

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

POLAND – BELARUS – UKRAINE

2007-2013

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1. DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS CONCERNED BY THE PROGRAMME

1.1. Basic characteristics including demography

The Programme Area (see Annex 3) includes the following administrative units:

- in Poland: krośnieński-przemyski sub-region (in podkarpackie voivodship), białostocko-suwałski sub-region (in podlaskie voivodship), białskopodlaski and chełmsko-zamojski sub-regions (in lubelskie voivodship), ostrołęcko-siedlecki sub-region (in mazowieckie voivodship) and also as adjoining regions: rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski sub-region (in podkarpackie voivodship), łomżyński sub-region (in podlaskie voivodship), and lubelski sub-region (in lubelskie voivodship).
- in Belarus: Brest Oblast, Minsk Oblast (7 western districts: Miadel, Vileika, Molodechno, Volozhin, Stolbtsy, Niesvizh, Kletsk) and Grodno Oblast and as adjoining regions: eastern part of the Minsk Oblast (15 districts) and Gomel Oblast
- in Ukraine: Lvivska, Volynska, Zakarpatska Oblasts and as adjoining regions: Rivnenska, Ternopilska and Ivano-Frankivska Oblasts

The total area of the territorial units eligible for the Programme amounts to 316.3 thousand km² comprising:

- the Polish part of the Programme Area of 75.3 thousand km² (including 22.7 thousand km² of adjoining regions)
- the Belarusian part: 138.5 thousand km² (including 68.9 thousand km² of adjoining regions)
- the Ukrainian part: 102.5 thousand km² (including 47.8 thousand km² of the adjoining area)

The length of the border between Poland and Belarus is 418 km, between Poland and Ukraine: 535 km and between Belarus and Ukraine: 205 km (part of the border in the Programme Area).

The Programme Area is inhabited by 20.1 million people (2005), out of which 6.2 million in the Polish part, 7.3 million in the Belarusian part and 8.5 million in the Ukrainian part. The average population density in the entire eligible area amounts to 70 inhabitants/km² (83 inhabitants/km² in the Polish part, 53 inhabitants/km² in the Belarusian part and 83 inhabitants/km² in the Ukrainian part) (see Annex 1 and 3).

The number of the Area's inhabitants has been decreasing for the last few years in spite of the positive population growth rate in 4 Polish subregions: rzeszowsko-tarnobrzieski, krośnieńsko-przemyski, ostrołęcko-siedlecki and łomżyński. Depopulation results from the negative migration balance in the entire border zone which is further deepened by the negative population growth rate in most of the Programme Area.

In 2005 a major part of the Programme Area's population (65.3.1%) was in the productive age. 18% of the Programme Area's population was in the pre-productive age and 16.6% in the post-productive age¹.

1.2. Economic structure

The Programme Area is economically underdeveloped and is characterised by a relatively high share of agriculture and industry in the employment as well as low competitiveness and innovativeness of the economy. The highest share of agriculture in the employment structure is recorded in ostrołęcko-siedlecki, białskopodlaski, chełmsko-zamojski and łomżyński subregions. In the Belarusian part of the Programme Area this share varies between 10 % (Gomel Oblast) and over 16% (Grodno and Minsk Oblasts), whereas in the Ukrainian part between 5% (Ivano-Frankivska Oblast) and up to 29% (Zakarpatska Oblast). It is only urban areas that are characterised by a low share of agriculture and high share of services in the employment.

In 2005 the average per capita GDP amounted to some EUR 3.7 thousand in the Polish part of the area, EUR 2.5 thousand in the Belarusian part and EUR 1.2 thousand in the Ukrainian part. The border area demonstrates a positive economic growth rate (an average annual growth rate between 3% and 10% for the past few years).

The labour market in the Programme Area shows large disparities. Unemployment rate oscillated between 8 and 21% in 2005 in the Polish part of the Area, 7 and 10% in the Ukrainian part, whereas in the Belarusian part the officially recorded unemployment rate lied below 2%. Long-term unemployment is a problem that is especially acute in the Polish part of the Programme Area – it affects over 50% of the unemployed. In the Polish part women constitute some 50% of all unemployed, in the Belarusian part some 70% and in the Ukrainian some 60%.

The development of SMEs in the Programme Area is far from satisfactory (**statistics needed – see Annex 1**). Due to large differences in the institutional systems and the extent of the functioning of market mechanisms between Poland, Ukraine and Belarus the framework for SMEs activities and development varies between those countries. However even in the Polish part of the border zone, which due to the most advanced economic restructuring processes and EU membership has the best conditions for SMEs activities and support, the sector is still faced with numerous barriers and development

¹ Nationality structure – see Annex 1.

problems (e.g. administrative and bureaucratic barriers). In connection with the low level of economic development and low wealth of the Area's population they contribute to relatively difficult conditions for SMEs.

The economy of the Programme Area is characterised by low competitiveness (especially in terms of the quality and technological advancement) and low innovativeness. The R&D spending is not sufficient and the cooperation between scientific institutions (especially higher education institutions) and the business world and the public administration is ineffective. In spite of numerous advantages, the flow of FDI into the border zone is limited. There is a significant, unexplored potential in that aspect. The main barriers limiting FDI include weak transport infrastructure, insufficient cross-border cooperation, disparities in institutional systems, political instability and insufficient economic promotion.

1.3. Infrastructure

The geographical location of the Programme Area is very advantageous in terms of the development potential for transport. The area is situated on the main transit routes between European and Asian networks and is hence an important basis for the development of international road and rail transport. A significant share of the cargo transit belongs to the transport of gas, crude oil and petrochemical products by pipelines. The Area is crossed by the following Pan-European Transport Corridors:

- II Berlin - Warsaw - Minsk - Moscow - Nizhny Novgorod. The corridor will consist of the modernised railway route C-E 20 and the planned A-2 motorway.

- III: Berlin – Dresden – Wrocław – Katowice - Kraków – Rzeszów – Medyka – Lviv – Kiev. The corridor consists among others of: the E 30 railway route (Dresden – Wrocław – Katowice - Kraków – Rzeszów – Medyka - Lviv – Kiev) and the E 40 motorway (Dresden – Wrocław – Kraków - Rzeszów – Korczowa – Lviv).

