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

# ZAKARPATTYA OBLAST









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

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#### 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 Regional development and cross-border cooperation are among the highest priorities of Ukraine in the context of EU-Ukraine relations, as reflected in the corresponding provisions of the recently signed EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The ENPI CBC programmes, namely Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme target the same priorities as the Association Agreement, namely infrastructural development, strengthening border security and efficiency, improving access to the region, protecting the environment and promoting culture, education and healthcare.

The Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme stands out among other donor programmes and instruments as having the optimal approach to regional development through close cooperation, training and partnership at project level to benefit the border regions and partner countries.

The calls for proposals have demonstrated that Ukrainian national and local governments and NGOs are keen to participate in the Programme. It has given Ukrainian partners the chance to build partnerships at institutional, communal and personal levels and to draw on the best European practices to address common challenges.

We believe that Ukrainian partners, having gained experience of project design and implementation, are now well prepared to become lead project partners and take on more responsibility. This will allow us to develop our capacity at both national and regional levels to attract and absorb EU funds for regional development even more effectively. The Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument offered Zakarpattya Oblast broad prospects and new opportunities for cross-border cooperation and economic integration through a wide spectrum of interaction mechanisms.

The projects implemented in the region complemented the efforts to develop infrastructure and promote active tourism. For instance, Ukrainian and Polish towns worked together to promote new tourism and recreational centres for active tourism in the border areas to foster economic growth on both sides of the border. Another example is that the access to water supply infrastructure and water quality has been improved, while Khust town now enjoys access to water round-the-clock.

The social projects have been quite successful as well, including a project aiming to create new educational opportunities for rural children, develop village communities by creating local partnerships for seeking alternative solutions in pre-school education. The training for maternity school teachers proved to be most effective and Ukrainians have taken the best Polish practices on board. A hospice will be established to improve the quality of life for terminally ill people and their families from Zakarpattya Oblast and Podkarpackie Voivodeship by securing access to professional medical care and improved quality of palliative services.

To sum up, the participation of Zakarpattya Oblast in the Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine is a decisive factor in developing closer links between the countries for effective results and is assisting Ukraine on its path to integration with Europe.

