

LACE PHARE CBC

**DRAFT
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

LITHUANIA-POLAND

February 2000

1. PROFILE OF THE CROSS-BORDER REGION

1.1. Definition of the cross-border region and map

The border between Lithuania and Poland is 110 kilometres long.

The *Lithuanian* border region is located in the southern part of the country and covers the territory of two regional administrative units – Alytus and Marijampole counties, with 4 districts in Alytus county (Alytus, Varena, Lazdijai and Druskininkai) and 3 districts in Marijampole county (Marijampole, Vilkaviskis and Sakiai). The district centres are the main towns of the counties.

The total population of the two counties reaches 400.6 thousand inhabitants (202.2 thousand in Alytus county and 198.4 thousand in Marijampole). The total area of the Lithuanian part is 9888 sq. kilometres.

The *Polish border* is located in the north-eastern part of the county and covers the territory of Suwalki county (*województwo*).

1.2. Political/administrative structures.

Lithuania is divided into 10 counties (*apskritis*), with County Governors appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers. At the county level, the County Council is established to discuss and approve the prospective direction of the county's development. The Council consists of the County Governor, Deputy Governor and Mayors of all the municipalities (*savivaldybės*) of the county.

The local government structure of Lithuania included 12 urban and 44 rural local government (district) councils, elected by the local population for a period of three years. The management structures of the district (*rajonai*) councils are the board and the mayor. The representative functions of local government are fulfilled by the district councils, and control functions – by district controllers.

In Lithuania, the Ministry of Public Administration Reform and Local Authorities (MoPARLA) is responsible for regional policy. In counties and municipalities, regional policy is co-ordinated by the regional and spatial development departments/divisions.

Activities of districts and counties are regulated by the Law on Local Self-Government, the Law on Election to Local Government Councils, the Law on the Status of Local Government Councillor, the Law on Administrative-Territorial Units and their Boundaries, and the Law on County Management.

In Poland the local and regional authorities are the Regional Council and Executive Committee (regional tier), County council and Foreman (county tier), Town and Municipality Council with Mayor (local tier). All the authorities are elected by popular vote for four years. The Governor is a representative of the central government in his/her region and is responsible mostly for supervising the legality of action of elected bodies and supervising several 'special administrations', not subject to control exercised by elected representatives.

1.3. Main socio-economic characteristics.

The two counties forming the *Lithuanian part* of the border region have few major differences. While **Marijampole county** is mainly rural (agricultural land constitutes 67.5 per cent in this region), in **Alytus county** the conditions for the development of agriculture are unfavourable, due to hilly relief, large forested areas (44% of the county) and infertile land. Alytus county has abundant natural resources: mineral water sources, lakes, rivers, and parks. This region has a large potential for the development of tourism and recreation related activities.

Marijampole county, bordering Poland and Kaliningrad, is known as the 'transit' region of Lithuania due to its well-developed transport infrastructure and links with the European and CIS countries. The main part of transit cargo flows is transported through the Trans-European transport corridors (TEN), crossing the region: North-South corridor No I -Via Baltica, connecting Warsaw to Helsinki, and East-West corridor No IX (railway branches IXD Kiev-Klaipeda and IXD Kaunas-Kaliningrad). Alytus, with the Sestokai-Kaunas railway line (the only one in Lithuania having the European standard gauge) and an international cargo terminal, is also an important road and railway transport junction.

Machine production, textile, chemical, food and construction material and construction industries are being developed in the region. Major industrial companies are located in Alytus (JSC 'Snaige', producing household refrigerators, a producer of sparkling wines the JSC 'Alita', the textile producer 'Alytaus tekstile') and Marijampole (JSC 'Vernitas', engaged in the manufacturing of yarn and knitwear, JSC 'Fasa' – the manufacturer of weighing-and-packaging machines for food products; sugar refinery JSC 'Marijampoles cukrus', dairy cannery 'Marijampoles pieno konservai').

Several construction and mainly food producers operate in smaller towns of the region (the grain processing company 'Varenos grudai'; construction companies 'Druskininku statyba' and 'Dainava'). In Alytus county, 19.7% of the workforce is employed in agriculture (35.2% in Marijampole county), 23.8% in industry (15.5% in Marijampole), 6.1% in construction (5.5% in Marijampole) and 43.1% in the service sector (37.8% in Marijampole).

