

**LACE-PHARE CBC**

**DRAFT**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

*Czech-Polish Cross Border Co-operation*

**March 2000**

## 1. Profile of the border region

### 1.1. Definition of the border or cross-border region and Map

The CEC-CEC borderline between the Czech Republic and Poland is 790 km long with four Euroregions. In its western part it is demarcated by the River of Lusatian Nisa, where the trilateral Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa (D/CZ/P) is situated. Eastwards, there is located the Czech-Polish Euroregion Glacensis, Euroregion Pradid, Euroregion Silesia. In the eastern part the Czech-Polish border it ends in the territory where the Euroregion Těšínské Slezsko is located (Těšín Silesia).

**Definition of the Czech border region:** based on the new reform of the territorial arrangement being in force since January 2000 there are 14 border regions located in 5 self-governing districts, i.e.:

<b>District of Liberec:</b>	regions Liberec, Jablonec nad Nisou, Semily
<b>District of Hradec Králové:</b>	regions Trutnov, Náchod, Rychnov nad Knížnou
<b>District of Pardubice:</b>	region Ústí nad Orlicí
<b>District of Olomouc:</b>	regions Šumperk, Jeseník
<b>District of Ostrava:</b>	regions Bruntál, Opava, Karviná, Frýdek Místek, Ostrava

Definition of the Polish border region: since the year 1999, based on the territorial reform there are 16 powiats situated in 3 districts (województwo), i.e.:

<b>województwo Dolnośląskie:</b>	powiat kamiennogórski, lubański, jeleniogórski, lwówecki, zgorzelecki, klodzki, zabkowicki,
<b>województwo Opolskie:</b>	powiat krapkowicki, nyski, prudnicki, głubczycki
<b>województwo Śląskie:</b>	powiat raciborski, rybnicki, wozisławski, bielski, cieszyński

### Euroregions

In the years 1991-1998 there were established cross-border regional associations, which focused their activities on the following territories:

Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa consists of the following member towns and municipalities of regions:

- (CZ) Liberec, Jablonec nad Nisou and Semily (border line with Poland) and Ěeská Lípa, Diěín (border line with Saxony).
- (PL) boleslawiecki, jaworski, kamiennogórski, lubański, jeleniogórski, lwówecki, zgorzelecki and zlotoryjski (all of them województwo dolnośląskie), zagański, zarski (województwo lubuskie) and town of Jelenia Góra.

Euroregion Glacensis consists of the following member towns and municipalities of regions:

- (CZ) Trutnov, Náchod, Hradec Králové, Rychnov nad Knížnou, Ústí nad Orlicí, Šumperk and Jeseník
- (PL) powiat klodzki, zabkowicki (województwo dolnośląskie)

Euroregion Pradid/Pradziad consists of the following member towns and municipalities of regions:

- (CZ) Bruntál, Jeseník

- (PL) powiat krapkowicki, nyski, prudnicki (województwo opolskie)

Euroregion Silesia consists of the following member towns and municipalities of regions:

- (PL) powiat głubczycki (województwo opolskie), raciborski, rybnicki, wozisławski (województwo śląskie)
- (CZ) Opava

Euroregion Těšínské Slezsko (Těšín Silesia)/Śląsk Cieszyński consists of the following member towns and municipalities of regions:

- (CZ) Karviná, Frýdek Místek
- (PL) powiat bielski, cieszyński (województwo śląskie), town of Jastrzebie Zdrój.

EUROREGION		Total	P	CZ	D
Nisa-Nysa	km <sup>2</sup>	12193	4124	3545	4524
	Number of inhabitants (x 1000)	1759	556	483	720
Glacensis	km <sup>2</sup>	8351	1902	6449	-
	Number of inhabitants (x 1000)	940	199	741	-
Pradid-Pradziad	km <sup>2</sup>	4078	1613	2465	-
	Number of inhabitants (x 1000)	342	214	128	-
Silesia	km <sup>2</sup>	1469	1247	222	-
	Number of inhabitants (x 1000)	359	240	119	-
Těšínské Slezsko – Śląsk Cieszyński	km <sup>2</sup>	1528	928	600	-
	Number of inhabitants (x 1000)	657	297	360	-

## 1.2. Political / administrative structures

**Czech Republic:** The main structure of local administration in the Czech Republic is based on municipalities. The municipalities are very fragmented in the Czech Republic (the biggest one is Prague with ca 1.2 mil. inhabitants, the smallest ones having several dozens of inhabitants; altogether there are more than 6 thousand self-governing municipalities in the Czech Republic). The electoral period is 4 years long, last election was held in November 1998. Since January 2000, the Czech Republic has been divided into 14 self-governing districts based on the constitutive law. These districts have no administration so far, as elections are not to be held before November 2000 and the Parliament of the Czech Republic has not passed further necessary laws on the transfer of competencies from the centre to districts. Based on needs of statistic harmonization the 14 districts have been united into 7 regions NUTS 2. In addition the districts consist of regions (there are 72 regions in the Czech Republic – level NUTS 3) with regional councils, which are representatives of the state administration.

**Poland:** the main structure of local self-governing administration is represented by municipalities (towns and communities; in Poland there are ca 2,500 communities). The superior self-governing bodies are regions (powiats) headed by mayors. The powiat (there is total of 308 powiats in Poland) also acts as a state administrative body. There are 65 towns on

a level of powiat. Superior to powiats are wojwodstva (districts), their number being 16 in Poland. They are headed by wojwodas appointed by the government and marshals are representatives of elected local boards. Based on statistic needs wojwodstva are considered as level NUTS 2 and powiats as level NUTS 3. The electoral period of all the bodies is 4 years.

