COOPERATION PROGRAMME INTERREG V-A LITHUANIA – POLAND CCI 2014TC16RFCB031

Under the European Territorial Cooperation Goal
2014-2020

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2015

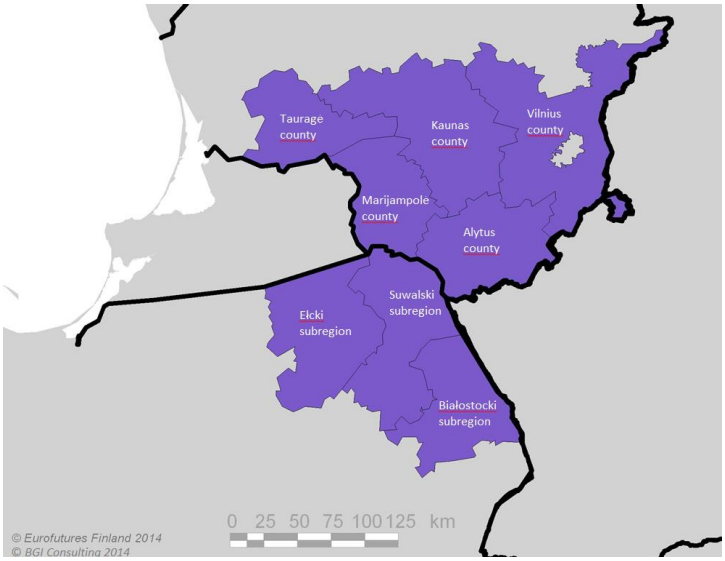
The Interreg V-A Lithuania-Poland cooperation programme (hereinafter – Programme) is the cross-border cooperation programme, partly financed from the European Regional Development Fund under the European territorial cooperation (hereinafter – ETC) goal for the period 2014-2020. The Programme is a continuation of the cooperation started within the ETC cross-border cooperation Programme Lithuania-Poland 2007-2013.

Objective

The overall objective of the Programme is to foster smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the border area through cross-border cooperation. The Programme seeks to contribute to regional growth and quality of life through closer cross-border cooperation between people and institutions of the Programme area.

Programme area

The eligible area of the Programme is comprised of 8 territorial units: 5 south-western Lithuanian counties and 3 north-eastern Polish subregions. Total size of the Programme area is 49.434 km2.



Funding

The ERDF support to the Programme is **51.488.135 EUR** (85 % of total budget).

The national counterpart is **9.086.143 EUR** (15 % of total budget).

Both sources together make **60.574.278 EUR** total budget of the Programme.

15 December 2015

is the date when the Programme was approved by the European Commission (hereinafter – the EC) its decision C(2015) 9279.

CP managing bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit
Managing Authority	The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania Address**:** Šventaragio g. 2, LT-01510 Vilnius, Lithuania
National Authority – a co-operating institution acting as the main partner for the Managing Authority on the Polish side of the border	The Minister of Economic Development of the Republic of Poland Address: Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3/5, 00-507 Warszawa
Audit Authority	The Internal Audit Division of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, supported by the Group of Auditors Address: Šventaragio g. 2, LT-01510 Vilnius, Lithuania
Joint Secretariat	Public institution Joint Technical Secretariat Address: Konstitucijos ave. 7, LT-09308, Vilnius, Lithuania
Regional contact points	The RCP of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship is located in the Marshall Office of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship. The RCP of Podlaskie Voivodeship is located in the Marshall Office of the Podlaskie Voivodeship.

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European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN UNION

Who can apply?

- local, regional and national authorities;
- public bodies and bodies governed by the public law;
- NGOs

Funds

- TOTAL 20.010.873 EUR
- ERDF 17.009.242 EUR

PRIORITY AXIS 1: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

What can be done?

- development of joint tourism routes based on natural and cultural heritage (information and promotion material, information boards and signs, small scale tourism infrastructure);
- joint activities targeted at promotion of a region as a single tourism destination;
- implementation of joint cultural, artistic, educational activities for tourists in natural and cultural heritage sites;
- conservation, preservation, adaptation and sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage for tourism purposes (including eco-tourism) or social, cultural, educational and other community purposes;
- transfer of good practices, joint training and exchange of staff, development of joint tourism products and services, marketing of the heritage resources of the Programme area and other related capacities

Outputs to be reached

- number of heritage sites developed or adapted for the needs of tourists
- number of joint tourism routes developed
- number of natural and cultural heritage objects and related products

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Who can apply?

