

THE CROSS BORDERER

AUTUMN
2014



MAGAZINE OF THE CROSS-BORDER
COOPERATION PROGRAMME
POLAND-BELARUS-UKRAINE 2007-2013

 PL-BY-UA
2007-2013

 Financed by
the European
Union

Growing to **SUCCESS** – implementation on the go

3

EDITORIAL

4

PROGRAMME IN FIGURES

6

IMPLEMENTATION ON THE GO

7

PROJECTS CREATING BETTER CONDITIONS
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

10

PROJECTS DEVELOPING TOURISM

18

PROJECTS IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE REGION

21

PROJECTS PROTECTING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
IN THE BORDERLAND

26

PROJECTS BUILDING REGIONAL
AND LOCAL CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION CAPACITY

42

EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY: WHAT'S ON STOCK FOR 2014

44

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

46

CONTACTS

EDITORIAL

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

European neighborhood policy in partner-countries is being implemented, including, through implementation of projects within CBC Programmes of European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument.

There are 117 projects co-financed within the CBC Programme «Poland-Belarus-Ukraine» 2007–2013, among them 42 projects are being implemented with participation of Belarusian organizations.

Implementation of such projects is one of the financial sources for social-economic development of the regions of the Republic of Belarus, Republic of Poland and Ukraine. The beneficiaries of the Programme are the following organizations: state administration bodies, local public bodies, social and other organizations, those which were initiative and open for cross-border co-operation.

For now the implementation of the projects is in the most active stage, and some tangible results – positively influencing the social-economic development of the regions – have already been achieved. Belarusian regions do already feel the positive influence of the results.

We kindly invite you to discover some of such projects and what is more important with the achieved results.

Rich experience in implementation of Cross-border co-operation Programmes shall, for sure, be used during elaboration and development of CBC Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine for the period 2014–2020.

Dina Goncharova,
*Executive director of Coordination Unit
of the EU Programme TACIS to the Republic of Belarus*

July 2014



PROGRAMME IN FIGURES (as of 1 September 2014)

Total number of projects

► **117**

Total Programme contribution

► **173 894 247,03 €**

1

PRIORITY

INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS OF THE BORDER AREA

Number of projects ► 40

Number of projects finalized ► 3

Total Programme contribution, EUR ► 55 110 014,79

Funds paid to projects, EUR ► 19 772 465,40

2

PRIORITY

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Number of projects ► 26

Number of projects finalized ► 7

Total Programme contribution, EUR ► 76 506 321,74

Funds paid to projects, EUR ► 32 953 555,16

3

PRIORITY

NETWORKING AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION

Number of projects ► 51

Number of projects finalized ► 6

Total Programme contribution, EUR ► 42 277 910,50

Funds paid to projects, EUR ► 18 820 579,05

INDICATORS (planned/achieved)



Cross-border meetings/ conferences/
working groups/trainings/seminars
► **1 730/865**



Festivals/sports events/ other events
► **750/402**



Science/research studies
► **186/89**



Publications (copies)
► **477 400/435 737**



Websites, subpages
► **152/149**



Maps (copies)
► **203 116/21 104**



Constructed/modernized water supply
system (km)
► **46,59/14,44**



Constructed/modernized wastewater
treatment plants
► **15/0**



Constructed/modernized sewerage (km)
► **90,79/27,43**



Vehicles purchased
► **249/84**



Construction and labeling of touristic /
bicycle / water routes (km)
► **1 876/1 334**



Modernized buildings
► **71/23**



Roads built/reconstructed (km)
► **116,42/37,90**



Equipment purchased (sets)
► **3 840/1 494**



Border crossings constructed/reconstructed
► **10/2**



Participants of the events
► **66 442/32 860**



Plans/strategies developed
► **56/14**

IMPLEMENTATION ON THE GO!

As you know, all 117 projects selected within our Programme have been contracted and the majority of them are in the active stage of implementation, and some of the projects have already been successfully finalised.

Successful implementation means a lot for every stakeholder and all the people directly or indirectly involved in the Cross-border Cooperation process, as it leads to the strengthening of territorial potential, development of people-to-people relations and institutional cooperation at all the levels, which tackles common problems and gives opportunities for improving the socio-economic situation in the border regions.

We have selected 35 projects for your attention. The projects are oriented at creating better conditions for entrepreneurship, development of tourism, improving access to the region, protecting natural environment in the borderland, building regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity.

Like we said, the implementation of the projects is on the go, and tangible results can already be seen. Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian border regions have reinforced tourist potential, healthcare facilities, security of the Polish-Belarusian border and more. Lots of new tourist routes were created, many kilometres of roads were constructed and repaired, many new institutional connections and initiatives were organised. Like in Poland and Ukraine, the population of the Hrodna region (Belarus) has already experienced benefits as one of the newly purchased medical equipment enables to conduct PCR-analysis within 6 hours instead of 10 days! And this is just a tiny sketch of the real benefits which the implementation of the projects brings to the people living on the Programme's territory.

For now you are invited to get acquainted with the CBC projects under implementation and those implemented which have achieved tangible results while 'growing to Success'.

Joint Technical Secretariat
*Cross-Border Cooperation Programme
Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007–2013*

Lead Partner: Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (Poland)

Partnership: Malopolska Institute of Economy (Poland)

Lviv Regional Center for Investment and Development (Ukraine)

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus)

Total budget: 262 921.43 €

Programme contribution: 236 629.29 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.01.00-18-151/10-00

Website: www.cooperation-pl-by-ua.eu



BUSINESS CONTACTS OF THE THREE REGIONS IN FOUR LANGUAGES

The project has helped small and medium businesses in Grodno Region to establish contacts with business communities in Ukraine and Poland.

"We hosted a cooperation forum in Grodno where Belarusian, Ukrainian and Polish businessmen could meet and exchange contacts details. Nineteen Belarusian businessmen attended cooperation forums in Lviv (Ukraine) and Rzeszow (Poland) where they participated in negotiations and could establish connections for future business relations," Project Manager and Head of Management Department at Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, Lee Jong Koo sums up the project outputs.

To support the established connections, project participants created a four-language website

www.cooperation-pl-by-ua.eu. It is an online tool to provide follow-up on various meetings and workshops on cross-border cooperation.

The project has involved business support organisations for its implementation. They shared their vision of relations with the authorities and showed how the state could help businesses. Ten representatives of business support centres visited Poland to learn how the work with small and medium businesses was organised there.

The project was able to catalyze efforts of local authorities. They took care of practical arrangements during study visits and experience-sharing meetings. Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno offered helpful advice and informational support to businesses.

Lee Jong Koo believes that one of the important project deliverables is the book Analysis of Business Potential in the Three Regions. It was published in 2012 in four languages. The book is based on conclusions on the prospect of future business development in the border regions discussed during the workshops. The study involved 100 Belarusian small and medium businesses.

According to the project curator, the number of businesses in Grodno Region will grow in the nearest future. The border region offers numerous opportunities and the project is helping businesses to build confidence to benefit from them.



POLAND AND UKRAINE ESTABLISHING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ZEOLITIC TUFF USAGE

Border regions of two countries have united their efforts for the development of cooperation in science and for the exchange of experience between science-research institutions in order to use zeolitic tuff.

What are the goals to be achieved by the project?

The project – implemented by Polish and Ukrainian sides – has quite serious objectives to be reached. This is the development and strengthening of cooperation between border regions of the two countries and exchange of experience between science-research institutions. The project team plans to create a network of science-research branches, NGOs, etc., acting in the border areas; the network will deal with economic usage of zeolitic tuff.

Steps to be made for success.

First of all, it is planned to create a unique transboundary cooperation network (cluster) also used for the transfer of technologies. It is planned that the cluster will comprise science-research organisations and companies from Poland and Ukraine. Secondly, the project will help to overcome organisational and technological barriers, which block economic development of border-

Lead Partner: Higher School of Management and Administration in Zamosc (Poland)

Partnership: The Bohdan Dobrzanski Institute of Agrophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)
Lviv Polytechnic National University (Ukraine)
Lublin University of Technology (Poland)

Total budget: 880 985.69 €

Programme contribution: 778 384.51 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.01.00-06-570/11-00

Website: <http://zeolity.wszia.edu.pl/>



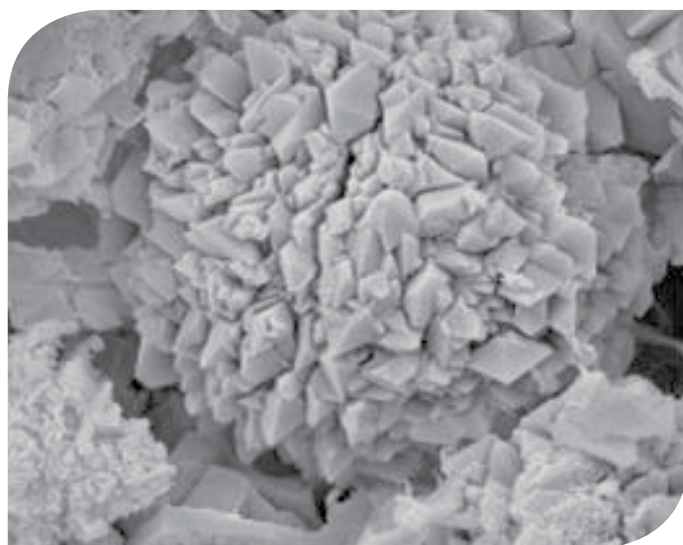
lands in the framework of regular usage of zeolitic tuff. Thirdly, the project will help to rally the Polish-Ukrainian borderland and will foster its economic development.

What problems does the project tackle?

The main problem addressed is limited usage of economic and technological potential of Polish-Ukrainian border territory. If to speak about the problems in detail, three main problems can be distinguished. First – insufficient level of cooperation between science-research institutions and companies in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland. Second – limited knowledge and technological base in the usage of Ukrainian zeolitic tuff. Third – insufficient exchange of knowledge and experience between science-research institutions and companies in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland. Such cooperation will lead to the usage of existing potential and creation of a unique science-research network.

What will be obtained?

As a result, the team of the project plans to create a unique science-research network: two associations from each side of the border. Thanks to this, the transfer of knowledge and relevant data will be possible. It can be reached through the creation of an Internet platform. In addition to this, the elaborated technological solutions will be used in the construction sphere, in the sphere of environmental protection and in agriculture.



MEASURE 1.1. Better conditions for entrepreneurship

“Time for Business.” Creating the conditions for business development in rural areas of the Volyn Oblast of Ukraine and the Lublin Province of Poland by means of diversifying the agricultural production

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Gorokhiv Raion Council (Ukraine)

Partnership: Public organization “Volyn Agricultural Extension Service” (Ukraine)
Volyn Oblast Charitable Foundation “European Vector” (Ukraine)

Lublin Agricultural Extension Centre in Konskovi (Poland)

Total budget: 220 000,00 €

Programme contribution: 197 560,00 €

Duration: 20 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.01.00-78-791/11-00

Website: www.pl-by-ua.org.ua



POLAND AND UKRAINE ARE TO CREATE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL AREAS

According to statistics about 49% of population in Ukraine live in rural areas. 72% of working age people are involved in agriculture. The productivity and effectiveness of small farmsteads and private farms is not at the desirable level. The same situation can also be seen in Poland. The population of rural areas constitutes 38.8% to the total population, the agricultural sector counts 17.7% of the working age population. Labour productivity is 3.5 times lower than in the EU. The project takes national needs of the Ukraine into considera-

tion, the needs outlined in the Ukrainian national programme for the development of national agriculture by 2015, and the needs of Poland.