### 1.2.1. Main socio-economic characteristics for the entire border area

**Czech Republic:** in 14 border regions there live altogether 2.1 million inhabitants, i.e. 20 % of the total number of the Czech Republic population (altogether 10.2 mil. inhabitants) on the area of 12,958 km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 16 % of the total area of the Czech Republic. The biggest concentration of the population is in Northern Moravia.

The density of population per 1km<sup>2</sup> depends on concentration of industrial production, but also on accessibility of individual regions. A half of border regions does not reach general national values in number of inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>, but the territory as the whole exceeds the average for the Czech Republic, since there are big industrial agglomerations (the value is 160 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>).

The highest values of the density of population are in regions Ostrava-City (1,510 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>), Karviná (821 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>) and Jablonec nad Nisou (220 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>), where there is a concentration of industry and inhabitants. Traditionally the lowest values are reached by mountain regions – Jeseník (60 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>), Bruntál (64 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>) and Rychnov nad Knížnou (79 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>), which have lower level of the infrastructure due to their mountainous profile. In border regions there are vast territories with prevailing rural inhabitants (i.e. more than 50 % of inhabitants lives in mountain communities) – regions of Semily and Ústí nad Orlicí).

#### Czech districts in border

Okres/region	N. of inhabitants (1998)	Surface (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density of population (inh/1km <sup>2</sup> )
Liberec	159446	924,93	172,4
Jablonec n.N	88506	402,25	220,0
Semily	75607	698,96	108,2
Trutnov	121726	1146,57	106,2
Náchod	112775	851,46	132,4
Rychnov n.K.	78926	998,0	79,1
Ústí n. O.	139324	1265,18	110,1
Šumperk	127400	1315,0	96,8
Jeseník	43300	718,0	60,1
Bruntál	106 038	1 659	64
Opava	181 969	1 144	159
Ostrava-místo	323 177	214	1 509
Karviná	284 714	347	820
Frýdek-Místek	228 725	1 273	180

**Poland:** in 16 border powiats there live ca 1.5 millions inhabitants, i.e. ca 4 % of the total Polish population (total number is 38.7 mil. inhabitants) on the area of 9,800 km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 3.1 % of the total area of Poland. The biggest concentration of the population is in the wojwodstvo of Silesia (398 inhabitants per 1 km<sup>2</sup>).

województwo on border PL/CZ	Surface km <sup>2</sup>	N. of inhabitants	N. of inhabitants in euroregions	v %
<b>Dolnośląskie</b>	19948	2985381	742600	24,9
<b>Lubuskie</b>	13984	1020345	12419	1,2
<b>Opolskie</b>	9412	1091077	268118	25,6
<b>Łódzkie</b>	12294	4894230	483864	9,9

### Unemployment

Unemployment in the Czech border region has been continually growing in recent 10 years, however the growth has been different in its particular parts. Dynamically developing areas are Liberec (1995 – 4 %, 1998 – 8 % rate of unemployment), Jablonec nad Nisou, Náchod and Opava. On the other hand, Jeseník, Karviná, Bruntál, Šumperk, northern part of the region of Liberec (Frýdlant – 15 % of unemployment) and southern part of the region of Opava became problem areas.

On Polish side of the border unemployment has been continually decreasing since 1995, nowadays being ca 10 %. The territorial unemployment misbalance can be seen as well (ca 4 % in Katowice, up to 20 – 30 % in Walbrzych) which is influenced by closing of non-profitable plants (coal mines in Walbrzych etc.).

Border regions have been affected by the migration and low growth of population. This negative trend stabilized by the end of the 90's and the number of inhabitants started to grow in some territories (e.g. in regions of Liberec, Bruntál).

### Environment

By the year 1990, the borderline area was suffering from environmentally problematic industry. Euroregions Neisse-Nisa-Nysa and Euroregion Glacensis were situated in the territory which was called the "Black Triangle" (Saxony-Northern Bohemia-South-Eastern Poland). Within recent 10 years there have been considerable investments into the protection of the environment. The quality of borderline streams increased (constructions and reconstructions of waste water treatment plants in almost all borderline regions). At the same time, there have been desulphurized power plants Turow, Rybnik, Opatovice, Chvaletice, Dítmarovice, metallurgical complexes in Ostrava, Tøinec and Katowice. Originally high concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> caused severe damage to forests, mainly in the Jizera Mountains. Continuous reduction of emissions partially established conditions for regeneration of forests. What seems to be a problem is a probable occurrence of floods in borderline mountain areas. All of the water streams in Czech-Polish borderline area are endangered, especially the River Smidá, upper stream of the Elbe, Jizera, Odra, Opava, Orlice, Bóbr, Nisa K<sup>3</sup>ódzka, Wisla.

### Transport

Before 1990 the overall situation in the transportation network was neglected regarding its peripheral location in relation to centres. Within recent 10 years the situation has improved, especially in increasing number of border checkpoints (road and mainly tourist ones for pedestrians). There are 67 border checkpoints (22 road points, 8 railway points and 37 pedestrian points) nowadays. The lack of high-capacity road checkpoints also suitable for the carriage of freight still appears to be a problem.

## **Economy**

The shared borderline area went through complicated economic changes during past 10 years. This meant damping of textile and industrial productions (mainly eastern part of border area), mountain agricultural, mining damping, metallurgy (eastern part of CZ/P border area) and related productions. In the beginning of the 90's free market rules were followed in Polish economy, which resulted in increase of unemployment, decrease of production and higher inflation. Changes of economic structures (privatisation, closing of non-profitable enterprises, establishing of new small and medium enterprises) result in stabilization these days. There were similar transformation changes in the Czech Republic as well. The amount of foreign trade between the Czech Republic and Poland increases each year, however the structure of commercial exchange is disadvantageous, as it is based on a direct exchange of goods, so far without any considerable development of common enterprises, investment activities, capital interests. Sensitive problems of duty protection of inner markets are being discussed within the CEFTA association. Purchase power of inhabitants on both sides of the border is almost the same.

