



**OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF CROSS BORDER
COOPERATION
CZECH REPUBLIC –REPUBLIC OF POLAND
2007-2013**

2nd Version
15th March 2010

CONTENT

Declaration on cooperation.....	4
1. Basic information on the Programme	5
1.1 Territorial delimitation of the Programme.....	5
1.2 Joint planning process	9
2. Characterization of the eligible area.....	13
2.1 Human resources development, state of the labour market and education.....	13
2.1.1 Demographic development	13
2.1.2 Settlement structure	13
2.1.3 Development of local communities	13
2.1.4 Unemployment and labour market	14
2.1.5 Education	15
2.2 Business environment and tourism.....	16
2.2.1 Regional economy structure.....	16
2.2.2 Business and innovation environment	16
2.2.3 Importance and position of tourism in the regional economy	17
2.3 Environment and risk prevention	18
2.4 Transport accessibility	21
2.4.1 Road transport	21
2.4.2 Railway transport.....	21
2.4.3 Information and communication technology (ICT)	22
2.5 Strengths - weaknesses - opportunities - threats (hereinafter "SWOT analysis").....	23
2.6 Evaluation of implementation of the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic - Poland in 2004-2006.....	26
3. Programme objectives and strategies	29
3.1 Determination of objectives and strategy	29
3.1.1 Basis for creation of the strategy	29
3.2 Substantiation of choice of priority axes and their description.....	34
3.2.1 Priority axis I. Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention.....	34
3.2.2 Priority axis II. Improvement of conditions for development of business environment and tourism.....	39
3.2.3 Priority axis III. Support of local communities cooperation.....	45
3.2.4 Priority axis IV. Technical assistance.....	49
3.3 Compliance of the Programme with national and Community policies.....	52
3.3.1 Compliance with national policies	52
3.3.2 Compliance with Community policies	53
3.3.3. Compliance of the Programme with other operational programmes in the eligible area, financed by Structural Funds.....	57
3.3.4 Compliance of the priority axes of the Programme with CSGC and NSRFs	61
4. Monitoring and evaluation indicators	66
5. Programme implementation	70
5.1 Level of the Programme management.....	70
5.2 Activities of the managing bodies	70
5.2.1 Managing Authority	70
5.2.2 Certifying Authority	71
5.2.3 Audit Authority	72
5.2.4 Controllers.....	74
5.2.5 Joint Technical Secretariat.....	75

5.2.6 Regional bodies	76
5.3 Level of project management.....	76
5.3.1 Submission of project applications.....	76
5.3.2 Checking of project applications	77
5.3.3 Procedure and criteria for selection of project applications.....	78
5.4 Financial flows	79
5.5 Project monitoring system	80
5.5.1 Monitoring Committee	81
5.5.2 Systems of the Programme monitoring	82
5.5.3 System of the Program evaluation.....	82
5.5.4 Financial control.....	83
5.5.5 Data exchange with the European Commission.....	85
5.6 Publicity	86
6. Ex ante evaluation	88
6.1 Summary of evaluation of the individual chapters of the document.....	88
6.1.1 Socioeconomic analysis and SWOT analysis	88
6.1.2 Strategic part	89
6.1.3 OP implementation.....	89
7. Indicative financial plan	90
8. List of used abbreviations	93
9. Annexes	96
Annex 1 – Statistical data	97
Annex 2 – Scheme of financial flows	102
Annex 3 – Non-technical summary of SEA	104
Annex 4 – Final Ex-Ante Evaluation Report.....	123
Annex 5 – Ex-Ante observation settlement	131

DECLARATION ON COOPERATION

The Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland declare their will to cooperate on preparation and implementation of the „Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007-13“, respecting nature of the territory of the Czech - Polish border area, and needs of its inhabitants.

The parties, respecting the principle of good neighbourhood, undertake to jointly support development of Czech - Polish border area, with the aim to strengthen its competitiveness and cohesion, and develop partner cooperation of its inhabitants.

In accordance with one of the main European Union principles in the field of cross border cooperation, the Programme will contribute to that national border is not a barrier to harmonious development and integration of the European territory.

Obligations of the both parties are contained in the Agreement on Programme Implementation (Memorandum of Understanding).

1 BASIC INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAMME

1.1 Territorial delimitation of the Programme

Length of the state border of the Czech Republic (hereinafter also "CR") with the Republic of Poland (hereinafter also "PL", "Poland") is 796 km. This represents 22.7 % of the total length of the Polish borders, and about 33 % of the total length of the Czech borders.

According to Article 7, paragraph 1 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/19991 (hereinafter "General Regulation") and in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/19992 (hereinafter "ERDF Regulation"), setting out conditions of the European territorial cooperation of the Objective 3 of the European Cohesion Policy for the new programming period, the Czech part of the border area is defined by the territory of the following regions (NUTS III units): The Liberec Region (Liberecký kraj), The Hradec Králové Region (Královéhradecký kraj), The Pardubice Region (Pardubický kraj), The Olomouc Region (Olomoucký kraj) and The Moravia – Silesia Region (Moravskoslezský kraj). The Polish part of the territory supported by the Programme is formed by 6 subregions of the NUTS III level: Subregion jeleniogórski, Subregion wałbrzyski, Subregion nyski, Subregion opolski, Subregion rybnicki and Subregion bielski.

In consequence of implementation of new division of NUTS III on the date 2nd March 2007, came about territorial reform in Polish part of the territory supported by the Programme On 1st January 2008. The territorial reform was implemented in the territory supported by the Programme within this range:

NUTS III valid till December 2007	NUTS III valid from January 2008	Comments
Jelenia Góra - Wałbrzych sub-region	Jelenia Góra sub-region	Strzeliński District, which formerly belonged to the Jelenia Góra - Wałbrzych NUTS III, is now located outside the NUTS III along the border
	Wałbrzych sub-region	
Opole sub-region	Nysa sub-region	Without changes, only division into two sub-regions
	Opole sub-region	
Rybnik- Jastrzębie sub-region	Rybnik sub-region	Change of name
Bielsko - Biała sub-region	Biała sub-region	

In contrast with territorial definition of the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic - Poland in the programming period 2004 - 2006, the Polish part of the border area includes also the territory of the Pszczyński District, located in the Subregion tyski (original Subregion Central Silesia).

¹ Official Journal of the European Union (hereinafter "OJ") L 210 of 31 July 2006, page 25.

² OJ L 210 of 31 July 2006, page 1.

This is based on a request of the Pszczyński District management for its inclusion into the cross border programme, and in view of the fact that the border of the Pszczyński District is located in close vicinity to the Czech Republic (5 km). Also from the point of view of transport corridors, the territory of the district belongs functionally to the border area.

In addition to that, the municipality Pawłowice, belonging into the Pszczyński District, is regarded as a municipality located in the border area, in accordance with the Decree of the Minister of the Interior and Administration of August 29, 2005, on the list of municipalities and other units of basic territorial division of the state located in the border area and table giving definition of this area (Collection of Laws, No. 188, item 1580).

The previous cross border cooperation was carried out on the territory of the Pszczyński District without European support from the ERDF.

The individual municipalities of this district are implementing cross border cooperation with Czech partners, among others, within the framework of signed partnership contracts, and this cooperation includes activities in the field of education of the public, culture and art, youth exchange and sport.

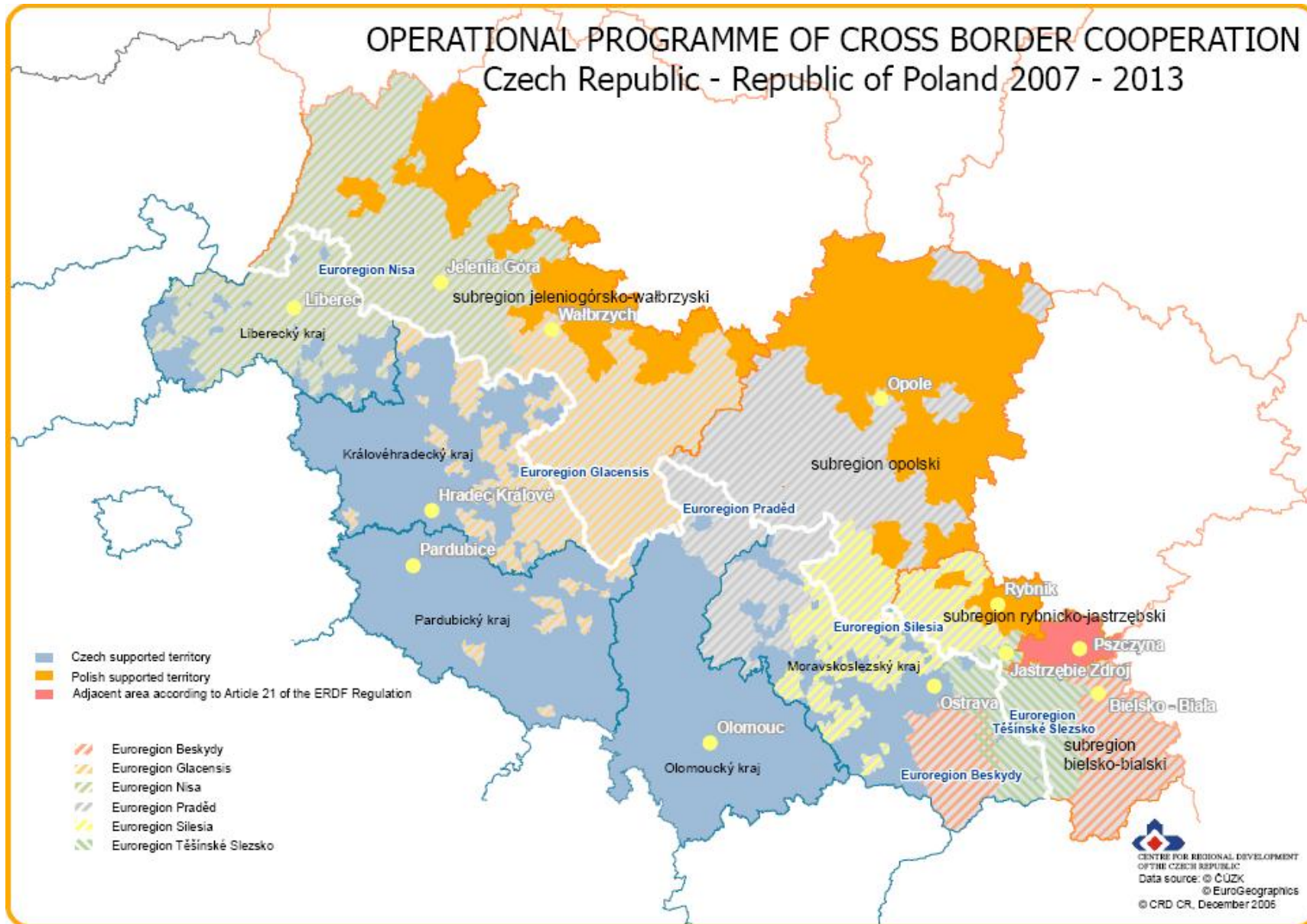
Inclusion of the Pszczyński District into the territory supported by the Programme will strengthen the already existing cooperation with the Czech partners, and enable its further development.

In the Pszczyński District, projects are implemented in accordance with Article 21 of the ERDF Regulation, enabling allocation of up to 20 % of the ERDF contribution concerning the Programme to NUTS 3 territories adjacent to the eligible area.

Area of the whole border area is 47 097 km². From this, the Czech border part is 23 135 km², and, thus, its share of the total area of the country is almost one third (29.2 %). The Polish part of the eligible area has the area 23 962 km², representing 7.7 % of the area of the whole country.

The Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013 was prepared in accordance with the **Commission Decision of 31 October 2006 drawing up the list of regions and areas eligible for funding from the European Regional Development Fund under the cross-border and transnational strands of the European territorial cooperation objective for the period 2007 to 2013** (*notified under document number C(2006) 5144*) (2006/769/EC).

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF CROSS BORDER COOPERATION Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013



For long centuries, the Czech - Polish border area was a territory with significant cultural heritage, co-created by several ethnic groups. Frequent cultural, political, and business contacts took place here.

In the second half of the 20th century, contacts between the both sides of the border were strictly restricted, and extensive migration of inhabitants took place in the region. Simultaneously, integrity of the territory was weakened by the fact that it became border area of the states Czechoslovakia and Poland, and that direct human, institutional and business contacts between the both sides of the border were prevented by policies of the both states. In addition to that, economic-social structure differed significantly in these border areas.

After political changes in the end of 1980s, democratic development promotes decentralisation and policy of re-linking of the border areas in order to renew some of the former links and contacts. Integration policy also focuses on solving the main economic, demographic, and infrastructural problems complicating development of the Czech-Polish border area.

An important part of the process of integration and cross border cooperation was the establishment of euroregions Nisa – Nysa (1991, Czech-Polish-German euroregion), Glacensis-Glacensis (1996, the biggest Czech-Polish euroregion), Praděd – Pradziad (1997), Silesia – Silesia (1998), Těšínské Slezsko – Śląsk Cieszyński (1998) and Beskydy – Beskidy (2000, Czech-Polish-Slovak euroregion).

Many important experiences in the field of preparation and implementation of joint Czech-Polish projects were gained via previously implemented programmes, namely programme CREDO, Phare CBC („Cross-border Cooperation Programme“), Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic - Poland 2004 - 2006 (see Chapter 2.6) and the Micro-project Fund implemented both within the framework of Phare CBC and INTERREG IIIA. All these programmes played important roles in development of European cross border cooperation.

In 2005, general preparations for the new programming period 2007 - 2013 were started. In this period, the original Community Initiative INTERREG becomes the main programme of the Structural Funds (hereinafter "SFs"), so-called Objective 3 of the Cohesion Policy of the European Union (hereinafter "EU"), entitled European Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter "ETC"). Similarly as in the case of the Community Initiative INTERREG III, the ETC also focuses on support of cross border, multinational and interregional territorial cooperation.

1.2 Joint planning process

Preparation of the Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland (hereinafter "OP CBC CR-PL", "the Programme") was carried out in 2005 and 2006. Working group (Task Force) was set up in the second half of 2005, and it was formed by representatives of the following bodies:

- Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "MRD CR", "Managing Authority", "MA"), and Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "CRD CR", "Joint Technical Secretariat", "JTS");
- Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland (hereinafter "MRD PL", "National Authority", "NA");

- Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "MF CR", "Payment and Certifying Authority", "PCA");
- Representatives of regional self-government (Czech Regional Authorities, Polish Marshall Offices);
- Euroregions on the Czech-Polish border.

Key negotiation meetings in preparation of the Programme:

- 21 - 22 November 2005, Katowice - meeting of both national parts of the working group (hereinafter "Task Force") with the aim to discuss, and, subsequently, approve proposal of structure of the OP CBC CR-PL, and location of the authorities - Managing Authority (CR), Payment and Certifying Authority (CR), Joint Technical Secretariat (CR); time schedule of drawing up of the Programme was prepared. Discussions concerning the Programme implementation, project cycle and necessary documents were started.
- 17 January, 2006, Liberec - presentation of the activities carried out within the framework of preparation of the OP CBC CR-PL to the Monitoring Committee of the Programme INTERREG IIIA CR - Poland, joint selection of the Ex ante evaluator.
- 7 February 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou - meeting of the Czech national part of the Task Force.
- 17 February 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou - meeting of representatives of Czech euroregions.
- 21 - 22 February 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou - meeting of both national parts of the Task Force with the aim to discuss the draft socioeconomic analysis and SWOT analysis, approve proposal of priority axes and fields of support, and present the Programme implementation structure. Agreement with both Ministries of Environment concerning principles of the procedure for drawing up international SEA assessment.
- 6 - 7 April 2006, Prague - meeting of representative of MRD CR, MF CR and MRD PL, joint selection of the author of SEA assessment.
- 18 April 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou - meeting of the Czech national part of the Task Force.
- 24 - 25 April 2006, Bielsko - Biała - joint meeting of the Task Force with the aim to discuss and approve the draft Chapters 1 - 4 of the Programme. Proposal of the procedure for international SEA assessment, including proposal of participation of the public from both countries, was presented within the framework of the meeting.
- 24 - 25 May, Olomouc - meeting of representatives of MRD CR and MRD PL, with the aim to discuss and incorporate comments concerning Chapters 1 - 4 of the Programme.
- 5 - 6 June 2006, Pardubice - joint meeting of the Task Force with the aim to discuss and approve the complete draft of Chapters 1 - 4 of the Programme. The Task Force was informed on the progress of drawing up SEA assessment. Its members were asked to support distribution of information on drawing up the Programme, SEA assessment and preliminary public seminar / discussion of the draft concept.

- 21 - 22 June 2006, Katowice - meeting of representatives of MRD CR and MRD PL, with the aim to technically unify the OP CBC CR-PL and complete preparation of its Chapter 5.
- June 2 2006, Kamień Śląski – presentation of the preliminary version of the OP CBC CR-PL to the Monitoring Committee of the Programme INTERREG IIIA CR - Poland.
- 25 July 2006, Karlova Studánka - incorporation of comments of the Monitoring Committee members.
- 13 - 14 September 2006, Prague - meeting of representatives of MRD CR and MRD PL together with MF CR, MF PL, MoE CR and MoE PL concerning preparation of the 2007-13 period (Operational document of cross border cooperation CR-PL, SEA assessment).
- 2 – 3 October 2006, Katowice - meeting of representatives of MRD CR and MRD PL, with the aim to technically unify the OP CBC CR-PL before its discussing by the Monitoring Committee, SEA assessment.
- 18 October 2006, Třinec – presentation of the document version incorporating comments from the European Commission to members of the Monitoring Committee of the Programme INTERREG IIIA CR - Poland, and discussion concerning it.
- 26 – 27 October 2006, Olomouc – meeting of representatives of MRD CR and MRD PL with the aim to complete Chapter 5 of the document. Discussion of the most detailed information within the framework of the Programme implementation.
- 9 November 2006, Český Těšín – public discussion of the OP CBC CR-PL and the Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 22 – 23 November 2006, Katowice – meeting of representatives of MRD CR, MRD PL, authors of ex-ante and SEA, with the aim to incorporate comments of the Monitoring Committee members and comments from public discussion of the Programme. More detailed discussion concerning the Programme implementation.
- 20 December 2006, Prague - meeting of representative of the MRD CR, MRD PL, Czech regions and European Commission with the aim to discuss the role of the regions in the Programme.

In addition to the activity of the working group - Task Force - the Programme was prepared within the framework of consultation process with representatives of other central, regional and local authorities from both countries, the European Commission, Ex ante evaluator and author of SEA assessment.

Within the framework of SEA procedure, the public of both countries was informed on drawing up the Programme and SEA assessment, via both the procedure of the Managing Authority (in cooperation with the author of SEA), exceeding the legal requirements, and official procedure of the competent authority (MoE CR) in accordance with the Czech act on environmental impact assessment. In addition to the official Internet page of SEA, and use of directory of interested persons, also representatives of the Task Force from both countries, members of the INTERREG Monitoring Committee, and representatives of regional self-governments on both sides of the border were asked to distribute information - in the

locally usual way. Also information channels of NGOs (internet conferences focusing on regional development and on SEA, used by several hundreds of addressees) were used.

Details concerning the SEA procedure were published in two languages, including information on possibilities of the public to submit comments, proposals and recommendations to the Programme and SEA documents, via a special Internet address, as well as other usual ways.

On 29 June 2006, preliminary public discussion (exceeding the legal requirements) took place, during which there was discussed, i.a. also Notification of the Strategy (prepared in two languages) representing basis for official scoping of the MoE CR. The preliminary public discussion took place in Rychnov nad Kněžnou. Public from the both countries was present. Comments raised during the discussion were used for drawing up scoping conclusions, and, together with content of these conclusions, also for drawing up the SEA report.

On 4 July 2006, invitation for public discussion of the OP CBC CR-PL 2007-13 was published on the web pages of the MRD PL. Within the framework of the discussion, the following activities took place:

- Updated Programme versions and e-mail addresses to which comments and proposals concerning the OP can be sent are on the web pages of the Ministry and the Marshall Offices of the Silesia, Opole and Lower Silesia Voivodeships;
- Public discussion in the Opole Voivodeship was taking place from the beginning of July to 17 August 2006, by means of internet pages of the Opole Voivodeship Marshall Office. The completed forms with comments were sent to MRD PL.
- On 19 July 2006, meeting organised by the Silesia Voivodeship Marshall Office took place in Bielsko - Biała;
- On 18 July 2006, meeting organised by the Lower Silesia Voivodeship Marshall Office took place in Wrocław.

On both meetings, general assumptions concerning the cross border cooperation in 2007-13 (territory, fields of support, and beneficiaries) were presented within the framework of public discussion, in view of experiences with implementation of the programme of the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA CR - Poland. Preliminary version of OP CBC CR-PL was also presented there. Comparative presentation of the preliminary version of OP CBC CR-PL and the programme of the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA CR - Poland took place on the meeting in Bielsko - Biała. These meetings were also dedicated to discussing preliminary version of the programming document, and obtaining comments and proposals for completion, from persons participating in the discussion.

Within the framework of works on the Programme, public discussion of the Programme and SEA assessment were held from 9th October 2006. The conference summing up the public discussion of the Programme and SEA assessment took place on 9 November 2006, in accordance with requirements of the above-mentioned act (obligatory periods of publication). The public, as well as affected public administration bodies, were participating in the introductory stages of the SEA procedure by means of the above-mentioned consultation process. During further SEA process (publication of the SEA report, public discussion, preparation of statement of the relevant authority, etc.), broad spectrum of civil society from

the whole eligible area had a further number of possibilities for participation in formulating the Programme.

2. CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ELIGIBLE AREA

2.1 Human resources development, state of the labour market and education

2.1.1 Demographic development

In 2004, in total 7.138 million inhabitants lived in the Czech - Polish border area. On the territory of the Czech part of the border area lived in total 3.373 million inhabitants, which represents one third of inhabitants of the Czech Republic. On the Polish territory of the border area lived 3.765 million persons. This represents 9.9 % of the Polish inhabitants (*see Annex 1 - Table 1*). In the whole Czech - Polish border area, the number of inhabitants is decreasing. In comparison with data stated in socioeconomic analysis of CIP for 2004 - 2006, the number of inhabitants decreased by 15 thousand in the Czech, and by 39.8 thousand in the Polish part of the border area. This overall decrease is caused by negative natural population growth and migration of inhabitants, namely move from this border region. In demographic structure of the border area, the trend of growth of the number of elderly people in retirement age is obvious.

Population density of the whole area is 151 inhabitants/km², and it is significantly higher than the average of the European Union (114 inhabitants/km²). Population density in the Czech part of the border area is in average 145.8 inhabitants/km². This value is by 9.5 % higher than the average of the Czech Republic (130 inhabitants/km²). The Moravia - Silesia Region, having over 1 257 thousand inhabitants, is the most densely populated region of the CR. Its population density of 227 inhabitants/km² corresponds to that. Population density in the Polish part of the border area is significantly higher than the national average, namely 157.1 inhabitants/km² in comparison with the nationwide value of 122 inhabitants/km². However, population density of this territory is considerably differentiated. The highest average value of this indicator is in the Rybnik- Jastrzębie sub-region (474 inhabitants/km²), in comparison with the Opole sub-region where the population density is by 8.2 % under the nationwide average.

2.1.2 Settlement structure

The Czech - Polish border area is characterized by fragmented settlement structure, high number of municipalities on the Czech side, and more concentrated settlement structure on the Polish side of the border. Dense network of small and medium towns does not form suitable conditions for growing of more powerful development centres which could become key poles of regional development. Peripheral border regions are found especially in mountainous areas. Remoteness of these areas from regional centres and, simultaneously, difficult transport accessibility have a share in continuation of high unemployment levels and weakening of economic activities, which are not fully compensated by incomes from tourism.

The biggest city in the eligible area is Ostrava, exceeding the level of 300 thousand inhabitants. Further cities having the number of inhabitants near the level of 100 thousand inhabitants are: Olomouc, Hradec Králové, Pardubice and Liberec on the Czech side, and Bielsko-Biała, Jastrzębie Zdrój, Rybnik, Opole, Wałbrzych and Jelenia Góra on the Polish side of the border.

2.1.3 Development of local communities

Traditions of the Czech - Polish border area include renewed activity of voluntary citizens activities, cultural societies and associations. Impulses for cooperation in this area come

especially from initiative of the inhabitants, civic associations, but also schools and leisure time centres, and include inexhaustible number of cross border activities. The cooperation focuses, i.a. on participation of the public and citizens organisations in development of towns, municipalities and regions, on local sustainable development, education, support and strengthening of NGOs. In the field of leisure time spending, joint activities concentrate on organisation of sport contests and competitions, exchange trips, joint camps, acquainting with the individual cultural organisations, as well as on mutual exchange of experience of employees of schools, school organisations and NGOs. Also international film, theatre and music festivals, which became a tradition already, are of cross border nature.

An important form of mutual cooperation on the Czech - Polish border is represented by euroregions supporting the idea of cross border cooperation and European unity in an effort to bring close together and develop local communities on both sides of the border. The main task of the euroregions remains to be bringing close together and integration on the basis of subsidiarity principles within the framework of ETC between the Czech Republic and Republic of Poland. Since 1990s, 6 euroregions are active on the territory of the Czech - Polish border area: Nisa, Glacensis, Praděd, Silesia, Těšínské Slezsko and Beskydy.

2.1.4 Unemployment and labour market

During transformation, the number of jobs decreased on the whole territory of the Czech - Polish border area especially in heavy and mining industries. Unemployment growth is also a consequence of liquidation of a considerable part of light, manufacturing, agricultural - foodstuff and electrical industries, and of transformation in the field of ownership structure in agriculture.

A significant problem is high unemployment level in certain parts of the Czech - Polish border area. This concerns especially the Polish part, negatively contrasting with the territory on the Czech side of the border. In the Polish part, the unemployment level in nine districts was higher than 30 %, and only one district did not exceed the level of 10 %. In the Czech part of the border area, unemployment exceeded the level of 20 % in one district only, and in six of them it was under the level of 10 %. Only in the Moravia - Silesia and Olomouc regions, the unemployment levels at the end of 2004 were higher than the CR unemployment level. On the Polish side of the border, unemployment level at the end of 2004 was higher than the national average in the Jelenia Góra - Wałbrzych and Opole sub-regions only (*see Annex 1- Tables 2 and 3*). For the purpose of comparison: unemployment level in the whole Czech Republic was 9 %, in Poland 19 %, and the EU average was 9 %. In the recent years, share of people unemployed in the long term, i.e., unemployed for more than one year, has remained to be high.

Unemployment risk is markedly differentiated according to age and education. Unemployment strikes most the group of persons in the age up to 24 years. In recent years, situation of age groups 30 - 34 years and 45 - 49 years improved, and, on the contrary, situation of age groups in the age before retirement, i.e. 50 - 54 and 55 - 59 years on the Czech side, and 45 - 54 and over 55 years on the Polish side, worsened.

Minimal differences exist in chances of men and women to find a job (*see Annex 1- Table 3*), also thanks to the fact that no significant differences exist in their education levels. In spite of that, attention must be paid to prevention of development of any forms of discrimination of inhabitant groups threatened by social exclusion (for example, physically and mentally handicapped persons, mothers with children, ethnic minorities).

Because of complicated situation on the labour market in the Polish part of the border area, high numbers of workers move inland and abroad. More intensive migration abroad, especially for the reasons of getting jobs, is supported especially in the Opole sub-region where it is of permanent nature, and influences socioeconomic development of the area, i.a. in the field of business.

High unemployment level points to low use of local sources of labour force. Because of that, unemployment growth may be influenced, in particular, by development of small and medium enterprises (hereinafter "SMEs") and use of opportunities brought by development of knowledge society. Support of mutual economic cooperation, consultancy, cooperation among labour market institutions and business entities via coordinated and system measures in labour market modernization will also enable mitigation of the difficult situation, especially in the Polish part of the border area.

2.1.5 Education

Factors contributing to unemployment are quality and orientation of the educational system, and unfavourable education structure of inhabitants of the Czech - Polish border area. Persons having primary education only and trained persons (without school-leaving examination) are threatened by unemployment most, and their position on the labour market has permanently continued to worsen. According to available data, education structure of the border area inhabitants is characterized by the fact that persons having university education form a lower share of the total number of inhabitants than in the EU-15 countries.

The overall education level of the border area inhabitants is gradually improving. This is obvious especially in the case of the young generation which more recognizes importance of education. An important problem of the overall educational system in the Czech - Polish border area is a marked disharmony between labour market demand and fields of training as well as study. This manifests itself by lack of persons having technical education at all levels. Students prefer social studies and humanities, importance of technical and scientific directions, connected with development of innovations and modern technologies, is not sufficiently stressed. Share of graduates in these fields is approximately a third, and, thus, it is insufficient.

Education and lifelong learning, including improvement of language skills and abilities to use means of information and communication technology (hereinafter "ICT") are preconditions for success in the knowledge society. Lifelong learning, which should be harmonised with future requirements of the labour market, is insufficiently developed, and it is not adapted to needs and possibilities of economically active inhabitants and needs of employers.

A persisting problem is insufficiently developed language education showing low effectiveness, which seriously hinders not only international cooperation in the field of business, research and development, and marketing success of companies, but also reduces the possibilities of finding jobs by the inhabitants in the enlarged European Union.

Insufficient amount of public and private sources spent for development and adjustment of educational infrastructure causes that the border areas lag behind other regions and countries of the EU.

Education potential of universities in the Czech - Polish border area is gradually improving. In this area, 11 universities exist on the Czech side, and 20 of them on the Polish side (including higher schools). These universities are both state-owned and private institutions

which enable access of local inhabitants to tertiary education, and are able to influence development potential of the whole territory. Mutual cooperation is long-term, and is taking place especially in the following fields: exchange lecture trips of lecturers and students, visiting professors, joint publications, organisation of scientific conferences, seminars and workshops, joint research projects, mutual cooperation between universities. Situation in this border area is influenced also by big academic centres located outside the eligible area.

2.2 Business environment and tourism

An important criterion for comparison of prosperities of regions, and, especially, for determination of eligibility for obtaining support provided through cohesion policy of the EU, is the gross domestic product (hereinafter "GDP") per capita in purchasing power parity. For the period of 2007 - 2013, all regions concerned on the Czech and Polish sides of the border meet the condition for incorporation into the Convergence objective (*see Annex 1- Table 4*). Considerably more favourable is the situation on the Czech side, where the GDP/capita in all regions is at the level higher than 50 % of the average GDP/capita in the EU-25 in purchasing power parity. However, from this point of view, the Czech border area lags behind the average GDP/capita of the Czech Republic, which was 67.6 % in the comparable period. The levels of GDP/capita in the individual Polish border sub-regions were in the range from 37 % (Jelenia Góra - Wałbrzych) to 47.6 % (Bielsko - Biała), in relation to the EU average. In Poland, GDP/capita was 45.6 % of the average GDP/capita in the EU.

2.2.1 Regional economy structure

Structure of sectors in the Czech - Polish border area, and its dynamics, is significantly diversified. On this territory, there are historically located areas and plants of strategic importance, heavy industry plants subjected to restructuring in 1993 - 2006, connected with production reduction and significant reduction of employment level. The other industrial activities are characterized by significant diversity of sectors. In the border area, there are located, for example: textile industry, engineering industry (including automobile industry), glass, brick-and-tile, foodstuff, electrical, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, electrical and building industries, production of plastics. The services share on GDP and employment is increasing, tourism development represents a considerable potential.

A part of the Czech - Polish border area is a typically agricultural area. Agriculture was subjected to radical restructuring influencing ownership and organisation structures. High numbers of employees left agriculture as a consequence of production reduction and pressure on growth of productivity of labour. The result is a relatively high number of inhabitants who lost their jobs in the country. Decrease of demand having purchasing power was reflected in reduction of service supply. Widening of the range of economic activities, development of services and tourism, including rural tourism, and activities supporting care of nature and landscape, will contribute to sustainable development of the rural space, and improvement of employment levels.

2.2.2 Business and innovation environment

A result of the process of transformation and privatisation of the economy in the region is also formation of relatively broad and dynamically developing basis of SMEs, which play crucial role in creation of jobs, act as a factor of economic development and social stability. The SMEs share of the border area economy is relatively high (*see Annex 1 - Table 5*). SMEs were able to absorb a big portion of working population during restructuring of traditional industrial sectors and transfer of labour force connected with that (*see Annex 1 - Table 6*).

Development of business activities (business environment) is hindered by insufficient cooperation between the business sector and research institutions and schools, unsatisfactory support of development of applied research, insufficient level of knowledge connected with modern management methods and marketing, poor cooperation between chambers of commerce and business associations. Starting and development of business activities is also hampered by insufficient number of consultancy centres for establishment of companies and stimulation of innovation potential, know-how transfer, insufficient introduction of new technologies and low level of use of specialised internet applications, insufficient cooperation of business entities with employment authorities, and insufficient interconnection of educational system and business.