The slow development of SMEs and growing unemployment level can be identified as the main weaknesses of the two counties. During Soviet times, Alytus county was an important health resort and recreational area with a large number of sanatorium and rest homes, satisfying the demands of a large part of the Soviet Union. At present large sanatorium buildings are abandoned and staff unemployed. Marijampole county was highly affected by the Russian crisis in 1998: a large decrease of transit cargo to and from Kaliningrad, the closing of small trade enterprises causing the unemployment level in the county to grow sharply. In June of 1999 the unemployment level constituted 10.9% in Marijampole (8.0% in 1998) and 9.0% in Alytus county (8.6% in 1998), whereas the country average is 7.8 percent. In 1998, in Marijampole county the GDP per capita was 76.4% compared to the national average, and in Alytus – 78.4%.

An important issue to be noted is that Marijampole county was given the status of target region for 2000, thus enabling the county to get major EU Phare funding to support the socio-economic cohesion.

1.4. Degree of cross-border co-operation

Just a few years ago, co-operation across the borders was a relatively new area for Lithuania. The first cross border co-operation agreement between Lithuania and Poland was signed in September 1995, which has already lead to substantial experience in this field. In the agreement the countries obliged to create favourable conditions for regional and local authorities to strengthen the co-operation of two countries.

The Cross-Border Co-operation working group, represented by the local authorities of border regions is currently working on border-crossing infrastructure related issues. A decision to hasten road and border crossing facilities construction works at the Varteliu-Vizainis post was taken at the group's meeting in spring 1999.

The authorities of Lithuania and Poland have good political relationships, which contribute to the development of economical and cultural links. During the last years, the co-operation between Lithuanian and Polish border municipalities was strengthened. The main proof of more and more intensive co-operation between the two countries is the annual municipal forum, where the local authorities of the two countries share their experience, theoretical and practical knowledge, cultural events and frequent visits. The only issue, obscuring relations of Lithuania and Poland is the rights of the large minority populations, living on both sides of the border.

Two Euroregions 'Baltic' and 'Neman' operate in the region. Also, twin-city agreements exist between Alytus town in Lithuania and Opole town in Poland, Vilkaviskis (LT) and Oleck (PL) and towns. Marijampole and Sakiai districts (LT) closely co-operate with Suwalki county (PL) in the areas of culture and sport. The Alytus Business Advisory Centre (LT) has co-operation agreements with the Suwalki (PL) Union of Employers and the Euroregion 'Nieman'. The main co-operation areas are culture, sport, environment and tourism development. Chambers of commerce and business advisory centres facilitate business co-operation linkages.

As Lithuania aims to integrate into NATO, co-operation in the military sphere with the NATO member Poland is very important. The joint-military unit of Lithuania and Poland *Litpolbat* is located in Lithuania.

A few cross-border co-operation projects in the field of SME/economic development are being prepared or implemented in the region with support of the PHARE programmes. The list of successful projects is given in paragraph 4.

1.5. Barriers to cross-border co-operation.

Although citizens of Lithuania and Poland do not need visas to visit each other countries, the main barriers hampering successful cross border co-operation are related to the lengthy procedures for crossing the border, which are mainly due to underdeveloped border infrastructure, differences in customs rules and lengthy customs and border police checking procedures. As concerns transport infrastructure, it should also be noted that the ex-USSR (also Lithuania's) railway gauge length differs from the European one, and the only European standard railway line 'Sestokai-Kaunas' connects the two neighbouring countries, making the transit, trade and movement of passengers more complicated and long. Another barrier which could be added to those mentioned above is the linguistic barrier, as the Lithuanian and Polish languages are not similar. Nevertheless, this barrier is not as significant as it could be as many Lithuanians speak Polish or at least Russian, which is understandable in Poland.

The co-operation of business partners and SMEs of the two countries is hampered by the lack of knowledge of market supply and demand and the difference of in-country business regulating laws. There is no common business database and a lack of consultancy can be observed.

