TERRITORY OF POLAND, BELARUS AND UKRAINE

IPBU.02.01.00-06-489/11

LEAD PARTNER: Hanna Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: Town Council of Shatsk (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – December 2015
The project arose from the need to reduce environmental pollution on both sides of the river Bug through the construction of modern sewer system and modernization of wastewater treatment plants in the Hanna commune in Poland and Shatsk town in Ukraine. River in the project area is the border of the two countries. Hanna Commune, lying in the Protected Landscape of the Bug Area and the Middle Bug Valley and in the vicinity of the Polesie’s Bug Valley has come up with the initiative for a joint project. The initiative met with a positive response from the Ukrainian partner.

Both partners for a long time have struggled alone with similar problems. In the Hanna Commune it was a matter of outdated, mechanical and biological wastewater treatment technology. This type of treatment plant did not meet the current standards for wastewater treatment. In addition, untreated sewage from leaking septic tanks of rural households was drained to the environment. While in Shatsk a significant proportion of households was not connected to the sewer system and used individual tanks, and the existing network was leaking. This condition caused frequent secondary pollution of drinking water. Sewerage infrastructure gaps at both partners reflected negatively on the ecosystem of the river Bug. Expansion and modernization of the entire drainage system has become an urgent need to cover the largest possible number of people and make it more environmentally friendly.

As a result of the joint venture in Shatsk nearly 10 kilometres of new sewerage network will be created, and the existing wastewater treatment plant will be upgraded so that the amount of treated wastewater will increase by 10 percent. In the Hanna commune after upgrading sewage treatment to a maximum performance, the amount of treated sewage will increase by 30% and over 4 km of sewerage network will be built.

Up to the implementation of the project inhabitants of the Hanna commune and Shatsk town did not have much in common. Now they have a common goal of sustainable development. Promotion of the project makes it visible, that the protection of ecosystems of Bug is a common cause of citizens of all countries who live by this river. Contacts between representatives of both governments became closer. Visits and participation of invited guests in all kinds of cultural events taking place on both sides of the border are now a natural thing. Not without significance is implementing promotional activities under the project. As part of them a bilingual website, information boards and bilingual folders will be created, there will also be 4 conferences promoting the project on both sides of the border.

Contacts between the inhabitants of both areas are still difficult due to the lack of a border crossing in the neighbourhood. Very strong interest in common contacts is noticeable especially during the summer when temporary border crossings are opened between Poland and Ukraine approx. 30 km from Hanna. During this period, the border is crossed by 20 thousand of people including a big group of inhabitants of Hanna Commune and Shatsk Town.
LEAD PARTNER: Municipality Dołhobyczów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Khorobriv Rural Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: January 2013 – May 2015

IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS OF BORDER COMMUNITIES AND CHOROBRÓW DOŁHOBYCZÓW SYSTEMS BY STREAMLINING THE COLLECTION, STORAGE AND WASTE SEPARATION

IPBU.02.01.00-06-643/11
Dołhobyczów and Khorobriv Communes neighboring with each other established cooperation at local level in order to prevent environmental degradation in their territory, caused by improper collection and storage of waste. An important long-term effect of the implementation of the joint project is a Cross-border Environment Protection Programme, which sets priorities and targets for each of the parties in this area by 2020.

**IMPROVEMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT CREATES CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER AREA**
Grzegorz Drewnik, project coordinator

The programme contains priorities, long-term and short-term targets, as well as tasks in the field of environmental protection. Also a schedule was determined, according to which long-term targets cover the period 2013-2020 and short-term targets 2013-2016. Monitoring of the implementation of tasks will take place every two years. At the meeting of Communes in 2014 and 2016 a report will be made on the implementation of the tasks and the list of planned tasks will be verified. The programme has been published on the websites of both communes in Polish and Ukrainian.

Implementation of the Programme started with equipment of communes with appropriate equipment enabling safe storage of waste and reduction of the number of illegal dumps. As a part of this activity Dołhobyczów bought a car-garbage truck, backhoe loader, self-unloading truck, and also garbage cans on wheels and bells for waste segregation. Ukrainian partner equipped its municipal services with a new car-garbage truck and garbage cans on wheels.

Part of the Municipality Dołhobyczów is on the area covered by the European Ecological Network Natura 2000 sites (Middle Bug Valley and Susle Wzgórza). Implementation of the project will strengthen the protection and ecological safety of the area. Purchased equipment will be used to eliminate risk, which may result from the presence of illegal dumps and the release of hazardous substances into the environment in the project area.

Joint implementation of the cross-border project, during which there were many working meetings of representatives of the administration of both municipalities, has contributed to a better understanding of the partners, their problems and options for action. It was also the best opportunity for the dissemination of „best practices” in the Polish-Ukrainian cooperation, as well as gaining knowledge in establishing cross-border cooperation and implementation of international projects.

**EU CONTRIBUTION**

EUR 339 738.75

**BUDGET: EUR 377 487.51**

www.dolhobyczow.pl
DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CLEAN AND ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSES WITH COMPOSITE FILLING TIMBER FRAME

IPBU.02.01.00-06-704/11

LEAD PARTNER: Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska (Poland)
PARTNERS: State Technical University in Brest (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – November 2015
Initiative undertaken by the project partners consists in developing the concept of ecological building, constructed with the use of composite materials produced on the basis of non-narcotic hemp harls.

New technologies for the construction of energy-efficient houses are created in almost entire Europe. This kind of solutions is promoted by the European Union. That is why the creation and use of environmentally friendly technologies both in construction industry and other branches of economy is so important. Own data of partner universities are reporting that, due to the small percentage of modern technologies, the area covered by the project is not a competition on the market, which in the long term places it at the end among the regions attractive to investors. Main task of universities involved in the project implementation is the conduct of research on environmentally friendly composite material, which consists of hemp harls, lime, water and sand. In order to implement the project, necessary starting material in the form of already published articles, technical data and technology solutions was gathered. Partners consulted with the French association of developers who build houses in a similar system.

Own material and technological research conducted in the project are partially based on French experiences, but they are supposed to show different and improved solutions, adapted to the Polish and Belarusian conditions (colder climate zone, greater humidity of climate), with particular emphasis on the costs of construction and operation.

Development of innovative material for the construction industry may become an opportunity to diversify crops in the border area and increase revenues from agricultural production. Hamps and flax have been grown in Poland in the eastern territories for a long time. In the 90s, the area of crops started to decrease due to the ban on growing narcotic varieties of hemp, cotton imports, as well as the placement of a wide range of artificial fibers on the market. Research on the potential use of non-narcotic hemp waste in the construction sector may result in a return of popularity and profitability of crops abandoned in the past. The project partners will promote it during information meetings with Polish and Belarusian farmers, and through the distribution of leaflets.

Results of research conducted within the project will be announced in the form of articles in technical journals and in the trilingual publication that will be distributed to participants of seminars, to local governments, designers, contractors and investors related to construction industry. The publication will contribute to the creation of scientific discourse as well as the popularization of issues related to ecological construction, energy saving and environmental protection. Cooperation in the project implementation is the first step in the cooperation with scientists from Biała Podlaska and Brest. Next step will be the design and construction of a model eco-house, in which in situ research will be carried out, and which will be presented to a wide range of customers.

"INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL MEANS GREATER ACCESSIBILITY OF CHEAP HOUSES FOR INHABITANTS OF RURAL AREAS"

Ph.D. Stanisław Fic, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION: EUR 179,021.97
BUDGET: EUR 198,913.30

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESCUE SERVICES POLAND – UKRAINE WITHIN THE STRENGTHENING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF CROSS-BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF NATURAL HAZARD

LEAD PARTNER: Provincial Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Sokół w Podlaski (Poland)
PARTNERS: Main Board of Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine and Population Protection against Disaster Consequences in Czarnobyl (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: August 2012 – May 2014

IPBU.02.01.00-14-177/10
Good experience gained by the Polish and Ukrainian rescuers from cooperation during the implementation of the EU INTERREG project led to the adoption by the partners of another joint venture in order to improve the safety of inhabitants of the Sokołów district, Lutsk oblast and the entire border area.

Podlasie and Volyn are connected by a common ecosystem: a network of rivers, forest complexes, and migrating animals. In an event of failure of industrial installations located on either side of the border and catastrophes in the transportation of dangerous substances, toxic clouds will threaten the environment and people on both its sides. The wind can spread the fire to forests in the neighboring region. In case of the Bug River water pollution there is a risk of transport of the pollution across the border, the destruction of ecosystems and agricultural crops.

A common need of Polish and Ukrainian services in border areas was to increase the technical capacity to monitor environmental and fire hazards and continuous improvement of rescue workers’ skills to respond promptly in crisis situations, as well as remove the effects of accidents and disasters. Cross-border cooperation in this field opens up new ways for partners to raise funds for the project implementation from the European Union programs.

Office of the District Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Sokołów Podlaski has been modernized and expanded from the funds of the project. A modern informatics centre has been installed in the Crisis Management Centre the element of which is, among others, a digital map. Mobile Directing Position has been purchased – specialized car equipped with computer and communication hardware which allows to manage actions directly from the place of extraordinary threats.

The Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine in Lutsk, Volyn Oblast was equipped with a fire and rescue vehicle with the function of reducing pollution zones and operating car to identify hazards and manage rescue activities.

Cooperation of firefighters from Poland and Ukraine is based on the exchange of experiences, extending the knowledge on the procedures used by both services and carrying out joint training actions and arranging firefighting sports competitions. Implementation of the project has substantially expanded training facilities available to partners. At the District Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Sokołów Podlaski a training ground has been built. Necessary equipment for the development of firefighters’ physical fitness was also purchased.

Both parties benefited from the implementation of the project, not only materially. Established contacts and the climate of mutual trust resulted in a number of joint meetings, trainings and sports competitions far beyond its planned activities.
IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDERLAND BY PERFORMING THERMO MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY BUILDINGS IN SOKOŁÓW PODLASKI COMMUNE AND IN THE CITY OF NOVOYAVORIVSK

IPBU.02.01.00-14-427/11

LEAD PARTNER: Sokół Podlaski Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: City Council of Novoyavorivsk (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – October 2015
Many years of neighbourly cooperation between Sokołów Podlaski and Novoyavorivsk have resulted in another joint project. The project concerns modernization of public utility buildings. In the course of renovation works an educational campaign about environmental protection was also performed at schools.

Poorly thermo-insulated public utility buildings consume a large amount of combustible materials, the burning of which emits into the atmosphere harmful gases and dust, and increases the cost of operation of facilities. On the basis of thermal audit of buildings in the Sokołów Podlaski commune, four schools and a health centre were chosen for modernisation. In Novoyavorivsk kindergarten, located in a forty-year old building was qualified for the project. Implementation of the investment will not only reduce air pollution, but also greatly enhance the comfort of buildings. A total of 465 Polish students, and nearly five thousand patients will benefit from this.

In the case of Novoyavorivsk the target group is 240 children attending the Kindergarten No. 1 and 54 employees. Commissioning of the modernized school buildings was an opportunity to organize meetings with children, parents and teachers, during which pro-environmental behaviour was promoted. Head of the Sokołów Podlaski Commune Marcin Pasik and Mayor of the Novoyavorivsk Wasyl Murawel were personally engaged in this action.

Representatives of local governments on the other hand had the opportunity to discuss best practices within the scope of environmental protection and further cooperation during the joint conference, as well as mutual visits. Visits contributed to establishing new contacts and acquaintances among attendees and develop the concept for further action. Thanks to that a platform for cooperation will be created and developed, which in the future will result in strengthening of ties between communities of Sokołów Podlaski commune and Novoyavorivsk. Particularly important is the fact that cross-border cooperation is built around such a vital problem for both countries, which is the protection of natural environment.

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 682 589.29

BUDGET: EUR 758 432.55

THE AIM OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF INHABITANTS

Wasyl Murawel, Mayor of Novoyavorivsk
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AIMED AT PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE BORDER AREA OF POLAND AND BELARUS

IPBU.02.01.00-14-674/11

LEAD PARTNER: Łosice District (Poland)

PARTNERS: Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (Belarus), County Headquarters of the State Fire Brigade in Łosice (Poland), Commune Stara Kornica (Poland), Commune Platerów (Poland), Commune Olszanka (Poland), Commune Sarnaki (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – August 2015
In December 2014, firemen from Brest and Łosice jointly participated in the rescue action in Brest food processing plants where, due to the cooling system failure, there was a risk of releasing 12 tons of ammonia into the environment. In April, another tactical and practical exercise in the field of fire extinguishing in large forest complexes took place on Bug River areas in Poland. This time it was just exercises, aimed at improving the skills of firemen, coordinating actions in case of cross-border disasters and testing new vehicles purchased from the budget’s project. Problems of the Polish and Belarusian border area covered by the project include insufficient protection of the environment, insufficient effectiveness of the fire and rescue units, as well as the low level of cooperation of services from two countries in this regard. All this makes cross-border regions not very attractive and not easily accessible for potential external investors. The implementation of joint project of hosts of Łosice district and relevant services from Brest oblast will contribute to the improvement of this situation. Purchase of modern equipment, made with the project’s funds, will allow for efficient intervention, easier disposal of risks, and increase of the effectiveness of units. It will affect the development of fire technique in the field of detection and elimination of consequences of accidents and disasters, and will increase the safety of rescuers fighting the elements.

Fire units of the Łosice district have received ten specialist vehicles. These are: heavy rescue vehicle with 6x6 drive with equipment trailer for chemical rescue, operational and staff car designed to transport more rescuers with equipment for commanding and communication, seven fire and rescue vehicles with specialized equipment and identification-rescue car.

Belarusian partner has received three special cars for transporting rescuers and equipment for actions, and command and staff car together with equipment. Final beneficiaries of the project are inhabitants of the Łosice district (33.5 thousand people) and Brest oblast (1.4 million) and tourists enjoying the unique natural values of border regions. The population will be covered with better protection against the consequences of hazardous events, which may be due to vehicle breakdowns in road and rail transport or storage facilities or processing hazardous materials. Implementation of the project is the beginning of an intensive cooperation between Polish and Belarusian firemen. A series of joint exercises and trainings, and also working meetings have been scheduled on both sides of the border to prepare joint projects to be implemented before 2020.
RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY – METHOD OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE AREA OF THE LUBACZÓW DISTRICT AND YAVORIV REGION

IPBU.02.01.00-18-156/10

LEAD PARTNER: The District of Lubaczów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Regional Council of Yavoriv (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: June 2011 – February 2013
At the hospital in Novoyavorivsk solar collectors with the surface of 253 square meters have been mounted. They will cover part of the demand for heat energy, so that the use of non-renewable fuel (gas) will drop by nearly 18.7 thousand cubic meters. This is one of the main results of the project, the long-term goal of which was to reduce the emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere through the use of renewable energy sources.

Significant excess of the limits of dust and gases emission from the combustion of fuels is the biggest problem in the Jarosław-Lubaczów region and Lviv oblast. This causes a threat to the health of people living in these areas, and reduced interest in investments, which translates into a low level of development of the region.

In the assessment of air quality in the Podkarpackie Province for the year 2008 Jarosław-Lubaczów zone has been classified as Class C (exceeded target level). In the Yavoriv Region (Lviv oblast) in 2008 there was an increase of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere by 297.3 tons compared to 2007. Lviv Oblast is covered by the third class of danger in terms of the content of dust in the atmosphere. Pollutants are emitted into the atmosphere in large quantities as a result of the use of solid fuels.

Fuels in the form of coal and gas have been used so far i.a. by the hospital in the Ukrainian Novoyavorivsk, and on the Polish side – in the School Complex in Oleszyce. For both of these institutions local authorities have developed a joint project to increase the share of renewable energy sources for heating. Solar panels will heat the water for the departments of hospital, which annually receives more than 12 thousand hospitalized patients and nearly 200 thousand in the clinic. The installation is able to produce 619.34 GJ within a year.

In the boiler room of the School Complex in Oleszyce 77 percent of the fuel is coal. The reduction of its share in favor of wood is planned as a part of the project.

The fact that the Lubaczów district has large wood resources to raise spoke in favor of the idea. On the lanes of county roads, of which almost half goes through woodlands, there is about 7 thousand different species of trees that require maintenance or total cut. Small trees and shrubs which quickly colonize roadsides, limiting visibility and narrowing of the road also need to be cut.

Despite this, the use of wood for heating purposes in the district was surprisingly low. District Road Administration performed most of the works when obtaining chips in a traditional manner, using chainsaws and chainsaw blades, used chippers for small branches, axes and machetes. Thus the efficiency of the work carried out was low, while the cost of maintenance of roadsides has been constantly increasing. The situation changed dramatically after the purchase of equipment for obtaining biomass from roadsides – tractor with a power of 160 hp and cooperating accessories – front loader, professional hydraulic arm, head comb to cut the bushes, saw head to cut tree limbs, branches shredder and a trailer with a capacity of 14 t. This equipment allowed to collect approx. 110 t of wood chips from roadsides within a year, which is two times more than before the investment. Available biomass in turn will reduce coal consumption by 24.5 t/year.

Implementation of the project is a signal for the inhabitants and potential investors that the border regions of Poland and Ukraine can be a good place to live and run a business.
DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIP COOPERATION TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF CROSS-BORDER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF PORAŻ AND ZAGÓRZ IN POLAND AND IN THE CITY OF HORODOK IN UKRAINE

IPBU.02.01.00-18-563/11

LEAD PARTNER: Commune of Zagórz (Poland)
PARTNERS: Horodok City Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: July 2013 – December 2015
The result of joint activities of local authorities of Polish commune and Ukrainian city is the construction and modernization of sewage networks in their area. Almost a thousand households, 30 enterprises and 39 hectares of investment areas will be connected to the network. The project is of great importance for the protection of environment against pollution coming from poorly treated domestic sewage.

On the Polish side of the border network of sanitary sewage system and storm water drainage will be extended by 38 km. The investment covered the village Zagórz, Poraż, Tarnawa Dolna and Morochów. In Horodok 6 km of sanitary sewage network and 4.5 km of storm water drainage is under construction. Moreover, in both areas covered by the project, 33 intermediate pumping stations will be created (32 in the Zagórz commune and 1 in Horodok), two specialized vehicles for cleaning and unclogging sewer network will be purchased, 1 for Zagórz and 1 for Horodok.

Modernization and development of municipal infrastructure will improve the ad hoc living conditions of approximately 3.5 thousand residents. In the long term, benefits of investments will cover the entire area covered by the project. Poisoning of the natural environment with badly treated sewage and small area of prepared investment terrains put a brake on development of entrepreneurship, especially in the tourism services sector. These factors, in conjunction with limited financial possibilities of local governments formed a barrier to increasing the level of local and external investments, and therefore limited opportunities to diversify sources of employment and raise the civilisation level of inhabitants’ life.

The result of the project will be the improvement of quality of environment. Following this the attractiveness and socio-economic competitiveness of the Zagórze commune and the city of Horodok will increase, development opportunities in the field of tourism and the whole tourism-related industry will be used.

Implementation of the cross-border project is a valuable experience for both partners. Zagórze commune for the first time was a leader of the project, while the city council of Horodok had the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and experience of Polish partners in the field of environmental protection and raising funds from the European support funds. Joint activities under the project provided an opportunity to develop best practices which will result in the next projects designed to bring Poland and Ukraine closer to each other at the level of local governments. Gradually, they will lead to the creation of permanent structures and mechanisms of cooperation, thereby tightening the interpersonal relationships of individuals involved in the project. Cross-border cooperation will positively change the mentality of communities in border areas – thereby eliminating mutual distrust; will enable the young generation to overcome historical prejudices so that the next generation of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland will build bridges and not „iron curtains” nor „walls” dividing people living next to each other.
"FARADAY" – BUILDING OF PERMANENT MECHANISMS FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RES

IPBU.02.01.00-18-625/11

LEAD PARTNER: Rzeszów Regional Development Agency S.A. in Rzeszów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Podkarpacka Ekoenergetyka (Poland), Agency of European Innovations (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: October 2013 – March 2015
In the seat of the Podkarpacka Ekoenergetyka in Rzeszów and the Agency of European Innovations in Lviv consultation points have been opened where you can obtain information on installations using renewable energy sources and see how these systems work. It is one of the first activities carried out within the framework of the project „Faraday”, which aims to improve conditions for the development of renewable energy sources in the area of two regions: subregion krośnieńsko-przemyski in Poland and Lviv Oblast in Ukraine.

Another result of the partnership cooperation of Rzeszów and Lviv Agencies is the creation of a trilingual internet portal It is a cross-border comprehensive source of information on renewable energy sources. An element of the internet portal is e-learning platform that will make it easier for institutions from the two project areas to increase knowledge and skills and will allow to establish contacts with each other.

Since the beginning of the project, surveys on the possibility of implementation of RES in the cross-border region have been conducted. Results and conclusions have been presented in the document entitled „Analysis of the potential of renewable energy sources in the two regions”.

Following it propositions of solutions will be created that will help to stimulate the growth of renewable energy in the studied areas, and proposals for local governments and other institutions responsible for energy policy will be formulated. In addition, test results were used to develop a „Practical guide for the development of renewable energy sources.”

In November 2014 in Przemyśl the Fair of Renewable Sources of Energy took place under the slogan „Bet on RE and start saving”, organized by the project partners. It was attended by 31 exhibitors from Poland and Ukraine. Fairs were very popular not only among industrial companies and institutions working in the field of RE, but also among high school and university youth. During the fair, a conference “Inteligent EkoOsiedle (note: EkoOsiedle could be translated as ecological housing estate) 2020 - a package for a low carbon economy”. Problems associated with ecological heat generation, management of its distribution, financing of domestic wind power plants and investment in photovoltaic panels were discussed.

During the “Faraday” project a unique mobile RE exhibition has been launched. The uniqueness of solution involves the use of several sources operating in different configurations and its continuous monitoring and presenting online data in the knowledge base associated with the project site. In order to reach a wider audience with a lower level of technological knowledge, on the main page of the project a plug was placed, presenting monitoring data in a very simple and clear way. Implementation of the project will contribute to support of the processes of creating favourable conditions for the development of RE. Foreseen support in the project will instill confidence in the project’s legitimacy and usefulness of cross-border cooperation.

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LEAD PARTNER: Czeremcha Commune (Poland)

PARTNERS: Municipal Executive Committee of the Vysokaje City (Belarus), Association of the Self-governments of the Białowieża Forest Euroregion (Poland).

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – December 2015

IMPROVING OF THE CROSS-BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SYSTEM OF CZEREMCHA AND VYSOKAJE COMMUNES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

IPBU.02.01.00-20-412/11

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More than three thousand inhabitants of the Polish commune Czeremcha and Belarusian city Vysokaje are using the newly constructed sewerage network since 2015. It is the result of cross-border project, the aim of which was the improvement of living conditions of the inhabitants of the borderland, but also to protection of natural environment surrounded by the Białowieża Forest. Czeremcha commune is located in the Hajnowski district, and its south-eastern border is the Polish border with Belarus. It consists of 3443 inhabitants, of which the vast majority has access to running water. Indicator of municipality’s water supply system amounts to almost 92 percent, but the sewerage system was poorly developed (38.8 percent). The municipality had only 11 km of active sewerage system, which was used by 1560 people.

Such disproportion resulted in the fact, that the water consumed by households could not be discharged to the treatment plant. Wastewater from households which were not connected to the sanitary sewage were directed to holding tank and then exported in septic tankers to the nearest sewage treatment plant. The necessity of emptying the tanks is associated with a high nuisance, as well as high costs. A serious problem was also the release of contaminants from leaking tanks into the soil, and the uncontrolled pouring of waste water to the surrounding watercourses or fields. No sewerage system had a negative effect on natural environment of the commune and adjacent areas – including primarily surrounding of the Białowieża National Park, including also border town Vysokaje.

Belarusian project partner struggled with the same problem. Sewerage network of Vysokaje, inhabited by 5.5 thousand people could not meet the needs of inhabitants, but also 143 companies discharging much more waste water than households.