There is a Programme for the development of rural areas in Poland. It foresees the increase of income in the agricultural sector, including through professional training of people involved in agriculture, diversification of agriculture and creation of a relevant infrastructure.

The project fosters the development of small and medium entrepreneurship in rural areas both in Poland and in Ukraine; it is directed to increase the income of agricultural producers in five districts of the Volyn region and in Lublin Voivodeship, and develop knowledge of small and medium businesses about agriculture.

The main task of the project is to improve conditions for entrepreneurship in rural areas. The main goal of the project is the development of small and medium businesses in rural areas of the Volyn region and Lublin Voivodeship.

During the implementation of the project it is foreseen to publish 2000 informational brochures (one thousand each to Lublin Voivodeship and the Volyn region). Also, a website “Time for Business” will be created, which will contain information about the agricultural market. Special trainings and seminars will be organised for the citizens of the rural areas.



MOUNTAINS GETTING CLOSER AND SAFER

Mikhail Yavorivskiy, Project Partner and representative of Lviv Regional Control and Rescue Service of Ukrainian Tourist and Sports Union is very satisfied with the work done during the project:

"We have been able to foster relationships and build the trust between tourists, sports clubs, mountain guides, and the public rescue service – by the way, it is the only one in the Ukraine. This means we have increased safety during hiking tours and mass-participation hiking events. More people contact us for help and advice."

According to the participants, they have significantly strengthened the resource base of the rescue service during the project and now they are fully prepared to provide complicated rescue services. Lviv Regional Council of Deputies has also provided financial support. This gave an opportunity to purchase rescue equipment for the total amount of 100,000 UAH within the project.

Other Achievements of Project Participants:

- They opened a new search and rescue station in the village of Dovge (Drohobych District) and renovated an existing one in the village of Slavskoe

Lead Partner: Mountains Guides Association "ROVIN" (Ukraine)

Partnership: Bieszczadzka Mountains Voluntary Rescue Group (Poland)

Association "Lviv Tourist Board" (Ukraine)

Polish Tourist Association of Country Lovers, Department named after M. Orłowich in Przemyśl (Poland)
Lviv Oblast Control-Rescue Service of the Ukrainian Tourist and Sport Union (Ukraine)

Total budget: 297 438,79 €

Programme contribution: 267 456,96 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-76-044/10-00

- They shared experience with Polish mountain rescuers and took part in joint search and rescue operations in the mountains
- They signed a contract with Lviv Regional Federation of Sports Tourism to provide services for various events in the mountains and ensure safe hiking along mountain trails
- They took part in organizing and holding a mass ascending event at Mt. Hoverla, with over 500 climbers

- They established a voluntary group to help people in emergency situations. The group includes certified first aid professionals.

In the near future, the rescue service is planning to purchase ATVs and snowmobiles to be able to respond quickly in emergency situations.



MEASURE 1.2. Tourism development

Improvement of cross-border region attractiveness through the introduction of ethno-cultural resources into the tourist activities (A trip to the ethnic fairytale)

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus)

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

Total budget: 1 270 306.72 €

Programme contribution: 1 143 276.05 €

Duration: 31 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-58-089/10-00

Website: www.ethno-tour.grsu.by



DWARFS AND FABULOUS CREATURES: ETHNIC FAIRYTALE COMES ALIVE

"What farmsteads can you recommend that offer recreation and teach crafts? It's nice when you can both relax and bring home a hand-made souvenir." This is a question that tourists frequently address to initiators and partners of the project "A Trip to the Ethnic Fairytale" at the ethno-cultural resource website. Surely, these are the words that make it all well worth the effort.

The full name of the project is "Improvement of cross-border region attractiveness through the introduction of ethno-cultural resources into the tourist activities (a trip to the ethnic fairytale)". Its creators and implementers were confident that the region's competitive advantage as a tourist destination can be enhanced by improving marketing practices, creating common Polish and Belarusian tourist attractions, employing ethno-cultural resources and building up competencies of travel service providers.

To achieve the stated purpose, the project initiators provided for numerous events both in the Grodno Region and Suwalki County, including the creation of the Ethno-Cultural Tourism Centre at Grodno University, development of Ethno-Cultural Tourism Resource Encyclope-

dia and Ethno-Cultural Objects Directory, high-quality reconstruction of museums and much more.

A unique feature of all activities, whether they are connected with research, education, infrastructure or entertainment, is that they are all inspired by fairytales. According to marketing experts, fairytale characters magically attract tourists and promote cultural sightseeing sites in the region, including those located abroad.

Another magnet attracting tourists is craft and creativity. A website of transboundary ethno-cultural resources has been created for the increasing number of tourists attracted by adventure activities. Here you can select museums, art centres or farmsteads where guests not only receive accommodation and meals, but also learn straw or wicker crafts, weaving, pottery, horseback riding, etc.

"While developing ethnography-focused tourist routes and entertainment programmes, we rediscovered our native Belarus," Belarusian Project Coordinator Vitaly Kornelyuk shared his impressions, an Associate Professor of Tourism and Cultural Heritage Department at Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno.

We hope that the enthusiasts who have launched this project will be continually blessed by Belun, whom they rescued from oblivion, a Slavic deity of success, wealth and good luck and a patron of brave and curious travellers.



CLIMBING UNTRODDEN CARPATHIAN PATHS

Escaping civilization, going off beaten paths, getting to know the Earth and people better, sharing the beauty of the wild Carpathian nature... Sounds really exciting for any traveller!

The idea of the promotion of the Ukrainian-Polish region of the Eastern Carpathians as a travel destination brought together an international team of geologists, geographers, guides, travel managers, etc.

First, they had to reveal the beauty of geological layers to tourists. The researchers tried to bring to the surface, mark and tell an interesting story about the things that fascinate specialists, but are often hidden from travellers' eyes.

Then, the project initiators wanted to demonstrate the oil industry legacy. After all, the Polish-Ukrainian borderland is a cradle of the global oil industry. Where, how, how much and by whom oil was extracted in this region – all these facts were to be shared in an attractive manner.

The project initiators did not forget about the local people living in the border region. The local community was to be taught how to preserve their natural, historical and cultural heritage and use it to benefit from the wave of visitors.

The top 5 effects of the project:

1. **The Geo-Carpathians route has been developed**, with 28 geosites (12 in Poland and 16 in Ukraine).
2. **A website Geokarpaty.net has been created**. Here the travellers can prepare their trip by checking out what geological attractions they definitely must see, choosing a hotel for an overnight stay and a restaurant to eat, and planning how to get from one route point to another.
3. **Cooperation with the Polish Geological Institute has been established**. Their current geopark research, in particular the project "Wisłok Valley – The Polish Texas", has an intersection point with the project "The Geo-Carpathians". The Insti-

Lead Partner: The State Higher Vocational School [PWSZ] in Krosno (Poland)

Partnership: Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine)

Total budget: 326 988.90 €

Programme contribution: 294 209.01 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-18-203/10-00

Website: www.geokarpaty.net



tute's staff was able to present their views on the search, identification and promotion of geological attractions in the tourist market.

4. **Guides are creating uniquely designed tours**. The project participants are utilizing the knowledge and experience gained from trainings, workshops, conferences and tours.
5. **Variety of promotion methods for the attractions of the Eastern Carpathians has been used**. A route guide, maps, a route development strategy, collections of educational materials for tour guides and instructors, a photo album "The Magic Carpathians" have been created in the framework of the project.



Lead Partner: State School of Higher Education of Pope John Paul II (Poland)

Partnership: Brest State University of Alexander Pushkin, (Belarus)

Total budget: 304 908.92 €

Programme contribution: 274 052.14 €

Duration: 28 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-06-252/10-00

Website: www.szlak-rowerowy.pswbp.pl



TOURISTS REVEAL SECRETS OF THE BUG RIVER AREA

The nature of the Bug River Area is celebrated in songs, immortalized in works of art and glorified in guidebooks; however, this area still does not seem to be a popular tourist destination. Underutilization of the cross-border tourism potential has been a serious problem for this Belarusian-Polish region, which above all affects its social and economic development.

For two years, Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education together with A. S. Pushkin Brest State University has been taking specific steps to remedy this situation.



Here are the steps that have already been taken:

1. An over 600-kilometre-long bicycle route has been developed and marked (about 400 km on the Polish side and over 200 km on the Belarusian side).
2. Experts have systematized information about natural, cultural and historical resources of the area, its tourist attractions and associated infrastructure.
3. About 80 large and small information boards in three languages (Belarusian, Polish and English) have been installed at the route to indicate its historical and natural attractions.
4. Three types of sketch maps containing information about the route and its most significant attractions (total circulation in three languages: 10,000 copies) and tourist guides (total circulation: 5,000 copies) have been published.
5. A web site has been created for sharing knowledge and experience (www.szlak-rowerowy.pswbp.pl).
6. An international bicycle ride has been conducted. Students and faculty members from the two countries cycled from Biala Podlaska to Chernavchitsy via Janow Podlaski, Terespol, Skoki, Vistychi, etc. "We are confident that our efforts will enhance the attractiveness of the region for tourists. We have been able to create a reasonably stable platform for the development of tourist relations and formation of travel products. It will be further enhanced if a simplified border-crossing zone is created for local people," emphasises Aleksandr Pan'ko, Belarusian Project Coordinator.



HISTORIC HERITAGE OF ZHOVKVA AND LASZCZOW TO BE REVEALED TO TOURISTS

Zhovkva region (Ukraine) and Laszczow region (Poland) are known for their historic values; however, due to insufficient funding, the regions are losing their historic heritage.

The common problem of the regions is a neglected state of cultural and historic objects, which can attract tourists. Also, the regions lack thematic tourist routes and information about the sights and places worth seeing. As a result there is low interest from the side of tourists to the tourist attractions which can be offered by the regions. It affects socio-economic development of the regions and debilitation of existing infrastructure.

However, the projects team has found a solution: in order to increase tourist attractiveness of the region, the existing objects of historic heritage are being reconstructed, territories of Zhovkva and Laszczow are being refined, sights and monuments of both towns are being marked. Various promotional videos are being made to promote the regions.

The main target group are tourists from Poland and Ukraine. But the staff of the project is convinced that

Lead Partner: Commune of Laszczow (Poland)

Partnership: Town Council of Zhovkva Lviv region (Ukraine)

Total budget: 390 261.00 €

Programme contribution: 351 234.90 €

Duration: 12 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-06-395/11-00

Website: www.laszczow.pl



rich cultural heritage of the towns will attract tourists from other countries.

Implementation of the project will contribute to more efficient usage of existing cultural resources. Cultural heritage of the borderland and planned relevant activities are to become the main factor in making Laszczow and Zhovkva more competitive. The results, to be achieved within the project, will increase the importance of the region as an attractive place for tourists. Marking of cultural and historic heritage together with the general change will affect the aesthetic image of the tourist attractions. Convenient marks will help a tourist get more information about an object.

The needs of Laszczow and Zhovkva are identical. The towns have many interesting cultural and historic

monuments, which are tourist attractive. Nonetheless, poor infrastructure and absence of information boards on the tourist objects obstructs the provision of tourist services and promotion of cultural and historic heritage and pushes tourists away. The actions to be made within the project will help to increase tourists' interest to both towns.



MEASURE: 1.2. Tourism development

There is only one King!

Jan III Sobieski Trail as a transnational tourist product

AUTUMN
2014

Lead Partner: Spiczyn Commune (Poland)

Partnership: Zhovkva's Town Council (Ukraine)

Total budget: 288 800.00 €

Programme contribution: 257 032.00 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-06-477/11-00

Website: www.szlaksobieskiego.org



ROYAL HERITAGE TO SERVE TWO REGIONS

"There is only one King!". This motto was chosen by Polish and Ukrainian initiators of the project. Their goal is to strengthen and enhance cooperation between local communities in the sub-region from Lublin to Olesko at the Jan III Sobieski Trail and promote good neighbourhood based on the common cultural and historical heritage of this King's epoch in the two countries. The project also provides for the creation of joint concept plans of four international routes (walking, cycling, horse riding and motor routes).