The Czech - Polish border area shows the basic preconditions for development of innovation potential. Important research and development centres are Katowice and Ostrava. Smaller centres include, for example, Liberec, Olomouc, Hradec Králové, Pardubice, Jelenia Góra, Wałbrzych, Opole, Rybnik, Bielsko-Biała, Wodzisław Śląski Jastrzębie Zdrój and Opava. A persisting problem in this area is weak participation of universities, research institutions and companies in international cooperation networks in the field of development and innovation, and poor ability to use foreign sources of financing.

2.2.3 Importance and position of tourism in the regional economy

Natural, landscape and cultural conditions create very favourable environment for development of tourism and recreation activities in the Czech - Polish border area. The main attractions of the area include diversity and extent of natural sights, environmentally valuable, relatively little damaged landscape, cultural and historical heritage with living traditions and culture.

In 2004, the share of visits of the border area formed one quarter (25 %) of the total number of visitors of the Czech Republic (more than one third - 36.5 % of the total number of home visitors, and 13.3 % of the total number of foreign visitors). The whole quarter of Polish and German visitors who visit the CR spend their stay in the border area.

Mountainous areas of Krkonoše-Jeseníky system and Beskydy, interesting for tourists and environmentally valuable, offer very good conditions for development of winter sports and summer tourism on both sides of the border. In spite of good functioning of winter sport centres, and diverse quality of offered tourism services, natural recreational potential of the border area is not sufficiently used yet. Functional integration of tourism centres on both sides of the border will enable creation of more interesting offer for tourists, focusing also on the summer season.

The Czech - Polish border area has at its disposal also natural wealth - mineral raw materials and mineral waters, which formed basis for development of spa activities, and, thanks to that, also formation of interesting spa architecture (for example, Łądek Zdrój, Polanica Zdrój, Szczawno Zdrój, Duszniki Zdrój, Jarnołtówek, Pokrzywna, Jeseník, Lipová-lázně, Karlova Studánka, Libverda and Kunratice).

A potential for development of new tourism products is represented by technical structures (for example, railway structures) and industrial architecture connected with mining of mineral raw materials (silver, gold, metal ores, coal).

The region has deep cultural and historical traditions, also influencing its attractiveness for tourists. In the region, there can be found historical buildings and complexes of buildings

representing almost all art styles and periods, from the Middle Ages up to the 20th century. The most important monuments include castles, fortresses, historical parts of towns, and numerous structures of sacral architecture and places of pilgrimage. Diversity and extent of natural attractions, high environmental quality, emphasized by presence of protected areas, create good preconditions for rural tourism development. The border area also shows a broad potential for urban tourism development. Cultural and social events of international importance (film, theatre and music festivals and shows, historical traditional events, sport events etc.) are organised in many places of the border area.

Importance and strong position of tourism in the region is proved by data on mass accommodation facilities and their capacities (*see Annex 1- Table 7*). In 2004, in total 144 thousand beds were at disposal for visitors of the border area. This represented one third (33 %) of the total capacity of mass accommodation facilities on the territory of the CR. The region of Hradec Králové alone has a capacity of 40 thousand beds. In 2004, the Polish border area had at its disposal accommodation facilities for, in total, 65.2 thousand people (11.2 % of the accommodation capacity available in Poland; 53.9 % of the available capacity was in the Jelenia Góra - Wałbrzych sub-region). In the eligible area, the level of utilisation of the accommodation capacities throughout the year is in the range from 23 % to 44 %. This is a consequence of absence of attractive offer out of the main season.

The tourism potential is not sufficiently used. Joint promotion of historical, natural and cultural potential on both sides of the border is missing. In addition to that, insufficient utilisation of the tourism potential, especially in the Polish part of the border area, is influenced by low quality of existing transportation infrastructure to tourist centres and tourism attractions, missing basic municipal infrastructure, and, last but not least, also bad condition of monuments and insufficiently developed infrastructure of culture. It is necessary to improve quality of the basic and complementary tourism infrastructure and level of provided services, and extend the offer by new tourism products. It is necessary to aim at development of human resources in tourism. Barrier preventing more efficient development of tourism in the Czech - Polish border area is absence of joint networks and structures, implementation of joint projects and marketing strategies focusing on attracting new visitors, accompanied by lack of financial means. Because of that, for maximum use of tourism potential, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation and coordination of entities of public and private sector during planning, preparing and implementing strategic documents, as well as individual activities and projects.

Within the framework of support of tourism development, principles of sustainable development are respected, both concerning the socioeconomic side - the sector's share of the state economy, especially as an important source of employment, as well as the environmental side - preservation of attractiveness of the regions from the point of view of offer of natural and healing aspects, respecting rational barriers of environmental protection.

2.3 Environment and risk prevention

The Czech - Polish border area is characterized by a number of natural attractions and biological diversity, with considerable potential deserving protection (*see Annex 1- Table 8*). On the other hand, natural and landscape values of the territory decreased in industrial areas and big conurbation centres. Nevertheless, quality of the environment in the border area generally significantly improved concerning all its components since 1990, especially due to reduction of production of industrial sectors producing the highest exhalations, and as a consequence of investments into environmental protection infrastructure.

A big portion of the border area ranks among areas where valuable parts of nature and landscape are protected, both by means of large-area (national parks, protected landscape areas), and small-area specially protected areas, including sites of the NATURA 2000 network.

A part of the effort for preservation of these values is formed also, for example, by the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, signed by the Czech Republic and Republic of Poland, which came into force on 4 January 2006.

A persisting problem of all regions, but, especially, their rural parts, is insufficiently developed system of sewerage and waste water treatment plants. This continues to be the reason of high level of watercourses pollution (*see Annex 1- Table 9*). The percentage of persons connected to sewerage is under the average of EU-15.

Although the quality of surface water is improving in the long term, it cannot be considered satisfactory, especially in the case of watercourses in the vicinity of important pollution sources. Capacity of the environment for accumulation of rainwater is decreasing, due to growing extent of built-up areas, environmentally unfriendly management of agricultural and forest land and regulation of watercourses in landscape environment. This reduces reserves of water sources, increases threat of floods and their devastating effects on landscape, as well as on built-up areas. Insufficient attention is paid to support and modernisation of water management infrastructure. Floods which took place repeatedly in a few recent years, especially in mountainous regions, pointed out to the fact that an acute need of modernisation of the system of flood protection exists here. The territory shows insufficient level of water retention also during the drought. There is necessary ecological revitalization, and investments into infrastructure enabling utilisation of retention reservoirs for economic a recreational purposes.

Although the level of air pollution improved significantly in the recent years, and the total emissions of the main pollutants (solid pollutants, SO₂, NO_x, CO, dust, etc.) were reduced, they still significantly exceed the EU average. In the recent years, local growth of air pollution with nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and dust (PM₁₀) has become an essential problem in big cities and in the vicinity of roads with a lot of traffic, as a result of growing intensity of car traffic. This has negative consequences on the environment and traffic safety. For the reasons of lack of optimally located high-quality transportation infrastructure, and low quality of the existing infrastructure, environmental burden by the growing traffic has been increasing (noise, emissions). Development of integrated monitoring and implementation of activities improving air quality (connected, i.a. with existence of industrial centres) are essential.

Total waste production shows a slight decrease. The level of material recovery of waste is relatively high (55 %), and also the percentage of recycling of packaging waste is relatively good on the Czech side of the border (49 %)³. Landfilling still prevails as the basic way of waste disposal in the regions (62 % of municipal waste is still deposited to landfills). Although the situation concerning waste separation has been improving, developed systems of separated waste collection and treatment, as well as up-to-date methods of landfilling, are still missing in the majority of municipalities. A threat is represented by old landfills containing

³ Source: MoE CR

also hazardous and toxic wastes, which were constructed in the past without technical measures preventing leakage of pollutants into soil and underground water.

In the long term, intensity of agricultural production is decreasing, and importance of non-producing functions of agriculture is growing. Especially, consumption of pesticides and mineral fertilisers was considerably reduced, and atmospheric deposition (dust and radioactive one) decreased. This partially reduced the risk of soil contamination by risk elements. Positive relation of agriculture to the field of environment manifests itself especially through support of agri-environmental measures (for example, organic farming, landscape protection), and production of biofuels and biomass for energy production.

Industrial nature of the border area, especially of its eastern part, manifests itself through higher occurrence of industrial and transportation risks, and emergency situations. Big industrial accidents (fires, explosions, releases of hazardous substances, etc.) represent direct endangering of a big number of inhabitants and environment with transboundary consequences. Natural calamities (especially floods and extensive forest fires) can have similar effects which, as a consequence, also have transboundary impact. Similarly serious risk is represented by transboundary transport of goods (especially transport by lorries and railway transport), and threat of traffic accidents connected with that, especially concerning means of transport transporting hazardous substances.

In the above-mentioned context, only close interconnection (communication, information, organisational and technical compatibility) of bodies of crisis management and integrated rescue system on both sides of the border can reduce negative effects of all emergency situations in the border areas.

Issues concerning safety are regulated by an international agreement - the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland signed, on 8 June 2000, an agreement on cooperation and mutual aid in cases of catastrophes, natural disasters and other unexpected events.

Up-to-date technical equipment of elements of the Integrated Rescue System is no less important.

In the long term, the regional economy is characterised by high energy intensity and low share of renewable energy sources. Because of that, production and consumption of energy has, together with transport, the highest share on emissions of pollutants, and influences significantly also the other environmental components. On the other hand, the territory has preconditions for development of renewable energy sources (biomass, solar energy, water, wind and geothermal energy), however, their use is developing slowly. In addition to more effective use of non-renewable energy sources, it is necessary to use renewable sources more intensely. This will have positive influence on lowering of environmental burden and reduction of climate change. Use of renewable energy sources is one of the ways to meeting the obligations of the Kyoto Protocol.

Increased demand for building of transportation infrastructure, flats, as well as public utilities, on the whole territory, causes loss of soil. An unresolved problem continues to be utilisation of old industrial areas (brownfields) and already urbanised areas, which would prevent the growing pressure of development and land take in free landscape.

Research and development in the field of improvement of prevention and nature protection has potential to growth, but it is not fully used yet. A very important aspect of environmental protection is environmental education both of children and adults.

2.4 Transport accessibility

The territory of the Czech - Polish border area, located in Central Europe, is characterized by relatively dense network of transport infrastructure, with transport links to the Free State of Saxony and Slovakia. The Pan-European Transport Corridor III passes through the eligible area. High-quality and high-capacity transport connection will enable development of the border area, and will influence its future possibilities. However, at the present time, numerous technical limitations of free movement of persons and goods in international transport exist in the transport infrastructure in the area.

Parameters of the existing road network in this border area are not in accordance with the present requirements on integration and development of the territory. In spite of relatively dense road and railway networks, certain parts of the transport infrastructure are missing. Their construction is complicated by mountainous nature of the border area. Gradual deterioration of technical condition of transport networks, especially of roads and railways of lower classes, in the past (voivodeship, district, and municipal roads, roads of the 2nd and 3rd classes on the Czech side, local roads, local railways) reduces development of the potential of the eligible area in the field of economy and tourism.

2.4.1 Road transport

Quick growth of road traffic in the border area requires substantial investments and improvement of the infrastructure. At the present time, local roads prevail here. In many places, their lifetime and capacity are exceeded. Their transportation - technical state is not in accordance with the present conditions of road traffic. Proper attention is not paid to modernization and development of local roads. Unsatisfactory condition of transport infrastructure represents a barrier, and has adverse impacts not only on quality of the environment, but it also limits the economic - social development of the area. In this situation, substantial investments from public sources are necessary.

The fact that more than 60 % of the total international transport in the Czech - Polish border area is carried out on roads negatively influences the environment. One of consequences of accession of the CR and PL to the EU is also considerable growth of transport burden, especially concerning the freight car transport. There exists a need of construction of bypasses, with the aim to eliminate transport defects of frequently used roads in residential areas. A typical feature of cross border, especially road, freight transport on the Czech - Polish border is concentration of the traffic on a few border crossings only (Český Těšín - Cieszyn, Bohumín - Chałupki and Náchod - Kudowa-Słone). Approximately 2/3 of the cross border traffic is concentrated on these three crossings. Regional and local crossings with links to local infrastructure are very important. Accession of the both countries to the Schengen Agreement, when border checks will be completely stopped, will enable change of function of the existing buildings of border crossings.

2.4.2 Railway transport

Relatively dense railway network is characterised by low technical parameters with many non-electrified and single-track sections. The biggest problems include poor technical condition and out-of-date communication and safety equipment. The existing condition increases risk of accidents and problems on crossings of railways with road transport. Gradual

modernization of railway infrastructure will improve importance of railway, increase safety, improve transport accessibility of the border area, and support regional efforts to create joint integrated transport system with interconnection of all forms of public transport.

2.4.3 Information and communication technology (ICT)

In the recent years, development of ICT have taken place in the whole Czech - Polish border area. Especially the young generation actively uses all advantages offered by progress in the field of modern technologies. Thanks to liberalisation of the ICT market, gradual improvement of accessibility of the related infrastructure and services has been taking place.

In the peripheral parts of the border area, basis of infrastructure for development of ICT continues to be insufficient. It is necessary to expand accessibility of these modern technologies to all groups of inhabitants as a public service, and, thus, to increase attractiveness of the environment for investments, work and life of the inhabitants.

2.5 Strengths - weaknesses - opportunities - threats (hereinafter "SWOT analysis")

STRENGTHS

- **Accessibility and environment**
 - Ø Dense network of service roads on both sides of the border;
 - Ø Demand of use of up-to-date ICT technologies;
 - Ø Diverse natural wealth (high number of reserves, protected areas and forests);
 - Ø Improving environmental quality;
 - Ø Decrease of waste production;
 - Ø Decrease of consumption of chemical products in agriculture.
- **Business environment, tourism**
 - Ø Existence of support of cross border cooperation of representatives of the business sector;
 - Ø High number of institutions of tertiary education;
 - Ø Wealth of natural resources;
 - Ø Rich cultural and historical heritage;
 - Ø Development of specific forms of tourism;
 - Ø Attractive spa and recreation places with rich tradition;
 - Ø Developed system of tertiary education.
- **Local communities**
 - Ø Developed institutional cooperation (public sector);
 - Ø Development of public management information systems for risk management;
 - Ø Tradition of joint social, cultural, and leisure activities.

WEAKNESSES

- **Accessibility and environment**
 - Ø Insufficient permeability of the border for mutual trade;
 - Ø Overload of cross border transport infrastructure by seasonal transport;
 - Ø Low transport accessibility of peripheral areas;
 - Ø Insufficient cross border interconnection of transport infrastructure;
 - Ø Unsatisfactory technical condition of transport infrastructure, reducing traffic safety;
 - Ø Slow development of integrated transport systems and transport;
 - Ø Low level of use of sophisticated ICT applications;
 - Ø Low ICT accessibility for certain population groups;
 - Ø Insufficient prevention of risks, especially natural disasters and technological accidents;
 - Ø Low safety of railway crossings;
 - Ø Water pollution from industrial and municipal sources;
 - Ø Persisting old environmental burdens, locally significant occurrence of devastated areas;
 - Ø Above-average emissions of main pollutants;
 - Ø Insufficient environmental infrastructure;
 - Ø Undeveloped system of waste separation;
 - Ø Insufficient use of renewable energy sources;
 - Ø Decrease of retention capacity of the territory.
- **Business environment and tourism**
 - Ø Passive migration of people in the productive age and high unemployment;

- Ø Missing network of cooperation among business entities, including the field of tourism;
- Ø Low level of cooperation of educational, research, development and innovation institutions with the business sector;
- Ø Unsuitable structure of fields of training and study (insufficient reflection of requirements of the labour market, missing qualified labour force in technical fields);
- Ø Insufficient cooperation of labour market institutions with the business sector;
- Ø Little developed system of consultancy for the business sector;
- Ø Limited access of business entities to sources of financing;
- Ø Low quality and extent of tourism services;
- Ø Insufficient number and low quality of tourism infrastructure;
- Ø Insufficient year-round offer of tourism products and services;
- Ø Poor condition of cultural monuments and cultural infrastructure;
- Ø Insufficient promotion of tourism attractions;
- Ø Undeveloped system of lifelong learning;
- Ø Low language abilities.
- **Local communities**
- Ø Negative natural population growth;
- Ø Structural and long-term unemployment;
- Ø Insufficient level of cooperation in the fields of culture and leisure time activities.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Accessibility and environment**
- Ø Lowering costs on transport, and increasing transport accessibility of the territory;
- Ø Improving technical condition and construction of new parts of regional / local transport infrastructure, including bypasses, with the aim to increase interconnection of the border area;
- Ø Strengthening retention ability of the territory, development of the early warning system;
- Ø Introduction of environmentally-friendly technologies, including the transport sector;
- Ø Use of natural and landscape potential (national parks, protected landscape areas, NATURA 2000);
- Ø Reduction of emissions in the area;
- Ø Rational water management;
- Ø Efficient waste management;
- Ø Reduction of costs and improvement of access to ICT;
- Ø Concluded joint agreement between the CR and PL in the field of integrated rescue systems, and its gradual implementation;
- **Business environment and tourism**
- Ø Support of business environment stimulating SMEs development;
- Ø Strengthening cooperation among business entities and research, development and innovation institutions;
- Ø Stimulation of innovation potential;
- Ø Diversification of local economy;
- Ø Intensification of cross border links among companies, joint access in the outer markets;
- Ø Use of natural, historical and cultural heritage;
- Ø Development of integrated offer of tourism products and services;
- Ø Development of tourism infrastructure;
- Ø Creation of new job opportunities as a result of tourism development;

- Ø Adaptation of education to the labour market;
- Ø Development of lifelong learning, including improvement of language abilities;
- Ø Development of cross border cooperation of labour market institutions, with the aim to improve utilisation of human resources.
- **Local communities**
- Ø Utilisation of opportunities brought by development of knowledge society;
- Ø Development of civil society by means of support of cross border cooperation;
- Ø High level of urbanisation of eastern part of the region;
- Ø Renewal of local traditions.

THREATS

- **Accessibility and environment**
- Ø Deterioration of quality of transport infrastructure of transport accessibility of the territory;
- Ø Persisting low level of waste utilisation;
- Ø Biodiversity loss;
- Ø Increase of environmental burden (for example, car traffic growth);
- Ø Deterioration of technical infrastructure quality;
- Ø Growth of occurrence of environmental and technological risks as a consequence of human interventions into the environment and landscape (for example, floods);
- Ø Loss of attractiveness of the border region for inhabitants and entrepreneurs.
- **Business environment and tourism**
- Ø Decrease of public, as well as private, investments in the region;
- Ø Insufficient use of modernization trends in economy (development of progressive fields);
- Ø Devastation of cultural-historical heritage;
- Ø Insufficient interconnection of fields of training and study with labour market needs.
- **Local communities**
- Ø Persisting language barriers;
- Ø Growing rivalry of entities in the tourism field;
- Ø Loss of job opportunities;
- Ø Long-term unemployment;
- Ø Spread of socially-pathological phenomena;
- Ø Deepening of social marginalisation of population groups at risk (including ethnic minorities);
- Ø Continuing migration of educated and younger people from the Czech - Polish border area;
- Ø Further decrease of number of inhabitants.

2.6 Evaluation of implementation of the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic - Poland in 2004-2006

The objective of the Community Initiative INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic - Poland is support of cross border cooperation of inhabitants and institutions from neighbouring regions. The programme met with high interest in the Czech - Polish border area. The number of applicants, and, especially, the applied for co-financing from the ERDF more than twice exceeded the allocation of financial means within the framework of the programme (*see Annex 1- Table 10*). In total, 356 projects were submitted, which were subjected to formal check and acceptability check in the Joint Technical Secretariat in Olomouc, and further evaluation by the relevant regional institutions. 299 projects were submitted on meetings of the Managing Committee. In total, 176 of them were recommended for co-financing from the ERDF (*see Annex 1- Table 11*). These data do not include the Micro-project Fund which was implemented by the corresponding euroregions on both sides of the border within the framework of measure 2.2.

From the point of view of level of cooperation between the applicant and the partner, there were accepted 65 joint projects (from this, 54 approved), 49 mirror projects (from this, 38 approved) and 185 individual projects (from this, 84 approved). The joint projects were unambiguously the most successful, their level of success was almost 80 % (*see Annex 1- graph 1*).

The highest interest of the applicants concerned Priority 1, focusing on development of local infrastructure of cross border nature. It means that the problem of insufficient infrastructure in the Czech - Polish border area continues to be perceived as a strategic question of its development. By means of Measure 1.1 (Support of infrastructure of cross border importance), the supported projects contribute, in particular, to construction of transport infrastructure - modernization of border roads, regional transport terminals, etc. In Measure 1.2 (Infrastructure for environment protection and flood prevention), there prevail projects focusing on flood prevention and revitalization of border rivers. The highest interest concerned Measure 1.3 (Provision of tourism related infrastructure), by means of which there is supported especially implementation of tourism infrastructure, modernization of business facilities, etc.

High interest in projects in the field of infrastructure of cross border nature and environmental protection, including risk prevention, justifies adoption of the strategy of the OP CBC CR-PL (Priority axes I and II).

At the beginning of the Programme INTERREG IIIA, lower interest was paid to Priority 2 in comparison with Priority 1. In spite of that, applicants submitted a sufficient number of high-quality projects within its framework. These projects focused, in particular, on implementation of promotion activities, tourism services, and products in Measure 2.1 (Tourism development), and on building of partnership among institutions and student exchange in Measure 2.3 (Development and support of cross border organisational structures and networks). Higher activity and support of projects in Priority 2 was carried out, according to the current needs, in view of higher time demand of preparation of this type of projects and partnership building - i.e., within the framework of information seminars, the aim was to promote especially Measures 2.1 and 2.3, suitable types and examples of projects were presented, and partner cooperation was supported by means of mediating these links via JTS and regional institutions on both sides of the border. A traditional interest in the Micro-project

fund - Measure 2.2 - Support of local communities initiatives - exists in the Czech - Polish border area, due to experience from Phare CBC.

For the reason of verified need, cooperation of institutions and people on both sides of the border continues to be supported also in the new period within the framework of Priority III (Support of local communities cooperation).

From the beginning, management and administration of the programme required intensive and close cooperation and communication among the individual participating entities - MA, NA, JTS, Regional Authorities, Regional Contact Points, Secretariats of Regional Councils, Intermediate Bodies II, as well as euroregions. Planning of processes in advance proved to be necessary. This knowledge and cooperation should be developed and used in the new period.

A consequence of continuous organisation of information seminars for applicants on both sides of the border was improvement of quality of submitted applications. A big portion of information seminars was organised in mutual cooperation of entities, especially of JTS with Secretariats of Regional Councils and Regional Contact Points. Seminars organised in this way were beneficial both for the applicants and mutual cooperation and information exchange, and it would be suitable to continue with them also in the new programme. A part of the seminars was formed by presentation of examples of successful applicants on the Czech and Polish side. It probably encouraged the potential applicants to establish new partnership links. These links are fully used also during drawing up projects in the programming period 2007 - 2013 where the lead partner principle is obligatory.

Big stress should be put on workshops, partner exchange, and activities with the aim to generate higher number of high-quality projects as a consequence of individual consultations with the potential applicants. At the beginning of implementation of the initiative INTERREG IIIA, higher attention was paid to increasing the level of cross border cooperation, in view of insufficient experiences of the applicants. In proportion to growth of the number of information and promotion activities, the awareness of cross border cooperation broadened. On the basis of mutual exchange of experience among the participating institutions within the framework of workshops and other contacts, it was verified that level of success of the applicants who consulted their applications before registration in the JTS was significantly higher.

Occasional consultations with the applicants concerning cross border impact, provided by the JTS, have also proved successful. In view of the lead partner principle, it is recommended to carry out such consultations on regular basis in the new period. In connection with that, it is also suitable to strengthen cooperation of Czech and Polish entities providing consultations.

The system when regional experts from Poland (CR) and Czech (Polish) JTS workers cooperated on evaluation of cross border impact of the projects proved to be very good in the programme. This system of cooperation on the evaluation is maintained, and completed by a third entity - regional expert from the other country than the entity submitting the project.

The JTS, in cooperation with Regional Contact Points, as well as Secretariats of Regional Councils, provides, to the applicants, contacts for seeking of partners (on the internet, seminars, etc.). In the new period, this support should continue.

An important medium for publication of basic programming documents and current information for applicants was bilingual internet home page www.interreg3a.cz.

Summary of main experience with the programme implementation

The process of project administration was successfully finished, in spite of high number of submitted projects.

Good contacts and close cooperation among all institutions participating in the programme (including very good cooperation with experts evaluating the applications).

Continuation in the tradition, as well as new activation of Polish - Czech cross border cooperation, removal of barriers in the border area, and also its social-economic development.

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 Determination of objectives and strategy

3.1.1 Basis for creation of the strategy

Forming of the development strategy of the Czech - Polish border area is based on the findings of the carried-out socioeconomic analysis, and reflects results of the SWOT analysis. In the supported territory, there persist barriers slowing down socioeconomic transformation of the region, limiting use of local potential, and reducing attractiveness of the region for foreign investors and visitors. The development strategy of the Czech - Polish border area focuses on removal of the existing barriers reducing competitiveness of the border area and preventing integration of the territory from both the economic and social points of view. It focuses on increasing its attractiveness for both local and outer investors, inhabitants, as well as visitors. The second point of view influencing forming of the strategy is use of the opportunities ensuing from incorporation of the supported territory into the European economy, and from deepening of the European integration.

Competitiveness of the Czech - Polish border area, and ability to attain sustainable growth, may be achieved by combination of inner and outer factors, i.e., ability to eliminate inner barriers and weak points, and to effectively use opportunities ensuing from incorporation of the supported territory into the EU.

The competitiveness factors of the Czech - Polish border area are as follows:

a) Attractive environment;

- Strengthening accessibility of the territory, developing transport and communication connections and interconnections necessary for full incorporation of the territory into the united European economy,
- Protection and improvement of the environment, care and use of landscape potential, prevention and solution of risks for maintaining or improving life quality of the local inhabitants, preservation of attractiveness for development of sustainable forms of tourism, and meeting of obligations in the field of climate protection,
- Development of necessary environmental infrastructure,
- Solution of inner problems of urbanised areas, support of sustainable development of rural areas (broadening of the spectrum of economic activities) improving attractiveness of the territory both for the inhabitants and visitors.

b) Competitive economy;

- Open and stimulating business environment (without barriers of cross border trade, offering sophisticated advisory services to local entrepreneurs concerning business opportunities),
- Integrated economy (developed business cross border relations, networks of innovation-oriented companies),
- Up-to-date system of research and development and innovation activities, outputs of which are used in the business sector (cross border links among research and university institutions, innovation centres and companies),
- Implementation of progressive technologies and up-to-date management methods for productivity growth.

The above-mentioned factors will manifest themselves in growth of productivity of labour and of other production factors, in strengthening of manufacture with higher added value, in strengthening of competitiveness of companies on both inner and outer markets, and in transition to knowledge economy, in strengthening of sustainable forms of tourism.

c) Open, flexible and cohesive communities;

- Inclusive and flexible labour market with qualified, flexible and healthy labour force, which is able to use opportunities created in the integrated Europe,
- Communities which flexibly and continuously increase their education potential (lifelong learning) adapted to needs of modern economy,
- Communities which aim at prevention of inner problems and risks and are able to solve them actively, which guarantee equal opportunities (prevent social exclusion),
- Communities which support cross border mutuality and long-term cooperation in social, health and cultural fields,
- Communities which share experiences with management of public issues and coordinate activities for ensuring public services and infrastructure in the Czech - Polish border area.

Because of that, stress is put on development of business environment (support of establishing cooperation among research and development institutions and business entities, and strengthening of innovation potential), tourism development (tourism attractions, support of their promotion, improvement of offer of tourism products), on support of education and lifelong learning, and cross border cooperation among local communities and institutions on both sides of the border (creation of new networks and structures) and on reduction of migration of people from the border area through support of processes creating new job opportunities, and, last but not least, on strengthening of accessibility of the territory and improvement of environmental quality.

The proposed strategy is being developed in accordance with requirements of national and Community policies. It respects the following horizontal issues: sustainable development, equality of opportunity, and cross border cooperation and partnership.

The **sustainable development** principle ensures meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the context of the eligible area, this concerns balanced and consistent progressive changes of economic, social and environmental aspects of development on both sides of the border, representing value basis for focusing priorities, as well as actual provision of help. In the economic field, the Programme puts stress on support of development of progressive sectors and strengthening of innovation potential. In the social field, it focuses on balanced development of the society, especially on participation of all population components in political and social life.

Results of the procedure of environmental impact assessment (SEA)⁴ prove that also the environmental dimension is not underestimated in the document, and vast majority of the individual areas of support are in accordance with reference aims of the environmental protection (environmentally-friendly use of natural resources and landscape potential, improvement of environmental quality, biodiversity protection, risk prevention, etc.). A condition of this assessment result is high-quality and qualified selection of projects within the framework of the Programme implementation.

⁴ See Annex 3

Another principle which became a value basis for creation of the strategy was **equality of opportunity**, including equality of women and men. The Programme also respects needs of handicapped persons, and members of ethnic minorities. Although the operational programme has only limited direct impact on situation in the field of equal opportunities in the eligible area, the activities supported by means of it contribute, in connection with help provided by means of other instruments, to achieving aims of European and national strategies in this field.

The last principle which ensues from the nature of the document, and is contained in all forms of the provided assistance, is cross border **cooperation** and partnership.

The OP CBC CR-PL respects the basic development strategies prepared on national and regional levels both on the Czech and Polish side, and the Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion (hereinafter CSGC).

During its implementation, the Programme will respect the strategic approach to structural funds, and its management will contribute to implementation of the key projects.

On the basis of these findings, we formulate the following global objective:

Support of socioeconomic development of the territory of the Czech - Polish border area, through strengthening its competitiveness and cohesion, and promoting partner cooperation of its inhabitants.

A precondition of further development of the Czech - Polish border area, and of possibility to use opportunities ensuing from its geographical location in the centre of Europe, is improvement of transport accessibility of this territory, by means of development and modernization of the existing infrastructure of cross border importance. In spite of gradual improvements in the Czech - Polish border area, state of this infrastructure is not satisfactory.

Modernization and further construction of cross border transport connections are important. In view of natural conditions of the territory, it is also necessary to improve accessibility of remote mountainous and hardly accessible areas. A developed infrastructure improves accessibility of the territory for potential investors, and it is also an important factor influencing development of companies. It enables higher use of cultural and natural potential of the border area. Further, it contributes to development of tourism and its intensification, improvement of attractiveness of the territory in the fields of tourism and economy, and improvement of living conditions of its inhabitants. It will probably improve mobility of inhabitants of the Czech - Polish border area. Projects implemented in the field of transport infrastructure will facilitate closer interconnection of the Czech - Polish border areas, improve their accessibility, and, simultaneously, support development of the growth potential.

The Czech - Polish border area is undoubtedly attractive thanks to its natural and landscape wealth. However, improvement and protection of the environment is necessary in this border area. Renewal of values of this wealth is essential not only for improvement of life quality of inhabitants living in this territory, but it is also decisive for its attractiveness. Good state of the environment (nature and landscape) is also a precondition of implementation of certain economic activities, location of investments, and, simultaneously, it contributes to further

tourism development. In accordance with that, there is envisaged support of activities connected with improvement of accessibility and effectiveness of the environmental infrastructure and actions focusing on protection of natural wealth. An important field for providing support within the framework of the Programme, i.a. especially for ensuring corresponding living conditions of inhabitants of the border area, is prevention of emerging threats and minimization of risks. Further development and improvement of cooperation of rescue services is necessary for ensuring corresponding safety of the territory of the Czech - Polish border area.

On the basis of the above-mentioned findings, we formulate the following priority axis:

Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention

Economy of this territory underwent fundamental industry restructuring and social change of the society. The economic potential of the Czech - Polish border area shows extensive development possibilities supported by development of modern sectors.

Support of business environment focusing on creation of conditions for development of micro, small and medium enterprises contributes to increase of competitiveness of this area, influences its attractiveness, and will enable further growth of the level of employment, especially in the services sector.

Thus, development of SMEs contributes to creation of new jobs, and, simultaneously, mitigates labour market problems in the border area.

Traditionally, tourism has an important position in the economy of the eligible area, in view of long-standing tradition of this territory, natural conditions, and also its geographical location. Especially for the Czech - Polish border area, tourism is an important factor stimulating economic development, and contributes to improvement of its development opportunities.

Creation of networks of cross border relations (cooperation networks) in various sectors of the economy, and also among companies and research institutions, contributes to economic development of this area, and improves its attractiveness for business location.

On the basis of the above-mentioned findings, we formulate the following priority axis:

Support of development of business environment and tourism

Communities living in the Czech - Polish border area are connected by cultural and historical links. In spite of the current development of cooperation in this area, mobilized by euroregions, elimination of cultural, psychological and language barriers continues to be important.

Establishment of new relations is important, through support of cross border cooperation among various entities, the consequence of which is further integration. These activities contribute to strengthening of the sense of identity of the inhabitants of the area, mutual understanding, and overcoming of the still existing barriers.