In a jointly developed project partners planned to build sewerage network in the Czeremcha commune with the length of 8.172 km, and three pumping stations, and in Vysokaje city 17.5 km of sewerage and seven pumping stations. 3 thousand people are connected to the created infrastructure (550 in the Czeremcha commune, 2500 in Vysokaje). In the long term, implementation of project will contribute to the reduction of expenditures allocated by both the Czeremcha commune and the city Vysokaje for protection of health of their inhabitants. Expenditures for removing effects of environment contamination will also be reduced. Improving the quality of living of the inhabitants will develop positive attitudes and behaviour of people on both sides of the border in terms of environmental protection. The project is the first joint undertaking of the Czeremcha commune and Vysokaje city self-governments. Two conferences on good practices in the field of environmental protection and study visits between partners organized in its framework allowed to create the foundation for further cooperation aiming at joint monitoring and prevention of risks, resulting from the improper waste management.

"THE PROJECT RESULTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH OF INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS OF BORDER AREAS AND PROTECTION OF THEIR NATURAL VALUES"

Jerzy Szykuła, Head of Czeremcha Commune
EXTENSION OF THE CROSS-BORDER SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM IN DRAINAGE AREA OF THE RIVER BUG (WESTERN)

IPBU.02.01.00-20-616/11

LEAD PARTNER: Town Commune of Hajnówka (Poland)

PARTNERS: Municipal Unitary Multiple Productive Enterprise of Communal-Housing Economy “Kamienieckie ZKCh” (Belarus), National Scientific Institute “Poleski Agro-Ecological Institute of National Academy of Belarusian Sciences” (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2013 – October 2015
The project arose from the need to match the sanitation infrastructure of Kamianiets and Hajnówka to real wastewater loads, as well as cooperation in order to develop an integrated system of environmental protection in the areas of the Polish-Belarusian borderland. A strategic approach to the management of the environment and its protection infrastructure is a prerequisite for the development of civilization of the border area, the growth of its tourist and investment attractiveness.

Waste water management is not confined within the borders of countries. Contaminants get into the groundwater and then surface and with them spread over the whole borderland. This has a direct negative impact on the environment, and thus reduces its attractiveness as a place to live, do business, work and rest. Hajnówka and Kamianiets lie in the basin of the Bug and are connected by the flowing through both cities River Leśna, which is the receiver of wastewater from the city’s treatment plant. It originates north of Hajnówka and after 33 kilometers leaves the Polish border and on the Belarusian side joins the Bug. Therefore, project partners found necessary the cooperation and coordination of investment policy and wastewater management for the improvement of purity of the two rivers.

As the most urgent task the modernization of domestic wastewater treatment plant in Hajnówka was assigned in order to increase its performance and construction of new one in Kamianiets using biological treatment technology. Investment of Hajnówka was completed in December 2014. After finalizing the construction of sewage in Kamianiets the joint monitoring of water quality changes of Leśna water both at the Polish and Belarusian side will begin.

As a part of the project a Joint Working Team was established. It will be a permanent structure to coordinate further cooperation of partners in terms of the flow of information and harmonization of measures to improve environmental quality of the whole border area.

The project also included the need to raise awareness of modern water management systems on both sides of the border and exchange of experience between the partners. As a part of this activity two study visits were organized, which were attended by 30 people representing municipal authorities, scientific institutions and enterprises of sanitary business of Polish-Belarusian border. A joint scientific conference „Contemporary problems of water purification and protection of surface water of the borderland” was planned, which will be a presentation of modern technologies of wastewater treatment and a discussion of the potential and desirable solutions of water and wastewater management in the Bug River drainage area. The two-day conference will be participated by researchers, practitioners from the sanitary industry, environmentalists, students of universities and representatives of public administration of the borderland. At the conference the „Pact for the purity of the Bug” will be signed.

All results of the project will contribute to the fact that our children will fish in Leśna as once our grandparents.

Paweł Denisik, inspector, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

BUDGET: EUR 3 970 198,88

EUR 3 573 178,99
LEAD PARTNER: Association of Local Governments of Euroregion of the Białowieża Forest (Poland)

PARTNERS: District Headquarters of State Fire Brigade in Hajnówka (Poland), Commune Bielsk Podlaski (Poland), Commune Czeremcha (Poland), Commune Czyże (Poland), Commune Dubicze Cerkiewne (Poland), Commune Hajnówka (Poland), Commune Kleszczele (Poland), Commune Narew (Poland), Commune Narewka (Poland), Commune Orla (Poland), Brest Regional Office of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (Belarus), Grodno District Office of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – December 2015

TOGETHER WE PROTECT THE BIAŁOWIEŻA FOREST

IPBU.02.01.00-20-634/11
Fireman Day in 2014 was a very special holiday for firefighters from the Hajnówka powiat. That day there was a ceremony of presenting them the keys to five new firefighting cars. In total from the funds of the cross-border project 21 specialized cars were purchased, including eight for Belarusian partners. Furthermore, Polish partners received a lifeboat, compressor and gas masks. The Belarusian partners received equipment to locate victims of fires or construction disasters. Upgrading the fire services with modern equipment serves to protect the globally unique complex of primary forests of Białowieża Forest, which is a common, Polish and Belarusian, treasure of nature. The need to strengthen the ability of emergency services to undertake effective actions stemmed from the growing threats in the region. These are primarily threats of explosion and spreading of forest fires over the border, occurrence of floods and connected with environmental contamination with toxic and flammable substances, transported by cars or pipelines, stored in installations and stationary tanks. The final beneficiaries of the project are the communities of the Hajnówka powiat (48.7 thousand inhabitants), Bielski powiat (60.6 thousand inhabitants), Hrodna and Brest oblasts (each over a million inhabitants), and also tourists.

Another very important action within the project was the establishment of closer cooperation between Polish and Belarusian emergency services in order to develop common operating systems that will be used in an event of cross-border threats. This has even more significance due to the Polish membership in the Schengen area fire departments may not exceed the external borders of the European Union without prior authorization.

Working meetings of the project partners, and training of services in Poland and Belarus, which were attended by 80 firefighters, including 30 from Belarus aimed at the implementation of this task. Trainings participants got acquainted with the dangers in the cross-border region of the Białowieża Forest on both sides of the border and used procedures for responding. There were also exercises in which the equipment purchased with project funds was used. Equipment of emergency services on both sides of the border with a modern one of identical standard will enable better coordination of joint actions. Further cooperation between partners of the project will focus on training and improving cross-border fire protection system including the Białowieża Forest area.

The project will contribute to overcoming administrative barriers and creation of the system of protection of Białowieża Forest values

Jan Chomczuk, Director of the Association of Local Governments of Euroregion of the Białowieża Forest

The project’s budget is EUR 4,380,381.80, of which EUR 3,942,343.62 is EU contribution.
CREATING MUNICIPAL SYSTEM FOR HANDLING WASTE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN LVIV WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF LUBLIN

IPBU.02.01.00-76-742/11

LEAD PARTNER: Urban Planning Department of the Lviv City Council (Ukraine)
PARTNERS: Municipality of Lublin (Poland), NGO „Environmental Initiatives” (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: February 2013 – November 2015
Electronic and electrical equipment face increasingly short product life cycles due to rapid technological innovation and market competition. This leads to a considerable increase in the scope of waste each year. Due to the absence of the system of handling used products, kilos of extremely dangerous carcinogens can get to municipal landfills with residential waste stream and much more comes with the industrial waste. The twin cities of Lublin and Lviv have joint forces to address the issue. A comprehensive e-waste management system is a relatively new approach in Ukraine. That is why Lviv decided to take advantage of Lublin’s experience – the Polish partner has already collected more than 2 thousand of tons of e-waste since 2008.

The project partners has already purchased and installed 230 containers in public places to collect used batteries: 80 in Lviv and 150 in Lublin. In addition Lublin has been equipped with 20 containers for selective collection of waste small-size products such as mobile phones and hair dryers. EU rules that require municipalities to conduct collections of such items, will come into force in 2016.

For Lviv, the next step is to purchase and install a recycling line for tubular and compact energy-saving light bulbs. The city will proceed with collection of mercury-containing and fluorescent light bulbs after obtaining a Hazardous Waste Permit. Meanwhile, Lviv City Council launched an international tender for purchasing the recycling line. The assumed capacity of the line is 200 kg per year. It will recycle light bulbs both from Lviv and other cities from western part of the oblast. The Lviv environmentalists are also planning to start collecting large-sized waste equipment (TV-sets, refrigerators, etc.). Currently, a common practice is to extract precious metals using rudimentary techniques and discard cases in all sorts of places thus polluting the environment. Thus Lviv purchased 2 minibuses that were equipped as „eco-mobiles“ for the collection of such waste under a specific schedule of stops in different districts of the city of Lviv.

The project partners are also launching awareness building campaigns to encourage the residents to effectively involve in the e-waste management system and to increase the level of their responsibility for the environment. Lublin and Lviv use questionnaires, studies, campaigns at schools, analysis and conferences to reach the wide audience and maximize the positive impact of the project.

“THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF RESIDENTS OF BOTH CITIES”

Oleg Gladchuk, project coordinator
MEASURE 2.2

EFFICIENT AND SECURE BORDERS
CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD BORDER CROSSING IN DOŁHOBYCZÓW – 4 BUILDINGS

IPBU.02.02.01-06-003/09

LEAD PARTNER: Lublin Executive Board for Maintenance of Border Crossings (Poland)
PARTNERS: State Fiscal Service of Ukraine (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2012 – September 2015
The fourth road border crossing in Lublin province was put into operation in June 2014. It was subject to “baptism of fire” already during the UEFA European Football Championship Euro 2012. In view of the increased traffic on the Polish-Ukrainian border during football matches it was opened for a month. Currently, it can handle four thousand cars, 30 buses and 10 thousand travellers per day.

Construction of the crossing Dołhobyczow-Uhryniv has begun with the aim of filling gap in border infrastructure on the 139 km section of Polish-Ukrainian border, improving the density and uniformity of distribution of crossings. Their number on the Polish and Ukraine border, which has become external border of the European Union, has so far been three times lower than on the German-Polish border, whereas traffic at border crossings in the Lublin province has been growing in recent years. In 2011, in Dorohusk, Zosin and Hrebenne, the border was crossed by almost 2.6 million vehicles and 5.7 million people, and in the last year it was already more than 3 million vehicles and more than 7.3 million people.

The following objects have been built from the budget of the cross border project in Dołhobyczów: building for border checks of bus passengers, building for detailed inspection of vehicles, pavilions for passport and customs control, building for service dogs, toilets for passengers, roofing over border check lanes, shelter over the building of detailed inspection, internal roads and squares. In addition, buildings have been provided with sanitary, heating and water supply installations, electric and telephone lines, and also dehydration of roads and car parks have been performed. Individual objects are placed on the crossing in a way that ensures permanent and highly readable distribution of entry and exit traffic, which complies with the requirements of construction of border crossing points on the external border of the European Union, resulting from the Schengen acquis.

Every room of the building is equipped with necessary equipment, as well as electronic devices used by border guards to perform activities connected with providing services to persons who are crossing the border, as well as specialized equipment, which is used to control people and vehicles, allowing, among others, to detect forged documents and smuggled goods, including radioactive materials. Border crossing in Dołhobyczów will increase the openness of the border, will contribute to shortening the time needed to cross the border in all other places, and at the same time will increase the efficiency of control. For local communities it means the possibility of increasing contacts, development of trade and services.

OPENING OF THE NEW BORDER CROSSING IS AN EXPRESSION OF WILL OF MEETING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN POLISH AND UKRAINIAN PEOPLE
Wojciech Wilk, Lublin Province Governor

EU CONTRIBUTION
EUR 4,994,587.81
BUDGET: EUR 5,549,542.01
LEAD PARTNER: Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin (Poland)
PARTNERS: Board of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in Volyn district (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: September 2013 – November 2015

TOGETHER FOR SAFETY OF LUBELSKIE VOIVODSHIP AND VOLYN DISTRICT

IPBU.02.00.06-618/11
Implementation of the project is another joint venture of the Lublin police and Volyn militia to improve safety on the Polish-Ukrainian border and on the border areas. Joint trainings and equipment of units with specialized equipment will improve operations of services in order to combat organized crime and smuggling more effectively.

Polish and Ukrainian officers cooperate in the fight against all kinds of threats in the border areas since the 90s of the last century. After the Polish accession to the EU, the border of the country has become the external border of the EU, the quality and intensity of joint activities increased significantly thanks to grants from European funds. In 2006-2007 Volyn militiamen participated in workshops raising competences in the field of combating economic crime and crime, implemented within the framework of the project “Poland, Belarus, Ukraine – Common Borders, Common Safety”. During the meetings, which took place in Poland and Ukraine, it has been assumed that there is a need for further cooperation and actions for the safety of border area’s inhabitants, including joint preparation to act in situations threatening the life or health of the inhabitants during different types of emergencies, natural disasters and environmental disasters. In such a way the project “Safer Together” was created, the implementation of which started in July 2011. Third joint project broadens the scope of cooperation with activities to combat cross-border organized crime, smuggling of people, animals and excise products.

Specificity of risks in the border area requires a rapid exchange of information between services on both sides of the border and equalization of standards of units' technical equipment. 80 passenger-terrain vehicles with specialized equipment and 25 SUVs will be purchased from the project’s budget. 19 units of militia in Volyn and 10 police units of the Lublin garrison will receive vehicles from this pool. The equipment will allow to reach remote and hard to reach areas on the border and in its neighborhood, and, if necessary, also the registration of crime evidence.

The second most important task, which partners set themselves in the project, is the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of preventing and combatting various forms of cross-border crime through the organization of training workshops. 130 Polish and Ukrainian officers will participate in it.

On the basis of existing relations between the partners, a network of cooperation will be created, which will consist of mutual informing about the dangers of crime, exchange of experience in the field of prevention and exchange of evidence relating to committed crimes (videos, photos), organizing training courses and seminars, and practical exercises. Fast and efficient operation of services responsible for safety in the border area on the Polish and Ukrainian side in emergency situations will improve the security of population, and this in turn will increase the tourist and investment attractiveness of border regions. Furthermore, involvement of the Ukraine’s Volyn Oblast Militia in the project will make a significant contribution to building and strengthening the EU’s eastern border security – a priority duty of Poland as a member of the EU.

EFFECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT WILL BE THE REDUCTION OF CROSS-BORDER CRIME WITH AT LEAST 2 PERCENT COMPARED TO YEAR 2011
Anna Gąsior, project coordinator

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IPBU.02.02.01-18-004/09

LEAD PARTNER: Podkarpacki Voivode (Poland)
PARTNERS: State Customs Service of Ukraine
PROJECT DURATION: February 2012 – October 2013
Road border-crossing Budomierz-Hrushiv was opened in December 2013. It is the seventh crossing at the Polish-Ukrainian border and fourth in the Podkarpackie province. The aim of the investment was to unburden crossings in Korczowa, Medyka and Krościenko, as well as to adjust the Polish eastern border to European Union standards. Part of the investment was financed by the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013.

Activities included in the cross-border project concerned installation and finishing works in the administrative building with an area of 1,245 square metres, in the pavilion of border checks and two buildings for detailed inspection (each with an area of 984.7 square metres), as well as the construction of an internal road with six roofed border check lanes for cars at the exit from Poland.

Buildings for detailed inspection have been equipped with specialized equipment to search the vehicle interior, including X-ray machines, elevators and channels, tools for draining fuel from the tanks and lifts. The crossing is adapted to the needs of disabled people at every place. Ramps and lifts for wheelchairs have been installed at the entrances to buildings, doors open automatically, toilets have been appropriately designed. At the checkpoints there are ramps, handrails and handles. At the parking there are parking spaces reserved for disabled travellers. Infrastructure of the crossing, entirely located on the Polish side, in technical and organizational terms is among the most modern on the external border of the European Union. It is run by Polish and Ukrainian border and customs services. Throughput of the Budomierz-Hrushiv crossing is about 3 thousand passenger cars and 80 buses a day. The number of travellers crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border during the day in Budomierz is estimated to be 8 thousand people. Launching the crossing in Budomierz increased the number of cars crossing the border per day with 39 percent and the number of people crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border in the Podkarpackie province with 41 percent. Due to the equipment of facility with modern control equipment, the number of detected border crimes will significantly increase.

IPBU.02.02.01-20-002/09

LEAD PARTNER: Podlaski Voivode (Poland)
PARTNERS: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus
PROJECT DURATION: July 2011 – July 2013
Połowce – Piaśčatka is one of the 7 Polish-Belarusian road border crossings. Until recently it was the only border crossing on the border of the European Union without international status – the facility had the status of a personal, bilateral crossing – only for citizens of Poland and Belarus. The project is part of a larger project consisting of comprehensive expansion of the crossing. With the new infrastructure, not only clearance of passenger traffic will be possible, but also freight and pedestrian. The capacity of clearances in the passenger traffic itself will increase. Today crossing covers more than 18 hectares. It can clear 2000 passenger cars and moreover 200 trucks up to 7.5 t and 50 buses within 24 hours (in total in both directions). From 1 April 2015 Połowce – Piaśčatka functions as an an international crossing. Now it can be used by citizens of all countries.

Within the project new access roads and the following facilities have been built: main building, pavilion of guards (No. 11B), shelters (No. W5A and No. W5B), pavilions for customs clearance of cars (No. 9A and No. 9B), buildings for detailed inspection of cars (No. 4A and No. 4B).

Development of the crossing’s infrastructure means increasing security at the state border, reducing illegal border crossings, boost to local economic and social development. At the same time modernization and expansion of access roads to the crossing will reduce the risk of collisions and accidents. The project contributed to the improvement of international road communication in relation Poland – Belarus – Russia. The undertaking is a symmetrical design, implemented on both sides of the Polish – Belarusian border, i.e. the construction of road border crossing in Połowce on the Polish side and the construction of a road border crossing in Piaśčatka on the Belarusian side (second project also funded by the program).

“IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASE OF BORDER TRAFFIC OF POLAND WITH BELARUS ON THE ROAD CROSSING IN POŁOWCE”

Ewa Stachowicz, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 4 436 438.84 BUDGET: EUR 4 933 213.43
CONSTRUCTION AND INSTRUMENTATION OF THE ROAD BORDER CHECKPOINT “PESCHATKA” – STAGE III (BELARUSIAN-POLISH BORDER) – BREST DISTRICT RB – POVIAT OF HAJNOWKA RP

LEAD PARTNER: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus

PARTNERS: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus, Brest Custom House (Belarus), Podlaskie Voivodeship (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2012 – December 2015

IPBU.02.02.01-66-005/10
At the beginning of April 2015 an expanded and modernized Polish-Belarusian border crossing Potowce-Piaśčatka was put into operation. This was so far the largest investment on the eastern border of Poland and European Union. Cross-border project was its vital part.

Road crossing in Piaśčatka, located on the border of poviat of Hajnówka and Brest oblast, was created in December 1993 as a personal bilateral crossing, i.e. only for the citizens of the Polish Republic and the Republic of Belarus. Until 2007, the point of customs clearance took place only on the Belarusian side. After the Polish accession to the Schengen area a control point has been created on the Polish side in Połowce. On both sides of the border it was however a provisional, temporary infrastructure with a small capacity of only 515 cars per day. Border services did not have modern control techniques that would facilitate detection of cross-border crime. The scale of this crime is reflected by the fact that despite the difficult working conditions in Piaśčatka Belarusian customs officers discovered smuggling goods worth BYR 45 million in 2009.

Expansion and modernization of clearance point in Piaśčatka, co-financed in 90 percent by the Fund of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, in parallel with construction works at clearance point on the Polish side, co-financed from the budget of a separate cross-border project. In Piaśčatka the investment mainly included main building for control services, passport control points, roofed pavilions for dimensional inspection of vehicles, buildings for customs clearance of vehicles, sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary control building.

Expansion of the facility and equipping it with modern techniques of vehicle inspection, and clearance of passengers will significantly increase the efficiency of border services. Services will be able to clear 50 trucks up to 7.5 t and approximately 1,130 cars and 20 buses within 24 hours in both directions.

Currently Piaśčatka-Potowce has the status of an international border crossing. Implementation of the investment is of great importance for the local economy on both sides of the border. It means an increase in employment and the revival of small businesses, connected with handling tourist and freight traffic. Increased cross-border traffic will contribute to the emergence of new roads. In the area of new crossing the security situation will improve. This will positively affect the development of cross-border cooperation, as well as the social integration of border inhabitants.
CONSTRUCTION OF RELOCATABLE X-RAY SCANNING CONTROL SYSTEM OF VEHICLES ON THE ROAD CHECKPOINT «BRUZGI»

IPBU.02.02.01-66-008/10

LEAD PARTNER: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus
PARTNERS: Grodno Regional Custom House (Belarus), Podlaskie Voivodeship (Poland), Minsk Central Custom House (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: March 2013 – December 2015
At the border crossing Kuźnica Białostocka - Bruzgi at the Belarusian side a modern freight vehicle inspection system will be installed that does not require discharge or violations of the transported cargo. The use of this equipment will increase capacity of the crossing and simultaneously will be the barrier for smuggling.

Bruzgi is the border inspection post of strategic importance. M6/E28 road leads to them which connects the country’s capital Hrodna with Minsk and runs into the II Trans-European Transport Corridor Paris-Berlin-Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow. In 2010 more than 1.3 million vehicles were cleared there.

Systematic growth in cross-border traffic between Poland and Belarus for several years resulted in huge congestions at the border crossing Kuźnica Białostocka-Bruzgi. Indeed, there was a large disparity of vehicle service capabilities between the Polish and Belarusian clearance point. While the Polish authorities were able to clear up to 9.5 thousand vehicles per day, the other side’s capabilities were limited to a mere 3.7 thousand. A solution is to install devices for non-invasive inspection of vehicles with the use of huge X-ray scanner at the Bruzgi point.

In January 2014 an agreement was signed with a renowned supplier of this type of equipment within the framework of project implementation. The installation of a modern system requires the construction of two buildings. The building of special design can accommodate a scanner and will protect the environment from radiation during operation. The second building will be dedicated for officers operating the monitors and for waiting areas for drivers. Twenty Belarusian border guards will be trained to operate the scanner and read images.

The installation of a modern control system in the Belarusian border check-point will bring multiple benefits on both sides of the border. It will facilitate the work in Bruzgi as well as in Kuźnica Białostocka. Because the freight traffic in both directions will be cleared. It is estimated that the Bruzgi point will be able to handle more than five thousand vehicles per day. With the increased capacity of the border crossing it will be possible to simultaneously improve the effectiveness of detecting various types of cross-border crime. The scale of smuggling on the Polish-Belarusian border, according to available statistics, is huge. Although methods of control that were used so far are inefficient and time-consuming, in 2010 goods worth BYR 7.2 billion were seized. Shortening the control procedures will reduce the risk of losses for carriers that have resulted from downtime at the border. Modern border crossing will attract transit traffic in the region and facilitate the development of cross-border business contacts.
DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN BORDER GUARD SECTIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

IPBU.02.02.01-70-001/09

LEAD PARTNER: Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine
PARTNERS: The Border Guard of the Republic of Poland
PROJECT DURATION: September 2012 – December 2015
Seven Ukrainian border guard units supervising the border between Ukraine and Poland undergo a thorough modernization in order to achieve better prevention of illegal migration, smuggling and other border crime. At the same time, during trainings and exercises with representatives of the Polish border services, Ukrainian partners will gain new experiences and knowledge about the standards applied in the European Union.

In 2006, Ukrainian authorities have undertaken a reform of border guard. From the formation of a military nature it was transformed into a law enforcement authority. Changes in methods of operation were accompanied by the reorganization. This means, inter alia, that new units appeared along the Polish-Ukrainian border, for which it was necessary to create a professional operating conditions, as well as to raise the level of qualifications of officers. The project implemented with the support of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine is an undertaking corresponding to these needs. At the same time, it fits into the long-term cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian border services. Measures implemented under the project relate to the improvement of infrastructure of Ukrainian border units in Ambukiv, Pavlovychi, Korytnytsya, Migove, Syanky, Nizhankovychi, Grabove, Vysotsk, Novogruzke. Administrative buildings, service rooms, pavilions for dogs will be renovated. Warehouses, intermediate pumping stations, power generators, sewage systems, gas systems, water supply installations, etc. are reconstructed. Modernized buildings will be equipped with new furniture, computer and office equipment. Border guards will be able to use modern border traffic surveillance equipment, communications equipment, as well as new means of transport.