2. STRUCTURES

2.1. Cross-border structures

Euroregions:

"Baltic". In February 1997, an international conference to discuss establishing the Euroregion Baltic was organised, and the agreement was signed in 1998. The Euroregion, one of the biggest, groups towns and communes of regions from six countries: Lithuania (Klaipeda county), Latvia (Liepaja region), Poland (Elblag, Gdansk, Olsztyn, Slupsk), Denmark, Sweden and Russia (Kaliningrad District). The Euroregion aims at improving life conditions of the inhabitants of the euroregion, promoting mutual contact, tightening bonds among local communities, eliminating historical prejudices, supporting economic development. The main co-operation areas are as follows: industry, agriculture and forestry, transport and communication, 'know'how' exchange, technology transfer, environmental protection, crime prevention. The euroregion supports common economic development projects, co-operation in realization of common municipal projects in the border areas (e.g.: wastewater treatment plants, waste utilization), co-operation in spatial planning; development of border-crossing infrastructure, training and re-qualification activities, protection of common cultural heritage, etc.

Structure: Council, Presidium, Executive board, Secretariats, three working groups: on regional development and spatial planning, on environmental protection, on social problems and cultural exchange.

'Neman'. On 6 June 1997, the representatives of Lithuania, Poland and Byelorussia signed a trilateral agreement to establish the cross-border Euroregion 'Neman'. Three Lithuanian counties, Alytus, Marijampole and Vilnius (from October 1999), Gardin region of Byelorussia and Suwalki region of Poland are members of this Euroregion. Lithuania is interested that Kaliningrad be involved in the activities of this Euroregion. Sovietsk town declared its interest in participation in this region and the final decision shall be taken by the Administration of Kaliningrad and the Mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in Kaliningrad.

The main goals of the Euroregion are to promote cross-border co-operation in economy and infrastructure, spatial planning, education, health protection, culture, sport, environment and others.

Structure: management board, Presidium, and four working groups – economy, public affairs, tourism and environmental protection. The National Office of the Euroregion is established in Marijampole county.

2.2. Other structures/authorities/social partners engaged in CBC:

The other structures involved are: municipalities (especially these having twin-town agreements), cultural establishments, universities and schools.

Lithuanian-Polish Intergovernmental Cross Border Co-operation Commission. After the agreement on cross-border co-operation was signed between Lithuania and Poland in September 1995, a bilateral Commission was created, involving representatives of central authorities, border counties and municipalities. The Commission co-ordinates cross-border co-operation, defines main development priorities, prepares common action programmes, etc. At present, the most important issues discussed by the Commission are the permeability of border crossing points, and modernisation of border infrastructure.

To encourage cross-border co-operation and select successful projects for external funding, the Lithuanian-Polish Russian Regional Border Committee, consisting of 17 members, was established in 1997. The Secretariat of this Regional Border Committee is located in Marijampole county.

2.3. Activities/services

The Euroregions contribute to the promotion of cross-border co-operation ideas, strengthening contacts of local authorities and entrepreneurs, preparation of common development and marketing strategies and projects, as well as bringing partners of both sides together for conferences, fairs, sporting events, and camps. Info about the euroregions is available on Internet.

The working groups were created in order to develop common projects, having impact for two or more partners across the borders (e.g.: sewage treatment plants, waste utilization, border crossing and transport infrastructure). Workshops and meetings of working groups are organised. The Regional Border Committee is responsible for the selection of projects for the Credo programme, and its secretariat – for diffusing information about Credo programmes and assisting in project preparation. Two Credo funded projects were initiated by the Euroregion 'Neman'.

A few examples of events, recently organised by the Euroregions, or ongoing projects are given below.

'Baltic': In summer 1999, the International Contact Camp was held in Poland (funded by Phare SPF) with the participation of young people of all the six member countries. Also in summer 1999, in the Lesnaja settlement (Kaliningrad region) an international scout camp was organised, aiming to promote political activity of young people. To strengthen business relations between the countries, it was decided to organise business fairs. The 'Baltic Expo 99' was organised in October 1999 in Poland. At the last meeting of the spatial planning group, it was decided to establish spatial planning centres in all the countries of the Euroregion.

'Neman': Main events in 1999: Euroregion conference "Neman ECON 2000", youth camp and sport competition. Two projects financed by Phare CREDO are being implemented in the Euroregion: 'Energy Renovation Centre' and 'Regional Development Strategy'.

To encourage the co-operation of local authorities of the border regions, regular municipal forums are organised. In spring 1998, such a forum took place in Warsaw (PL) and in summer 1999 – in Vilnius (LT).

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

Up to the year 2000, the main information about CBC programmes to the regional and local authorities has been provided by the central government. The regional and local governmental level was responsible for further diffusion of the information in their counties/municipalities. The Euroregion have not been actively enough involved in promoting of the CBC Programmes.