The project goals were presented during a kick-off conference in early August this year. At the same time, the partnership forms and activities were dis-

cussed. In the future, 300 representatives of government agencies and municipalities and the same number of local communities' representatives are expected to participate in the project from both sides of the border. Currently, eleven local administrative units are involved in the project. Before completion, another ten will join.

"Despite the difficulties, we continue to actively implement our plans. We have had to amend the time frames and some budget items but everything goes as scheduled", says Ukrainian Coordinator Lubomir Kravets. "We have already had a meeting with the Lead Partner in Poland where we discussed the details of a 3D film; its script has already been approved. We estimate that at least 20 000 people on both sides of the border will watch this film. We have also agreed on the layout of our branded souvenirs and approved a schedule of working meetings in ten offices of local authorities along the Trail."

The Jan III Sobieski Tract International Centre will assist in maintaining liaison between all project participants, monitor compliance with the joint performance standards and ensure the emergence of new development concepts. According to the project initiators, every stakeholder will receive support here.



AUDIO GUIDE: REAL CATCH FOR INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS

Over 70% of visitors of the Eastern European border cities of Lviv, Kolomyia, Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine) and Lublin, Zamosc, Przeworsk (Poland) are those who prefer a free style of travelling. How can we make these one and a half million people stay longer, for a day or two, and engage them more actively into the cultural life of these cities?

The authors of the project "Eastern European Pearls" offer several bright ideas from travel maps with information representing historic city parts to special signs and guides in seven languages. However, the main highlight is the creation of an audio guide that gives an opportunity to explore a city on one's own.

Oksana Fedorovich, project initiator, Head of Tourist Association of Ivano-Frankivsk Region: "We have decided to extend the tourists' stay in these cities by an interesting and very modern way through mobile apps, special products for mobile gadgets. The project has a strong IT component."

Lidia Aniolowska, Consul of Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Lviv: "Lots of tourists come to Poland to visit the well-known cities and historical sites of Warsaw, Krakow or Zakopane. Through this project, we are planning to bring Lublin, Zamosc and Przeworsk



Lead Partner: Public organisation "Tourist Association of Ivano-Frankivsk Region" (Ukraine)

Partnership: Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council (Ukraine)

Kolomyia City Hall (Ukraine)

Tourism Office of the Department "Euro 2012" of Lviv City Council (Ukraine)

Lublin Regional Tourist Organisation (Poland)

Fundacja Akademia Obywatelska (Poland)

Total budget: 495 124.00 €

Programme contribution: 440 955.24 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.02.00-90-574/11-00

Website: www.taif.org.ua



closer to people so that visitors can get acquainted with these pearls."

Monika Tarajko, Project Coordinator in Lublin: "Within the project, we are working on a joint strategy for a common tourist route for six cities. Lublin has already been practicing the use of audio guides. We are sharing this experience, giving a new round to the cross-border tourism development."

Malgorzata Majka-Onyszkiewicz, a representative of Przeworsk partners: "We are developing new maps and new routes for our city, including audio tours, so that travellers can learn about the history of our city on their own."

Jacek Beuz, Marketing Manager of Zamosc city authorities: "The historic centre of our city is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List and visited annually by thousands of tourists from all around the world. We hope that this project will help Eastern Europe to discover Zamosc, too."

Bogdan Bilyk, Economic and Integration Development Office Manager: "Free-style tours around Ivano-Frankivsk provide an opportunity to cover additional tourists who may not be able to get a tour guide."

247 050 copies of materials are to be published within the project (that is the record number among all the projects)

MEASURE: 1.2. Tourism development

Polanczyk and Schidnicja – let's make joint use of our tourist and cultural potential for the improvement of competitiveness of the Bieszczady region

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Solina Commune (Poland)
Partnership: Schidnicja Town Council (Ukraine)
Total budget: 927 632.24 €
Programme contribution: 834 869.02 €
Duration: 18 months
Project reference number:
IPBU.01.02.00-18-703/11-00
Website: www.esolina.pl,
<http://www.shidnitca-rada.com/>

DEVELOPED TOURISM TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY

The regions that cannot boast abundant mineral resources or developed industry can earn income from tourism.

However, simply beautiful scenery is not enough for tourists to travel to a little-known place. It is only half the battle.

Though Polish Solina Commune and Ukrainian Schidnicja Town Council are separated by the border, they have decided to join forces to address the lack of tourism infrastructure, which is a serious barrier to the development of tourist potential in this region.

Schidnicja's population is over 2,000 people and Solina Commune's is two and a half times more. The project organisers were faced with the fact that even locals had no place in the region to spend their leisure time, not to mention tourists.

"Solina is now visited by more than 150,000 local and foreign tourists per year; they pass it when heading to another destination or come here for treatment. Schidnicja

and the neighbouring areas attract about 824,000 tourists annually. The project has helped us to enrich the region's tourist offer and enhance the cultural life in the region," say the project partners.

The project helps to create the infrastructure for mass cultural events in the border area. European experience shows that small-scale cross-border activities tend to arouse interest among residents of neighbouring countries. Why not fully use this potential by attracting international tourists?

As part of the project, it has been decided to involve local folklore groups, artists, and farmer associations to show visitors the local life and tell them about the region's history.

"By improving the tourism infrastructure, we have expanded opportunities for the region's promotion. Our cultural diversity and heritage is not only well-protected, but also made available for tourists. We expect that the number of visitors will increase after project implementation," added the participants.

Now Polanczyk and Schidnicja will have amphitheatres that will become a venue for bringing cultural/creative communities and tourists together. The amphitheatres can accommodate about 500–600 people and have all necessary audio, video and lighting equipment. They can host various cultural events, like Schidnicja Summer Festival with performers coming from Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia.



THE AUGUSTOW CANAL FRAMED WITH MORE COMFORTABLE AND WIDER ROADS

Poland and Belarus joined forces to develop the road infrastructure around the Augustow Canal. This navigable waterway provides a link between the Vistula River and the Belarusian part of the Neman River. In 2004, the Augustow Canal was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site List.

In July 2012, a Partnership Agreement was signed between Polish and Belarusian partners for the period of 18 months; later, the Agreement was extended until the end of 2014.

The main objective of the Project is to develop the transport infrastructure in the area of the Augustow Canal for further development and integration of road transport links between Poland and Belarus.

"For the reconstruction, a road that belongs to the fifth technical category was chosen and that does not meet the increased traffic flow requirements", says Marina Kirillo, the representative of the partner company Grodnoobldorstoi. "As a result, we reduced its length by 1.27 km and straightened it to bypass build-up areas. The road will be upgraded to the fourth technical category. This will increase its traffic capacity and safety."

Lead Partner: Plaska Commune (Poland)

Partnership: United Municipal Projecting – Repairing – Building Enterprise "Grodnoobldorstoi" (Belarus)
Grodno District Executive Committee (Belarus)

Total budget: 1 652 575.66 €

Programme contribution: 1 368 993.68 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.03.00-20-008/10-00

Website: www.channel-pl-by.eu



The first phase of H-6049 Racy- Hinavicy– PolnyaBatyry road (5.3 km long) was already completed. Currently, construction and installation works of the second phase are under way.

"The work is structured in a way that each partner is completing its part of the joint project. Thus the real cross-border effect is visible on the both sides of the border", emphasizes Anna Jadeszko, representative of GminaPlaska.

The output of the project is provision of adequate infrastructure in the area of the Augustow Canal on the both sides of the border. According to the project partners, this will increase the tourist flow to the surrounding areas.

"The project will provide significant economic benefits by reducing transportation costs and increasing traffic capacity. It will result in promoting tourism", says Anna Jadeszko. "As to the environmental component, the improvement of the road infrastructure will help to reduce negative effects of transport on the environment."



MEASURE 1.3. Improving access to the region

Improving the safety of transport network users in the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Powiat Road Authority in Wlodawa (Poland)

Partnership: Shatsk Village Council (Ukraine)

Total budget: 807 445.48 €

Programme contribution: 726 700.93 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.03.00-06-498/11-00

BORDER ROADS NOW DEFY RAIN AND SNOW

Roads in the Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian border area should be safer, more convenient and comfortable. This idea lies at the basis of the project jointly implemented by transport professionals of Wlodawa County (Poland) and Shatsk District (Ukraine).

The first step was a creation of an interactive map that indicates potentially unsafe places on the roads on the both sides of the border and specifies other traffic parameters. According to the project initiators, this is especially useful for tourists and it contributes to the promotion of the region's tourism offer market, among other things.

Then, with the help of the EU co-financing, road management offices in the border regions purchased modern machinery and complex road equipment. Now, road workers in both countries can respond to extreme weather conditions as quickly as possible by clearing snow drifts, repairing pot holes on the road, aligning the roadbed, removing a fallen tree, and so on. All equipment is also equipped with GPS navigation functionality for online monitoring and performance improvement. As the project objectives include the creation of a strong basis for cooperation in ensuring high-quality and safe traffic flow in the border area of the three countries, as well as enhancing skills and efficiency of maintenance services, topic-based trainings were held by Ukrainian experts for the staff of road management offices.

"This is our first experience in the implementation of joint international infrastructure projects. I am very pleased with the cooperation. The resulting experience will certainly turn out to be very helpful when preparing projects for the 2014–2020 programming period", Wlodawa's Mayor Wieslaw Holachuk said in the media and called Shatsk's representatives "the most reliable partners in many areas, from culture and sports to common implementation of the projects."



BIESZCZADY AND STARY SAMBIR COUNTIES ARE GETTING CLOSER

No matter how wonderful the sights and landscapes of the Carpathian regions in Poland and Ukraine are – absence of roads can become an obstacle for tourists wishing to visit the regions. The project “Enhancing the accessibility of Bieszczady and Stary Sambir Counties by integrating actions in transportation infrastructure” has contributed a lot to solving the problem. Newly reconstructed road Bieszczady-Arlamow; almost 11.5 kilometres of the road were paved with modern asphalt surface.

Tourists travelling from Ukraine to Slovakia are particularly happy with the reconstruction of the road: new interstate – the shortest way to border-crossings. Polish participants of the project trust that the road will make tourist infrastructure of the region more available and engaged. The region is developing and many investments are being made. Apart from the project, there is a large construction of a resort in Arlamow; this under-populated region will be turned into an attractive place for those who want to have peaceful rest among the mountain landscapes.

In Stary Sambir in Ukraine there were four streets and one pedestrian crossing renovated; the pedes-

Lead Partner: Bieszczady County (Poland)

Partnership: Urban Council in Stary Sambir (Ukraine)

Regional Council in Stary Sambir (Ukraine)

Total budget: 4 276 238.53 €

Programme contribution: 3 789 602.59 €

Duration: 11 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.01.03.00-18-721/11-00

Website: www.bieszczadzki.pl



trian crossing leads to the town railway station. Pavements, car parking lots, drainage system – all about 5.5 kilometres of new road in addition to improved transport infrastructure of the region.

The road restoration was a necessity in order to make the border districts available for the tourists and, in addition, the road Bieszczady-Arlamow is an important part of the road for cargo transporters. This road is busy with trucks transporting timber and gravel. The region can support and develop its economy thanks to logistics and tourism – investments made in the infrastructure have all the chances to pay off.