Modernization of the infrastructure of Ukrainian border guard units and equipping them with modern equipment will enable the protection of the border at the same level of efficiency on both its sides. This will result in an increase in the detection of cross-border crime. Together with Polish services planning activities and conducting operations will allow to prevent these occurrences better. These ad hoc project objectives are connected with long-term positive effects on the quality of life of communities in the border areas. A sense of security will affect the development of entrepreneurship in various spheres - trade, manufacturing and services.
THE RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE BORDER CROSSING POINT (IABCP) “USTYLUG”

IPBU.02.02.01-70-006/09

LEAD PARTNER: State Fiscal Service of Ukraine
PARTNERS: Lublin Executive Board for Maintenance of Border Crossings (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: February 2013 – December 2015
Border inspection post in the village of Ustyluh in Volyn oblast is part of the international Polish-Ukrainian border crossing. Expansion and modernization aims to adapt its possibilities to the capacity of the adjacent Polish point in Zosin and working conditions of services to European standards.

The project includes, among others, construction of new pavilions for clearances, disinfecting barrier, building for cynological services and facilities for dogs, building for customs services and construction of internal roads. System for screening of vehicles, radio communication systems and computer network will be installed. Purchase of specialized vehicles is also provided.

It was assumed that after the completion of the investment in Ustyluh 7,800 people, 2,700 passenger cars, 500 minibuses and 8 buses will be cleared. Passenger service time will be shortened to one hour. At the same time the number of border crimes should be reduced thanks to the use of modern control systems.

Development of border crossing “Ustyluh” will contribute to the increase of capacity of Polish-Ukrainian border and to the greater efficiency of procedures of customs and border control. It will create better conditions for integration of border regions, stimulate the development of cross-border trade, tourism and cultural exchange.

Modernisation of the border inspection post in Ustyluh is one of ten projects for the improvement of border crossings between Poland and Ukraine, supported financially by the European Union.

IPBU.02.02.01-70-007/09

LEAD PARTNER: State Fiscal Service of Ukraine
PARTNERS: Lublin Executive Board for Maintenance of Border Crossings (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: January 2012 – December 2015
Aim of the project is to improve the infrastructure of the Ukrainian clearances at the border with Poland. Result of this investment will increase the capacity of points in Rava-Ruska, Krakivets, Shegini and Yagodyn while increasing the efficiency of detection of smuggling, as well as improving comfort of services’ work and quality of service of persons crossing the border.

Border point in Rava-Ruska will be expanded. New clearance buildings, facility to scan the interior of vehicles with the use of X-rays will be created. A TV system for reading vehicle registration numbers will be installed. Three other points covered by the project will be equipped with specialist vehicles, weighbridges, lifts, barriers, vehicle height limiters and other equipment necessary for the smooth functioning of border crossing.

According to the assumptions of the project’s authors, after its implementation average clearance time of one passenger can be reduced to an hour, and in Rava-Ruska and Yagodyn up to two hours. Rava-Ruska will clear 3 thousand passenger cars, 250 trucks and 65 buses daily. Capacity of the point in Krakivets will be increased to 2,500 cars, 450 trucks and 50 buses. In Shegini services will handle 1950 passenger cars, 195 trucks and 50 buses. In Yagodyn are 3 thousand passenger cars, 800 trucks and 75 buses. At the same time, it is estimated that the number of detected smuggling attempts will increase by 10 percent.

Modernization of the Ukrainian border crossings is of great importance for international traffic, given that they are located on the trans-European transport corridor route Brussels-Kiev and in a short distance from Venice-Kiev corridor. More effective border traffic control will have a positive impact on both the sense of security among local communities and the development of cross-border cooperation, as well as increasing customs revenues to the budget of Ukraine.
DEVELOPMENT OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE OF UKRAINIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER GUARDS SERVICES AT UKRAINIAN – POLISH BORDER

IPBU.02.01-70-009/10-01

LEAD PARTNER: State Fiscal Service of Ukraine

PARTNERS: Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Poland), Lubelskie Voivodeship (Poland), Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – December 2015
On the border of Ukraine and Poland there are eight active road crossings. From the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument fund modernization investments in almost all clearance points on the Ukrainian side have been funded. In five of them, customs and border procedures have been fully computerized. The project concerns border points in Rava-Ruska, Krakivets, Smolnica, Shegini and Yagodyn.

The use of modern IT tools for border control increases border security, but also significantly improves the functioning of crossings, accelerates the procedures and makes them more transparent. The removal of barriers related to the infrastructure for the smooth movement of people, goods and services across the border will have a positive impact on economic growth in the border areas of both countries, increase of commodity turnover and development of services sector. In the border Lviv and Volyn oblasts lives more than 4 million people. In 2010, the value of goods exported from Lviv oblast amounted to nearly one billion US dollars, while imported over 2 billion. In the same year the value of goods exported from Volyn amounted to about 435 million dollars and import 571.5 million.

Quality of service at border crossing points is also important for inhabitants of border areas. It strengthens the motivation of employees of scientific institutions, social organizations and cultural animators to undertake cross-border cooperation. It has a direct impact on the development of tourism, and consequently on the revival of entrepreneurship in the field of business related to services.

Thanks to investments in the infrastructure of border crossings Polish-Ukrainian border has become one of the most advanced sections of the external border of the European Union, providing efficient service to travellers and goods.
MEASURE 3.1.
REGIONAL AND LOCAL CROSS-BORDER
COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING
CLOSER TOGETHER. THREE CULTURES, ONE EUROPE
– COOPERATION OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND ANIMATORS

IPBU.03.01.00-06-105/10

LEAD PARTNER: Municipality of Lublin (Poland)
PARTNERS: City of Lviv (Ukraine), City of Brest (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: August 2012 – August 2013
In the summer 2013 on the grassland next to the Castle in Lublin an international culture festival „Planet Lublin-Lviv-Brest” took place. In the program there were performances of music bands and dance groups from Ukraine, Belarus and Poland, creative workshops, fairs, and competitions for kids. The event crowned the implementation of the project, the aim of which was to revitalize cross-border cultural contacts.

The project was attended by representatives of cultural institutions, NGOs and cultural animators from Lviv, Lublin and Brest. They jointly organized more than 40 artistic projects, including 32 artistic presentations involving 234 participants, 9 international competitions involving 667 participants, 3 final events of the project in Lublin, Brest and Lviv for citizens and tourists.

Three capitals of border regions have a lot to propose when it comes to the wider culture, but they are rarely visited by artists, exhibitions and performances from neighboring countries. The cause of insufficient contacts and cultural exchange across borders was the lack of funds for such projects, as well as the knowledge and skills of animators in the organization and implementation of projects.

Within the project, in addition to organizing cross-border events, training activities were undertaken for eight cultural institutions financed by local governments. Among them were community centers of Lviv, Lublin and Brest and NGOs. Three training sessions on developing a workplace of a culture animator and three in the field of gaining external funding for cultural projects and project management were organized.

19 study visits for instructors and animators served for the exchange of experience in cultural institutions of partner cities of the project. During the trainings and study and training visits animators and instructors not only presented their skills, but also took note of the best experiences of Polish animators working with children and young people.

The project has created a basis for sustained cooperation of target institutions. In the culture departments of municipal offices, Cultural Information Points Lublin-Brest-Lviv were created. Promotional literature, presenting cultural institutions and a calendar of cultural events of all the cities of the project are available in Points.

As a modern tool of communication and promotion, a joint website Eastculture.eu has been created. The portal provides information about the richness of cultural diversity of the border areas, their binding legal acts, sources of financing of culture, sought partners for various projects. It is a knowledge base and place of contact with potential stakeholders in cross-border cooperation.

To collaboration between the participants and partners of the project will strengthen the capacity for cultural institutions and NGOs. The project will bring long-term benefits to the partners on both sides of the border, affecting the increase of cooperation and improvement of the quality of jointly implemented projects in the border area.

Ewelina Graban, project coordinator

THE PROJECT HAS OPENED TOWNS ANS MICROREGIONS OF LVIV, BREST AND LUBLIN TO AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

EU CONTRIBUTION

BUDGET: EUR 162 936.20

www.eastculture.eu
LEAD PARTNER: Integration Association “Magnum Bonum” in Krasnystaw (Poland)

PARTNERS: “Green Cross” Association (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – December 2015

“ACROSS BORDERS WITHOUT BARRIERS”
– INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH TOURISM AND CULTURE

IPBU.03.01.00-06-310/11
A ceremonial incorporation of cornerstone and foundation act of the new building of Training and Rehabilitation Centre “Cross-border Cooperation Centre” took place in June 2014 in Krasnystaw in Lublin Province. This investment is the greatest enterprise of the project, the long-term effect of which will be more effective prevention of social exclusion of disabled people from the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

As a result of the investment, a building with the area of 2078 square meters will be constructed, in which we will find 52 beds fully adapted to the needs of people with disabilities, and the conditions to provide rehabilitation treatments will be created. Cross-border tourist and rehabilitation camps, specialized rehabilitation and therapeutic activities, and also trainings and conferences in the field of methods of working with people with disabilities will be conducted in the centre. The Centre will also continue current cultural activities, conducted by the Association with partners from Ukraine and Belarus, including, among others, organization of concerts, festivals and music workshops.

As a part of the project the object will be also equipped, devices which will be used in the rehabilitation of disabled people and vehicles to transport the participants of the tours will be bought.

The centre, run by the Integration Association “Magnum Bonum” exists since 2001, and its main purpose is to provide comprehensive support for disabled children, young people and their families, and the to create multi-faceted forms of rehabilitation, leading to their full life, social and professional activity. The Association also supports, inter alia, talented children and young people in a difficult financial and life situation, and has taken steps for the European integration and development of contacts and cooperation between societies, Polish organizations and NGOs in Belarus and Ukraine. Since 2006 “Magnum Bonum” cooperates with the Lviv “Green Cross”, which has extensive experience in the field of integration of people with disabilities through various forms of tourism. As part of current cooperation partners completed three projects co-financed by the European Union, including “Activity without barriers”. In addition, they jointly organized 24 tourist and tourist-rehabilitation camps for 261 people from Ukraine, 30 percent of which were people with disabilities. Participants used the database of cross-border Cooperation Centre and Centre for Rehabilitation and Therapy in Krasnystaw. Construction of the new facility will allow both Associations to develop cooperation in order to socially integrate people with disabilities. In the Lublin province there is approx. 182 thousand people with disability statement, and in Subcarpathian Province – 133 thousand people. It is estimated that a similar number of people with disabilities (approx. 307 thousand people) live in the border regions of Ukraine, including approx. 170 thousand people in the Lviv oblast, 63 thousand in the Zakarpattia oblast and approx. 74 thousand in the Volyn oblast (source: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the data as of 2010). The situation of this social group is still very hard, which is reflected in their worse education, high unemployment rates, as well as difficult access to basic infrastructure rehabilitation, education, culture and tourism.

As a result of the implementation of the project, technical and organizational capacities of partner institutions in the field of active inclusion of people with disabilities will be strengthened. Infrastructure created as a part of the project and purchased equipment will allow us to better serve people with disabilities, facilitating their access to rehabilitation and cultural goods and tourism services. The results of the project will serve communities on both sides of the border.
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF EXTENSIVE BURN INJURIES IN THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN CROSS-BORDER AREA

IPBU.03.01.00-06-326/11

LEAD PARTNER: Independent Public Health Care Centre in Łęczna (Poland)
PARTNERS: Łęczyński District (Poland), Ludwin Commune (Poland), Communal Lutsk Municipal Hospital (Ukraine), Ustylv City Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: March 2013 – December 2014
At the beginning of November 2014, after 21 months since the commencement of works in the Eastern Burn Treatment and Reconstructive Surgery Centre in Łęczna a department for the treatment of children was put into use. This is the first “children’s burn treatment hospital” at the Polish eastern border Medical equipment for the Centre for Burns and Plastic Surgery in Lutsk and health centers in the Ludwin commune and Ustyluh were purchased from the cross-border project’s funds. Due to the development of rehabilitation and medical infrastructure in public hospitals in Łęczna and Lutsk, a larger number of people can be hospitalized and at the same time an improvement in the quality of treatment of patients with severe cases of burns occurred. From the available statistics it appears that approx. 650 people per year are severely burnt in the Polish borderland (Lublin, Subcarpathian). Data from Volyn oblast show 1107 people in 2008, 1103 patients in 2009 and 1098 in 2010. The most common causes of burns were fires (45 percent), traffic accidents (25 percent), chemical contamination (12 percent), mining disasters (8 percent) and others (10 percent).

Despite significant progress in the development of national and regional systems for the treatment of burns in Poland and Ukraine, the situation in this segment of medical services remains difficult, which is reflected in very low rates of coverage with specialized treatment of people with severe burns (less than 60 percent on the Polish side, and 44 percent on the Ukrainian side) and still high mortality rate among people with burns. This state of affairs is influenced, among others, by poor infrastructure and inadequate equipment with medical equipment, long waiting times for medical treatment, insufficient qualified medical personnel and the lack of uniform procedures for the treatment of burns.

Actions taken by the partners in the project are the response to all these challenges. Partner hospitals were equipped with modern equipment, and facility in Lutsk also received an ambulance with specialized instrumentation, enabling the transport of persons with severe burns from distant parts of the border area. During the implementation of the project twelve Ukrainian doctors from Lutsk and Volyn Regional Burn Center raised their qualifications during the three-week internship at the Center in Łęczna and received certificates.

Doctors from Łęczna and Lutsk and paramedics also shared their knowledge during the conference „Cross-border cooperation for the prevention and treatment of severe burns on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland”. During the conference the Polish and Ukrainian rescue system was presented, in order to develop on this basis common procedures, new mechanisms and tools for cross-border cooperation in the treatment of burns. Ludwin commune and Ustyluh town, the project partners involved in an educational campaign directed at inhabitants of Polish-Ukrainian borderland. During the „Cross-Border picnic for health”, inhabitants of Polish commune and Ukrainian guests saw, inter alia, demonstrations of first aid to burnt people.

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER MODERN BURN TREATMENT CENTRES WERE CREATED, WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER, AND IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT ACTION PLAN

Liliana Grzesiuk, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 1 033 714.14

BUDGET: EUR 1 334 983.95
HEALTH FIRST. MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES OF POLAND AND UKRAINE PARTNERSHIP
FOR IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER AREA

IPBU.03.01.00-06-369/11

LEAD PARTNER: Medical University of Lublin (Poland)
PARTNERS: Daniel Halicki Lviv National Medical University (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: September 2013 – December 2015
The aim of the project is to improve the quality of medical and pharmaceutical care over the inhabitants of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland through a closer cooperation of medical universities in Lublin and Lviv. Project implementation will allow raising the level of knowledge of Polish and Ukrainian academics, students, medical staff and pharmacists within the scope of medical and pharmaceutical care. A key result of the project will be the creation of a common model of functioning of the system of healthcare on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

In the world more and more attention is paid to pharmaceutical care to reduce the cost of treatment and eliminate the consequences of taking medications improperly. Pharmaceutical care is a process in which the pharmacist cooperates with the patient and other health care providers in order to adapt the treatment to the needs of the individual patient. Undesirable phenomenon, both in Poland and Ukraine, is widespread treatment of inhabitants without doctor or pharmacist, and the use of a variety of drugs without awareness of the relationship between them, which sometimes causes adverse health effects. Patients often refer to pharmacist’s advice, avoiding the doctor. Therefore there is a need for trained pharmacists, having adequate knowledge concerning diagnosis and solving problems connected with medicines, willing to work with the patient, and also adequate legislation allowing to conduct pharmaceutical care in a pharmacy.

As a part of the project it is planned to create software to support pharmaceutical care in the pharmacy together with databases in the field of medical and pharmaceutical terminology and errors in the use of medicines, which are common in medical practice. To strengthen and facilitate cooperation, audio-visual communication system will be purchased and installed at medical universities in Lublin and Lviv. Employees of medical universities in Lublin and Lviv, and pharmacists working in pharmacies in both cities will participate in the implementation of the task. They will create outline of requirements for IT solutions for the project. An external IT company will be involved in the consultation on the assumptions and the software implementation.

Health care over patients is also addressed to dental patients. The project will result in a proposal of care support strategies of dental patients by a clinical pharmacy, showing how to take care of the patient pharmacologically, promote preventive oral health, how to ensure the safety of patients in the prosthetic treatment. Polish experts will communicate their knowledge in this field to Ukrainian managers of dental departments and specialists in the field of public health, by conducting two seminars.

The second direction of activities is to upgrade educational programs for students of medicine and pharmacy of medical universities in Lublin and Lviv, which will translate into an increase in the level of knowledge of students and strengthening the position in the national rankings of medical schools. A further effect of this action is the improvement of pharmaceutical care in the province of Lublin and Lviv oblast through the provision of qualified medical and pharmaceutical personnel.

Works of ten Polish and four Ukrainian authors on a common textbook of clinical pharmacy for pharmacy and medicine students at the Medical University of Lublin are underway, which is also a common educational offer of the Medical University of Lublin and the Daniel Halicki National University of Medical Sciences in Lviv.

Research in Poland and Ukraine in selected regional health units is devoted to the issue of treatment of patients, i.e. pharmacotherapy. Research conducted by scientists will serve for the development and verification of methods for assessing the costs of inadequate medical treatment and reducing the cost of pharmacotherapy. Research results will be presented in the form of reports to regional authorities of Lublin and Lviv, as well as during the conference summarizing the project.
PL-NTU CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

IPBU.03.01.00-06-386/11

LEAD PARTNER: Lublin University of Technology (Poland)
PARTNERS: Lutsk National Technical University (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2013 – November 2015
The project started in the very difficult period for Ukraine. Despite that, the collaboration yielded positive results, which bodes well for the future.

Wieslaw Sikora, project coordinator

Thirteen students from the National Technical University of Lutsk for a month studied Polish and English languages, as well as trained in the use of advanced computer programs at the Technical University of Lublin. Another 17 students started classes in March 2015. Apprenticeships and paid internships in enterprises were organized for thirteen people (another 7 people will have apprenticeships and internships in August 2015). The stay of Ukrainian youth in Poland enabled the student exchange programme, implemented in the context of cross-border project of Polish and Ukrainian universities. Participants of technical courses received certificates of skills within the scope of CCNA Routing and Switching programs: Introduction to Network, AutoCAD, Autodesk Inventor and TOEIC language certificate. In order to quickly adapt to the new environment at the same time they took lessons in Polish language and Polish culture.

A similar programme of training and apprenticeships for a group of Polish students was prepared by a university in Lutsk. Therefore, its laboratories were equipped with multimedia equipment from the project’s funds.

The perspective aim of the project is to widen the cooperation between the two universities in the creation of a common educational offer, exchange of information on programs and training conditions on both sides of the border, and as a result, the increase in the number of students studying in Poland and Polish in Ukraine. Therefore, the tasks set for the project also included the organization of open days and the participation of universities in education fairs.

Tool that most widely propagates information about the teaching offer of both universities, learning opportunities and scientific potential among the youth, will be the Knowledge Exchange Portal. Knowledge Exchange Portal will be primarily a didactic tool. E-learning training modules will be placed in the platform. In addition, it will be enriched with a teaching e-counselling point for students who wish to consult with the academic teacher doubtful matters or expand their knowledge. In addition, it will work as a point for contact, exchange of information and experience of the participants of the project, obtained during visits in Poland and Ukraine.

Young scientists from the University of Lublin and Lutsk develop 30 articles (collected in 6 publications) in the field of electrical engineering, management and engineering. These works, translated into Ukrainian and Polish languages, will go to university libraries. The „PL-NTU” project is another common experience of the universities, which since 2011 are bound by an agreement on cooperation in the spirit of European integration. So far, it was going in the sphere of exchange of academics, research and participation in conferences and symposiums. To a lesser extent it related to the exchange of students due to lack of adequate funds. Financial support for the project by the European Union allowed the implementation of integrating youth.

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 237 109.66

BUDGET: EUR 263 455.18

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARDIOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR THE POLISH POPULATION AND BELARUSIAN POPULATION
WITHIN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME POLAND - BELARUS - UKRAINE 2007-2013

IPBU.03.01.00-06-417/11

LEAD PARTNER: Regional Specialist Hospital in Biała Podlaska (Poland)
PARTNERS: Regional Brest Hospital (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – November 2015
Cardiovascular diseases are now the leading cause of death of the inhabitants of northern Lubelszczyzna and Brest oblast. Activities planned as a part of the project will raise the level of cardiac care through the use of modern methods of diagnosis and treatment. Particularly important in hospitals in Brest and Biła Podlaska is the implementation of a new medical procedure – the treatment of cardiac arrhythmia with ablation method.

As shown by statistics, almost half of deaths in Lublin province is a consequence of cardiovascular disease. It is one of the highest rates in Poland. In conjunction with the specific problems of the bialski district, northern region of Lubelszczyzna can undoubtedly fall into areas that are the least friendly to „heart.” This situation is also directly related to the poor infrastructure of healthcare institutions, as evidenced by indicators of the amount of granted medical advice. According to analyses, for 1 inhabitant of the described area the average is two times less than the average for an inhabitant of the Lublin province.

Identical problem exists on the other side of the border in Brest Oblast. There, the death rate having its origin in cardiovascular diseases in recent years has grown fastest in comparison to the whole country.

Bearing in mind the above problems of inhabitants, the most important medical centres of the regions – Regional Specialist Hospital in Biła Podlaska and Regional Brest Hospital – decided to work together and face the challenge of counteracting the negative consequences of socio-demographic factors.

In the jointly prepared project the creation of catheterisation laboratory at the hospital in Biła Podlaska and establishment of the cardiological laboratory in Brest hospital were planned. Both labs will be equipped with the most modern, and highly specialized cardiology equipment, including equipment to perform ablation treatments, producing good results in the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias.

Ablation is a cardiological treatment that is performed to permanently cure the type of abnormal heart rhythm called tachycardia. This is a treatment consisting of destruction of heart muscle’s fragment responsible for the anomalies in its functioning.

The long-term effect of creation of both laboratories will be the reduction of mortality due to cardiovascular diseases and in the short term the reduction of waiting times for specialist cardiological examinations and treatments.

In order to start the process of preparing the medical staff of both hospitals to perform ablation treatments, workshops are organized which are conducted by external experts. During the project ablation treatments will be performed at 20 patients in Biła Podlaska and 20 in Brest. Project partners estimate that ultimately the two institutions will be able to perform 360 ablations per year (approx. 30 treatments per month). In addition, catheterisation and angiography laboratory will be used by approx. 3 thousand patients per year in each of the institutions. An average number of hospital’s patients indirectly benefiting from the project is 26 thousand people for each party.

”THE PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCTION OF MORTALITY DUE TO CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES DUE TO THE USE OF MODERN METHODS OF TREATMENT"

Marcin Kochnio, project coordinator

www.ablacja.szpitalbp.pl

EUR 3 767 883.49

BUDGET: EUR 4 186 537.21
INVESTMENT IN CULTURE. COMPREHENSIVE ACTION FOR CULTURAL EDUCATION

IPBU.03.01.00-06-470/11

LEAD PARTNER: Lublin Commune (Poland)

PARTNERS: Culture and Arts Department of Ternopil City Council (Ukraine), Rivne City Council Executive Committee (Ukraine), Ivano-Frankivsk City Council Executive Committee (Ukraine).