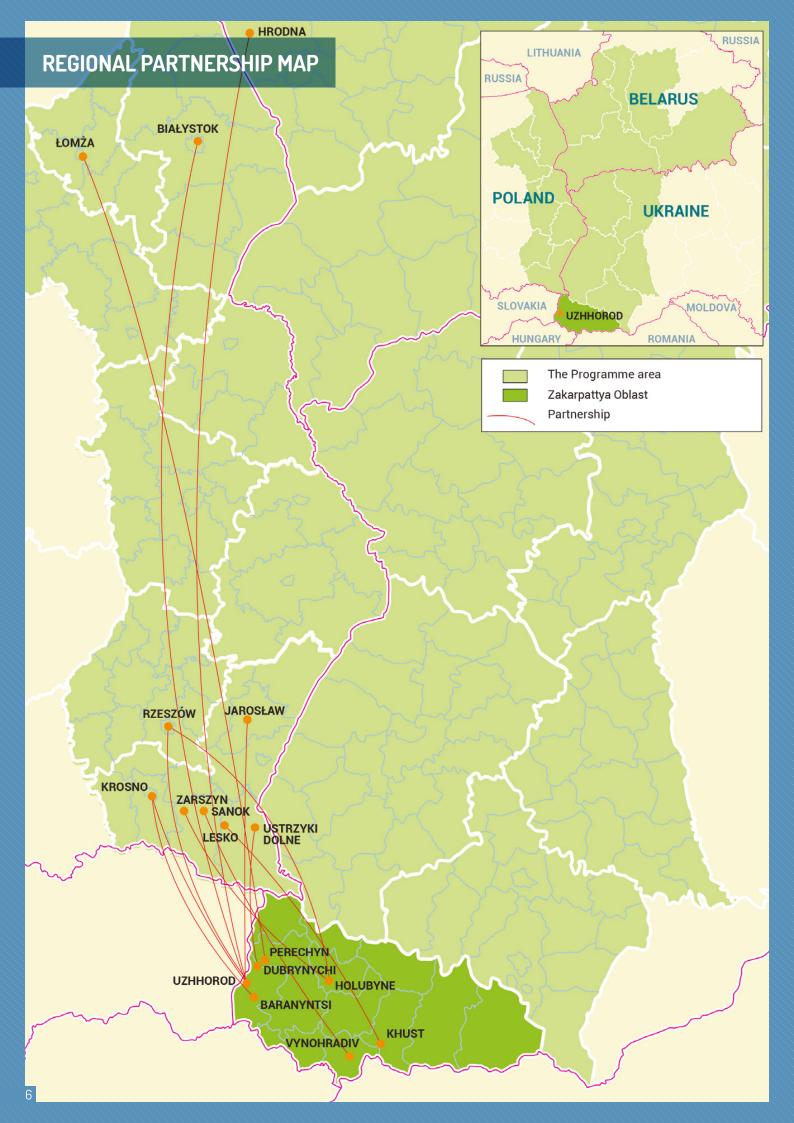


**Maya Koshman** Deputy Head of Department for International Technical Assistance Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine

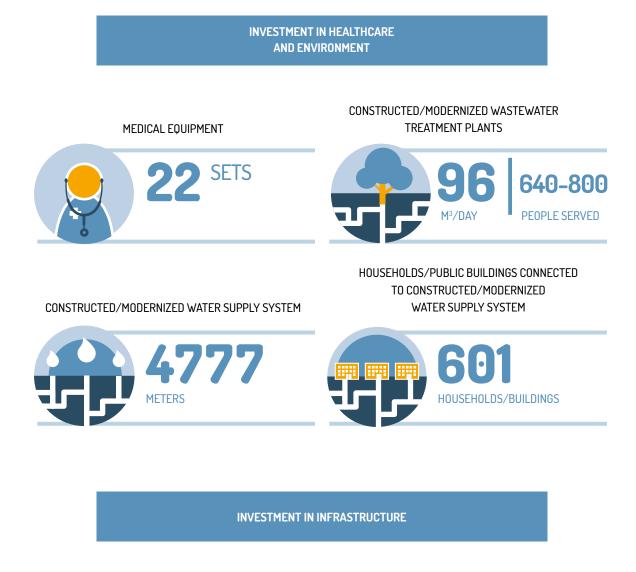


#### Mykhailo Bizilya

Acting Head of the Department of External Economic Affairs, Investment and Cross-border Cooperation Zakarpattya Oblast State Administration



### **PROJECTS REGIONAL RESULTS**

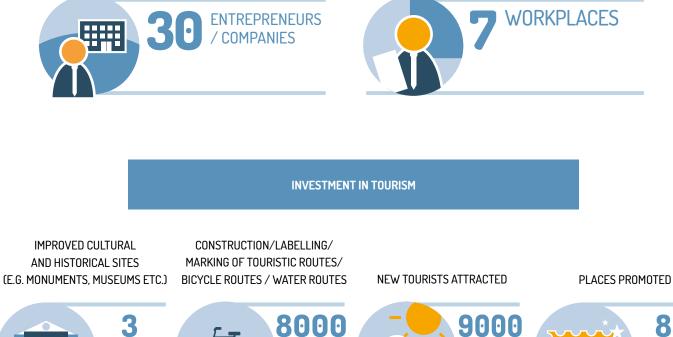


MODERNIZED BUILDINGS

BUILDINGS

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DISABLED CONSTRUCTED

BUILDING



METERS



ENTREPRENEURS/COMPANIES SERVICED WITHIN

SITES

NEW WORKPLACES CREATED (AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION)





PUBLIC EVENTS (FESTIVALS, SPORTS EVENTS, ETC.)

CROSS-BORDER MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES/ WORKING GROUPS/TRAININGS/SEMINARS

**EVENTS** 

PARTICIPANTS



INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE RELATIONS AND **HUMAN RESOURCES** 





# INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

Zakarpattya Oblast is a unique region in Ukraine, having borders with four countries (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland). Located in beautiful Carpathian Mountains and on Transcarpathian lowland, it enjoys a wonderful climate, beautiful landscapes and has numerous historical and cultural landmarks. Its thermal waters are beneficial for health; its cuisine and wines are valued highly in Ukraine and beyond. Zakarpattya is an ethnically diverse region and has long-time traditions of tolerance and cultural dialogue.

Apart from the ENPI CBC Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007-2013, there are two other ENPI CBC Programmes working in the region (Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine and Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova). It provides more opportunities for local institutions in terms of fundraising and realisation of ideas. At the same time this explains the relatively lower number of projects in the current Programme (in comparison to other core regions in Ukraine).