## **Industrial structure**

Czech-Polish borderline area can be characterized as an agriculturally industrial region going through complicated economical changes, which resulted in damping of textile, partially also machinery production in its western and central part. In eastern part there could be seen mainly damping of the traditional mining, metallurgy and related production. Other important branches are chemical and pharmaceutical industries, engineering and electro engineering, as well as wood processing, paper making industry and also alimentary industry. When considering enterprises based on their size, small and medium enterprises dominate; a participation of big enterprises on employment still decreases.

## **Labour market**

Citizens of both the states might apply for a job in the neighbouring region without any major administration difficulties. Mutual employing, social and health insurance have been regulated by bilateral treaties.

## **Cross border trade**

The cross border commercial exchange between the Czech Republic and Poland is on a good level nowadays. It results from relatively high number of cross-border checkpoints and similarity of the Czech and Polish languages. The high intensity of the cross-border trade exchange includes mainly borderline kiosk trade, which is profitable for certain kinds of goods (e.g. alcohol, beer, eggs, cigarettes, petrol etc.). There are limits in force for duty-free import, and therefore some people cross the border several times a day to purchase goods, which they sell at home with a small profit.

### **1.2.2. Main socio-economic characteristics for selected cross-border regions**

#### **Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa:**

- On the Polish side, industry still has major importance and covers many enterprises mainly active in the fuel- and energy sector, mining and glass production, construction material and ceramics, textile and metal processing, machinery and electronics. A major advantage of the area is its location along the transport corridor that links Scandinavia to Southern Europe. This link is also crossed in the area by major motorways such as Wrocław-Berlin and the major international transport links to Dresden, Leipzig and Munich. Furthermore, the area has a well-developed tourism infrastructure.

- On the Czech side, industrial sectors such as glass production, construction material, textile and cloths, metal processing and machinery, textile and food processing or plastics are well developed. Between the cities of the area, well-developed transport links (road and rail) do exist. The Librec area has a freight airport terminal and a normal airport is in the Èeská Lípá region. The whole border area is linked to Prague by a motorway.

#### **Euroregion Glacensis:**

- On the polish side, the basis of the economy are tourism and health spa activities. Industrial activities play a minor role, however activities in the field of electronic machinery, furniture-, paper- or glass industry do exist. Coal mining activities are in decline. Unemployment at county level is in average 15%, in the towns of the area between 7,3 and 7,5%.
- On the Czech side, main economic activities are concentrated in quarry, wood and food processing industry, metal industry, production of domestic consumer articles and tourism. (80% of the population live in towns of the border area; overall unemployment is 5-6%.

#### **Euroregion Pradid/Pradziad:**

- On the polish side, economic activities are concentrated in agriculture and forestry sector as well as in industrial sectors such as food processing, construction of transport vehicles, shoe and textile, wood-processing and industrial engineering. Unemployment rates vary in the individual counties between 3,4% and 12,65.
- On the Czech side, dominant economic activities are concentrated in the chemical industry, brewery and wood processing industry. The well-developed tourism and road infrastructure constitutes a good basis for further development of tourism and health spa activities. The unemployment rate in the area of Bruntál is 11,8%.

#### **Euroregion Silesia:**

- Besides the well developed agriculture on the polish side, this part of the Euroregion is an important centre for extractive industries and other industrial activities in the field of metallurgy, energy, chemistry, food processing, textile and mineral processing. The unemployment rate in Racibórz is about 8%.
- The economy of the Czech part of the Euroregion is characterised by important agriculture and forestry activities and well developed industrial activities in the field of machinery, paper, pharmaceutical products, food processing, textile and furniture industry.
- In the area of the Polish/Czech Euroregion, 21 border checkpoints exist (3 general checkpoints and 1 railway checkpoint, 17 checkpoints for small borderland contacts)

#### **Euroregion Tšínské Slezsko (Tšín Silesia)/S<sup>3</sup>sk Cieszyński:**

- On the polish side, main strengths of the are rich natural assets and a well-developed tourism infrastructure In Cieszyn, a department of the Silesian university in Katowice does exist.
- Similar to the polish side, a well-developed tourism infrastructure does exist that gives opportunities to develop further in this field. A university does exist in Karwina.

### **1.4 Degree of cross border co-operation**

There was a very limited co-operation during the communist government period. Administrative bodies however supervised these contacts. The closest contacts between inhabitants were mainly in the area of Northern Moravia and Silesia, as local people are

historically very close. Before 1980 people were allowed to cross the borderline in both directions without limitations, although later on, due to social changes in Poland (Solidarnosc) it was possible to travel to Poland only based on a written invitation verified by the authorities. In this period, there came many Polish workers to look for a job in the Czechoslovakia; they settled permanently in the Czech borderline area.

After the year 1990, all of the limitations lost their force and there started a quick development of cross-border contacts and co-operation. Besides concluding non-formal contacts among people, businessmen etc. there have also been established formal links, which later developed in the institutionalisation of cross-border associations of municipalities, communities, regions and other subjects, which decided to make an effort to generally develop the cross-border co-operation. The survey of establishment dates is given in the table.