PROJECT DURATION: May 2013 – October 2015
The use of new media in cultural education and communication by the municipal cultural institutions is a prerequisite for the development of international cooperation between them. With this belief, partnership towns of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland acceded to the development of the Programme “Medialab East”, addressed to local community centres, artists, instructors, animators in Lublin, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Rivne. A research conducted in 2010 by the Municipal Office of Lublin showed that previously conducted cultural cooperation had irregular nature and limited mainly to the presentation of all kinds of artistic amateur groups, and professional, during events organized on both sides of the border. Such activities have a positive influence on the mutual understanding of the culture of Polish-Ukrainian borderland, but it was not cyclical cooperation and did not create sustainable networks and connections. Lublin community centres had the biggest problem with establishing cooperation, the cooperation offer of which was based on the traditional art education. Such nature and extent of cooperation did not strengthen cross-border development processes in the field of culture and did not build building potential, as well as the role of community centres in local communities. The basic problem, which concerned both Lublin and Ukrainian partners, was a mismatch of educational programme activities to new social and cultural activities and challenges of the information society, and cyberculture. The Programme “Medialab East” was then created, the aim of which is to improve the knowledge, competencies and skills of civic and cultural events in the area of cultural education with the use of new media. The aim of the program is to provide an interdisciplinary knowledge about the social and cultural changes associated with digital technologies in the context of program offer of local cultural institutions. Thanks to the implementation of the Polish-Ukrainian program, local cultural institutions will be equipped with the necessary equipment to implement the program “Medialab East”, which will allow them to adapt to European standards and undertake cooperation in the implementation of international projects. Medialab workshops will be created in three community centres in Lublin, after two in Rivne, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk.

The digital revolution has created a new information society and culture – a culture of participation, cyberculture, culture 2.0. This state of affairs is a challenge for the culture in general, but it has a special importance for the socio-cultural condition of Eastern Europe, Lublin and Ukrainian partners. This is the first project of this kind in Lublin and Ukrainian cities participating in the project. Within the scope of the project, in addition to a series of workshops for inhabitants of partnership towns (10 workshops in each city) closely related to the use of new media, also efforts to identify the needs and expectations of the cities in the area of cross-border cultural cooperation were initiated. Think-tank was set up for cross-border cultural cooperation, which is working on system solutions in the field of cultural education and prepares a set of recommendations for those preparing to continue the cooperation in the new financial perspective. Cultural operators from Lviv, Lutsk and Brest were invited to work in a think-tank in addition to representatives of the cities participating in the project. All these cities are involved in the development of Cross-Border Cultural Information Portal, which was created as a part of the “Bliżej siebie” (“Closer to each other”) project which greatly expands the area of cross-border cultural cooperation.

“THE PROJECT OPENS NEW SPACES, GIVES ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES OF EXPERIMENTATION AND ADAPTATION TO THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES EXISTING IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE”

Ewelina Graban, Lublin Commune
LEAD PARTNER: Polish Foundation of the Support Centres for Economic Development “OIC Poland” (Poland)
PARTNERS: Association for Popularising the Beauty of Polesie (Poland), European recreational and natural, environmental and humanitarian assistance foundation “Futurus XXI” (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: March 2012 – April 2015

NGO’S COOPERATION NET OF BORDERLAND

IPBU.03.01.00-06-578/11
The idea of the authors of the project is to stimulate the activity of non-governmental organizations on both sides of the Bug River and to strengthen their power of social impact by undertaking joint initiatives across borders. There are many barriers that limit, or even prevent such cooperation. Language barriers, difficulties in travelling or organizational and financial weaknesses, are barriers to overcome. Much more problematic and difficult to overcome are stereotypes and prejudices arising from ignorance, lack of contact and cooperation. The proposed project is a major step towards overcoming these barriers through the establishment of contacts, mutual understanding and action. The idea is to create a Network of Cooperation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Eastern Poland, which may be joined by any organization with the statutory goals of promoting the development of local communities. Members of the Network will jointly create projects and raise funds for their implementation, inform each other about planned undertakings, training courses and conferences and exchange knowledge and best practices – mainly through the Network’s website www.siecwspolpracy-ngo.pl. The incentive to join the Network for NGOs are four themes of joint activities proposed by the partners of the project. The topics concern issues of the borderland which are equally vital for communities on both sides of the border. The initiative “Cmentarze po obu stronach Bugu” (“Cemeteries on both sides of the Bug”) consists of carrying out field exploration and photographic documentation of old cemeteries on the Polish and Ukrainian side. It was assumed that this task will be preceded by cleanup work on unused, neglected cemeteries. Participants of the action “Cztery pory roku” (“Four Seasons”) aim to show the charm of the Polesie region on both sides of the Bug during open-air sculpture workshops, painting, photography and film workshops and folklore events organized in different seasons. Aftermath of open airs will be albums “Cuda Polesia” (“Miracles of Polesie”) and “Ginący świat tradycji, zwyczajów i obrzędów Polesia” (“Dying world of traditions, customs and rituals of Polesie”). “Historyczne i kulturowe pomniki polsko-ukraińskiego Polesia” (“Historical and cultural monuments of Polish-Ukrainian Polesie”) is an assignment consisting of finding, describing and preparing materials promoting historical and cultural monuments of Polesie through expeditions of volunteers. The result of the initiative will be the creation of a series of videos and making them available on the Internet under the title “Wirtualne podróże” (“Virtual journeys”). “Społeczeństwo obywatelskie” (“Civil society”) is a series of workshops and study visits in the offices of free legal and civil advice implemented to encourage other NGOs to launch free civil counselling points.

As a part of the current implementation of the project 112 Polish and Ukrainian organizations, that are involved in the proposed actions, acceded to the implementation of the project. An important result of the project will be drawing attention of local authorities to the needs of NGOs. Individual organizations often are not seen by the authorities as a partner. Building a strong partner, which will be the Network, will give the opportunity to exert greater pressure on the authorities in order to solve social problems better.
THE GROWTH OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES AS A PART OF WELL-BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF POLISH – UKRAINIAN BORDERLAND CITIES

IPBU.03.01.00-06-580/11

LEAD PARTNER: Association of the Self-governments of the Bug Euroregion (Poland)
PARTNERS: Lutsk City (Ukraine), Chełm City (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: November 2014 – October 2015
Living standards of inhabitants depend largely on the quality of municipal services, degree of meeting their everyday needs relating to water supply and gas supply, discharge and disposal of waste, construction of housing or urban transport organizations. In the province of Lublin and Volyn oblast self-governments have still many problems to solve in this area. Border cities of Chelm and Lutsk have undertaken joint action in this regard.

One of the most urgent tasks indicated by the partners in the cross-border cooperation project is to conduct geological research and prepare planning documents for the drainage of rainwater into the system of drainage ditches, rivers and natural waterways. Periodic flooding of urban settlements during intense rainfall and melting snow has been a problem for Chełm authorities for a long time. During the talks on establishment of cooperation, representatives of Lutsk admitted that this problem also affects them. As a result, they planned symmetrical actions of both partners on this issue.

The subject of analyses and expert studies will also be five key areas of municipal management – water and sewage, heating, housing, collection and disposal of waste and the organization of urban transport. Effects of works of three Polish and three Ukrainian experts will be presented during working seminars with the participation of representatives of municipal enterprises and local authorities from Poland and Ukraine, in order for their future planning and investment activities to be based on reliable knowledge and conducted in a professional and coordinated manner. Expertises will also be available on the project website. In total, the conference opening the project, seminars, study visits and expert panels will be attended by 200 representatives from local government units and units subordinate to them.

In the project particular emphasis was put on the mutual transfer of experiences. Knowledge and professionalism of personnel, engaged in solving everyday problems of inhabitants’ living is the most important thing in all matters. With this thought a Cross-border Centre of Urban Economy for Volyn Oblast has been created. After the project is completed it will function for at least another year and will be dealing with the organization of training courses, conferences and seminars within the scope of widely understood municipal economy, including for example, issues related to the use of renewable energy sources. Chełm benefited from the experience of the Ukrainian partner city, and created the Resident Service Point on the example of point operating in Lutsk. People living in Chełm can take care of many issues related to the services provided by the municipal companies subordinate to the city. It has an informational and educational role. It is a place of accepting applications, distribution of leaflets, announcements and advertisements for residents. In info kiosk with internet access people can write and send a request and get the printout.

"THE PROJECT RESOLVES PROBLEMS OF MUNICIPAL ECONOMY IN CONNECTION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION"
Joanna Chomik-Suszek, co-author of the project

The project will contribute to increasing the skills of those employed in the municipal sphere, responsible for the quality of services to the population and the emergence of expertises necessary to plan and implement new solutions. This will translate into eliminating the differences in development of municipal economy in the region on both sides of the border and strengthening cross-border cooperation at self-government level. For the inhabitants of the region it is an opportunity for better access to municipal services, provided in a modern and professional manner, with respect to the principles of sustainable development.
OVERCOMING BARRIERS – LUBLIN – ZAMOŚĆ – WŁODAWA – BREST. PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE ACTIVATION OF THE DISABLED 2012-2013

IPBU.03.01.00-06-655/11

LEAD PARTNER: Lublin Forum of the Organizations of Disabled People – Voivodeship Seym (Poland)
PARTNERS: Brest Regional Youth Public Association „The Disabled and the Environment” (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: February 2014 – February 2015
The most important result of cooperation between partner organizations is the creation of four Information and Advisory Points in Lublin, Zamość, Włodawa and Brest, in which people with disabilities, their families and institutions acting on behalf of people with disabilities benefit from the advice of professionals - psychologists, lawyers, occupational and environmental consultants. Functioning of these facilities broadens the interest in the problems of disabled people among the inhabitants of regions.

Problems of disabled people in cross-border area are similar. They concern especially education, socio-professional rehabilitation, and active participation in cultural and social life. Therefore, project partners agreed that closer cross-border cooperation in the field of supporting people with disabilities and the exchange of knowledge will by all means be useful. Both organizations have extensive experience in activities to prevent their social exclusion. Lublin Forum operates since 1994. It brings together 47 non-profit organizations, supports their development and promotes the idea of cooperation between organizations in the country and abroad. LFOON conducts, among others, career office and an employment agency for people with disabilities. Brest association “Disabled and Environment” for 15 years has been engaged in the rehabilitation of young people with disabilities through work, creativity, ecological tourism, training volunteers and instructors who develop rehabilitation programs.

Three study visits of guests from Belarus in Lublin province and one of Polish participants in Brest and Baranovichi served to exchange experiences. In April 2014 20 employees and volunteers of Brest organisation have seen several performances presented as part of the ‘Meetings of Artists of the Fresh Trail in Lublin’, which became the basis for a discussion on art therapy and activation of disabled through art. Zamość was the host of the Polish-Belarusian meeting in August. It was devoted to the activities of NGOs in Poland. Guests visited the Association for Assistance to Disabled Children in Zamość ‘Step by step’ and the Therapeutic and Recreation Park in Bondyrz. Brest partner invited the representatives of Polish Lublin non-governmental organizations and social welfare institutions in October. They met with representatives of TSSON (Territorial Social Services Centre of Brest Oblast) in Brest and TSSON branch in Baranavichi. Comprehensive rehabilitation of people with disabilities requires the construction of effective support system, based on medical and social rehabilitation, creating a possibility of equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities with respect for their individuality. Attention of fourth study visit participants was focused on these matters. In November Belarusians visited centres run by the Polish Association for Persons with Mental Handicap Circle of Tomaszów Lubelski.

The second course of activities carried out within the framework of the project is to organize joint cross-border professional workshops for people with disabilities in computer, arts, sewing and ceramics workshops.

A valuable publication developed by the project partners is a map of environmental and cultural resources of the cross-border area, as well as disabled-friendly infrastructure.
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND TOURISM OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - RECONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF BUILDINGS AND REHABILITATION IN ALOJZÓW LVIV

IPBU.03.01.00-06-715/11

LEAD PARTNER: Polish Association for Mentally Handicapped Werbkowice Circle (Poland)

PARTNERS: Educational and Rehabilitation Centre “Dzherelo” in Lviv (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: May 2013 – November 2015
Financing of projects by the European Union which involve partners from outside the EU is an effective mechanism leading to the improvement of quality of life and economic growth on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

Maria Piotrowska-Lackowska, project coordinator

On the website of the Polish Association for the Mentally Handicapped an electronic clock counted down months, days, hours and minutes to the completion of investment, implemented from the budget of the cross-border project. It reflected the impatience with which staff of the association and families of disabled children were waiting for a new educational and rehabilitation centre. Similar emotions accompanied the Ukrainian partners, who were renovating building of the Rehabilitation and Training Centre for their charges.

In areas of Polish-Ukrainian borderland the number of rehabilitation centres is far too small in relation to the number of people who need help. As a result, problems of people with intellectual disabilities in the border area continue to deepen. This has many negative social impacts, because the low level of rehabilitation and education system of persons with disabilities contributes to the deterioration of the health of population, increases the number of unemployed and poor quality of life. High unemployment, poor psychophysical condition of a large part of society and lack of access to rehabilitation and education of people with intellectual disabilities negatively affects the development of the whole region and inhibits its development processes. High hopes for improvement of the situation through the expansion of two border centres, thanks to the financial support from the EU’s program caused that the partners implemented tasks on time and in perfect agreement.

As a result of construction works in Alojzów, 67 rooms were created, including recreational and technical, changing rooms, medical offices, office and social space, classrooms, rooms for hydrotherapy, kinesitherapy room, sanitary-hygienic premises, culinary, colour and sound therapy, room for experiencing the world, social skills, mirrors, aromatherapy and household rooms. At the building of the Lviv Center renovation and finishing works of an empty attic were carried out, where seven specialized rooms, three supervisory rooms to work with children and parents, staff room, two rehabilitation rooms, registration point, room to conduct seminars and training courses, library-archive, conference room, recreation area (corner of nature, aquarium, planting, game zone), seven rooms of a family type, two hotel class rooms and utility room were created.

Both centres have purchased high-end rehabilitation equipment and equipment of rooms from the project’s budget.

In anticipation of the commissioning of the facilities, employees from both organizations improved their qualifications. Eight people trained in a range of specialized methods of working with people with disabilities, such as Sensory Integration Method, NDT Bobath Methods and Veronica Sherborne’s Developmental Movement Methods.

The culmination of the first joint project is a project developed by partners of Cross-Border Programme for People with Disabilities. It outlines strategic actions that will be implemented in the future.
Lead Partner: The Association of Local Governments of Euroregion Bug (Poland)

Partners: The Cross-border Association Bug Euroregion (Ukraine), Brest District Center of Supporting Agrotourism Development AGROEKOTOUR (Belarus), Eastern Advisory and Service Cluster in Lublin (Poland)

Project Duration: December 2013 – January 2015
GIS (Geographic Information System) is a system for the collection, storage, analysis and graphical visualization of spatial data and related information. Such data include digital maps and plans in different scales. The field of application of GIS technology is very broad: cartography, investments, ecology, tourism and construction.

By using the new IT capabilities, authors of the project undertook to collect a wide range of thematic data in one integrated geographic information management system for the needs of neighbouring regions. In this way, a geoportal of the Euroregion Bug has been created, which gives us the ability to use information in the field of cultural heritage, health protection, investment or infrastructure. It includes Lublin province in Poland, Brest oblast in Belarus, and Volyn oblast in Ukraine.

Geoportal can be used by a broad multitude of users: from representatives of state and local authorities, statistical services of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus to entrepreneurs and tourists interested in the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland. Depending on the user’s needs geoportal provides applications in the basic and extended version (http://euroregionbug.maps.arcgis.com).

People who visit the geoportal can obtain information on investment areas, consulates and border crossings, monuments or accommodation in the Euroregion Bug. The obtained data can be analysed, printed and transmitted to other users.

Magdalena Fotek Kulak, chairman of the The Management Board of the Association of Local Governments of the Euroregion Bug.

Development of a common functional and spatial concept for the development of border regions, based on software and spacial studies of development of the Euroregion Bug on the Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian side made it possible to increase the level of knowledge in the field of spatial and strategic planning. Synthesis of the concept will be translated into Ukrainian, Russian and English. The project contributed to the strengthening of permanent cooperative structures at local and regional level between organizations and institutions from both sides of the border. Data gathered under the project can be used to create zoning plans and plan future investments.

The Association of Local Governments of Euroregion Bug

“EUR 298 058.90

BUDGET: EUR 331 176.56

People who visit the geoportal can obtain information on investment areas, consulates and border crossings, monuments or accommodation in the Euroregion Bug. The obtained data can be analysed, printed and transmitted to other users.”
LEAD PARTNER: Horodło Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: Mychlyn Village Council, (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: January 2013 – October 2015

IMPROVING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ABILITIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND CREATING POLISH – UKRAINIAN COOPERATION NETWORKS ON THE CULTURAL FIELD THROUGH RENOVATION AND REBUILDING OF SCHOOL FOR THE COMMON ROOM IN HREBENNE VILLAGE, HORDŁO COMMUNE AND RECONSTRUCTION OF A CLUB INTO CULTURAL CENTRE IN MYCHLYN VILLAGE

IPBU.03.01.00-06-730/11
Hrebenne, Polish border village and Mychlyn, a village in the border grochowski raion are preparing for a lively cultural exchange and strengthening of cooperation between local governments. Infrastructural facilities for the organization of meetings and joint events will be renovated and equipped in the framework of the project common room on the Polish and a club on the Ukrainian side of the border.

Creating the database for cultural activities will help to develop cooperation of local governments in strengthening tourist attractiveness of the border area. For local communities it means the emergence of interesting leisure offer in the form of concerts, performances, participation in various art workshops for amateurs, as well as international events, that is, with the participation of inhabitants and artists from neighbouring countries.

Activities of the joint project focused primarily on building a common room with an area of 485 square metres in Hrebenne and modernization of the club in Mychlyn with an area of 615 square meters. The investment also includes the purchase of necessary equipment, raising the functionality of these objects so that they can fully become a place of participation in culture and leisure activities. Equipment of both facilities includes, among others, computers with software, stage, tables, conference tables, chairs, kitchen furniture, shelving, bathroom equipment, TV, home theatre, pool table, table football, table tennis table.

Simultaneously with the construction works, activities are carried out in order to increase the integration of borderland inhabitants. Harvest festival took place in 2014 in the Horodło commune. The ceremony was honoured by performances of folk bands, harvest ritual shows, presentation of regional dishes. Harvest festival was a wonderful opportunity to present activities of Housewives clubs, folk bands and tradition and cultural heritage of the Horodło commune to the guests from Ukraine. In November, 2014 at the invitation of Horodło Commune a group of children from Mychlyn together with their guardians visited Poland. They visited Zamość, monuments of Horodło, building of Commune Office, Border Guard station, and also they listened to the story of the stone lions, which are currently in the park in Horodło. In return Mychlyn will prepare an attractive tour around Volyn for children from the Polish commune. Revival of contacts between the communities of Horodło and Mychlyn communes, through the organization of cross-border cultural events in the new facilities will contribute to overcoming linguistic and socio-cultural barriers, creating attitudes open to cultural diversity and strengthening the sense of identity with the resident area through participation of inhabitants in activities which nurture and develop regional traditions.
CREATING THE VETERINARY SCHOOL OF ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES WITH SPECIALIZED LABORATORIES

IPBU.03.01.00-06-755/11

LEAD PARTNER: University of Life Sciences in Lublin (Poland)
PARTNERS: Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: March 2013 – November 2015
Veterinary School for Advanced Diagnostic Techniques are two specialized laboratories established in universities of Lviv and Lublin, equipped from the project’s budget with information systems of early warning about epidemiological dangers, e-learning platform, electronic system for collecting and exchanging data, as well as modern diagnostic equipment. The system of early warning about the dangers will allow continuous monitoring of the epidemiological situation and the health status of animals. The obtained data will be processed and communicated to the interested institutions and other entities through advanced information systems for information distribution. This will increase the degree of protection of EU and Ukraine borders against the spread of animal diseases and zoonoses. Early detection and recording of animal disease risks will allow relevant institutions to take preventive actions. The second stream of project’s activities is to organize a series of lectures within the scope of diagnosis of diseases of small animals and trainings for doctors and students from both universities on the equipment purchased with project funds.

Staff of veterinarians trained in the diagnostic field, working in the field on both sides of the border, will be able to enter information on the results of their daily work into the system of Veterinary School for Advanced Diagnostic Techniques, which will allow to locate potential risks, for example the development of rabies outbreaks and food contamination. All activities planned in the project lead to strengthening of institutional cooperation between universities, exchange of experiences and expanding knowledge, developing network cooperation with the use of Internet.

The project will contribute to the solution of many problems. It will secure the border of the EU and Ukraine against the spread of animal diseases and zoonoses. It will also raise competences of veterinarians. In the emergency situations (epidemic) it will enable the provision of infrastructure and specialists. The created statistical and informatics system that will be used by the Ukrainian and Polish side (EU) will increase the flow of information between the EU and Ukraine. In the long term it will improve living conditions of the inhabitants of border areas through the reduction of risk of epidemics.

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO OVERESTIMATE THE CHANCE THAT WAS GIVEN TO BOTH ACADEMIC SOCIETIES IN LUBLIN AND LVIV. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WILL BRING CLOSER TOGETHER TWO UNIVERSITIES"

Stanislaw Winiarczyk, project coordinator
LEAD PARTNER: Polish Association of Teachers and Animators “Klanza” (Poland)
PARTNERS: The Centre of Educational Policy (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – August 2015

CROSS-BORDER METHODOLOGICAL CENTRE

IPBU.03.01.00-06-763/11
Cross-border Methodological Centre (TOM), created next to the Centre for Educational Policy in Lviv from the inspiration of Lublin Association "Klanza", was created for integration, cooperation, increasing the qualifications of educators, methodologists and NGO trainers through the exchange of experience and dissemination of modern teaching methods.

**BORDER METHODOLOGICAL CENTRE INITIATES AND SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

Ewa Noga, project coordinator

Polish-Ukrainian project for the improvement of quality of education in border regions is a result of contacts which were previously established by "Klanza" with Ukrainian teachers, educationalists and trainers of social organizations and identification of common needs. The area covered by the project is located on the periphery, away from the main trends of social and economic change. For this reason, people who are active in the education sector have fewer opportunities for continuous learning, which entails a lower level of education.

The centre benefits from many years of experience of the Polish Association of Teachers and Animators "Klanza" in creating teacher training programs and organizing trainings. Klanza Training Centre has been operating since 2000.

Permanent TOM substantive team is an Expert Group, which consists of three experts from Poland and three from Ukraine. Their task is, among others, to study development needs of the beneficiaries’ environment, reviewing publications prepared for the project’s needs, coaching of beneficiaries (teachers, leaders of non-governmental organizations), improving the competence of leaders and trainers engaged in a project, tracking the latest trends in the changing educational reality of Europe, Ukraine and Poland – dissemination of “good practices”.

In November of 2013 a practical conference “Colours of education” was organized in Lviv, dedicated to the presentation of modern teaching methods, innovation in school practice and informal education, as well as the development of cross-border cooperation.

In February 2014 Methodical Fair took place in Lviv. Participants of the undertaking were teachers at all levels and trainers of non-governmental organizations. They had the opportunity to participate in workshops on innovative methods of teaching and education.

Within the framework of the project four three-day workshops were planned for teachers and NGO trainers. Workshops will be organized in Poland – Zamość and Przemyśl and in Ukraine – Lviv and Uzhhorod. Teacher training topics include innovative teaching methods with the use of recent discoveries of neuropsychology and neurodidactics. The second series is devoted to development of leadership skills for change in the environment of local regions. A separate training program is scheduled for 32 school principals.

All the activities implemented under the project will be attended by 546 teachers, methodologists and NGO trainers. In addition, 1,200 people and institutions will benefit from the consultation in headquarters of TOM. A cooperation network will be created, linking 16 Polish and 16 Ukrainian schools, and 64 NGO trainers on both sides of the border. Exchange of methodologists’ experience during trainings and conferences will soon result in bilingual publication entitled “Model solutions within the scope of methodological innovation”.

www.lamaniebarier.lublin.pl
MUSEUMS WITHOUT BARRIERS – COALITION OF POLISH AND UKRAINIAN MUSEUMS
FOR PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO DISABLED VISITORS

LEAD PARTNER: Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola (Poland)
PARTNERS: Lviv Historical Museum (Ukraine), Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv (Ukraine), Polish Association of the Blind (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: February 2013 – March 2015

IPBU.03.01.00-18-400/11
Civilization standards set attitude towards people with disabilities. This belief has been the inspiration for the employees of a small museum in Stalowa Wola to undertake extensive action to promote the availability of cultural facilities for people with different dysfunctions. Museum in Stalowa Wola has extensive experience in the professional service of visitors with disabilities. Since 2006 it organizes exhibitions and educational activities for people with sight, hearing and movement impairments, as well as intellectual disabilities.