Development of cooperation on many levels, including cultural cooperation, enables to extend knowledge on the region, i.a. on its cultural differentiation, language and economic differences. This contributes to closer relations among communities on both sides of the border, and it will lead to their further integration. Intensification of cooperation contributes also to solving joint problems. Cooperation of public institutions, especially local self-governments, is also important, in provision of public services and development of the territory, as well as dissemination of good experience.

An indispensable instrument stimulating participation of local players and, thus, strengthening local responsibility for development of the territory, is so-called Micro-project Fund, i.e., fund concerning the smallest projects in the Programme, implemented within the eligible area and using structures of the individual euroregions.

In accordance with activities implemented in the border area, it is important to support permanent cooperation of entities providing services in public interest, and, also, to improve the already existing cooperation, i.a. for the purpose of implementation of joint programmes and procedures.

On the basis of the above-mentioned findings, we formulate the following priority axis:

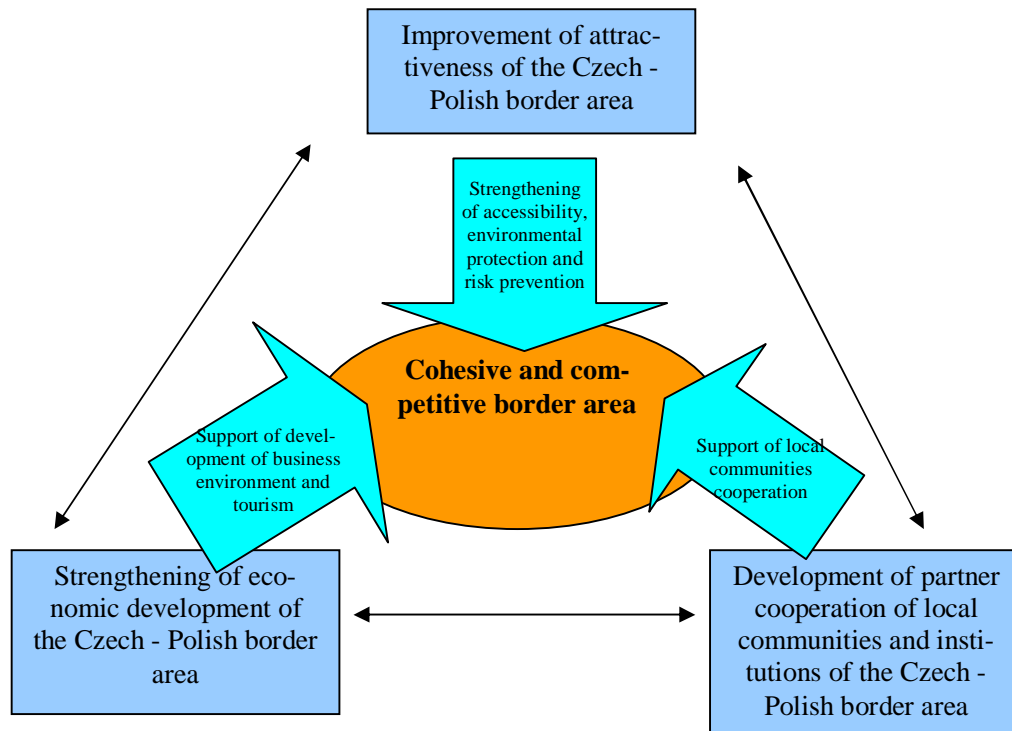
Support of local communities cooperation

A precondition for obtaining and using the Community funds within the framework of the Programme is creation and maintenance of consultancy and information-advisory institutions, and also entities participating in evaluation, certification, control, monitoring and financial flows concerning the projects. For high-quality implementation of the Programme, there is necessary implementation of activities for preparation of a corresponding management and implementation system. Simultaneously, help to institutions responsible for carrying out these procedures via the technical assistance is necessary. Further, it is necessary to provide an effective system in the field of promotion and informing concerning the Programme.

Support provided within the framework of the priority axis Technical assistance (hereinafter "TA") contributes to achieve the individual objectives of the Programme priority axes. Implementation of projects within the framework of this priority axis strengthens the absorption potential, and influences more effective use of the ERDF funds.

On the basis of the above-mentioned findings, we formulate the following priority axis:

Technical assistance



3.2 Description of the priority axes

3.2.1 Priority axis I. Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention

Main objective of the priority axis:

The main objective **Improvement of attractiveness of the Czech - Polish border area** specifies the global objective especially from the point of view of the possibility of development of physical aspects of the Czech - Polish border area. Better accessibility and high environmental quality are the basic precondition of development of economic and social activities. They contribute to increase of attractiveness of the border area for its inhabitants, foreign and domestic investors, and visitors. Strengthening of cross border transport infrastructure contributes to development of economic and social relations of the cross border areas and to building up of a cohesive territory.

Specific objectives of the priority axis:

Improvement of the state of infrastructure and transport services in the Czech - Polish border area.

Improvement of the state and quality of the environment in the Czech - Polish border area.

Improvement of safety in the Czech - Polish border area.

In view of their nature, the issues contained in the priority axis **Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention** directly or indirectly influence the other priority axes of the Programme, and are their precondition. It is interconnected with the priority axis **Support of development of business environment** in the field of introduction of renewable energy sources, elimination of industrial pollution and old

environmental burdens. The effort focuses on prevention in the field of environmental protection, by means of prevention of environmental and technological risks. It supports development and practical use of innovations and environmentally-friendly technologies. In relation to **tourism**, it responds to effort of balanced use of natural potential and landscape (for example, protected areas).

Link to SWOT analysis:

Ability to attract investments, visitors, be attractive for local entrepreneurs, as well as inhabitants, is closely linked to accessibility of the territory and environmental quality. According to the SWOT findings, sufficient high-quality and high-capacity local cross border and near-border connections and interconnections still do not exist in the territory, higher transportation costs connected with transport of goods as well as persons (time accessibility) prevent higher development of local economic potential. In the territory, there are found unique examples of natural attractions, protected both from national and European points of view. On the other hand, industrial areas with damaged environment require joint approach to solving both the old and the new burdens. The complexity of the eligible territory, ensuing from different characteristics of the individual areas (relief, economic specialisation) requires combination of a broad spectrum of environmentally focused activities, enabling development of economic activities in a sustainable way (including sustainable forms of tourism), and, simultaneously, maintaining or improving life quality of the local inhabitants.

In view of needs and possibilities of the territory, and of nature of projects submitted within the framework of this priority axis, i.e., financially more demanding investment projects, in total 32 % of the Programme allocation is earmarked for this priority axis.

Description

Within the framework of the priority axis, support is provided to activities focusing on modernization and development of infrastructure of the whole border area.

The support focuses on projects of cross border nature, the aim of which is strengthening of transport accessibility of the border area by means of modernization and development of transport infrastructure of regional and local importance, and facilitation and improvement of access to the existing transport networks.

Also projects connected with reconstruction and modernization of local roads⁵ (supplementing the existing road network) are supported. In view of natural conditions of the territory, it is also necessary to improve accessibility of remote mountainous and hardly accessible areas. Support is provided also to projects focusing on improvement of technical condition and safety.

There are supported projects connected with modernization of railway infrastructure, the aim of which is to improve safety, especially through modernization of railway crossings, and also projects concerning modernization of preserved railway infrastructure and increase of transport accessibility of the areas for tourism development.

Further, there are supported projects improving access to the transport network and other provided transport services (including telecommunications), and also adapting the existing technical infrastructures on both sides of the border, with the aim of their integration and

⁵ In the PL, also including roads administrated by the State Forests.

ensuring of cohesion with solutions implemented on the opposite side of the border. Well developed transport infrastructure is important also from the point of view of tourism promotion in the border area.

Within the framework of the priority axis, there are supported projects contributing to improvement of the state of transport services, or focusing on construction of integrated transport systems. This supports tourism development, and simplifies commuting of inhabitants.

In this priority axis, it is also possible to co-finance projects focusing on preparation of strategies and documents for implementation of joint activities.

This activity will increase transport accessibility of the border area and improve mobility of the inhabitants, which, in its consequence, will also improve situation on local labour markets. As a consequence of the implemented activities, improvement of social and economic situation of the border area, and stimulation of its development, takes place.

In connection with joining of the Schengen area by the both countries, function of border crossings will change. In accordance with that, support within the framework of the priority axis is provided to projects connected with adaptation of the border infrastructure to new needs, and projects focusing on facilitation of free movement of persons and goods.

Interventions in the field of infrastructure investments are implemented with regard to natural environment and cultural heritage of the region.

Environment is a significant wealth of this territory, and ensuring of its corresponding protection is a very important factor for majority of socioeconomic activities, especially for development of tourism. Support within the framework of the priority axis is received by projects of cross border nature in the field of development and modernization of infrastructure concerning the environment, including activities connected with monitoring and responding to environment related risks.

In spite of gradual improvement of the state of this infrastructure, further support of relevant activities is necessary in the area. In particular, projects of cross border nature are financially supported especially in the fields of rational waste management (including its recycling), water supply, waste water treatment, ensuring of appropriate air quality and use of renewable energy sources. Similar importance is attached to support of activities concerning building of systems of joint flood prevention, reduction of long-range air pollution transported out of the eligible area, and reduction of consumption of primary non-renewable sources of electrical and heat energy.

Preservation of landscape value, and care of nature, are necessary for maintaining attractiveness of the border area. In accordance with that, there are supported projects enabling, in particular, maintenance of biodiversity of this area, support of aquatic ecosystems, retention water systems, and activities focusing on prevention of occurrence of environmental damage. An important supported field is revitalization of local importance, including reclamation. Support is obtained also by projects in the field of ensuring ecological stability of the border area (including soil and air protection). Sites of the ecological network NATURA 2000, located in the border area, are respected. Projects implemented within the framework of the priority axis must be characterised by a positive or neutral impact in this field.

The aim of projects implemented within the framework of this priority axis is to avoid and prevent not only environmental, but also technological risks. There are promoted activities enabling monitoring of, and responding to, environmental risks. Within the framework of the Programme, support may be provided for elimination of consequences of disasters and their prevention, protection from natural disasters, liquidation of environmental damage.

On the territory of the Czech - Polish border area, support within the framework of the Programme is provided for cooperation of rescue services on both sides of the border. There are supported projects of rescue services and other institutions focusing on risk prevention and cases of occurrence of emergency situations. This cooperation is necessary, i.a. for improvement of safety on roads, as well as in the mountains, and also for prevention of risks which could influence the environment. Creation of an integrated rescue system in the border area is supported.

Development of environmental education is also supported. Projects in the field of prevention of environmental and technological risks and prevention of damages, implemented within the framework of the Programme, enable to improve living conditions of the inhabitants and increase attractiveness of the area for investors and visitors.

Within the framework of this priority axis, support is provided also for projects connected with utilisation and use of ICT for implementation of the objectives of the priority axis.

Ex ante comment

This priority directly refers to directions of the general principles of CSGC - *Making Europe and its regions more attractive places in which to invest and work*.

The Ex ante evaluation team (hereinafter ET) is of the opinion that the priority sufficiently reflects specificities of the Czech - Polish border region, and the reached level of socioeconomic development. Interconnection of accessibility (transport, and, respectively, ICT) with protection and improvement of the environment, comprising also the field of environmental infrastructure and risk prevention, enables concentration of support on mitigation, or, respectively, elimination of negative environmental impacts of transport, and promotion of environmentally-friendly technologies.

Field of support

1.1 Strengthening of accessibility

It develops the specific objective **Improvement of the state of infrastructure and transport services in the Czech - Polish border area.**

- Modernization and development of transport infrastructure of local and regional importance in the border area (for example, roads, modernization of railway infrastructure with the aim to improve safety or to increase transport accessibility of the area, adaptation of border infrastructure to new purposes, car parks important for tourism);
- Improvement of transport services in the border area, building of integrated transport systems (public transport, etc.);
- Development of information and communication technologies.

1.2 Environmental protection

It develops the specific objective **Improvement of the state and quality of the environment in the Czech - Polish border area.**

- Support of development and modernization of environmental infrastructure (water supply including water treatment plants, water pipe networks; waste water treatment plants and sewerage systems; waste management; energy supply and support of use of renewable energy sources);
- Care of nature and landscape (for example, biodiversity, revitalization of local importance, permanent care and prevention of ecological damage, improvement of the state of the air, aquatic ecosystems, retention of water in the territory, ecological stability).

1.3 Risk prevention

It develops the specific objective **Improvement of safety in the Czech - Polish border area.**

- Support of development of rescue services, prevention of environmental and technological risks, support of activities connected with monitoring and solution of environmental risks (for example, prevention, natural disasters, floods, prevention of ecological damage, environmental education and research) and exchange of experience.

Examples of eligible applicants:

- **Territorial self-government units at all levels** (in the PL - voivodeships, districts; in the CR - regions, municipalities, and their associations or unions);
- **Organisations established or founded by the state, regions/voivodeships or municipalities** with the purpose of providing public services;
- **Non-governmental non-profit organisations (hereinafter "NGOs");**
- **Chambers of commerce;**
- **Universities, other educational and research institutions;**
- **Other entities of non-profit nature** (for example, cultural, educational and church institutions);
- **Euroregions.**

The applicant may come from an area outside the eligible area of the Czech - Polish border area, if he is authorised to work in the eligible area.

In the case of projects submitted within the framework of this priority axis, the principle of prevention of conflict of interests at the level of an organisational department of the implementing entity will be respected. It means that organisational departments of the individual entities participating directly in the Programme implementation (with managing, control functions, etc.) will not submit and implement their own projects. A member of the MC will not take part in voting concerning a project submitted by the entity he/she represents in the Monitoring Committee.

Numerical codes of interventions according to the Implementing Regulation⁶:

Information society

⁶ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund (OJ L 371, 27.12.. 2006, p. 1) - hereinafter "Implementing Regulation"

- 11 Information and communication technologies (access, security, interoperability, risk prevention, research, innovation, e-content, etc.)

Transport

- 16 Railways
23 Regional/local roads
25 Urban transport
26 Multimodal transport
28 Intelligent Transport Systems

Energy

- 39 Renewable energy: wind
40 Renewable energy: solar
41 Renewable energy: biomass
42 Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other
43 Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management

Environmental protection and risk prevention

- 44 Management of household and industrial waste
45 Management and distribution of water (drinking water)
46 Water treatment (waste water)
47 Air quality
48 Integrated prevention and pollution control
49 Mitigation and adaptation to climate change
50 Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
51 Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including NATURA 2000)
52 Promotion of clean urban transport
53 Risk prevention (including the drafting and implementation of plans and measures to prevent and manage natural and technological risks)
54 Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risk

3.2.2 Priority axis II. Improvement of conditions for development of business environment and tourism

Main objective of the priority axis:

The main objective **Strengthening of economic development of the Czech - Polish border area** specifies the global objective in the field of use and development of the existing economic potential of the border area and strengthening of its competitiveness.

Specific objectives of the priority axis:

Increase of competitiveness of companies in the Czech - Polish border area.

Extension of tourism offer in the Czech - Polish border area.

Increase of knowledge and skills of inhabitants of the Czech - Polish border area.

Link to SWOT analysis:

As follows from the SWOT analysis, the territory shows the basic preconditions for development of cross border business activities, including sustainable forms of tourism. The

bases of cross border business cooperation exist here already, thanks to programmes of cross border cooperation implemented in previous years. Thus, attention has to be focused on qualitatively higher forms of cooperation, enabling strengthening of long-term competitiveness of business entities. An opportunity for further development of business activities is establishment of cross border links with research, development and innovation institutions and universities, strengthening of innovation potential in the territory, support of strategic cooperation among representatives of the business sector, and joint presentation of the territory as a favourable business environment.

Further development of tourism represents a huge potential for the territory. The reason is high number of attractions on both natural and cultural nature, which can be used for various forms of sustainable tourism. However, the strategy cannot focus only on visitors from other regions, because especially the natural attractions represent a natural recreational background for the local inhabitants. However, a persisting problem is unsatisfactory level of tourism infrastructure, and insufficient yearlong supply of tourism products and services, connected with that.

In view of importance of this priority axis for development of the eligible territory, in total 36 % of the Programme allocation is earmarked for this priority axis.

In connection with the **priority axis I in the field of environmental protection**, it responds to effort of sustainable use of natural potential and landscape in the tourism field. Further, it contributes to practical implementation of environmental innovations and environmentally-friendly technologies, reduction of energy, raw material and material intensities, emissions and waste production. It is closely interconnected with **support of local communities cooperation** in the field of lifelong learning and interconnection of labour market offer and the educational system of the border area.

Description

Within the framework of priority axis formulated in this way, the support focuses on improvement of conditions for development of SMEs functioning in the environment of knowledge economy.

The objective of projects of cross border nature is support of competitiveness of SMEs, and establishment of permanent cross border cooperation. The support may be provided for cooperation of institutions supporting SMEs, for example, chambers of commerce and business associations. There are implemented also projects in the field of consultancy for establishing SMEs and starting business. Providing of expert, consultancy and advisory services for existing companies is envisaged. The implemented activities concern also improvement of access to information networks and internet.

Further, the projects focus on creation of a possibility for establishing contacts with partners on the opposite side of the border, for example, by means of organisation of exhibitions, fairs, exchange of experience, creation of a joint platform, or organisation of seminars and trainings for SMEs concerning possibilities of development of cooperation of entities active in the border area. Cooperation is developing also in the fields of trade, and joint promotion outside the eligible area (for example, fairs).

Strengthening of SMEs means also development of their innovation potential. Within the framework of the interventions, there is supported cooperation in the field of research and

development, education, innovations, and in the field of transfer of technologies and know-how supporting SMEs. In addition to that, there are supported projects focusing on facilitation of access to information technologies and their use in practice. Innovative companies are the ones which use and implement innovations, and have an access to them. The network of interconnections between the research and development sector and the business sector strengthens potential of the border area. Because of that, support is provided for creation of networks of cooperating companies, and institutions complementary to them.

Within the framework of the priority axis, there is supported establishment of relations among companies, universities, and research institutions, implemented with the aim to use research and development results in practice. Development of cooperation in the field of research, development and innovations, supported by joint research in the field of implementation of modern procedures and technologies in companies, creation of joint systems and platforms for exchange of experience in the field of applied research, innovation procedures and products, joint scientific efforts, and development of educational systems, will contribute to strengthening of economic potential of the area.

In view of unfavourable situation of the labour market on both sides of the border, it is necessary to support system solutions contributing to creation of new jobs and mitigation of problems of the labour market. Simultaneously, proper coordination of the started activities and drafting of relevant system solutions, including exchange of information, is substantial. Within the framework of the priority axis, there is promoted and developed cooperation between labour market institutions and subjects of this market, by means of activities focusing on support of persons returning to the labour market, and also prevention of the phenomenon of social exclusion (for example, support of cross border networks for providing and exchange of information on job opportunities of the labour market in the eligible area; building of information centres, etc.). An important part on the labour market is played also by activities in the field of equality of opportunity, and prevention of discrimination.

Further, there are supported activities in the field of development of cooperation in education, including preparation for employment, and implementation of lifelong learning. There are supported also projects in the field of improvement of language skills, expert qualification, and projects in the retraining field. Special attention is paid to educational projects helping to develop information society.

Existing merits of the area in question directly offers its effective use in the fields of tourism and recreation. The need of support of tourism development in the Czech - Polish border area, including rural tourism, is important, because it is connected with creation of micro, small and medium enterprises where new and stable jobs may be created. It creates possibility for increasing dynamics of development of the whole border area. The aim of the implemented projects is to attract new visitors from areas outside the border area. However, it is important to support tourism in a balanced way, and, thus, to develop values of the border area. Namely, protection of the environment, cultural heritage and all resources, forming significant wealth of the border area, is important. Natural values are also promoted, including areas which form part of the European network NATURA 2000, and are located in the border area.

Support is provided for projects focusing on protection and renewal of existing cultural (for example, promotion of local folklore) and natural wealth. Attention focuses also on development of craftsman traditions existing in the Czech - Polish border area. Further, there are supported projects connected with protection and renovation of monuments and historical

buildings, including protection and renovation of sacral buildings, fortifications, historical, urban and technical complexes.

There are supported projects concerning tourism infrastructure, connected, i.a. with development of tourist paths and routes, bicycle paths and routes, hippo-paths and hippo-routes, associated infrastructure and further utilities for leisure time activities. In this way, tourism offer is extended, which will be simultaneously used also by inhabitants of the border area.

Further, there are implemented projects connected with development of tourism services, construction and equipment of related structures, and creation and support of activity of tourist information centres. There are supported activities coordinating the individual tourism activities, especially activities of so-called tourism organisations (destination management companies).

Support is provided also for projects connected with promotion of natural wealth and cultural heritage of the region and new tourism products in the Czech - Polish border region. Within the framework of the priority axis, promotion of the border area is possible also outside the eligible area.

Support of development of cross border tourism will enable better use of the existing potential on both sides of the border. Promotion of values of cultural heritage and natural wealth via development of activities of cross border nature is important from the point of view of strengthening of cultural identity of the inhabitants of the region. It supports tourism development and contributes to integration of the society.

Within the framework of this priority axis, support is provided also for projects connected with utilisation and use of ICT for implementation of the objectives of the priority axis.

Ex ante comment

The author focused the content of the priority on system changes of business environment, on strengthening of competitiveness of business entities, and on development of innovation potential in the territory. On the basis of good experience from the current programming period, considerable attention is paid to development of sustainable tourism via development of objects of tourist interest, extension of offer and increase of quality of the offered services. A key factor influencing the overall development of the area, and increase of the level of employment, is human resources development, especially increase of qualification and education levels in view of the existing and future requirements of the labour market. The support focuses on integration of cross border labour market.

The ET is of the opinion that the proposed strategy in this field is in accordance with needs of the area, and is compatible with further programmes implemented in the border region within the framework of the Convergence objective. The ET is of the opinion that wording of the priority corresponds to principles stated in CSGC- „*Improving knowledge and innovation for growth*“ and „*More and better jobs*“. In the field of tourism, the priority responds to the part „*The territorial dimension of cohesion policy*“.

Field of support

2.1 Development of business environment

It develops the specific objective **Increase of competitiveness of companies in the Czech - Polish border area.**

- Strengthening of competitiveness of the SMEs, development of information and communication technologies and connected services, cooperation of chambers of commerce, business associations, cooperation in the field of consultancy during establishing companies, and provision of continuous consultancy for the existing companies, marketing, promotion, support of cross border trade, joint promotion, strengthening of innovation potential;
- Promotion and development of cooperation among labour market entities (including support of persons returning to the labour market, prevention of the phenomenon of social exclusion) and equality of opportunity on the labour market, coordinated measures on the labour market (system changes, elimination of discrimination);
- Cooperation in the field of research and development, education, innovation in the field of transfer of know-how and technologies supporting small and medium enterprises (networks and clusters, links to universities and research institutions).

2.2 Support of tourism development

It develops the specific objective **Extension of tourism offer in the Czech - Polish border area.**

- Protection and renewal of cultural and natural wealth, craftsman traditions, protection and renovation of monuments including sacral buildings, fortifications, historical urban and technical complexes, cultural buildings, cultural landscape character, development of bicycle paths and routes, hippo-paths, tourist and ski paths and routes, other associated tourism infrastructure, and improvement of utilities for leisure time activities.
- Support of development of tourism services (for example, construction and equipment of suitable buildings for providing services in tourism, establishment and activity of tourist information centres, activity of tourism organisations, creation of new tourism products and their promotion, promotion of natural values and cultural heritage, including the possibility of promotion outside the eligible area, introduction and use of ICT in tourism, support of destination management).

2.3 Support of cooperation in the field of education

It develops the specific objective **Increase of knowledge and skills of inhabitants of the Czech - Polish border area.**

- Support of cooperation in the field of education, preparation for employment, and lifelong learning (including improvement of language and professional competences, increase of qualification and skills).

Examples of eligible applicants:

- **Territorial self-government units at all levels** (in the PL - voivodeships, districts; in the CR - regions, municipalities, and their associations or unions);
- **Organisations established or founded by the state, regions or municipalities** with the purpose of providing public services;
- **Non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs);**
- **Chambers of commerce;**
- **Universities, other educational and research institutions;**
- **Other entities of non-profit nature** (for example, cultural, educational and church institutions);
- **Euroregions.**

The applicant may come from an area outside the eligible area of the Czech - Polish border area, if he is authorised to work in the eligible area.

In the case of projects submitted within the framework of this priority axis, the principle of prevention of conflict of interests at the level of an organisational department of the implementing entity will be respected. It means that organisational departments of the individual entities participating directly in the Programme implementation (with managing, control functions, etc.) will not submit and implement their own projects. A member of the MC will not take part in voting concerning a project submitted by the entity he/she represents in the Monitoring Committee.

Numerical codes of interventions according to the Implementing Regulation:

Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship

- 02 R&TD infrastructure (*including physical plant, instrumentation and high-speed computer networks linking research centres*) and centres of competence in a specific technology
- 03 Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks between small businesses (SMEs), between these and other businesses and universities, post-secondary education establishments of all kinds, regional authorities, research centres and scientific and technological poles (scientific and technological parks, technopoles, etc.)
- 04 Assistance to R&TD, particularly in SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres)
- 06 Assistance to SMEs for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes (*introduction of effective environment managing system, adoption and use of pollution prevention technologies, integration of clean technologies into firm production*)
- 09 Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs

Information society

- 11 Information and communication technologies (access, security, interoperability, risk prevention, research, innovation, e-content, etc.)
- 14 Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.)

Transport

- 24 Cycle tracks

Tourism

- 55 Promotion of natural assests
- 56 Protection and development of natural heritage
- 57 Other assistance to improve tourist services

Culture

- 58 Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage
- 59 Development of cultural infrastructure
- 60 Other assistance to improve cultural services

Urban and rural regeneration

- 61 Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration

Improving access to employment and sustainability

- 66 Implementing active and preventive measures on the labour market
- 68 Support for self-employment and business start-up
- 69 Measures to improve access to employment and increase sustainable participation and progress of women in employment to reduce gender-based segregation in the labour

market, and to reconcile work and private life, such as facilitating access to childcare and care for dependent persons

Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons

71 Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people; combating discrimination in accessing and progressing in the labour market and promoting acceptance of diversity at the workplace

Improving human capital

72 Design, introduction and implementation of reforms in education and training systems in order to develop employability, improving the labour market relevance of initial and vocational education and training, updating skills of training personnel with a view to innovation and a knowledge based economy

74 Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies and training of researchers, and networking activities between universities, research centres and businesses

3.2.3 Priority axis III. Support of local communities cooperation

Main objective of the priority axis:

The main objective **Development of partner cooperation of local communities and institutions of the Czech - Polish border area** specifies the global objective in the field focusing on quality of social life of the inhabitants, deepening of their identification with this area. The objective is support of cross border cooperation in the field of development of human relations, social, cultural and leisure time activities, and cooperation of public administration authorities and organisations providing public services.

Specific objectives of the priority axis

Strengthening of cross border relations of institutions providing public services.

Strengthening of cross border relations of the inhabitants.

Stimulation of development of the local communities through support of activities of local players - Micro-project Fund.

Link to SWOT analysis:

Stabilisation of population in the territory, and increasing of its attractiveness for new inhabitants, are closely linked with insufficient spectrum of opportunities offered by the territory. The need to solve complicated problems of former large industrial areas, connected with impacts of economy restructuring on the one hand, and insufficient power of smaller rural communities to offer the necessary breadth of opportunities (job, educational, cultural, leisure time) for their inhabitants on the other hand, results in the need to develop cross border cooperation of communities, which can remove, or, at least, weaken, these weaknesses or threats. Strengthening of mutuality and local fellowship, sharing of experience and good practice, or mobilization of local players, will speed up development of civil society, help participation of local communities in knowledge society, and improve life quality of the inhabitants.

For the above-mentioned reasons, in total 26 % of the Programme allocation is earmarked for the third priority axis.

Implementation of the **Priority axis III. Support of local communities cooperation** is closely interconnected with the priority axis **Improvement of conditions for development of**

business environment and tourism, especially concerning interconnection of the offer of education with requirements of the labour market. It helps to develop innovation and development, and introduce them into practice. In relation to the priority axis **Strengthening of transport accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention**, it supports activities connected with environmental education both of children and adults.

Description

Because of that, a part of support within the framework of the priority axis is networking of cooperating local self-governments and entities providing public services established by them, and institutions providing assets and services in the public interest in the field of exchange of information, experience, or through creation of framework programming documents for development of this kind of cooperation. There is promoted also cross border cooperation in the field of preparation, implementation and use of communication and information technologies, implementation of „joint concepts” in the individual areas, i.a. for the purpose of drawing up joint plans and strategies.

Attention focuses on cross border cooperation of schools, especially universities, and public educational institutions. There are supported activities focusing on establishment of contacts and strengthening of the previous cooperation, exchange of students and scientific and pedagogical workers, teachers, exchange of experience in the field of preparation of educational programmes. Conferences and scientific symposia are organised, etc.

The support also focuses on implementation of infrastructure projects concerning modernization of schools and other educational and cultural institutions necessary for implementation of cooperation of the local communities. Within the framework of the priority axis, there are supported only projects resulting in establishment of close and permanent cooperation of communities living in the border areas. In this way, networks of cooperation in the Czech - Polish border area are formed, which also strengthen its economic-social development.

Within the framework of this priority axis, there are supported projects focusing on development of social, cultural and leisure time activities of local communities on both sides of the border. Support is provided for joint cultural projects and projects of local communities, including joint cultural, social events and leisure time activities, exhibitions, and, also, further activities, including the ones concerning education of the public, focusing on promotion and preservation of joint traditions of the border area. Conditions for facilitation of mutual contacts of the border communities are created. The support focuses on cooperation of hobby groups, youth organisations, youth exchange.

Improvement of the contacts will contribute to deepening of relations among communities on both sides of the border.

Micro-project Fund

A specific instrument for support of projects of local importance having cross border impact is provision of support through the so-called Micro-project Fund. This Fund replaces the Small Project Fund, which has been used here successfully up to now. The main aim of the Fund is to develop and support development of cooperation among communities on both sides of the border, with focus on joint improvement of cultural, social and economic relations. Support of local initiatives may help to strengthen endogenous factors of development of the

area, stimulate ability of local players to describe development needs and reflect them by means of better formulation of development projects, including capacity building for preparation of bigger cross border cooperation projects.

The Micro-project Fund represents a flexible instrument for implementation of the smallest projects of the Programme. It focuses on small non-investment as well as small investment projects. A specific implementation mechanism of the Micro-project Fund anticipates support of projects from 2,000 EUR up to, at most, 30,000 EUR, with total cost of the project up to 60,000 EUR. In total, 20 % of the total programme allocation is allocated to the Micro-project Fund (i.e., in total 43 891 869 EUR from the ERDF funds).

The eligible area of the Micro-project Fund is identical with the eligible area of the OP CBC CR-PL. For the purposes of the Micro-project Fund, this area is divided into 6 purpose-built regions: Nisa - Nysa, Glacensis – Glacensis, Praděd – Pradziad, Silesia – Silesia, Těšínské Slezsko – Śląsk Cieszyński, Beskydy – Beskidy. In each of these purpose-built regions, there works a Manager and Administrator of the Micro-project Fund, ensuring its implementation therein. Details concerning implementation of the Micro-project Fund are given in further documents.

Representatives of the given purpose-built region, especially representatives of euroregions and social partners, form bilateral Euroregional Managing Committee, comprising the same numbers of Czech and Polish members. Selection of projects within the framework of the Micro-project Fund in each region is carried out on the basis of approved Rules of Procedure of the given Euroregional Managing Committee. Projects from the Micro-project Fund are entered into the monitoring system MONIT.

Within the Micro-projects Fund can be submitted in particular projects of III priority axis, but also projects implementing aims of I. and II. priority axes.

Within the framework of this priority axis, support is provided also for projects connected with utilisation and use of ICT for implementation of the objectives of the priority axis.

Ex ante comment

The ET is of the opinion that from the material point of view, definition of the priority is in accordance with cooperation needs at the level of local communities, and strengthening of availability of services. This concerns direct cross border cooperation among municipalities, non-governmental organisations (hobby groups) and inhabitants, which will establish and deepen cooperation developed in this period already, and help to deepen the sense of identity with the area, and fellowship of local communities. These activities, as their consequence, have direct impact on life of the inhabitants, and quality of their living together, and help to successfully implement the first two priorities.

The Ex ante evaluation team understands that activities supported through this priority are, in particular, of immaterial nature. The possible interventions of material nature show direct supporting character.

Field of support

3.1 Territorial cooperation of public institutions

It develops the specific objective **Strengthening of cross border relations of institutions providing public services.**

- Support of system and programming cooperation (e.g. cooperation of local self-governments, organisations established by them, NGOs and entities providing public services, cross border cooperation in development of the area, joint development concepts), including support of necessary associated infrastructure for realization of these projects.

3.2 Support of social, cultural and leisure time activities

It develops the specific objective **Strengthening of cross border relations of the inhabitants.**

- Support of joint cultural and social projects (living culture, exhibitions, leisure time activities, joint events for inhabitants in the border area, renewal of traditions), including support of necessary associated infrastructure for realization of these projects..

3.3 Micro-project Fund

It develops the specific objective **Stimulation of development of the local communities through support of activities of local players - Micro-project Fund.**

- Strengthening of cross border relations of inhabitants and institutions providing public assets and services through implementation of the smallest projects of the Programme.

