

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

MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP

REGIONAL HANDBOOK



European Union



Cross-border Cooperation Programme
Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013

CONTENT

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MAP	6
PROJECTS REGIONAL RESULTS	7
INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION	8
IPBU.02.01.00-14-177/10	12
Development of the rescue services Poland – Ukraine within the strengthening the infrastructure of cross-border management system of natural hazard	
IPBU.01.02.00-14-494/11	16
Cross-border Centres of Cultural Dialogue in Łosice and Varacevičy	
IPBU.02.01.00-14-674/11	20
Development of the cross-border cooperation aimed at protection of people and environment in the border area of Poland and Belarus	
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE REGION	24

Dear Reader,

It has been 10 years since Poland joined the European Union. As a result, the Polish Eastern border also became an external border of the EU. European Neighbourhood Policy instruments were made available to develop cross-border cooperation with the Eastern neighbours based on common values and goals.

Building a zone of sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity and tolerance became a joint priority for the border regions of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. The border regions gained a great opportunity to strengthen their cooperation through the realisation of common projects within the ENPI CBC Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013.

I am proud to present a series of publications reflecting how the regions from the eligible area of the Programme approached cross-border cooperation and what specific projects are being implemented on their territories to improve development processes. This analysis can also be a valuable guide on how to plan subsequent projects within the Programme under the financial perspective 2014-2020, which will open new possibilities for cross-border cooperation.

Sylwester Zając

Director at the Department of Certification
and Designation in the Ministry
of Infrastructure and Development
Joint Managing Authority of the ENPI CBC Programme
Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013



Ladies and Gentlemen

Poland, including the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, transforms constantly and strives to build a better future for its citizens. This is made possible through the financial instruments in the form of EU funds available for building a strong economy of our country, including those intended for cross-border cooperation. One such instrument is the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007-2013.

Cross-border cooperation has its own specifics. It is based on partnership and trust. The success of the implemented projects largely depends on the development and implementation of common solutions. The cooperation is influenced by factors not only at local and regional level, but also at state level. It fosters the development of contacts in the field of environmental protection, transport, scientific – research cooperation and international security. This creates better conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and tourism. A particular example of cooperation is when its characteristic features are close contacts, and the borders between countries begin to connect rather than limit. Participation in the Programme may bring a variety of challenges in the implementation of projects. However, there is no doubt that it is worth overcoming them, because the end result of their implementation can be really impressive.

The Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007-2013, whose beneficiary is, among other, Ostrołęka-Siedlce subregion, has so far supported the measures designed to minimise cultural, economic and social barriers. The projects have brought many benefits to the subregion in the form of initiatives implemented in the field of environmental protection, support of State and Volunteer Fire Services, as well as projects aimed at showing common history and traditions of the borderland. The participation of our voivodeship in the Programme has contributed to the economic development of the area, as well as strengthened ties between the neighbours on all sides of the border.

I am convinced that, in the beginning of the new financial perspective for 2014-2020, the beneficiaries from the Mazowieckie Voivodeship will better take advantage of their chance and prepare a lot of interesting projects that improve quality of life in the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland. I wish you all a pleasant read.



Janina Ewa Orzełowska

Vice-Marshall
of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MAP



PROJECTS REGIONAL RESULTS

INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE RELATIONS

CROSS-BORDER MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES/ TRAININGS
AND SEMINARS



INVESTMENT IN TOURISM

PUBLICATIONS
(E.G. ALBUMS, GUIDES)



PUBLIC EVENTS



NEW INSTITUTION: CROSS-BORDER
CENTRE OF CULTURAL DIALOGUE IN ŁOSICE



INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

MODERNIZED BUILDINGS

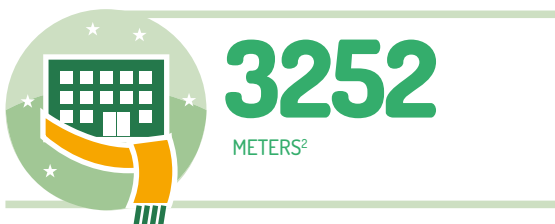


INVESTMENT IN SAFETY

RESCUE AND FIRE-FIGHTING VEHICLES
PURCHASED



THERMOMODERNIZATION OF BUILDINGS





Photograph: Adam Wółośz

INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

The north-eastern part of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, namely the sub-region Ostrołęka-Siedlce, is one of the core regions in the ENPI CBC Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007-2013.