According to Lucyna Mizera, director of the Museum, barriers in the access to the shows are not only connected with architecture. Equally difficult to overcome are mental barriers. Therefore, another project of Stalowa Wola museum concerns education of museum professionals. This time, the undertaking has cross-border character.

The first step in the project was to determine the potential of the Polish and Ukrainian museums in adapting to the needs of disabled. Based on the results of a survey, a training program for Polish and Ukrainian museum educators has been developed. It is conducted by specialists from several EU countries in the „Academy of Culture without Barriers” created next to the Museum. The Academy offers training and exhibition hall with an area of 77 sq. m and an educational room for disabled visitors with an area of 53 sq m. They are equipped with, among others, audio-visual equipment, audio sets, interactive panel for the blind, speaking labels identifier, information system to assist orientation in the field, assistive listening inductive loop.

The results of the survey were used by the project partners to prepare the first e-guide including disabled-friendly museums in Poland and Ukraine. It is available on www.muzeabezbarier.pl in Polish, Ukrainian and English. A mobile application of the guide on the phone will also be created.

The cooperation of Polish and Ukrainian museums will not end with the closure of the project. It will be continued by the „Coalition for the professional service of a disabled visitor” formed by 5 museums from Podkarpackie Province, 4 museums from Lviv oblast and 4 NGOs. Formula of the „Coalition” is open.

"THE COALITION WILL CONNECT POLISH AND UKRAINIAN MUSEUMS RAISING SERVICE STANDARDS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES"

Lucyna Mizera, director of the Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola
JOINT COOPERATION NETWORK WITHIN CULTURE AND WELFARE ON BEHALF OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITIES OF POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDERLAND

IPBU.03.01.00-18-450/11

LEAD PARTNER: Municipality of Rzeszów (Poland)

PARTNERS: Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council (Ukraine), Executive Committee of Lutsk City Council (Ukraine).

PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – August 2015
Rzeszów, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lutsk conduct a joint website ‘Colours of the borderland’ since 2013. On this website you can see, how much the relations between a number of institutions and communities on both sides of the border and cultural exchange have been activated thanks to jointly implemented project.

Three capitals of border regions for many years worked together as partner cities. During working meetings organized in 2009-2011 hosts of the cities diagnosed major problems that can be solved together: insufficient usage of the cultural potential for economic and social development of the borderland, weak effectiveness of actions of the social care institutions, especially in Ivano-Frankivsk and Lutsk, and a lack of formal structures for cooperation between cities.

As a result of this diagnosis a cross-border project has been created, the aim of which was to involve as many local government and social institutions as possible to cooperate more closely on solving common social problems, but also on developing cultural contacts. The list of events that took place within the framework of the project is very long. It includes exhibitions of the Polish and Ukrainian artists, theatre performances, and creative workshops for amateurs. A joint website ‘Colours of the borderland’ have been created and culture festival under the same title. Each event leaves a trace on the website in the form of information and photo report. In addition, the service is a cultural institutions guide and systematically updated program of artistic events in the partner cities. Among the most interesting events organized within the project there is a photo exhibition ‘Ukraine – in the footsteps of Polishness’ and a show ‘Sister to sister’. The exhibition was the aftermath of expedition of six Polish photographers to Lviv, Stryi, Drohobych, Sambir, Olesko, Zhovkva, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kolomyia. The show however was based on a short story of the Ukrainian writer, poet and essayist Oksana Zabuzko, placed in the book ‘Sister, sister’. Performance, which is complemented by Ukrainian folk songs, is staged in three cities.

In terms of social assistance the project emphasizes improving qualifications of workers in this sector through trainings and exchange of experience. At the beginning of 2015 in Lutsk, for example, a seminar against exclusion was organized, during which employees of institutions and organizations of social assistance of cities exchanged good practices in the employment of people with disabilities. The exchange of experience takes place also in concrete actions of social workers from Poland and Ukraine. They are organizing artistic workshops, including of art therapy, ceramics, art inspired by the culture, painting and photography for their wards. Participants of these activities each time also have the opportunity to explore cities in the neighbouring country. A group of twenty participants of photography workshops wandered from Rzeszow to Ustrzyki Górne along the trail of the Bieszczady wooden Orthodox Churches. All the events implemented under the project were primarily an excellent opportunity to associate with a different culture, make contact with the different way of thinking, laws and practices within which institutions operate. Workshops involving people is a time used to gain new knowledge that each partner is free to use in the area of its activities. During the meetings participants were very eager to establish new contacts and held discussions on future cooperation.

‘COLOURS OF THE BORDERLAND’ IS A CULTURAL COLOURING OF CITIES AT THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Sabina Kurek-Delikat, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 348 662.29 BUDGET: EUR 387 402.54
SCIENTIFIC INTEGRATION OF THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDERLAND AREA IN THE FIELD OF MONITORING AND DETOXIFICATION OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN ENVIRONMENT

IPBU.03.01.00-18-452/11

LEAD PARTNER: University of Rzeszów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Institute of Cell Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine,
The project, addressed to Polish and Ukrainian academics and students of universities from border areas, aimed to increase the knowledge within the scope of modern research methods and becoming familiar with the equipment used in the monitoring and detoxification of harmful substances in the environment. Scientific workshops, seminars and conferences, and joint research were an opportunity to strengthen the institutional and personal contacts in scientific circles on both sides of the border and created a good basis for the development of cooperation in the future.

Joint research activities focused on new methods for the determination of formaldehyde and methanol in the industrial wastewater and detoxification of heavy metals. They were conducted by a group of eight scientists from Poland and Ukraine. Results of the research were the subject of three publications in scientific journals. New laboratory equipment and chemical reagents were bought from the project’s budget, which enabled the conduct of joint research. Workshops conducted in Rzeszów and Lviv concerned the possibility of using modern methods in order to develop more efficient and environmentally friendly methods of monitoring and detoxification of toxic substances, including molecular methods.

Results of the research were the subject of three publications in scientific journals. New laboratory equipment and chemical reagents were bought from the project’s budget, which enabled the conduct of joint research. Workshops conducted in Rzeszów and Lviv concerned the possibility of using modern methods in order to develop more efficient and environmentally friendly methods of monitoring and detoxification of toxic substances, including molecular methods. Each of the six workshops were attended by five participants from Poland and five from Ukraine. There were two thematic seminars for students, doctoral students, academics and others interested in the problem of detoxification of toxic substances by plants and microorganisms. Representatives of wastewater treatment industry were invited to participate in the seminar. At the meeting in Poland the theme was ‘Methods of detoxification of xenobiotics and heavy metals by microorganisms and plants’ and in Ukraine ‘New methods for the determination of hazardous substances in the environment’.

The result of the international conference on ‘Micro-organisms in the detoxification of heavy metals and xenobiotics’, held at the University of Rzeszów, will be a monograph containing 30 scientific articles. 298 people, including 149 from Ukraine participated in all these activities implemented by partners of the project.

Institute of Cell Biology is one of the best research institutes of Ukraine, as evidenced by numerous scientific publications in international journals. Rzeszów University has a well-educated scientific staff and the most modern research equipment. The project shall enhance environmental protection and safety of inhabitants, affect the positive perception of the borderland by both internal and external investors, improve the quality of education for students, and it will increase the chances of young people on the labour market.

Integration of the potential of both partners through the exchange of information, experience, joint research and projects will bring multiple social and economic benefits

Andrzej Zapalowski, project coordinator
CREATING PROPER CONDITIONS FOR USING MUTUAL EXPERIENCE GAINED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MEDICAL CARE CENTRE IN JAROSŁAW AND THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN NOVOIAVORIVSK. THE CONDITIONS ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR IMMEDIATE MAINTENANCE OF CROSS-BOARDER TRAFFIC, FOR NEEDS OF PEOPLE RESIDING THE DISTRICTS AS WELL AS FOR IMPROVING THE DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC EQUIPMENT OWNED BY BOTH INSTITUTIONS.

IPBU.03.01.00-18-595/11

LEAD PARTNER: Medical Care Centre in Jaroslaw (Poland)
PARTNERS: District Hospital No. 1 in Novoiavorivsk no. 1 (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: March 2013 – October 2015
The idea behind the project is to improve the protection of health of inhabitants of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland through the equipment of hospitals in Jarosław and Novoiavorivsk with modern equipment, increasing the knowledge and experience of both institutions and strengthening cooperation between them.

The peripheral location of the cities of Jarosław and Novoiavorivsk in the border districts causes that inhabitants do not benefit from screening or monitoring tests in accordance with the recommendations, since it would require them to go to Rzeszów and Lviv. It is due to the fact that local centres are faced with shortages in equipment with medical equipment. On the other hand, the low standard of living in the border areas results in increased health problems, especially cancer and cardiovascular disease. Lack of proper medical equipment for the identification of disease cases in case of unconscious patients and those in critical condition also prevents doctors from Jarosław and Novoiavorivsk from providing effective help to victims of road accidents that often happen on the international road E-40, passing through the area covered by the project. Implementation of the joint undertaking, supported financially by the EU cross-border cooperation fund, will greatly enhance the ability of Polish and Ukrainian hospitals to provide medical services at a high level.

With the project budget, the hospital in Novoiavorivsk has been equipped with an ultrasound device, operating table, shadowless lamps - ceiling operational and passable surgical, video gastroscope, video colonoscope, ultrasonic cleaner, and shortly it will be equipped with an echocardiograph, holter, treadmill for exercise stress test, computer assisted tomograph, cystoureteroscope and X-ray machine. Medical Care Centre in Jarosław purchased a set for intra-aortic balloon pump, ultrasonograph, operating table with gynecological accessories, operating table with orthopaedic equipment, surgical tables, shadowless operating lamps, video gastro-scope, video colonoscope, and automatic wash for endoscopes for their needs, and in the near future the purchase of the following medical equipment is planned: electroanatomic 3D system, a set for ablation (treatment of cardiac tachycardia), ventilator, portable resuscitation set with an independent source of oxygen and transport ventilator, mammography and X-ray machine.

For doctors working in them, the equipment of both institutions with modern equipment created the possibility of wide cooperation in the field of improvement of diagnostic skills and joint development of procedures in terms of life-saving treatments, cardiology, diagnostics and prevention. Long-term effect of implementation of the project is the increase of safety of life and health of borderland inhabitants thanks to the access to modern, tailored to the diverse needs medical devices, expanding the range of medical services, raising the qualifications of medical staff. Promotion of the project and the benefits of its implementation will constitute an example of good practice in the development of Polish-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation.

**LONG-TERM EFFECT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT IS THE INCREASE OF SAFETY OF LIFE AND HEALTH OF BORDERLAND INHABITANTS**

Daniel Kucza, project coordinator
THE SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATION OF THE POLISH-Ukrainian BORDERLAND AREA

IPBU.03.01.00-18-629/11

LEAD PARTNER: University of Rzeszów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Pedagogical State University in Drohobych (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – September 2015
Protection of the natural environment of Eastern Carpathians, sustainable development of agriculture, recultivation of industrial waste dumps are a challenge for the research environments of the Polish-Ukrainian border. Their solving requires collaboration – joint research, exchange of knowledge, aligning standards of students’ education. The answer to these needs is a cross-border project of the University of Rzeszów and State Pedagogical University of Drohobych.

Among other things, research on recultivation of production waste landfills treatment of potassium salts in Stebnik and ozokerite in Borysław has been planned in the project. The scale of this problem is large, because landfills cover an area of several hundred hectares in the immediate vicinity of Truskavets, the biggest spa resort in Western Ukraine. The task attended by university students and PhD students from the Polish-Ukrainian borderland, includes laboratory research in the Department of Soil Science, Environment Chemistry and Hydrology at the University of Rzeszów and microplot field experiments in Ukraine. Appropriate equipment and laboratory equipment was purchased from the project’s funds in order to implement them. The obtained results will be used to develop a method of recultivation of landfills. It will be transferred to local authorities. Within two years of the project’s implementation the laboratory workshops at the University of Rzeszów will be attended by 32 students from higher years and PhD students from Ukraine, who will become familiar with the modern equipment used in environmental studies, analytical methods used in the EU and curricula. The integration objective of the programme is also implemented through joint sessions of student’s associations (two in Poland and two in Ukraine), which last for three days for 120 participants, joint scientific conferences of employees (two in Poland and two in Ukraine), which last for three days for 120 participants, and doctoral seminars for up to 30 young academics from the partner universities. In 50% these activities are attended by Ukrainians and in 50% by Poles.

Ukrainian participants showed great interest in the methodology and issues of research conducted at the University of Rzeszów and the possibilities of cooperation – particularly in the functioning and protection of soils and landscape in the area Polish-Ukrainian Carpathians borderland, and sustainable development of agriculture and forestry, taking into account the needs of this neglected in terms of economy and infrastructure region.

Scientific conferences are considered the most effective method of presenting ongoing studies, and also offer the possibility of direct, detailed discussions among experts. Cooperation of academic centres will trigger multiplied reaction, because these are the strongest cultural and opinion-forming environments. Interested authors (participants of actions) will submit the results of their research for publication in the created series Acta Carpathica. They will go to research centres and local authorities across the whole Polish and Ukrainian border area.

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 320 522.40 BUDGET: EUR 356 136.00

THE PROJECT HAS ENABLED THE EXCHANGE OF LARGE GROUPS OF STUDENTS AND ACADEMICS AND IMPROVED THE CAPACITY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Andrzej Zapałowski, project coordinator
STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL POTENTIAL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN RESCUE SERVICES FROM RZESZÓW AND UZHZHOROD THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF RESCUE-EXTINGUISHING TECHNIQUES TOGETHER WITH INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES EXCHANGE

IPBU.03.01.00-18-680/11

LEAD PARTNER: Municipal Headquarters of State Fire Service in Rzeszów (Poland)
PARTNERS: Uzhhorod District Department of Emergency Situations Ministry of Ukraine in the Transcarpathian Oblast (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: March 2013 – September 2015
Main objective of the project was to establish cooperation between the Municipal Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Rzeszów and First National Fire-fighting and Rescue unit of the Territorial Administration of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine in the Transcarpathian Oblast. Environmental conditions pose many common challenges for services of the Polish-Ukrainian border. These are the risks of cross-border environmental disasters, road traffic and rail accidents.

Cooperation established within the framework of the project results in the exchange of experiences, raising skills of services and effective coordination of activities on both sides of the border in cases of catastrophes or natural disasters. Polish fire-fighters and rescuers from Ukraine participated in joint trainings. The subject of trainings covered a wide range of rescue activities: premedical first aid, technical rescue (removing the effects of road collisions and accidents), water and flood rescue and refresher training in techniques of fighting fires in rooms with the use of flashover chamber. In order to summarize the collected experience and learn about the structure, operational and decision-making capabilities of different rescue services from Poland and Ukraine, two study visits were implemented – in Rzeszów and Warsaw and in Uzhhorod and Kiev. The conduct of joint rescue operations, and establishing a system of exchange of information about threats requires the knowledge of both sides about the functioning of national command centres in the capitals of countries.

A total of 120 fire-fighters from Poland and 90 rescuers from Ukraine were trained. For the purposes of the project implementation, rescue and didactic equipment was purchased, including phantoms for resuscitation of an adult and a child, flotation suits, rescue harnesses, automatic sorbent spreader, signal lamps, sets to secure the landing of a helicopter, hydraulic pump with electric drive. After the closure of the project, equipment will be used for future joint exercises. Established institutional cooperation between the project partners will allow more effective action during rescue operations. Thanks to this the security of local population and natural resources will increase. Numerous personal contacts established during the training and the opportunity to learn the specifics of the service in each country will also contribute to the transfer of good patterns and will create a new quality in the cooperation of Polish and Ukrainian rescue services.

“TRUST GAINED DURING JOINT TRAININGS BETWEEN RESCUE AND FIRE-FIGHTERS WILL ALLOW THE SMOOTH CONDUCT OF CROSS-BORDER RESCUE OPERATIONS – THEIR PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CONFIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF PARTNERS FROM ABROAD”

Marek Krzywonos, project coordinator

www.straz.rzeszow.pl
CREATION OF POLISH-UKRAINIAN CENTER OF BREEDING AND PROMOTION OF HUCUL HORSE

LEAD PARTNER: Experimental Division of the Institute of Zootechnics – The State Research Institute Odrzechowa (Poland)
PARTNERS: The Regional Association of Horse Breeders in Rzeszów (Poland), Science-manufacturing Association „Plemkonecentr” in Solochyn (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – December 2015
Hucul horses, one of the oldest breeds of horses described in Poland, are a valuable natural heritage of Polish and Ukrainian border areas. They are also intrinsically linked to the everyday life and culture of the indigenous people of Eastern Carpathians. Rescue of these unusual animals from extinction and development of the traditions of their breeding in the Hucul region, where they come from, has become a common challenge of project partners.

Poland has the largest breeding of Hucul horses in Europe, keeps a book of the origin of this breed of horses, and promotes them amongst all the countries affiliated to the HIF (Hucul International Federation). Currently, every year in Poland several events are organized, where a total of 500 horses are presented in the season.

Hucul Stud farm in Odrzechowa is the second largest and second oldest stud farm of these horses in Poland. It was established in December 1986, when in the entire country there were only about 100 Hucul mares. Experimental Department of the Institute of Zootechnics – The State Research Institute Odrzechowa has a major contribution to the fact that in 25 years the population of these horses in the country has increased more than fourteen times. Ukrainian state of ownership is much more modest. The largest centre of Hucul horse breeding is a Scientific-Production Association "Plemkonecentr" in Solochyn. NVA "Plemkonecentr" owns a herd of 85 breeding Hucul horses. The cross-border project, supported financially by the European Union, initiates Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the field of breeding and raising Hucul horses, and at the same time allows the creation of a solid background of this cooperation in the form of organizational structures, training of personnel and the modernization of livestock facilities in both centres.

Both in Odrzechowa as well as in Solochyn, the conditions will be created for a stableless Hucul horse breeding in imitation of traditional breeding practiced in the mountains by Hucul mountaineers. Paths for horse training and testing their bravery will also be created. Stables, riding schools and administrative buildings will be modernized. In the Zakarpattia oblast an inventory of Hucul horses will be carried out under the project. It is likely that in the mountainous areas of Zakarpattia there are Hucul horses which are not in the records of breeding. The inventory will allow for the emergence of new animals which can be used as an "infusion of fresh blood".

"BY SAVING HUCUL HORSES, WE ARE SAVING WHAT IS BEST IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN POLES AND UKRAINIANS"

Tomasz Bartnicki, project coordinator

The implementation of investment in breeding material base is accompanied by work on developing a “Polish – Ukrainian Hucul Horse recovery strategy, in its natural environment.” It will be a joint action plan for the next years. Monitoring the implementation of strategy on both sides of the border will be performed by offices of the Polish-Ukrainian Centre for the Promotion of Hucul Horse Breeding in Odrzechowa and Solocyn. Exchange of knowledge and raising competences of breeders are performed by trainings organized in Poland and Ukraine with the participation of breeders, users and lovers of Hucul horses, which will be attended by a total of 385 people from both countries. One of the topics of training is the use of Hucul horses in hypotherapy. The aim of project partners is also to promote culture as a kind of "tourism product", which should become a factor in the socio-economic development of mountainous border areas. One of the ideas to attract tourists is initiated by the project partners Borderland Culture Festival under the slogan ‘Hucul Horse culture of the Eastern Carpathians’, organized in Solochyn and Rudawka Rymanowska.

www.huculy-polska-ukraina.eu

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 1 537 499.64

BUDGET: EUR 1 708 332.93
POLISH-UKRAINIAN EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE FORUM BY THE WAY OF LONG AND EFFECTIVE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

LEAD PARTNER: Ropczycko-Średziszowski District (Poland)
PARTNERS: Stryi District Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – October 2015

IPBU.03.01.00-18-770/11
Polish-Ukrainian Forum for Exchange of Experience, the offices of which were created in Ropczyce and Stryi, is intended to promote cross-border cooperation between communities of ropczycko-sędziszowski district and Stryi raion. All interested in establishing contacts with partners on the other side of the border and implementation of joint initiatives can use its services, that is local authorities, public services, educational institutions, cultural centres, NGOs, entrepreneurs. Equipment of Forum’s offices with computer equipment and staff trainings were financed by the project’s funds. In order to facilitate international contacts, Polish and Ukrainian language courses were organized for them. The work of PUFWD (Polish-Ukrainian Forum for Exchange of Experience) is directed by coordinators appointed by the Starost of the Ropczycko-Sędziszowski District and the Chairman of the Stryi Raion Council.

Specific tasks of the Forum, as defined in the Regulations, include conducting information and advisory activities, issuance of Polish-Ukrainian quarterly, publication of promotional and informational materials, organizing training courses, debates, discussions, seminars and conferences, trips and tours, cooperation with other organizations and institutions dealing with the Polish-Ukrainian issues, initiating and providing substantive support in the development of various projects in the field of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation, including those financed from aid programmes, support in the implementation of Polish-Ukrainian undertakings, such as sporting events, festivals, concerts, fairs, and exhibitions. For organizations and institutions, which will submit a declaration of participation in PUFWD, the services are provided free of charge.

As part of the project numerous activities to promote the idea of the Forum and to encourage participation in it were undertaken. Two meetings of representatives of local government and public services were organized. During the conference, among others, benefits of Polish membership in the EU structures were presented on the example of the ropczycko-sędziszowski district, and processes related to the acquisition of EU funds. Polish project partner also hosted participants of Polish-Ukrainian conference of NGOs. Whereas in the Ukrainian Morshyn a conference took place concerning, inter alia, legal aspects of the functioning of education in Poland and Ukraine, obtaining extra-budgetary funds for educational units, modern teaching techniques, as well as the impact of low border traffic on the development of border areas of Poland and Ukraine. A nice touch of the conference was performance of young artists from Poland and Ukraine. Within the project, the cultural exchange between partnership districts was organized on a large scale. During the Polish-Ukrainian Meetings with Theatre, the performances were presented, among others, by theatre groups from Ropczyce, Sędziszów Małopolski, theatre-ritual groups from Klęczany and Zagorzyce, as well as Theatre of Song “Dzherelste” from Ukraine. A day of folk culture was organized in Ropczyce with the participation of artists from the Stryi raion and the Polish-Ukrainian Meetings with culture, together with the presentation of handicrafts, arts and crafts, local and traditional products prepared by associations, farmers’ wives as well as local manufacturers.
DIDACTIC INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION OF POLAND-BELARUS COOPERATION IN AID OF THE HANDICAPPED

IPBU.03.01.00-20-068/10

LEAD PARTNER: Hajnówka District (Poland)
PARTNERS: Kamianets District Executive Committee (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2011 – December 2014
In two centres in Hajnówka and Kamianiets 100 places for school education of handicapped children and rooms fitted with equipment for rehabilitation and therapy have been created.

Cooperation of border area districts resulted in a joint project, which was supposed to be a remedy for similar problem of both partners. Both in Hajnówka district, and in Brest region there was a lack of centres with properly prepared educational and rehabilitation infrastructure, dealing with handicapped people, providing care and possibility of a 24-hour stay at the same time. On both sides of the border, there are groups of students who do not receive education in school environment, because school is too far from home, and the access is too hard for various reasons.

Due to that fact in the project on the first place there were activities which would create places for those students in special schools. In Hajnówka building of the former dormitory at the vocational school complex has been reconstructed for the needs of Special Education Centre for the mentally and physically disabled created thanks to it. Classrooms, including special room for children with autism, artistic and technical laboratory, experience of the world laboratory, rehabilitation room, household laboratory, speech therapy laboratory, revalidation room, and also library and school common room, medical room and social rooms and offices were fitted with necessary equipment. In the residential part of the dormitory conditions for a whole week stay of 20 students were created.