- local, regional and national authorities
- public bodies and bodies governed by the public law
- NGOs
- business support organisations (applicable only for Investment priority 1)

Funds

TOTAL
14.539.151 EUR

ERDF
12.358.278 EUR

Outputs to be reached

IP 1: 1) Number of new or upgraded joint (or promoting cooperation) services for business;
2) Number of persons having participated in joint trainings and events

IP 2: 1) Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training;
2)Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives

PRIORITY AXIS 2: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

What can be done?

Investment priority 1

- cooperation activities between business support organisations
- joint development and implementation of business acceleration, entrepreneurship and apprenticeship
- joint development and implementation of youth entrepreneurship projects
- activities supporting business cooperation
- transfer of good practices, joint trainings and exchange of staff between beneficiaries
- joint trainings, seminars and other events for youth, entrepreneurs, small and medium business

Investment priority 2

- provision of information and counselling on the labour market in CP area
- joint development and implementation of local employment initiatives and joint trainings
- joint development and implementation of joint employment initiatives for youth and older people, exchange programmes
- networking of educational and labour market institutions for contribution to better match between skills and the needs of labour market of the region
- implementation of joint study and trainings programmes in line with labour market needs
- transfer of the good practices for beneficiaries aiming to increase capacities to implement cross-border mobility, local employment and other employment initiatives
- exchange of experience and joint trainings for beneficiaries, unemployed people, people seeking changes in career, youth and communities, aimed at strengthening

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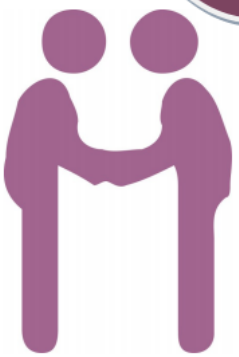

PRIORITY AXIS 3:
Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Who can apply?

- local, regional and national authorities
- public bodies and bodies governed by the public law
- NGOs

Funds

- TOTAL 9,692,768 EUR
- ERDF 8,238,852 EUR

What can be done?

- building cross-border links and networks of social and health care services, NGOs and volunteers
- engagement of different groups at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- sports activities aimed at social integration and healthy lifestyle promotion
- implementation of social and health care programmes
- investments in social services and health care infrastructure
- trainings for staff and vulnerable groups, staff exchanges

Outputs to be reached

- number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders;
- number of NGOs involved in cross-border cooperation for combating poverty and social exclusion;
- number of new or upgraded health care services and prevention programmes

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Who can apply?

- local and regional authorities;
- public service providers

Funds

- TOTAL 14.539.151 EUR
- ERDF 12.358.278 EUR

PRIORITY AXIS 4:
Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

What can be done?

- legal and administrative cooperation between authorities and public services providers;
- joint administrative operations and actions on climate change adaptation;
- transfer of good practices and cooperation activities between local and regional authorities and public service providers

Outputs to be reached

- institutions involved in the cross-border cooperation;
- persons having participated in joint trainings or exchange of staff

What was done in 2015?

First annual implementation report for the reporting period from **1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015** covers and describes mainly the preparation phase of the Programme.

The drafting of the Programme was organised in compliance with the partnership principle as referred to in Article 5 of the Regulation 1303/2013 [CPR] and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership adopted by the EC in December 2013.

The Programming Task Force (hereinafter – the PTF) acted as the main body responsible for the programming of the Programme, including making a proposal regarding the Programme to the national governments of Lithuania and Poland. Representatives from the **Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania** and from the former **Ministry of Infrastructure and Development of the Republic of Poland** (renamed to the Ministry of Economic development) as well as partners representing regional, local authorities and socio-economic partners from the Programme territory were involved in the work of the PTF.

In the period from July 2012 till November 2015 **thirteen** PTF meetings as well as **four** working meetings of the national institutions were organised in Lithuania and Poland for preparation of the Programme and Programme implementation related documents (drafted Rules of Procedure of the Joint monitoring committee Programme Communication strategy, Programme Manual, technical assistance budget etc.).

First Annual Implementation Report has been prepared in accordance with Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Article 14(3) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 as well as Annex X of the Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/207.

2016 will be full of activities in the Programme: Joint Monitoring Committee will be established, Programme implementation related documents will be approved, launching conference will be arranged, first call for proposals launched, series of capacity building seminars organised for potential beneficiaries from Lithuania and Poland.