From 1994 to 1996 only Klaipeda county (Lithuania) was eligible for participation in the national Phare CBC Programme. Since 1997, the whole of Lithuania has become eligible to participate in Phare CBC (including Small Project Facility), and Credo Programmes. Local authorities are regularly informed about these programmes by the National Aid Co-ordinator – Technical Assistance Division (Department, since January 2000) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and PIUs issuing information notes, calls for proposals, organising seminars and training courses. For the management of the Credo Programme, a border region secretariat was established in Marijampole county. The secretariat is responsible for diffusing information about this programme. The Credo brochure was produced in 1998. Newsletters for BSPF are issued quarterly.

In 2000, it is foreseen that >6 training sessions will take place in different regions of Lithuania aiming at introducing new CBC Programmes and improving project preparation and management skills at local and regional level.

3. PROGRAM RELATED ACTIVITIES.

3.1. Strategy development

Starting from 2000, in order to access Phare funds, the candidate countries must have National Development Plans (NDP) for 2000-2002 ready. The first draft of the Lithuanian NDP was submitted to the EC at end-October 1999. The NDP includes Regional Development Programmes (RDP) of the target regions, which were prepared and currently are being elaborated by the County Administrations, assisted by Regional Development Agencies, Business Consulting Centres, etc. The district municipalities are preparing municipal development plans. The County Administrations also contribute to the development of ISPA and SAPARD strategies, PHARE 2000 and CBC project fiches. However, cross border co-operation related issues are only negligibly reflected in the NDP's chapter on regional development and very briefly described in draft RDPs. It can be stated that no clear CBC strategy has been developed to date. Until the year 2000, the CBC programmes mainly were project but not programme orientated and the local and regional authorities were not actively involved in the strategic planning process. In the nearest future, a strategic programme framework outlining CBC's contribution to the achievement of national or regional priorities must be established.

Another issue worth mentioning is that there is a critical lack of experience in strategic planning and regional development at municipal and county administration level, and a significant part of the strategy development work is being done by the central government and consultants. Thus, the skills of local and regional authorities must be enhanced through intensive training and direct assistance. It is expected that the Euroregions shall be taking a more active role in the skills development and strategy planning process.

3.2. Programming, especially Phare-CBC/Interreg related:

Up to 2000, the main programming for Phare was being done by the National Aid Co-ordinator – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania (MoFA) with the assistance of TA consultants. The Euroregions have not been actively involved in CBC programming process.

Due to the 'decentralisation' of the Phare programmes, more and more responsibilities shall be delegated to the local authorities. In future, Phare CBC will gradually become part of a wider regional development policy, taking into account the Accession Partnership priorities. Project proposals, submitted by the local authorities shall be based on regional and national priorities, defined in the national development plan and regional development strategies and have clearly expressed cross border impact.

In 2000, CBC is to provide a Joint Programming Document (JPD) from which projects can be defined. It is planned that the regional and local authorities will make significant contribution to the JPD. It is foreseen that CBC programmes will support measures in infrastructure improvement, promotion of SMEs development and business co-operation, agriculture and rural development, training and employment as well as people to people actions under SPF.

Draft Guidelines for the Small Project Fund were submitted to the EC Delegation in Vilnius in September 1999. New structures to manage these programmes (i.e. Joint Monitoring Committee,

Steering Committees, including representatives of the EU Member-states and Secretariat) must be established in the nearest future. The local authorities will be invited to submit their proposals for National Phare CBC in February and for Small Project Facility - in spring 2000. Projects for CBC/Interreg financing will be selected by the Joint Co-operation Committee on the basis of their eligibility.

3.3. Management of program implementation

The **National Phare CBC Programme** has been managed by the TA Division (Department since January 2000) of the MoFA and CBC TA experts. In 1998, the Implementing Agency – the Central Financing and Contracting Unit (CFCU) – was established and the Decentralised Implementation System (DIS) introduced. Also, the National Authorising Officer heading the National Fund and having the overall responsibility for financial management of Phare funds under the Ministry of Finance was nominated.

In 1997-1999, the **Baltic Project Facility**, comprising the Small Project Facility, Phare/Interreg and a Micro Project Facility was managed by the County of West Zealand (Denmark) on behalf of the EC. A project secretariat was established in Vilnius and one full-time expert employed for day-to-day programme management.