MEASURE: 2.1. Natural environment protection in the borderland

Development of the rescue services Poland – Ukraine within the strengthening of the infrastructure of the cross-border management system of natural hazards

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Sokołowski District (Poland)

Partnership: Regional Board of Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine in the Volyn Region (Ukraine)
Provincial Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Sokołów Podlaski (Poland)

Total budget: 832 286.17 €

Programme contribution: 715 766.11 €

Duration: 20 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.02.01.00-14-177/10-00

Website: www.ksp.sokolowpodlaski.e-bip.pl,
www.powiat-sokolowski.pl



FIREFIGHTERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES COMBAT FIRE HAZARDS IN THE BORDER REGION

The project covers the Volyn Region and the north-east of Poland (Siedlce). These regions report a higher rate of fires and hazardous substance releases due to industrial accidents. The reason for this is a large number of plants that store hazardous substances, the proximity of railroads used to transport petroleum products (about 10,000 tonnes per year), etc. Poland and Ukraine launched this project to improve the situation in the region.

In April 2014, the units of the Directorate of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Ukraine in Volyn Region received two pieces of state-of-the-art fire and rescue equipment (a “midship” pump apparatus and a mobile command vehicle).

In the same month in Lutsk, the rescuers conducted exercises on responding to oil spills in waters to mitigate an environmental disaster. The exercises were conducted in the valley of the River Styr (Ukraine) using special state-of-the-art equipment procured under this project.

As the Head of the Directorate of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Ukraine in the Volyn Region, Major-General of Civil Defence Vladimir Grushovinchuk

noted: “The purchased equipment meets all current European requirements. Drills will continue in the future to ensure that the rescue team of the Directorate of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Ukraine in the Volyn Region can quickly and efficiently respond to environmental incidents and mitigate their harmful effects on the environment in a real emergency situation.”

Within the project, the selected team of Volyn Region rescuers participated in the joint Ukrainian-Polish fire-fighting sports competitions four times. Each time, over 100 fire-fighter athletes from regional and municipal subdivisions of the Polish State Fire Service took part in these competitions.

To exchange experience, eight fire-fighters from the Volyn Region took one-week training in the units of Polish State Fire Service, while fire-fighters of Sokołów County took training in the units of their counterparts in the Volyn Region.

On the 19th–20th of September 2013, a drill for rescue divers from the Volyn Region and Sokołów County (Mazovian Voivodeship, Poland) took place at Lake Svitiaz (Shatsk District, Volyn Region).

In the future, the project participants are planning to foster relations to improve professional skills of rescuers and logistical support of the units. This will help to respond quickly and efficiently to both man-made and natural emergencies and ensure a high level of civil protection.



POLLUTION KNOWS NO BORDERS!

The project was initiated by Commune Hanna in Poland. After negotiations, their Ukrainian counterparts agreed to the cooperation proposal, especially because they have already had previous experience of joint work with other municipalities in Włodawa County.

“Pollution knows no borders”, says Hanna’s Mayor Grazyna Kowalik.

An important aspect of the project is an improvement of the quality of life in the border region near the valley of the Bug River. This can be done by improving the environment and renovating the sewer system.

The project addresses a number of important issues. In the long run, the team’s activities will help to reduce pollution in the valley of the Bug River in Polesie and central part of the basin. In addition, the living conditions of the people in the region will improve. The project will also contribute to the development of rural tourism in the border region.

The region covering the borderlands of Poland, Belarus and the Ukraine has been facing several environmental issues. One of the major issues to be solved by the project is contamination of the Bug River near the border. The existing waste water treatment plant (WWTP) in Hanna cannot ensure efficient

Lead Partner: Commune Hanna (Poland)

Partnership: Town Council of Shatsk (Ukraine)

Total budget: 4 062 125.38 €

Programme contribution: 3 655 912.84 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.02.01.00-06-489/11-00

wastewater treatment due to the obsolete equipment and outdated process.

Another issue to be solved during the implementation is spring floods and heavy rains. As there is no possibility to influence the weather, it has been decided to expand the WWTP capacity. This will help to cope with the increasing untreated water flow.

Among the tasks set by the team is a construction of a sewerage system. Total replacement of waterlines is necessary to make wastewater treatment more environmentally acceptable and minimize pollution near the Bug River. For this purpose, not only the technology of wastewater treatment but the system of water delivery and utilization will be upgraded. Unfortunately, there are quite a lot of factors which affect the health of the river.

Let’s take Shatsk, for example. Most of its 5,800 residents are sensitive to water quality as they use private wells to get access to drinking water. Households that are not connected to the sewerage system use private sewerage reservoirs. That is why sewage leaks, poor water supply and frequent blockages of the sewerage system are major causes of secondary drinking water pollution and a possible source of water-borne communicable diseases. In addition, in Shatsk District there have been cases of direct discharge of untreated wastewater into open waters, which results in serious deterioration of the environmental situation in the region.

Thus, the project will help to improve the health of the area’s ecosystems with an emphasis on water quality.



MEASURE: 2.1. Natural environment protection in the borderland

Development of partnership cooperation towards the improvement of cross-border environmental protection infrastructure in the townships of Poraz and Zagorz in Poland and in the city of Horodok in Ukraine

AUTUMN
2014

Lead Partner: Commune of Zagorz (Poland)

Partnership: Horodok City Council (Ukraine)

Total budget: 3 570 404.78 €

Programme contribution: 3 213 364.29 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.02.01.00-18-563/11-00

Website: <http://www.zagorz.pl/home/735-rozbudowa-gminnej-sieci-kanalizacyjnej-z-unijnych-funduszy>

attract investors for tourism development.

While benefits to the environment can only be evaluated over a long time frame, the benefits to ordinary people in Zagorz, Poraz, Tarnawa Dolna and Horodok are obvious. The sewage system is being built and renovated in these towns. 43 kilometres of wastewater pipelines will be installed and a water supply and storm water drainage systems nearly 5 kilometres long will be established. Incidentally, that is the longest sewage system to be constructed within the projects of the Programme.

The project covers over 983 households and more than 38 hectares of potential investment sites.

While business only starts to actively develop here, including in the field of eco-tourism, the communities in the border areas are already benefiting from cross-border cooperation, now that the residents of Poraz, Zagorz, Tarnawa Dolna and Horodok live in comfortable environment.

"After the project completion, the partner towns will continue to allocate resources to support the project outputs. For example, the utility systems built in Zagorz will be handed over to the Lead Partner for operation. This is a public sector entity and it will maintain the utility systems in future," said the Polish project partner. The utility systems in Horodok, respectively, will be operated by Horodok Water and Wastewater Company, which is also a public sector entity. Operation and routine replacement costs will also be covered by the local budget.

WWTP FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE AND NATURE

The Polish-Ukrainian border area will become cleaner and more comfortable for living. Residents of private houses in the small towns of Zagorz and Gorodok will finally get a new sewage system and the environment will no longer suffer from wastewater.

The project addresses a delicate, but crucial problem for this region. Not all households in the border towns were connected to the central sewage system until now. The sewage system constructed under the project will not only make life of over 3,600 people more comfortable, but also address some other challenges.

For example, sewered areas are more attractive to investors. Establishing a business is much simpler when there is no need to invest in infrastructure.

The waste water treatment plant (WWTP) operation will have a positive impact on the environment. Picturesque and eco-friendly border areas offer a good potential for rural tourism. The authorities in the subregions hope that the project will help to



FIRE SAFETY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

They say disasters bring people together. The rescuers of Poland and Belarus have decided to join efforts for successful emergency response.

The professionalism of Belarusian and Polish fire-fighters is beyond doubt. They have repeatedly demonstrated their competency by saving people and the environment from all kinds of emergencies. Still, joint exercises, experience sharing and equipment update will be very helpful for the rescuers of both countries.

Thanks to the project, the fire-fighters who are responsible for the safety in the border area have an opportunity to participate in joint tactical drills on both sides of the border and they have received new equipment for their fire brigades.

Within the project, 6 Polish partner organisations and 1 Belarusian are to receive 13 fire-fighting and rescue equipment units, nine for Poland and four for Belarus. Now the borderland fire-fighters have a new pump apparatus, a mobile command vehicle, rescue vehicles and other equipment.

The fire-fighters have been able to try out the new equipment during their joint drills and trainings. One experience sharing meeting took place in Poland, the other in Belarus. In total, the drills involved over 120 professionals.



Lead Partner: Losice County (Poland)

Partnership: Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (Belarus)

Sarnaki Commune (Poland)

Olszanka Commune (Poland)

Platerow Commune (Poland)

Stara Kornica Commune (Poland)

County Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Losice (Poland)

Total budget: 2 256 468.40 €

Programme contribution: 2 030 821.56 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.02.01.00-14-674/11-00

Website: <http://powiat.losice.pl/index.php/pl-by-ua-2007-2013.html>



Rescue drills and emergency response are not the only tasks of the rescuers. It is equally important to involve volunteers in fire brigades. In the borderland, emergency response should be particularly fast, and every assistance will come in handy. For this purpose, four fire rescue teams in Brest and the State Fire Service in Losice published several promotional materials.

The project improves emergency protection in the areas on both sides of the Belarusian-Polish border, including in case of fires, road and railway accidents and hazardous substance releases.

The partners intend to continue working together and meeting to exchange experience after project completion. After all, safety of residents on both sides of the border is paramount.

“By working together within the framework of joint trainings, we have not only gained experience in the implementation of this type of investment; more than that, we have built up mutual confidence. After the project, we are planning to support cooperation, for example, by joint drills to align activities of specialised rescue teams in Poland and Belarus,” said the project participants.

MEASURE: 2.1. Natural environment protection in the borderland

Creating municipal system for handling waste household electronic and electrical equipment in Lviv with the experience of Lublin

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Urban Planning Department of the Lviv City Council (Ukraine)
Partnership: NGO "Environmental Initiatives" (Ukraine)
Municipality of Lublin (Poland)
Total budget: 1 350 780.00 €
Programme contribution: 1 202 194.20 €
Duration: 24 months
Project reference number:
IPBU.02.01.00-76-742/11-00
Website: <http://e-waste.lviv.ua>, <http://city-adm.lviv.ua>, <http://eco-initiatives.org.ua>

LVIV AND LUBLIN GET RID OF E-WASTE

The twin cities of Lublin and Lviv have joint forces to address the issue of waste household electronic and electrical equipment.

Ukrainian Project Coordinator Oleg Gladchuk who represents the NGO "Environmental Initiatives" says: "E-waste disposal is not just a burning issue; it is a "challenge of modern society. Kilos of extremely dangerous carcinogens (mercury, lead, etc.) go to Polish and Ukrainian municipal landfills with residential waste stream (dead batteries or burnt-out mercury-

containing light bulbs), and much more comes with industrial waste."

Establishing a high-quality e-waste management system is a relatively new activity for Ukraine. That is why Lviv wisely decided to seek advice from Lublin which has had about 20 years of experience in addressing the issue and is a leader in this field in Poland. In February 2013, the twin cities started developing a comprehensive municipal e-waste management programme that has been approved.

The next step is to purchase and install a recycling line for tubular and compact energy-saving light bulbs. The project initiators will proceed with the collection of mercury-containing and fluorescent light bulbs after obtaining a Hazardous Waste Permit. Meanwhile, in May, Lviv City Council launched an international tender for purchasing the recycling line. The project coordinators estimate that after obtaining the necessary permits and start-up, the line with a capacity of 200 kg per year will be able to recycle light bulbs both from Lviv and other cities in the Western region.

Environmentalists are also planning to start collecting large waste equipment (TV-sets, refrigerators, washing machines, etc.). Currently, the common practice is to extract precious metals using rudimentary techniques and discard equipment cases in all sorts of places, thus polluting the environment.

150 representatives of local government, NGOs, research organisations and businesses attended E-Waste in the City Conference.