There are plans to finish the A-4 motorway till 2013 (Berlin – Wrocław – Katowice – Kraków – Rzeszów – Lviv) and the S19 express way (Kuźnica Białostocka – Białystok – Lublin – Rzeszów – Barwinek – Kosice – Bucharest) crossing the Programme Area.

The existing transport infrastructure (especially roads) is insufficient both in terms of the density as well as the quality in the first place. The highest road density is found in the Polish sub-regions (between 40 and 78 km per 100 sq. km). In the Ukrainian part of the borderland it varies between 25 and 38 km per 100 sq. km and in the Belarusian oblasts: from 27 to 47 km per 100 sq. km.

In order to benefit from the transit location express ways and bypasses, railways and rail infrastructure and border infrastructure must be expanded and modernised. The number of border crossings in the eligible support area is insufficient, and their technical state is

inadequate for the servicing of the current traffic levels. Thus there is a need to develop and upgrade the existing border crossings and build new ones.

(number of border crossings by type and statistics on border flows need to be amended)

Telecommunications accessibility and quality require improvements, however the development of mobile telephony has significantly improved access to telephone services in the entire Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian Programme Area. Internet use is low. The fixed-line telephony infrastructure is also underdeveloped.

Also the public utilities infrastructure is weakly developed. Expansion and modernisation is required for: public water conduits, public sewerage systems, waste water treatment plants, landfills. **(statistics on the public utilities infrastructure need to be amended – see Annex 1)**

The tourist infrastructure is insufficient, especially in terms of its quality standards. All the year accommodation capacity measured by a number of bed places (116,9 thousand in 2005, see Annex 1) does not meet the needs. Its expansion and upgrading is necessary to explore the tourist potential of the area eligible for the Programme and to foster business and cultural exchange.

1.4. Education, research, culture

The educational infrastructure in the Programme Area is relatively well developed, however it should be modernised and adapted to the labour market requirements. There are 179 universities/higher education institutions and over 1,2 mln students in the Programme Area (see Annex 1)

Most dynamic development occurs in the private higher education system. The educational structure of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border zone is relatively good, however further increase of the share of people with higher education is necessary. The education profile is also important as it currently does not reflect the needs of a modern economy. There is a shortage of specialists in scientific disciplines, especially engineers, physicists, chemists with the highest qualifications.

The highest share of people with higher education is recorded in the Lvivska (29%) and Rivnenska (27%) Oblasts, whereas in the Polish part it varies between 12% - 21% and in the Belarusian part between 12% and 18%.

The quality of the foreign language and IT training as well as its accessibility require improvements as early as at the primary school level.

The R&D spending is definitely insufficient **(statistics needed)**. Also the research financing system does not reflect the challenges of the knowledge-based economy. The

R&D sector cooperates too little with the business sector, and the scope of research commercialisation is too limited. Improved utilisation of the relatively high R&D potential is necessary in the Programme Area. The numerous higher education institutions of good scientific level could become a backbone for the effective innovation system based on the triple helix concept (cooperation of the business, science and public administration).

The Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border zone is rich in both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Numerous monuments, including those of global significance, and the intangible culture in its many forms constitute development advantages not only for tourism but also for local communities living in the area. The cultural infrastructure is abundant (theatres, operas, cinemas, libraries, local cultural centres), however it needs financial resources for upgrading.

1.5. Environment and nature

The Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland has areas of outstanding landscape and natural values, of low pollution. A large part of the cross-border area is located in the so-called Green Lungs of Europe (GLE). The sites located in the Programme Area have a significant share in the European Environmental Network NATURA 2000 (a total of 31 thousand sq. km in the borderland zone). Protected areas constitute between 1% and 62% of the total area of the sub-regions covered by the Programme. The highest share is recorded in the Polish part².

The fauna of the cross-border area is rich in legally protected species and rare and endangered species, including the bison, lynx, wildcat, elk, wild boar, badger, deer, wolf, bear and Polish pony (tarpan) and Hucul horse. Additionally, the swamp turtle, crane, black stork, eagle, Ural owl and many other animals live in the border region.

The environmental protection infrastructure is insufficient. Many villages and smaller settlements lack sewerage and wastewater treatment systems and modern landfills. The existing infrastructure needs to be expanded and modernised. The environmental awareness of the border zone populations requires to be significantly raised.

(needed statistics – see Annex 1 and Annex 2)

2. COHERENCE WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES AND EXISTING STRATEGIES

The „Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013” ENPI Programme continues and broadens the cooperation in the border zone areas of the three countries, which so far has been

² For the list of environmental protection areas see Annex 2.

developed within the framework of the Neighbourhood Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine INTERREG III A/TACIS CBC 2004–2006.

A number of local, sub-regional and regional initiatives of cross-border character have been undertaken successfully in the Programme Area.

The Programme is coherent with the previous activities under the PHARE - Polish Eastern Border Programme, which was created in 1997. The programme functioned as part of the National PHARE programme. Funds were mostly allocated to the measures aimed at the tightening of the security on the Polish eastern border. The programme contained more elements connected directly with cross-border cooperation, modelled on PHARE cross-border cooperation programme (Commission Regulation (EC) No 2760/98), which include large infrastructure projects on the Polish eastern border, as well as:

- Small Projects Fund – supporting small ‘people-to-people’ projects with cross-border impact; most projects aimed at cross-border co-operation within the frames of actions related to culture and tourism (joint cultural events, youth exchange, trade fairs, conferences, scientific seminars, song festivals, sports competitions, publications, preparations of bicycle route maps and creation of Tourist Information Centres).
- Small Infrastructure Projects Fund – supporting development in the fields of small-scale infrastructure activities across the border connected with tourism, environmental protection, cultural cooperation and economic development
- Business Related Infrastructure Projects Fund – developing business related cross border co-operation of the Polish institutions situated on the eastern border with their foreign partners.

In the processes of programming and introducing cross-border cooperation 4 Euroregions localised in the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland (Euroregions: Niemen, Puszcza Białowieska, Bug and Karpacki) have been involved strongly.

The TACIS CBC Programme has become the major funding source for EU-financed technical assistance in Belarus. The distribution by sector (1996-1999 budgets) was 42% for Border Networks including a border management programme. The sector environment received 55% of budgets and 3% represents the budget of projects financed from the TACIS CBC Small Project Facility. Ukraine has been a beneficiary of the Tacis Cross Border Co-operation Programme since 1996. During 1996 – 2003 the assistance was provided through 3 priorities: 1) Border infrastructure; 2) Environment; 3) Development of border regions.

