IMPROVING INFORMATION FOR CROSS-BORDER WORKERS IN EUROPEAN BORDER REGIONS

Project Workshop
Bruxelles, 19th April 2012

LABOUR MARKET AND WORKERS MOBILITY ON THE POLISH-SLOVAK BORDERLAND OF THE CARPATHIAN EUROLEGION

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CARPATHIAN EUROREGION

Beginning
14 of February 1993 – Debrecen,
as a political initiative supported by Ministries of International Affairs
of the Republic of Poland, Hungary and Ukraine.

Changes
01 of March 2001
The reform has started – establishing of the
Association Carpathian Euroregion Poland

Territory
The Carpathian Euroregion comprises
19 administrative units of five countries from
Central and East Europe, which are Poland,
Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine.
Its total area is about 154,000 km² and it is
inhabited by approximately 16 million people.

Mission
The Carpathian Euroregion was designed to bring
together the people who inhabit the region
of the Carpathian Mountains and to facilitate
their cooperation in the fields of science, culture,
education, trade, tourism and economy.
62 members: local self-governments including Sub Carpathian Voivodship

**Status as a implementing authority and management institution**

- for Phare CBC and INTERREG IIIA and European Territorial Cooperation programs
- Implementation by Association more than 350 CBC projects with total budget the
  **35 000 000 EUR**
- Status as a sub managing institution within
  - Polish – Slovak European Teritorial Cooperation Program 2007 – 2013
- Status as operator of the “umbrella projects”
- within European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument
  - Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007 – 2013
- Realisation Institution for Swiss Contribution Programm for the CE (budget **7 000 000 CHF**)
- Coordinator of the many thematic networks
- Preparing of the Strategy for the territory of the CE within Conception „Carpathian Horizon 2020”
CARPATHIAN EUROREGION Poland – CBC managing institution

• promotion of the programs
• publishing of the call for proposals
• collecting application form and registration of the projects
• formal and technical assessment
• signing the contracts with beneficiaries
• monitoring and controlling of the projects
• calculate and finalizing the projects
• reporting to the National Managing Institution (Ministry for Regional Development) and to the European Commission (DG Regio)
CARPATHIAN EUROREGION Polish – slovak border

Polska - Słowacja
Podregion 20%

Zilinsky kraj
Presovsky kraj

krośnieńsko-przemyski
nowosądecki
bieszko-bialski

## ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND MORE in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Podkarpackie Voivodeship</th>
<th>Prešovský kraj</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1,7 mln. ↓</td>
<td>656 thous. ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically active persons</td>
<td>970 thous. ↑</td>
<td>587 thous. ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed persons (2009)</td>
<td>667,3 thous.</td>
<td>Východné Slovensko 523,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic activity rate</td>
<td>56,9% ↑</td>
<td>58,9% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment rate</td>
<td>50,3% =</td>
<td>47,9% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>11,6 ↑</td>
<td>18,6 ↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

↑ means increase within last 3 years  
↓ means decrease within last 3 years  
= means no changes
MAIN KINDS OF ACTIVITY OF THE EMPLOYED PEOPLE

**Podkarpackie Voivodeship (2010)**

- Agriculture, forestry, and fishing: 259.5 thousand
- Industry: 152.8 thousand
- Trade; repair of motor vehicles: 96.6 thousand
- Education: 57.5 thousand

**Východné Slovensko (2009)**

- Industry: 117.2 thousand
- Trade; repair of motor vehicles: 81.5 thousand
- Education: 47.3 thousand
- Transportation and storage: 36.3 thousand
AVARAGE MONTHLY GROSS WAGES AND SALARIES BY KIND OF ACTIVITY in 2010 in euro
WORKERS MOBILITY AND ECONOMIC MIGRATION