Children, who will study at centres will gain the opportunity for better development through systematic study and rehabilitation, but also through integration with colleagues. Within the framework of socialisation of wards from one side and strengthening of contacts between Polish and Belarusian centres from the other, trips for six-person groups of pupils as a part of interschool exchange were organised. Teachers and parents of handicapped children will also participate in the exchange.

Permanent effect of implementation of the project is also creation of internet portal, serving partner institutions as forum for exchanging experiences, opinions, observations in the field of work with mentally disabled children. Centre of correction and development learning and rehabilitation in Kamianiets did not have educational classes up to this point. Due to implementation of the project it has obtained such opportunity and uses guidelines and experience provided by the Polish side.

LET THE WORLD OF HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GAIN DIMENSIONS OF NORMALITY

Lucyna Wawreszuk, Director of Special School and Education Centre in Hajnówka

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DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION OF MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND IN THE SCOPE OF IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

IPBU.03.01.00-20-101/10

LEAD PARTNER: Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Specialist Health Maintenance Organisation in Białystok (Poland)

PARTNERS: Grodno Oblast Teaching Hospital (Belarus) Grodno Oblast Clinical Centre „Fitziatria” (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: February 2012 – December 2015
Specialized hospitals from Białystok and Hrodna joined forces in the fight against tuberculosis, collecting exceptionally large harvest in the border regions of Poland and Belarus. The main aim of the cooperation is to increase the capacity of institutions to detect, diagnose and treat this disease.

Tuberculosis is a common social problem in both border regions. It results from the relatively low economic development of these areas, which results in insufficient funds to protect the health of inhabitants. In 2007 the incidence rate of tuberculosis in the Podlaskie province amounted to 15.4 per 100 thousand inhabitants, and in 2008 already 17.0 cases (in absolute numbers respectively 184 and 203 cases). In Hrodna Oblast the situation is even more dangerous. There the incidence rate is as high as 49.2 per 100 thousand inhabitants, which is almost three times higher. On the Belarusian side the biggest problem is extremely high number of patients with the so-called drug-resistant tuberculosis (approx. 17% of the total). It is practically incurable, as evidenced by the high mortality rate (9.1 per 100 thousand inhabitants). Problems faced by the Republic of Belarus, thanks to ever-increasing cross-border traffic in a short time could also affect Poland.

Inhibition of epidemiological risk on the Polish-Belarusian border has become a matter of urgency. Necessary measures are presented in the partnership project.

In the first place laboratory facilities were renovated in cooperating institutions in order to create the right conditions to install new equipment and apparatus. Unification of standard in Białystok and Hrodna laboratories will allow the receiving of test results on the same level of accuracy. This is important because of the created common database of patients infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Hrodna Oblast Teaching Hospital received an apparatus for use in immunotherapy on the group of 100 people as a part of the project. This experiment was the subject of a scientific seminar, attended by doctors and laboratory technicians from Polish and Belarusian institutions, as well as the subject of a scientific publication.

“Ftziatria” instead was equipped with a system for the rapid determination of the DNA of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Laboratory technicians from Białystok shared with Belarusian partners their experience in working with such equipment.

Sharing knowledge and experience has been large-scale. During the project a series of conferences, seminars and working meetings were organized, which were also an opportunity to establish a friendly relationship between the employees of partner centers. It is a good base to continue cooperation after the completion of the project.

"AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE SICK AND THREATENED WITH TUBERCULOSIS IN THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND HAS INCREASED"

Marta Twarowska, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 761 520.94

BUDGET: EUR 846 134.38
DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE HEALTH SAFETY OF THE POPULATION OF THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND

IPBU.03.01.00-20-102/10

LEAD PARTNER: Autonomous Public Health Maintenance Organisation J. Śniadecki Voivodship Polyclinical Hospital in Białystok (Poland)

PARTNERS: Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2012 – April 2014
Equipment of Polish and Belarusian hospital with modern diagnostic equipment with the telemedicine function raised the standard of medical care in the areas covered by the project and expanded the field of cooperation between doctors from both centres. The ability to transfer test results electronically in order to consult specialists in other hospitals is now a global trend.

Outdated diagnostic equipment was a common problem in hospitals of Hrodna and Białystok. Frequent failures of X-ray machines and ultrasound resulted in downtime of medical personnel and the need to carry out examinations of patients in other laboratories, and in the case of a hospital in Białystok, often in other buildings. In addition to the inconveniences of such a situation for patients, costs of examinations were also significantly higher. In addition, X-ray examinations performed with old and exploited appliances were connected with harmful radiation.

Purchase of modern medical equipment now allows the performance of diagnostic tests in better image quality, which turn is associated with faster and accurate diagnosis. In addition, the equipment bought from the project’s budget, the operation of which is based on the latest technological and technical solutions, through the possibility of electronic data transmission, will contribute to the expansion of cooperation between hospitals in Hrodna and Białystok.

In the Provincial Hospital in Białystok all laboratories of Department of Diagnostic Imaging annually perform approx. 120 to 150 thousand exposures for approx. 50 thousand patients of classic radiology, approx. 20 thousand of ultrasounds and approx. 17 thousand computed tomographies.

Hrodna Regional Clinical Hospital annually performs approx. 135 thousand studies with ultrasound, 10 thousand computed tomographies, 9.3 thousand magnetic resonances and 1.7 million tests in the laboratory. Cooperation of hospitals in Białystok and Hrodna in the long run will bring benefits first to doctors involved in the implementation of the project, and then to all the inhabitants of the border region.

The project involved performance of prostate gland examination in the group of 300 men (150 in Poland and Ukraine) in the age of 40-50 years. Results of these tests and their analysis are the basis for the formation of scientific work. These results were presented at the conference closing the project and at thematic symposia in Poland and Belarus.

“WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROWTH OF AWARENESS OF TAKING CARE OF HEALTH AMONG MEN, BECAUSE EACH TEST INCLUDED ALSO PROFILACTICAL CONVERSATION WITH THE PATIENT IN ORDER TO HELP HIM REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT REGULAR EXAMINATION IS”

Marian Suchocki, a medical doctor
DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE HISTOPATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS OF BREAST CANCER AND COLORECTAL CANCER IN THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND

IPBU.03.01.00-20-103/10

LEAD PARTNER: M. Skłodowska-Curie Białystok Oncology Centre (Poland)
PARTNERS: Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2011 – March 2014
Cooperation between Białystok Oncology Centre and the Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital will help to improve the quality of diagnosis and treatment of cancer, particularly breast cancer and colorectal cancer. It is the first cross-border project implemented in this area.

Both medical centres maintained contacts since 1979. The political situation however, was not conducive to their formalization, and basing on the planned cooperation, even though they struggled with similar problems. These resulted primarily from inadequate equipment of hospitals with specialized medical equipment necessary to perform diagnostics of breast cancer and colorectal cancer in the early stages of the disease, with the growth of cancer cases listed both in Poland and in Belarus. The purchase of specialized equipment for both institutions enabled the financing of their joint project from the cross-border cooperation program funds. Modern equipment in the possession of Belarusian hospital will bring its standards closer to the possibilities of Białystok centre. This will allow, for example, performing on-site histopathological examinations which so far have been commissioned to a laboratory in Minsk. The new equipment has enabled the performance of two programs of patients’ examinations from Poland and Belarus within the scope of the project. It involved 200 Polish patients and 449 Belarusian. Formalization of cooperation between hospitals on the basis of implementation of a joint project created many opportunities for doctors to contact and exchange knowledge. Six meetings of a seminar and workshop character were organized (three on each side of the border) and two conferences. New skills acquired by the doctors will translate into quality, speed and accuracy in detecting cancer. Result of the research and meetings carried out within the project will be scientific publication prepared in two languages and strategic document for the hospital in Hrodna, describing the methodology and results of research concerning breast cancer and colorectal cancer.

After the completion of the project, partners continue their cooperation in the field of consultation of test results with the use of telepathology equipment for quick diagnosis in the most complicated cases, creation of a common information base concerning the results of immunohistochemical monitoring of precancerous processes, application of radiotherapy, adaptation of comprehensive treatment regimens of patients to the conditions existing in Poland and Belarus.

"MODERN EQUIPMENT PURCHASED FROM THE PROJECT FUNDS ALLOWS FOR QUICK DETECTION OF CANCER, AND DOCTORS HAVE BEEN WELL TRAINED FOR ITS HANDLING"

Joanna Samostoj, project coordinator

www.oncology.grodno.by
COMMUNICATION WITHOUT LIMITS – CREATING A CROSS-BORDER NETWORK OF TOURIST INFORMATION

IPBU.03.01.00-20-170/10

LEAD PARTNER: Suwałki Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism (Poland)

PARTNERS: State Association of Tourist and Sport in Grodno (Belarus), Department. Of Physical Culture, Sport and Tourism Grodno oblast (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2012 – December 2012
On the Polish-Belarusian borderland 13 modernly equipped tourist information centers have been created. Seven of them are located in the Hrodna region. Belarusian project partners benefit from the Polish experience in the organization and promotion of tourism. This is a big step towards closer co-operation and the use of common tourism potential for the economic development of border regions.

New IT points have been created in seven major tourist destinations of Hrodna region – in Hrodna, Nowogródek, Smorgonie, Lida, Stonim, Swisłocz and Sopoćkinie. Housing facilities were made available by the local authorities, and as a part of the project equipment in the form of computer and office equipment has been purchased. Service of the points is dealt with by employees trained as part of the project.

In the Suwałki region, a new innovative floating point has been created on the lake Wigry, which will receive several thousand kayakers a year, who start the kayaking trips from Wigry lake through Czarna Haricz and Agustow Channel.

In addition, five existing IT points (four in the Augustów, Suwałki and Sejny districts and one in Hrodna) were equipped with internet terminals in order to provide tourists with access to the Internet. This equipment is also necessary for the personnel of points in order to use the created tourist information network Poland-Belarus.

The project involved five direct target groups, which are the pillars of tourism on the area covered by the project. They are the IT workers, persons engaged in or intending to engage in rural tourism, active tourism organizers, staff offices and travel agencies employees, local government (local government representatives of the Suwałki region and representatives of District and Regional Executive Committee of Hrodna - Departments of Tourism, next to which a network of IT points will be created) and finally the local media.

For these groups of direct beneficiaries of the project a cycle of trainings, workshops, practical classes, combined with study visits has been organized, which were attended by nearly 150 people.

These activities have been performed in mixed Polish-Ukrainian groups. Thanks to that, its participants not only acquired knowledge and skills. They also had an opportunity to get to know each other, exchange experience and good practices, see touristic values of the partnership region and its touristic infrastructure.

– What was important for us was to see how at the Suwałki region the tourism, accommodation and catering base is developing, how events are organized, how sports facilities function – Walerij Klimowicz, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee Hrodna District assessed the benefits of cooperation with the Polish partner.

The project resulted in the signing of five cross-border cooperation network partnerships, within which the parties will jointly i.a. gather information policy relating to the tourism potential of the region, create promotional materials and bilateral projects. Unplanned results are two agreements on cross-border cooperation between cities Augustów and Slonim and between Suwałki Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism and Novgorod Tourist Bureau. In the near future you can expect more such initiatives.

Renata Zakrzewska, head of the Suwałki Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism, project coordinator

“We got to know regions and people. We learned from each other, how to develop tourism”
LEAD PARTNER: Suwałki Commune (Poland)
PARTNERS: Ašmiany District Executive Committee (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – October 2015
In November 2014 in the village of Przebrodzie sporting competitions of teams from schools of Suwałki commune and Ašmiany District took place. Younger children competed in the disciplines of fitness, and older played football. After the sporting struggles of Belarusian youth, a tour around the Suwalszczyzna region was organized, and then all the players were playing in the aqua park and disco.

This wonderful event, integrating children and young people from the Polish-Belarusian borderland, honoured the commissioning of the sports and entertainment hall, built next to the School Complex in Przebrodzie from the funds of cross-border project. Its primary purpose is to prevent youth obesity by promoting a healthy lifestyle and physical activity. Similar events were planned by the partner from Belarus on the city stadium in Ašmiany, which is modernized. Nearly 2 thousand children and young people up to the age of eighteen live in the Suwałki commune. According to data of the Department of Health Care Institution of Centre of School Medicine and Health Promotion SANTAS that carries out preventive care over educational institutions in the commune, the number of children at risk of obesity is constantly growing. In the years 2005-2011 it has increased five-fold. In the Ašmiany District, situated in the north-western part of Hrodna oblast, lives 7.6 thousand children and young people under the age of eighteen, and in the Ašmiany city 3.7 thousand. Since the early 90s in Belarus deterioration of medical and demographic situation due to the shorter average life expectancy, deterioration of development and physical preparation are recorded. There is also the problem of lack of physical activity among children and young people, which adversely affects health of the population and increases the risk of overweight and obesity among the younger generation. Inhabitants of the region have repeatedly expressed their wishes and undertook the issue of lack of sports infrastructure.

These disturbing phenomena have led local governments of Polish and Belarusian region to cooperate. Implementation of joint plans was made possible thanks to the funding of the project by the European Union. Sporting facilities will be a basis to organize sports and cultural events with the participation of Polish and Belarusian students even after closure of the project in the context of cross-border programme ‘Live a healthy and active life’. The programme will contribute to more frequent contacts of children and young people and to strengthening cooperation of local governments. Building on the experience acquired during the project, the partners will cooperate in other areas of social and economic life. These actions will increase the impact of the project through realization of the need for mutual cooperation for the integration of European society and will become an example for others.
DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE BIELSKI DISTRICT AND LUBOML RAYON THROUGH PROGRAMS OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION IN THE FIELD OF ONCOLOGICAL DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS

IPBU.03.01.00-20-423/11

LEAD PARTNER: Independent Public Health Care Institution in Bielsk Podlaski (Poland)

PARTNERS: Territorial Medical Association Region of Luboml and Szack – Luboml Hospital District (Ukraine)

During the implementation of the project partner institutions examined prophylactically seven thousand patients each for cancer and tuberculosis. The research was conducted on modern apparatus purchased thanks to the financial support of the EU cross-border fund.

A digital X-ray and ultrasound were installed in the hospital in Bielsk Podlaski. Furthermore, computerization of the Department of Diagnostic Imaging has been performed. While the hospital in Luboml received kits for arthroscopy, laparoscopy and endoscopy, blood gas and electrolytes analyzer, hematology analyzer, operating tables, mammography system, bedside and mobile X-ray apparatus, equipment and laboratory equipment, ultrasound and two ambulances with medical equipment. Increase in the quality and availability of medical services in the area of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland means the increased detection of oncological and tuberculosis diseases through early prevention and health education of the inhabitants of Bielsk district and Luboml Rayon. Both of these diseases are still collecting tragic toll in the Podlaskie province and Volyn oblast. One of the reasons for this state of affairs is the low public awareness of oncological and tuberculosis diseases. People are afraid of the word cancer, which is why many of them postpone their visit at the doctor, though statistics show that the cancer which is detected early can be treated better and cheaper. In connection with the noticing of this problem, partners decided to join forces and undertake a joint education of society, with the aim of informing about the benefits of early detection of diseases and encouraging the use of preventive examinations programs. Promotional and informational campaign carried out on both sides of the border promotes lifestyle which reduces the risk of tuberculosis and cancer diseases. Doctors in clinics and hospitals distribute leaflets, calendars, and USB memory with information on prevention to their patients, and to women tags to hang in the shower imaging breast examination method.

Trainings for family doctors, occupational health, hospital emergency department, physicians providing benefits under the night medical attention from Poland and Ukraine were conducted. A team of doctors from both sides developed a model of questionnaire, which will be filled by a doctor examining the patient and the patient himself. It will be used to prepare analyses and conclusions from the conducted preventive examinations. Doctors exchange their existing experience and develop a system for directing people with suspected cancer and tuberculosis to prevention research program.

Developed cooperation mechanisms and systems will be used for the implementation of further projects. Equipment bought as a part of the project strongly influenced the improvement of the quality and accessibility of health services in the Bielsk district and Luboml rayon also after the completion of the project implementation.
CREATING CROSS-BORDER VOLUNTEER CENTER “FIREMAN” TO IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY

LEAD PARTNER: Podlaskie Association of Physical Culture and Sports “Strażak” in Białystok (Poland)
PARTNERS: Regional headquarters of State Fire and Rescue Service in Białystok (Poland), Brest Regional Emergency Board of the Republic of Belarus
PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – June 2014

IPBU.03.01.00-20-440/11
Cross-border Volunteer Work Centre “Fireman” is an international institution that supports cooperation of organizations dealing with fire safety in Poland and Belarus, in particular in the areas of Podlaskie province and Brest oblast, acting for the development of volunteering and providing access to qualified personnel and equipment necessary for the organization of international fire-fighting competitions. It has offices in Białystok and Brest.

Voluntary Fire Brigades and Youth Fire Brigades Teams in Poland and in Belarus the Belarusian Organization of Volunteer Firemen and the Belarusian Social Organization of Fire-fighting Youth organize numerous trainings and fire-fighting competitions, also with an international dimension. Their common problem was the lack of qualified volunteers - organizers and judges of international events, as well as specialized equipment for organizing outdoor fire-fighting events. There was also no institution that would rent such equipment. In addition, the structure of the volunteer fire-fighters in Belarus is at the stage of formation. So there is need to recruit and train volunteers.

The idea of creating Cross-border Volunteer Work Centre “Fireman” was designed to overcome these barriers. Professional equipment for trainings and performing fire-fighting competitions organized in the two countries was bought as a part of the project. Another important activity was the organization of four trainings, which were attended by 160 people. These were two trainings for organizers of fire-fighting competitions in Poland and Belarus, and two for judges. Effects of the implementation of the project are already visible. In 2014 judges trained in the project participated in the provincial fire-fighting competitions. During the training rally for the fire-fighting youth “Together for safety” in August 2014, teaching staff consisted of volunteers from the Centre (certified judges and organizers). Centre also arranged the competitions ‘Active pensioner’ in September 2014. Participation in the project resulted in the signing of an agreement in August 2013 on cross-border cooperation between the Regional headquarters of the State Fire and Rescue Service in Białystok and Brest Regional Emergency Board of the Republic of Belarus.

The Centre’s activities will contribute to the systematic development of cross-border cooperation, competition, exchange of experiences, strengthening of fire-fighting structures of partners, spreading the idea of volunteering. Implementation of the project in the last months of its term inspired participants to new activities beyond its scope. The involvement of individuals, established institutional cooperation allows us to say that it is a good start for further cooperation.
DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSBORDER COOPERATION IN THE SCOPE OF PROPHYLAXIS, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES TRANSMITTED BY TICKS IN THE REGIONS OF THEIR ENDEMIC OCCURRENCE IN THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND

LEAD PARTNER: The Independent Public Health Care Unit in Hajnówka (Poland)
PARTNERS: The District Clinical Hospital of Infectious Diseases in Grodno (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: June 2013 – October 2015

IPBU.03.01.00-20-546/11
Ticks have become a scourge of our times. Diseases transmitted by them are dangerous to human life. Huge forest complex, which is the Białowiesza Forest, is the reason why in the Hajnowski district and Hrodna oblast the incidence of tick-borne diseases is particularly high. Joint project, implemented by the Polish and Belarusian hospital, will significantly strengthen their capacity for rapid diagnosis and more effective treatment of tick-borne encephalitis and borreliosis.

Independent Public Health Care Unit in Hajnówka is one of the largest district hospitals in the Podlaskie province. It hospitalizes due to all infectious and parasitic diseases and diseases of the central nervous system with special emphasis on neuroinfection, Lyme borreliosis and other tick-borne diseases. Clinical Hospital of Infectious Diseases in Hrodna, providing expert assistance in the field of infectious diseases, with its range covers the entire oblast.

Laboratories in both facilities will be equipped with specialized equipment to detect diseases transmitted by ticks from the project’s budget. In addition in Hajnówka was created an intensive care room at the Observation and Infectious Diseases Department.

Thanks to the purchased medical equipment, waiting time for a diagnostic test result in the centre in Hajnówka was reduced from 30 to 13 days, while in the Hrodna hospital waiting time for the results of diagnostic tests was reduced by as much as 97 percent in comparison to 2010. Investment in the modernization of technical base of hospitals will also allow establishing permanent cooperation between doctors within the scope of current consultation on treatment procedures, and undertaking further joint projects for the improvement of medical care in the Polish-Belarusian borderland.

The project beneficiaries are inhabitants of the Hajnowski district and Hrodna oblast and tourists who, if necessary, will be able to take advantage of the quick and professional assistance of doctors - Anna Nowicka-Cietuszecka, MD, PhD

Another important result of the implementation of the project is raising the level of knowledge of Polish and Belarusian doctors from the border areas. The partners organized trainings for primary care physicians from the Hajnowski, Bielski, Siemiatycki districts and Hrodna oblast in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases transmitted by ticks, so that they can immediately diagnose and send the patient to the appropriate examinations and treatment. Doctors from the partner hospitals by the end of 2014 met at two scientific conferences, organized in Białowieża and six trainings in hospitals in Hrodna and Hajnówka. Basic information about tick-borne diseases and a guide on how to protect yourself every day against infection, are publicly available on the web portal Kleszczoweabc.com, edited by the leader of the project. Not only the inhabitants of areas covered by the activity will benefit from them, but also tourists.
DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN MEDICAL FACILITIES FROM THE POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDERLAND IN TREATMENT OF ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

IPBU.03.01.00-20-564/11

LEAD PARTNER: Stanislaw Deresz’s Independent Psychiatric Healthcare Centre in Choroszcz (Poland)

PARTNERS: International Public Charity Association "UNIHELP" in Minsk (Belarus), Brest Oblast Psychoneurological Health Centre (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – October 2015
The aim of the project is to improve the quality and accessibility of acute mental disorders treatment in Poland and Belarus by equipping the partner hospitals with modern medical equipment and exchange knowledge between doctors and therapists.

Investment activities under the project include the modernization of building for the needs of the Department of Acute Treatment of Mental Disorders in Choroszcz, which involves reconstruction of the existing premises and expansion of the building with an additional area of approximately 900 square meters. The newly created department will be equipped with specialized equipment and therapeutic kits. The centre in Brest already has departments for the treatment of acute mental disorders, however the conditions of stay of patients and the availability of specialized medical equipment are kept to a minimum. Outdated equipment of the department makes it difficult for doctors to establish international cooperation. Therefore, in Brest hospital a renovation will also take place, and then equipment of rooms for patients will be purchased and new medical equipment will be installed. Implementation of these measures will enable the project partners to get closer to the standards in force in other European countries.

In addition to investment activities, activities aimed at strengthening cooperation between the project partners are performed at the same time. These include both study visits, seminars, conferences, internships as well as common editing of the Jednamedycyna.eu portal and social campaigns against stigmatization of the mentally ill people.

In 2014, there were two study visits in Choroszcz and in Brest. They were attended by medical staff and administrative staff of partner institutions. The meetings were primarily focused on getting to know each other and exchange information on working rules of individual hospitals in the context of care for patients with acute mental disorders. Exchange of experience will help to determine specific objectives of further cooperation.

The three-day seminar organized in Baranovichi in Belarus was directed to a wide range of professionals involved in psychiatric care in Poland and Belarus. Lectures on methods of treating acute psychiatric disorders were complemented by presentations of the most modern equipment and medicines.

The project is supported by an educational social campaign aimed at combating stigmatization of patients with acute psychiatric disorders. The campaign is conducted in various forms in the media: the publication on the project’s portal and advertising on television. In this way, its impact goes far beyond the area covered by the project.