Under the TACIS CBC Programme the project “Polish – Ukrainian Agency for Cross-Border Co-operation – Together towards the Future” was launched. As a result, the

strategy of border regions development – involving two Polish (Lubelskie and Podkarpackie) and two Ukrainian (Lviv and Volyn) regions – for the years 2005-2015 was developed. The strategy aim is to determine the areas of bi- and multilateral cross-border co-operation.

Moreover, EU Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs in Ukraine has been realized since 2000 with the following priorities: migration, readmission, border management, fight against money laundering, counteracting drug and human beings trafficking, fight against sexual abuse and child pornography, corruption.

The Programme is in line with the two pre-accession programmes ISPA and SAPARD which have been realised in Poland.

The Programme priorities are linked to development priorities of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine set out in the basic programming and planning documents adopted by the governments of the three countries as well as to the strategies and development plans realised on the regional and local levels.

In Poland the Programme priorities are in line with the National Development Strategy and the National Cohesion Strategy (National Strategic Reference Frameworks) 2007-2013. The Programme is also in line with the objectives and actions realised under the National Development Plan (NPD) 2004-2006.

The Programme is coherent with another EU instrument, which is Schengen Facility for better controls at the new EU external borders and for building up administrative and institutional structures. The Schengen Facility on the Polish side of the border region will support crossing points infrastructure (modernisation and construction), necessary equipment, as well as basic and specialised training for border checks staff and operational officers.

The programme is in line with the strategic documents adopted by Belarusian government:

- The Concept of the National Strategy for Sustainable Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2020;
- The Concept of the Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2015;
- Basic Guidelines for the Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2010;
- The Programme of Social-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period 2001-2005.

The priorities of the Programme are in line with the strategic goals of the following documents adopted by Ukrainian authorities:

- State Programme of the Social and Economic Development of Ukraine
- The National Strategy of the Regional Development of Ukraine 2004 - 2015
- The law of the transboundary cooperation
- The Conception of the State program of the development of the transboundary cooperation 2007-2010
- Programme of Integration with the European Union
- EU-Ukraine Action Plan

(information on experiences and conclusions from up-to-now cross-border cooperation should be amended)

3. OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND MEASURES OF THE PROGRAMME

3.1. Context of the Programme

The main conclusions from the analysis of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border region are, as follows:

- ✓ the Programme Area **is poorly developed economically** – with a low GDP per capita, a very high unemployment rate on the Polish side of the border, high share of agriculture in the employment structure, a low innovativeness of SMEs, a low R&D spending;
- ✓ the Programme Area has areas of outstanding landscape and natural values, of low pollution – but **the environmental protection infrastructure is insufficient and the environmental awareness of the borderland populations is low**;
- ✓ the Programme Area has a high potential to develop the tourism sector, including agrotourism, due to various natural environment and cultural heritage values – but **the tourist infrastructure is insufficient**;
- ✓ the geographical location of the Programme Area is very advantageous in terms of the development potential for transport and thus may substantially contribute to its economic enhancement – but **the existing transport and border infrastructure is insufficient**;
- ✓ the Programme Area demonstrates **a relatively well developed educational infrastructure, however it should be modernised** and adapted to the labour market requirements;
- ✓ Despite substantial progress due to the current cross-border cooperation **the level of integration of the Programme Area is unsatisfactory** which makes it impossible to utilise fully the social and economic potential of the region.

The core objective of the Programme – which reflects the above conclusions from the socio-economic analysis – is **responding to the common challenge of sustainable social and economic development through cross-border cooperation and integration.**

The core objective is consistent with the EC *Guidelines for preparing CBC Programmes under the ENPI* and the four objectives set in the *Guidelines*. There are two priorities and five measures through which the core objective is going to be achieved. Three measures of the first priority are consistent with Objectives 1–3 set in the *Guidelines*. Activities envisaged in the *Guidelines* for Objective 1 (Economic and social development) are included into Measure 1.1. Activities envisaged in the *Guidelines* for Objective 2 (Common challenges) are included into Measures 1.2 and 1.3. Activities envisaged in the *Guidelines* for Objective 3 (Efficient and secure borders) are included into Measure 1.3. Two measures of the second priority are consistent with Objective 4 (People to people co-operation) set in the *Guidelines*.

3.2. Structure of the Programme's priorities, measures and indicative activities

Priority:	Measure:	Indicative activities:
Priority 1. Increasing competitiveness of the border area	Measure 1.1. Technical and social infrastructure supporting the common challenge of social and economic development	<p>Strengthening of regional competitiveness/regional marketing SMEs and labour market development New technologies infrastructure Information society and broadband network Improvement of cooperation between research and business institutions Trade and investment promotion Rural development, incl. agro-tourism Regional promotion Regional and local capacity building and project management skills – incl. applying a project approach to the implementation of strategies, local government, educational system, training in professional and managerial skills etc.</p> <p>Regional transport networks and infrastructure development Energy distribution and diversification Logistic systems Transport safety improvement incl. support for rescue services</p> <p>Tourism development Protection of historical and cultural heritage Development of tourist infrastructure and services (eg. domestic tourism, water tourism)</p> <p>Health and social development Water supply Emergency preparedness and alleviation Social and economic rehabilitation of contaminated areas after the Chernobyl disaster Social, economic and environmental rehabilitation of technologically transformed areas</p>

	<p>Measure 1.2. Improvement of cross-border natural environment protection</p>	<p>Environmental protection and protection of natural heritage Solid waste management Wastewater treatment Environmental monitoring (water, air, waste, radiation, noise) and prevention Environmental emergency situations management Environmental interaction – protection of waters, point monitoring of environmental management Renewable energy sources</p>
	<p>Measure 1.3. Efficient and secure borders</p>	<p>Alleviation of administrative and institutional obstacles to free movement of people and goods, incl. improvement of border management operations and customs procedures, increase of transparency and efficiency in trade and border passage Speeding of cross-border passage</p> <p>Development of border crossing points and improvement of infrastructure and equipment at border controls Development of services adjacent to the border New border crossings – complementing projects financed under External Borders Fund</p> <p>Fight against organised crime, illegal migration and trafficking Prevention of communicable human, animal and plant diseases Emergency management system</p>
<p>Priority 2. Networking and people-to-people cooperation</p>	<p>Measure 2.1. Regional and local cross – border cooperation capacity building</p>	<p>Regional and local cross – border cooperation capacity building and cross – border project management Partner search initiatives Creating institutionalized forms of cross border cooperation, incl. investment ICT development for stimulating the cross border cooperation Promotion of information exchange, internet network Strategic and spatial planning EU law promotion</p>
	<p>Measure 2.2. Local communities' initiatives</p>	<p>Social and cultural integration of border areas - incl. social sector cooperation Scientific and educational integration of border areas Cross-border sports events Strengthening of regional identity Support for national minorities and cultural diversity Networks of cities Development of regional and local self-governance Support to civil society and local communities development</p>
<p>Priority 3. Technical Assistance</p>		<p>Programme management and implementation Programme monitoring, audit and control Studies, seminars, translation, information dissemination Programme evaluation and promotion</p>