The Siauliai Business Advisory Centre was contracted for management of the **Credo** Programme. In 1997 three border region committees were established for the Lithuanian-Polish-Russian, Lithuanian-Latvian and Lithuanian-Belorussian borders. Two rounds of project submissions were announced and a total of 23 projects submitted for further evaluation. 10 project were approved. The co-ordination of the Credo Programme is under the responsibility of the TA Division at the MoFA.

3.4. Project development and implementation.

Individual projects are managed by the recipient and project managers, provided by them. These range from Ministries (Environment, Economy) – mainly to manage infrastructure projects under the National CBC Programme, to the Association of Local Authorities, municipality divisions, water and waste companies and park authorities. For the management of SPF, each project must have nominated the co-ordinating authority (the CEC lead partner) and a project co-ordinator within the lead authority. Credo projects are managed by the Credo border secretariats as well as by the recipients themselves. A number of Credo projects have been implemented under management of the Euroregions.

Unfortunately, the Euroregions did not participate in the national Phare CBC Programme.

The draft guidelines for the Small Project Fund foresee the participation in project preparation and management of local and regional authorities, including Euroregions, NGOs, Chambers of Commerce, Regional Development Agencies and Professional Associations.

4. SPECIFIC / SECTORAL ACTIONS

In 1997-1999, **3 cross-border projects** between Lithuania and Poland were implemented under BSPF, **1 project** under the Phare/Interreg and **5 projects** through Credo. Lithuania and Poland took part **in two Joint Phare/Tacis projects**. To increase the number of successful projects, better co-ordination of the activities of the two countries should be ensured and links between the regional authorities of the border region further strengthened.

Credo projects: all 1998 projects are ongoing and some 1/3 of the activities planned is implemented to date. Delays in project implementation are mainly caused by lengthy approval procedures. External auditors positively assessed the project achievements. The major part of projects will be finished by the end of 2000.

4.1. Economic Development

Programme: Credo 1998

Project Title: Co-ordination of Activity of SME Support and Development Institutions for Business Information

Project budget: EUR 79.672

Objectives/Description: Aims at determining SME co-operation priorities and preparing of economic co-operation and trade relation of enterprises. Includes development of a network for information, consulting and training of enterprises in the region. SME database will be created and training and seminars on SME development delivered.

Partners: Alytus Business Advisory Centre (LT); Suwalki Association of Employers (PL)

Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 11 08 2000

Programme: Credo 1998

Project title: Sustainable Development of Polish and Lithuanian Protected Areas

Project budget: EUR 50.744

Objectives/Description: Aims at setting up multi-directional co-operation links between communities within the bordering regions of Polish and Lithuanian protected areas, including elaboration/adoption of a joint strategy and establishment of a joint centre for sustainable development (sustainable forestry, agriculture, fishing, tourism).

Partners: Stowarzyszenie Gmin "WIGRY"(PL), Wigry National Park (PL), Varena District Municipality (LT), Dzukija National Park (LT).

Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 11 07 2000

Programme: Phare/Interreg 1998

Project title: Via Baltica Spatial Development Zone

Project budget: EUR 503.000

Objectives/Description: aims at providing a sound basis for spatial and economic development of the Zone: Tampere-Helsinki-Tallinn-Riga-Zemgala region-Lithuania-Poland-Berlin.

Partners: Riga District Council (LV), Kaunas County Municipality (LT), Association of Polish Communes within Euroregion 'Niemen' (PL), Rapla County Administration (EE), Hame Regional Council (FIN), Joint Regional Planning for Berlin-Brandenburg (D).

Status/Implementation deadline: started in December 1999, deadline in October 2000

Programme: Joint Phare/Tacis CBC Project Facility 1998

Project title: Creation and networking of the Belarus Bureau of the 'NEMAN' Euroregion in Grodno

Project budget: EUR 195.928

Objectives/Description: The objective of the project is to foster co-operation between NER regions, cities and local authorities and to develop regional capacity, enabling co-operation between NIS, CEC and EU partners and to reach maximum available level of co-operation and co-ordination of NER problem-solving activities by NER member administration

Partners: Suwalki Voivodship (PL), Marijampole County Governors Administration (LT), Grodno Oblast (BE), Linkoping City (PL).