The region is known for its impressive natural landscapes, typical for lowlands. Beautiful forests, meadows and river valleys, including part of the Landscape Park “Podlasie Breakthrough of the River Bug” with its huge variety of flora and fauna species, make the sub-region Ostrołęka-Siedlce an attractive tourist destination with great potential for eco-tourism development.

Furthermore, the region is located on the crossroads of the national and international routes leading from west to east and from north to south, what is a significant advantage supporting the local economy and development of transport infrastructure. It is worth mentioning that, among others, two important railroads connecting Warsaw with Brest and Hrodna are located here.



Kurpie, Photograph: Adam Wółośz

All together 12 organisations from Mazowieckie Voivodeship are directly involved in the implementation of cross-border projects within the Programme, including 4 of them acting as lead partners. The total budget for the projects, including foreign partners' expenses, amounts to about 5.5 million EUR and almost 90% of this sum is financed by Programme grants.

Within the Programme priority 1. „Increasing competitiveness of the border area” an interesting cultural initiative is being implemented by the city of Łosice, in cooperation with partners from Belarus and Ukraine – the Cross-border Centre of Cultural Dialogue. As a result of project implementation, a multi-purpose institution will be created in Łosice (with a sister institution in Varacevičy, Brest Oblast, Belarus), which will be responsible for the promotion of culture in the region. In future, it will become a venue

for a wide range of activities, with facilities for exhibitions, concerts, workshops and even accommodation of visiting artists.

There are also three projects being realised within the Programme priority 2, measure 2.1. „Natural environment protection in the borderland” in the region. Two of them concern reactions to natural hazards and better management of emergencies which pose a threat to the natural environment. District authorities of Sokołów Podlaski in cooperation with a local fire-brigade have established a Crisis Management Centre to perform planning and mo-

Beautiful forests, meadows and river valleys make the sub-region Ostrołęka-Siedlce an attractive tourist destination with great potential for eco-tourism development.



monitoring activities, as well as execute forecasts and analyses in a more efficient way. This will help to reduce the time of reaction in case of natural disasters. Another initiative

One of the environmental issues addressed in the region, is increasing the effectiveness of energy consumption. The municipality of Sokołów Podlaski is implementing a project, which aims at making public buildings (schools) more energy efficient.

for increasing safety in the region has been undertaken by Łosice County, in cooperation with local communes (Łosice, Sarnaki, Olszanka, Platerów, Stara Kornica) and a partner from Belarus (Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus). After project implementation, people will be provided with better protection against the consequences of accidents, related to automotive and railway transport breakdowns, storing and processing of dangerous materials. The project includes the purchase of new vehicles and joint training sessions for the partners' staff.





NGO from the Mazowieckie Voivodeship is also a partner in a project from the Programme priority 3. „Networking and people-to-people cooperation”, focused on access to cultural institutions (such as museums) for disabled visitors, especially the blind.

Kurpie, Photograph: Adam Bakula

One of the environmental issues addressed in the region, is increasing the effectiveness of energy consumption. The municipality of Sokołów Podlaski is implementing a project, which aims at making public buildings (schools) more energy efficient. Construction works are carried out in several educational institutions and a health centre. They include the insulation of walls and roofs or the replacement of old heating systems. This way, the project will contribute to solving the problem of environmental pollution generated by public utility buildings, which have insufficient thermo insulation and consume great amounts of fuel materials, which in turn release harmful gases and dusts to the environment and is cost-consuming.

Furthermore, NGO from the Mazowieckie Voivodeship (however outside the Programme area) is also a partner in a project from

the Programme priority 3. „Networking and people-to-people cooperation”, focused on access to cultural institutions (such as museums) for disabled visitors, especially the blind.

Certainly, all the projects currently implemented in the region will result in valuable and long-lasting effects. Moreover, the new financial perspective of the ENI CBC Poland -Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020 will be a great opportunity for the subregion Ostrołęka-Siedlce to participate even more actively in the cross-border initiatives, contributing to its development and welfare.



IPBU.02.01.00-14-177/10

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

PROJECT BUDGET:

832 286.17 EUR

EU CO-FINANCING:

715 766.11 EUR

LEAD PARTNER:

Sokołowski District, PL

PARTNERS:

Provincial Headquarters of the State
Fire Service in Sokołów Podlaski, PL

Regional Board of Ministry of Emergency
Situations of Ukraine in Volyn Region, UA

The project was aimed at increasing possibilities for rescue services of Poland and Ukraine within crisis management, monitoring threats and elimination of consequences of events threatening the environment and population. This goal has been achieved, among others, thanks to the purchase of modern equipment (rescue and fire-fighting vehicles, etc.), construction of a new exercise ground and sports pitch for fire-fighters in Sokołów Podlaski and joint trainings for Polish and Ukrainian rescue services.