3.3. Priority 1. Increasing competitiveness of the border area

The cross-border area lags behind in terms of its competitiveness. Increasing competitiveness of the Programme Area requires full utilisation of the existing social and economic potential of the region and its further development. Enhancing competitiveness is one of the key common challenges of sustainable social and economic development in the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian cross-border area. Thus it corresponds fully with the core objective of the Programme.

As a result of socio-economic context analysis it is clearly seen that increasing competitiveness of the Programme Area is dependant on the significant improvement of social and technical infrastructure (Measure 1.1.) and on the improvement of cross-border natural environment protection (Measure 1.2.). Both actions are aimed at rising of living and investment attractiveness. It will contribute to enhancing of the living standards and economic activities of both borderland population and potential external investors as well. A sine qua non condition of higher competitiveness of the Programme Area is also an advanced efficiency and safety of the borders (Measure 1.3.). Investment and organization activities in this area will contribute to the acceleration of cross-border flows of people and goods. It will result in a positive impact on the level of social and economic integration of the Programme Area. This is crucial for higher investment attractiveness and competitiveness of the whole region.

Within Priority 1 it will also be possible to implement projects covering preparation of plans and studies leading to the implementation of common initiatives. Investment projects³ will be financed only in the core Programme Area.

Codes for the priority theme dimension:

02, 04, 05, 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79.⁴

3.3.1 *Measure 1.1. Technical and social infrastructure supporting the common challenge of social and economic development*

Activities supported within the Priority 1 framework include improvements in the quality and accessibility of the social and economic infrastructure, with focus on transport and border infrastructure, business environment, ICT, environmental protection, energy, tourism and culture. Infrastructure development will improve the

³ Investment project is defined as a project in which works and investment supplies account for more than 30% of total costs.

⁴ Codes are defined in annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No .../.. of [...] setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund.

area's accessibility for potential investors, improve the condition of natural environment, raise the living standards of inhabitants, boost tourist and economic attractiveness of the border area as well as enhance border security.

Also soft-type activities aiming at socio-economic development of the eligible area will be promoted within Measure 1.1. Support will be provided to activities targeting among others: regional promotion and marketing, investment promotion, regional and local capacity building, development of SMEs, development of local and regional labour markets, development of information society, new technologies, rural areas, tourism and agro-tourism, protection of cultural heritage, socio-economic and environmental rehabilitation of special areas (incl. the Chernobyl area).

Measure 1.1 is consistent with the Objective 1 (Economic and social development) set in the EC *Guidelines for preparing CBC Programmes under the ENPI*.

Exemplary beneficiaries:

- ✓ state organisations/institutions
- ✓ local and regional authorities in the border regions concerned
- ✓ NGO's and NPO's such as business support organisations, Local Enterprise Agencies, Development Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Agencies, Educational and training institutions; Producers Associations, Labour Unions
- ✓ public road and rail management companies
- ✓ public owned transport providers
- ✓ employment agencies
- ✓ euroregions
- ✓ organisations and other public bodies involved in health and social development

3.3.2 Measure 1.2. Improvement of cross-border natural environment protection

Measure 1.2 aims at protecting and improving the quality of natural environment. Improvement of the quality of natural environment contributes to increasing inhabitants' living standards as well as boosting the area's tourist and investment attractiveness. This goal will be achieved mainly through investments in the environmental infrastructure of regional or local impact and improvement of cross-border cooperation in environmental protection.

This measure will promote activities focusing on environmental protection and natural heritage, especially on: improving solid waste management and wastewater treatment, monitoring of environmental conditions and preventing environmental threats. Systemic solutions for environmental emergency situations management will be supported.

Activities promoting wider usage and development of renewable energy sources will also be implemented.

Measure 1.2 is consistent with the Objective 2 (Common challenges) set in the EC *Guidelines for preparing CBC Programmes under the ENPI*.

Exemplary beneficiaries:

- ✓ state organisations/institutions
- ✓ local and regional authorities in the border regions concerned
- ✓ NGO's and NPO's
- ✓ local and regional water management, waste water management, river protection and flood protection companies and public bodies
- ✓ local environment protection agencies
- ✓ public institutions responsible for management of nature protection areas and nature parks and local forestry directorates
- ✓ public road and rail management companies
- ✓ public owned transport providers
- ✓ euroregions

3.3.3 Measure 1.3. Efficient and secure borders

Measure 1.3 has the objective to increase the efficiency of border infrastructure and procedures and to improve border security. Higher throughput capacity of border crossing points and their security are critical for the achievement of the Programme's other objectives. In order to better utilise and expand the social and economic potential within the Programme area it is most of all necessary to alleviate the administrative, institutional and infrastructural obstacles to free movement of goods and people across borders. Support is planned for activities increasing the transparency and efficiency of border controls and customs procedures. These activities must aim at speeding up border procedures and result in fast and secure border passage. Border-related services are also to be developed. Support will be granted for the construction of new border crossings in addition to the border infrastructure development projects financed within the External Borders Fund. Measure 1.3 will also cover activities aiming at increasing border security, especially focusing on prevention and eradication of illegal migrations and trafficking, fight against organised crime, prevention of communicable human, animal and plant diseases. Additionally support is envisaged for the development of an emergency management system.

Measure 1.3 is consistent with the Objective 3 (Efficient and secure borders) and Objective 2 (Common challenges) set in the EC *Guidelines for preparing CBC Programmes under the ENPI*.