Examples of eligible applicants:

- **Territorial self-government units at all levels** (in the PL - voivodeships, districts; in the CR - regions, municipalities, and their associations);
- **Organisations established or founded by the state, regions or municipalities** with the purpose of providing public services;
- **Non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs);**
- **Chambers of commerce;**
- **Universities, other educational and research institution;**
- **Other entities of non-profit nature** (for example, cultural, educational and church institutions, hobby and other groups);
- **Euroregions.**

The applicant may come from an area outside the of the Czech - Polish border area, if he is authorised to work in the area.

In the case of projects submitted within the framework of this priority axis, the principle of prevention of conflict of interests at the level of an organisational department of the implementing entity will be respected. It means that organisational departments of the individual entities participating directly in the Programme implementation (with managing, control functions, etc.) will not submit and implement their own projects. A member of the MC will not take part in voting concerning a project submitted by the entity he/she represents in the Monitoring Committee.

Numerical codes of interventions according to the Implementing Regulation:

Information society

- 11 Information and communication technologies (access, security, interoperability, risk prevention, research, innovation, e-content, etc.)
- 13 Services and applications for the citizens (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.)

Culture

- 58 Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage
- 59 Development of cultural infrastructure
- 60 Other assistance to improve cultural services

Investments into social infrastructure

- 75 Educational infrastructure
- 77 Childcare infrastructure
- 79 Other social infrastructure

Mobilisation for reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion

- 80 Promoting partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders

3.2.4 Priority axis IV. Technical assistance

Main objective of the priority axis:

The main objective of the priority axis **Support of effective implementation of the Programme** is a precondition for achieving the other priority axes of the Programme via ensuring high-quality management, implementation and utilisation of the ERDF funds.

Specific objective of the priority axis

Ensuring effective management and implementation of the Programme, and support of promotion and information activities concerning the Programme.

Description

In accordance with regulations of the European Commission, in total 6 % of the Programme allocation is earmarked for this priority axis.

Support is provided for preparation and evaluation of projects, drawing up expert opinions and other basic documents, drawing up evaluation reports, preparation of programming documents, technical dossiers, and also other documents necessary for the Programme, and support of experts. Special attention is paid to strengthening of absorption capacity of the applicants. Projects contributing to development of employees are similarly important. Other projects focusing on increasing quality of functioning of institutions participating in the process of management and implementation of the Programme are also supported, including provision of technical assistance, ensuring their administrative quality.

Support is also provided for projects focusing on promotion and dissemination of information on the Programme concerning the joint activities and importance of the Community for development of the Czech - Polish border cooperation.

Implementation of a broad spectrum of projects is anticipated. Support is provided for promotion of the Programme and its results. It concerns, in particular, provision of information to potential beneficiaries, concerning possibilities for obtaining support within the framework of the Programme, provision of consultancy to the applicants, promotion of examples of „good practice“. An inseparable part of support is formed also by information activities in the field of management, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme. Further, there are implemented projects focusing on ensuring appropriate information flows among institutions and entities participating in the process of management and implementation of the Programme.

Within the framework of the priority axis, there are implemented further promotion and information activities. There are organised, for example, trainings, workshops and conferences focusing on increasing awareness on the Programme and its objectives. Information concerning the Programme are published, i.a. via television, radio, press, internet pages, brochures, leaflets, etc.

The projects concern, in particular, support of the Programme activities implemented by the Joint Technical Secretariat (see Chapter 5) and other entities / institutions participating in management and implementation of the Programme. The projects focus on potential applicants, beneficiaries, and the public, with the aim to increase the level of awareness on the Programme.

The priority axis develops the specific objective **Ensuring successful management and implementation of the Programme, and support of promotion and information activities concerning the Programme:**

- Functioning of the JTS of the Programme and its costs;
- Support for institutions participating in management and implementation of the Programme;
- Administration and adaptation of the system for processing of project applications and the monitoring system MONIT (information system for collection of data and information on the progress of the Programme) to the requirements of the programming period 2007-13;
- Preparation of analyses, investigations, evaluations, expert opinions necessary for implementation of the Programme, and preparation of reports to the European Commission;
- Provision of expert consultancy;
- Other projects in the field of management and implementation of the Programme, connected with evaluation of the projects, execution of controls, organisation of work and meetings of the Monitoring Committee (hereinafter "MC");
- Support of information and promotion activities, for example, via publication of information on the Programme of cross border cooperation, process of implementation (internet pages containing basic programming documents, topical information on the Programme implementation, presentation of model and pilot projects, contact with mass media, publications, etc.), provision of necessary information and support to the applicants;
- Organisation of trainings / seminars for potential applicants from all eligible areas within the framework of the Programme and for institutions participating in implementation of the Programme, information meetings / conferences concerning the Programme and its results, and other projects connected with promotion of the Programme;
- Information activities in the field of management, monitoring, evaluation of the Programme;
- Preparation, distribution of information materials concerning the Programme and projects implemented within its framework (for example, brochures, bulletins, leaflets, CDs), guidelines for the applicants and beneficiaries of the Programme.

Eligible applicants :

- **Managing Authority**
- **National Authority**
- **Joint Technical Secretariat**
- **Regional bodies (regions - Regional Authorities, voivodeships - Regional Authorities)**
- **Controllers**
- **Other organisations** participating in management and implementation of the Programme.

A member of the MC will not take part in voting concerning a project submitted by the entity he/she represents in the Monitoring Committee. The control according to Article 16 of the ERDF Regulation is always carried out by an entity independent of the entity implementing the TA project.

Numerical codes of interventions according to the Implementing Regulation:

Technical assistance

- 85 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection
- 86 Evaluation and studies; information and communication

Projects implemented within the framework of this priority axis support implementation of the Programme.

3.3 Compliance of the Programme with national and Community policies

3.3.1 Compliance with national policies

Projects implemented within the framework of the Programme for the period 2007 - 2013 complement activities implemented within the framework of other national programmes⁷ in the eligible area.

The Programme, objectives and priority axes of the Czech - Polish border area are in accordance with the strategic programming documents. This concerns, in particular, the following documents:

- *National Development Plan of the Czech Republic for the period 2007-2013 (draft)*⁸,
- *National Strategic Reference Framework of the Czech Republic 2007-2013*⁹
- *National Strategic Reference Framework of the Republic of Poland PL 2007-2013 (hereinafter "NSRF PL")*¹⁰.
- *Regional operational programmes* (drafts) of those regions and voivodeships where sub-regions supported within the framework of the OP CBC CR-PL for 2007 - 2013 are located.

Projects supported within the framework of the Programme complement projects implemented by the national operational programmes (with the exception of OP Development

⁷ In accordance with Article 9 of the General Regulation.

⁸ National Development Plan 2007 - 2013, Prague, February 2006.

⁹ National Strategic Reference Framework of the Czech Republic 2007 - 2013 adopted by the Government of the CR on 22 December 2006;

¹⁰ National Strategic Reference Framework 2007 - 2013 document adopted by the Government of the PL on 29 November 2006.

of Eastern Poland)¹¹. The Programme is in accordance with development strategies of regions and voivodeships located in the Programme eligible area.

Projects supported within the framework of the Programme are in accordance with the Czech, Polish and European legislation respecting, in particular, the following conditions:

- Compliance of investment projects with regulations in the field of environmental protection, taking into account impact of the planned project on the NATURA 2000 sites;
- Positive or neutral environmental impact of the project;
- Ban of use of double financing of the projects from the Community funds;
- Respecting the Act on Public Procurements¹²;
- Respecting the rules concerning public support; activities violating competition rules, and commercial projects, cannot be implemented within the framework of the Programme.

3.3.2 Compliance with Community policies

The OP CBC CR-PL takes into account provisions of the basic strategic and programming documents of the EU, in particular concerning definition of the objectives and extent of the priority axes.

In accordance with provisions of Article 9 (2) of the General Regulation, consistency of the assistance from the ERDF with the activities, policies and priorities of the European Community is ensured.

Activities supported within the framework of this Programme are in accordance with Community policies and strategic documents, including the Lisbon Strategy.

The Lisbon Strategy was adopted on the European Council summit in Lisbon in March 2000. It emphasises the necessity to make the EU „*the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.*“ The scope of this strategy, which is a socioeconomic programme, was extended by agreements of the Gothenburg summit, on the basis of which sustainable economic growth became an inseparable part. In view of unsatisfactory results of the Lisbon Strategy, its amendment was proposed (in the Communication to the Spring European Council¹³), and so-called Lisbon Action Programme was adopted, presented in the document „*Working together for growth and jobs. A new start for the Lisbon Strategy*”.

¹¹ Planned Operational Programmes (OP) for the period 2007 - 2013, having material and territorial relation to the OP CBC CR-PL:

- in the Czech Republic: Regional operational programmes – North-East, Central Moravia and Moravia - Silesia, OP Enterprise and Innovations, OP Research and Development for Innovations, OP Human Resources and Employment, OP Education and Competitiveness, OP Environment, OP Transport, Integrated Operational Programme;

- in Poland: Regional operational programmes of the Lower Silesia, Opole and Silesia Voivodeships, OP Infrastructure and Environment, OP Human Resources, OP Innovation Economy.

¹² The Act of 29 January 2004 Prawo zamówień publicznych (Collection of Laws 2006 No. 164, item 1163 and No. 170, item 1217) on public procurement includes provisions concerning implementation of public procurement for projects to which this procedure applies (taking into account their values). In the case of public procurement awarding, the procedure must be in accordance with the above-mentioned Act. In the Czech legislation, this issue is regulated by the Act No. 40/2004 on Public procurement.

¹³ Communication to the Spring European Council: Working together for growth and jobs. A new start for the Lisbon Strategy. COM (2005)24, Brussels, 2 February 2005

The cohesion policy should contribute to achieving the Lisbon objectives. The document "Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion for the period 2007 - 2013"¹⁴ defines the following basic guidelines of the European Community:

- Making Europe and its regions more attractive places in which to invest and work;
- Improving knowledge and innovation for growth;
- More and better jobs.

The Programme contributes to achieving priorities of the revised Lisbon Strategy and the CSGC.

It should be pointed out that only projects in compliance with the relevant provisions of the ERDF Regulation, i.e., with objective and extent of support within the framework of the ERDF (Article 6), obtain support within the framework of the Programme. In 2007 - 2013, only joint projects are supported within the framework of the Programme, having beneficiaries from at least two countries, who cooperate in each of the operations at least by two of these ways: joint preparation, joint implementation, joint use of workers and joint financing. In accordance with Article 20 of the ERDF Regulation, each project must have a Lead Partner (hereinafter "LP").

The Programme takes into account the relevant provisions contained in the draft of the General Regulation.

Compliance with provisions of the EC Treaty and other documents adopted under it (Article 9 (5) of the General Regulation) is ensured.

The Programme is compatible with the European Social Agenda, contributing to implementation of the Lisbon Strategy. The European Social Agenda¹⁵ defines the main orientation of activities implemented within the framework of social policy - Fighting poverty and all forms of exclusion and discrimination in order to promote social integration. The Nice objectives are defined as follows:

- to facilitate participation in employment and access by all to the resources, rights, goods and services;
- to prevent the risks of social exclusion;
- to help the most vulnerable;
- to mobilise all relevant bodies in the field of economic and social policies.

The Programme reflects also the *Broad Economic Policy Guidelines* and *Guidelines of the European Employment Strategy*¹⁶ including microeconomic and macroeconomic policies and employment for new jobs and economic growth.

Contribution of the Programme to formation of the information society is also expected, in accordance with strategic frameworks contained in the adopted initiative „i2010 – A

¹⁴ Annex to the Council Decision of 6 October 2006 on Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion (2006/703/EC, OJ L 291 of 21 October 2006, page 11).

¹⁵ adopted in 2000 in Nice.

¹⁶ Council Recommendation of 12 July 2005 on the broad economic policy guidelines of the Member States and the Community (2005-2008) (OJ L 205 of 6 August 2005, page 28)

European Information Society in 2010"¹⁷. This concerns, in particular, activities for achieving certain objectives of this initiative - especially through increase of access to information technologies enabling environmental protection, monitoring and procedure in the case of disasters, increase of access of small and medium enterprises to ICT products and services.

Projects implemented within the framework of the OP CBC CR-PL 2007 - 2013 contribute to building of information society.

In accordance with item 11 of the ERDF Regulation, activities concerning small and medium enterprises, provided for in the priority axis II of the OP CBC CR-PL, contribute to implementation of the European Charter for Small Enterprises adopted by the European Council in Santa Maria da Feira in June 2000. This concerns, in particular, attaining of the following objective of the Charter: strengthening the technological capacity of small enterprises.

The Programme respects equality between men and women and it does not discriminate persons on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, in accordance with Article 16 of the General Regulation and also the ERDF Regulation (item 8). Compliance with the principle of equal approach to men and women is ensured in various stages of the implementation of the Programme and implementation of support from the Funds. This principle is complied with also in the stage of defining criteria of selection of projects to be financially supported. In view of the fact that problems on the labour market occur in the sub-regions supported by the Programme, the effort concentrates, in particular, on promotion of equality of opportunity in access to labour market, i.a. through support of employment of women, and creation of new jobs for them, and equality in the field of vocational education.

Policy focusing on promotion of equality of men and women and prevention of discrimination is observed in all stages of the Programme and project implementation.

Public support is provided in accordance with Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty and its provisions. Provisions of the following Regulations in actual versions are also complied with:

- Commission Regulation No. 68/2001/EC of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to training aid (OJ L 10 of 13 January 2001, page 20),
- Commission Regulation No. 69/2001/EC of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to de minimis aid (OJ L 10 of 13 January 2001, page 30),
- Commission Regulation No. 70/2001/EC of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises (OJ L 10 of 13 January 2001, page 33),
- Commission Regulation No. 2204/2002/EC of 12 December 2002 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid for employment (OJ L 337 of 13 December 2002, page 3).

¹⁷ i2010 - A European Information Society for growth and employment. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Brussels, 1 June 2005, COM (2005) 229 final.

Application of the principle of project durability¹⁸ is ensured, in view of each of the project types in order to ensure sustainability of impacts and results of the project. This principle is checked in the stages of programming, project selection, monitoring and evaluation. Sustainability of activities after end of the support must be institutionally and financially ensured in the case of each project.

The principle of additionality defined in Article 15 of the General Regulation is respected. In accordance with this principle, contributions from the Structural Funds do not replace public or equivalent expenditure by Member States.

The Programme also respects principles of the Community policy in the field of protection and improvement of the condition of the environment, and also relevant legislation, including the Community directives. This concerns, in particular, compliance with requirements of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206 of 22 July 1992, page 7), Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 103 of 25 April 1979, page 1) and directives concerning the ecological network NATURA 2000. Projects aimed at conservation of species diversity, and improvement of the condition of the environment, are financially supported. Areas of the ecological network NATURA 2000 located in the eligible area are respected.

The Programme supports projects contributing to implementation of priorities included in the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU,¹⁹ because it is required to concentrate efforts of the Member States and their societies on support of key issues in the field of climate change and clean energy, public health, social exclusion, demography and migration, management of natural resources, sustainable transport. It becomes obvious that the sustainable development agenda is implemented also on the regional level. Entities responsible for the Programme must also show care for sustainable development, through providing support for relevant initiatives.

In accordance with Article 3 of the General Regulation, activities financed from the Fund respect Community's priorities in favour of sustainable development, through activities for strengthening economic growth, competitiveness, employment and social inclusion and protecting and improving the quality of the environment. The ERDF also strengthens sustainable development (Article 2 of the ERDF Regulation).

An environmental impact assessment (hereinafter "SEA") forms part of the Programme.

The Managing Authority is responsible for control of proper compliance with the policies of the European Community.

Compliance with the European Agricultural Policy

¹⁸ In accordance with Article 57 of the General Regulation.

¹⁹ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the review of the Sustainable Development Strategy - A platform for action. Brussels, 13 December 2005, COM (2005) 658 final.

Complementarity is ensured among the operational programmes co-financed via the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (hereinafter "EAFRD")^{20,21} and activities co-financed from the ERDF funds relating to territorial cooperation.

Coordination of support from various funds is also ensured.

On the whole Polish territory, the **Rural Development Programme (RDP)**²² is implemented in the period 2007 - 2013, via activities for rural development. It is financially supported from the EAFRD funds.

By comparative analysis of preliminary versions of the both programmes, it was found that there exist identical fields of support within the framework of the OP CBC CR-PL and the RDP. In particular, it is necessary to mention the following measures within the framework of the RDP:

- **Measure: Code 226** *Renewal of forest production potential destroyed as a result of disasters, and implementation of preventive instruments.* Within the framework of this measure, implementation of preventive measures is supported in areas included into the two highest fire risk categories. Eligible beneficiaries within the framework of the measure: organisational units without legal personality - High Forest Administrations of the State Forest Management State Forests.
- **Measure: Code 321** *Basic services for the economy and inhabitants of the country.* This measure complements activities co-financed from the ERDF within the framework of operational programmes, and supports projects concerning: water supply and waste water management, building of the system of collection, separation, and disposal of municipal waste, electrical energy supply, spread of high speed access to internet. The extent of support includes investment costs. Eligible beneficiaries within the framework of the measure: local self-government units, units with delegated powers of local self-government units, operators of power networks and operators of internet networks.
- **Measure: Code 322** *Rural renewal and development.* Objectives of the measure include, for example, conservation of cultural heritage and rural specificities, growth of attractiveness of the country for investments and tourism. Support is provided for investments concerning, for example: repairs, reconstructions and equipping of structures having public, social-cultural, recreational and sport functions, including historical buildings; construction, repairs and reconstructions of public infrastructure connected with development of tourist, sport, and social-cultural functions; renewal, exposure, and care of local historical monuments, structures of sacral architecture, and sacred places. Eligible beneficiaries within the framework of the measure: municipality, cultural institution established by a local self-government unit, church or religious association, non-governmental organisation.

Taking into account the above-mentioned fields of support which may overlap in the both programmes, it is necessary to emphasize that, within the framework of the OP CBC CR-PL,

²⁰ Proposal for a Council Decision on Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development (Programming Period 2007-2013), Brussels, 5.7.2005, COM (2005) 304 final.

²¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). OJ L 277/1 of 21 October 2005.

²² Rural Development Programme for the period 2007 - 2013 (RDP 2007 - 2013), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the PL, Warsaw, 29 November 2006.

it is possible to provide support only for joint projects implemented with a partner from the opposite side of the border, characterized by a considerable cross border impact.

Support provided through the OP CBC CR-PL focuses on implementation of joint projects in the cross border context. For this, it is necessary to show impacts of the support also on the territory outside the CR. In view of the fact the interventions of the Rural Development Programme (EAFRD-Ministry of Agriculture) in the Czech Republic do not contain this dimension, real overlaps between support provided by both these policies may not take place.

Further, in contrast with the Rural Development Programme of the CR, activities whose beneficiaries are farmers are not supported within the framework of the OP CBC CR-PL. Training for farmers, persons employed in agriculture and forestry, and groups of producers, are not financially supported, and, further, the projects do not concern modernization of agricultural farms, agricultural activities, buildings, etc.

In the CR and PL, there is also utilised the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in the field of aquaculture and other measures of joint interest. There are supported beneficiaries who are interested, or in business, in the above-mentioned fields. In view of different purpose of focus of the Operational Programme financed from the EFF, and the OP CBC CR-PL, real overlap in provision of support does not take place.

3.3.3. Compliance of the Programme with other operational programmes in the eligible area, financed by Structural Funds

Cross border cooperation programmes

In the eligible area, the Programme is complementary to other programmes of cross border and supranational cooperation within the framework of the objective European Territorial Cooperation in 2007 - 2013. This concerns 4 cross border cooperation programmes:

- Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Free State of Saxony (which includes the Liberec Region), and Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Slovak Republic (which includes the Moravia - Silesia Region) on the Czech side of the Programme, and
- Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Poland - Free State of Saxony (which includes the Jelenia Góra - Wałbrzych sub-region), and Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Poland - Slovakia (which includes the Bielsko - Biała sub-region and the Pszczyński District) on the Polish side of the Programme.

Plans implemented within the framework of the Programme are in accordance with priorities of these 4 programmes. They are prepared in the way ensuring balanced development of the Community.

The **Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Free State of Saxony** supports three priority axes: *Development of joint framework conditions* in the programme area supporting development of transport, communication and social infrastructures, education, art and culture, and activities in the field of rescue services and safety. The priority axis *Development of economy and tourism* supports cooperation networks in the field of research and development, joint marketing strategies, tourism infrastructure and services. The third priority axis is *Improvement of the state of nature and the environment*, preferring water management.

The **Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Slovak Republic** develops two priority axes: *Support of social-cultural and economic development of the border region and cooperation*, strengthening the mutual cooperation and networking, development of cultural traditions, improvement of the level of education in the border area, and tourism development. The objective of the axis *Development of accessibility of the cross border region and the environment* is to improve transport interconnection of the region, with maintaining specificities and landscape character of the region, to improve quality of the environment, and to increase ICT utilisation.

The **Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Poland - Slovakia** includes three priority axes: *Support of cross border infrastructure* - it supports development of communication and transport infrastructure and protection of the environment, *Socioeconomic development* - it focuses on cross border cooperation in the fields of tourism and education, protection of cultural heritage and networking of projects. The last priority is *Local communities support* (micro-projects).

The **Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Poland - Free State of Saxony** includes two priority axes: *Cross border development*, focusing on development of economy and science, tourism, culture and leisure time activities, transport and communication, including measures for protection of the environment and territorial structure. Activities within the framework of the second priority *Cross border social integration* include support of the labour market, infrastructure, social and rescue services. The Programme includes also a Micro-project Fund.

Also the **Central Europe Programme**, including the whole territories of the Czech Republic and Republic of Poland, is implemented within the framework of the objective European Territorial Cooperation. Its main objective is enhancing common identity of the Central European Space.

It is necessary to mention also other programmes relating to the Polish part of the eligible area and showing supranational nature. This concerns the **Programme of European Territorial Cooperation of the Baltic Sea Region BSR 2007 - 2013**, which applies to the whole territory of Poland. In the period 2007 - 2013, the following priorities are defined within its framework: *Fostering innovations across the BSR*, *External and internal accessibility of the BSR*, *Management of the Baltic SEA as a common resource*, *Promoting attractive and competitive cities and regions*. This programme focuses on infrastructure improvement, human resources development, economic and financial integrity of the territory, with the aim of growth of its competitiveness and human resources development.

Special attention shall be given to the services provided by the **INTERACT II programme**. This EU-wide programme focuses on the good governance of territorial cooperation and provides needs-based support to stakeholders involved in implementing programmes under the European Territorial Co-operation objective. The target groups for INTERACT are primarily the authorities to be established according to Council Regulations 1083/2006 and 1080/2006 as well as other bodies involved in programme implementation. In order to ensure maximum benefit from the INTERACT programme for the implementing bodies of this programme, the use of INTERACT services and documentation as well as the participation in INTERACT seminars will be encouraged. Related costs are eligible under Technical Assistance.

In case some of the region of the Programme are involved in the **Regions for Economic Change initiative** the Managing Authority commits itself to:

- make the necessary arrangement to support innovative operations with cross-border/transnational impact that are related to the results of the networks,
- foresee a point in the agenda of the Monitoring Committee at least once a year to discuss relevant suggestions for the programme, and to invite representatives of the networks (as observers) to report on the progress of the networks' activities;
- describe in the Annual Report actions included within the Regions for Economic Change initiative."

The given information shows that all the above-mentioned programmes are complementary to the OP CBC CR-PL. This opens possibilities for achieving desirable synergistic effects in the common territory. Implementation of activities in the eligible area within the framework of the above-mentioned programmes complements, and contributes to implementation of the strategy of the OP CBC CR-PL.

Regional operational programmes

In the Czech territory of the border region, support is provided also via three regional operational programmes (hereinafter "ROPs"):

- Regional Operational Programme of the Cohesion Region North-East;
- Regional Operational Programme of the NUTS II Moravia - Silesia,
- Regional Operational Programme for the NUTS II Central Moravia.

These ROPs are focusing on the field of development of **infrastructures of regional and local importance - transport, social, and healthcare ones, development of tourism and renewal of cultural heritage, development of rural and urban areas**. From the point of view of the provided support, the OP CBC CR-PL is complementary to these documents, in view of its focus on solving **problems having cross border impact**, i.e., on activities which are not supported through the ROPs.

In Poland, activities implemented within the framework of the OP CBC CR-PL play a role of a catalyst of changes carried out in the border area, and, simultaneously, support and initiate activities complementary to the *Convergence* objective. In the Polish part of the eligible area, activities in the period 2007 - 2013 may be financed also within the framework of three regional operational programmes (ROPs):

- Regional Operational Programme of the Lower Silesia Voivodeship for the period 2007 - 2013;
- Regional Operational Programme of the Opole Voivodeship for the period 2007 - 2013;
- Regional Operational Programme of the Silesia Voivodeship for the period 2007 - 2013.

Within the framework of the ROPs, priorities focus on: research and technological development, innovations and enterprise, information society, tourism, culture, environment, sustainable development of cities, development of transport, educational infrastructure, health, and leisure time activities. In spite of partial overlap of the eligible areas, complementarity of the programmes resides in that joint projects with cross border impact,

which cannot be fully supported within the framework of the ROPs, are financed within the framework of the OP CBC. However, it is possible to finance a project in the preparation stage from the OP CBC CR-PL, and in the implementation stage from a ROP (for example, in the case of a waste water treatment plant having cross border importance).

Other operational programmes

Further, sectoral operational programmes - *Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation* and *Operational Programme Research and Development for Innovations* are implemented in the territory, focusing on development of business environment and innovation potential in the CR. The OP CBC CR-PL concerns only several themes of these programmes - **the field of cooperation of business entities, universities, research and innovation institutions and labour market institutions**. In view of cross border nature of the provided support, **mutual ousting does not take place**, but, on the contrary support provided through the above-mentioned operational programmes **is complemented** by cross border activities unsupported by the above-mentioned documents. On the Polish side of the border, these fields may be supported within the framework of the *Operational Programme Innovation Economy*.

Activities in the fields of development of environmental infrastructure, risk prevention, energy savings and support of use of renewable sources, waste management and removal of old burdens, air protection and care of biodiversity, supported through the OP CBC CR-PL and the *Operational Programme Environment* on the Czech side and the *Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment* on the Polish side of the border, are **similarly complementary**.

The OP CBC CR-PL, through **some of its partial activities, will contribute also to meeting the objectives of the operational programmes financed from the European Social Fund**, i.e., *Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness* and *Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment* on the Czech side and *Operational Programme Human Resources* on the Polish side. These activities concern, in particular, development of the system of lifelong learning, adaptation of educational systems, gaining language skills, education in the field of ICT, and cooperation among labour market institutions.

3.3.4 Compliance of the priority axes of the Programme with CSGC and NSRFs

The OP CBC CR-PL responds to majority of general principles and themes published in the CSGC. Thus, both in the case of the CR and the PL, it becomes an instrument of implementation of this Pan-European strategy, taking into account local conditions in the Czech - Polish border area. In the CR and PL, measures focusing on support of cross border cooperation complement interventions implemented within the framework of the Convergence objective. Special attention paid by CSGC to territorial cooperation reflects belief in necessity of closer cooperation between the EU regions in order to accelerate economic development and achieve higher growth levels. National borders often form barriers to development of European territory as a whole, and they can limit its potential of full competitiveness.

In the case of the CR, the OP CBC CR-PL directly implements the strategic objective of the NSRF CR *Balanced development of the territory*. This objective tries to attain balanced and harmonious development of the whole territory of the CR, simultaneously respecting natural, economic, and sociocultural difference of the regions of the CR.

In the case of the PL, the OP CBC CR-PL contributes to achieving the strategic objective of the NSRF PL: „*Strategic objective of the National Strategic Reference Framework of Poland is creation of conditions for increase of competitiveness of knowledge economy and enterprise ensuring growth of employment and growth of the level of social, economic and territorial cohesion*“.

Priority axis I. Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention

Relation to the CSGC:

Attractiveness of the environment is an important factor of competitiveness of a territory. The priority axis ***Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention*** contributes to attaining the objectives included in the principle *1.1. Making Europe and its regions more attractive places in which to invest and work*. Stress is put on support of accessibility of environmental infrastructure (*1.1.2. Strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth*), prevention of natural and technological risks, transport projects crucial for the territory, support of alternative kinds of transport and combined transport (*1.1.1. Expand and improve transport infrastructures*), and support of development of renewable energy sources in the border area (*1.1.3. Address Europe's intensive use of traditional energy sources*). Thus, the priority axis contributes to increase of spatial mobility of labour force, and increase of competitiveness of the business sector, requiring improvement of transport infrastructure in the border area.

Relation to the NSRF CR:

The priority axis ***Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention*** responds to strategic objective of the NSRF CR: *Attractive environment*. High-quality environment, together with accessibility of transport networks, are basic preconditions of development of economic and social activities in the Czech - Polish border area.

In detail, it focuses on:

- System of permanent care of the environment and its individual components, with the aim of improvement of the state of the environment in the border area, prevention of creation of new risks and removal of old environmental burdens, development of renewable energy sources;
- Completion of the transport network and crucial transport links, building of connections and technical accesses, including development of transport systems.

Relation to the NSRF PL:

The priority axis ***Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention*** relates to the following horizontal detailed objectives of the NSRF PL:

Objective 3. *Construction and modernization of technical and social infrastructure showing essential importance for increase of competitiveness of Poland*. Insufficient quality of infrastructure represents a barrier for influx of investments and limits trade, also in the border region. This objective relates, in particular, to the following fields:

- *Interconnection of the main economic centres in Poland with a network of motorways and speedways and up-to-date railway networks;*
- *Ensuring and development of infrastructure for environmental protection;*

- *Diversity of energy sources and reduction of negative pressure of the energy industry on the environment.*

Objective 5. *Increase of competitiveness of Polish regions and prevention of their social, economic and territorial peripherality.* Spread of economic growth from strong urban centres (urbanised areas) to the neighbouring areas, i.a. through development of corresponding transport links, renewal and modernization of transport infrastructure, is important for socioeconomic development of the border area, and supports the process of economy restructuring. This objective relates, in particular, to the following fields:

- *More complete use of endogenous potential of the biggest urban centres;*
- *Prevention of marginality and peripherality of the problem areas.*

Priority axis II. Support of development of business environment and tourism

Relation to the CSGC:

The priority axis *Support of development of business environment and tourism* responds to the CSGC in the field of support of creation of conditions for development of business, start-up of new, and development of existing business entities, and cross border cooperation of business entities, including cooperation of business entities with research and educational institutions and labour market institutions (1.2.2. *Facilitate innovation and promote entrepreneurship*). Developed business environment helps to stimulate innovation activity in the Czech - Polish region, i.e., to increase volume of funds invested in the field of research and technological development (1.2.1. *Increase and better target investment in research and technological development*). Spread and practical use of information and communication technologies in the business sector and the tourism field will become an important instrument (1.2.3. *Promote the information society for all*).

The priority axis further respects the role of tourism as an important development activity diversifying economic activities, fostering the development of business, and contributing to increase of employment and creation of new jobs (2.2. *Support the economic diversification or rural areas, fisheries areas and areas with natural handicaps*).

In the field of increase of investments into human capital, the priority axis contributes to implementation of the third principle of the CSGC *More and better jobs*, through better education and improvement of qualifications, development of lifelong learning, and support of active instruments ensuring early identification of needs in the field of education (especially, it responds to 1.3.3. *Increase investment in human capital through better education and skills*).

Relation to the NSRF CR:

The priority axis *Support of development of business environment and tourism* responds to the strategic objective *Competitive Czech economy* especially in the field of strengthening of competitiveness of the business sector in the eligible area through increase of its productivity and acceleration of sustainable economic growth. It emphasises importance of strong and progressively structured economy for robust and sustainable economic growth.

In detail, it focuses on:

- Support during establishing and development of SMEs, increase of their access to innovation sources, support of mutual cooperation and strategic relations with educational institutions, research institutions and labour market; adaptation of public,

research and development capacities, and strengthening of their development within the framework of cross border cooperation;

- Development of infrastructure for business and business innovation infrastructure and systematic development of consultancy and strategic services;
- Support of use of the potential for development of sustainable tourism in order to make the eligible area an attractive destination in the long term.

Further, the priority axis responds to the strategic objective of the NSRF CR: *Open, flexible and cohesive society*. It contributes to support of modern civil society open to external opportunities, and able to respond to them relevantly, society which appreciates the value of education and supports its development.

The strategy focuses on:

- Increase of employability through development of key competencies and skills within the framework of modern, high-quality and open educational system responding to trends initiated by development of knowledge economy, with stress on studying of foreign languages and information and communication technologies;
- Development of further education interconnected with the initial education into a complex system of lifelong learning;
- Support of cooperation of educational and research institutions with employers, the business sector and the public sector with the aim to strengthen competitiveness and accelerate regional development.