<b>Euroregion</b>	<b>Date of establishing</b>
Neisse-Nisa-Nysa	21.12.1991
Glacensis	5.12.1996
Pradid-Pradziad	2.7.1997
Tišínské Slezsko-Slask Cieszynski	22.4.1998
Silesia	20.9.1998

In the individual Euroregions, cross-border co-operation mainly concentrates on the following aspects:

- **Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa:** Economic development and trade, transport infrastructure, waste water treatment culture and social affairs.
- **Euroregion Glacensis:** business, elementary schools, sports clubs and associations, cultural institutions and museums, police, border-control, institutions of the state administration or the local administration.
- **Euroregion Pradid/Pradziad:** Economic development and trade, transport infrastructure, waste water treatment.
- **Euroregion Silesia:** Economic development and tourism, education and training, labour market, environmental protection, culture and social affairs, transport infrastructure and public transport.
- **Euroregion Tišínské Slezsko (Tišín Silesia)/S<sup>3</sup>sk Cieszyński :** Economic development and tourism

Besides there have been concluded mutual declarations of co-operation and bilateral agreements of co-operation of the type town-town or municipality-municipality, which included mainly the exchange of information and experience with the communal policy, mutual exchange in cultural and sport events etc.

In 1994 there was signed the "Agreement of the cross-border co-operation" on the inter-governmental level, which resulted into establishing of the inter-governmental committee for the cross-border co-operation.. The aim of the committee is mainly to create conditions for various forms of cross-border co-operation, to support performing of elementary tasks on the governmental level and to support Czech-Polish regional co-operation. Representatives of euroregions are regularly invited to participate in the committee meetings.

On the inter-governmental level there have been produced many studies and agreements, which resulted in the growth of the cross-border co-operation on both vertical and horizontal levels. These are e.g.:

- The coordination study of Czech-Polish borderline area (1995, 1998)
- The treaty between the Czech Republic and Poland of the common state frontier (1995)

- The treaty between the Czech Republic and Poland of the small borderland contacts
- The agreement between the Czech Republic and Poland on the co-operation in agriculture and the food industry
- The agreement between the governments of the Czech Republic and Poland on cross-border checkpoints and tourist paths
- The treaty between the government of the Czech Republic and Poland on co-operation in borderline waters
- and other treaties and agreements concerning construction of common roads, bridges etc.

The introduction of the Phare CREDO programme in the year 1997 resulted in further acceleration of cross-border links establishment, which, although not supported due to the small number of selected projects, still exist.

### **1.5 Barriers to cross-border co-operation**

The main barriers to cross-border co-operation are:

- a) Insufficient infrastructure, mainly insufficient number of road borderline checkpoints and access roads for road and freight transport without weight limitations. This situation partly results from geographical conditions, as about one half of Czech-Polish border consists of mountains with problematic accessibility
- b) Czech and Polish languages are mutually understandable, however in majority of borderline areas there is no possibility to learn neighbouring language (the exception represents Northern Moravia and Silesia)
- c) The lack of capital (both public and private) which would initiate inhabitants' activities and support cross-border mobility and performing of common projects
- d) Fear of the cross-border competition e.g. in the area of services in travel, retail trade in borderline regions (e.g. in the Jizera Mountains and the Giant Mountains [Krkonoše] area there are many accommodation facilities on both Czech and Polish sides, which might result in development of competition with positive and negative influences across the border)
- e) There are no ethnic or cultural problems
- f) There are no major problems with centralization. There exist euroregions on both Polish and Czech side as municipalities associations, which are considered by Czech and Polish governments as regional coordinators of practical cross-border co-operation
- g) Low transit speed when travelling through cross-border checkpoints (considering negative issues, mainly stealing of cars and their illegal transport across borders, border checks are performed duly).

For some of the individual Euroregions, the specific constellation of main barriers for cross-border co-operation can be summarised as follows:

- **Euroregion Glacensis:** Poor quality of the border checkpoint infrastructure that hampers contacts in the field of economy, trade, transport and human relationships (one main road-and rail checkpoint along a 200km border in a mountainous area). No convertible currency on the basis of reciprocity. High centralisation of decision-making too centralised competencies and role of the Czech State in the field of regional policy and local development. Different administrative systems on both sides of the border (lack of an adequate co-operation partner with self-governance status at NUTS 2 and 3 level). Different degree of information on the Euroregion in the media.
- **Euroregion Pradid/Pradziad:** The lack of a main cross-border checkpoint, the poor quality of road infrastructure and restrictive formalities for border crossing (this hampers

e.g. the participation of Czech exhibitors at the annual regional fare "Inter-Region" held in Prudnik). The Opawskie Mountains are not considered a barrier but rather an advantage, as they stimulate co-operation in the field of tourism.

- **Euroregion Silesia:** The restrictions that still exist at the checkpoints for small borderland contacts. Children are not allowed to cross without a passport, which restricts cross-border co-operation in the field of elementary schools.

## 2. Structures

### 2.1. Cross-border structures

There exist several common structures between the Czech Republic and Poland.

#### 2.1.1. Inter-governmental structures

In 1994 there was concluded "Agreement on cross-country co-operation" between governments of the Czech Republic and Poland, which resulted into establishing of **the Inter-governmental committee for border co-operation**. The aim of the committee is mainly to create conditions for various forms of cross-country co-operation, to support performing of elementary tasks on governmental level and to help in Czech-Polish regional co-operation. The committee has two presidents and 10 joint working groups:

- Working group for migration of labour force, social insurance and health sector
- Working group for protection of the environment
- Working group for avoiding catastrophes, breakdowns and calamities
- Working group for agriculture and food industry
- Working group for economy and business
- Working group for education and exchange of youth
- Working group for cultural development
- Working group for territorial self-governance
- Working group for transport and crossing the border
- Working group for regional development of the borderline area

The committee meets twice a year, its members are representatives of resort ministries; representatives of euroregions, economic chambers etc. are regularly invited for negotiations.