Exemplary beneficiaries:

- ✓ state organisations/institutions
- ✓ local and regional authorities in the border regions concerned
- ✓ NGO's and NPO's
- ✓ regional (non-national) divisions of Border Guard and customs authorities
- ✓ euroregions

3.4. Priority 2. Networking and people-to-people cooperation

The level of social and economic integration of the Programme Area is far from being satisfactory. The situation in this respect has gradually improved due to the cross-border cooperation. A sustainable social and economic development of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian cross-border area requires further deepening and widening of the cross border cooperation to achieve a greater degree of integration. The aim of the priority is to promote social and economic activities and consequently create new jobs in the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border region. Since the area demonstrates a very high unemployment rate (especially on the Polish side of the border), a sustainable development requires facilitating the job creation processes.

The measure 2.1 will mainly support creation of permanent cooperative structures among the local and regional organisations and institutions to enhance the cross-border cooperation capacity. Sustainable social and economic development of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border region will only be possible when the local communities inhabiting the area cooperate in as many areas as possible on a regular basis (Measure 2.2). Projects implemented under the priority will aim at enhancing various aspects of institutional co-operation with particular focus on local and regional authorities, business and scientific co-operation, culture, education, labour market, as well as addressing common challenges of sustainable social and economic development. Effective cross-border cooperation leading to the integration of the local communities will be the greatest asset of the Programme.

Within Priority 1 it will also be possible to implement projects covering preparation of plans and studies leading to the implementation of common initiatives. Investment projects will be financed only in the core Programme Area.

Codes for the priority theme dimension:

03, 11, 13, 14, 57, 60, 74, 80, 81.

3.4.1 Measure 2.1. Regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building

The goal of Measure 2.1 is to improve the cross-border cooperation capacity on the local and regional level. Support is planned mainly for activities aiming at increasing the institutional cooperation potential. It is expected to develop as a result of the creation of institutional forms of cross-border cooperation and partner search / match-making initiatives. Information exchange and networking cooperation will be promoted, including internet-based projects.

Cooperation among public institutions, especially territorial self-governments, is perceived as highly important, in particular in the area of strategic and spatial planning. Joint initiatives in respective areas will be implemented with a view to increasing the degree of integration of the Programme's eligible areas. Particular stress will be laid on the dissemination of "good practice" examples within the Programme's scope.

Additionally it is planned to support the development, implementation and use of ICTs for cross-border cooperation.

Measure 2.1 is consistent with the Objective 4 (People to people co-operation) set in the *EC Guidelines for preparing CBC Programmes under the ENPI*.

Exemplary beneficiaries:

- ✓ state organisations/institutions
- ✓ local and regional authorities in the border regions concerned
- ✓ NGO's and NPO's such as business support organisations, Local Enterprise Agencies, Development Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Agencies, Educational and training institutions; Producers Associations, Labour Unions
- ✓ euroregions
- ✓ organisations and institutions active in the fields of Programme objectives

3.4.2 Measure 2.2. Local communities' initiatives

The overall objective is social, scientific, educational and cultural integration of the borderland area. Within the scope of Measure 2.2 it is intended to support cross-border citizen contacts and social initiatives, scientific and educational cooperation, cultural and sporting events. Assistance also planned for projects concerning cultural diversity, national minorities as well as development of the civic society and local communities in the broad sense.

Communities inhabiting the borderland zone are linked with cultural and historical ties. In spite of the significant development of cooperation, however, it is still important to overcome cultural, psychological or linguistic barriers.

It is equally important to create new ties through supporting cross-border cooperation among various actors, which will facilitate further integration. Networks of cities play a considerable role here. These activities will also contribute to the strengthening of the regional identity and mutual understanding as well as overcoming the existing barriers.

Cross-border cooperation among schools and higher education institutions will be supported, including students, pupils, teachers and scientists exchange, conferences and scientific seminars.

Support will also be provided for projects directed towards development of social initiatives, cultural and sports events. Local communities' projects will be eligible for assistance, including those aimed at promotion and cultivation of common traditions of the borderland areas. Favourable conditions will be created with a view to facilitating mutual contacts between border communities.

Development of multi-layer cooperation, including educational and cultural, will enhance knowledge about the region, its cultural and economic diversification, leading to further integration of local communities. Intensified cooperation will also contribute to solving common problems.

Measure 2.2 is consistent with the Objective 4 (People to people co-operation) set in the *EC Guidelines for preparing CBC Programmes under the ENPI*.

Exemplary beneficiaries:

- ✓ state organisations/institutions
- ✓ local and regional authorities in the border regions concerned
- ✓ NGO's and NPO's such as business support organisations, Local Enterprise Agencies, Development Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Agencies, Educational and training institutions; Producers Associations, Labour Unions
- ✓ employment agencies
- ✓ euroregions
- ✓ educational and training institutions, organisations and other public bodies involved in cultural, social and sports activities
- ✓ research institutes

3.5. Priority 3. Technical Assistance

The goal of Priority 3 lies in the effective Programme implementation through providing competent preparation, management, implementation, monitoring, audit and

control of the Programme as well as supporting Programme-related promotion and information activities.

In order to successfully implement the Programme it is necessary to prepare an appropriate management and implementation system. The institutions responsible for those processes must be supported through technical assistance among others. Providing and effective Programme promotion and information system is also crucial

Technical assistance will be earmarked for the elaboration and assessment of projects, analyses and other documents, carrying out of evaluations, preparation of programming documents, technical documentation, as well as other documents essential for the Programme and expert support.

Particular attention will be given to the enhancement of the final beneficiaries' capacity to absorb the Programme assistance. Projects contributing to human resources development will also be eligible. Support is planned as well for other projects aimed at enhancing the quality of institutions involved in the Programme management and implementation, in particular related to the activities of the Joint Managing Authority, the Joint Technical Secretariat and the Steering Committee.

Another support area within Priority 3 covers projects connected with the Programme promotion and information, concerning both joint actions and the importance of the Community for the development of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian border cooperation. It will include informing potential beneficiaries about possibilities to receive assistance within the Programme's framework, about consulting support for applicants, as well as about dissemination of good practices. Support is also planned for information activities on Programme management, monitoring and evaluation. Projects aiming at ensuring appropriate information flow among institutions and actors involved in Project management and implementation will be supported as well.