Relation to the NSRF PL:

The priority axis ***Improvement of business environment and tourism*** relates to the second detailed objective of the NSRF PL:

Improvement of human resources quality and strengthening of social cohesion, focusing on more complete use of human resources and labour force, which takes into account recommendations of the third SSS guidelines and contributes to achieving the objectives of the European Employment Strategy. It will concern, in particular, the following fields:

- *Increase of the education level of the inhabitants and improvement of quality of education*, through, i.a. improvement of professional knowledge of people, and its adaptation to the requirements of the current labour market, and through programmes of permanent vocational education, focusing on SMEs employees;
- *Building of conditions for development of enterprise*, and support of the environment for development of business activities.

Objective 4 of the NSRF PL *Increase of competitiveness and innovations in companies, especially in manufacturing industry with high added value, and development of the service sector* supports, i.a. activities whose aim is to improve innovations in companies, develop institutions from the business environment, promote cooperation among companies and scientific institutions. This detailed objective will relate, in particular, to the following fields:

- *Support of manufacturing activities with high added value*;
- *Development of the service sector*, concerning also support of development of the tourism sector;
- *Information society*, concerning support or use of ICT by the society and business entities.

Objective 5 of the NSRF PL *Increase of competitiveness of Polish regions, and prevention of their social, economic and territorial peripherality* focuses on support of urban centres and establishment of their cooperation with the neighbouring environment, through economic contacts, links in the field of services and culture, and it supports the process of changes and economy restructuring. This objective will relate to:

- *More complete use of endogenous potential of the biggest urban centres; and*
- *Prevention of marginality and peripherality of the problem areas.*

Priority axis III. Support of local communities cooperation

Relation to the CSGC:

The priority axis ***Support of local communities cooperation*** contributes to implementation of the CSGC especially in the field of social integration and removal of cooperation barriers formed by the border (see 2.4. *Cross border cooperation*). This concerns, in particular, the fields of human relations and institutional cooperation (especially cooperation of local self-governments).

Relation to the NSRF CR:

Further, the priority axis responds to the strategic objective of the NSRF CR *Open, flexible and cohesive society*. It contributes to support of modern civil society open to external opportunities, and able to respond to them relevantly, which is socially active and cohesive in spite of internal differentiation.

The strategy focuses on:

- Deepening of social cohesion of local communities, strengthening of local identity and cross border fellowship. Stress is put on development of good neighbour cooperation, development of cross border strategic partnerships of municipalities, joint procedures for solving problems in the border area, and sharing of good experience.

Relation to the NSRF PL:

The priority axis ***Support of local communities cooperation*** relates to the following detailed objective of the NSRF PL:

Objective 1: *Improvement of quality of functioning of public institutions and further building of partnership mechanisms*, which should contribute to building of civil society, especially in the field of strengthening of partnership mechanisms between the public administration and the tertiary sector.

Also in the field of the objective 4, within the framework of *Information society*, it promotes use of ICT in public and educational institutions.

Whereas through objective 5 *Increase of competitiveness of Polish regions, and prevention of their social, economic and territorial peripherality*, it focuses also on activities in the field of more complete use of endogenous potential of the biggest urban centres.

Priority axis IV. Technical assistance

This priority axis is an instrument enabling implementation and administration of the Programme.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION INDICATORS

Monitoring of the Programme is based on quantifiable indicators. The indicators are determined according to the methodology drawn up by the European Commission, taking into account specific characteristics of the Programme. For selection of the indicators, numerical codes of the indicators were used.

The indicators are simplified as much as possible, in order to maintain permanent flexibility and comprehensiveness for the individual priority axes. The values of the indicators are set for the whole programming period. Meeting of the indicators in the individual years will be stated in the Annual Reports.

The following indicators are used for the monitoring:

Indicators at the Programme level

	Title of the output indicator	Initial value	Final value
1.	Number of projects of cross border importance meeting two of four cooperation criteria according to Article 19 of the ERDF Regulation	0	35
2.	Number of projects of cross border importance meeting three of four cooperation criteria according to Article 19 of the ERDF Regulation	0	80
3.	Number of projects of cross border importance meeting all four cooperation criteria according to Article 19 of the ERDF Regulation	0	200

Indicators at the priority axes level²³

Priority axis I. Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention			
	Title of the indicator	Initial value	Final value
INPUT INDICATOR:			
	Financial allocation / EUR	96 031 753 EUR, i.e. 37%	
OUTPUT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of projects focusing on construction or modernization of transport infrastructure, other infrastructure of cross border importance, and improvement of accessibility (number)	0	25
2.	Number of projects concerning infrastructure, promotion and	0	18

²³ The value of the indicator was achieved only thanks to the Structural Funds.

	joint protection of the environment, and environmental management (number)		
3.	Number of projects focusing on risk prevention (number)	0	20
RESULT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of persons in the eligible area directly influenced by measures in the field of infrastructure and environmental protection (persons)	0	120 000
	From this: women	0	60 000
	From this: men	0	60 000
2.	Number of persons participating in training / workshops / environmentally oriented fairs connected with risk prevention (persons)	0	1 000
	From this: women	0	500
	From this: men	0	500
3.	Number of towns and municipalities directly influenced by the modernized transport infrastructure (number of towns and municipalities)	0	200
4.	Number of short-term (of at least 4-7-month duration) jobs newly created as a result of infrastructure projects realisation	0	30
5.	Length of new/reconstructed roads (km)	0	25
6.	Number of newly created cross-border transport connections	0	1
7.	Number of persons influenced by projects focusing on risk prevention (persons)	0	60 000
	From this: women	0	30 000
	From this: men	0	30 000

Priority axis II. Support of development of business environment and tourism			
	Title of the indicator	Initial value	Final value
INPUT INDICATOR:			
	Financial allocation / EUR	81 888 666 EUR, i.e. 32%	
OUTPUT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of cooperation projects (initiatives), including institutional cooperation, in the field of support of business, labour market and research and technological development	0	20

	(number)		
2.	Number of projects focusing on development of tourism and preservation of cultural heritage in the border area, and further construction of tourism infrastructure (number)	0	75
3.	Number of projects focusing on increase of skills and qualification (number)	0	10
4.	Number of projects focusing on development of the educational system (number)	0	14
RESULT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of activities focusing on cooperation in the field of research and development, innovation, business or labour market (number of agreements, treaties, etc.)	0	40
2.	Number of tourism products / services (number)	0	70
3.	Number of new or reconstructed tourism facilities (number)	0	250
4.	Number of persons influenced by measures for increase of skills and qualification (persons)	0	4 100
	From this: women	0	1 900
	From this: men	0	2 200
5.	Number of cooperating educational institutions (number)	0	65

Priority axis III. Support of local communities cooperation			
	Title of the indicator	Initial value	Final value
INPUT INDICATOR:			
	Financial allocation / EUR	64 775 800 EUR, i.e. 25%	
OUTPUT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of projects focusing on cooperation of public institutions and other entities providing public services on both sides of the border (number)	0	23
2.	Number of projects in the field of culture and leisure time activities supporting cooperation of border communities	0	27

	(number)		
3.	Number of projects - Micro-project Fund	0	2850
RESULT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of cooperating local self-governments and other entities providing public services (number)	0	105
2.	Number of persons participating in actions of cultural / sport / social nature (persons)	0	50 000
	From this: women	0	25 000
	From this: men	0	25 000
3.	Number of persons participating in educational activities (persons)	0	2 500
	From this: women	0	1 250
	From this: men	0	1 250

Priority axis IV. Technical assistance			
	Title of the indicator	Initial value	Final value
INPUT INDICATOR:			
	Financial allocation / EUR	15 491 249 EUR, i.e. 6 %	
OUTPUT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of projects connected with activity of institutions participating in the Programme implementation	0	128
2.	Number of projects connected with information and promotion activities in the Programme field	0	37
RESULT INDICATORS:			
1.	Number of acting institutions participating in the Programme implementation	0	30
2.	Number of organised information and promotion activities	0	175

Context indicators²⁴

	Title of the context indicator	Initial value	Final value
1.	GDP/inhabitant in purchasing power parity in the Czech - Polish border area ²⁵	45.8 %	53,5 %

²⁴ The value of the indicator was achieved not only thanks to the Structural Funds.

2.	Unemployment rate in the Czech - Polish border area ²⁶	13.1 %	10,5 %
3.	Number of inhabitants of the Czech - Polish border area ²⁷	7 138 146	7 058 000

²⁵ GDP in relation to EU-25.

²⁶ Data valid as of 30 September 2006.

²⁷ State as of 31 December 2004.

5. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Level of the Programme management

In accordance with Article 14 of the ERDF Regulation, a joint organisational structure was created for management and implementation of the Programme. Its crucial elements are:

- joint Managing Authority;
- joint Certifying Authority;
- joint Audit Authority.

Other entities participating in the Programme implementation structure are:

- controllers according to Article 16 (1) of the ERDF Regulation;
- Joint Technical Secretariat;
- Regional bodies to which selected tasks are delegated.

On the basis of provisions of Article 63 of the General Regulation, a joint Monitoring Committee (hereinafter "MC") for the Programme shall be set up within three months from the date of the notification to the Member State of the decision approving the operational programme.

Definition of roles and tasks of the individual entities is described in the following chapters.

5.2 Activities of the managing bodies

5.2.1 Managing Authority

The Member States agreed that the joint Managing Authority (hereinafter "MA") for the Programme would have its seat on the territory of the Czech Republic. On the basis of Resolution of the Government of the CR No. 175 of 22 February 2006, the MA function is delegated to the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "MRD CR").

Contact data of the MA²⁸: Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Department of European Territorial Cooperation
Staroměstské náměstí 6
110 15 Prague 1

In accordance with description of functions according to Article 60 of the General Regulation, this body is responsible, in particular, for:

- ensuring that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the Programme and that they comply with applicable Community and national rules for the whole of their implementation period;
- legal tying of the ERDF funds with the Lead Partner of the project;

²⁸ Detailed contact data are given on the internet pages of the Programme (www.cz-pl.eu).

- verifying that the co-financed products and services are delivered, and that the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries for operations has actually been incurred and complies with Community and national rules;
- ensuring that there is a system for recording and storing in computerised form accounting records for each operation under the Programme, and that the data on implementation necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audits and evaluation are collected,
- ensuring that evaluations of the Programme referred to in Article 48 of the General Regulation are carried out in accordance with Article 47 of the General Regulation,
- setting up procedures to ensure that all documents are held, especially for the needs of audits, in accordance with Article 90 of the General Regulation,
- ensuring that the PCA receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification,
- solving and investigation of irregularities,
- guiding the work of the MC and providing it with the documents required to permit the quality of the implementation of the Programme to be monitored in the light of its specific goals,
- drawing up annual and final reports on the implementation, and, after approval by the MC, submitting them to the European Commission,
- ensuring compliance with the information and publicity requirements in accordance with Article 69 of the General Regulation.

Cooperation in carrying out these activities from the Polish side is ensured by the Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland ("MRD PL"), as the **National Authority** ("NA").

5.2.2 Certifying Authority

The Member States agreed that the joint Certifying Authority (hereinafter "Payment and Certifying Authority", "PCA") of the Programme would have its seat on the territory of the Czech Republic. On the basis of Resolution of the Government of the CR No. 198 of 22 February 2006, the function of the PCA of the Programme is delegated to the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "MF CR"). By the decision of the Minister of Finance, the PCA power is delegated to the National Fund department.

Contact data of the PCA²⁹: Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
National Fund Department
Letenská 15
118 10 Prague 1

In accordance with description of functions according to Article 61 of the General Regulation, this body is responsible, in particular, for:

- administration of funds provided by the ERDF on a joint account open at the Czech National Bank,

²⁹ Detailed contact data are given on the internet pages of the Programme (www.cz-pl.eu).

- drawing up, and submitting to the European Commission, certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment,
- accepting payments from the European Commission,
- ensuring that it has received adequate information from the MA on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure included in statements of expenditure,
- taking account for certification purposes of the results of all audits carried out by or under the responsibility of the Audit Authority ,
- maintaining accounting records in computerised form of expenditure declared to the European Commission,
- ensuring handling of amounts used in an unauthorized way according to Article 61 (f) of the General Regulation,
- repayment of the unused amounts back to the European Commission,
- submitting updated estimates concerning applications for payments (expenditure outlook) to the European Commission for the current and the following year by 30 April of each year, on the basis of an estimate drawn up by the MA,
- ensuring repayment of funds from the LP as a result of irregularities.

For the purposes of payments of ERDF funds to Lead Partners of the projects, the PCA uses the Financial Department of the MRD CR (hereinafter "FD MRD").

The FD MRD shall carry out the following main activities:

- verification of formal correctness and entering in accounting books of applications for payments of the LPs, approved by the MA, before carrying out a payment to the LP;
- transferring ERDF funds to accounts of the Lead Partners;
- issuing and certifying, in set terms, summary application for payment comprising applications for payments submitted by the LPs, submitted by the PCA.

5.2.3 Audit Authority

On the basis of bilateral agreements, the Member States appoint a joint Audit Authority (hereinafter "AA").

Contact data of the AA³⁰: Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
 Department Audit Authority - Central Harmonisation Unit
 Letenská 15
 118 10 Prague 1

The AA is assisted by a group of auditors comprising representatives of the both Member States of the Programme. The group of auditors shall be set up within three months from the date of the decision approving the Programme at the latest, it shall draw up its own rules of procedure, and is chaired by the Programme AA.

The Audit Authority is responsible for auditing the Programme. It ensures verification of effective functioning of the management and control system of the Programme, and carrying

³⁰ Detailed contact data are given on the internet pages of the Programme (www.cz-pl.eu).

out of audits of operations on an appropriate sample for verification of declared expenditure of the Programme.

The Audit Authority is designated in accordance with Article 59 of the General Regulation.

According to provisions of Article 14 of the ERDF Regulation, the AA is situated in the Member State of the Managing Authority, i.e., in the Czech Republic. On the basis of Resolution of the Government of the CR No. 198 of 22 February 2006, the function of the AA is delegated to the MF CR. By the decision of the Minister of Finance, the execution of this function is delegated to the Department Audit Authority - Central Harmonisation Unit (hereinafter "AA-CHU"), functionally independent of the MA and the PCA.

In accordance with the valid legislation, the AA carries out, in particular, the following activities:

- ensuring that audits are carried out to verify effective functioning of the Management and Control System of the Programme (hereinafter "MCS");
- submitting to the MA, before filing the application for the first payment, and, at the latest, within 12 months from the approval of the Programme, a report assessing setting of the Programme MCS, including opinion concerning its compliance with relevant provisions of the Community legislation;
- presenting to the European Commission within 9 months of the approval of the Programme an audit strategy covering the bodies which will perform the audits;
- ensuring performance of audit in public administration with the purpose of verification of effective functioning of the Programme MCS;
- presenting updated audit strategies to the European Commission annually;
- presenting consolidated plans of audits of means provided from the EU Funds to the European Commission annually;
- carrying out quarterly controls of fulfilling the consolidated plans of audits, and informing the PCA on this fulfilling;
- carrying out quarterly controls of fulfilling the consolidated plans of audits, and informing the PCA on this fulfilling;
- presenting the sampling method for audits on operations and the planning of audits to ensure that the main bodies are audited and that audits are spread evenly throughout the programming period;
- ensuring carrying out of an audit in the public administration on an appropriate sample of operations, in order to verify expenditure declared to the European Commission;
- ensuring methodical guidance of other audit bodies participating in audits in the Programme administration;
- supervising quality of audits in administration, performed by other audit bodies in the case of the Programme funds;
- participating in creation and updating methodical instructions for performing audits on the Programme funds in the public administration;

- submitting annual control reports to the European Commission annually, comprising findings of the audits carried out during the previous year in accordance with the Programme audit strategy, as well as shortcomings found in the Programme MCS;
- issuing annually opinions for the European Commission, as to whether functioning of the MCS provides a reasonable assurance that statements of expenditure presented to the European Commission are correct and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;
- submitting declaration for partial closure assessing the legality and regularity of the expenditure concerned, according to Article 88 of the General Regulation;
- submitting to the European Commission at the latest by 31 March 2017 a closure declaration assessing the validity of the application for the final payment, and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions covered by the final statement of expenditure;
- carrying out analyses of the reported discrepancies for the purposes of drawing up declarations for closure or partial closure;
- drawing up reports on results of financial controls concerning the Programme for the Government of the CR annually,
- ensuring that the audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.

Ensuring of the control activity is defined in the legal act on provision of funds to the LP. This act further defines in which way financial means will be repaid or exacted in the case of their improper use. This fact is duly specified in the contract.

5.2.4 Controllers

In order to ensure soundness of use of the funds, and compliance with national and Community rules within the framework of the individual projects (Article 16 of the ERDF Regulation), controllers are designated on both sides of the border.

The subject-matter of the control according to Article 13 of the Implementing Regulation is:

- verification whether the declared expenditure is in accordance with the project components stated in the approved project application (including approved changes in the course of implementation);
- verification of real delivery of the co-financed products and services;
- verification of so-called eligibility of expenditure and soundness of the declared expenditure from the accounting point of view,
- verification that the expenditure applied for was really spent;
- verification of compliance with the national and Community rules (for example, on public procurement, public support, publicity, etc.).

Thus, these verifications include administrative, financial, technical, as well as material aspects of the project, and are carried out on the basis of Article 13 of the Implementing Regulation.

The verification resides in administrative control of proofs and documents submitted by the beneficiary, and in on-the-spot control during which physical implementation of the project

and its documenting is controlled. Performance of administrative verification and on-the-spot control is governed by written procedures drawn up in accordance with Article 13 (3) of the Implementing Regulation.

According to Article 16 of the ERDF Regulation, each Member State participating in the Programme shall set up a Control system ensuring carrying out of controls on its territory, According to Article 13 of the Implementing Regulation, the control is delegated to independent control bodies. These bodies are:

- Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic on the Czech side, and
- Governor's offices of Lower Silesia, Opolskie and Silesia region on the Polish side.

5.2.5 Joint Technical Secretariat

The Programme MA, in agreement with NA, set up a Joint Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "JTS") for the Programme CR-PL, having its seat on the Czech side of the border.

Contact data of the JTS³¹: Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Joint Technical Secretariat
Jeremenkova 40B
772 00 Olomouc

The JTS has employees from the both states participating in the Programme, i.e., the Czech Republic and Poland, in accordance with the principle of equal treatment and partnership. In the JTS languages of both Member states are used.

The JTS helps the MA, MC (including representatives of NA) and AA in the field of performance of their activities within the framework of the Programme.

The main activities of the JTS include:

- providing consultations for the applicants,
- operations within the framework of the project cycles of the individual projects (especially, acceptance and registration of project applications and their entering into the monitoring system),
- providing information on the Programme (including all information necessary for ensuring the control of the first level and coordination of the Programme on both sides of the border),
- responsibility for control and assessment of projects (in accordance with Chapters 5.3.2 and 5.3.3),
- assisting the MC, including preparation and organisation of its meetings, preparation of documents before its meetings, including preparation of project sheets and drawing up minutes of the meetings,
- cooperation on drawing up reports on the Programme implementation (including report to the European Commission),
- Programme promotion,

³¹ Detailed contact data are given on the internet pages of the Programme (www.cz-pl.eu).

- preparation and administration of the basic joint information database,
- further assistance to the Programme authorities in order to properly implement the Programme.

5.2.6 Regional bodies

On both sides of the Programme, regional bodies (hereinafter "RB") participate in certain activities. In the CR, the RBs are the individual Regions in the eligible area, and, in the PL, the Regional Authorities of the border voivodeships.

Representatives of the Czech RBs contribute to the Programme especially through:

- support of potential applicants consisting, in particular, in carrying out consultations of project applications with the applicants,
- participation in project assessment,
- regional „public relations“,
- cooperation with the MA, other regions, JTS and partner bodies set up on the Polish side of the Programme.

The function of the regional bodies on the Polish side is carried out by the corresponding Regional Authorities of the individual voivodeships, acting as Regional Contact Points of the European Territorial Cooperation (hereinafter "RCP ETC") which are continuation of Regional Contact Points set up within the framework of the Programme INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic - Poland.

Representatives of the Polish RBs contribute to the Programme especially through:

- providing information and consultancy services to potential applicants during preparation of their project application,
- participation in the process of assessment of the project applications.
- carrying out consultations concerning preparation of a project application with the applicant before its submitting to the JTS,
- cooperation with the MA, NA and JTS and other partner institutions set up on the Czech side of the Programme concerning the Programme promotion,

5.3 Level of project management

5.3.1 Submission of project applications

The RBs, and, optionally, JTS, carry out consultations of the planned projects with the applicants, with the aim to draw up, and, subsequently, jointly submit a project application via a LP to the JTS. The submitted projects respect the lead partner principle, as a basic principle of the Programme.

The format of the joint project application is created by the both Member States as bilingual. The joint project application comprises description of activities of the individual partners on both sides of the border.

The projects are submitted on the basis of continuous call to the JTS.

In the case of micro-projects, the project applications are submitted to the appropriate Fund Administrator (a common project application form is created for the Micro-project Fund).

5.3.2 Checking of project applications

Immediately after submission of a project application by an applicant, the JTS **enters it into the monitoring system**. Further, it carries out check of formal requirements and check of acceptability of the project, with the purpose to establish, especially, that:

- the project application meets the necessary formal criteria for acceptance (complete filling in, signatures of appropriate persons, submission of appropriate number of copies of the project application, etc.),
- all obligatory annexes are submitted, necessary for assessment of the project according to pre-set criteria,
- the project and its activities are not contrary to national legislations and the EU legislation,
- the LP, as well as its partners, are eligible applicants defined for the Programme in the programming document,
- activities of the project are not contrary to the EU horizontal policies (i.e., they do not damage the environment, do not contain elements of discrimination of groups of inhabitants, etc.),
- the project does not violate rules laid down in the field of competition,
- the project is implemented in the defined eligible area,
- the LP has appropriately solved mutual obligations, connected with implementation of the project, with the partners,
- the co-financing structure of the project is in accordance with the set rules; the LP, as well as the other partners, have ensured necessary amounts of co-financing,
- the project meets the minimum cooperation requirements according to Article 19 (1) of the ERDF Regulation, and
- optionally, other criteria.

For the purpose of checking formal requirements and acceptability, common check-lists are drawn up by the Member States. The checking is carried out by means of YES - NO assessment (the criterion is / is not met).

This checking is carried out by the JTS. The project is further administrated, i.e., its assessment is continued, only in the case that it meets the checking requirements. Otherwise, the project is completed by the applicant, and submitted to the JTS again with explanations / completions.

After checking meeting of formal requirements and acceptability, the JTS **enters the project into the joint monitoring system**.

The JTS also verifies eligibility of expenditure in accordance with guidelines concerning expenditure financed retroactively within the framework of the ERDF.

5.3.3 Procedure and criteria for selection of project applications

Immediately after checking of meeting obligatory requirements according to Chapter 5.3.2, assessment of the projects is started. Assessment of project applications on the basis of selection criteria is carried out under responsibility of the JTS, under support of the appropriate RBs and experts. The process of assessment of each project has three stages:

- assessment of material quality of the project,
- assessment of cross border impact of the project,
- assessment of cross border cooperation.

All assessments are carried out according to a unified methodology, and on the basis of pre-set criteria:

Assessment of material quality of the project

In this stage, there is assessed, in particular:

- actual intention of the project, its material processing, internal logic and feasibility,
- chosen project strategy, its activities, and their benefit for attaining objectives of the project,
- definition of target groups of the project, and benefit of the project for improving their situation, or, respectively, a specific problem,
- economic assessment of the project (especially, efficiency of spent funds),
- sustainability of the project, or respectively, its results, in the following period.

Assessment of material quality of the project is coordinated by the JTS. Experts from regions on both parts of the Programme participate in this stage of the assessment. In the Czech part of the Programme, these are experts from the RB, delegated by the MA, and, on the Polish side, the assessment is carried out by experts appointed by the Programme NA. The assessment outputs are transferred to the JTS and entered into the monitoring system as a basis for the overall project assessment. The JTS verifies completeness of the assessment.

Assessment of cross border impact

In this stage, the assessment focuses on the level to which the submitted project contributes to achieving the objectives of the Programme and the priority axis within which it has been submitted. Contribution of the **project to the global objective of the Programme** is assessed. Also joint use of the project results by entities on both sides of the border is assessed in this stage.

This part of the assessment is carried out in the JTS responsibility, 2 employees of the JTS together with experts nominated by the regions (confirmed by the MA / NA).

Assessment of cross border cooperation

All project applications must comply with the basic principles of the OP CBC CR-PL, distinguishing them from other programmes, for example, programme of the Convergence objective implemented on the territory of the participating states, **through implementation of cross border cooperation between the LP and partners from both sides of the border.**

According to Article 19 of the ERDF Regulation, a prerequisite for implementation of each joint project within the framework of the Programme is meeting of at least two of the following four criteria:

- joint development,
- joint implementation,
- joint staffing,
- joint financing.

Projects which do not meet at least two of the criteria defined in this way cannot be selected for co-financing from the Programme (this is a part of assessment of the project acceptability). In the case of projects meeting two or more criteria, quality and extent of the implemented cooperation is assessed in this assessment stage.

This part of the assessment is carried out by the JTS workers, representing the both Member States.

Summarization of the assessment, and preparation of source materials for the MC

The overall assessment equals the sum of the points achieved in the individual stages. On the basis of the achieved number of points, joint ranking-lists are drawn up, serving as one of the source materials for discussions and decision-making of the MC.

The MC, as the representative committee of the Programme, is responsible, i.a. for selection of projects within the framework of the Programme.

Composition of the MC and its behaviour are governed by jointly agreed and approved Rules of Procedure. Composition of the Committee respects the partnership principle.

Legal tying of the ERDF funds

On the basis of the MC decision, the JTS informs the applicant on this decision on co-financing of the project from the ERDF funds. Subsequently, the MA, in cooperation with the JTS, prepares documents for legal tying of the ERDF funds with LPs from both countries. Legal act of tying of the ERDF funds is always contracted between MA and LP.

5.4 Financial flows

The system of financial flows is described in the Methodology of financial flows and control of programmes co-financed by the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Fisheries Fund in the programming period 2007 - 2013, issued by the MF CR administrating the funds provided by the European Community to the Czech Republic in order to implement programmes co-financed from the European Union budget.

The system of financial flows is in accordance with the Acts on public finance both of the Czech Republic and Republic of Poland.

The ERDF funds of the Programme are transferred to the Lead Partner by the FD MRD from the PCA account, to which it has a right of disposition. The project applications are submitted only in the Euro currency, and also the payments are made in Euro.

Payments to the beneficiaries are carried out as ex-post payments (i.e. retroactive payments of expenditure already spent by the beneficiary).

On the basis of actually spent expenditure, the Lead Partner and the individual partners file applications for payments, proved by the required documents, to the Controller in the given state. The Controllers are the Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic on the Czech side, and Governor's offices of Lower Silesia, Opolskie and Silesia regions on the Polish side.

The Controllers certify expenditure of each of the beneficiaries in accordance with the national and European legislation. The output of the control is a Certificate confirming soundness of the expenditure spent by the beneficiary. The partners hand over the Certificates of their expenditure to the Lead Partner.

The Lead Partner, after receipt of the Certificate from the Partner, and his Certificate from the Controller, draws up an application for payment concerning the whole project, including the share of the ERDF funds for the partners, and submits it to the appropriate Controller. The Certificate of the LP, and Certificates received from the Partners, form part of this application. After verification, the Controller approves the application of the LP for payment of the ERDF funds concerning the whole project, and hands it over to the MA.

After receipt of the application, the MA checks its formal correctness, and hands it over to the FD MRD. After check, the FD MRD accounts the application into the IS Viola as a liability towards the LP. Subsequently, the FD MRD generates in the IS Viola a Summary Application for payment of the ERDF funds, and submits it to the PCA. It carries out its formal checking, and, subsequently, ensures transfer of the ERDF funds from the PCA source account to the account to which the FD MRD has a right of disposition. Then, the FD MRD covers the liability towards the Lead Partner from this account. Subsequently, after receipt of the ERDF funds, the Lead Partner transfers the relevant shares of the ERDF funds to accounts of its Partners. The described procedure applies exclusively to the ERDF funds.

After carrying out certification, the PCA asks the European Commission for replenishing of the funds on its account.

The European Commission approves the application, and transfers the funds to the PCA account.

Applications for payment of the ERDF funds, submitted by the PCA to the European Commission, are based on the actually spent expenditure, proved by the LPs and the Partners, certified by the appropriate Controllers. Justification of the applications for payment is verified and certified by the appropriate Controller. The Managing Authority draws up a summary statement of expenditure for the European Commission, concerning the whole Programme, and hands it over to the PCA. After certification, the PCA submits it to the European Commission (*see Annex 2- Scheme of financial flows*).

Details concerning financial management (including Article 17 of the ERDF Regulation) will be regulated by the Memorandum of Understanding.

5.5 Project monitoring system

In view of the fact that the Programme forms part of the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Czech Republic, monitoring of the Programme and its projects will take place both in the Czech Republic and in Poland uniformly in accordance with the Monitoring Methodology of Programmes of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, drawn up in the Czech Republic for all programmes of the Structural Funds.

A joint monitoring system will be used for monitoring both in the Czech Republic and in Poland. The system consists of three interconnected levels:

- Benefit – level of applicants (it serves, in particular, for drawing up of a project application, reporting during the project, and drawing up of applications for payments);
- MONIT - administrative tool for support of work of the JTS and its Controllers;
- MSC2007 – central monitoring system serving the monitoring and management needs of the Managing and National Authorities.

Monitoring of projects of the Programme is carried out in two levels.

After meeting all criteria of formal requirements and acceptability, the project applications are entered by the JTS into the monitoring system MONIT. Subsequently, both the data concerning project assessment, and all information connected with implementation of the individual projects which the MC approves for co-financing from the ERDF, are entered into this system.

From this system, data on projects approved by the MC are entered, via an interface, into the Monitoring System Central 2007 (hereinafter "MSC2007"), connected to the European Commission database SFC 2007 (see description of data exchange with the European Commission in Chapter 5.5.5).

Detailed information concerning use of the joint information system will be described in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Monitoring of the individual projects is carried out through submitting of interim and final reports (material and financial ones). The LP, in cooperation with his Partners, is responsible for drawing up these reports, and submits them to the appropriate Controller. Interim reports on the project implementation are submitted simultaneously with each application for payment. After conclusion of the project implementation, the LP submits a final report on the project implementation to the appropriate Controller. These data are also entered into the monitoring system.

The Controllers according to Article 16 of the ERDF Regulation verify all these reports, documents, and applications for payments. They give results of the controls at disposal also to the co-financing national or regional bodies.

5.5.1 Monitoring Committee

The MC is responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the Programme, in accordance with Article 63 of the General Regulation. In accordance with Article 65 of the General Regulation, the MC is responsible for effectiveness and quality of the Programme management and implementation.

The MC for the Programme is set up within three months from the date of handing over of the decision on approval of the Programme by the European Commission. Members of the Committee are representatives of the both countries participating in the Programme implementation.

The activity of the MC is regulated by the Rules of Procedure of the MC.

5.5.2 Systems of the Programme monitoring

Basic information on a project submitted within the framework of the Programme, after meeting of requirements on project acceptability, are entered by the JTS workers into the system at the MONIT level. The Programme is monitored by means of indicators described in this Programme.

In view of the fact that the system can use the standard XML (type of file coding for the purpose of entering into a database), it is compatible with other information systems in the public sector, relating to monitoring of the EU support.

The obtained data on the Programme are submitted to the Monitoring Committee, serve as a basis for drawing up Annual Reports on the Programme, and, simultaneously, are used for the purpose of the Programme evaluation.

In view of the MA purpose, the Programme is monitored as a part of the central monitoring system of the EU support in the Czech Republic. The MSC2007 includes all stages of the project, from recording of project applications, which meet the criterion of acceptability, up to communication with the European Commission. Simultaneously, the above-mentioned system enables direct communication between the relevant ministries, and ensures safe access of external users.

5.5.3 System of the Program evaluation

The Programme evaluation is carried out in accordance with Articles 47 - 49 of the General Regulation, in accordance with methodical guidelines of the European Commission, and in accordance with methodical guidelines of the National Community Support Framework of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "NCSF"). The MA is responsible for ensuring evaluation of the Programme.

In accordance with Article 47 (1) of the General Regulation, the aim of the evaluation is:

- to improve quality and effectiveness of the support from the EU Funds, and its consistency with the EU, CR and PL objectives;
- to improve the strategy and to make the Programme implementation more effective;
- to examine specific structural problems of the CR and PL, and sustainable development, in relation to the subject-matter of the Programme.

According to Article 48 (2) and (3) of the General Regulation, it includes:

- *Ex ante* evaluation of the Programme - in order to improve the prepared programming documents;
- evaluations during the programming period

- **ad hoc** evaluations, based on findings of the monitoring (departures from the goals, proposals for revisions, etc.) - in order to improve the implementation process;
- **on going** evaluation;
- **summary** evaluation for strategic reports according to Article 29 (2) of the General Regulation.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, parts of the Programme are evaluated within the framework of evaluations carried out by the NCSF (in accordance with the NCSF Evaluation Plan) and the European Commission. Within the framework of the Programme, cooperation during carrying out these evaluations is ensured.