- a) **Czech-Polish committee for co-operation in borderline area waters** – created on governmental level, the aim is mutual co-operation in increasing the cleanness of borderline area streams
- b) **Working group Odra-Nisa** – created on governmental level, the aim is co-operation in solution of flood situations and prevention of floods

#### 2.1.2. Structures supported by EU

- a) **Black Triangle Phare Programme** – in the year 1994 there was implemented a programme for improving the environment with the participation of the European Union and governments of the Czech Republic, Poland and Saxony. There was designated an area which was provided with ca 20 mil. EUR in the period 1994-1999. A four-member secretariat with its office in Ústí nad Labem (CZ) was established based on needs of this programme and it was headed by a representative of the EU. Besides there was a representative of each of the three parties. The secretariat developed various environmental projects, evaluated the proposed projects, based on Phare procedures the secretariat appointed suppliers and checked implementation of projects supported with the programme means.

- b) **Phare CREDO Programme** – in 1997 the CREDO programme was launched. Based on the programme rules there was established so-called Regional Border Committee on both Czech and Polish side (20 representatives of local self-governing authorities and state authorities on each side), which evaluated the projects proposed and recommended their support to the European Commission. There were established two secretariats for administrative reasons, in Rychnov nad Knížnou (CZ) and Walbrzych (P). The programme included a pilot and the 1<sup>st</sup> round and was replaced in 1999 by the programme Phare CBC.
- c) **Phare CBC Programme** – in 1999, based on the European Commission directive on the Phare CBC Programme there was created the Joint Co-operation Committee, consisting of European Commission representatives, Czech and Polish governments representatives and euroregion representatives. In 1999, the commission's task was to submit proposals for allocation of 6 mil. EUR.

### 2.1.3. On regional level

#### a) *Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa*

Established in 1991, based on the signed agreement on co-operation among

- **Kommunalgemeinschaft Euroregion Neisse e.V. (BRD)**
- **Regionální sdružení Euroregion Nisa** (Regional association of Euroregion Nisa) (CZ)
- **Stowarzyszenie Gmin Polskich Euroregionu Nysa (PI)**

The cross-border euroregion is not a legal subject. Each part of the euroregion has its own budget and structure, based on the agreement they create together the following structure:

- Council of the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa (30 people, they meet once a year)
- ERN (Euroregion Nisa) Board (3 chairmen of individual parts)
- ERN Secretariat (each party has its own secretariat in Zittau, Liberec and Jelenia Góra)
- Working groups of ERN

#### b) *Euroregion Glacensis.*

First negotiations concerning its establishment were led in 1992; it was established in 1996 based on the agreement on co-operation between

- **Regionální sdružení pro spolupráci pohraničí Èech, Moravy a Kladsko** (Regional association for co-operation of border areas of Bohemia, Moravia and K<sup>3</sup>ódsko)
- **Stowarzyszenie Gmin Ziemi K<sup>3</sup>ódskej**

The cross-border euroregion is not a legal subject. Each part of the euroregion has its own budget and structure, based on the agreement they create the following structure:

- Euroregion Glacensis council (6 people, they elect a chairman for one-year period)
- Euroregion Glacensis Secretariat (each party has its own secretariat in Rychnov nad Knížnou and K<sup>3</sup>ódsko)
- Revision committees, control structure of the Euroregion.
- Working groups

c) *Euroregion Pradid-Pradzied.*

The mutual agreement on establishing the euroregion was signed in 1997 among:

- **Sdruž ením obcí a měst okresů** (Association of communities and municipalities of the regions) **Bruntál, Jeseník a Šumperk**
- **Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju Gmin Dorzecza Osobłogi**
- **Unia Turystyczna Ziemi Nyskiej**

The cross-border euroregion is not a legal subject. The overall structural set-up of the euroregion slightly differs from the other euroregions existing in the Czech-Polish border area: One part of the structures exists for the common cross-border area, an other part of the structures exists for each party of the cross-border area. Each part of the euroregion has its own budget and structure, based on the agreement.

The common structures are:

- Parliament of euroregion (30 people, 15 from each side. Each side elects from the delegates 1 chairman and 2 vice-chairmen)
- Board of euroregion (6 people)

Besides each of the parties has its own structure that is similar on both Czech and Polish side, i.e.:

- General assembly of members of the euroregion
- Euroregional council (15 members, also members of the Parliament of the euroregion)
- Revision committee, control structure of the euroregion (3 members)
- A secretary and an euroregional secretariat (one in Bruntál and one in Prudnik)
- Polish-Czech Working groups (at date 5: 1. Transport-Tourism-Recreation-Economic Information; 2. Economic Co-operation; 3. Rural Development; 4. Cooperation in Sports and Culture; 5. Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation)

d) *Euroregion Silesia.*

In 1998, the Agreement on establishing Czech-Polish Euroregion Silesia was signed between

- **Sdruž ení pro spolupráci česko-polského opavského Slezska** (Association for co-operation of Czech-Polish Opava Silesia)
- **Stowarzyszenie Gmin Dorzecza Górnej Odry**

The cross-border euroregion is not a legal subject. Each part of the euroregion has its own budget and structure, based on the agreement they create the following structure:

- Euroregional council (consists of general assemblies of member of both parties)
- Euroregional board (6 people, they elect a joint chairman)
- Revision committee, control structure of the euroregion (6 members, 3 from each side)
- Working groups (currently 2 working groups on history and economy)
- Secretariat (2 offices in Raciborz and Opava)

e) *Euroregion Těšínské Slezsko-Slask Cieszynski.*

It was established in 1998 based on the agreement between

- **Regionálním sdružením česko-polské spolupráce Těšínského Slezska** (Regional association of Czech-Polish co-operation of Těšín Silesia)
- **Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Współpracy Regionalnej "Olza"**

The cross-border euroregion is not a legal subject. Each part of the euroregion has its own budget and structure, based on the agreement they create the following structure:

- Euroregion council (consists of 8 members, 4 from each side. They elect 1 joint chairman)
- Secretariat (2 offices in Těšínský Těšín and Cieszyn)
- Temporary or permanent Working groups

## **2.2 Other structures/authorities/social partners engaged in cross border co-operation**

Cross-border co-operation performed also based on bilateral treaties / agreements of co-operation between municipalities, communities, chambers of commerce, schools or universities.

### **Within the area of the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa,**

Intensive cross-border co-operation exists in the field of culture and science. The universities existing in the euroregion's area concluded an agreement in November 1991, which was the base for establishing the "Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa research centre" in Liberec. More than 100 researchers work together in 10 trilateral research groups. The participants of the network are the technical university in Liberec, the technical college in Zittau ("Hochschule für Technik, Wirtschaft und Soziales"), the faculty of regional economy and tourism in Jelenia Góra of the academy for economics in Wrocław and a department of the technical university Wrocław, located in Jelenia Góra. In addition, the "International Institute for Higher Education" was created in February 1993. It is considered an important element of a truly cross-border approach in the field of education and research, which the aim to train specialists that know the economic realities of the three neighbour countries.

**Within the area of the Euroregion Silesia,** the following local authorities have signed partnership treaties: Kietrz, Pietrowice Wielkie – Sudice ; Baborów - Hradec nad Moravicí ; Racibórz – Opava ; Głubczyce – Krnov ; Krzyżanowice - Hat, Šilheřovice, Písek ; Wodzisław Śląski – Karwina ; Krzanowice - Chuchelna, Strahovice ; Branice - Uvalno

**Within the area of the Euroregion Pradziad,** the following cross border co-operation activities exist: Between local authorities (Nysa-Šumperk, Głuchocza - Zlaté Hory, rural villages), schools and sports clubs, the tourism boards (PTTK) and cultural organisms (cultural centres, choirs, orchestras). After the reform of local government structures in Poland, a co-operation at county level between the two countries begins to emerge.

**Within the area of the Euroregion Glacensis,** the following cross border co-operation activities exist: Between local authorities in the framework of town-twinings (Bystrzyca Kłodzka - Ústí nad Orlicí ; Duszniki Zdrój - Nove Mesto nad Metují ; Kłodzko – Nachod ; Kudowa Zdrój – Hronov ; Lewin Kłodzki - Olešnice w Orlických Horách ; Międzyzlesie - Králíky, Bartošovice w Orlických Horách ; Nowa Ruda – Braumov ; Radków – Machov ; Stronie Śląskie - Staré Místo p. Sn.), between the Polish natural reserve Góry Stołowe and the Czech protected landscape area Broumovsko, as well as between the agency of regional development in Nowa Ruda and the chamber of economy in Hradec Králové.

### **2.3. Activities/services**

Cross-country co-operation has been concentrated into the standard activities of euroregions, which organise various meetings of experts, seminars, conferences, issue information brochures and newsletters, mediate contacts etc.

### **2.4 Awareness of cross border co-operation issues/knowledge of CBC programmes**

In Czech-Polish border area there is a high level of awareness of cross-border co-operation.. Considering experience with the Credo programme, an elementary knowledge of Phare CBC programme is necessary, however majority of municipalities, communities and other institutions have not vast experience with the Phare CBC programme. Besides it is necessary to support the institutional development and development of euroregional capacities and to develop their abilities to organise cross-border activities and to implement projects.

### **3. Programme related Activities:**

#### **3.1 Strategy Development**

Based on the pre-accession strategy of the Czech Republic and Poland there have been prepared Regional operative programmes (ROP) on the NUTS II level.

In 1999 on the Czech side there were issued the followings documents for individual districts, which in the same time represent a supposed NUTS III level:

- Strategy of development of Liberec district
- Strategy of development of Hradec Králové district
- Strategy of development of Pardubice district
- Strategy of development of Olomouc district
- Strategy of development of Ostrava district

Consequently there were developed ROPs for accession of pre-structural funds

- Region NUTS II North-East (district of Liberec, Hradec Králové, Pardubice)
- Region NUTS II Central Moravia (district of Olomouc, Zlín)
- Region NUTS II Northern Moravia (district of Ostrava)

On Polish side the individual ROPs were developed for NUTS II

- wojwodstvo Dolnoœl¹skie
- wojwodstvo Opolskie
- wojwodstvo Œl¹skie

It is necessary to check, how the developed studies and programmes considered need of cross-border co-operation.

#### **3.2 Programming, especially Phare CBC/Interreg related**

In 1999, based on a new directive Phare CBC, there started activities on preparation of Joint Programming Document. Each party developed the Strategy of Border Area Development as a base for programming, which includes an analysis of the area, SWOT analysis and suggestion of measures. When developing the documents, all of local and regional participants are involved. Governments of both the parties are responsible for the development.

#### **3.3 Management of programme implementation**

General management and implementation is a responsibility of governments of both parties. On Czech side, the PMU Phare CBC is at the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, on Polish side it's in the Governmental Office. Both the offices represent an official place for accepting proposals of projects for the Phare CBC Programme. Individual evaluations of projects are made separately on each side, and then selected proposals are together approved in JCC. Besides representatives of governments and the European Commission, there are also representatives of euroregions in JCC. PMUs are responsible for implementation of projects.