SENIOR BRIGADIER ROMAN MALINOWSKI

**Commander of the Provincial Headquarters
of the State Fire Service in Sokołów Podlaski**

★ How did it all begin, i.e. how was the idea for the project created?

The project titled “Development of the rescue services Poland – Ukraine within the strengthening the infrastructure of cross-border management system of natural hazard” implemented under the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine is a continuation of the previously implemented project in 2006-2007, funded by the Neighbourhood Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine INTERREG IIIA / TACIS CBC 2004-2006. As a result of the implementation of common tasks, close bilateral contacts have been established. The partners have united their common interests in such fields as fire sports, treated as an element of fire-fighters’ physical training and competition, as well as water rescue and common threats (the Bug River and Lake Swityaz in Ukraine), etc.

★ What most important effect does/will the project have for the target group, population and the region? What problem will it solve? What needs does it respond to?

The project has significantly contributed to improving safety of Sokołowski District, Lutsk Rayon and the entire zone of the border area. As a result of the actions taken by the Polish side,

The established contacts and a climate of mutual trust built resulted in a series of joint meetings, trainings and competitions that go well beyond the scope covered by the project, both during the implementation of the project, as well as after its completion.



comprehensive database of emergency services has been created as well as technical and rescue equipment has been improved on the Ukrainian side.

*** Is your project unique in comparison to other initiatives undertaken in the region?**

The project, in comparison to other initiatives, could be distinguished for its continuation and complementation of a previously implemented, above-mentioned project, as well as for establishing close content-related cooperation between the rescuers from Poland and Ukraine.

*** What valuable experience have you gained through the implementation of the project, particularly in the field of cross-border cooperation?**

The Polish and Ukrainian sides have benefited from the implementation of the project in two ways – tangible and equally valuable – intangible. In the context of tangible products, a modern fire station with an area of more than 2.9 thousand m² (including the garage hall of about 800 m² and a training ground for firefighters) has been built on the Polish side and two modern fire trucks have been purchased on the Ukrainian side. Building the foundations with a favourable climate for trust and cooperation for better understanding of the common history, neighbours' closer contacts as well as raising rescue potential on both sides of the border, so that the border could unite rather than divide, could be described as considerable intangible benefits. The established contacts and a climate of mutual trust built resulted in a series of joint meetings, trainings and competitions that go well beyond the scope covered by the project, both during the implementation of the project, as well as after its completion.





IPBU.01.02.00-14-494/11

Cross-border Centres of Cultural Dialogue in Łosice and Varacevičy

PROJECT BUDGET:

1 495 135.47 EUR

EU CO-FINANCING:

1 330 670.57 EUR

LEAD PARTNER:

The Town and Commune of Łosice, PL

PARTNERS:

Culture Centre of Łosice, PL

Executive Committee of Peremyshlyany
City Council, UA

“Gałychany” Foundation, UA

Executive Committee
of Rayon Ivanava, BY

The overall objective of the project is to improve the cultural attraction of the Eastern Masovia and Western Belarus regions. The most important benefit for Masovia will be the established Cross-border Centre of Cultural Dialogue in Łosice and joint cross-border initiatives undertaken in the future on its basis. A similar Centre will be established in Varacevičy, Brest oblast of Belarus. In both countries opening cultural events will take place with the participation of artists from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.





JANUSZ KOBYLŃSKI
the Mayor of Łosice

★ **How did it all begin, i.e. how was the idea for the project created?**

The idea for the project was conceived more than 7 years ago, when, in Łosice, we were wondering what to do with the unused facility at Szpitalna Street. As a matter of fact, it is not entered into the register of monuments. Still, this nineteenth century building has an important cultural significance for Łosice. When carrying out cross-border projects involving the organisation of Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Belarusian events, we realized that we do not have a place in the area of Łosice, where this type of initiative could be carried out continuously. Furthermore, during our cooperation with the Ivanava Rayon, also lasting over the last few years, it turned out that the management of the Rayon was planning to expand the Museum of Napoleon Orda in Varacevičy. We proposed that the facility in Łosice, which will formally be a branch of the House of Culture and the new facility in the Museum, could become twin institutions.





★ What most important effect does/will the project have for the target group, population, the region? What problem will it solve? What needs does it respond to?