Within the priority's framework a whole range of other promotional and information activities will be carried out. Trainings, seminars, conferences will be organised among others, focusing on raising awareness about the Programme and its goals. Programme information will be disseminated by means of TV, radio, press, internet sites, brochures, flyers etc. Communication will be targeted at potential applicants, beneficiaries and the society in order to raise Programme awareness.

Codes for the priority theme dimension:

85, 86.

Exemplary beneficiaries:

- ✓ institutions/bodies involved in the Programme management and implementation, in particular related to the activities of the Joint Managing

Authority, the Joint Technical Secretariat and its antennas, the Steering Committee and the Selection Committees, euroregions.

4. INDICATORS

PROGRAMME LEVEL

Output indicators:

- ✓ **(core ind.):** number of projects respecting two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (**number**)
- ✓ **(core ind.):** number of projects respecting three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (**number**)
- ✓ **(core ind.):** number of projects respecting four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (**number**)

PRIORITY LEVEL

PRIORITY 1. INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS OF BORDER AREA

Input indicator:

- ✓ the budget allocated to the Priority 1 (**50% of total allocation**)

Output indicators:

- ✓ number of implemented projects aimed at the development and modernization of technical and social infrastructure (**number**)
- ✓ **(core ind.):** number of implemented projects reducing isolation through improved access to transport, ICT networks and services
- ✓ number of implemented projects aimed at the improvement of cross-border natural environment protection (**number**)
- ✓ number of implemented projects aimed at borders efficiency and security improvements (**number**)

Result indicator:

- ✓ additional population served by improved technical and social infrastructure (**persons**)
 - ✓ additional population served by improved environmental infrastructure (**persons**)
 - ✓ **(core ind.):** area rehabilitated (**sq. km**)
-

- ✓ additional capacity of the new border crossings (**persons/year**)

PRIORITY 2. NETWORKING AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION

Input indicator:

- ✓ the budget allocated to the Priority 2 (**40% of total allocation**)

Output indicators:

- ✓ number of implemented projects aimed at the regional and local cross-border cooperation capacity building (**number**)
- ✓ number of implemented projects aimed at supporting the local communities' initiatives (**number**)
- ✓ (**core ind.**): number of implemented projects developing collaboration in the field of public services (**number**)

Result indicator:

- ✓ (**core ind.**): number of people participating in joint education or training activities (**persons**)
- ✓ (**core ind.**): number of benefiting students
- ✓ number of people participating in joint cultural or sport activities (**persons**)
- ✓ number of collaborating institutions and organisations (**number**)

PRIORITY 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Input indicator:

- ✓ the budget allocated to the Priority 3 (**10% of total allocation**)

Output indicators:

- ✓ number of implemented projects connected with the Programme management and implementation
- ✓ number of implemented projects connected with the Programme promotion and information

Result indicator:

- ✓ efficiency of implementing agencies (**EUR/person employed in implementing agencies**)
- ✓ number of distributed information and promotion publications (**number**)
- ✓ number of TV and radio programmes and press articles about the Programme (**number**)

ANNEX 1. SELECTED DATA: SUBREGIONS IN 2005 (cells marked in red need to be amended)

Region		Land area (sq. km)	Number of inhabitants	Population density (people/ sq km)	Accommodation capacity all the year (number of bed places)
Poland	Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski subregion	7512	1 158 156	154	6250
	Krośnieńsko-przemyski subregion	10332	940 107	91	10966
	Ostrołęcko-siedlecki subregion	12090	753598	62	2756
	Białskopodlaski subregion	5977	311600	52	5483
	Chełmsko-zamojski subregion	9290	660427	71	5908
	Lubelski subregion	9847	1213129	123	8115
	Białostocko-suwalski subregion	14871	892000	60	10451
	Łomżyński subregion	5316	310400	58	2130
Ukraine	Lvivska Oblast	21831	2577129	118	8701
	Volynska Oblast	20143	1040429	52	907
	Zakarpatska Oblast	12800	1245500	97	2005
	Rivnenska Oblast	20058	1155419	58	3600
	Ternopil'ska Oblast	13823	1112126	80	3082
	Ivano-Frankiv'ska Oblast	13900	1393600	100	12500
Belarus	Brest Oblast	32800	1445600	44	3193
	Gomel Oblast	40400	1485100	37	7500
	Grodno Oblast	25100	1123500	45	7314
	Minsk	40200	1780700	81	16100
	Minsk Oblast		1474100		

Region		Pre-productive population (age 0-14)* (in %)	Productive population (age 15-64)* (in %)	Post-productive population (age over 65)* (in %)	Natural growth/loss (persons)	Migration growth/loss (persons)	Total growth/loss (persons)
Poland	Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski subregion	18,0	69,4	12,6	1706	-898	808
	Krośnieńsko-przemyski subregion	18,2	68,5	13,3	530	-1487	-957
	Ostrołęcko-siedlecki subregion	18,7	67,4	13,9	367	-1962	-1595
	Białskopodlaski subregion	18,4	67,5	14,2	-140	-1189	-1329
	Chełmsko-zamojski subregion	17,1	67,9	15,0	-1325	-1995	-3320
	Lubelski subregion	16,5	69,6	13,9	-371	-1717	-2088
	Białostocko-suwalski subregion	18,4	67,0	14,6	-1050	-751	-1801
	Łomżyński subregion	21,0	65,5	13,5	14	-904	-890
Ukraine	Lwowska Oblast	16,5	68,8	14,7	-9189	-1723	-10219
	Wołyńska Oblast	18,7	66,7	14,6	-3256	-1092	-4348
	Zakarpatska Oblast	21,0	60,8	18,2	-706	-2333	-3039
	Rivnenska Oblast	19,5	67,0	13,5	-1938	-2278	-4216
	Ternopiłska Oblast	16,7	66,6	16,7	-5767	-1680	-7447
	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	19,8	58,7	21,5	-3039	-1167	-4206
Belarus	Brest Oblast	18,6	60,1	21,3	-5472	-3575	-9047
	Gomel Oblast	17,3	61,3	21,4	-8245	-1669	-9914
	Grodno Oblast	17,4	59,8	22,8	-8029	-3488	-11517
	Minsk	14,5	67,9	17,6	-395	16249	15854
	Minsk Oblast	16,7	60,7	22,6	-10815	1574	-9241

* for Belarus: pre-able-bodied (age 0-15); able-bodied (age 16-60 - male; 16-55 - female); post-able-bodied (over 60 - male; 55 - female)