Altogether, there are 9 projects taking place in Zakarpattya Oblast within the Programme. 12 institutions, including one acting as a Lead Partner, are involved in the implementation of the projects. The scope of the activities



supported by this Programme in the region is quite diverse ranging from pre-school education to horse breeding. The total value of the projects concerned amounts to almost 9 million EUR of which almost 8 million is financed by the European Union.

The largest infrastructural project, in terms of financing, is the modernisation of water supply and sewerage systems in the city of Khust. Its total cost is over 300 000 EUR. Over 9000 inhabitants of Khust will gain 24-hour access to drinking water of improved quality. It will make this beautiful historical city more comfortable for living and more attractive for potential tourists. Also, in the course of the project, city officials will learn about raising external funds for local development needs, which is expected to bring out further improvements.

Tourism has a significant share in the region's economy, thus local players pay special attention to expanding and diversifying the tourist offer. An example of this can be two projects being implemented by Uzhgorod City Council. Among the activities carried out within the projects is the conservation





of historical buildings, publication of promotional materials, movie, website. A new Cycling Tourism Centre and Museum of Beer and Wine shall be set up in Uzhhorod and a modern sports centre will be built in Baranyntsi village. Additionally, new tourist products will be promoted in a comprehensive manner by conducting art festivals and a sport fair. It is expected that approximately 4000 people will use the new facilities annually.

Beyond Uzhgorod, there are also some unique and special projects, such as investments in better conditions for breeding Hutsul horses. These small horses, bred originally in the Carpathian Mountains, are perfect for horse riding in the mountains and for equine therapy. Moreover, a Hutsul horse is a symbol of the Carpathians, embodiment of local traditions. To achieve the project objectives, stables and a paddock in Holubyne village have been renovated. Also, green areas in Holubyne and Solczyn have been adapted for the traditional method of open-air breeding. Partners from Zakarpattya Oblast joined an initiative to set up the "Polish-Ukrainian Centre of Breeding and Promotion of Hutsul Horses", which is to implement a joint "Polish-Ukrainian strategy of restitution of Hutsul horses in their natural habitat". Lastly, project partners organised the Festival of Borderland Cultures which promoted Zakarpattya as a place for active leisure.

There is also a social project being implemented in the Oblast, which is outstanding in terms of its importance and



uniqueness. This project, with a budget of over 1000 000 EUR, will set new standards in palliative care provision and even create new approaches and attitudes to this issue in Ukraine. As a result of the project, the city of Vynohradiv will get a hospice with a capacity to accommodate 25 people and a team of 30 trained medical professionals. Palliative treatment will provide patients with relief from pain; help both patients and their families to go through the difficult period of life. The initiative is expected to be replicated in other cities of Ukraine.

The city of Perechyn takes part in the project on improving pre-school education in rural areas. The project is intended to fill in the gap in pre-school education in Ukraine. Within the project, several rooms intended for childrens' shortstay and pre-school training have been renovated and are now functioning. Teachers and methodologists take part in trainings and study visits to Poland to get first-hand experience in organising alternative forms of pre-school education. Methodological recommendations with an implementation plan have been developed. Workshops for civil servants and trainings for pre-school teachers have been organised.

Better cross-border business opportunities are also supported by the Programme in Zakarpattya. Within one of the projects, the business development situation in the region has been analysed and the summary of this analysis is supposed to help the experts to develop models of cross-border cooperation. Participating companies will get a chance to establish partnerships, exchange know-how and voice their opinions on important aspects affecting their activities.

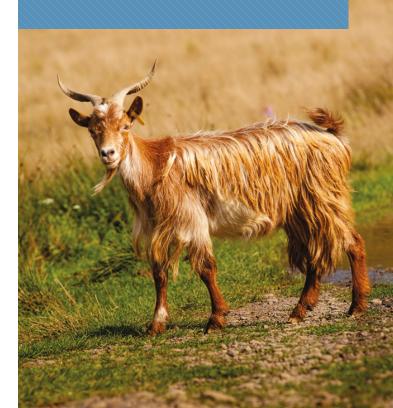
Cross-border cooperation capacity building in the field of rescue services is realised within another valuable project. Within this project, 90 fire-fighters from the region took part in professional trainings, which included topics like paramedic first aid, road accidents management, flooding prevention or specific fire-extinguishing techniques. This project made it possible to purchase the necessary training



equipment which has become the brigades' property and, in the future, it can be used to further improve fire-fighters' skills or during emergencies.