As I said, in both cases of Łosice and Ivanava, we lack modern cultural – exhibition and conference infrastructure, which lowers our tourist and economic attractiveness of the region. Through coordination of cultural programmes in both facilities, the local community of the town, as well as from Łosice County and Ivanava Rayon, will have access to new tourism and cultural services, based on the presentation of not only local heritage resources. We are planning the presentation of contemporary cultural and artistic activities in the Eastern Mazovia and Western Belarus. Also, it is of importance that the project involves partners from the Ukrainian town of Peremyshlyany. With them, Łosice has also been cooperating for a very long time. After completion of the project, we are also planning two- or trilateral cross-border events.

★ Is your project unique in comparison to other initiatives undertaken in the region?

It is worth remembering that Łosice and Łosice County is the easternmost area of Mazovia. This particularly predestines us to contact with the eastern neighbours, especially with Belarus. It is worth noting that, in the Eastern Mazovia, there is no facility where the capabilities

of modern cultivation of culture and presentation of the culture of the neighbours combine together. On the other hand, with respect to colleagues from Belarus, we should mention that the project concerns the Museum of Napoleon Orda: a painter born in Varacevičy near Ivanava. He is the author of over a thousand watercolours and drawings, created in the years 1872-1880 and depicting historical sites on the Polish, Belarusian and Lithuanian soil. Today they are often the only source documenting the appearance of hundreds of residences and other buildings. This artist somewhat forgotten in Poland, but very well-known in Belarus, is an important figure in our common history.

★ What valuable experience have you gained through the implementation of the project, particularly in the field of cross-border cooperation?

Our experience with the project relates primarily to administrative matters and the methods of communication between different institutions and the people involved in the project. From our point of view, it is particularly important to know the system of administration and the laws in force in Belarus. They are of relevance to the implementation of the project. My assessment of existing cooperation, especially with friends from Ivanava, is very positive.

It is of importance that the project involves partners from the Ukrainian town of Peremyshlyany. With them, Łosice has also been cooperating for a very long time. After completion of the project, we are also planning two- or trilateral cross-border events.





IPBU.02.01.00-14-674/11

Development of the cross-border cooperation aimed at protection of people and environment in the border area of Poland and Belarus

PROJECT BUDGET:

2 256 468.40 EUR

EU CO-FINANCING:

2 030 821.56 EUR

LEAD PARTNER:

Łosice County, PL

PARTNERS:

County Headquarters of the State
Fire Service in Łosice, PL

Sarnaki Commune, PL

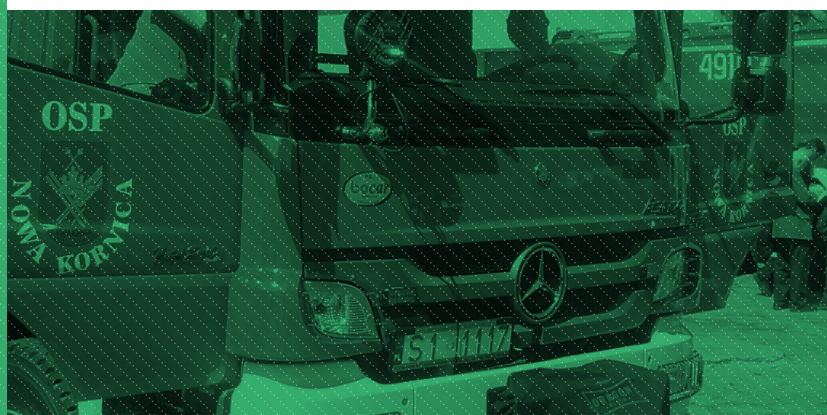
Olszanka Commune, PL

Platerów Commune, PL

Stara Kornica Commune, PL

Brest Regional Board
of the Ministry of Emergency Situations
of the Republic of Belarus

Improvement of life quality for Masovian and Brest Oblast inhabitants by increasing the security of people, property and environment in the cross-border area of Poland and Belarus, is the most important issue raised within the project. For this purpose, 10 operational rescue and fire-fighting cars have been purchased for the Polish side and 4 for the Belarusian side, and specialist trainings organised. Thanks to the new modern equipment and increase of fire-fighters' knowledge and experience in conducting rescue operations, the inhabitants of both target regions will be safer and able to sleep peacefully.





SŁAWOMIR ZANIUK

District Commander of the State Fire Service in Łosice

★ **How did it all begin, i.e. how was the idea for the project created?**

The idea for the project arose as a response to the problems of fire service units of the Polish and Belarusian cross-border area in the field of provision of modern cars and rescue equipment.