Small projects funds are decentralized on regional level. Euroregions are responsible for selection of projects and their implementation on Polish side; they perform a function of the fund secretariat. On the Czech side, regional development agencies were designated as fund secretariats. Since on Czech-Polish border there functioned a fund only in Euroregion Nisa, the secretariat was in the Agency for the regional development Nisa in Liberec. The Fund of small projects for other euroregions is nowadays in progress (it is a Phare programme CBC 1999).

### **3.4 Project Development and Implementation**

In border area, there exist many prospective projects of cross-border co-operation or, so far, intentions. Unfortunately, there does not exist any official coordinator of project development, formulation and development in the territory. This activity might be ensured by e.g. euroregions, but central authorities still keep this activity including financial means. These activities are on regional level performed in dependence on capacity of individual euroregions. So far the biggest experience with preparation and implementation of projects supported by the programme Phare CBC has been in Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa.

## 4. Specific / Sectoral Actions:

### 4.1 Phare CBC/Interreg Programme

#### 4.1.1. Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa

From 1995 to 1998, the European Commission allocated ca 120 million EUR from the Phare CBC and Interreg II Programme for projects in the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion. The table shows the division of the funds between individual areas and the number of measures put in place :

Phare CBC/Interreg II Area	Czech part		Polish part		German part	
	Number of Measures	Funding in Millions of EUR	Number of Measures	Funding in Millions of EUR	Number of Measures	Funding in Millions of EUR
Transport	3	3.7	9	20.6	15	21.6
Other infrastructure	1	1.7	2	1.4	21	3.3
Environment	23	17.7	21	13.6	18	10.6
Economic development	3	0.9	-	-	8	1.9
Tourism	5	2.0	10	2.4	24	3.0
Rural renewal	1	0.2	-	-	20	6.7
Forestry	2	1.5	2	0.1	5	5.5
Education	1	0.4	-	-	30	4.2
Socio-culture (Small fund)	147	0.9	4	1.9	10	1.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>58.3</b>

A summary of the projects co-financed from the Phare CBC/Interreg II Programme within the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion from 1994 – 1998 is in the ANNEX.

#### 4.1.2. Euroregion Slask Cieszynski:

In the framework of the Phare CBC-Programme D/PL/CZ during 1995-1996, no projects have been realised in the framework of the Euroregion. However, within the framework of financial reserves of the Phare CBC-Programme D/PL/CZ for 1996, 56,000 Euros have been attributed in December 1999 to three smaller projects in the context of the Euroregion. In all three cases, the projects leader was the "Association for development and regional co-operation "Olza-PL".

- Adaptation of Euroregion-structures on the polish side for the management of the Phare CBC-Small Project Funds (organisational potentials).
- Professional equipment for fare trade exhibition attendance as an element of location marketing initiated by the "Association for development and regional co-operation "Olza-PL" and the Euroregion Slask Cieszynski.
- Realisation of a location marketing documentation "package" for the Polish and Czech side of the Euroregion Slask Cieszynski.

In September 1999, the European Commission finally decided upon the creation of a Phare CBC programme Poland Czech-Republic. Local authorities of the Euroregion Slask Cieszynski are now able to benefit from app. 80,000 Euros annually out of the Small Project Funds for the realisation of cross-border projects. On its meeting of 15 December 1999, the

Euroregion Council discussed priorities of future co-operation, especially with regard to Phare CBC. Discussions within the JCC of the Phare CBC programme PL/CZ 2000 has reached an agreement on a project with an EU-contribution of Euro 2 million that improves road infrastructure facilities leading to various border crossings around Cieszyn.

#### 4.1.3. Euroregion Pradziad:

In the framework of the Phare CBC-Programme D/PL/CZ during 1995-1996, no projects have been realised in the framework of the Euroregion. However, within the framework of financial reserves of the Phare CBC-Programme D/PL/CZ for 1996, 56,250 Euros have been attributed in 1999 to 11 smaller projects in the context of the Euroregion. The management of these financial means is assured by the "Association for the Development of Local Authorities in the Osobloga River Area" (Member of the Euroregion on the Polish side).

- Equipment of the Euroregion secretariat office on the polish side in Prudnik.
- Event celebrated in the border towns Glucholazy – Zlate Hory.
- Event of the crafts industry in Strzeleczyki.
- Production of a publicity movie for the Euroregion Pradziad.
- III exhibition of popular art and handicraft of the Polish-Czech border area.
- Craft and Industry Fare "INTER-REGION" in Prudnik.
- Czech-Polish day that took place during the town celebration day in Lubrza.
- Conference on "Joint future", organised in the framework of the inauguration of the cultural centre in Biala.
- Joint sports event of pupils coming from Glogowek and Osoblaha.
- III. Youth Information Meeting of the border towns Raclawice Slaskie.
- International Workshop for Journalists.