Zakarpattya is also present in an umbrella project, more specifically, in one of its micro-projects aimed at the development of cross-border cooperation for health tourism of Polish-Ukrainian borderland.

As soon as all the projects' activities are completed, the region will obtain valuable and long-lasting results. Also, even more interesting initiatives are anticipated from Zakarpattya in the new financial perspective of the ENI CBC Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2014 – 2020. Zakarpattya is also present in an umbrella project, more specifically, in one of its micro-projects aimed at the development of cross-border cooperation for health tourism of Polish-Ukrainian borderland.



### IPBU.03.01.00-80-356/11

Institutional cooperation between Vynogradiv district and Sanok province in development of the palliative care provision

#### PROJECT BUDGET:

1087 428.99 EUR

**EU CO-FINANCING:** 978 686 .09 EUR

**LEAD PARTNER:** Local Development Agency Vinogradivchyni, UA

#### **PARTNERS**:

Vynogradiv District Council of Transcarpathian Region, UA

St. Albert Help Society, PL

The improvement of life standard for seriously ill people and their families, and better access to qualitative medical treatment is the main, crucial issue raised within the project. Thanks to the cooperation of partners from Poland and Ukraine, a hospice in Vynohradiv will be established and equipped: the Regional Centre of Palliative Care with 25 places for patients, and the hospice Society Help of St. Brother Albert in Sanok will be provided with additional necessary equipment (up to 30 places for patients). Moreover, Ukrainian personnel will receive professional training and a technological map of the arrangement on the basis of the Polish partner method. As a result of the project the system of palliative care will be created, including, among others, a 24h in-patient hospice, organisation of mobile teams to provide palliative care at home and establishing cooperation of various types of social services to provide social, psychological and spiritual support to patients who need palliative care and their families.



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

Our partner relations date back to 2008, when we first invited our Polish colleagues to the conference to assess the status of palliative care in Vynogradiv Rayon of Zakarpattya Oblast. Since then, the Polish experience has laid the foundation for extensive efforts taken, namely:

- Hospice ward for 4 beds was opened as a pilot project for the future Hospice to develop the methodologies and regulations on palliative services (2009);
- An outreach consultative service, staffed by a specialized mobile team was set up to reach out to patients in need of palliative care at home (2011);
- Joint actions are organised regularly, including: working meetings, international conferences, workshops and seminars.

The Vynogradiv pilot project and palliative care regulations developed were deemed a success and recommended as a model for replication across Ukraine. Project funding will help establish a model palliative care facility in Ukraine. We have been gradually broadening our base of operations, joined a Ukrainian National NGO Ukrainian League for Hospice and Palliative Care (2012), which has introduced the national leaders to our vision of developing a palliative care network in Zakarpattya Oblast, which has resulted in the establishment of the Regional Palliative Care Centre. The Vynogradiv pilot project and palliative care regulations developed were deemed a success and recommended as a model for replication across Ukraine. Project funding will help establish a model palliative care facility in Ukraine. The project idea is to build on the Polish expertise in establishing the regional palliative care system with modern functional premises and equipment, and well trained medical and administrativepersonnel aiming to improve the quality of life for terminally ill people by assuring access to highly qualified medical care.

#### \* 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?

Terminally ill people and their families, who until now have been left alone to cope with the problems of care, pain relief and medical care will now have access to comprehensive medical care.

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

The project is unique in its systemic approach and use of integration instruments based on European best practices. The project experience is unique in Ukraine and will deliver novel methodology of palliative care.

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

This project stems from cross-border cooperation as it aims to reduce the disparity between the adjacent border regions and strives to assure high European medical care standards.

Terminally ill people and their families, who until now have been left alone to cope with the problems of care, pain relief and medical care will now have access to comprehensive medical care.