★ **What most important effect does/will the project have for the target group, population and the region? What problem will it solve? What needs does it respond to?**

The project is to solve the problems of insufficient readiness of fire service units to undertake rescue and fire-fighting operations, as well as the low level of cooperation of rescue services

in the Polish and Belarus cross-border area. The target group of the project is fire service units, which, under the project, will be retrofitted with purchased cars. The final beneficiaries of the project will mainly be people living in the border areas of Poland and Belarus. Furthermore, the project will positively affect the environment, so, in a wider perspective, the visitors residing on the Polish-Belarusian borderland for tourist or economic purposes, or passing through this area, will also benefit from its implementation. Taking into consideration, among others, the structure of tourism in these areas, the visitors will mainly be the Europeans from the countries neighbouring Poland and Belarus.

The implementation of the project will comprehensively solve the problems with hardware of firefighters in our area. Also, in addition to professional bodies (State Fire Service in Poland and the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Belarus), Volunteer Fire Services will be retrofitted with modern vehicles.



Owing to the implementation of the project, the effectiveness of rescue operations will increase. This will be beneficial as it will limit the losses of lives, damage to property and the environment arising due to various types of disasters.

★ **Is your project unique in comparison to other initiatives undertaken in the region?**

The implementation of the project will comprehensively solve the problems with hardware of firefighters in our area. Also, in addition to professional bodies (State Fire Service in Poland and the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Belarus), Volunteer Fire Services will be retrofitted with modern vehicles.

★ **What valuable experience have you gained through the implementation of the project, particularly in the field of cross-border cooperation?**

Cooperation with firefighters from Brest has enabled us to acquire new experience in the organisation of the units and the activities connected with the prevention of threats. The exchange of experiences in working with children and youth was particularly attractive. We could become familiar with the methods of implementation of interesting competitions for Youth Fire Teams. We used successfully some of the ideas presented in our competitions. Different organisational structures of the fire service units of Poland and Belarus have contributed to increasing the attractiveness of jointly implemented purely sporting and fire competitions.



PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE REGION

 Partners from Mazowieckie Voivodeship

	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	PROJECT PARTNERS	BUDGET	EU CO-FINANCING
1	IPBU.02.01.00-14-177/10	Development of the rescue services Poland – Ukraine within the strengthening the infrastructure of cross-border management system of natural hazard	Sokołowski District, PL	Provincial Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Sokołów Podlaski, PL Regional Board of Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine in Volyn Region, UA	832 286.17 EUR	715 766.11 EUR
2	IPBU.03.01.00-18-400/11	"Museums without Barriers" – Coalition of Polish and Ukrainian museums for provision of professional service to disabled visitors	Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola, PL	Polish Association of the Blind, PL Lviv Historical Museum, UA Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv, UA	187 462.38 EUR	168 716.14 EUR
3	IPBU.02.01.00-14-427/11	Improvement of the condition of natural environment in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland by performing thermomodernization of public utility buildings in Sokołów Podlaski Commune and in the City of Novoyavorivsk	Sokołów Podlaski Commune, PL	City Council of Novoyavorivsk, UA	758 432.55 EUR	682 589.29 EUR
4	IPBU.01.02.00-14-494/11	Cross-border Centres of Cultural Dialogue in Łosice and Varacevičy	The Town and Commune of Łosice, PL	Culture Centre of Łosice, PL Executive Committee of Pere-myshlyany City Council, UA „Gałychany” Foundation, UA Executive Committee of Rayon Ivanava, BY	1 495 135.47 EUR	1 330 670.57 EUR
5	IPBU.02.01.00-14-674/11	Development of the cross-border cooperation aimed at protection of people and environment in the border area of Poland and Belarus	Łosice County, PL	County Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Łosice, PL Sarnaki Commune, PL Olszanka Commune, PL Platerów Commune, PL Stara Kornica Commune, PL Brest Regional Board of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus, BY	2 256 468.40 EUR	2 030 821.56 EUR

Joint Technical Secretariat

39a Domaniewska St.,
02-672 Warsaw, Poland
tel: +48 22 378 31 00
e-mail: pbu@cpe.gov.pl

**Branch Office of the
Joint Technical Secretariat in Lviv**

5 Tyktora St., 79007 Lviv, Ukraine
tel./fax: +380 322 61 02 59
e-mail: lviv@pl-by-ua.eu

**Branch Office of the
Joint Technical Secretariat in Brest**

46 Sovetskaya St.,
224005 Brest, Belarus
tel: +375 162 53 15 83
e-mail: brest@pl-by-ua.eu

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Joint Technical Secretariat
of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013
and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.