100 lectures on the responsible e-waste handling were conducted in the framework of the project.

80 containers for separate batteries collection were placed in the public buildings in Lviv.

20 containers for the collection of household appliances and electronic devices were placed in the streets of Lublin.

4 videos promoting a responsible e-waste approach were launched on local TV.



DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION AS THERAPY

Two old buildings in the border area of Belarus and Poland have been renovated and given new life to enable children with disabilities to live and learn in a friendlier environment. Now, about a hundred young Poles and Belarusians with special needs can live a regular school life rather than learn fractions, suffixes and other knowledge at home, alone with their teacher. This opportunity is provided through the renovation of the Kamianiec District Centre for Remedial Training and Rehabilitation (Belarus) and Hajnowka School for Children with Special Needs (Poland).

First of all, the project initiators and implementers have arranged for transportation. After all, this factor is often an insurmountable barrier for children from remote localities, who cannot attend because of transportation issues. Then, appropriate furniture and equipment were purchased for both centres. Classrooms, as well as adaptation, rehabilitation and therapy rooms and creativity areas were equipped. In particular, conditions were created for the day stay of children with severe disabilities: 20 persons in Poland and 6 in Belarus.

"The kids we work with require special care. They suffer from serious diseases such as Down syndrome, autism or cerebral palsy; sometimes there are multiple conditions. Thanks to the Centre's renovation, our children can get an education

Lead Partner: County Hajnowka (Poland)

Partnership: Kamianiec District Executive Committee (Belarus)

Total budget: 606 061.35 €

Programme contribution: 545 455.21 €

Duration: 30 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-20-068/10-00

Website: www.powiat.hajnowka.pl



and rehabilitation on an in-patient basis. Their parents also received an opportunity to work normally," emphasizes Natalia Sadovskaya, Director of Kamenets Centre.

Another step towards the removal of barriers is mini-group visits of the centres' children to their counterparts on the other side of the border. The purpose of these visits is to socially integrate children with special needs and eliminate prejudice that still exists in society.

"Cooperation with Belarus brought a lot of positive changes to the lives and activities of persons with disabilities in our region, and I consider it a valuable success. Thanks to this project, since autumn 2012, teachers and students of the Association of Specialized Schools in Hajnowka have been studying full-time and working on the basis of a renovated and well-equipped Special School and

Educational Centre. The dreams of the children, their parents, teachers, and also my dreams have come true," says Lucyna Wawreszuk, Director of the new Hajnowka Centre. It should be added that the two centres can share their methodological achievements, teaching discoveries and joys within the project through their website.



MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

Development of Co-operation in Order to Improve Histopathological Diagnostics of Breast Cancer and Colorectal Cancer in the Polish-Belarusian Borderland

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: M. Skłodowska-Curie Białystok Oncology Centre (Poland)

Partnership: Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital (Belarus)

Total budget: 1 477 244.08 €

Programme contribution: 1 329 519.67 €

Duration: 28 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-20-103/10-00

Website: www.oncology.grodno.by



DIAGNOSTICS AS A FIRST STEP IN A BATTLE AGAINST CANCER

During the project, a sustainable partnership will be established between the Cancer Centre in Poland and its counterpart in Belarus. Joint research and professional trainings have been conducted; the efficiency of breast and colon cancer diagnostics has been improved; medical diagnostic equipment has been purchased.

Cancer has been and still is one of the major social and economic problem of modern society. Incidence rates are growing rapidly, with 35% of cases detected at advanced stages. This can be caused by different reasons, including incomplete or long examination, wrong diagnosis or asymptomatic course, which results in delayed treatment.

The main objective of the project is to improve the breast and colon cancer treatment quality.

This problem can be solved through the creation of a registry for the patients with precancerous conditions and development of efficient methods of their screening and monitoring. Such a database will prevent delays in screening.

This is just what the project team is doing in the course of the project implementation. The development of this direction requires a large-scale awareness-raising campaign in various media to inform the community about availability of such services. As

a result, local residents can be screened and obtain required information and treatment.

Joanna Samostoj, a representative of Białystok Cancer Center, spoke about the issues addressed by the project and its impact on the regions:

“About Issues Faced by the Region

The major issue for Białystok Cancer Center and Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital is a low level of competencies among oncologists which has been improved by the activities within the project. As compared to the rest of the country, the border region has a limited access to specialized cancer diagnostics and detection services.

About Outputs of the Project

During the project, specialized equipment has been purchased. Now breast and colon cancers can be detected faster than ever. The project will reduce limitations in the provision of healthcare services in the border areas of Poland and Belarus and raise the healthcare level, which will help to address the issue of timely cancer detection. Previously, Grodno Hospital used to send patients to Minsk for treatment. Now certain examinations can be performed locally. The modern equipment purchased under the project ensures fast cancer detection and healthcare professionals of the clinics on both sides of the border get good training and share experience with their colleagues.”



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES: RURAL CHILDREN ALSO WANT TO STUDY

There is a stereotype in society that rural children are less prepared for school and that they don't need good education. This is indeed the opposite. Rural children are just as curious and quick-witted as urban children. The thing is that in some rural areas there is no preschool education. The project is exactly aimed at giving the opportunity for more than 1000 children aged 3–5 years living in 48 rural border areas to receive preschool education. There are 4 Ukrainian and 12 Polish regions involved in the project implementation.

The project has contributed to solving the specific problems of small settlements. Good conditions for children's education have been created in rural areas. Teachers and authorities involved in preschool education have improved their qualifications and are now ready to work with small children. And the educational process promises to be exciting: teachers learned modern methods of interactive education and are ready to use an innovative approach in teaching. There was a wide informational campaign for parents to assure them that education for 3–5-year-old children is also important. This campaign was successful. Self-governments in Ukraine tried to deal with the preschool education on a district level, but to organise pre-



Lead Partner: Charity organisation Educational Initiatives Centre (Ukraine)

Partnership: West Ukrainian Regional Non-profit Public organisation Volyn Resource Centre, non-governmental organisation (Ukraine)
Agency for the Development of the Radekhiv Region, non-governmental organisation (Ukraine)
Charity Foundation Centre of Civic Initiatives (Ukraine)

Public-educational society for disadvantages and disabled "Edukator" (Poland)

Total budget: 316 871.00 €

Programme contribution: 277 376.76 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-76-257/10-00

school education in settlements and villages at the required level was a kind of challenge.

Partners of the project have chosen a way to create alternative preschool educational establishments.

"We are proud that during the project implementation almost 1000 children of preschool age (representing 48 settlements from 8 districts of Ukraine) will go to school already being prepared for it thanks to kindergarten. They will adapt to school more easily. Right after us (Ukrainian educators) educators from kindergartens in Poland will receive the necessary support in diagnosis and elaboration of further steps in development," say the Ukrainian partners of the project.

The project is aimed not only at the organisation of preschool educational institutions, but also at eliminating the scepticism of local people: many rural people do still believe that preschool education makes no sense and is useless.

"We place the main emphasis on the introduction of innovative solutions to preschool education in order to prove that we can provide equal educational opportunities for rural children," the participants of the project underlined. Polish experience in the matter was taken as a base and was used by Ukrainian partners.

MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

Cross-border cooperation for the prevention and treatment of extensive burn injuries in the Polish-Ukrainian cross-border area

AUTUMN
2014

Lead Partner: Independent Public Health Care Centre (SP ZOZ) in Leczna (Poland)

Partnership: Ludwin Commune (Poland)
Leczynski District (Poland)

Ustyluh City Council (Ukraine)

Municipal Company "Lutsk City Hospital" (Ukraine)

Total budget: 1 334 983.95 €

Programme contribution: 1 033 714.14 €

Duration: 21 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-06-326/11-00

Website: www.spzoz.powiatleczynski.pl,
www.szpital.leczna.pl, www.opik.org.ua



BURN PATIENTS TO BE TREATED USING A ROADMAP

Despite the fact that Poland and Ukraine have significantly improved the quality of burn treatment, currently the treatment level is not adequate enough.

In early June 2013, a project presentation took place in Lutsk City Hospital.

Currently, only a part of patients with deep burns receive skilled medical care. Thus, on the Polish side this share accounts for 60%, and on the Ukrainian side it is even lower, 44%. A high mortality rate is observed among patients with thermal injuries.

There are several reasons for this. One reason is poor infrastructure and a shortage of medical equipment. Another reason may be a response time of the rescue team and a lack of appropriate vehicles. The region does not have enough medical staff; the procedures for deep burn management are not very clear, and contacts between burn centres on both sides of the border are not close enough.

However, the primary source of all these issues is low levels of awareness amongst local communities about the danger of burns and first aid methods.

To address these and other issues, the project team has designed various tasks to be completed.

Thus, the project provides for purchasing a mobile ICU for transporting and providing skilled first aid response to patients with severe burn injuries. In addition, intensive care units will now have modern beds and advanced equipment. A clear medical care system will be developed and put in place for patients with severe burn injuries. For this purpose, emergency response, border and customs services have been engaged. Educational and promotional activities will raise awareness on the danger of burns; conferences will allow doctors to share experience with their foreign counterparts.

At this stage of the project, a roadmap of medical care for burn patients has already been developed. A roadmap is a tool that contains analytical and methodological guidelines. Not only the project participants, but also local authorities, state emergency services, urgent care and healthcare establishments participated in the creation of the roadmap. Their joint work resulted in a procedure for the management of patients with thermal injuries. The procedure has been approved by all involved services and institutions.

Implementation of the project will help to raise the technical and institutional capacity of hospitals and burn centres, and improve efficiency of deep burn treatment.



ASMIANY AND SUWALKI TO GET SKINNY

It doesn't mean that the Belarusian-Polish border area is going to suffer from hunger. It's just that the project initiators are doing their best to give life to the phrase "Live a Healthy and Active Life" for Suwalki and Asmiany by developing the region's sports infrastructure.

The World Health Organisation has been long promoting healthy lifestyles and combatting overweight/obesity as a cause of numerous diseases and reduced life expectancy. However, jogging in the woods is not for everyone, and it is better for overweight people to get exercise in special areas under supervision.

The project has helped to encourage the region's residents to live active lives and do sports. Its goal was to improve accessibility to sports in general and sports facilities in particular, thus reducing obesity.

A sophisticated sports infrastructure in the border area is something that can make the region well-developed and modern. In addition, the availability of a large number of multipurpose facilities makes the area attractive for sports tourism.

Under the project, Asmiany stadium will be reconstructed and a new multipurpose gym in Przebrod will be built.

Lead Partner: Suwalki Commune (Poland)

Partnership: Asmiany District Executive Committee (Belarus)

Total budget: 1 671 567.98 €

Programme contribution: 1 504 411.18 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-20-371/11-00

Website: www.gmina.suwalki.pl



These facilities include a polyurethane-surface sports ground with nets and gates, a tennis court, a five-a-side pitch, a fencing hall and multi-purpose gyms.

All areas are under video surveillance; the video surveillance equipment is to be installed in a way to prevent its damage.

The facilities meet European standards and can host competitions and championships.

The project has involved cooperation in other aspects of the region's social and economic life. Healthy, strong and active people are the potential that will develop small towns. Local authorities are planning not just to encourage people to monitor their health and lose extra weight, but to take up professional sports. In the future, the project partners intend to organise cross-border competitions. Incidentally, the facilities will be built to meet the needs of people with disabilities.



MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

AUTUMN
2014

Development of cross-border cooperation in order to improve public health conditions of the Bielski district and Luboml rayon through programmes of health promotion and prevention in the field of oncological diseases and tuberculosis

Lead Partner: Independent Public Health Care Institution in Bielsk Podlaski (Poland)

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

Total budget: 2 389 452.61 €

Programme contribution: 2 150 268.40 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-20-423/11-00

Website: www.spzoz-bielsk.pl



ONCOLOGISTS OF BORDER REGIONS IN POLAND AND UKRAINE ARE AIMING AT CANCER PREVENTION.

Healthcare professionals in Bielsk Podlaski and the Luboml Region, who are concerned about cancer and tuberculosis rates, have come together to address a number of pressing issues in the region.

Project activities will be useful above all for the residents of these regions. The project implementation course has been carefully designed to ensure that all objectives are reached.

The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of medical services, healthcare conditions through prevention and health promotion programmes, quality and accessibility of medical services in the field of cross-border cooperation.

The project team has become a force to ensure timely cancer and tuberculosis detection through public education activities. In addition, the team is working to identify general healthcare challenges in the border area and enhance the quality of medical services in the Polish-Ukrainian border region. It is also planned to improve conditions of life for cancer patients through chronic disease treatment.

Achieving the goals will contribute to improving the quality of life in the local community and on a larger scale in the whole of Poland and Ukraine. The project implementation area is expected to receive long-term benefits. International activities will help to achieve the project objectives, raise

awareness and expand knowledge about cancer and tuberculosis. The project is based on the international programme defined in the "European Code Against Cancer", as well as the National Programme Against Oncological Diseases, which is implemented by the National Health Fund.

The target group is residents of the project area. Project-related activities will be primarily designed for them. Several activities are aimed at improving healthcare conditions.

"The project will improve the healthcare quality and help people in the region to get medical advice on their health concerns," said B. Grotowicz, Director of Independent Public Health Care Institution in Bielsk Podlaski. "The communities need this project."

As part of the project, eleven medical equipment units and three vehicles will be procured. In addition, healthcare professionals will be trained to operate the purchased equipment. The Polish side has performed 6929 preventive examinations for early detection in the direction of oncological diseases and tuberculosis and the Ukrainian side has performed 4900.

The achieved results will be long-term. The activities will raise public awareness of the need for regular screenings. Purchased X-ray equipment will improve the quality of medical services. The joint work of the two medical institutions in the two countries will promote the exchange of experience and build on practical skills.



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CARRIED OUT TOGETHER

Modern life makes it difficult to avoid emissions. However, their toxicity can be reduced, which is also effective.

The experts from Rzeszow University and the Institute of Cell Biology of the National Academy of Sciences (Lviv) have teamed up to monitor the environmental status of the border area.

Under the project, a joint research group of Ukrainian and Polish scientists has been created in the cross-border area. Experts shared their methods of using microorganisms and plants to detoxify xenobiotics and heavy metals, and discussed ways to detect toxic substances in the environment.

The project has provided an opportunity for scientists to participate in field research activities and tours, conferences and symposiums.

Polish and Ukrainian scientists decided to maintain the established connections through the Internet. A dedicated website has been created to publish lab test results and other information interesting for both parties.

The project is essential to the region for several reasons. Ukrainian academics note that they were lacking con-

Lead Partner: University of Rzeszow (Poland)

Partnership: Institute of Cell Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine)

Total budget: 366 991.00 €

Programme contribution: 330 291.90 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-18-452/11-00

Website: www.labprice.ua,
www.environment.lviv.ua/



tacts with their foreign counterparts. Similar scientific activities have been carried out for many years on both sides of the border, but different methods are used and, consequently, different results are obtained. It is crucial that experts could share, compare and analyse data to accurately describe the environmental status and suggest ways to improve it.

In addition, the project has been able to engage young researchers in scientific activities.

However, scientists' enthusiasm is not enough.

"We can say that Ukrainian scientific institutions slow down rather than enhance the development of information society," say the project partners from Lviv. "The project allowed updating their technical resources and computerizing scientific work." Scientific exchange, according to the project partners, will help to strengthen cross-border ties in the fields of science, education and environmental protection. The experts are willing to share experience not only with their counterparts, but also with the local community. Publications describing in simple terms the region's environmental status and European global environmental standards appeared in various media.

The project results will be summarised by a monograph with articles by Polish and Ukrainian researchers on the state of wastewater, airborne formaldehyde content and other important aspects of environmental health.



MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

AUTUMN
2014

A development of cooperation between medical facilities from a Polish-Belarusian borderland in the treatment of acute psychiatric disorders

Lead Partner: Stanislaw Deresz's Independent Psychiatric Healthcare Centre in Choroszcz (Poland)
Partnership: Brest Oblast Psychoneurological Health Centre (Belarus)
International Public Charity Association "UNIHELP" (Belarus)
Total budget: 1 958 865.30 €
Programme contribution: 1 762 782.88 €
Duration: 24 months
Project reference number:
IPBU.03.01.00-20-564/11-00
Website: www.jednamedycyna.eu

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS SHOULD NEVER BE NEGLECTED

At the time when the whole world is struggling against viruses no one shall neglect the wide spread of acute psychiatric disorders.

Psychiatric medical institutions of Belarus and Poland decided to unite their efforts within the project in order to make relevant services more effective and more available for the population.

The project gave an opportunity to exchange experience between specialists of Stanislaw Deresz's Independent Psychiatric Healthcare Centre in Choroszcz (Po-

land) and doctors from Brest Oblast Psychoneurological Health Centre and volunteers from International Public Charity Association "UNIHELP" (Belarus).

Doctors took part in scientific conferences and seminars, educational trainings and trips. New tools and equipment were acquired within the project.

There was an opportunity for doctors and non-medical specialists to improve and develop qualifications and skills for work with patients having acute psychiatric disorders.

A number of joint trips are devoted to prophylaxis of psychiatric disorders. Doctors came to a conclusion that preventive work with mentally healthy people is as important as work with those having psychiatric disorders. Polish and Belarusian doctors have jointly developed social advertisement, which aims at avoiding stereotypes and making positive and loyal attitude towards people suffering psychiatric illnesses.

Due to the fact that television is currently the most popular mass media, specialists decided to use this channel of communication for their prophylaxis campaign. A 45-second-long video-clip was created. It says that people with psychiatric disorders should not be ashamed, but visit a doctor, the mental state can get ill just as our body does – and there is nothing shameful about it. The Belarusian Ministry of Healthcare has supported the airing of the video-clip on TV in Belarus.



POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDERLAND IN NEED OF STRONGER NGO COMMUNITY

The education level in the border region of Poland and Ukraine is quite satisfactory. About 27–29% of Ukrainian residents have a university degree. In the Polish region the rate is slightly lower and makes 12–21%. However, specialised education does not fully meet the requirements of the current economy. Economic challenges strongly affect the state of the third sector (NGOs) in the region.

The Polish border region is characterised by the lowest number of non-governmental organisations per 10,000 inhabitants as compared with other regions of Poland. Lublin Voivodeship and Subcarpathian Voivodeship have 15 and 16 non-governmental organisations per 10,000 inhabitants, respectively. For comparison, Pomeranian Voivodeship has 20 NGOs, while Masovian Voivodeship has 22 NGOs per 10,000 inhabitants.

The situation with Ukrainian NGOs is even worse than that. Here, the third sector is still gathering momentum and resembles Poland in the 1990s.

A major issue for NGO operation is funding. Public bodies maintain neutrality. They do not interfere with NGO activities, but do not provide support for their development, either. However, the situation is gradually chang-



Lead Partner: Polish Foundation of the Opportunities Industrialisation Centres 'OIC Poland' in Lublin (Poland)

Partnership: European fund of recreational, natural, environmental and humanitarian activity assistance "Futurus XXI" (Ukraine)

Association for Popularising the Beauty of Polesie (Poland)

Total budget: 536 600.00 €

Programme contribution: 482 940.00 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-06-578/11-00

Website: www.siecwszolpracy-ngo.pl/,
www.tppp.oic.lublin.pl/,
www.futurus.org.ua/



ing for the better. The project team's activities will help to strengthen the position of NGOs in the border region. "Usually, the problems in the border regions manifest themselves on both sides of the border," says Elwina Ivanek, President of the Board of Polish Foundation of the Opportunities Industrialisation Centres "OIC Poland". "There is a need to address a situation where boundary constraints limit the activities of non-governmental organisations trying to solve a specific problem occurring on both sides of the border."

Ms. Ivanek also believes that there are many more constraints to such activities, beside the border: language barriers, financial difficulties, etc. "The project will mitigate these problems by establishing contacts and building mutual understanding between Polish and Ukrainian non-governmental organisations in four areas: culture and heritage; environment and natural heritage; volunteering and youth; civil society."

The overall objective of the project is to promote cooperation between 60 Polish and Ukrainian non-governmental organisations. One of the goals set by the project team is to create a network of NGOs and increase the number of joint initiatives.

MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

Planet of ideas – cross-border transfer of knowledge in the area of attracting investments for development of border tourism

AUTUMN
2014

Lead Partner: Grodno District Unit of Social Organization "Tourism-Sport National Association" (Belarus)

Partnership: Department of Physical Education, Sport and Tourism of Grodno Oblast (Belarus)
Volyn Regional Entrepreneurship Support Fund (Ukraine)

Innovation and Development Promotion Centre (Poland)

Total budget: 348 833.00 €

Programme contribution: 313 949.70 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-58-602/11-00

Website: www.i-planeta.eu



KNOWLEDGE IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER TOURISM

The project "Planet of ideas" is a transboundary transfer of knowledge how to attract investment of capital for the development of border tourism. The mission of the project was to train employees of the tourism sector who work in the border regions of the partner countries how to manage the projects co-financed from European Union funds. Danuta Polubenskaya, the project administrator from the Belarusian side, marks top-5 of principal achievements:

1. We overcame the fear of writing projects.

The employees of the tourism sector feel the lack of knowledge about projects: what is it, how to make up application and write down your idea in the correct form, how to realize it afterwards. These are the biggest problems which I can name. That's why they get inspired when they see the success of their neighbours from Poland and Ukraine.

2. We improved competence and skills.

It's not enough to invent. You need to think over everything carefully. We put the problem for our training experts to choose from the plenty of ideas of our participants those ones which will work. One coach helped to define the idea, find out problem zones, or vice-versa

sort out and use a zest which can get moving tourist industry in the region. The another coach helped to choose the effective economic model for this idea. The third one examined law aspects of the project.

3. We took over the control of personal factor in making decisions.

During implementation of the project we organized sharing of experience for the local executives and their Polish colleagues. You know, when the officials paddled a kayak around Augustow Canal like real tourists, when they felt all advantages and troubles in this sphere their interest in cooperation grew up.

4. We connected potential partners.

The essential problem is the difficulty with the access to the information about the possibilities of international cooperation. Within our project we exchanged our potential projects ideas with the partners from different countries and created website www.i-planeta.eu.

5. We shook up the youth.

That enthusiasm with which our participants respond all our educational and integrating programs demonstrates how actual and called-for the subject of project writing and implementation is. Fire is burning in their eyes. Almost all the participants of our project are young men under 30. If they get now knowledge, contacts, impulse, in the future it will bear fruit, I'm sure.



SCIENCE KNOWS NO BORDERS

Talented scientists and inquisitive students from Drohobych and Rzeszow are working together, despite the fact that they are living on different sides of the Ukrainian-Polish border. Student exchanges, scientific conferences and studies were made possible thanks to the financial support provided within the project.

"Until now, we have not had the opportunity to carry out all the joint research we wanted, because our scientific contacts were limited by financial barriers. The project allowed us to present our research to our Polish counterparts. In fact, Ukrainian research methods differ from those existing in the EU," say Ukrainian project partners from Drohobych University.