Actual procedures for ensuring the evaluation

Duties within the framework of the Programme evaluation:

- drawing up, implementation, updating and control of the Programme Evaluation Plan (in relation to the evaluation plan for the Czech Republic created by the NCSF);
- ensuring all main evaluations (Ex ante, ad hoc, on going, strategic evaluation);
- providing source materials and data for carrying out the evaluations, and use of data and information from the monitoring system for overall evaluations carried out, and organised, by the NCSF, but, especially for strategic reports 2009 and 2012 (Article 29 (2)) and for the ex post evaluation carried out by the European Commission;
- active mutual cooperation with the evaluators and evaluation workers at the national level (with the NCSF Evaluation Unit) and at various levels of the Programme implementation, and at various levels of implementation of the SFs and the Cohesion Fund in the Czech Republic;
- duty of publication of the evaluation results in accordance with requirements of Article 47 (3) of the General Regulation.

The first step in preparation of the evaluation process is drawing up of the Evaluation Plan, based on the NCSF Evaluation Plan. The Evaluation Plan is drawn up for the whole programming period, is updated annually, and is worked out, in detail, for the next calendar year.

5.5.4 Financial control

Internal control system

All bodies participating in the Programme implementation have set up the necessary management and control system, which is in accordance with the national legislation, and is able to early identify administrative, system, or intentional mistakes, and to create conditions for prevention of mistakes.

Managing control

The managing control is ensured by responsible managers, and forms part of internal management of all entities participating in the Programme implementation, during preparation of operations before their approval, during continuous monitoring of the implemented operations, up to their conclusion and accounting and subsequent checking of selected

operations within the framework of evaluation of the achieved results and correctness of the management.

Internal audit

An internal audit department is functionally independent and organisationally separated from managing and executive structures, and it is under the relevant leading public administration body.

The internal audit departments verify, in regular intervals, the internal control system. Their activity includes, i.a. verification of meeting of basic requirements on the internal control system. An important part is formed also by submission of recommendations for improvement of quality of the internal control system, for prevention or mitigation of risks, for measures for rectification of the found shortcomings, and the consultation activities. A unified approach to the audit at all levels of implementation and reporting of the audit findings is a basis for risk management at the MA level.

Primary system

Administrative controls and controls of soundness of the spent expenditure are carried out within the framework of the primary system. This concerns the following activities:

- verification whether the declared expenditure is in accordance with the project components stated in the approved project application (including approved changes in the course of implementation);
- verification of real delivery of the co-financed products and services;
- verification of so-called eligibility of expenditure and soundness of the declared expenditure from the accounting point of view;
- verification that the expenditure applied for was really spent;
- verification of compliance with the national and Community rules (for example, on public procurement, public support, publicity, etc.).

The MA, or, respectively, the NA for the relevant national territory, is responsible for proper carrying out of these controls. According to Article 60 of the General Regulation and Article 16 of the ERDF Regulation, Controllers are designated for execution of the selected tasks in the primary system, on both sides of the border.

Secondary system

The AA is responsible for carrying out audits within the framework of the secondary system at all levels of spending of funds from the Programme.

These audits focus on:

- verification of effective functioning of the Programme management and control system;
- subsequent test of soundness of risk transactions in accordance with the level of acceptable risk for the primary system - tests of a sample for verification of the declared expenditure.

According to Article 14 of the ERDF Regulation, the AA is assisted in carrying out these audits by a group of auditors comprising representatives of the both states participating in the Programme. This group shall be set up within three months from the date of acceptance of the decision approving the Programme, and it shall draw up its own rules of procedure. In addition to carrying out the audits, the group carries out other duties provided for in Article 62 of the General Regulation - it draws up the appropriate documents, and submits source documents to the AA for its completion.

Central system

The AA which, according to Article 14 (2) of the ERDF Regulation, chairs the group of auditors, is responsible for carrying out the tasks of the central system. This concerns, in particular, the following activities (on the basis of residual risk):

- verification and evaluation of adequacy and effectiveness of functioning of the primary and secondary systems;
- audit of a sample of operations.

Auditors of the secondary and central systems are independent of the primary system.

The AA can proceed in accordance with Article 62 (3) of the General Regulation.

Detailed description of organisation of managing and payment authorities, regional bodies, and, in particular, setting of management and control systems, is given in the document Management and Control System.

Audit activities carried out by the European Commission bodies and the European Court of Auditors

According to Article 72 of the General Regulation, the **European Commission** shall satisfy itself that management and control systems have been set up, and effectively function, within the framework of the Programme. The European Commission carries out this verification on the basis of annual control reports and annual opinion of the AA and its own audits.

The **European Court of Auditors**, within its competence, carries out separate and independent controls ensuing from its competence.

Irregularities

All bodies participating in the Programme implementation are obliged to inform the MA on the found suspicions of discrepancies. The MA investigates the suspicions and it hands over the ones that prove to be justified, on the basis of the findings of the control, to the materially competent bodies in order to initiate administrative or legal proceedings. Reports of control bodies are always necessary to regard as justified.

5.5.5 Data exchange with the European Commission

Data exchange between the European Commission and the MA is carried out in accordance with Article 40 of the Implementing Regulation, via an interface between the Czech Republic system MSC2007 and the European Commission database SFC 2007.

The MA applies for access into the European Commission database SFC 2007 through the Czech MS Liaison. The MS Liaison guarantees that all applications for access into the SFC 2007 system are justified, that the access is applied for by persons authorized to perform functions for which access to the SFC is required, and, also, that in the case of change or departure of the authorized person access rights are transferred to another authorized person.

The MA is obliged to ensure entering of data into the information system MSC2007, and regular updating of all documents relating to the Programme for which it is responsible, in order to ensure transfer of all necessary data to the SFC 2007.

5.6 Publicity

In accordance with Article 69 of the General Regulation, the Programme Managing Authority provides information on the Programme and ensures its publicity. The aim is to inform inhabitants and beneficiaries, in a transparent way, on the Programme and the Community role in development of the Czech - Polish border area.

When informing the public and potential beneficiaries, the MA and NA closely cooperate with the JTS, RB, and euroregions.

The MA, in cooperation with the JTS, is responsible for providing information and publicity of the whole Programme, and it must ensure, in particular:

- publication of full information on the Programme on a web page;
- publication of brief information on the Programme in brochures and leaflets;
- drawing up annual and final reports for the European Commission;
- carrying out information activities concerning management, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme.

The MA, in cooperation with the NA and JTS, further organises:

- information meetings and trainings for various categories of potential applicants on local and regional levels, with the aim of exchange of experience;
- trainings of target groups in all eligible regions;
- information meetings focusing on evaluation of successes of the Programme.

The appropriate information on the Programme (for example, information on the Programme main documents, contacts on all organisations participating in the Programme implementation, current information on the Programme, list of the approved projects including the amount of provided support, time schedule of planned actions, including dates of the MC meetings, links to other web pages concerning the EU and its functioning, responses to the most often questions concerning the programme, etc.) is published on the Programme internet pages and internet pages of institutions responsible for the Programme publicity.

Further, the Programme is supported by press, information leaflets, brochures, posters, flags and other products promoting the EU.

The LPs, as well as the other partners, are properly informed on regulations concerning dissemination of information. In the process of monitoring of project implementation, attention is paid to compliance with the regulation on marking of the projects.

Implementation of information and publicity activities is described in the Annual Report on the Programme Implementation. After completion of the Programme implementation, a Final Monitoring Report will be drawn up.

In accordance with provisions of Article 2 of the Implementing Regulation, the MA draws up an Action Plan on Communication (hereinafter "APC"), the aim of which is to provide information on the Programme and the European Structural Funds to all interested persons. Another its aim is also further improving of the public awareness on the EU in promotion of cross border cooperation, and also ensuring of transparency of the joint steps.

The MA informs the MC on the APC implementation, on information measures, and, also, on measures for ensuring publicity.

Detailed information concerning the APC is given in a separate document.

6. EX ANTE EVALUATION

The submitted working opinion summarizes opinions of the Ex ante evaluator on the final version of the programming document for the objective European Territorial Cooperation - Cross Border Cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland.

The Ex ante process took place concurrently and continuously with drawing up the OP. The evaluation team was continuously informed on current outputs of the individual parts of the OP. The communication took place both by means of meetings and electronically by sending current versions of the document to the ET for comments. During drawing up the OP, the Ex ante evaluators provided continuous working opinions both to authors of the OP, and the clients, in written as well as oral form.

The ET monitored also relation of the OP to documents of the both Member States, in particular the NSRFs, because the issue of territorial cooperation became an organic part of these documents.

The ET states that the process of the document drawing up, and incorporation of the Ex ante evaluator opinions, was implemented through the Task force institution (mechanism), with participation of representatives of local self-government - regions in the Czech Republic, voivodeships in Poland, and euroregions, and it believes that the principle of equal representation of men and women was observed.

6.1 Summary of evaluation of the individual chapters of the document

6.1.1 Socioeconomic analysis and SWOT analysis

Both these chapters were amended in the course of drawing up of the OP. The ET significantly participated in the amendments. The ET put stress on the necessities: 1) to treat the territory as one region, 2) to focus on material supportable fields, 3) to draw up socioeconomic characterization briefly and objectively. In accordance with the recommended methodology, the ET recommended to reduce the extent of the analytical part and the SWOT analysis to circa 15 pages.

The ET recommended to develop opportunities and threats concerning all partial topics in the SWOT analysis, for the reason of setting of a strategy based, in a significant way, on the opportunities. The ET pointed out the necessity to show relation of the individual SWOT statements to the analysis, and to arrange the statements according to their urgency.

Further, the ET recommended to complete the analysis by experience gained during the current, and, optionally, previous (pre-access assistance) programming period, and its reflection for setting the strategy and implementation of the OP.

The ET asked the following questions: Does the analysis sufficiently catch the basic characteristics of the territory? Do the analysis and SWOT meet the needs of the OP CBC? Does arrangement of the SWOT statements take into account importance of the problem for development of the territory? Is the territory treated as a region confronting joint problems caused by persisting existence of barriers, and, further, as a region which can develop so far neglected potential and use opportunities ensuing from European integration, development of knowledge economy, and information society? Subsequently, the author took the above-mentioned problems into account in the analytical part.

6.1.2 Strategic part

The most important recommendations concerned this chapter. From the beginning, a relative agreement on the number of priorities, and their material focus, was both among the actors involved, and between the author and the ET. The ET recommended to create three material priorities focusing on development of the economy and innovation potential, on quality of physical environment (accessibility and environment) and development of human potential and cooperation of communities, and one priority for technical assistance.

During the consultation process, a strong consensus concerning content of the individual priorities and fields of support was achieved. The ET opinions concerning relations among priorities, and more precise definition of the content of the priorities, were accepted by the author, and incorporated into the final version of this OP chapter.

The ET recommended to emphasize link of the OP strategy to the relevant regional documents (for example, ROPs and other OP of cross border cooperation) and between interventions of the economic and social cohesion policy and the rural development policy (EAFRD).

The ET asked the following questions: Does a direct link exist between analysis outputs, SWOT statements and experiences of the current period on the one hand, and objectives and priorities on the other hand? Is the proposal of the strategy in accordance with the new bases and objectives of the economic and social cohesion policy for 2007 - 2013, does it help to integrate the territory divided by the national border having joint problems which need joint solutions? Does the strategy focus on increasing competitiveness of the border areas? On the basis of these questions the strategy was amended.

6.1.3 OP implementation

The individual parts of the implementation chapter were continuously amended and harmonised in accordance with the planned processes, as well as ET recommendations.

The ET believes that it is necessary to specify further some of the processes connected, in particular, with administration of the projects. The ET takes into account that these details will be stated in the implementing document.

The ET asked the following questions: How the process of selection and approval of the projects will proceed? In which way the support from the Micro-project Fund will be provided? In which way the support during drawing up of projects will be provided (strengthening of absorption capacity)? How the application will be structured, and in what language? These questions were solved through mutual discussion between the Managing Authority, National (coordination) Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat.

The ET states that in the course of drawing up of the document, the author has responded also to impulses ensuing from the SEA assessment.

Overall opinion:

The ET believes that the OP CBC CR-PL reflects the development needs of the supported region. The analysis captures well the key characteristics of the territory, and the strategy will adequately contribute to development of socioeconomic potential of the territory. The ET regards the proposed implementation system as functional.

7. INDICATIVE FINANCIAL PLAN

Table No. 1: Financial plan of the Operational Programme giving annual commitment of each fund in the Operational Programme

Operational programme reference (CCI Number.): CCI 2007CB163PO025

Financial allocation for the individual years (in EUR)

Year	Structural Funding (ERDF or ESF) (1)	Cohesion Fund (2)	Total (3)=(1)+(2)
2007			
In regions without transitional support	30 874 901	0	30 874 901
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2007	30 874 901	0	30 874 901
2008			
In regions without transitional support	29 594 254	0	29 594 254
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2008	29 594 254	0	29 594 254
2009			
In regions without transitional support	30 018 532	0	30 018 532
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2009	30 018 532	0	30 018 532
2010			
In regions without transitional support	30 915 312	0	30 915 312
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2010	30 915 312	0	30 915 312
2011			
In regions without transitional support	31 836 033	0	31 836 033
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2011	31 836 033	0	31 836 033
2012			
In regions without transitional support	32 678 383	0	32 678 383
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2012	32 678 383	0	32 678 383
2013			
In regions without transitional support	33 541 929	0	33 541 929
In regions with transitional support	0	0	0
Total for 2013	33 541 929	0	33 541 929
Total in regions without transitional support (2007 - 2013)	219 459 344	0	219 459 344
Total in regions with transitional support (2007 - 2013)	0	0	0
Grand Total 2007 - 2013	219 459 344	0	219 459 344

Table No. 2: Financial plan of the Operational Programme giving, for the whole programming period, the amount of the total financial allocation for each fund in the Operational Programme, the national counterpart and the rate of reimbursement by priority axis
Operational programme reference (CCI number): CCI 2007CB163PO025

Priority axes by source of funding (in EUR)

Priority axis	Community Funding (a)	National counterpart (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e).	For information	
			National public funding (c).	National private funding (d)			EIB contributions	Other Funding ³²
<u>Priority Axis 1</u> Strengthening of transport accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention ERDF, (contribution according to the Article 53 (1b) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006)	81 626 990	14 404 763	14 404 763	0	96 031 753	85 %	0	169 887
<u>Priority Axis 2</u> Support of development of business environment and tourism (contribution according to the Article 53 (1b) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006)	69 605 364	12 283 302	12 283 302	0	81 888 666	85 %	0	396 404
<u>Priority Axis 3</u> Support of local communities cooperation (contribution according to the Article 53 (1b) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006)	55 059 430	9 716 370	9 716 370	0	64 774 800	85 %	0	566 291
<u>Priority Axis 4</u> Technical assistance (contribution according to the Article 53 (1b) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006)	13 167 560	2 323 688	2 323 688	0	15 491 248	85 %	0	0
Total	219 459 344	38 728 123	38 728 123	0	258 187 467	85 %	0	1 132 582

³² Estimate of involved private funding refers only to Czech partners.

Table No. 3: Indicative breakdown of the Community contribution by category

Commission reference No: CCI 2007CB163PO025

Name of the programme: Operational programme of cross-border cooperation Czech Republic – Republic of Poland 2007-2013

Date of the last Commission decision for the Operational Programme concerned:
11th December 2007

(in euros)		<i>cont.</i>		<i>cont.</i>	
Dimension 1		Dimension 1		Dimension 1	
Priority theme		Priority theme		Priority theme	
Code	Amount	Code	Amount	Code	Amount
2	877 838	44	1 316 756	68	658 378
3	1 228 972	45	1 755 675	69	1 075 351
4	438 919	46	1 975 134	71	921 730
6	1 316 756	47	1 097 297	72	526 702
9	614 486	48	3 291 890	74	658 378
11	4 852 244	49	658 378	75	1 053 405
13	1 536 216	50	877 837	77	329 189
14	548 649	51	1 097 297	79	2 282 377
16	4 389 187	52	2 852 972	80	44 769 706
23	29 580 926	53	6 364 321	85	8 778 373
24	13 167 561	54	3 291 890	86	4 389 187
25	6 583 780	55	4 389 187	Celkem	219 459 344
26	3 291 890	56	4 389 187		
28	3 291 890	57	8 997 833		
39	1 536 215	58	9 875 671		
40	1 536 215	59	8 339 455		
41	1 536 215	60	7 681 077		
42	1 316 756	61	5 486 484		
43	1 755 675	66	877 837		

(in euros)	
Dimension 2	
Form of finance	
Code	Amount
1	219 459 344
Total	219 459 344

(in euros)	
Dimension 3	
Territory	
Code	Amount
8	219 459 344
Total	219 459 344

8. LIST OF USED ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Audit Authority
AA-CHU	Department Audit Authority - Central Harmonisation Unit of Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
APC	Action Plan on Communication
BSR	Programme of ETC of the Baltic Sea Region 2007 - 2013
CF	Cohesion Fund
CIP	Community Initiative Program
CNB	Czech National Bank
CR	Czech Republic
CRD CR	Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
CSGC	Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Community
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERDF Regulation	The Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999
ET	Ex ante Evaluation Team
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EU	European Union
EU-15	European Union before extension in 2004
EU-25	European Union after extension of 1 May 2004 till 31 December 2006
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
General Regulation	The Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
Implementing Regulation	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund

	and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund
INTERREG IIIA	Community Initiative focusing on cross border cooperation among the EU states in 2004 - 2006
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
LP	Lead Partner; since approval of the project by the MC is understood as the Lead Beneficiary
MA	Managing Authority
MC	Monitoring Committee
MCS	Management and Control System
MF CR	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
MRD CR	Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
MRD PL	Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland
MSC2007	Monitoring System Central 2007 (central monitoring system of the Czech Republic for the programming period 2007 - 2013)
NA	National Authority (national coordinator)
NCSF	National Community Support Framework of the Czech Republic
NDP	National Development Plan
NGOs	Non-governmental non-profit organisations
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
NUTS	Territorial Units for Statistics - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OJ	Official Journal of the European Union
OP	Operational Programme
OP CBC CR-PL	Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland
PCA	Payment and Certifying Authority
Phare CBC	Phare Cross Border Cooperation
PLA	Protected Landscape Area
PL	Republic of Poland
RB	Regional Body (v CR respective regions – kraje, v PL respective Marshall Offices in particular Voivodeship)
RCP ETC	Regional Contact Points of the European Territorial Cooperation

ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFs	Structural Funds
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises, including Micro-enterprises
SWOT analysis	Strengths – Weaknesses – Opportunities – Threats
TA	Technical Assistance
TASK – FORCE	international working group for each border with representatives of the appropriate ministries, border regions, Polish voivodeships

9. ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Statistical data

Table No. 1: Area and population development in the Czech and Polish border areas

Territory	Total area (in km ²)	Population density (inhabitants/km ²)	Number of inhabitants		Change (Index 2004/2000)
			2000	2004	
CR	78 866	130	10 278	10 220	99.44
Liberec Region	3 163	135	429 121	427 563	99.6
Hradec Králové Region	4 758	115	550 780	547 296	99.4
Pardubice Region	4 519	112	508 566	505 285	99.3
Olomouc Region	5 160	123	641 072	635 126	99.1
Moravia - Silesia Region	5 535	227	1 278 036	1 257 554	98.4
CR eligible area - total	23 135	145.8	3 407 575	3 372 824	98.98
PL	312 685	122	38 253	38 173	99.79
Jelenia Góra-Wałbrzych sub-region	10 371	127	1 341 816	1 321 635	98.5
Opole sub-region	9 412	112	1 070 598	1 051 531	98.2
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	1 354	474	648 029	641 861	99.0
Bielsko-biala sub-region	2 352	275	641 787	646 166	100.7
Pszczynski District	473	220	102 882	104 129	101.2
PL eligible area - total	23 962	157.1	3 805 112	3 765 322	98.95
Eligible area - total	47 097	151.6	7 212 687	7 138 146	98.97

Source: CR - Czech Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions 2005; PL – Statistical Yearbook of the Regions 2005, GUS, Warsaw 2005; Population according to sex, age, voivodeships, sub-regions, districts, towns, municipalities (state of 31 December 2000) GUS, Warsaw 2004, Powiats in Poland 2005, GUS, Warsaw 2005

Table No. 2: Unemployment rate in the eligible area of 31 December 2004

Territory	Unemployment rate		Index 2004/2000
	2000	2004	
CR	8.78	9.87	112.4
Liberec Region	9.48	9.06	95.6
Hradec Králové Region	7.89	8.28	105.0
Pardubice Region	9.42	9.62	102.1
Olomouc Region	12.48	12.53	100.4
Moravia - Silesia Region	16.84	16.85	100.1
CR eligible area - total	11.22	11.27	100.64
PL	15.1	19.0	-
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	23.6	28.3	-
Opole sub-region	15.7	20.0	-
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	-	16.7	-
Bielsko-biala sub-region	-	13.6	-
Pszczynski District	8.0	12.4	-
PL eligible area - total	-	18.2	-
Eligible area - total	-	14.7	-

Source: CR - Czech Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions 2005; PL – Statistical Yearbook of the Regions 2005, GUS, Warsaw 2005; Statistical Yearbook of the Regions 2001, GUS, Warsaw 2001

Table No. 3: Basic data on registered unemployed persons as of 31 December 2004

Territory	Registered unemployed persons for more than 12 months (as % of the total number of the unemployed)	The registered unemployed 24 years old or younger (as % of the total number of the unemployed)	Registered unemployed persons	
			Total	of which, women
CR	40.6	21.4	541 675	276 254
Liberec Region	38.1	21.2	20 299	10 650
Hradec Králové Region	31.0	22.4	22 526	11 488
Pardubice Region	34.5	21.4	24 399	12 414
Olomouc Region	40.5	20.3	39 606	19 717
Moravia - Silesia Region	49.8	20.7	105 486	52 096
CR eligible area - total	38.8	21.2	212 316	106 365
PL	52.2	24.3	2 999 601	1 568 536
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	48.6	21.6	140 970	72 012
Opole sub-region	50.0	21.6	74 553	40 964
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	47.9	32.1	36 200	22 070
Bielsko-biala sub-region	47.4	24.4	34 140	18 064
Pszczyński District	51.1	35.7	5 348	3 198
PL eligible area - total	49.0	27.1	291 211	156 308
Eligible area - total	43.9	24.2	503 527	262 673

Source: CR - Czech Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions 2005; PL – Statistical Yearbook of the Regions 2005, GUS, Warsaw 2005, Bank of Regional Data, GUS, Warsaw 2006

Table No. 4: GDP development in the border area, in relation to the EU-25 average in % (GDP/inhabitant in purchasing power parity, EU-25 = 100)

Territory	2000	2001	2002
CR	64.8	66.0	67.6
Liberec Region	53.8	54.0	55.3
Hradec Králové Region	56.9	56.2	58.6
Pardubice Region	54.4	54.2	55.9
Olomouc Region	50.4	50.2	51.7
Moravia - Silesia Region	54.2	55.1	56.5
CR eligible area - total	53.9	53.9	55.6
PL	46.2	45.8	45.6
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	38.3	39.4	37.0
Opole sub-region	39.6	37.9	37.4
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	43.2	43.7	42.8
Bielsko-biala sub-region	50.8	48.1	47.6
PL eligible area - total	42.9	42.3	41.2
Eligible area - total	48.4	48.1	48.4

Source: Database Eurostat 2006

Table No. 5: Number of registered business entities per 1 000 inhabitants in the CR regions and in the PL subregions in 2000 and 2004

Region	Number of registered business entities per 1000 inhabitants in 2000	Number of registered business entities per 1000 inhabitants in 2004
Liberec	209.2	253.2
Hradec Králové	196.6	223.6
Pardubice	172.6	202.5
Olomouc	173.3	203.1
Moravia - Silesia	158.3	180.7
CR	199.6	230.5
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych	81.3	97.3
Opole	71.9	84.1
Rybnik-Jastrzębie	63.5	73.4
Bielsko-biala	97.6	104.2
Pszczyński District	84.9	92.8
PL	83.3	93.7

*data for PL concern economic entities of the national economy recorded in the REGON register, excluding persons tending private farms in agriculture

Source: CR – Czech Statistical Office, PL – Powiats in Poland 2005, GUS, Warsaw 2005; Śląskie Voivodeship: sub-regions, districts, gminas 2005, Statistical Office in Katowice, Katowice 2005; Opolskie Voivodeship: sub-regions, districts, gminas 2005, Statistical Office in Opole, Opole 2005; Dolnośląskie Voivodeship: sub-regions,

districts, gminas 2005, Statistical Office in Wrocław, Wrocław 2005; Bank of Regional Data, GUS, Warsaw 2006

Table No. 6 Sectors share of the total level of employment (in %) in 2004

Territory	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector
CR	4.3	39.2	56.5
Liberec Region	3.3	51.7	44.8
Hradec Králové Region	6.1	39.5	54.4
Pardubice Region	6.2	45.6	48.3
Olomouc Region	7.0	41.2	51.7
Moravia - Silesia Region	3.0	44.8	52.1
CR eligible area - total	5.12	44.56	50.26
PL	21.9	38.8	48.9
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	13.1	38.0	48.9
Opole sub-region	21.8	31.5	46.7
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	6.0	46.6	47.4
Bielsko-biala sub-region	8.2	40.9	50.9
Pszczyński District	14.0	53.9	32.1
PL eligible area - total	13.5	38.8	47.8
Eligible area - total	9.31	41.7	49.0

*data for PL: excluding entities employing up to 9 persons; with the employed persons on private farms in agriculture

Source: CR - Czech Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions 2005; PL - Bank of Regional Data, GUS, Warsaw 2006

Table No. 7: Tourism in the Czech - Polish border area in 2004

Territory	Number of overnight stays ³³ (in thousands)		Collective tourist accommodation establishments - total	Number of beds in tourism	Level of utilisation of the accommodation capacity (in %)	Level of utilisation of rooms (%)
	Total	Of this, foreign tourists				
CR	40 780.7	18 980.5	7 640	433 214	37.0	44.1
Liberec Region	2 801.6	998.7	926	39 964	33.2	33.2
Hradec Králové Region	3 809.2	1 160.9	966	43 985	37.3	37.3
Pardubice Region	1 185.0	183.9	281	15 006	32.5	32.5
Olomouc Region	2 213.1	270.7	344	18 614	27.0	33.3
Moravia - Silesia Region	2 118.7	287.8	490	26 353	30.7	38.7
CR eligible area - total	10 227.6	2 902.0	3 007	143 922	32.1	35.0
PL	46 657.1	9 312.9	6 972	584 623	47.1	42.2
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	3 169.0	690.5	579	35 126	44.0	43.0
Opole sub-region	485.8	68.3	127	7 921	23.6	30.3
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	192.8	36.4	29	2 037	34.8	38.5
Bielsko-biala sub-region	1 862.7	167.5	253	19 992	43.1	38.0
Pszczyński District	14.8	3.4	6	138	-	-
PL eligible area - total	5 725.1	966.1	994	65 214	-	-
Eligible area - total	15 952.7	3 868.1	4 001	209 136	-	-

Source: CR - Czech Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions 2005; PL - Śląskie Voivodeship: sub-regions, districts, gminas 2005, Statistical Office in Katowice, Katowice 2005; Tourism in 2004, GUS, Warsaw 2005

³³ In collective tourist accommodation establishments

Table No. 8/A: Protected areas (including the NATURA 2000 sites) in the Czech part of the border area

Territory	Total area (in km ²)	Area of ASPs ³⁴ (in km ²)	ASPs share in %	NATURA 2000 sites		
				pSCI ³⁵ (in km ²)	SPA ³⁶ (in km ²)	pSCI and SPA share except ASPs (in %)
CR	78 868	12 547	15.9	7 241.7	6 935.9	5.1
Liberec Region	3 163	1 047	33.1	404.0	341.7	3.3
Hradec Králové Region	4 758	1 075	23	74	595	14.6
Pardubice Region	4 519	435	9.6	34.2	140.9	3.6
Olomouc Region	5 160	920	17.9	488.8	893	9
Moravia - Silesia Region	5 535	1 674.13	30.7	710.68	703.73	4.5
CR eligible area	23 135	5 151.13	22.3	1 711.68	2 674.33	-

Source: Departments of Environment of the Regional Authorities, 2006

Table No. 8/B: Protected areas (including the NATURA 2000 sites) in the Polish part of the border area

Territory	pSCI (in km ²)	SPA (in km ²)	pSCI and SPA share except ASPs ³⁷
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	318.84	-	31.1
Opole sub-region	52.36	78.9	42.2
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	-	-	-
Bielsko-biala sub-region	613.75	204.9	27.3
Pszczynski District	-	43.3	100
PL eligible area - total	984.95	327.1	-

Source: Ministry of Environment of the PL.