Region		Pre-productive population (age 0-14) (in %)	Productive population (age 15-64) (in %)	Post-productive population (age over 65) (in %)
Poland	Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski subregion	18,0	69,4	12,6
	Krośnieńsko-przemyski subregion	18,2	68,5	13,3
	Ostrołęcko-siedlecki subregion	18,7	67,4	13,9
	Białkopodlaski subregion	18,4	67,5	14,2
	Chełmsko-zamojski subregion	17,1	67,9	15,0
	Lubelski subregion	16,5	69,6	13,9
	Białostocko-suwański subregion	18,4	67,0	14,6
	Łomżyński subregion	21,0	65,5	13,5
Ukraine	Lvivska Oblast	16,5	68,8	14,7
	Volynska Oblast	18,7	66,7	14,6
	Zakarpatska Oblast	21,0	60,8	18,2
	Rivnenska Oblast	19,5	67,0	13,5
	Ternopiłska Oblast	16,7	66,6	16,7
	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	19,8	58,7	21,5
Belarus	Brest Oblast	18,6	60,1	21,3
	Gomel Oblast	17,3	61,3	21,4
	Grodno Oblast	17,4	59,8	22,8
	Minsk	14,5	67,9	17,6
	Minsk Oblast	16,7	60,7	22,6

Region		Gross Domestic Product per capita (current prices in EUR)	Unemployment rate:			Unemployed for over 180 days (%)
			total (%)	male (%)	female (%)	
Poland	Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski subregion	4283	16,6	47	53	54,4
	Krośnieńsko-przemyski subregion	3338	21,0	49	51	56,2
	Ostrołęcko-siedlecki subregion	3550	8,3	50	50	58,7
	Białskopodlaski subregion	3404	18,5	52	48	58,3
	Chełmsko-zamojski subregion	3361	18,4	50	50	54,4
	Lubelski subregion	4306	15,9	49	51	53,9
	Białostocko-suwalski subregion	4137	15,1	50	50	47,8
	Łomżyński subregion	3409	18,9	50	50	55,5
Ukraine	Lvivska Oblast	816	8,8	41	59	44,7
	Volynska Oblast	750	8,9	41	59	N/A
	Zakarpatska Oblast	625	7,0	33	67	14,6
	Rivnenska Oblast	667	9,7	45	55	43,6
	Ternopilska Oblast	3362	9,1	49	52	36,6
	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	824	10,2	54	46	76,9
Belarus	Brest Oblast	2490	1,8	30	70	N/A
	Gomel Oblast		1,7	30	70	N/A
	Grodno Oblast		1,6	26	74	N/A
	Minsk		0,8	32	68	N/A
	Minsk Oblast		1,5	33	67	N/A

Region		Employment in:		
		industry (%)	agriculture (%)	services (%)
Poland	Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski subregion	31,8	26,6	41,6
	Krośnieńsko-przemyski subregion	25,1	33,9	41,0
	Ostrołęcko-siedlecki subregion	16,5	51,6	31,9
	Białskopodlaski subregion	14,3	50,5	35,2
	Chełmsko-zamojski subregion	14,0	55,2	30,7
	Lubelski subregion	20,1	38,4	41,5
	Białostocko-suwalski subregion	19,4	37,6	43,0
	Łomżyński subregion	14,1	56,9	29,0
Ukraine	Lvivska Oblast	17,1	20,0	62,9
	Volynska Oblast	19,2	13,1	15,5
	Zakarpatska Oblast	12,5	28,5	10,0
	Rivnenska Oblast	20,3	20,6	59,1
	Ternopiłska Oblast	18,4	13,7	67,9
	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	25,3	5,1	16,9
Belarus	Brest Oblast	24,7	15,2	60,1
	Gomel Oblast	27,3	10,6	62,1
	Grodno Oblast	25,3	16,4	58,3
	Minsk	27,1	0,0	72,9
	Minsk Oblast	28,7	16,2	55,1

Region	Public water conduit		Public sewerage system		Waste water treatment			Greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 (1 000 tonnes, CO2 equivalent)	Municipal waste generated (kg per capita)	Number of SMEs
	in km	per 100 km ²	in km	per 100 km ²	municipal plants	industrial plants	treated waste water (% of total waste water)			
Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzescski subregion	7619,1	101,4	4111,3	54,7						
Krośnieńsko-przemyski subregion	4594	44,5	3906,3	37,8						
Ostrolęcko-siedlecki subregion	4288,4	35,5	482,4	4,0						
Bialskopodlaski subregion	3161	52,9	653,0	10,9						17776
Chełmsko-zamojski subregion	5067,1	54,5	907,4	9,8						41573
Lubelski subregion	8923,5	90,6	1622,7	16,5						90129
Białostocko-suwalski subregion	7738,2	52,0	1509,6	10,2				8613	532	91633
Łomżyński subregion	2882,0	54,2	368,8	6,9				3873	206	
Lviv oblast	4728,5	21,7	2176,3	10,0			96,1			
Volyn oblast										5406
Zakarpattia oblast										8436
Ternopil oblast										4403
Rivne oblast	1162,4	5,8	509,5	2,5	22	1	100,0			4958
Ivano-Frankivsk oblast	1360,0	9,8	753,7	5,4		30		2523	861	7259
Brest oblast	2736,5	8,3	967,5	2,9				3904	433	2387
Gomel oblast								9206	205	
Grodno oblast	3678	14,6	2120,8	8,4	68		95,2			3784
Minsk oblast	3210		2252,4							

Region:	Nationality						
	Polish	Belarusian	Ukrainian	Romanian	Russian	Lithuanian	Other
Lubelskie voivodship	98,6	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,2
Podkarpackie voivodship	98,6	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0
Podlaskie voivodship	93,5	3,7	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,4	1,5
Brest Oblast	1,8	85,0	3,8	0,0	8,7	0,0	0,7
Gomel Oblast	0,2	84,2	3,3	0,0	11,0	0,0	1,3
Grodno Oblast	24,8	62,3	1,8	0,0	10,1	0,0	1,0
Minsk	1,0	79,3	2,4	0,0	15,7	0,0	1,6
Minsk Oblast	1,9	86,6	1,6	0,0	9,0	0,0	0,9
Lvivska Oblast	0,7	0,2	94,8	0,0	3,6	0,0	0,7
Volynska Oblast	0,1	0,3	96,9	0,0	2,4	0,0	0,3
Zakarpatska Oblast	0,0	0,0	80,5	2,6	2,5	0,0	14,4
Rivenska Oblast	0,3	0,1	97,8	0,0	1,2	0,0	0,0
Ternopil'ska Oblast	0,3	0,1	97,8	0,0	1,2	0,0	0,0
Ivano-Frankiv'ska Oblast	0,1	0,1	97,5	0,0	1,8	0,0	0,5