Ukrainian and Polish scientists will join forces to work on research and development in the fields of environmental protection and communications that could meet the needs of the border areas and contribute to the development of the regions.

The project investment allowed universities to purchase audio, video and computer equipment, which will undoubtedly enhance the development of information society in the cross-border area. Educational institutions are hoping to build capacity and engage both local/regional stakeholders and foreign partners in research and cultural cooperation.



Lead Partner: University of Rzeszow (Poland)

Partnership: Pedagogical State University in Drohobych (Ukraine)

Total budget: 356 136.00 €

Programme contribution: 320 522.40 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-18-629/11-00

Website: <http://www.integracja.univ.rzeszow.pl>



University professors of Drohobych visited the Polish University and were able to evaluate teaching methods and using the Internet for teaching. Incidentally, in the course of meetings and workshops, Ukrainian experts concluded that the Internet can be a key tool for the continuous exchange of experience and information on ongoing studies.

Scientists do not always deal with theoretical calculations or data collection. Experts from Drohobych and Rzeszow intend to implement their research into practice in the field of biology, agriculture and ethnography. The universities in the border area engage their students, as well as young researchers from other universities for joint work.

Scientific exchange under the project has been organised in a variety of ways. For example, students launched creative workshops where they interactively discussed the challenges faced by the research in art, ecology and organic farming.

As part of the project, both universities hosted public lectures and presentations of the latest global developments and scientific articles.

It can be said that the project is in the "equator" of its implementation: the partners have conducted 7 events out of 14 planned with 167 participants, 16 certificates out of 32 have been awarded to trained staff.

Scientists are going to support the established contacts. In future, the participants will hold a series of presentations, conferences and student meetings to discuss the progress.

MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

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

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Dr. Ludwik Rydygier Voivodeship Hospital in Suwalki (Poland)

Partnership: Grodno Regional Clinical Hospital (Belarus)

Total budget: 3 912 600.56 €

Programme contribution: 3 521 340.50 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-20-663/11-00

Website: www.szpital.suwalki.pl



SUWALKI AND HRODNA JOINT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE MEDICAL SERVICES

Oncology diseases are tending to be alerting issue for border lands of Poland and Belarus. Citizens of Podlaskie voivodeship and Hrodna region are facing problems of limited availability of modern methods for diagnosis and treatment of cancer and also for emergencies. There are only few centers in Podlaskie voivodeship, which provide specialized aid in the sphere of oncology diseases. All that causes problems of long waiting for the diagnosis and treatment. It is important as the mortality rate in the sphere is rather high.

Exactly for this reason investments into medical facilities, infrastructure (medical equipment and apparatus) are the very important factor for ensuring of high level of medical services.

“Cooperation of medical institutions from Suwalki and Hrodna is aimed at improvement of access to high quality medical aid for border regions population especially in the question of diagnosis of oncology diseases and organization of medical aid in emergency situations” – says Adam Szalanda, director of Dr. Ludwik Rydygier Voivodeship Hospital in Suwalki, – “Our joint project is devoted to people. Human life and good health are highest values for both partner-institutions”.

Equipment purchased for clinical oncology department and for hematology department (chemotherapy room)

will ensure effective diagnosis and high quality treatment from cancer. Transboundary essence of the project will foster exchange of experience between two hospitals from Belarus and Poland.

The main objective of the project is cooperation on the regional level between medical institutions of Poland and Belarus directed to improvement of quality of oncology diagnosis and organization of aid in an emergency situation. Among activities of the project we can distinguish such activities as repair and modernization of clinical oncology department and purchase of needed equipment for the hospital in Suwalki. Also it is planned to purchase special medical equipment for Regional Clinical Hospital in Hrodna.

During the project implementation it was planned to conduct 2 conferences and 4 seminars. In April 2014 partners conducted one of the seminars. The seminar was attended by the representatives of two medical partner-hospitals. The main goal of the seminars was to exchange experience between the doctors and specialists and organization of work of emergency departments, and exchange of experience while working in emergency situations.

Today a number of activities for modernization of clinical oncology and hematology department have been made in Suwalki hospital (Poland). The nearest plans are: to purchase modern medical equipment, computers, organization of a series of events (seminars and trainings), publication of brochures and more.



REHABILITATION CENTRES TO BE RECONSTRUCTED TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Both Poland and Ukraine have people with intellectual disabilities who require special care. The level of social assistance provided to such people is a common problem for Lviv Region (Ukraine), Hrubieszow County (Poland). All possible conditions should be created for intellectually disabled people to prevent their social isolation. What are the major issues addressed by the project?

The project is aimed at improving infrastructure for people with disabilities, including the intellectually disabled. A large number of people in the region are in need of care, but there are not enough sufficient resources to ensure their independent living. The region has only few facilities providing assistance to people with intellectual disabilities, and they are overcrowded. Waiting lists are constantly growing. In addition, the existing rehabilitation centres have outdated equipment and cannot fully meet community needs. Another issue is insufficient competencies of professionals working in such centres. All these factors prevent people with intellectual disabilities from social and cultural life in the region.



Lead Partner: Polish Association for Mentally Handicapped Werbkowice Circle (Poland)

Partnership: Dzherelo Educations and Rehabilitation Centre (Ukraine)

Total budget: 2 273 083.91 €

Programme contribution: 2 045 775.52 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-06-715/11-00

Website: www.werbkowice.psouu.org.pl,
www.dzherelocentre.org.ua



What steps are to be taken to resolve the current situation in the region?

The Polish and Ukrainian counterparts united their efforts to achieve a common goal of infrastructure development in the border region for people with intellectual disabilities.

There are not very many rehabilitation centres in the project area, although the number of people who need them is large enough. Thanks to the project the centres that operate in the region will have the possibility to improve the facilities for their patients. The Ukrainian project participants are planning to renovate and re-equip unused upper floors of Dzherelo Educations and Rehabilitation Centre in Lviv. (28 rooms will be renovated and equipped). Their Polish counterparts will reconstruct buildings in the village of Alojzow (Hrubieszow County, Lublin Voivodeship) with 68 rooms to be renovated and equipped.

Who are the primary project stakeholders?

The project will have a positive impact both on people with intellectual disabilities and their families, as well as on employees of the reconstructed centres. The staff will be able to share experiences with their foreign counterparts and, in addition, use high-quality modern equipment.

Achievement of these objectives can help to improve the situation in the region and the status of the people with mental disorders in the border area.

MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

Creation of Polish-Ukrainian Center of Breeding and Promotion of Hucul Horse

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Experimental Division of the Institute of Zootechnics – The State Research Institute Odrzechowa (Poland)

Partnership: Science-manufacturing Association „Plemkonecentr” in Soloczyn (Ukraine)
The Regional Association of Horse Breeders in Rzeszow (Poland)

Total budget: 1 708 332.93 €

Programme contribution: 1 537 499.64 €

Duration: 24 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-18-751/11-00

Website: <http://www.huculy-polska-ukraina.eu/>



HUCUL HORSE BREED TO BE RESTORED IN THE EASTERN CARPATHIANS

The project team has set a major goal to establish permanent cross-border cooperation for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in the border regions of Poland and the Ukraine.

Project-Addressed Issues in the Region:

The region has been facing several issues that will be dealt with within the project. The first one is a threat of extinction of Hucul horse breed. This breed inhabiting the Eastern Carpathians is unique, and since 1979 it has been subject to gene pool protection of rare native species. To tackle this issue, the project team is planning to create a Polish-Ukrainian Center of Breeding, renovate stables and improve facilities (corrals and fences).

The second issue is underestimation of the region for its tourism potential and weak promotion of the common cultural and natural heritage of the Eastern Carpathian nations. The heritage also includes the rare horse species belonging to the area. The tourists' interest in the cultural and natural heritage will be increased by a website dedicated to Hucul horse breeding, a photo album and a film shot during the project. The film will tell about the breed, breeding methods, the region of the Eastern Carpathians, its cultural herit-

age and importance for tourism. In addition, a folk festival “The Hucul Horse in the Culture of the Carpathian Mountains” covering both sports and travel events is to be held within the project. This will help to overcome cultural and psychological barriers and demonstrate that cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian institutions and organizations can bring tangible benefits in the long run.

The third issue is a lack of infrastructure and professional training for breeders of endangered Hucul horse. In this regard, the project team is planning to conduct professional training on horse breeding and grooming.

Project-Planned Activities:

A folk festival “The Hucul Horse in the Culture of the Carpathian Mountains” covering both sports events and tourism presentations is to be held. This will help to overcome cultural and psychological barriers and demonstrate that cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian institutions and organizations can bring tangible benefits in the long run. Professional training for Hucul horse breeders is aimed at the same.

Further Cooperation of the Project Participants:

A joint long-term program “Polish-Ukrainian Strategy for the Restoration of the Hucul Horse in Its Natural Habitat” has been developed to foster future cooperation in the border regions. A joint action plan will also be prepared for this purpose. The actions will contribute to the efforts of the parties on both sides of the border and enhance cooperation between Poland and the Ukraine.



ISSUE OF THE “AWKWARD AGE” IS ADDRESSABLE

The Brest and Volyn Regions have joined forces to tackle an important and pressing issue of the “awkward age”. Due to various problems (home, family, financial, etc.), teens engage in aggressive, shocking or risky behaviours to prove their maturity, in an effort to get rid of parental overprotection or, on the contrary, in response to neglect. Natalya Yanchuk, Belarusian Project Coordinator, tells us about the impact that the project has on areas involved and the issues it addresses.

- Natalia, could you tell us about the essence of the project?
- As shown by various studies, problems of the “awkward age” are observed by teachers and parents throughout the Euroregion “Bug”. Therefore, our initiative group came up with a concept of the project “The improvement of work with Teenagers of Deviant Behaviour”. The basic idea is to study, sum up and diffuse best practices in the work with deviant (i.e. deviating from the generally accepted behaviour) adolescents, as well as in the social adaptation of adolescents and, as a consequence, reduce the number of teens listed on various offender registries.
- What has been achieved at this stage of implementation?
- The Social Adaptation Centre “Find Yourself” has been



Lead Partner: Board of Education of Brest Oblast Executive Committee (Belarus)

Partnership: Volyn Oblast Center of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth (Ukraine)
Gmina Drelow (Poland)

Total budget: 302 029.00 €

Programme contribution: 271 826.10 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-60-753/11-00

Website: <http://findyourself.by/>



opened. Since the start of the project, this centre has been visited by over 900 teenagers; over 270 interactive sessions were held, including ten classes based on the forum theatre technique.

Each month, we hold master classes for teachers on various prevention subjects and workshops for parents to discuss and address important issues and problems.

- What impact does it have on the region?
- Joint cooperation significantly enhances professional consolidation of specialists. This helps to study the problems of the Euroregion “Bug” in more details and develop a mechanism for making efficient joint solutions.
- What issues have you been able to address?
- Through an integrated approach, we have been able to reduce the number of teens listed on various offender registries. Close cooperation and continuous experience sharing among teachers is a good incentive for the professional development of educational skills.
- What do you get in the end?
- The project is aimed at creating conditions for unleashing the full potential and abilities of children and young people. In the project we have provided for the development of new educational forms and methods differing from traditional methods in the quality and organisation of the educational process. The project offers interesting techniques of work with adolescents: interactive, visual demonstration, creative, practice oriented and socially oriented techniques.