A LASTING EFFECT OF THE PROJECT IS THE STRENGTHENING OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TREATMENT OF ACUTE MENTAL DISORDERS

Tomasz Teodor Goździkiewicz, MD of Stanislaw Deresz’s Independent Psychiatric Healthcare Centre in Choroszcz
DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION OF MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF POLAND AND BELARUS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ONCOLOGY DIAGNOSIS AND ORGANIZATION OF HELP IN EMERGENCY CASES

IPBU.03.01.00-20-663/11

LEAD PARTNER: Dr Ludwik Rydygier Voivodeship Hospital in Suwałki (Poland)
PARTNERS: Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital (Belarus)
PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – December 2015
The project serves to develop cross-border cooperation of Belarus and Poland in terms of health, exchange of knowledge and improvement of quality of oncology diagnosis and the organization of emergency assistance. Activities include modernization of hospital infrastructure in Suwałki and equipment of both partner institutions with medical equipment and hardware necessary for telemedicine consultations.

In September 2014 the first stage of modernization and reconstruction of a floor at Voivodeship Hospital in Suwałki for the purposes of Clinical Oncology and Haematology Department and Chemotherapy room have been completed. Ultimately, the department will have a surface of 1,287 square meters. It will be equipped with medical equipment and devices for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer (including mammograph with a mammotome biopsy attachment, digital ultrasonograph, 24-channel haematologic adder, research microscope, cardiomonitor with a defibrillator, single laminar site for cytostatic agents, patient chair for for cytostatic administration).

Under the project hospital in Hrodna will be equipped with medical equipment and devices to save human lives in cases of emergencies (including colonbronchoendoscope, ambulance with equipment, endoscope system with zooming for endomicroscopy, defibrillator, critical blood parameter assessment analyser, telemedical consultation station, hi-tech anaesthetic machine with gas and hemodynamic monitoring feature, X-ray machine). Moreover, hardware that allows consulting the results of research by doctors on both sides of the border via telemedicine will be installed in both hospitals. In 2014 doctors from partner hospitals met three times at seminars in Hrodna and in Suwałki. The topic of seminars related to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and the organization and functioning of the hospital emergency department and modern techniques to provide assistance in an emergency.

Implementation of the project will contribute to a significant increase in the availability of treatment for inhabitants of Podlasie and Hrodna regions. Direct contacts of doctors established during the seminars and experience in the implementation of a joint undertaking are the basis for further cross-border co-operation.
MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS CO-OPERATION IN BELARUS AND POLAND TO IMPROVE THE ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICE AND ITS QUALITY WITHIN EMERGENCY SERVICE AS WELL AS STROKE INCIDENTS DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENT

IPBU.03.01.00-20-719/11

LEAD PARTNER: Autonomous Public Health Maintenance Organisation J. Śniadecki Voivodship Polyclinical Hospital in Białystok (Poland)

PARTNERS: Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: November 2013 – December 2015
The purchase of specialized medical equipment for hospitals in Białystok and Hrodna reduces technical disparities between the two institutions and creates the basis for long-term cross-border cooperation in the implementation of modern methods of diagnosis and treatment of stroke diseases, neurological diseases and intensive care.

As a result of equipment of the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care in the Provincial Polyclinical Hospital in Białystok and Stroke Unit with modern equipment, over a thousand patients will be examined per year. Hospital in Hrodna will receive magnetic resonance equipment, which annually will be used by more than 300 patients. Partners estimate that every year the degree of the equipment’s usage will increase.

Next step in the project are seminars and training meetings, during which medical staff of hospitals will be acquainted with the operation of purchased equipment, and procedures of treatment used on the other side of the border. The result of seminars will be the development and publishing of a strategic document. The publication will be transferred to the largest Belarusian hospitals, libraries and medical universities in Belarus. It will be a valuable contribution to the development of the Belarusian science, especially in the area supported by the project.

Implementation of efficient and effective methods of diagnosis and treatment will improve health status of the population of Polish-Belarusian borderland. This in turn will generate social and economic benefits resulting from the shortening of the treatment period, reduction in the degree of disability among patients and reduction of mortality.

Cooperation of medical and administrative staff of hospitals in the implementation of the project will contribute to strengthening of the existing and creating new contacts that will result in joint research and training and will influence the development of knowledge and skills of medical personnel.

THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WILL IMPROVE THE PRECISION AND SPEED OF THE DIAGNOSING AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE BORDERLANDS

Urszula Kaplińska, project coordinator

www.sniadecja.pl
PLANET OF IDEAS – CROSS-BORDER TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE AREA OF ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER TOURISM

IPBU.03.01.00-58-602/11

LEAD PARTNER: Grodno District Unit of Social Organization „Tourism-Sport National Association” (Belarus)

PARTNERS: Innovation and Development Promotion Centre in Białystok (Poland), Volyn Regional Entrepreneurship Support Fund (Ukraine), Department of Physical Education Sport and Tourism Grodno Oblast (Belarus)

PROJECT DURATION: August 2013 – April 2015
Authors of the project focused on the development of cooperation possibilities in tourism between entities from three regions: Hrodna Oblast, Podlaskie Voivodeship and Volyn Oblast. As starting point they adopted adequate preparation and training of personnel of non-governmental organizations, local authorities and tourist information centers, so that in the future they will be able to obtain external funding and effectively implement cross-border projects. A total of 90 people (30 from each country) have benefited from various trainings within concept development, proper preparation, execution and settlement of projects, as well as their promotion and evaluation. Available sources of financing and legal conditions were also discussed at meetings. In addition to training courses, study visits also took place, which familiarized participants with tourist attractions of each of the involved regions and in accordance with the title of the project, proved to be a mine of ideas for joint projects, such as organizing a music festival in Shchuchyn in Belarus, devoted to the memory of Czesław Niemen. Participants from Belarus and Ukraine could get to know the Polish experience in the implementation of touristic projects on the example of cities of Białystok, Supraśl, Mońki, Augustów, as well as on the example of the Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal’s Office, Podlasie Regional Tourist Organization, Suwałki Chamber of Agriculture and Tourism, Aqua Park in Suwałki and Museum of the Wigry National Park.

An important contribution of the project will be the issuance of a guide in three languages: “Cross-border tourism: idea, design, implementation”, development of a map with tourist attractions of Podlasie, Hrodna and Volyn regions and creation of a base of institutions from the three countries interested in cooperation. First effects are already visible – an agreement on cooperation between the cities Choroszczyzna and Ukrainian Horokhiv has been signed.

"WE HAVE OVERCOME CONCERNS, ENABLED JOINT TOURISM PRODUCT TESTING TO THE DECISION MAKERS, ASSOCIATED POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND INFECTED YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE IDEA OF CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS"

Danuta Polubenskaya, project coordinator

www.i-planeta.eu
CREATION OF UNIQUE INFORMATIONAL BASE OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES OF TRANSBORDER UNION EUROREGION „BUG”

IPBU.03.01.00-60-741/11

LEAD PARTNER: Brest Regional Agroindustrial Union (Belarus)

PARTNERS: Association of the Self-governments of the Euroregion “Bug” (Poland), Communal enterprise of Volyn regional council “Agency of development of Euroregion “Bug” (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: October 2013 – October 2015
Farmers from the area of the Euroregion Bug, looking for business partners from neighbouring countries can now use the database of agricultural enterprises, published on the Internet at farmerbug.by, in the printed guide or recorded on CDs. The creation of a register of Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian agricultural enterprises interested in cross-border cooperation is the main result of the project, initiated by Brest Regional Agroindustrial Union.

Euroregion Bug, which has existed since 1995, is the largest cross-border association. It includes Lublin province in Poland, Brest oblast in Belarus, Volyn oblast and Sokal and Zhovkva Raions in the Lviv oblast in Ukraine. It covers an area of 64 thousand sq km. More than half of the area of the Euroregion are agricultural areas. Nearly 900 agricultural enterprises are located there. The project aims to create a sustainable platform for the exchange of information between agricultural producers in the three neighbouring countries and intensification of business contacts between them. Supplemented on a regular basis after the completion of the project base of information about agricultural enterprises is the first such comprehensive collection available in three languages – Polish, Russian and Ukrainian.

Works on the creation of a database were preceded by a meeting of Polish, Ukrainian and Belarusian experts at the “round table”, who developed methods of work and appointed the task. The results of their work “in the field”, published in the guide, are three thousand addresses of agricultural enterprises, of which 1,500 were placed on the CD. Both of these mediums were sold during the three conferences that were held in each partner country. After completion of the project, the dissemination of publications is performed by local government units in the Euroregion and industry organizations.

Project implementation will contribute to establishment of numerous contacts between Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian agricultural landowners will make the business development easier for entrepreneurs from cross-border region. Project activities were directed at farms of the Euroregion “Bug”, but in the longer term, its results can become a basis to expand the base and attach to it information on agricultural enterprises in entire Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.

CREATION OF A UNIFORM INFORMATIONAL DATABASE OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES OF THE EUROREGION BUG WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE INTENSIFICATION OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

Natalia Evladova, project coordinator
LEAD PARTNER: Board of Education of Brest Oblast Executive Committee (Belarus)
PARTNERS: Volyn Oblast Center of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth (Ukraine), Drelów Commune (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: September 2013 – October 2015

THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORK WITH TEENAGERS OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR

IPBU.03.01.00-60-753/11
The problems of adolescence are similar, regardless of latitude. Young people, standing on the verge of a carefree childhood and serious adult world, are experiencing rapid changes in mental and social development. This is accompanied by intense physical and biological changes. Youth passes through a period of heightened emotionality, unusual emotional intensity of experience. High tension and instability can mean negative emotional states, e.g. anger, aggression, withdrawal, which bring parents and educators a lot of problems, including such serious as drug use and coming into conflict with the law. Working with young people is not easy, but the project has created a platform for cooperation between educators and psychologists from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine who defined best practices and developed new techniques for young people. There were numerous activities for teaching staff within the scope of vocational training and workshops for parents. Three Centers for Social Adaptation “Find yourself” have been created for the youth itself. More than 900 teenagers have already benefited from consultations and corrective activities. Some people went on a 5-day camp. Teachers engage young people in solving problems by playing scenes on a theater forum during interactive classes.

Project partners decided to combine their knowledge and experience to support young people from the Euroregion Bug, not only in social adaptation, but also in self-realization. Teachers introduce new, innovative teaching methods so that students could get to know their potential and are able to fully utilize it. Interesting competitions involving young people took place within the project, e.g. International Theatre Competition “Tadeusz Kosciuszko, the International Hero”, International Presentation Competition “Nice to meet you”, or International Photo Competition “The Realm of Nature”.

JOINT COOPERATION SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCES PROFESSIONAL CONSOLIDATION OF SPECIALISTS. THIS HELPS TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS OF EUROREGION „BUG” IN MORE DETAILS AND DEVELOP A MECHANISM FOR MAKING EFFICIENT JOINT SOLUTIONS

Natalya Yanchuk, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 271 826.10

BUDGET: EUR 302 029.00
LEAD PARTNER: Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus

PARTNERS: Biała Podlaska County Office (Poland), Podlaskie Association of Physical Culture and Sports “Strażak” in Białystok (Poland), Volyn Regional Organization of Volunteer Fire Society in Ukraine in Lutsk, Territorial Administration of Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine in the Volyn region in Lutsk (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2013 – March 2015
In the summer of 2013 by the Serwy lake in the Augustów District there was a meeting of fifty young volunteers from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. Youth participated in contests and quizzes testing the knowledge on how to behave in life and health threatening situations and how to provide medical first aid. Volunteers, together with experienced lifeguards, organized an information campaign for the locals and for the tourists on the principles of safety and first aid demonstrations.

International open air was one of the first actions foreseen in the project, the main aim of which was to promote safe behaviour and raising awareness about appropriate proceedings in emergency situations. The project was aimed at children, youth and teachers from the border regions of Belarus, Ukraine and Poland.

Fire fighters from border regions for a long time have been working together in the promotion of safe behaviour among inhabitants. Their joint experience in this field resulted in the idea to conduct a comprehensive educational campaign among young people based on modern interactive methods and with the use of Internet. Among the many used forms of education, peer education method deserves special attention. Older children who have gained knowledge during workshops for volunteers, firemen demonstrations, outdoor games or training in first aid, conducted activities for younger children. Young volunteers also took part in promotional activities in public places, e.g. in supermarkets. A big attraction for younger children was art competition on security in everyday life. Their works have been published online and in the form of printed catalogues.

Project implementers used electronic media in many ways to reach a large number of recipients of the undertaking with an attractive message. They promoted the project and disseminate educational films on community portals. A forum on safe life was launched on the project’s website. Dozens of multimedia presentations, video and audio clips have been developed.

In May 2015 a Museum of the History of Fire fighting and Rescue of Brest Oblast has been opened, which will be an attraction for young people, because the exhibition is interactive. Within the project similar regional exhibitions devoted to the history of fire fighting were built in Lutsk and Białe Podlaskie.

During the conference, summarizing the project implementation, project partners signed the Declaration on the Establishment of the Association of Young Rescuers of Borderland. It is the basis for further cross-border cooperation to educate young people, promote safety rules and improve the skills of proper response in life threatening situations, as well as popularize volunteering.

“BY TEACHING CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THREE COUNTRIES WE CREATE A SYNERGY EFFECT, GIVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND PRACTICE, DEVELOPING A UNIFIED SAFE BEHAVIOR EDUCATION STRATEGY SINCE CHILDHOOD”

Nikolay Kuznitskiy, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION EUR 399 865.14

BUDGET: EUR 444 294.60
SOS – SAFE COEXISTENCE OF PEOPLE AND HOMELESS ANIMALS IN POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER TERRITORIES:
LVIV, LUBLIN, LUTSK, IVANO-FRANKIVSK

IPBU.03.01.00-76-230/10

LEAD PARTNER: Lviv City Council (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: The Municipality of Lublin City (Poland), Executive Committee of the Lutsk City Council (Ukraine), Executive Committee of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council (Ukraine), Department of Housing and Infrastructure of the Lviv City Council (Ukraine)

PROJECT DURATION: September 2012 – December 2015
Creation of a veterinary sterilization centers, training of doctors and raising awareness of municipal services and inhabitants of cities on how to deal with pets are the main tasks that the administrations of four cities of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland have set themselves in a joint project.

The reason for joint action is the alarmingly high number of homeless animals, suffering from hunger and diseases that threaten the security of the inhabitants of the cities. The situation is particularly hard on the Ukrainian side of the border. It is estimated that in the area including Lviv, Lutsk, and Ivano-Frankivsk there is over 27 thousand unaccompanied pets. In 2009, in Lviv 12 thousand pets have been counted, in Lutsk 5 thousand, in Ivano-Frankivsk 10 thousand.

So far, the methods used to solve this problem were as inhumane as ineffective. They relied on a largely scale on killing the dogs and cats which were caught, and not on building shelters and preventing the breeding of animals.

The project proposes an action based on the European experience and practices in the field of regulation of homeless animals population in the cities. In the first year of the project implementation, creation of a modern sterilization center in Lviv equipped with means and medical instruments has started, on the background of the municipal animal care company, "Lew", which has went through a thorough modernization. Similar centers will be created in Lutsk and Ivano-Frankivsk. Design and cost estimate documentation of these investments has already been prepared. At the same time the action of registration of homeless animals based on installed in all three Ukrainian cities electronic system has been started.

Partners to the project attach great importance to the promotion of knowledge about humanitarian and effective methods to prevent homelessness of animals and taking care for them. Three conferences were organized for this purpose - in Lviv, Lutsk, and Ivano-Frankivsk with the participation of experts and representatives of local authorities in Lublin. Among others, legal basis for the protection of animals, as well as the legal framework for animal shelters EU countries has been discussed. Polish participants presented their care program implemented in Lublin, thanks to which the number of homeless animals is much smaller than in the Ukrainian cities.

The result of these meetings is the publication of the "European Measures for Regulating Numbers, Protection and Safety of Homeless Animals".

The reason for the high pet homelessness is not just a lack of systemic mechanisms of prevention, sterilization funds and the creation of shelters. It is also a result of irresponsible or arising out of ignorance actions of inhabitants. The project partners have planned in connection with that a public awareness campaign concerning, among others, care of pets and benefits of sterilization. The campaign will be developed based on the results of sociological research on the attitudes and behavior of people towards pets.

Unplanned result of the project is taking up by the Lviv City Council steps in order to build the first urban hostel. The plot has already been appointed and construction documentation has been developed. Stewards of Ivano-Frankivsk followed the example of Lviv. There, a shelter with European standard will also rise. Equipment of shelters, including one in Lublin, will be purchased from the funds of the project.

"The project has mobilised the authorities of cities, vets and social organisations to tighten up the cooperation."

Ulyana Budenkevych, former project coordinator
DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE
PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

IPBU.03.01.00-76-257/10

LEAD PARTNER: Charity organization Educational Initiatives Centre (Ukraine),
PARTNERS: Public-educational society for the Disadvantaged and Disabled “Edukator” in Łomża (Poland), Charity Foundation “Centre of Civic Initiatives” in Perechyn (Ukraine), Agency for Development of Radekhiv Region (Ukraine), West Ukrainian Regional Non-profit Public organization “Volyn Resource Centre” in Rivne (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: November 2012 – July 2015
Preschool education is an extremely important stage in the development of a child, but in rural areas the conditions for this development are often not suitable. The problem concerns lack of teachers’ skills to work with groups of preschoolers at various ages. This is supplemented with a low awareness of local communities regarding the importance of education. In the society there is a stereotype that children from rural areas have worse predispositions to learn and that their educational needs are lower compared with children from the city. Meanwhile the situation may be quite on the contrary – they are all more curious and very observant. The association “Center for Educational Initiatives” also draws attention to the problem of lack of experience of Ukrainian employees of public administration in organizing alternative forms of pre-school education.

Taking into account these needs, the project took care of 1,000 children from Ukraine, 88 teachers (including 48 from Ukraine) and representatives of regional authorities of Ukraine. The starting point of the project’s authors was to investigate the best Polish practices related to pre-school education and develop solutions for rural communities in Ukraine. There were numerous training courses for teaching staff, both Polish and Ukrainian. An educational video and guide for teachers were created. Project partners, with the help of local authorities, developed preschool education development program for the 8 regions of Ukraine. The most important, final effect is opening and equipment of 48 so-called “small” kindergartens in 48 Ukrainian villages. Teachers got to know new interactive methods of working with young children. The effect of educational campaign is also a greater awareness of parents regarding the educational needs of their children. An important result is also establishment of partnerships between 48 Ukrainian rural communities and 24 rural communities from Poland.

"SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN UKRAINE IS IN THE SEARCH OF INNOVATIVE METHODS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF LOW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF CHILDREN FROM RURAL AREAS IN UKRAINE"

Olena Shynarovska, project coordinator

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 277 376.76

BUDGET: EUR 316 871.00
LEAD PARTNER: Executive Committee of Lutsk City Council (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Public organization “Local Development Fund” in Lutsk (Ukraine), Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council (Ukraine), Lublin Commune (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: March 2013 – November 2015

IPBU.03.01.00-78-774/11

IMPROVEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DELIVERED TO THE POPULATION OF CROSS-BORDER REGIONS THROUGH A NETWORK OF CENTERS PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN LUTSK CENTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, IVANO-FRANKIVSK CENTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CITIZENS OF LUBLIN SERVICE BUREAU
In September 2014 the first Foreigner Service Point was opened in Lublin where the information is available not only in English but also in Ukrainian. The inauguration of the Point was attended by delegations of municipal offices of Lutsk and Ivano-Frankivsk. The facility is in fact a joint initiative of the three cities, implemented within the project of cross-border cooperation.

For Ukrainian guests visit in Lublin was also an opportunity to closely look at the functioning of Lublin Citizens Service Offices (BOM). There are eight of them in the city. Experiences and achievements of Lublin officials are valuable guidelines for employees of the Center for administrative services (CSUA) in Ivano-Frankivsk and Lutsk on how to streamline procedures and improve the quality of services to citizens, as well as at the creation of a foreigner’s service points. Ukrainian partners of the project are interested in, among others, electronic queue system and a survey of citizen satisfaction levels. Good ideas cross the border in both directions. During the study visit at CSUA in Ivano-Frankivsk officials from Lublin have seen there the decorated playroom for children and... they thought about mothers who run errands in Lublin offices. Today, a place for children to play is at the biggest BOM at Wieniawska street.

OVERCOMING ADMINISTRATIVE AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS CREATES AN EXCELLENT BASIS FOR DEVELOPING FURTHER INITIATIVES IN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Petro Verzun, project coordinator

Actions set out in the project lead from establishing personal contact by the staff of municipal offices and exchange good practices to creating a network of modern administrative service centers in the cities of the inhabitants of border regions, applying unified procedures, constantly improving qualifications of employees, implementing innovative solutions and technologies, connected with electronic document flow system.

One of the tasks that will facilitate the achievement of these objectives is drawing up universal schemes for creation and operation of CSUA and BOM, and distribution of these documents among relevant local authorities of other cities of Ukrainian and Polish border region. In addition, Polish-Ukrainian team of experts has made a comparative analysis of documents and legal acts used in CSUA and BOM, and the results have been published in the brochure “Analysis of normative, regulatory and executive documents of self-governments” and transferred to communes on both sides of the border.

Within the project employees of citizens service offices raised their qualifications. Trainings were attended by 45 people, including 30 from Lutsk and Ivano-Frankivsk. Trainings covered interpersonal communication, modern technology and legal issues. With the project budget computer equipment and office equipment will be purchased to create new jobs in Lutsk and Ivano-Frankivsk and organize Call Center in Lublin BOM.

The project inspires local governments to strengthen the cooperation of border regions in a common purpose – meeting the needs of local communities, levelling administrative and linguistic barriers. This will lead to the future integration of societies, development of entrepreneurships and cultural exchange over the border.
INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN VYNOHRADIV DISTRICT AND SANOK PROVINCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE PROVISION

IPBU.03.01.00-80-356/11

LEAD PARTNER: Local Development Agency Vinogradivchyni (Ukraine)
PARTNERS: St. Albert Help Society, Sanok Regional Unit (Poland), Vynohradiv District Council (Ukraine)
PROJECT DURATION: December 2012 – December 2015
The project is aimed at increasing the availability of palliative care in the Vynohradiv region in Ukraine and the Sanok province in Poland. The aim of palliative medicine is to improve the quality of life of terminally ill people. It aims at preventing pain and other somatic symptoms and their alleviation. It is also very important to relieve mental, spiritual and social sufferings, not only for patients but also their families. In Ukraine, there are few hospices and care system for terminally ill patients is only emerging. Number of beds in institutions is more than seven times lower than the number of people in need. In this context, the most important result of the project will be the creation of a regional palliative care center for 25 beds with complete equipment in the Vynohradiv raion. The resort is modelled on hospice run by St. Albert Help Society in Sanok. Ukrainian partners learned how to organize and conduct this type of facility, and how to equip it and how to prepare staff to work with seriously ill people. A group of nurses from Ukraine who got to know functioning of the hospice according to European standards visited Sanok. Completion of construction and equipment of the Ukrainian resort will take place at the end of 2015.

Patients from Sanok already benefited thanks to funds from the project. Sound system has been installed so that lying people can listen to church services and radio broadcasts, or soothe while listening to the hum of the forest or the sea as part of music therapy. The facility in Sanok also acquired electrically operated beds, low-threshold shower trays, new anti-bedsore mattresses and rehabilitative devices for magnetotherapy and phototherapy. In addition, green areas around the resort have been designed, new fence was created, monitoring system has been installed inside and outside the building. Polish-Ukrainian team of experts has been working on a common system of palliative care using professional trainings and exchange of experience.

"ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR INSTITUTIONS TURNED OUT TO BE AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE, JUST AS IS THE RELIEVE OF PAIN TO A SUFFERING PERSON IN THE LAST MOMENTS OF HIS LIFE"

Władimir Szewczuk, Director of Local Development Agency Vinogradivchy

EU CONTRIBUTION

EUR 978 686.09

BUDGET: EUR 1 087 428.99
COOPERATION BETWEEN RIVNE AND LUBLIN MUNICIPALITIES AS AN ELEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER REGION

IPBU.03.01.00-88-788/11

LEAD PARTNER: Executive Committee of Rivne City Council (Ukraine)
PARTNERS: Municipality of Lublin (Poland)
PROJECT DURATION: April 2013 – September 2015
Rivne and Lublin are divided by a distance of 300 kilometres and by years of no institutional cooperation. Cooperation of the municipalities of the cities started only in 2009 but it was non-systematic and no joint event was even planned. Both municipalities would like now to bring closer the cities and increase the level of cooperation in the long term in the area of culture, education, development of youth, sports, investment, entrepreneurship, health care, welfare, infrastructure, and utilities. As the starting point the partners would like to develop their personnel into professional staff able to build cooperation capacity and to overcome communication difficulties. Respective Human Resources Departments’ duties were already expanded to implement the personnel development project. Internal surveys on personnel satisfaction are planned. Job analysis will lead to reorganization of work. Both Ukrainian and Polish municipalities’ servants could already participate in language courses. In Rivne they started to learn Polish and the Lublin staff focused on Ukrainian and English. In addition, manager courses will be held in both cities.

The project is run by a joint task group under the name of Cooperation Board. Successively the partners get to know more and more about each other – the structures, procedures, and legal framework. They even consider to modify and adjust regulations to facilitate the institutional cooperation and increase effectiveness of daily operations. The partners used study visits to exchange experience and showcase how to address inhabitants’ problems of similar nature. The added value of the project is also better awareness of the Ukrainian partner how to take advantage of external financing including European funds. The cities participated in Eastern Europe Initiatives Congress to approach together challenges of the region. The project assumes that the Rivne authorities will activate the local society and the city will take part in numerous projects in the near future especially according to a plan of cooperation between Rivne and Lublin conceptualized thanks to the project.
LEAD PARTNER: Agency for Private Initiative Development (Ukraine)

PARTNERS: Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council (Ukraine), Municipality of Lublin (Poland)

PROJECT DURATION: April 2014 – June 2015

STUDENT WITH INITIATIVE: VECTOR OF ENERGY SAVING

IPBU.03.01.00-90-701/11
Energy efficiency and the search for alternative energy sources is a generational challenge, especially in the case of the Ukrainian economy. Today’s youth tomorrow will have to solve the problems associated with shrinkage of natural resources and excessive dependence of their countries on fossil fuels. Hence the idea for the project was created, to invest in future leaders today, who in the future may contribute to the development of energy-saving sector in Ivano-Frankivsk circuit and Lublin province.

The analytical part of the project includes a comparison of research programs at leading universities in the abovementioned regions, survey on expectations of students and lecturers in developing exchange programs and an analysis of the needs of companies in terms of training of future personnel for the energy saving sector. The information collected will be used to create an Internet portal www.energyouth.org, which will be a platform to establish cross-border cooperation and cross-border tool for the integration of academic environment with the institutions interested in the development of energy saving technologies. Future professionals will be able to present on the portal their ideas for innovative projects in the field of energy efficiency, conservation of natural resources or the use of alternative energy sources. The portal will also be the base of university education offers, a showcase of companies and institutions connected with this topic and the bulletin board of job opportunities in the sector of energy conservation.

As part of educational activities, project partners conducted the recruitment of 40 students (20 from Ukraine and 20 from Poland) to participate in management school, raise funds and leadership with the use of RADAR method. Classes and study visits took place in August 2014 in the Lublin region. Students have been working on 10 innovative projects, and the top 5 have been prepared for implementation. In addition, the project partners have announced the International Debate Tournament. The winners of regional qualifications will participate in the international debate on energy saving within the final meeting of youth, young scientists, representatives of local authorities, industry, small and medium enterprises, and institutions and organizations during the International Forum of Youth Initiatives. In addition to student exchange and study visits, the project also included meetings with potential employers promoting graduates and the exchange of knowledge on the conditions for the development of energy sector on both sides of the border.

A complement to the objectives of the project will be an educational campaign promoting pro-environmental attitudes and saving energy. The campaign will be conducted, among others, with the use of billboards, radio and regional television. In addition an interactive board game will be developed.
MEASURE 3.2.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES’ INITIATIVES
(UMBRELLA PROJECTS)
LEAD PARTNER OF THE UMBRELLA PROJECT (LPU): European Meeting Centre – Nowy Staw Foundation (Poland)

NO OF MICRO-PROJECTS: 5 (PL-UA partnership)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – November 2014

CROSS-BORDER LABOUR MARKET SUPPORT CENTRE

IPBU.03.02.00-06-827/12
We live in times in which flexibility on the labour market becomes an increasingly important skill. How does one learn to navigate in this difficult environment? Teachers, vocational counsellors and young people from the border areas of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine were given the chance to attain key competences in this area.

All thanks to the initiative of the European Meeting Centre – Nowy Staw Foundation, which in January 2014 launched an umbrella project “Cross-border Labour Market Support Centre”. Within its framework, expert meetings, training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, placements and issuance of publications and guides were planned. The aim was to show participants how to actively look for a job, start a business, find their own career path and develop effectively.

In such a way five micro-projects were created aimed at the inhabitants of Lublin and Podkarpackie Voivodeships in Poland and Lviv and Volyn Oblasts in Ukraine; some actions were carried out also in Brest, Belarus. As expected, 830 people from all three countries were supposed to take part in the initiative.

“Transfer of Know-how on Professional Counselling” focused on improving the competences of teachers, psychologists and vocational counsellors. However, it was not limited only to preparing guides for them. They created a multimedia game “Janek and Sasha entering the labour market” intended for students of Polish and Ukrainian schools and available on the Internet.

Thanks to “Together Stronger: Support for Young People from Rural Areas” people who cannot count on such perspectives as those living in the cities, received an opportunity to learn wise career planning, personal development and skilful moving around the labour market. The micro-project “Youths Competences” focused not only on searching for their own career path, but also on Polish-Ukrainian integration. After developing a diagnosis of these competences, a plan of action was prepared. Ten lesson plans were created, concerning personal and social competences, ten scenarios showing how to organise the work of small teams and an accessible online computer game “My Mount Everest”).

As a part of the initiative two micro-projects appeared related to the study: “ABCs of Study and Work in Poland” and “Aware Students on the Labour Market”. The first of them was prepared for young Belarusians and Ukrainians who want to study and work in Poland. The second was to increase the chances of graduates who, after graduating university, must find their place on the labour market.

“In addition to strengthening cooperation between nations, we make sure that, upon completion of the project, there will be tangible evidence of performed activities, such as media guides, not only for teachers employed as vocational counsellors, but also for those who work with youth on a daily basis,” said Anna Moskwa in relation to the objectives of “Cross-border Labour Market Support Centre”, the CEO of the European Meeting Centre – Nowy Staw Foundation. Founded in 1993, the organisation supports all social initiatives aimed at building civil society, cooperation and solidarity among nations.

www.transgraniczny.eu
BORDERLAND CULTURE AS AN INTEGRATION PLATFORM OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BUG EUROREGION

IPBU.03.02.00-06-828/12

LEAD PARTNER OF THE UMBRELLA PROJECT (LPU): The Association of Local Governments of Bug Euroregion (Poland)

NO OF MICRO-PROJECTS: 11 (9 PL-UA and 2 PL-BY partnership)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – December 2015
Poles, Belarusians and Ukrainians of the borderland are connected not only by the proximity of Bug. They are also connected by traditions. The umbrella project, under which 11 micro-projects were created, aims to help to cultivate and develop them. A total of over one million people will benefit (or have already benefited) from the actions taken.

Nine initiatives are Polish-Ukrainian undertakings, and two – Polish-Belarusian. All of them aim at strengthening cooperation among local communities living in the Bug Euroregion, show different aspects of a common culture and promote it.

Łęczna and Kovel agreed for this purpose to organise two outdoor events: Łęczna Fair and Festival of 2 Cultures in Kovel, and as a summary of the issuance (in Polish and Ukrainian) of texts on the implementation of the idea, along with photographic documentation (the micro-project ended in December with a conference in Łęczna). Goraj and Zabłotie Communes planned the Goraj Brass Band Festival and cooking workshops combined with the tasting of Polish and Ukrainian dishes. While the Cross-border E-Centre for Cultural Cooperation Lublin-Lutsk is a project of a website, which will present all cultural initiatives in the area of Euroregion. Three language versions of the website (Polish, Ukrainian and English) will enable broad access to stored messages.

In Łaszczów and Zhovkva, nurturing holiday (mainly related to Christmas and Easter) and culinary traditions were the main topic. Two books were also published: with recipes and po-ems. The effects of the measures were presented at the conference in Susiec in March. In September, the joint micro-project of Tomaszów Lubelski and Rava-Ruska was summarised. It predicted ethnographic workshops in sculpture, traditional dance, beliefs, folk magic and pottery, as well as the Fair Colours of Roztocze. Another undertaking focused on showing the Polish-Ukrainian tradition of handicrafts has been completed. Włodawa and Shatsk, which have planned activities with sculpture and painting, as well as weaving and folk embroidery, two Fairs of the Bug Folklore “My Little Borderland”, the publication of a folder and recording a short spot, summarised their work in December in Gajiwce. They still work in Wer-bkowice and Uhniv, where it was decided to combine craftsmanship tradition with memories of old rituals and seeking its traces in today’s festivities.

Ruda-Huta and Hirka Polonica organised the Cross-border Festival “Rainbow of Cultural Traditions and Art of the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland”, and in cooperation with experts they intend to issue a guide on Polish-Ukrainian cultural traditions. Lublin and Lviv decided to carry out trainings in cultural project management and issue publications with the description of past experiences in this field.

Polish-Belarusian undertakings are no less interesting. Brest and Chetm focused on culinary tradition (competition for owners of agritourism farms) and ceremonies (outdoor parties “Dożynki” (Eng. “Harvest Festival”) and “Koniki” (Eng. “Horses”) and Brest and Wisznice on music (review of folk bands and workshops) and the exchange of experiences among young people and preparing them for the professional organisation of cultural events.

In September this year, it will be twenty years since the creation of Bug Euroregion. The umbrella project is a great opportunity to highlight the value of cooperation between the inhabit-ants of the borderland. This cooperation takes place at two levels: between lead partners of micro-projects and their partners from Ukraine or Belarus, and between the Association of Local Governments of Bug Euroregion and implementers of cross-border projects. The previous joint actions will not only bring temporary effect, but also create conditions for the con-tinuation and development of integration.

LEAD PARTNER OF THE UMBRELLA PROJECT (LPU): Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland

NO OF MICRO-PROJECTS: 10 (UA-PL partnership)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – December 2014

PROMOTION OF A COMMON HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF POLAND AND UKRAINE – „FORTRESS OF PRZEMYŚL”

IPBU.03.02.00-18-826/12
Fortress of Przemyśl, stone witness of the turbulent history of the current Polish-Ukrainian borderland, due to the implementation of the cross-border project will serve to develop tourism in the region and integrate neighbouring nations.

The aim of the project was to support socio-economic development of the Przemyśl district and Mostyska raion through the promotion of the tourism brand “Fortress of Przemyśl”. The most important product of the brand is the powerful fortification, which played an important role during the First World War. The project focused on the promotion of cultural heritage of regions associated with the historic building, part of which is located on the territory of Ukraine. The activities were carried out by 21 partners from Poland and Ukraine within the framework of ten micro-projects.

One of the main tasks was to develop a strategy for the promotion of the cross-border micro-region “Borderland Forts”. The Association of Local Governments “Euroregion Carpathians – Ukraine” undertook the performance of this task in cooperation with the Polish Association “Pro Carpathia” and Ukrainian Fellowship “Brama”. Gathering information concerning the infrastructure of the “Przemyśl Fortress” and the creation of the website under the same name was performed by the Regional Development Agencies from Przemyśl and Mostyska.

The Regional Chamber of Commerce in Przemyśl and the Association “Jurij Drohobycz” involved companies from the tourism industry and related industries in the implementation of the project by organising workshops on the optimal use of the region’s potential. Entrepreneurs can now promote themselves free of charge on the website created for them www.pogranicze.turystyka.pl. In addition to the catalogue of companies, the website offers a virtual walk around the fortifications of the fortress.

Employment of qualified tourist guides, who were recruited from among the local people was also taken care of. Trainings were organised by the Association of mountain guides “Rovin” and PTTK from Przemyśl. The promotion of the fortress as a tourist attraction by organising sporting events in its facilities and around them is the idea of Regia Civitas Association implemented together with Przemyśl Regional Development Agency and the Lviv Association for Tourism Development. Partners of the micro-project invited the region’s inhabitants and tourists from both countries to participate in Nordic walking, skiing and snowboarding competitions, cycling races and basketball competitions.

Tourists looking for new trails will find valuable clues on the website www.fort-festiwal.pl. It is the GPS map with marked routes leading to certified places related to folk culture and culinary traditions of Przemyśl district and Mostyska raion. Routes have been designated on the basis of research conducted by partners of two micro-projects. The promotion of culinary traditions was taken care of by tourist organisations “Gates of the Eastern Carpathians” from the Przemyśl district and the “Museum of Ideas” from Lviv, and exploring the traditions of folk crafts by the Culture Foundation “Enter” and non-governmental organisation “Lviv – the Capital of Crafts”.

Przemyśl Regional Development Agency and Lviv Palace of Art established the Polish-Ukrainian group of historical reconstruction and organised with its participation a spectacle commemorating historical events – battles in the area of the Fortress of Przemyśl during the First World War.

Two micro-projects were directed in particular at young people. They were of educational and integrating value. The Ukrainian organisation “European Dialogue” and Przemyśl Caritas launched a programme for youth volunteering, aimed at the renovation of forts, tombs and chapels. Cross-border cooperation of schools from the Przemyśl district and Mostyska raion, was supported by the Ukrainian organisation “Centre for Educational Initiatives” and Przemyśl branch of the Association of Ukrainians in Poland.
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR HEALTH TOURISM OF POLISH-UKRRAINIAN BORDERLAND

IPBU.03.02.00-18-832/12

LEAD PARTNER OF THE UMBRELLA PROJECT (LPU): The Association for Development and Promotion of Podkarpackie Region “Pro Carpathia”

NO OF MICRO-PROJECTS: 12 (PL-UA partnership)

PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – December 2014
The natural, climatic and cultural values of the Carpathians are a huge potential to develop various forms of tourism and provide an opportunity for sustainable economic development of the Carpathian regions. Creating cross-border holiday offers and common work to promote the brand “Carpathian tourism” will multiply the effects of these activities. This idea stood behind Polish institutions from Podkarpacie and Ukrainian institutions from Lviv and Zakarpattia Oblasts that have implemented twelve micro-projects.

Association of Carpathian Euroregion Poland and Association of Self-Government Carpathian Euroregion Ukraine undertook to analyse the natural and cultural potential and to develop health tourism promotion tools of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland. The result of the cooperation are three publications: “Strategy for the development of health tourism in the Polish and Ukrainian part of the Carpathian Euroregion”, “Catalogue of offers and tourist services” and “Guide on offers and tourist services”.

Another important theme of the partners’ actions was the professionalization of services for tourists and residents. Development Agency of the Shidnytsya Resort and the Association of Carpathian Euroregion Poland organised conferences for medical personnel of resorts in order to exchange experiences and good practices. The project crowns the issuance of a medical guide that contains information about each facility in the region with particular reference to its medicinal and recreational opportunities.

Experts from the Local Development Agency of Drohobych in partnership with the Local Action Group “Petro Land” and Foundation for Local Development “INTEGRACJA” trained owners of agritourism farms on how to act professionally and “with an idea”. The joint agritourism information service was also launched.

Workshops for students, members of social organisations and representatives of the tourism industry in Poland and Ukraine were conducted by partners of the micro-project “Establishment of the recreational tourism school”.

The Bieszczady Foundation from Ustrzyki Dolne in cooperation with the Environmental and Geographic Foundation from Lviv have taken steps to promote the idea of green tourism in Ukraine on the basis of a certification system GoToCarpathia. Training for regional coordinators were organised in Ukraine and study visits in the Bieszczady Mountains, a guide on certification system GoToCarpathia was issued.

Many interesting initiatives were implemented within the scope of promoting natural values and cultural attractions of the Carpathian borderland. Rymanów commune and Ukrainian association “Lemkivshchyna” and the Iwonicz-Zdrój commune, in cooperation with the “Center of regional Yavorivshchyna initiatives”, organised borderland culture festivals, and developed publications promoting tourist attractions of regions.

“Pearls of the Ukrainian Carpathians” were discovered and promoted by the Bieszczady Foundation, Ecoterra organisation and “Uzh Valley Ecotourism Development Foundation”. They were discovered by participants of photographic workshops organised within the framework of two micro-projects. Anyone can see them on the website under that title, and thanks to the published guide “Wild Carpathians”. In addition “Wild Carpathians” Festival took place.

The University from Krosno together with the Pedagogical Institute of Lviv put emphasis on “Creating pro-health attitudes among the youth in the Polish - Ukrainian border area”, among others, through the organisation of sports and tourist events.

How to effectively make money on tourism? Industry representatives had the opportunity to share their knowledge in this area at the Health Tourism Fair organised in November 2014 in Lviv by the Association European Dialogue and Rzeszów Regional Development Agency. The fair was attended by exhibitors from the Podkarpackie province and Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia Oblasts.
LEAD PARTNER OF THE UMBRELLA PROJECT (LPU): Association of the Self-governments of Białowieża Forest Euroregion (Poland)
PARTNER OF THE LPU: Local Ecological Fund ‘Euroregion Belovezhskaya Pushcha’ (Belarus), NO OF MICRO-PROJECTS: 8 (PL-BY partnership)

SUPPORT OF CROSS-BORDER LOCAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVES IN THE BIAŁOWIEŻA FOREST EUROREGION

IPBU.03.02.00-20-816/12
Get to know each other more closely, understand and work together for the development of our towns and communes to live an easier, more interesting and safer life. This is the main idea of the umbrella project, divided into eight micro-projects and many events organised in the field of tourism, sport, culture and education, and exchange of good practices.

The quality of neighbourly relations in the future depends on the education of young people on both sides of the border. The more we know about each other, the less prejudice arises. With this conviction, schools in Hajnówka and Pružany have worked together under the slogan “Different and yet the same”. Students visited Poland and Belarus, studied history and culture in museums. Time spent together was filled with sports, arts and crafts, math, computer workshops and many other attractions.

The micro-project “Initiative without borders” also helps to establish personal contacts by youth, implemented by the Dubicze Cerkiewne commune and Vidamlia village. Thanks to this initiative, representatives of local govern-ments and social organisations also have the opportunity to meet and talk about cooperation. The Cross-border Initiatives Centre will be a result of these actions. The micro-project “Actively playing sports in the Białowieża Forest Euroregion” serves to integrate the inhabitants of the borderland through sport. The partners are the Centre of Sport and Recreation in Hajnówka and the Department of Education, Sports and Tourism of the Pružany raion. Forest runs, football tournaments, swimming and cycling tours are events that attract not only local people. They are also a magnet for tourists.

Białowieża Forest is a common wealth of the Polish-Belarusian borderland, and tourism for both neighbours is a chance for economic development of the region and greater personal wealth. The need to establish cross-border cooperation in this field has been reflected in as many as three initiatives. The district office in Hajnówka and Regional Centre for Tourism and Sight-seeing in Kamianiec are implementing the micro-project “Polish-Belarusian cooperation in the field of tourism”. Among others, it covers the establishment of the Tourist Information Point in Hajnówka and Kamianiec and renewal of a cycle route Hajnówka – Dubicze Cerkiewne – Czeremcha – Piaski (85 km). The micro-project “Cross-border active tourism and tourist trade development” implemented by the Hajnówka district in partnership with the National Park Belovezhskaya Pushcha aims to improve the quality of tourism services and promote the region by organising events such as the Polish-Belarusian Nordic walking rally, cycling tours and culinary courses. Another tourist micro-project is “Hajnówka – Kamianiec. We get to know and promote”, in which the partner of the Municipality of Hajnówka is the Department of Education, Sport and Tourism of the Kamianiec District Executive Committee. Their tasks include the organisation of strategic workshops for representatives of the tourism industry and a more attractive on-line offer of partner towns.

The touristic advantage of the Białowieża Forest region is, in addition to the magnificent nature, its cultural heritage. Nurturing local folklore and traditions, and tightening border community relations through cultural exchanges are implemented in the micro-project “From John to Ivan – cross-border cultural events”. Cross-border events are organised by Narewka commune and Kamianiec. Narewka, for example, jointly celebrated Kupala Night, and in Kamianiec two Polish folk bands were presented. The micro-project “Specialist fire-fighters training from the cross-border area of Białowieża Forest” is dedicated to the improvement of the safety of inhabitants, tourists and natural environment in the project area. Trainings and study visits on both sides of the border were attended by 260 fire-fighters.
INTEGRATED PROMOTION OF TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AND CULTURAL-HISTORIC HERITAGE OF LVIV REGION, PODKARPACKIE AND LUBLIN VOIVODESHIPS

IPBU.03.02.00-76-820/12

LEAD PARTNER OF THE UMBRELLA PROJECT (LPU): Association “Lviv Tourist Board” (Ukraine)
PARTNER OF THE LPU: Przemysl Regional Development Agency (Poland), NO OF MICRO-PROJECTS: 10 (UA-PL partnership)
PROJECT DURATION: January 2014 – December 2015
Lublin and Podkarpackie Voivodeships and Lviv Region are border regions with particularly high tourism potential. The natural and climatic conditions go hand in hand with the rich cultural heritage. Tourism development is an opportunity for economic growth in these areas and the improvement of inhabitants’ quality of life. Seizing this opportunity has become the target of the umbrella project, which is implemented through ten micro-projects.

The main partners of the micro-projects are self-government units and Ukrainian organizations that invited Polish partners with experience in the implementation of projects to cooperate. This way, ten tandems have been created, among which tasks have been divided – from coordinating activities, creating the climate and conditions for cooperation through the development of local tourism product development programmes, to organising specific events. Lviv Regional Branch of the Association of Ukrainian Cities and Municipal Association “WISŁOK”, representing eight Polish communes, worked to establish close contacts between organisations and self-governments of the border area. Within the first micro-project the “Cross-border Forum of Mayors and Commune heads” was organised in Lviv.

A permanent result of its implementation is the creation of the Cross-border Visitors’ Centre in Lviv. The Department of International Cooperation and Tourism of the Lviv Regional State Administration in cooperation with Medyka commune undertook the task of “Formation of Innovative Cross-border Tourist Products and Common promotion of Lviv Oblast, Podkarpackie and Lublin Voivodeships”. The result of this micro-project will include, among others, the signing of a tripartite agreement on cooperation. On the basis of the results of the other micro-projects a guide “Tourism without borders” will be created.

Six Ukrainian villages in partnership with Polish communes and cities are carrying out tasks under the slogan “Joint presentation of touristic, ethnic and cultural attractions on the international tourism market”. Uhniv works with Werbkowice, Belz with Betżeć, Sambir with Jasło, Zhovkva with Spiczyn, Brody with Strzyżów and Zhydachiv with Sanok. They establish contacts with local organisations, employees of the tourism industry and cultural operators and employees of local governments on both sides of the border of the EU, lead campaigns to promote attractions of their cities and communes, organise trainings and workshops. Examples of such activities are craftsmanship, cultural heritage, tourism and gastronomy workshops which are organised in Ukraine and in Poland in turns by Brody and Strzyżów. Participants of those meetings, representatives of cultural institutions, tourist and non-governmental organisations, had the opportunity not only to watch local artists at work, but also the opportunity to try out their own skills.

The association supporting the development of youth tourism and the Association of Creative Podlasie in Białystok have established cooperation to promote the development of cycling tourism promotion. The results of their actions are cycle route maps in the border areas, and helpful guides for tourists. The main event of the micro-project promoting both the umbrella project, as well as the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013, was a bicycle rally on the cross-border tourist route Brody-Rzeszów.

The umbrella project also involves tourist organisations – the Mountain Guides Association “ROVIN” and Przemyśl branch of the Polish Tourist Association. They conduct joint trainings of guides with particular emphasis on cross-border and routes leading through the cities participating in the umbrella project.
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