Table No. 9: Connection of inhabitants to public water supply and sewerage in 2004

Territory	Number of inhabitants	Inhabitants supplied from water supply network	Inhabitants supplied from water supply network share (in %)	Inhabitants connected to sewerage network	Inhabitants connected to sewerage network share (in %)	Industrial and municipal waste water treated ³⁸ in % of waste water requiring treatment	Inhabitants connected to waste water treatment plants in % of the total number of inhabitants
CR	10 220 677	9 346 342	91.6	7 946 828	77.9	94.4	70.9
Liberec Region	427 563	377 821	88.4	291 266	68.1	97.8	61.8
Hradec Králové Region	547 296	496 514	90.8	403 492	73.8	93.4	64.2
Pardubice Region	505 285	486 392	96.3	334 400	66.2	95.5	61.2
Olomouc Region	635 126	554 216	87.2	461 177	72.6	96.0	64.9
Moravia - Silesia Region	1 257 554	1 203 747	95.6	927 633	73.7	93.1	63.5
CR eligible area - total	3 372 824	3 078 690	91.7	2 417 968	70.9	95.2	63.1
PL	38 173 835	32 639 636	85.5	22 252 755	58.3	91.0	59.0
Jelenia Góra -Wałbrzych sub-region	1 321 635	1 145 808	86.7	776 950	58.8	95.8	68.7
Opole sub-region	1 051 531	986 731	93.8	547 864	52.1	96.7	55.1
Rybnik-Jastrzębie sub-region	641 861	609 130	94.9	359 648	56.0	77.6	61.9
Bielsko-biala sub-region	646 166	474 695	73.5	305 753	47.3	98.0	55.7
Pszczynski District	104 129	99 799	95.8	50 268	48.3	90.0	53.8
PL eligible area - total	3 765 322	3 316 163	88.07	2 040 483	54.19	91.6	59.0
Eligible area - total	7 138 146	6 394 853	90.3	4 458 451	61.7	91.3	61.0

Source: CR - Czech Statistical Office - Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions 2005; PL - Statistical Yearbook of the Regions 2005, GUS, Warsaw 2005; Bank of Regional Data, GUS, Warsaw 2006

³⁴ ASPs: national parks, protected landscape areas, national nature monuments and reserves, nature reserves and monuments

³⁵ pSCI – Site of European Interest

³⁶ SPA – Special Protection Area

³⁷ ASPs: national parks, landscape parks, nature reserves and protected landscape areas, data concerning the year 2002

³⁸ discharged into surface waters or into the ground

Table No. 10: Overview of allocations as of 28 February 2006

Priority and measure	Allocation for 2004 - 2006 EURO	Amount applied for from the ERDF (projects submitted to the Managing Committee) EURO	Approved co-financing from the ERDF (projects approved by the Managing Committee) EURO
1. Further development and modernization of infrastructure	22 730 666	60 503 008	22 730 666
1.1: Support of infrastructure of cross border importance	10 614 524	19 196 071	10 614 524
1.2: Infrastructure focusing on environmental protection and flood prevention	4 724 693	15 794 733	4 724 693
1.3: Ensuring infrastructure for support of business and tourism	7 391 449	25 512 204	7 391 449
2. Local community development in the cross border area	10 005 855	11 547 656	10 005 855
2.1: Tourism development	2 429 404	3 190 594	2 429 404
2.2: Support of local communities initiatives (Micro-project Fund)	5 175 443	5 175 443	5 175 443
2.3: Development and support of cross border organisational structures and networks	2 401 008	3 181 619	2 401 008
Total - EURO	32 736 521	72 050 664	32 736 521

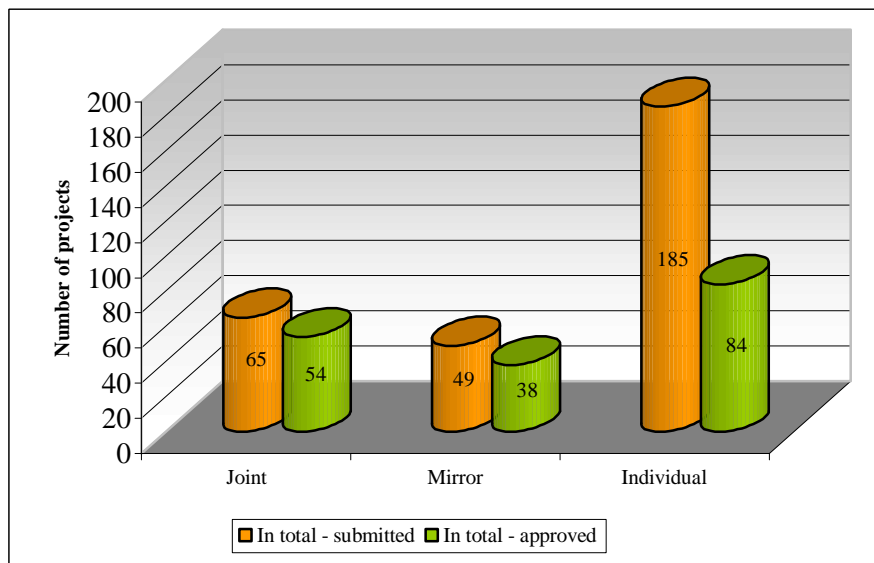
Source: JTS Olomouc

Table No. 11: Overview of the number of projects

Priority and measure	Number of projects submitted within the programme	Number of projects submitted to the Managing Committee within the programme	Number of projects approved within the programme
1. Further development and modernization of infrastructure	212	178	77
1.1: Support of infrastructure of cross border importance	58	51	30
1.2: Infrastructure focusing on environmental protection and flood prevention	42	36	15
1.3: Ensuring infrastructure for support of business and tourism	112	91	32
2. Local communities development in the cross border area	144	121	99
2.1: Tourism development	70	58	47
2.2: Support of local community initiatives (Micro-project Fund)	12	12	12
2.3: Development and support of cross border organisational structures and networks	62	51	40
Total	356	299	176

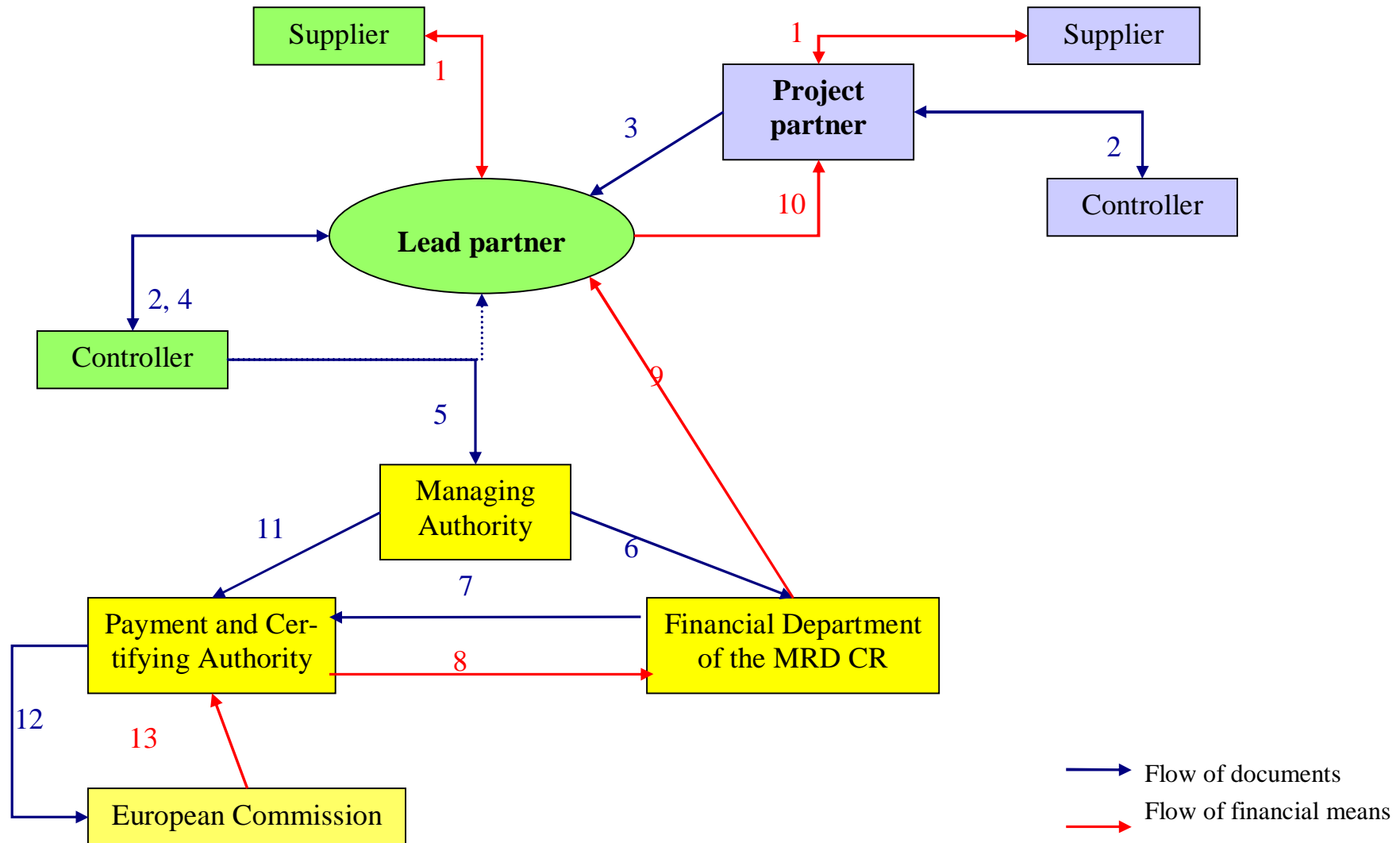
Source: JTS Olomouc

Graph No. 1: Success of projects from the point of view of the level of cooperation between the applicant and the partner



Source: JTS Olomouc

Annex 2 – Scheme of financial flows



Legend:

1. Supplier-customer relations between the Lead Partner (LP) and his suppliers, or, respectively, between the Project Partner (PP) and his suppliers.
2. Submission of partial applications for payments to the appropriate Controllers. After verification of legitimacy of the expenditure, the Controllers hands over a Certificate back to the LP, or, respectively, PP.
3. The PP submits his Certificate and partial application for payment as a basis for an application for payment for the project as a whole to the Lead Partner.
4. The LP submits application for payment for the project as a whole to the appropriate Controller.
5. The appropriate Controller, after approving the application for payment for the project as a whole, hands over a Certificate concerning the project, together with the application for payment, to the Managing Authority (MA). Simultaneously, he informs the Lead Partner of this step.
6. The MA, after approving the application for payment and after checking its formal correctness, issues an order of payment, which it hands over to the Financial Department of the MRD CR (FD MRD).
7. The FD MRD generates a Summary Application for payment of the ERDF funds, which is, subsequently, handed over to the PCA.
8. The PCA carries out formal checking of the Summary Application, and transfers the corresponding funds to the account to which the FD MRD has a right of disposition.
9. The FD MRD transfers the appropriate funds, from the account to which it has a right of disposition, to the account of the Lead Partner.
10. The LP transfers the appropriate shares to the PP account.
11. The MA submits basic documents for certification concerning the pre-determined period to the PCA.
12. The PCA, on the basis of documents submitted by the Managing Authority, asks the European Commission for an interim/final payment.
13. The European Commission, on the basis of the application for an interim/final payment, transfers the corresponding SF funds to the PCA account.

Annex 3 – Non-technical summary of SEA

Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) of the „Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013“

Non-technical Summary of the Process and Results of the SEA Procedure

1. Introduction

On the basis of recommendation of the European Commission, this Non-technical Summary of the Process and Results of the SEA Procedure concerning the „Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013“ (hereinafter also "the Programme") was drawn up, comprising, in particular:

- * Description of the procedure of environmental impact assessment (hereinafter also "SEA") of the above-mentioned Programme;
- * Description of the process of consultations and public participation in drawing up and discussing the Programme;
- * The most important conclusions of environmental impact assessment of the Programme;
- * Proposal of monitoring of environmental impacts of the Programme implementation, and method of determination of environmental criteria for selection of projects;
- * Method of incorporation of recommendations resulting from the SEA procedure into the Programme.

2. Brief description of the procedure of environmental impact assessment of the Programme

The procedure of environmental impact assessment of the „Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013“ was based on the Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll. on environmental impact assessment, as amended, taking into account requirements of the Act of the Republic of Poland No. 627/2001 Coll. on environmental protection, as amended (Prawo Ochrony Środowiska z dnia 27 kwietnia 2001 r., Dz. U. 2001 nr 62, poz. 627 z późn. zm.), and taking into account the content of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, and also relevant international conventions (ESPOO and Aarhus Conventions).

When meeting the requirements of international assessment, the SEA author based his assessment, in particular, on Section 14a) of the Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001

Coll., on „Conclusion of the Screening and Scoping Procedure“ according to Section 7 of the above-mentioned Act, and on procedure agreed by the Ministries for Regional Development and Ministries of Environment of the Czech Republic and Republic of Poland.

Content and scope of the actual „Strategic Environmental Assessment“ was based on the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll., and on „Conclusion of the Screening and Scoping Procedure“ issued by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic on the basis of Notification of the Strategy, statements of the affected administrative authorities and affected self-government bodies of the Czech Republic, and summary statement of the Polish side concerning this Notification. In accordance with the requirements of the above-mentioned Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll., also the impact of the strategy on the „Sites of Community Interest and Special Protection Areas“ (Natura 2000 network) was assessed, to the extent laid out in the Act of the Czech Republic No. 114/1992 Coll. on nature conservation and landscape protection, as amended.

When discussing the Programme with the public, procedures laid down by national regulations of the both cooperating states were fully observed, and, in addition to these legal requirements, also extra, voluntary procedures of public participation were widely used, in particular in early stages of drawing up of the Programme (see below).

The final Environmental Impact Statement concerning the draft Programme was issued by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic on the basis of statements of the affected administrative authorities and affected self-government units of the Czech Republic, summary statement of the Polish side, and result of public discussion concerning the Programme, including its Environmental Impact Assessment according to the Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll., as amended.

The main carried out steps of the SEA procedure

- Gradual publication of working versions of the Programme and information on assessment procedure - April / May 2006;
- Drawing up of the Notification of the Strategy (Programme) by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and its publication - June / July 2006;
- Preliminary (voluntary) public discussion - June 2006;
- Discussion of the Notification of the Programme in the affected Polish regions on 18 - 19 July 2006;
- Issuance of the Conclusion of the Screening and Scoping Procedure by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic - August 2006;
- Drawing up of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the strategy (the Programme) and its publication - October / November 2006;
- Discussion of the Programme with the public in Poland - October / November 2006;
- Public discussion of the strategy (the Programme including its environmental impact assessment) - November 2006;
- Issuance of the Joint Statement by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic - December 2006;

3. Consultations and public participation in drawing up and discussing the Programme

The procedure of assessment of the Programme was carried in the competence of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. However, as the Programme was simultaneously subject to international assessment of the strategy according to Section 14a of the Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll., as amended, a part of the procedure was also formed by consultations with representatives of the affected state, including participation of the public from the both states in the assessment, and also discussion procedure according to the relevant legislation of the Republic of Poland.

In addition to obligatory steps of support of public participation, also a number of (voluntary) procedures was organised, with the aim to ensure the highest possible awareness on drawing up of the Programme and the procedure of its environmental impact assessment, and to enable the highest possible number of interested persons to submit comments concerning the Programme and its environmental impact assessment.

Standard (obligatory) steps of support of public participation within the framework of environmental impact assessment of the Programme ensued from requirements of the Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll., as amended, Act of the Republic of Poland No. 627/2001 Coll. on environmental protection, as amended (Prawo Ochrony Środowiska z dnia 27 kwietnia 2001 r., Dz. U. 2001 nr 62, poz. 627 z późn. zm.), and they included, in particular, the following steps:

- Publication of the Notification of the Programme in the EIA/SEA information system (of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic) on 12 June 2006;
- Sending of the Notification of the Programme to the affected administrative authorities and affected territorial self-government units in the Czech Republic with the aim to obtain their statements;
- Sending of the translated version of the Notification to the Polish side for comments;
- Discussion of the draft Programme in three Polish regions bordering with the Czech Republic - 18 - 19 July 2006;
- Publication of the Conclusion of the Screening and Scoping Procedure, drawn up by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic on the basis of statements concerning the Notification of the Programme, in the EIA/SEA information system, and sending thereof, i.a. to the affected administrative authorities, affected self-government units, and the Polish side - 23 August 2006;
- Publication of the Programme and Environmental Impact Assessment of the Programme in the EIA/SEA information system - 9 October 2006;
- Sending of the Programme and its Environmental Impact Assessment to the affected administrative authorities and affected territorial self-government units with the aim to obtain their statements;
- Sending of translated versions of the Programme and its Environmental Impact Assessment to the Polish side;
- Procedure of discussions in the Republic of Poland:

On 19 October 2006, the Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland

obtained, via the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland, the official version of the Environmental Impact Assessment. On the same day, consultations concerning the Programme, as well as the above-mentioned Assessment, were started, according to Article 43 (2) of the Act of the Republic of Poland No. 627/2001 Coll. on environmental protection, as amended (Ustawy Prawo Ochrony Środowiska z dnia 27 kwietnia 2001 r. (Dz. U. 2001 nr 62, poz. 627 z późn. zm.).

The both documents were published on the internet pages of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland, together with an invitation for consultations for all interested persons. In addition to that, the documents were also displayed in the building of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland in Warsaw, and in territorial departments in Katowice and Wrocław. Information on the process of consultations was published also in the *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper.

Regional self-governments; of voivodeships bordering with the Czech Republic actively participated in the process, too:

In the Lower Silesia Voivodeship, paper versions of the documents were displayed in the building of the Regional Authority in Wrocław and in the regional contact place (RCP) in Wałbrzych; in the Silesia Voivodeship, in the RCP building of the Regional Authority in Bielsko - Biała. In the Opole Voivodeship, the documents were made available by a representative of the RCP of the Opole Voivodeship Regional Authority.

The interested persons could submit comments by post, e-mail, and also other methods - usual in the regions.

Simultaneously, the Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland asked for statement concerning the both documents the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland, and the Chief Public Health Officer.

In accordance with Article 32 of the above-mentioned Act, the duration of consultations on the Polish side was more than 21 days, i.e., from 19 October 2006 to 13 November 2006.

The Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland, on the basis of statements of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland and the Chief Public Health Officer, and on the basis of comments obtained within the framework of the public discussion, drew up a statement concerning the Programme and its Environmental Impact Assessment, and handed it over to the Czech side, as a basis for issuance of a statement by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic.

In the process of consultations, a number of valuable comments and proposals concerning the both documents were obtained. The comments concerned, in particular, the form of presentation of information in the text, and proposals for completion. Comments concerning the adopted strategy, or, respectively, extent or content of the priority axes of the Programme, were not submitted. The majority of comments were presented to the Czech side on a meeting of the both Ministries for Regional Development in Katowice on 22 - 23 November 2006. The substantiated comments were incorporated into the Programme, a part of them will be used in the Programme Supplement which is under preparation.

- Official publication of the Assessment on the Czech side for 30 days (from 9 October 2006 to 8 November 2006);

- Public discussion of the Programme and its Environmental Impact Assessment in the affected territory (Č. Těšín, Euroregion building on the Czech - Polish border, 9 November 2006). Information on the public discussion procedure was published, sufficiently in advance, via internet, e-mail directory, internet conferences of NGOs, via representatives of the regions in the Task-Force and the INTERREG IIIA Monitoring Committee, and via advertisements published in the nationwide press in the Czech Republic, as well as the Republic of Poland.
- Publication of the statement of the competent authority (Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic) concerning environmental impact assessment of the Programme, issued on the basis of Environmental Impact Assessment of the Programme, all statements to the Programme and its Environmental Impact Assessment, and public discussion - 5 December 2006.

Other (facultative) steps of support of public participation in the process of discussions

Within the framework of the procedure of „Environmental Impact Assessment of the Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013“, carrying out of facultative activities supporting widened public participation in environmental impact assessment of this programming document was agreed with the entity submitting the Programme - and, through its mediation, also with the Polish side.

These activities were implemented in accordance with legislation of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Poland, as well as the European Union, with aims of the Aarhus Convention and purposes of the ESPOO Convention, and, also, in accordance with the derived methodologies and recommendations. Within the framework of proposing and implementing support of public participation, there were used also experiences of the assessor with drawing up SEA of 5 operational programmes in the Czech Republic for the programming period 2004 - 2006. The voluntary activities focused, in particular, on the introductory stages of the assessment, because the later stages (especially from the stage of publication of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Programme) are regulated in great detail by the Czech, as well as Polish, legislation.

The proposed procedure was discussed with the entity submitting the Programme and the competent authority, and it was presented to the Polish side via the Task-Force, with the aim to achieve the broadest possible participation of the public from the both affected states. The support of public participation was ensured - in addition to obligatory activities ensuing from the Act of the Czech Republic No. 100/2001 Coll., as amended (activities ensured by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic) and the Polish Act No. 627/2001 Coll. on environmental protection, as amended (Prawo Ochrony Środowiska z dnia 27 kwietnia 2001 r., Dz. U. 2001 nr 62, poz. 627 z późn. zm), in particular through the following steps:

- The current working versions of the Programme, together with associated texts drawn up by the SEA Team, were continuously published on the internet pages of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic. These documents contained basic information on the Programme, terms of its drawing up, and possibilities of public participation in its assessment.
- The structure of the specially prepared internet pages enabled easy and clear access to the published programming document, as well as the published Notification and

Assessment, and their part was formed by the form for submitting comments to the Programme and its assessment. Simultaneously, an e-mail address for direct sending of the comments (seapl@seznam.cz), was stated on the internet page. Comments sent to this address were automatically mailed to the SEA Team, and (for the purpose of control) also to the entity submitting the Programme. The web pages were regularly updated.

- Basic information on possibilities of public participation was presented on meetings of the working group Task-Force (for example, Bielsko-Biała 24 - 25 April 2006, Pardubice 5 - 6 June 2006). The Czech, as well as the Polish, members of the Task-Force were asked for cooperation in distribution of information on the published Programme, procedure of its assessment, as well as possibilities of the public to submit comments, proposals and recommendations concerning the Programme as well as the SEA documents.

In view of the fact that the working group Task-Force comprised representatives of the relevant Regions in the Czech Republic, Regional Authorities in the sub-regions (Republic of Poland), as well as euroregions at the Czech - Polish border, its members were repeatedly asked to inform the public, as well as other public administration authorities (for example, municipalities) in the relevant territories in the way usually used for communication with these entities.

The necessary basic documents were sent to the members of the Task-Force via e-mail, in the case of the Polish members of the Task-Force in Polish language (including translations of the above-mentioned materials published on the pages of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic).

The list of addressees was gradually extended by other persons who showed interest in discussing the Programme. Also members of the INTERREG IIIA Monitoring Committee were asked for cooperation in the informing. In view of the composition of the Committee (for example, representatives of chambers of commerce), they could inform and involve specific target groups (entrepreneurs, etc.). There were used also information channels of NGOs in the Czech Republic (internet conferences focusing on regional development and SEA, used by several hundreds of addressees), as well as the process organised by the Polish side in July 2006.

- On 29 June 2006, a public working seminar was organised in Rychnov nad Kněžnou. Participants were invited using all the above-mentioned information channels (internet, e-mail directory, asking of the members of the Task-Force and the INTERREG IIIA Monitoring Committee to inform the public and other entities in the areas of their competence, NGO internet conferences, etc.). The invitations, as well as the published SEA document (the Notification), were handed over to the Polish side in Polish language. The purpose of the seminar was, in particular, to inform persons interested in the Programme on the state of its drawing up, and partial results of the SEA assessment. In addition to the public, the seminar was attended also by representatives of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Ministry for Regional Development of the Republic of Poland, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, as well as certain representatives of regional self-governments and euroregions. All impulses, comments, proposals and recommendations from the discussion were used within the framework of the scoping procedure, drawing up of the Assessment, and completion of the Programme.

4. Summary of conclusions of environmental impact assessment of the Programme

A. Method of environmental impact assessment of the Programme

The basic framework for assessment of compliance of the objectives of the Programme with the requirements of environmental protection is formed by reference environmental objectives. They enable, in particular, assessment of how the individual priority axes and fields of support may influence meeting of the environmental protection objectives, and whether they may influence them in a positive or negative way, or whether they are neutral in relation to meeting these objectives³⁹. Subsequently, they can serve also as a basis for monitoring of environmental impacts of the operational programme implementation via the set indicators, and as a basis for determination of environmental criteria for selection of the projects financed through the operational programme (see the following chapter).

Usually, the procedure of determination of a reference assessment framework, i.e., drawing up of a selected set of reference objectives for a specific strategic document, is based on objectives and priorities of the European and national concept documents, showing relation to the strategic document in question. Another source for formulation of the above-mentioned framework is, usually, an analysis of condition of the environment in the affected territory, comprising identification of significant problems in the field of environmental protection.

In this way, there is identified a so-called long-list, i.e., complete set of potential reference environmental protection objectives. Within its framework, relation of the identified objectives to the individual priority axes (fields of support) of the strategic document is assessed subsequently.

In the case of the assessment of the Operational Programme of Cross Border Cooperation Czech Republic - Republic of Poland 2007 - 2013 described here, a similar procedure was chosen. However, in view of the cross border nature of the Programme, it was modified in the following ways:

Recommendation of reference objectives, related indicators, and, respectively, environmental criteria for selection of projects within the framework of operational programmes for the following programming period 2007 - 2013, prepared by the working group of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, was used for the reference assessment framework. Recommendation of this working group was modified according to specific characteristics of the affected territory on both sides of the border, and also Conclusion of the Screening and Scoping Procedure, issued by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, was taken into account. The obtained complete set of reference objectives was assessed from the point of view of their relation to the assessed objectives of the Programme, and there were selected the reference environmental protection objectives showing the closest relation to the objectives and priority axes of the Programme.

A set of 14 reference environmental objectives, forming a basic framework for assessment of the Programme, was selected in this way. The set of reference environmental protection objectives, described below, represents a framework for assessment of the objectives, priority axes, and other parts of the Programme, from the point of view of environmental impacts.

³⁹ This is analogically true also for reference objectives of public health protection

One of the key approaches for modification and selection of the reference environmental objectives was also an effort to appropriately eliminate the objectives which would set different target values in the Czech Republic and Poland (national emission ceilings, obligations concerning reduction of carbon dioxide emissions according to the Kyoto Protocol, percentage of reduction of amount of waste, etc., are typical examples). Possible incorporation of reference objectives with different target values in the both countries would cause inadequate complications during setting of environmental criteria for selection of projects, and, in particular, during their actual selection (see the following chapter).

B. Final set of reference environmental objectives

The following set of reference environmental protection objectives, prepared in the above-mentioned way, represents a framework for assessment of the objectives, priority axes, and fields of support of the Programme from the point of view of the environmental impacts. The table part of the Assessment document assesses in detail how the priority axes and the individual fields of support may influence meeting of the reference environmental protection objectives, i.e., whether they influence them in a positive way, in a negative way, or whether they are neutral in relation to them. In an ideal case, especially in the areas having special importance for the environment, the Programme implementation should mean, in particular, support of meeting of the environmental protection objectives.

Table Final reference environmental protection objectives

Reference environmental protection objectives for the Programme	
1	Reduce emissions of CO ₂ , sulphurous oxide, nitrogen oxides, solid pollutants, volatile organic compounds and ammonia
2	Reduce emissions and releases of priority substances, and stop or gradually eliminate releases, emissions and leaks of priority hazardous substances
3	Reduce landscape fragmentation and ensure protection and restoration of migratory routes, corridors, and stops of migratory species; preserve landscape character
4	Improve retention function of the landscape
5	Protect biodiversity hot-spots
6	Reduce number of old environmental burdens
7	Reduce consumption of primary non-renewable sources (electrical energy, heat)
8	Increase use of waste, preferring recycling
9	Reduce hazardous waste production
10	Support use of brownfields
11	Support environmentally-friendly forms of transport, including management measures
12	Reduce population burden in municipalities from exposure to transport noise and noise caused by industrial activities
13	Create a system of environmental education which will manifest itself positively in sounder approach to the environment
14	Maintain the area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources

C. Reference public health objectives

Public health objectives were formulated and assessed analogically. However, in view of the nature of the assessment, these objectives are regarded as supplementary, especially in view of very limited possibilities for setting, and, especially, monitoring of conclusive indicators of the Programme implementation in this field during the Programme period, concerning certain reference objectives of public health protection. The public health objectives were regarded

as supplementary, because it is not possible to statistically separate impacts of the Programme from other impacts, especially in the monitoring period lasting „only“ 7 years, and, further, in view of “overlap” with certain objectives aimed at environmental protection, and, thus, simultaneously, also at significant public health protection. Because of that, only a selected part of the formulated objectives was transferred to the level of project evaluation (a part is primarily initiated by the environmental objectives).

5. Basic results of the assessment

5.1. Assessment of the global objective of the Programme, and substantiation of the strategy

The proposal of the global objective, and substantiation of the strategy, are in accordance with sustainable development principles, and the Programme includes, both in its strategy and in its priority axes, support of the environmental pillar of development of the region. The only formal comment of the assessor was possible amendment of formulations in favour of strengthening of the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

5.2. Assessment of the priority axes

Environmental impact assessment of the priority axes and fields of support was carried out by means of their comparing with the reference environmental protection objectives, i.e., by means of assessment to what extent these priority axes, and, respectively, fields of support, contribute to achieving the reference environmental protection objectives, or, respectively, whether they are not contrary to them. The assessment scale described in the following table was used for assessment of the priority axes and fields of support.

Table Scale of environmental impact assessment

Assessment scale	
+ 2	strong positive impact of the priority (field of support) on the reference objective
+ 1	slight positive impact of the priority (field of support) on the reference objective
0	no influence (neutral impact)
- 1	slight negative impact of the priority (field of support) on the reference objective
- 2	strong negative impact of the priority (field of support) on the reference objective
x	impact cannot be assessed

Numerical quantification of the assessment according to the above Table represents the overall result of systematic assessment of the priority axis or field of support. Where possible and purposeful, the assessment took into account classification of impacts in accordance with the Directive 2001/42/EC categorising environmental impacts according to their likely nature and effects, in relation to:

- a) Positive or negative effect on the environment and sustainable development;
- b) Direct or indirect (secondary) nature;

- c) Duration, likeliness, irreversibility;
- d) Cumulative nature and synergistic co-effects of other influences;
- e) Fields of expected impact (human health, nature, environmental components, local (point) or non-point impacts, transboundary and global effects, etc.).

Within the framework of the assessment, direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short-term, temporary, long-term and permanent effects were taken into account.

The individual priority axes and fields of support were assessed separately by means of matrices, and, for the purposes of clarity, the results of the assessment were incorporated into summary tables representing aggregate assessment of the whole team of the SEA author.

The Programme will be implemented via the following four priority axes, specifying its global objective:

- Priority axis I. Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention
- Priority axis II. Improvement of conditions for development of business environment and tourism
- Priority axis III. Support of local community cooperation
- Priority axis IV. Technical assistance

The priority axes stated in the Programme are proposed in order to respond to the identified problems of the Czech - Polish border area. The selection of the priority axes stated in the Programme is based on the necessity to carry out selection of the needs with the aim to purposefully concentrate financial sources on solving the key problems, and to achieve the highest possible effectiveness of the implemented priorities.

Subsequently, aggregate results of the assessment of impact of the Programme priority axes on the reference environmental protection objectives are given in tabular form. The assessment was carried out separately (in a separate table) for each of the priority axes, using the above-mentioned procedure. In view of its specific nature, the priority axis IV, Technical assistance, was not assessed.

Table: Assessment of impact of the priority axes on the reference environmental protection objectives

Priority axis I. Strengthening of accessibility, environmental protection and risk prevention			
<p>Within the framework of the Priority axis I, there will be supported, in particular, activities focusing on development of infrastructure of the whole border area. This will concern especially projects aiming at strengthening of transport accessibility of the border area through modernization and development of transport infrastructure of regional and local importance. Projects connected with reconstruction and modernisation of local roads, and projects focusing on improvement of technical condition and safety, will be also supported. There will be supported also projects connected with modernization of the preserved railway infrastructure. Further, projects contributing to improvement of the state of transport services, or focusing on construction of integrated transport systems, will be supported within the framework of this priority axis.</p>			
<p>In the field of environmental protection, support within the framework of the Priority axis I will be received by projects of border nature in the field of development and modernization of environment-related infrastructure, including activities connected with monitoring of, and responding to the environment-related risks. There will be supported especially projects in the field of efficient waste management, water supply, waste water treatment or use of renewable energy sources.</p>			
<p>In the field of risk prevention, support within the framework of the Priority axis I. will focus on projects of cooperation of rescue services and other institutions on both sides of the border, and on prevention of risks in the case of occurrence of emergency situations. Creation of an integrated rescue system in the border area will be supported. This cooperation is necessary, i.a. for improving safety on roads, and also for preventing risks which can influence the environment. Within the framework of the priority axis, environmental education will be developed.</p>			
	Reference environmental protection objectives	Environmental impact assessment	Comment
1	Reduce emissions of CO ₂ , sulphurous oxide, nitrogen oxides, solid pollutants, volatile organic compounds and ammonia	-1	To the highest possible extent, the best available techniques should be used, and transfer of pollution among the components eliminated.
2	Reduce releases, emissions and leaks of priority substances, and stop or gradually eliminate releases, emissions and leaks of priority hazardous substances	+1	
3	Reduce landscape fragmentation and ensure protection and restoration of migratory routes, corridors, and stops of migratory species; preserve landscape character	-1	
4	Improve retention function of the landscape	+1	
5	Protect biodiversity hot-spots	+1	
6	Reduce number of old environmental burdens	+2	
7	Reduce consumption of primary non-renewable sources (electrical energy, heat)	+1	
8	Increase use of waste, preferring recycling	+2	Advantageousness of
9	Reduce hazardous waste production	+1	
10	Support use of brownfields	+1	
11	Support environmentally-friendly forms of transport, including management measures	+2	
12	Reduce population burden in municipalities from exposure to transport noise and noise caused by industrial activities	+1	
13	Create a system of environmental education which will manifest itself positively in sounder approach to the environment	+2	
14	Maintain the area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources	-1	

Priority axis II. Improvement of conditions for development of business environment and tourism

The support within the framework of the Priority axis II will be intended for improvement of conditions for *development of small and medium enterprises* (SMEs), on the one hand, through direct support of small entrepreneurs and companies in innovation business, and, on the other hand, through development of services and infrastructure for science, research, and innovation business.

The projects supported within the framework of the priority will aim at support of competitiveness of SMEs, and establishing permanent cross border cooperation. Financial support may be provided for cooperation of institutions supporting SMEs, i.e., for example, chambers of commerce, business associations. Projects in the field of consultancy during establishing of this kind of companies, and advisory services for already existing companies will be implemented.

Within the framework of the priority, there will be supported activities focusing on establishing contacts with a partner on the opposite side of the border, for example, via organising exhibitions, fairs, exchanging experience, creating joint address basis, or organising seminars and training for SMEs. Cooperation in the field of research and development, education, innovation, and in the field of transfer of technologies, know-how supporting small and medium enterprises, will be supported. Also activities in the field of development of cooperation in education, including vocational preparation, and implementation of lifelong education, will be supported.

Projects focusing on balanced *tourism development*, including rural tourism, and on promoting values of the border area, will be supported within the framework of the Priority axis II. An important part will be formed by protection of the environment, cultural heritage and all sources which are significant wealth of the border area. Projects connected with development of tourism services, for example, building and support of activity of tourist information centres, will be supported.

Reference environmental protection objectives		Environmental impact assessment	Comment
1	Reduce emissions of CO ₂ , sulphurous oxide, nitrogen oxides, solid pollutants, volatile organic compounds and ammonia	+1	Use of innovation technologies to reduce emissions to air and water
2	Reduce releases, emissions and leaks of priority substances, and stop or gradually eliminate releases, emissions and leaks of priority hazardous substances	+1	
3	Reduce landscape fragmentation and ensure protection and restoration of migratory routes, corridors, and stops of migratory species; preserve landscape character	0	
4	Improve retention function of the landscape	0	
5	Protect biodiversity hot-spots	0	
6	Reduce number of old environmental burdens	+1	
7	Reduce consumption of primary non-renewable sources (electrical energy, heat)	+1	Use of innovation technologies and support of research and development
8	Increase use of waste, preferring recycling	+1	
9	Reduce hazardous waste production	+1	
10	Support use of brownfields	+2	In the case of use for
11	Support environmentally-friendly forms of transport, including management measures	+2	
12	Reduce population burden in municipalities from exposure to transport noise and noise caused by industrial activities	+1	
13	Create a system of environmental education which will manifest itself positively in sounder approach to the environment	+1	
14	Maintain the area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources	+1	

Priority axis III. Support of local community cooperation

A part of support within the framework of Priority axis III will be **networking** of cooperating local self-governments and entities providing public services established by them, including institutions in the field of exchange of information and experience. There will be supported also cross border cooperation in the field of preparation, implementation and use of communication and information technologies for the purpose of drawing up joint plans and strategies.