Status/Implementation deadline: contracted

4.2. Tourism:

Programme: Phare BSPF 1997

Project title: Sustainable Tourism in Town & Country

Project budget: EUR 125.000

Objectives/Description: aims at establishing a programme for promoting tourism in two neighbouring communities on Lithuanian/Polish border and training staff. Main focus will be put on forestry, water management and historic heritage. Elaboration of tourism development strategy.

Partners: Miasta I Gminy Goldapi (PL), Nemencines Miesto Seniunas (LT), Forest of dean District Council (UK), Lansstyrelsen Varmland (S).

Status/Implementation deadline: completed

Programme: Credo 1998

Project title: Creation of Centres of Tourism Services and Computer Network Information

Project budget: EUR 311.800

Objectives/Description: Aims at ensuring better access to information about tourism products and natural attractions in the cross-border area. A system of computerised tourism information network will

be established in Polish, English and German (20 fully equipped information kiosks will be installed, a booklet about the system published and info materials describing tourist attractions in the cross-border area on CD-ROMs and videos prepared).

Partners: Suwalska Izba Rolniczo Turystyczna (PL), Dzukija Tourism Info Centre (LT), Alytus District Municipality (LT).

Status/Implementation deadline: Ongoing, deadline on 10 08 2000

4.3. Training, Education and Labour Market

Training programmes, co-operation of Universities, student exchange programmes

4.4. Environment & Energy

Programme: Credo 1998

Project Title: The inventory of some groups of biological diversity along the projected highway Via Baltica

Project budget: EUR 71.633

Objectives/Description: The project aims at stimulating relationship between local authorities, institutions of natural research and environmental protection in the area of biological diversity research, solving problems of biological diversity conservation, informing society about existing natural values and forming elementary source for further environmental education. It is planned that the project will create conditions and consolidate institutions in the Lithuanian-Polish border area for further collaboration by carrying out monitoring of biological diversity along the highway Via Baltica.

Partners: Local Authority of Marijampole district (LT), Station of Natural Resources, Soc.-Cultural Association 'Od' (PL).

Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 02 09 2000

Programme: Phare BSPF 1997

Project title: Promotion of Energy Savings

Project budget: EUR 89.000

Objectives/Description: aims at building and sharing experience of ecological approach in using natural resources for decreasing expenditure on energy.

Partners: Vilkaviskis Local Government (LT), Oleck Local Government (PL), Neubrandenburg Local Government (D).

Status/Implementation deadline: completed

Programme: Phare BSPF 1998

Project title: Promotion of Ecological Approach in Territory Development Planning

Project budget: EUR 89.000

Objectives/Description: aims at sharing and building experiences of ecological approach in territory building planning to decrease expenditures for health care and create favourable conditions for the development of tourism and agriculture.

Partners: Kedainiai district municipality (LT), Torun municipality (PL), Svalovs municipality (S).

Status/Implementation deadline: completed, awaiting for final report

Programme: Joint Phare/Tacis CBC Project Facility 1998

Project title: Spreading Awareness to foster the Information of Local Agenda 21 around the Baltic Sea

Project budget: EUR 199.376

Objectives/Description: The aim of the project is to develop study and awareness raising material for municipal decision-makers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia by using and adapting knowledge and experience from Western Europe as compiled by the city networks UBC and ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives).

Partners: Jurmala City (LV), ECAT Lithuania (LT), Union of the Baltic Cities (PL), Lahti City (FIN), Tartu city (EE), St. Petersburg (RU)

Status/Implementation deadline: contracted

4.5. Socio-cultural

Conferences, exhibitions, training programmes, cultural events, sport competitions

4.6. Transport

Construction of European standard gauge railway line 'Sestokai-Kaunas'; various projects on the Trans-European corridor 'Via Baltica'.

4.7. Other Infrastructures

activities to improve border crossing infrastructure

4.8. Other

Local and regional development

Programme: Credo 1998

Project title: Municipality work improvement

Project budget: EUR 24.789

Objectives/Description: Development and implementation of cross-border strategies and projects, which contribute to region's economic development. Common learning seminars will be organised to analyse administration and management of regional policies, raise skills and stimulates self-education of the society leaders.

Partners: Municipality of Marijampole (LT), Welfare Serv. College (PL)

Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 24 03 2000

Attachments:

Annex 1: Map

Annex 2: Lithuanian-Polish-Russian Regional Border Committee

Useful links:

Euroregion Baltic: <http://www.eurobalt.org>

ANNEX 2

Lithuanian-Polish-Russian Regional Border Committee

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