- Slovakia and Poland are the countries with the highest percentage of the people with experience in working abroad: approximately 55% and 48%.
- Upward trend of amount of abroad workers.
- In general in Poland close cross-border occupational mobility is more and more popular, but statistics are still low, also on the Polish-Slovak borderland of the Carpathian Euroregion.
- Main direction of Polish workers from Podkarpackie Voivodeship: Grat Britan, German-language countries – long term migration, above 3 months
- In Slovakia number of people commuting to their work abroad regularly has increased. Main direction: Czech Republic and Hungary, still not Poland.
- Main direction of Slovak workers: Great Britan, Germany, Austria – long term migration
OFFICIAL POLITICS

- Polish government doesn’t back up economic migration
  - Escape of highly educated, qualified and entrepreneurial people
  - Lack of specialists in Poland
  - Attempts to stop the process (taxes, labour costs, tools which facilitate starting own businesses)

- Slovak government support occupation mobility: both internal and international especially in border regions.

- Cross-border occupation mobility is considered to be one of the main ways to solve the problem of unemployment.
## MOBILITY ON THE POLISH-SLOVAK BORDERLAND

### Favourable factors
- New investments in Slovakia, demand for workers with different specializations and qualifications,
- Simple procedure of employing people,
- No language barrier.

### Unfavourable factors
- Lower, in comparison with other EU countries, salary in Slovakia for production workers,
- Deep-rooted dislike to take up a job in other country because of the necessity of the residence change or commuting to the work place,
- Expectations connected with job which depart from those which are available in the border regions,
- Job offers are not accompanied by the employer's help in finding the accommodation,
- Opinion of Slovakia as an unattractive and undeveloped country with no opportunities for personal development – especially north-eastern border regions,
- Insufficient information flow.
EXAMPLE: CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVE  EURES  CARPATHIANS

Podkarpackie Voivodeship – Prešovský kraj

- Started in 2005
- Informal partnership on the Polish-Slovak borderland
- Cooperation between Polish poviats of Podkarpackie: bieszczadzki, leski, sanocki, krośnieński i jasielski and Slovak poviats of Prešovský kraj: Snina, Humenne Midzilaborce, Presov, Stropkov, Svidnik i Bardejov.

**Aims:**
- Improving of the access to the labour markets on the Polish-Slovak borderland,
- Ensuring balance in the labour market in the border regions through international mobility stimulation

**Activities in the form of informational actions, cooperation between employment institutions and their partners that function on the border regions labour markets.**

**Best practices and experience exchange, meetings, information days in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship and Prešovský kraj.**
Website [http://www.pswwp.wup-rzeszow.pl/](http://www.pswwp.wup-rzeszow.pl/)
- Living conditions in Slovakia
- Working conditions in Slovakia
- Ways of looking for and applying for job
- Job offers in Prešovský kraj
- Taxes
- Other useful information

Visitors: since 2008 till 12 April 2012: **65 406**
  - in 2012 (till 12 April): **6 371**
  - daily average: **62 visitors**  MANY???

- Meetings of the employment institutions from the Podkarpackie Voivodeship and Prešovský kraj
- Informational brochures in labour offices in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship and labour offices in Snina, Humenne Midzilaborce, Presov, Stropkov, Svidnik i Bardejov and leaflets.
- Press articles, radio spots about worker recruitments and ways of looking for a job in the border regions.
- Initiative without any wide echo or response… ???
The Carpathian Euroregion Poland related proposals…

Strategical level

Problem is the part of the Strategy „Carpathian Horizon 2020” cross border labour market support is the one of the main goals/ priorities

Operational level

Including the topics of the labour market to the agenda of the creating euroregional structures like Network of the Cities of the Carpathian Euroregion, Carpathian Agency for Regional Development, Carpathian Forum of the NGO

Building the effective interregional system of the information, and structure of the co-operation between institutions and prepare the service

Increase the „labour market impact” within projects financing by the Euroregion (new call for proposals within PL-SK ETC programme and within Swiss Contribution
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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