#### IPBU.01.03.00-18-550/11

Partner cooperation development for improving cross-border environmental waterworks infrastructure in Glinne and Jankowce in Poland and in Khust in Ukraine

### **PROJECT BUDGET:** 2 863 992.50 EUR

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**EU CO-FINANCING:** 2 577 593.25 EUR

LEAD PARTNER: Lesko Commune, PL

**PARTNER:** Executive Committee of Khust City Council, UA The project is aimed at improving the availability and quality of water supply infrastructure in the border regions of Ukraine and Poland. Thanks to the partners' cooperation, water supply in the city of Khust will be reconstructed, as well as a new water supply facility (water treatment station) and the storage reservoir in the village Glinne and Jankowce will be built. The inhabitants of Khust will receive water of better quality and 24-hour access to the water network will be ensured. The residents of the abovementioned Polish villages will obtain access to water suitable for human consumption. Additionally, trainings and conferences on the execution and settlement of investment in infrastructure and development programmes for water and wastewater are included in the project schedule.



**OLEKSANDR KAZANTSEV** Specialist at the Investment Department of the Khust City Council

Photograph of O. Kazantsev: Khust City Council

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

The idea for the project "Partner cooperation development for improving cross-border environmental waterworks infrastructure in Glinne and Jankowce in Poland and in Khust in Ukraine" originated through a common challenge to modernise their waterworks that Lesko Community in Poland and City of Khust in Ukraine faced. The local governments signed a twinning agreement and went on to elaborate a joint project, which was awarded grant within the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007-2013.

# 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?

The vital effect for the target groups and regional population will be access to higher quality water supply services.

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

The project is unique because of its innovative character. It aims to produce a positive social effect. The use of modern materials to reconstruct the water supply system will enable the community to considerably improve potable water quality and reduce energy costs of water distribution.

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

The common project includes meetings of working groups and conferences for partners to share experience of water supply economy management. The events will promote cross-border cooperation between the cities.



The project is unique because of its innovative character. It aims to produce a positive social effect. The use of modern materials to reconstruct the water supply system will enable the community to considerably improve potable water quality and reduce energy costs of water distribution.



#### IPBU.03.01.00-18-751/11

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

#### **PROJECT BUDGET:**

1708 332.93 EUR

**EU CO-FINANCING:** 1537 499.64 EUR

#### LEAD PARTNER:

Experimental Division of the Institute of Zootechnics – The State Research Institute Odrzechowa, PL

#### **PARTNERS**:

Science-manufacturing Association "Plemkonecentr" in Sołoczyn, UA

The Regional Association of Horse Breeders in Rzeszów, PL The project partners aim at the restitution of the Hucul breed, as a common cultural element of the East Carpathian nations, through joint examination of the most beneficial means of maintaining horses and the possibilities of using them in the current conditions of civilisation. For this purpose, 3 offices of the Polish-Ukrainian Centre of Breeding and Promotion of Hucul Horse will be established, 4 stables and 2 paddocks will be renovated and 3 Hucul trails will be built. An impor-

tant part of the project is also a joint campaign for the popularisation of breeding the Hucul horse and its use for recreational, tourist and hippotherapy purposes. Among others, the partners organised the Festival of Borderland Cultures – "The Hucul horse in the culture of East Carpathians" in Rudawka Rymanowska and will carry on 35 initiatives and events using the created training facilities.





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

Back in 2003, a conference called "Hucul Horse in the Carpathian Euroregion" was held in Rudawka Rymanowska, where I made a presentation on the prospects on breeding Hucul horses in the Carpathian region of Ukraine. Next, our Polish partners participated in the "Hucul Horse Festival and Contest", which was held in Holubynne in 2006. The festival

> An important part of the project is also a joint campaign for the popularisation of breeding the Hucul horse and its use for recreational, tourist and hippotherapy purposes.

served as a forum to discuss the issues and challenges of breeding Hucul horses on both sides of the border. Given the fact that Ukrainian partners have already started reviving the Hucul breed through breeding and bringing in stallions from Poland, the idea to expand cross-border cooperation came naturally. During the International Hucul Federation meeting the Polish partners advocated the admission of SMA Plemkonecentr as a member of the international organisation.

#### ★ 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?

The principle effect of project implementation is strengthened by Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the field of breeding and using Hucul horse, through meetings, seminars, conferences and festivals. The infrastructure has been renovated to improve the conditions of raising and testing horses, and trainings were held for the stakeholders. The project beneficiaries include researchers, horse owners, hippotherapists and farmers seeking to develop rural tourism.



Preserving the gene pool, breeding, raising and widely using Hucul horses is an integral part of preserving the ancient culture of the Hucul, Boyky, Lemky ethnicities, where Hucul horse had a central role to play.