There will be supported activities focusing on establishing contacts and strengthening the existing cross border cooperation (joint conferences, symposia, scientific research, cultural and sport events, exhibitions, etc.), and also further activities focusing on promotion and preservation of joint traditions of the border area. Projects focusing on development of social, cultural and leisure time activities of local communities will be supported. There will be also supported cooperation of universities and youth organisations localised in the border area, youth exchanges, development of regional education, preservation of cultural traditions and promotion of partnership.

In the field of infrastructure, the support will focus on modernization of schools and other educational and cultural institutions necessary for implementation of local community cooperation.

A specific instrument which will be used for providing support is a so-called Micro-project Fund. The Micro-project Fund will be used for supporting projects of local importance having cross border impact, and projects focusing on improvement of cultural, social and economic relations.

Reference environmental protection objectives		Environmental impact assessment	Comment
1	Reduce emissions of CO ₂ , sulphurous oxide, nitrogen oxides, solid pollutants, volatile organic compounds and ammonia	0	
2	Reduce releases, emissions and leaks of priority substances, and stop or gradually eliminate releases, emissions and leaks of priority hazardous substances	0	
3	Reduce landscape fragmentation and ensure protection and restoration of migratory routes, corridors, and stops of migratory species; preserve landscape character	+1	
4	Improve retention function of the landscape	+1	
5	Protect biodiversity hot-spots	+2	
6	Reduce number of old environmental burdens	+1	
7	Reduce consumption of primary non-renewable sources (electrical energy, heat)	+1	
8	Increase use of waste, preferring recycling	0	
9	Reduce hazardous waste production	0	
10	Support use of brownfields	+1	
11	Support environmentally-friendly forms of transport, including management measures	+1	
12	Reduce population burden in municipalities from exposure to transport noise and noise caused by industrial activities	0	
13	Create a system of environmental education which will manifest itself positively in sounder approach to the environment	+2	
14	Maintain the area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources	0	

Summary assessment of environmental impact of the priority axes

It follows from the carried out assessment that the individual Programme priority axes are in accordance with majority of the reference objectives. In the case of the Priority axis I, the Programme implementation may show a slight negative impact on reference objectives Nos. 1, 3 and 14, however, the overall impact of the Priority axis I should be always positive. The Priority axes II and III will show only positive or neutral impacts on the reference environmental protection objectives. If projects are selected responsibly, none of the Programme priority axes will be in contradiction with the proposed reference environmental protection objectives.

5.3. Assessment of impacts of the fields of support

Assessment of impacts of the fields of support was carried out by an analogical tabular form as the assessment of the priority axes. Subsequently, detailed verbal assessment, including proposal of recommendations, was drawn up for each field of support. In view of big extent of this part of Environmental Impact Assessment of the Programme, it is not possible to quote here the tabular part, verbal descriptions or recommendations for all 15 fields of support. The overall result corresponds to the assessment of the priority axes, and, if detailed information is required, it is necessary to consult the relevant part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Programme.

6. Proposal of monitoring of the Programme implementation, and method of determination of environmental criteria for selection of projects

Monitoring of environmental impacts of the Programme implementation

The proposal of the system of monitoring of impacts of the Programme implementation is based on the fact that the content of the Programme must be general enough to enable interventions defined by the framework of the priority axes and the formulated fields of support. Thus, the instrument of the Programme implementation will be only the individual projects financed within the framework of the Programme. They can have - according to their specific nature - considerably different impacts on the environment and public health.

Moreover, when monitoring the Programme implementation, it is often impossible to distinguish whether, and to what extent, the development of the state of the environment, and, especially, of the public health, was caused by interventions of the assessed Programme, and to what extent by interventions of other strategies of the affected territory, or, respectively, processes taking place outside the whole system of support from the EU Structural Funds (for example, impacts of private capital, programmes of bilateral support, dynamics of “natural“ development, global influences, etc.).

For this reason, for setting of monitoring indicators as well as environmental criteria, there was adopted a system based on the already mentioned reference assessment framework harmonising monitoring of implementation on the Programme and project levels in view of interconnection of the reference objectives, indicators and environmental criteria of the selection of the projects. The reference assessment framework also enables practical gradual monitoring of intervention impacts “bottom-up”, through aggregation of the data of project impacts.

Setting of the system for determination of monitoring indicators for monitoring the impacts of the Programme implementation from the point of view of impacts on the environment and public health, and environmental criteria, may be regarded as one of the most important parts of the Programme assessment within the framework of the SEA procedure.

Monitoring of the monitoring indicators (criteria) should be carried out in the whole programming period, and it is based, i.a. on requirements of the provisions of Section 10h) of the Act No. 100/2001 Coll. on environmental impact assessment, as amended (duty of the entity submitting the Programme).

Proposal of environmental indicators

The following table lists the proposed monitoring indicators for environmental impact assessment of the Programme, based on the reference objectives formulated in the way described in detail in the previous chapter.

Table: Proposal of environmental indicators

Reference objective	Indicator	Units/ method of measurement	Definition
Reduce emissions of CO ₂ , sulphurous oxide, nitrogen oxides, solid pollutants, volatile organic compounds and ammonia	Emissions from all categories of sources: a) solid particles b) SO ₂ c) NO _x d) NH ₃ e) VOC f) CO ₂	thousand tons/year	Emissions of pollutants in certain time period.
Reduce releases, emissions and leaks of priority substances, and stop or gradually eliminate releases, emissions and leaks of priority hazardous substances	Emissions of priority hazardous substances	tons/year	Reduction of emissions of priority hazardous substances to soil, water, air. <i>Note: Priority hazardous substances according to the Stockholm Convention and the Water Framework Directive.</i>
Reduce landscape fragmentation and ensure protection and restoration of migratory routes, corridors, and stops of migratory species; preserve landscape character	Level of landscape fragmentation	km ²	Change of area of territories unfragmented by transport, having area more than 100 km ² <i>(Note: Fragmentation limits are roads showing traffic intensity higher than 1000 vehicles/day and multi-track railways).</i>
Improve retention function of the landscape	Restoration of the natural water regime of the landscape, and of elements of ecological stability.	Number of projects	Number of supported projects which will in some way contribute to restoration and improvement of the water regime of the landscape and of elements of ecological stability.

Reference objective	Indicator	Units/ method of measurement	Definition
Protect biodiversity hot-spots	Area of biodiversity hot-spots	%	Increase or decrease of area of biodiversity hot-spots within the framework of the Programme. <i>(Note: The following can be considered as biodiversity hot-spots: 1st and 2nd zones of National Parks and Protected Landscape Areas, National Nature Reserves, Territorial System of Ecological Stability, etc.).</i>
Reduce old environmental burdens	Number of eliminated old environmental burdens	Number of eliminated burdens	Number of eliminated old environmental burdens during the monitored period.
Reduce consumption of primary non-renewable sources	Energy production from renewable energy sources (RESs)	PJ	Total energy production from RESs - heat, electricity, as well as cogeneration of heat and electricity.
Increase use of waste, preferring recycling	Amount of used recycled waste	tons	Amount of used recycled waste.
Reduce hazardous waste production	Reduction of hazardous waste production	%	Reduction of hazardous waste production in the monitored period (%).
Support use of brownfields	Area of reused brownfields	ha	Area of brownfields, reuse of which was supported within the framework of the Programme.
Support environmentally-friendly forms of transport, including management measures	Investments into development of public transport	million CZK	Sum of investments into development of public transport (including bicycle transport).
Reduce population burden in municipalities from exposure to noise caused by transport and industrial activities	Noise burden of the inhabitants	Number of inhabitants	Reduction of the number of inhabitants living in areas where noise limit is exceeded.
Create a functional system of environmental education which will manifest itself positively in sounder approach to the environment	Environmental education	Number of projects	Number of projects which include environmental education, supported within the framework of the Programme.
Maintain the area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources	Area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources	ha	Difference in the number of hectares of forest land resources and agricultural land resources as a consequence of implementation of projects of the Programme (for example, transport infrastructure).

Setting of monitoring indicators of health protection

Appropriate indicators were proposed also for assessment of the Programme implementation from the point of view of health protection. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that incorporation of public health indicators into assessment of projects could - in the opinion of the SEA author - cause excessive complexity of the system (a simpler system which is complied with is more productive than a complex system raising resistance to its

implementation), the public health indicators have the nature of overview only, not recommendation.

It should be also noted that, in addition to the above-mentioned facts, the public health indicators partially overlap with the environmental indicators (impact on human health via the environment). Moreover, a number of indicators in the field of health impacts (for example, indicators of the following type: life expectancy in the region, incidence of tumour diseases in the region, or incidence of cardiovascular diseases in the region) cannot be used in practice for their low selectivity (influence of the Programme cannot be distinguished from other influences) or long-term nature of their evaluation (influences can be evaluated only on the basis of long time sequences).

2.1 Environmental assessment of projects

Environmental assessment of the projects during their selection (deciding whether they will be supported within the framework of the Programme) from the point of view of environmental impacts of the Programme implementation should be carried out by means of environmental indicators for selection of the projects. For this reason, setting of environmental criteria for selection of the projects and their incorporation into the system of selection with sufficient weight within the framework of the selection is a key instrument (“watchdog”) of compliance of the financed projects with the declaratory nature of objectives, priority axes and fields of support of the Programme.

These criteria were set in accordance with the reference assessment framework (environmental protection objectives and indicators of environmental impact of the Programme (see above)). Then, environmental assessment of a project should answer the question in which way the submitted project may influence the environment as concerns the reference environmental protection objectives.

Assessment of projects according to the proposed criteria should be carried out as an inseparable part of decision-making on approval (grant) of financial subsidy to the individual projects. Thus, assessment according to the environmental criteria should form part of the summary assessment of a submitted project within the framework of the selection procedure. On the basis of assessment of the projects according to the environmental criteria, only projects which do not show negative environmental impact should be subsequently approved or recommended for implementation. Simultaneously, in the case of projects having the same subject-matter, the ones assessed as more favourable from the environmental point of view should be recommended for implementation.

2.2 Environmental criteria for selection of the projects

The proposed environmental criteria, based on the set reference assessment framework, are specified below. These criteria should be incorporated, as supplementary ones, into the system of evaluation and selection of projects within the framework of the Programme. The entity submitting the Programme may carry out their selection, amendment or changes according to its needs and requirements in order that the criteria best reflect orientation of the submitted and assessed projects.

Table Environmental criteria for selection of the projects

Reference objective	Questions for assessment and selection of the projects from the environmental point of view
Reduce emissions of CO ₂ , SO ₂ , NO _x , solid pollutants, volatile organic compounds and ammonia	Will implementation of the project contribute to reduction of emissions of the main pollutants and CO ₂ , related to the given activity?
Reduce releases, emissions and leaks of priority substances, and stop or gradually eliminate releases, emissions and leaks of priority hazardous substances	Will implementation of the project contribute to reduction of emissions of: 1. organic carbon; 2. individual priority hazardous substances (according to the list of the Water Directive); 3. nitrogen, phosphorus in water?
Reduce landscape fragmentation and ensure protection and restoration of migratory routes, corridors, and stops of migratory species; preserve landscape character	Will the project decrease/increase the total area of territories unfragmented by transport? [Note: unfragmented territories: territories having area more than 100 km ² (<i>fragmentation limits are roads showing traffic intensity higher than 1000 vehicles/day and multi-track railways</i>)] Will the project increase/decrease landscape permeability for migration? <i>Note: shortening/lengthening of length of section permeable for migration for terrestrial or aquatic animals [km]</i> Will the project influence the landscape character in a negative way?
Improve retention function of the landscape	Will the project improve/worsen hydrological functions of the free landscape? [yes/no] Will the project contribute to reduction of artificial barriers in the inundation area? [yes/no] <i>Note: the artificial barriers may be, for example, unauthorised constructions in the inundation area</i>
Protect biodiversity hot-spots	Does the project show a significant positive/negative impact on a biodiversity hot-spot? [yes/no] <i>Note: the following areas should be regarded as significant biodiversity hot-spots: small-area specially protected areas, 1st zones of national parks and protected landscape areas, sites of Natura 2000 network, structural elements of territorial systems of ecological stability, etc.</i>
Reduce old environmental burdens	Does the project reduce risks of old environmental burdens?
Reduce consumption of primary non-renewable sources	Will the project contribute to reduction of consumption of non-renewable energy sources in comparison with the previous energy consumption? How high are the demonstrable carried out energy savings in comparison with the previous energy consumption, expressed: - in the absolute amount (PJ, GWh, etc.) - relatively (MWh/product, PJ/CZK, etc.) - in percentage (final/original consumption x 100 %)?
Increase use of waste, preferring recycling	What is the potential of material recovery of waste produced within the framework of the project? Does the project use construction and demolition wastes?
Reduce hazardous waste production	Will the hazardous waste production be decreased/increased within the framework of the project?
Support use of brownfields	Is the project implemented in „brownfields“ or on newly taken land? - Area of the brownfields used within the framework of the project in ha? - Area of the newly taken land in ha?
Support environmentally-friendly forms of transport, including management measures	Will the project implementation contribute to increase of the length of bicycle paths for bicycle transport separated from motor transport, walking and in-line routes?

Reference objective	Questions for assessment and selection of the projects from the environmental point of view
Reduce population burden in municipalities from exposure to transport noise and noise caused by industrial activities	Will the project contribute to increase or decrease of noise burden? If so, to what extent?
Create a functional system of environmental education which will manifest itself positively in sounder approach to the environment	Will the project contribute to support of the environmental education system?
Maintain the area of forest land resources and agricultural land resources	Will forest and/or agricultural land resources be taken within the framework of implementation of the project?

7. Method of incorporation of the SEA procedure recommendations into the Programme

The key method for incorporation of the SEA procedure recommendations into the Programme was the close cooperation of the SEA team with authors of the Programme, author of the Ex ante evaluation, and, respectively, with the Task-Force, from the very beginning of preparation of the Programme.

Thus, recommendations of the SEA team to working versions of the Programme could be gradually incorporated into the Programme. Analogously, also recommendations resulting from the process of discussion with the public were incorporated into the Programme, either through formalised steps (use of the Conclusion of the Screening and Scoping Procedure after discussion concerning the Notification of the Programme) or continuous respecting of recommendations of the SEA team.

As concerns recommendations resulting from late stages of the SEA procedure (public discussion of the Programme and its Assessment, Statement of the competent authority, etc.), the comments and recommendations will be solved on the basis of recommendations of the SEA team in the subsequent documents (in particular, in the Programme Supplement). These recommendations concern, in particular, setting of environmental criteria for selection of the projects.

Annex 4 – Final Ex-Ante Evaluation Report

Final Ex-Ante Evaluation Report on the
Operational Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation
Czech Republic – Republic of Poland
2007 – 2013

Prague, November 2006

Content

1. Introduction.....	<u>125</u>
2. Methodical Procedures.....	126
3. Forms of the Outcomes	126
4. Final Position of the Ex-Ante Evaluator	127
4.1.The Course of the Evaluation	127
4.2. Summary of Evaluations of Individual Chapters of the Document	127
4.3. Final Evaluation	130

1. INTRODUCTION

This Final Ex-Ante Evaluation Report on the Operational Programme Cross-Border Cooperation Czech Republic – Republic of Poland 2007 – 2013 (OP CBC CR-PL) is being submitted on the basis of an agreement concluded in 2006 between the Czech Republic, represented by the Ministry for Regional Development, as the Order Party, and Doc. RNDr. René Wokoun, CSc., as the Author, on carrying out an ex-ante evaluation of the Operational Programme Cross-Border Cooperation Czech Republic – Republic of Poland 2007 – 2013.

Members of the Evaluation Team:

- Doc. RNDr. René Wokoun, CSc., head of the team
- Ing. Marek Jetmar, Ph.D., team member
- RNDr. Jana Kouřilová, team member

The ex-ante evaluators started their activities immediately after the preparatory works on the operational programme had been initiated (February 2006) and provided continuous comments on submitted proposals.

The ex-ante evaluators participated in the following meetings:

- 7 February 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou – a meeting of the Czech national part of the Task Force.
- 17 February 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou – a meeting of the representatives of Czech euro regions.
- 21 - 22 February 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou – a meeting of both national parts of the Task Force aimed to discuss a proposed socio-economic analysis and SWOT analysis, to approve a proposal of prioritised axes and areas of assistance and to introduce the implementation structure of the Programme. An agreement was reached with both Ministries of the Environment on the principles of procedure in the preparation of an international SEA evaluation.
- 6 - 7 April 2006, Prague – a meeting of the representatives of MMR ČR, MF ČR and MRR PR, common selection of the author of the SEA evaluation)
- 18 April 2006, Rychnov nad Kněžnou – a meeting of the Czech national part of the Task Force.
- 24 - 25 April 2006, Bielsko-Biala – a collective meeting of the Task Force aimed to discuss and approve draft chapters 1-4 of the Programme. Within this meeting, a draft procedure for the international SEA evaluation was presented including proposed ways to engage the public in both countries.
- 24 - 25 May, Olomouc – a meeting of the representatives of MMR ČR and MRR PR aimed to incorporate the comments on chapters 1 - 4 of the Programme.
- 5 - 6 June 2006, Pardubice – a collective meeting of the Task Force aimed to discuss and approve a comprehensive draft of chapters 1- 4 of the Programme. The Task Force was introduced to the procedure of performing a SEA evaluation. Its members were asked to provide assistance in the distribution of information on the preparation of the programme, the SEA evaluation and a preliminary public seminar/discussion on

a draft conception.

- 21 - 22 June 2006, Katowice – a meeting of the representatives of MRD CR and MRD RP aimed to technically harmonise the OP CBC CR - RP and to finalise chapter 5 of the OP.
- 25 July 2006, Karlova Studánka – incorporation of the comments of the members of the Monitoring Committee.
- 13 - 14 September 2006, Prague – a meeting of the representatives of MRD CR and MRD RP together with MF CR, MF RP and ME CR, ME RP on the preparation of the period 2007-13 (Operational Document Cross-Border Cooperation CR-RP, SEA evaluation).

2. METHODOICAL PROCEDURES

The ex-ante evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methodology published by the European Commission for the creation of operational programmes and their ex-ante evaluation (such as Aid memoire), in accordance with the methodologies and recommendations published by the MRD Evaluation Unit on the creation of OP (Methodology for the Preparation of Programme Documents for the Period 2007-2013, updated version, February 2006) and on carrying out ex-ante evaluation of documents for the programming period 2007-2013.

The recommendations of the ex-ante evaluator National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF CR) on creation of OP were considered.

In accordance with the rules and regulations relevant to ex-ante evaluation of programme documents, three basic principles were applied during the evaluation process and the formulation of the outcomes:

- 1) The Principle of Continuity, i.e. the evaluators continuously evaluated individual parts of the document as it was being prepared and provided their partial views and comments. These comments included mainly their recommendations to supplement, alter or modify the document in preparation. The comments were provided in the form of both written materials and verbal comments.
- 2) The Principle of Cooperation, i.e. the evaluators' activities were not performed in isolation from the activities of the team which was preparing the programme document, on the contrary, both groups of experts worked in close cooperation, e.g. within the framework of the working groups, individual personal communication of the individual team members or electronic communication.
- 3) The Principle of Active Assistance – the evaluation team formulated a number of recommendations and alternatives concerning the analytical part, strategy and indicators.

As a result of the application of the above suggested principles, the programme document was successfully finalised so that its final version contains all relevant parts required by the European Commission and, in an appropriate manner, meets all requirements placed on the content of programme documents intended for implementation within the programming period 2007 – 2013.

3. FORMS OF THE OUTCOMES

During the ex-ante evaluation, the outcomes to the draft documents were presented by the evaluation team in the form of:

- a) comments and opinions submitted to the Order Party,
- b) verbal suggestions, opinions and comments provided in regular meetings with the Order Party,
- c) participation in meetings organised by the OP Controlling Body.

4. FINAL POSITION OF THE EX-ANTE EVALUATOR

The submitted final position summarises the views and opinions of the ex-ante evaluator on the final version of the programme document for the goal European Regional Cooperation – **Operational Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation Czech Republic – Republic of Poland 2007-2013.**

4.1. The Course of the Evaluation

The ex-ante evaluation process ran concurrently and continuously with the creation of the OP. The evaluation team was continuously being informed of the current outcomes of the individual parts of the OP. The communication took the form of both meetings and electronic communication, where the Order Party provided up-to-date versions of the document for review by the ex-ante evaluation team (ET). During the creation of the OP, the ex-ante evaluators provided their continuous working opinions both to the author of the OP and to the Order Party, both in written and verbal form. The ET also monitored the link between the OP and the documents of both member states, above all NSRF, because the issue of territorial cooperation became an organic part of these documents.

The ET states that the process of creating the document and incorporating the views of the ex-ante evaluator was carried out through the institution (mechanism) of a Task Force, with participation of the representatives of territorial self-administration – regions in the Czech Republic, voivodeships in Poland and euro regions and is convinced that the principle of equal representation of men and women has been observed.

From the ex-ante evaluation point of view, the pre-set Task Force (TF) mechanism was a sufficient tool for the inclusion of all stakeholders interested in the implementation of the OP on both sides of the border. Through the TF, all important players participated in all significant decision making. The evaluation team considers the process of consultations, discussions and comments to have been sufficient and intensive in both partner countries during the entire preparation of the document.

The consultation process contributed to improvements in strategy and helped to define the priorities of the operational programme more precisely.

4.2. Summary of Evaluations of Individual Chapters of the Document

Socio-economic analysis and SWOT analysis

Both these chapters were repeatedly altered and modified during the preparation of the OP, the ET participated significantly in these modifications. The ET emphasised the need to: 1) treat and understand the territory as one region, 2) focus on defined areas where assistance can be provided, 3) prepare the socio-economic characteristic in a brief and matter-of-fact way. In accordance with the recommended methodology, the ET

recommended reducing the extent of the analytical part and of the SWOT analysis to approximately 15 pages, which was accepted in the final version.

The ET recommended supplementing the SWOT analysis with threats and opportunities for all partial issues. This is important for setting the strategy, which draws on the opportunities extensively. The ET pointed out the necessity to prove the linkage between individual SWOT statements and the analysis and to arrange the order of the statements according to their urgency.

Furthermore, the ET recommended including the analysis of experience gained during the current and, as the case may be, the previous (pre-entry assistance) programming period as well as its reflection for the setting of the strategy and for the implementation of the OP.

The ET posed the following questions: Does the analysis adequately reflect the characteristics of the territory? Does the analysis and SWOT meet the needs of the OP cross-border cooperation? Does the order of SWOT statements take account of the significance of the issue for the development of the territory? Is the territory approached as a region facing common problems caused by the continuing existence of barriers and as a region which can develop its so-far neglected potential and exploit the opportunities resulting from European integration, advancement of the knowledge of economics and information society?

Over the time, the ET received the analysis and the SWOT analysis in four versions, which were continuously commented. The ET recommended modifications concerning mainly the definition of relevant issues for the analysis and their arrangement into individual chapters, the selection of indicators characterising the territory and their harmonisation on both sides of the border, the linkage between the analysis and the SWOT analysis etc.

The ET states that in view of the fact that the author of the OP adequately responded to recommendations of the evaluation team, the above-posed questions related to the analysis and the SWOT analysis can be answered positively.

Strategic part

The most significant recommendations were related to this chapter.

The ET received the first version of the strategic part of the OP quite early, however, it did not correspond entirely with the conception of cohesion policy in the period 2007-2013. Since the beginning, a relative agreement has existed on the number of priorities and on their material focus both among the participating stakeholders and between the author and the ET, however, some differences surfaced mainly when the overall conception of the strategy and the links between the objectives and OP priorities were considered.

The ET recommended creating three priority areas focusing on the development of the economy and innovation potential, on the quality of the physical environment (availability and the environment) and on the development of human potential and cooperation of communities, and an additional priority for technical assistance. The objective was to a) emphasise the factual linkage to European documents (Community Strategic Guidelines - CSG), b) respect the planned setting of the cohesion policy in CR and RP stated in NSRF in both countries, so that the method of implementation of the strategies is recognisable at the OP level and so that efficient complementarity among individual OP of the objective European territorial cooperation (cross-border cooperation) and among OP of individual objectives of the cohesion policy is reached.

The author submitted three versions of the strategies, which were gradually modified

according to the comments of the ET “which put emphasise on simplicity, transparency and mutual links”. Above all, the following problems were concerned:

- a) the text of the strategy lacked coherence, the logic behind the arrangement of issues was unclear,
- b) some parts of the text were very general, it was necessary to concretise the presumed actions in more detail,
- c) the text included declaratory statements which were making it unnecessarily awkward,
- d) some places overlapped or were even duplicated,
- e) the text describing the priority did not include the links between partial issues such as transportation and the environment, even though the text evidently contained all relevant factual issues.

During the consultation process a strong consensus emerged with respect to the content of the individual priorities and areas of assistance. The viewpoints of the ET related to the links among the priorities and elaboration of the content of the priorities were accepted by the author and incorporated into the final version of this chapter of the OP.

The ET recommended placing emphasise on the linkage between the OP strategy and the relevant regional documents (e.g. ROPs and other OP CBC) and between cohesion policy interventions and the rural development policy (EAFRD).

The ET posed the following questions: Is there direct linkage between the outcomes of the analysis, the SWOT statements and the experience from the current period on one hand and the objectives and priorities on the other? Does the draft strategy correspond with the new premises and objectives of the Economic and Social Cohesion Policy for the period 2007-2013, does it help integrate the territory divided by national borders, which faces common problems and requires common solutions? Is the strategy focused on strengthening competitiveness of border areas?

In view of the fact that the author accepted all comments and recommendations of the ET, the strategic part can be accepted as satisfactory from the ex-ante point of view.

The ET recommended significant modifications to the framework of proposed indicators taking into account their accurateness and the actual possibilities to collect the data necessary to prove their fulfilment. The suggestions of the ET were partially accepted.

The implementation of the OP

The OP contains an adequate description of the prepared institutional structure and mechanisms for the control and coordination of the cross-border cooperation CR-RP in the next programming period. Individual parts of the implementation chapter were continuously modified and harmonised in accordance with the planned processes and recommendations of the ET.

The ET believes that some processes related mainly to project administration will need to be further specified. The ET is aware that these details will be stated in the implementation document.

The ET posed the following questions: How will the process of selection and approval of projects be conducted? In what way will the assistance from the Microprojects Fund be provided? How will the assistance in the creation of projects be provided (strengthening the absorption capacity)? How will the application be structured and in which language?

The chapter contains a detailed listing of competences of individual bodies within the top part of the implementation, financial and control system. Less space is dedicated to the effort to remedy current problems in the area of management and administration. The text could have included the planned simplification of the implementation process including the impacts on administrators and end-recipients of assistance. The ET also repeatedly recommended reducing the number of intermediary subjects participating in the administration of the OP.

However, the ET considers this part to be adequately prepared as well.

4.3. Final Evaluation

The evaluation team believes that the OP CBC CR-RP meets all requirements for an operational programme of the objective European Territorial Cooperation of the Economic and Social Cohesion Policy.

Annex 5 – Ex ante observation settlement

Nr.	Ex ante observation	Accepted / partially accepted / not accepted	Comment
1st round of observations to Chapters 1 - 2:			
<i>Basic information on the Programme</i>			
1.	In the territorial delimitation of the Programme, consider whether it is necessary to state lists of districts in the text, taking into account that the NUTS III region was determined as the binding unit of the Programme.	Accepted	Only regions of the NUTS III level were stated in the text.
2.	A mention on existence of euroregions and their role is missing in the text.	Accepted	This was added into the text of Chapter 1, and also into the map of the eligible area.
<i>Characterization of the eligible area</i>			
3.	In the socioeconomic analyses, there is emphasised the need to concentrate on material eligible areas.	Accepted	
4.	Draw up the socioeconomic analysis briefly and matter-of-factly - it is recommended to shorten it to ca 15 pages.	Accepted	
5.	It is recommended to join the Chapter Demography with the issue of employment and education.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.1
6.	In the description of economic performance, it would be suitable to prefer relative values relating to a person and in PPP, to compare these data from the national and European points of view. The level of detail of information concerning the Polish subregions is regarded as too high. In view of presence of the subsequent chapter describing the structure of the regional economy, we recommend to interconnect these parts.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.2 and 2.2.1
7.	Description of economic structures is regarded as insufficient and very general. Clear outputs for SWOT and forming of the strategy do not ensue from the chosen method. We recommend interconnecting this field with the research and development and innovation field.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.2.2
8.	It is necessary to reflect separately natural potential for sustainable tourism	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.2.3

	<p>and cultural wealth, which can be used for meeting cultural needs of both the local inhabitants and the visitors. The author should reflect variability of natural conditions; balneology and incorporation of the region into the broader tourism strategies is fully omitted.</p> <p>Quality of tourism infrastructure and tourism products, impact of seasonal changes on development of tourism, and cooperation in the field of tourism, are reflected in an insufficient way in the text.</p>		
9.	<p>High number of tables intending to describe situation on the labour market is present - it would be more suitable to use dynamics and focus only on limited number of indicators. Emphasize differences between supply and demand on the labour market, differences between the Czech and the Polish labour markets, existence or non-existence of links between them, commuting (also across the border), long-term unemployment, etc. The issue of education level and its link to education is completely missing!</p>	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.1
10.	<p>Incorporation of the issue of education into the context of research and development and innovation is possible, however, the ex ante evaluation prefers a link directly to business. Link to universities, capacities in the field of research and development, their importance for development of the region, are not specified here. The issue of use of modern technologies (link to building of information society) is mentioned in the text - however, the analysis does not focus more closely on the individual aspects - i.e., what should be the subject-matter of the interventions - for example, development of communication networks, increase of accessibility, improvement of the ability to use the technology, widening of the applications etc.; thus, it does not provide basis for focus of the Programme.</p>	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.2.2
11.	<p>Two high emphasis is put on the NATURA 2000 network - higher emphasis should be put on the issue of care of nature and landscape, issue of environmental infrastructure, issue of energies and solution of risks. Fields on which interventions should focus do not ensue from the text - for example, integrated rescue system, technological risks, joint waste water treatment plants, etc.</p>	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.3
12.	<p>The author mentions well developed communication system in the analy-</p>	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.4

	<p>sis, on the other hand, he notes the issue of "cohesion" of the system (it is not much obvious, what the author means) and, in particular, unfinished basic network of high-capacity roads and railways. High emphasis is put on railway transport. The issue of environmental aspects of the transport is not solved in the analysis, the issue of transport accessibility, aspects of development of environmentally-friendly ways of transport, and integrated transport systems are fully omitted.</p> <p>High attention is paid to the issue of border crossings. Entry of the both countries into the Schengen area will mean a necessity to find a new use for this infrastructure, and jobs for the dismissed employees.</p>		
13.	Complete the analysis by experiences gained during the present, or, respectively, previous programming period.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 2.6
<i>SWOT analysis</i>			
14.	Interconnection of the analysis and SWOT analysis - grouping of the statements does reflect neither order of the analysis nor the proposed structure of priorities.	Accepted	
15.	Completion of the opportunities and threats in the SWOT analysis in the case of all the partial themes for the reason of setting of the strategy, which is significantly based on the opportunities. It is necessary to prove link of the individual SWOT statements to the analysis, and order the statements according to their urgency.	Partially accepted	Ordering of the statements according to their urgency was not accepted - it does not ensue from the general methodology of preparation of SWOT analysis - on the basis of the European Commission observations this was incorporated into the Programme.
2nd round of observations to Chapters 3-5:			
<i>Programme objectives and strategies</i>			
16.	A strategy must be logically structured, it must respect findings of the analysis, it must be based on the SWOT analysis statements, and it must comprise substantiation - interconnection of the interventions, mutual causality supporting synergistic effects. The objectives must be quantifiable. In accordance with position of the European Commission, we recommend to apply the system one objective -> one priority in projecting the strategic objectives into the priorities.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 3.1

17.	It is recommended to create three material priorities (focusing on development of economy and innovation potential, on quality of physical environment, and on cooperation of communities) and one for the technical assistance.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 3.1
18.	Emphasize on simplicity, transparency, and interconnections within the framework of the strategy.	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 3.1 a 3.2
19.	Emphasize link of the OP CBC CR - PL strategy to the relevant regional operational programmes and to the other OPs CBC both in the Czech Republic and in Poland, and link of the OP CBC CR - PL to interventions within the framework of economic and social cohesion and to rural development policy (EAFRD).	Accepted	Incorporated into Chapter 3.3
<i>Monitoring and evaluation indicators</i>			
20.	Modify the proposed indicators in view of their truthfulness and of real possibilities of collection of data in the way to enable proving that they have been met.	Partially accepted	
<i>Programme implementation</i>			
21.	It is necessary to further specify the processes of administration of projects in the related documents.	Accepted	
22.	It is proposed to reduce the number of intermediate bodies in the Programme.	Not accepted	For the reason of the characterization of the Programme and the territory (lengths of the border is almost 800 km), it is necessary to maintain proximity of the intermediate bodies to the applicants and potential beneficiaries. This system proved its worth within the framework of implementation of the Interreg IIIA CR - PL programme.

Note: Ex ante observations which do not form part of the Final Ex Ante Report (Annex 4 to the OP CBC CR - PL) were taken into account in the OP CBC CR - PL within the framework of the interim ex ante assessment (Interim Ex Ante Report of February 16, 2006) during drawing up of the document already.