ANNEX 2. LIST OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREAS

(to be checked and amended by national/regional parties of the Programme; possibly a map should be prepared)

National parks:

- Bialowieski and Bieszczadzki (registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List),
- Szacki,
- Narwianski,
- Wigierski,
- Roztoczanski,
- Magurski,
- Biebrzanski,
- Yavoriv,
- Beskyd,
- Sinevir
- Karpatskiy
-

Landscape parks:

- Sobiborski,
- Poleski,
- Chełmski,
- Strzelecki,
- Szczebrzeszynski,
- Kransobrodzki,
- Puszczy Solskiej,
- Południowo-Roztoczanski,
- Czarnorzecko-Strzyzowski,
- Pogorza Przemyskiego,
- Gór Słonnych,
- Jasliski,
- Cisniansko-Wetlinski,
- Doliny Sanu,
- Flat Land of Prypec River
- Stokhid,
- Cheremske bogland in Manevichy District,
- Flat Land of Turiya River in Kamin-Kashirskiy,
- Kovel,
- Ratnivskiy and Starovyzhyvskiy Districts
-

Reserves of biosphere:

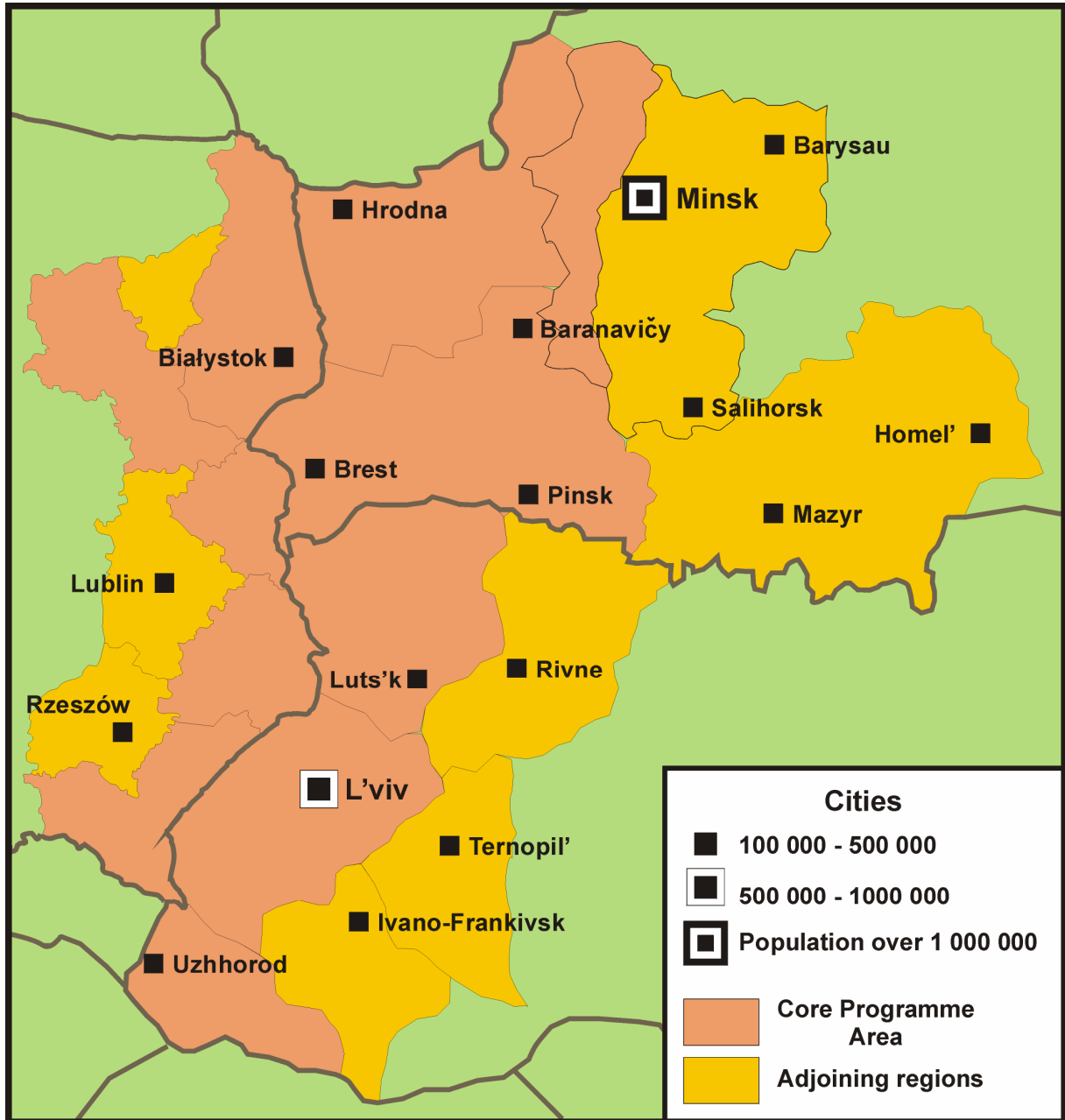
- "Western Polesie" (registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List),
- International "Eastern Carpathians"
-

Areas protected under NATURA 2000

- Bagno Bubnow
- Chelmskie Torfowiska
- Dolina Dolnego Wieprza
- Dolina Srodkowego Bugu
- Lasy Janowskie
- Lasy Łukowskie
- Dolina Tysmienicy
- Lasy Parczewskie
- Lasy Strzeleckie
- Ostoja Poleska
- Puszcza Solska
- Roztocze
- Stawy W Tarnawatce
- Uroczysko Mosty-Zahajki
- Zbiornik Podedworze
- Zbiornik W Nieliszu
- Zlewnia Gornej Huczwy
- Dolina Dolnego Bugu
- Dolina Srodkowej Wisły
- Małopolski Przełom Wisły
-
-?

ANNEX 3. MAPS

Programme Area



Population density (2005)