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

The Hucul horse belongs to the common heritage of the peoples of Eastern Carpathians with its unique genetic traits were shaped by the harsh mountain valleys and roads. Pre-

serving the gene pool, breeding, raising and widely using Hucul horses is an integral part of preserving the ancient culture of the Hucul, Boyky, Lemky ethnicities, where Hucul horse had a central role to play.

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

The project has enabled us to learn from the Experimental Division of the Institute of Zootechnics – The State Research Institute Odrzechowa and The Regional Association of Horse Breeders in Rzeszów and to build on their best practices.







# PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE REGION

#### Partners from Zakarpattya Oblast

	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	PROJECT PARTNERS	BUDGET	EU CO-FINANCING
	IPBU.01.02.00-18-155/10	Partner project of development of common tourism based on new youth sport and leisure centers	Krosno County, PL	Uzhgorod City, UA	480 336.78 EUR	432 303.10 EUR
1				Baranynci County, UA		
2	IPBU.03.01.00-76-257/10	Development of Alternative pre-school Education System in Rural Communities.	Charity organisa- tion "Education Initiatives Centre", UA	Charity Foundation Centre of Civic Initiatives, UA	316 871.00 EUR	277 376.76 EUR
				Public-educational Society for Disadvantages and Disabled "Edukator", PL		
				Agency for Development of Radekhiv Region, UA		
				West Ukrainian Regional Non- -profit Public organization Volyn Resource Centre, UA		
	IPBU.01.02.00-18-354/11	Jarosław – Uzhgorod: common initiative for improving the touri- stic attractiveness of historical partner cities	Municipal Commune Jarosław, PL	Executive Committee of Uzhgorod City Council, UA	2 062 277.20 EUR	1856 049.48 EUR
3				Centre for innovation develop- ment, investment and tourism Agency of Uzhgorod, UA		
				Poviat of Jarosław, PL		
	IPBU.03.01.00-80-356/11	Institutional cooperation between Vynogradiv district and Sanok province in development of the palliative care provision	Local Develop- ment Agency Vinogradivchyni, UA	Vynogradiv District Council of Transcarpathian Region, UA	1 087 428.99 EUR	978 686.09 EUR
4				St. Albert Help Society, PL		
5	IPBU.01.03.00-18-550/11	Partner cooperation develop- ment for improving cross-bor- der environmental waterworks infrastructure in Glinne and Jankowce in Poland and in Khust in Ukraine	Lesko Commune, PL	Executive Committee of Khust City Council, UA	2 863 992.50 EUR	2 577 593.25 EUR
6	IPBU.01.01.00-20-636/11	Development of the cross-bor- der economic cooperation of Białystok-Suwałki Subregion and Hrodna oblast in Belarus and also of Krosno-Przemysl Subregion and Zakarpattia oblast in Ukraine	Białostocka Fundacja Kształcenia Kadr (BFKK), PL	Fund of Transborder Cooperation and Special Economic Zones Development, UA	- 157 426.40 EUR	141 683.76 EUR
0				Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, BY		

	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	PROJECT PARTNERS	BUDGET	EU CO-FINANCING
7	IPBU.03.01.00-18-680/11	Strengthening of the institu- tional potential of cooperation between rescue services from Rzeszów and Użhgorod through improvement of rescue-extin- guishing techniques together with information and experien- ces exchange.	Municipal Headqu- arters of State Fire Service in Rzeszów, PL	Uzhgorod District Department of Emergency Situations Mnistry, UA	192 078.54 EUR	172 870.69 EUR
8	IPBU.03.01.00-18-751/11	Creation of Polish-Ukrainian Center of Breeding and Pro- motion of Hucul Horse	Experimental Divi- sion of the Institute of Zootechnics – The State Research Institute Odrzechowa, PL	Science-manufacturing Associa- tion "Plemkonecentr" in Sołoczyn, UA	1708 332.93 EUR	1 537 499.64 EUR
				The Regional Association of Horse Breeders in Rzeszów, PL		
9	IPBU.03.02.00-18-832/12	Umbrella project: Cross-border cooperation for health tourism of Polish -Ukrainian borderland	The Association for Development and Promotion of Podkarpackie Region "Pro Carpathia", PL	partner in 1 micro-project	643 778.65 EUR	579 400.78 EUR



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