MEASURE: 3.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

Young People in Border Regions: Standing Together for Safety

**AUTUMN
2014**

Lead Partner: Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (Belarus)

Partnership: Territorial Administration of Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine in the Volyn region (Ukraine)
Volyn Regional Organization of Volunteer Fire Society in Ukraine (Ukraine)

Podlaskie Association of Physical Culture and Sports "Strazak" (Poland)

Biala Podlaska County Office (Poland)

Total budget: 444 294.60 €

Programme contribution: 399 865.14 €

Duration: 18 months

Project reference number:

IPBU.03.01.00-60-754/11-00

Website: <http://www.spasatel-euroregion.info/>



RESCUERS REACH OUT TO KIDS VIA WEB

Firefighters and rescuers from Belarus, Poland, and Ukraine go grassroots and use mass media and the Internet to bring vital safety knowledge to children.

According to Belarusian Project Coordinator Mikalai Kuzmistki, Head of Promotion and Training Center at Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), two factors have greatly contributed to the successful achievement of the objectives: team spirit of firefighters and longstanding contacts with Polish and Ukrainian partners. "The two pillars we base on are understanding that our work is very similar in all three regions and the historical

unity of Brest Region, Podlachia and Lublin Provinces (Poland), and Volyn Region (Ukraine)", says Mikalai Kuzmistki. During years of cooperation rescuers of the three countries have come to realize that new ways of working with young people should be used. "It is not easy to reach out through books or ordinary lectures to the generation accustomed to the bright virtual reality. Theoretic knowledge is to be offered in an entertaining way to involve children and teenagers in serious issues", explains the Belarusian Project Coordinator.

Currently, the Belarusian rescuers proudly present their methodological resources. Workshops for younger kids are conducted by older ones. Older kids are involved into interactive learning: demonstrations, specific skill practice, specialized tours, contests. According to the Project applicants, another important achievement of the Project is establishing of a continuous life safety learning system: kindergartens, schools, universities etc.

A particular highlight will be an exhibition on the history of Fire and Rescue Service in Brest Region. The emergency response staff managed to collect unique materials for the future display and came up with an innovative interactive concept that will surely appeal to teenagers.

Results of the project will be summarized at the closing event for participants. At the same event, The Declaration on the Establishment of the Young Borderland Rescuers' Association will be signed.





Cross border cooperation (CBC) and ensuring good relations with the EU's neighbours can be said to be one of the cornerstones of the European ideal, as it brings together people across borders to work on addressing these economic, social and cultural obstacles. That is why it is increasingly necessary to highlight the importance of the benefits of cross-border cooperation programmes and projects, not only for immediate stakeholders, but also and especially for the wider public.

The European Cooperation Day communication campaign provides a platform for wider visibility of the benefits of CBC, both within the EU and at its external borders. Under a common logo and the common slogan "Sharing borders, growing closer", hundreds of local events are organised by CBC programmes and projects in and around the 21st of September. The campaign is coordinated by the INTERACT II programme and the INTERACT ENPI project with the support of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. The central aim of European Cooperation Day is to communicate the achievements of European cooperation across borders to the general public. The local events showcase how cross-border projects are reducing obstacles and disparities, while at the same time increasing cultural understanding and efficiency between European regions and beyond.

This year (2014) is the third edition of European Cooperation Day, and the highlights from past campaigns include a swimming marathon between Greece and Albania; a cross-border football match between Finland and Russia; graffiti art between France and Spain and a race between a Latvian mini-van, a Lithuanian horse and a Belarusian tractor. Special mention goes to several events that have been organised by the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine ENPI CBC programme for European Cooperation Day: these include a cross-border postcard exchange and the "Creativity Knows No Borders" event which brought together young people across borders in a tournament where games were invented and played. The programme has also organised joint events with other ENPI CBC programmes including a project fair in Belarus with the Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus programme and a visit to a wine cellar in Ukraine with the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine programme.

Thousands of people have been reached over the past two years of the European Cooperation Day campaign, and this year we are aiming even higher! I look forward to working with the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine programme and other ENPI CBC programmes to contribute to the success of the 2014 edition.

On behalf of the INTERACT ENPI team,

Aisling Walsh
Liaison Manager



EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY

Sharing borders, growing closer

EC DAY 2014: WHAT'S ON STOCK?

Following the tradition of an eventful holiday of European Cooperation Day, we have the pleasure to report that the Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007–2013 celebrated it in two partner countries Belarus and Ukraine by four big events, two in each country. All the interested people could participate, starting from the youngest visitors of the age of 2, as there was something interesting for everyone!

Pinsk (Belarus) – 15–17 September

"Polesye Visibility Forum"

The forum in Pinsk attracted more than 100 participants from the three countries. The meeting started with workshop on cross-border communication hosted by invited experts. There was an opportunity to exercise how to tell about the CBC projects in a creative way.

The event continued on-board down the Pina River. The cruise was full of joyful dispute, sun and picturesque Polesian landscapes. Common dinner at the river side enriched by unforgettable singing performance of local, traditional band ended this day full of cooperation. Visiting museum of Napoleon Orda in Varacevicy was the high point of the next day (visiting the project 'Cross-border Centres of Cultural Dialogue in Losice and Varacevicy'). Napoleon Orda used to save joint, Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian cultural heritage in his sketches and the participants took the message of preserving common values and traditions home.

Brest (Belarus) – 20–21 September

"Bicycle Run for Cooperation"

The event was a success! More than 15 cyclists gathered together at the start line in Belovezhskaya Pushcha to share their bright feelings while cycling along the route covering both Belarusian and Polish territories. Participants were representing different ages and countries: children and pensioners had pleasure to cycle together. Also there were one participant from Bolivia and one participant from Portugal. Legendary cyclists, veterans

of the marathon "From Bug River to Atlantic Ocean" (from Brest (BY) – to Brest (FR)) which took place in far 1994, also joined the event and shared their enthusiasm with others.

Lutsk (Ukraine) – 22–23 September

"ECDay: We Play, We Dance, We Act!"

The venue of the event was the central square of the city, where the projects demonstrated their results in an attractive way. The activities included fire vehicle demonstration and life aid trainings, several theatre performances, games and artistic activities for children. In addition to this, a study tour was organised by project PBU/0601/11, focusing on investment opportunities, on a bus marked with Programme and EC Day signs.

Lviv (Ukraine) – 23 September

"A House for European Cooperation"

Pavilion located in front of Lviv National University was the centre of the event. Everybody could participate in quizzes and get their prizes (promotional materials). The tasks were split into 3 age categories – toddlers, elementary school kids, older kids and adults. The toddlers had simpler tasks like drawing, colouring or matching. At the same time, adults (parents) could learn about PBU Programme and its projects, EC Day from the posters and by communicating with LBO and project representatives.

In addition to this, there was a screen, where EC Day promo video was demonstrated as well as videos shot by the projects. Apart from activities in the pavilion, additional attractions were provided outside, including "Travelling in the Mountains" training (with an opportunity to try a real climbing wall), fire vehicles demonstration, vet ambulance and equipment presentation; medical consultations and tests, tracer show, mini-workshops to name just a few. In addition a press-conference was organized for journalists.

Be Part of It!

Follow www.pl-by-ua.eu for more information



DID YOU KNOW THAT:

! The most eventful project within the Programme is project IPBU.03.01.00-60-754/11-00 “Young People in Border Regions: Standing Together for Safety”. The Lead Partner Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus together with partners Territorial Administration of Ministry of Emergencies of Ukraine in the Volyn region, Volyn Regional Organisation of Volunteer Fire Society in Ukraine, Podlaskie Association of Physical Culture and Sports “Strazak” and Biala Podlaska County Office have organised and conducted a total of **186 events** in three countries. The events included workshops, master classes, first aid seminars, and open-air sessions with role-playing games, security awareness campaigns in shopping centres, competitions, demonstrations of fire and rescue services, exhibitions on the history of Fire and Rescue Service.

! The longest road reconstructed will be the road reconstructed within project IPBU.01.03.00-20-626/11-00 “Providing availability to the touristically and economically valuable areas – improvement of road quality in the Polish-Belarusian borderland”. The Lead Partner Monki County (Poland) will renovate Road No. 1838B county border/Strenkowa Gora/Laskowiec-Gugny-Osowiec (km

0+000 – km 33+000). The length of the renovated road which runs through Biebrza National Park is **33 km**. The results of the project will increase accessibility to the tourist environmentally valuable natural areas.

! The longest sewage system built is a system to be built within project IPBU.02.01.00-18-563/11-00 “Development of partnership cooperation towards the improvement of cross-border environment protection infrastructure in the townships of Poraż and Zagorz in Poland and in the city of Horodok in Ukraine”. The Lead Partner Commune of Zagorz will have **36 km** of sewage system by the end of project implementation, which will lead to a reduction of the quantity of sewage entering the natural environment.

! The largest number of vehicles purchased within one project is in project IPBU.02.02.00-06-618/11-00 “Together for safety of Lubelskie Voivodeship and Volyn district”. The Lead Partner Regional Police Headquarters in Lublin together with its partner Board of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in the Volyn district will have a total of **80 off-road passenger cars** with special equipment purchased for 10 Police units in Lubelskie garrison and 19 Ukrainian Militia units in the Volyn district. The vehicles



with be compatible equipment, as well as common trainings and practical exercises will improve the conducted activities of the services where common services are necessary.

! **The largest number of participants during the event** was involved in the event within project IPBU.01.02.00-18-054/10-00 "Lubaczow-Yavoriv two potentials, joint opportunity". The Lead Partner Lubaczow Municipality organised and conducted a Cross-border Meeting of Partner Towns in Lubaczow June 2014 with the total number of participants: **6 000 people**. A similar event is to be held in Yavoriv by partner Yavoriv City Council.

! **The longest marked tourist route** is in project IPBU.01.02.00-18-203/10-00 "Geo-Carpathians – Creating a Polish-Ukrainian Tourist Route". The Lead Partner the State Higher Vocational School in Krosno together with its partner Ivan Franko National University of Lviv have marked **700 km of geo-tourist route** of Polish-Ukrainian borderland of the Carpathian mountains, hence making the region more tourist-friendly.

! **The longest touristic route developed** is within project IPBU.01.02.00-06-252/10-00 "Bicycle route – following the Nadbuzanskie region mysteries". The Lead Partner State School of Higher Education of Pope John Paul II has created and marked **400 km of bicycle track**. Incidentally, together with its partner Brest State University of Alexander Pushkin, the partners have developed **600 km of bicycle routes** with 78 information boards and 14 parking places, which is also the longest united bicycle route within the Programme.

! **The largest number of copies** will be published by project IPBU.01.02.00-90-574/11-00 "Eastern European pearls: development and promotion transboundary city cultural tourism products". The Lead Partner Tourist Association of the Ivano-Frankivsk Region together with its partners: Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankovsk City Council, Kolomyia City Hall, Tourism Office of the Depart-

ment "Euro 2012" of Lviv City Council, Lublin Regional Tourist Organisation, Fundacja Akademia Obywatelska have planned to publish **247 050 copies** of all the publications within the project (including tourist maps, brochures, travel guides, leaflets and posters) in order to get maximum promotion of the tourist potential of the regions, hence contributing to their socio-economic development.

! **The most powerful wastewater treatment plant constructed** will be a result of project IPBU.02.01.00-20-616/11-00 "Extension of the Cross-border Sewage Treatment System in Drainage Area of the River Bug (Western)". The Partner Municipal Unitary Multiple Productive Enterprise of Communal-Housing Economy "Kamienietski ZKCh" from Belarus will construct a water treatment plant with the capacity of **2500 m³/day**. This plant will be constructed according to the "closed" technology.

! **The longest water supply system** is foreseen in project IPBU.01.03.00-18-550/11-00 "Partner cooperation development for improving cross-border environmental waterworks infrastructure in Glinne and Jankowce in Poland and in Hust in Ukraine". The Lead Partner Lesko Commune will construct **18.95 km** of water-pipe network in villages Glinne and Jankowce, which will allow to supply 233 buildings with water.





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