## **4.2 CREDO Programme**

Pilot round (1997/98) – approved projects for Czech/polish border area

Location	Title of the Project	Lead Partner	Partner	Budget in EUR
Karviná	Tirlicko-Zermanice, strategie rozvoje cestovního ruchu			23.200
Karviná, Frýdek-Místek	Rozvoj informační spolupráce v euroregionu Těšínské Slezsko			48.000
Nisa-Nysa	Krkonoše – podpora spolupráce v biosférické rezervaci			29.500
Nisa-Nysa	Program rozvoje přeshraniční spolupráce	Euroregion Nisa	Euroregion Nysa	48.000
Glacensis	Semináře			49.000
Glacensis	Polsko-česká obchodní komora			55.000
Glacensis	Polsko-české křesťanské dny			50.300
Glacensis	Polsko-česká kulturní výměna			36.785
Nisa-Nysa	Prospekt o Krkonoších			1.350
PL/CZ hranice	Sudety, spolupráce v energetice			68.021
Glacensis	Spolupráce měst Jaroměř a Ziębice			

1<sup>st</sup> round (1998/99)

Location	Title of Project	Lead Partner	Other partners	Budget
Wa <sup>3</sup> brzych	Modernisation of waste – water treatment plant in Kudowa Zdrój	Town Office in Kudowa Zdrój Kudowa Zdrój – Poland	Town Office –Nachod Nachod - Czech Republic	232 530
Karvina	Regiotour cycling routes in the euroregion Tesinske Slezsko- Ćelsk Cieszyński	Regional Association for Czech -Polish Co-operation of Tesin Silesia	The Olza Association of Development and Regional Co-operation	420 000
Jelenia Góra	Agreement of cities	Town Szklarska Poręba Szklarska Poręba - Poland	Town SMRZOVKA Smrzovka - Czech Republic	35 000
Trutnov	Modernisation of the information centers for tourists in the national czech-polish park of Krkonose	Administration of the National Krkonose Park – Vrchlabi	Administration of the National Krkonose Park – Jelenia Góra	74 520
Bruntal	Bike trials Opavice	Town Krnov	Towns: G <sup>3</sup> ubczyce, G <sup>3</sup> ogówek, Branice, Albrechtice, Uvalno,	70 224
Opole	The tourist information center for border towns G <sup>3</sup> ucho <sup>3</sup> azy Zlate hory	TCHE COMMUNE OF GŁUCHOŁĄZY G <sup>3</sup> ucho <sup>3</sup> azy - Poland	The Town of Zlate Hory Zlate Hory – Czech Republic	27 570
Jesenik	Protection of ground water in the region Mikulovice – G <sup>3</sup> ucholazy, clean up of the bela river	Municipality Mikulovice	Town G <sup>3</sup> ucho <sup>3</sup> azy	269 500
Jelenia Góra	There are no borders for the scouts	Council of the Scouts Friendship Jelenia Góra – Poland	Scouts Union (Junak, Svaz Skautu a Skautek) - Liberec	76 580
Trutnov	Boom	Centrum odborné přípravy – Trutnov	Zespół <sup>3</sup> Szkół <sup>3</sup> Technicznych im. Hubnera – Wa <sup>3</sup> brzych	18 240
Wa <sup>3</sup> brzych	Tourist map " Gory Stolowe a Broumovskie stieny" 1:25 000 second edition updated	The National Park of Gory Stolowe Kudowa Zdrój – Poland	Joined towns of Osoblaha	12 410
Bruntal	Rural development through sustainable tourism in the czech-polish borderlands	European Centre for Eco Agro Tourism – Mala Moravka ECEAT	ECEAT Bielsko Bia <sup>3</sup> a District Office's : Sumperk, Bruntal, Jesenik	49 861
Rychnov n/Kn.	Infoglacensis	Euroregion Glacensis – Rychnov	Regional Development Agency AGROREG Nowa Ruda	48 200
Wa <sup>3</sup> brzych	School 2000- democracy, tolerance, friendship	The Club "Sentence" (Zdanie) Bystrzyca K <sup>3</sup> odzka – Poland	Priary School no 3 Bystrzyca K <sup>3</sup> odzka – Poland City and County Office Bystrzyca K <sup>3</sup> odzka – Poland Primary School Krnov - Czech Republic City Office – Czech Republic	60 432
Wa <sup>3</sup> brzych	Z <sup>3</sup> ote jesioniki promotional activity for the golden mountains region/ Rychlebskie hory	L <sup>1</sup> dek Zdrój Municipality Office L <sup>1</sup> dek Zdrój – Poland	Association for the Promotion and Development of the Golden Mountains and the Ćenieźnik Massif, L <sup>1</sup> dek Zdrój – Poland Municipality Office's: Skorosice, Bila Voda	35000

---

In the context of the **Euroregion Slask Cieszynski**, three Phare CREDO projects are carried out during the years 1998-2000:

- Inforeg 2000: The project aims at creating "Cross-border information Agencies" along the Polish and Czech border area, aiming at the distribution of know-how and information on cross-border actors. The project leader is the Regional council for Co-operation in Trinec (CZ) and the neighbouring Association of Local Authorities in Poland.
- Regiotour: The aim of the project is to establish a cross-border network of cycle paths, in order to allow tourists to cross the whole Euroregion by bike. In this context, a complete set of technical information material and brochures is elaborated, signalisation of the cycle paths established and basic infrastructure for the paths installed. The total length of cycle paths is about 700km.
- Elaboration of a tourism development strategy for the area around the reservoirs in Terlicko and Zermanice (CZ) and in Goczalkowice (PL).

### **4.3 Other planned Actions:**

There are exist a lot of other projects which were not approved for co-financing from CREDO Programme but still prepared to apply next support in Phare CBC Programme.

#### **Other information are available:**

<http://www.mmr.cz>

<http://www.crr.cz>

<http://www.mf.cz>

<http://www.euroregion-nisa.cz>

<http://www.region-walbrzych.org.pl/euroregion/index.html>

<http://www.prudnik.umig.gov.pl>

[http://www.rcss.brr.katowice.pl/europa/wspol\\_pl.html](http://www.rcss.brr.katowice.pl/europa/wspol_pl.html)

<http://www.opava-city.cz>

(this list of www information will be enlarged)