

Winter 2010/11

# THE CROSS BORDERER

**NEWSLETTER OF THE CROSS-BORDER  
COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
POLAND - BELARUS - UKRAINE 2007-2013**



CONTENTS

3

EDITORIAL

4

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

6

LARGE SCALE PROJECTS UPDATE

7

FACES OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

8

LATEST EVENTS

9

ISN'T IT INTERESTING?



The Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine has started a new implementation stage. On November 23rd, 2010, the Joint Monitoring Committee approved the list of projects, which may receive financing under the first Call for Proposals. Implementation of the projects will start soon and so the local border communities will enrich themselves with new contacts, with additional opportunities for economic development and with new socio-cultural values. It is therefore our priority to have the grant contracts signed and to transfer the funds to the beneficiaries as quickly as possible.

It's been a year since the first Call for Proposals was announced. We devoted this time to build effective cooperation among the states which are functioning in different legal and administrative systems. Due to the fact that the Programme implementation rules were completely new, the allocation for the first Call of Proposals (set at 16.1 mln EUR) represented a small part of the total budget. Now, with the precious experience, we intend

to ease the process of application for the next calls for proposals. Therefore all the organisations that failed to obtain financing under the first Call are more than welcome to apply in the next calls for proposals planned for the first half-year of 2011.

As the result of our joint work, 57 organisations have become the beneficiaries of the Programme. Besides projects selected for financing under the first Call, we will also finance strategic investments in the border crossing points, i.e. the first so-called "large scale projects" accepted by the European Commission. These are two symmetric projects, related to the development of the border crossing Polowce-Peschatka on the Polish-Belarusian border. Other strategic projects, among which there are Polish-Ukrainian initiatives, are being developed. All the strategic projects are of the greatest importance as the low capacity of the border crossing points is one of the main barriers blocking development of the border regions .

In 2010 the Branch Office of the Joint Technical Secretariat in Lviv was also created. This is one of the first institutions of this kind among all ENPI cross-border cooperation programmes. This institution will ensure better support for both applicants and beneficiaries of the Programme. The similar Branch Office of the JTS soon will be opened in Brest in Belarus.

Looking back and comparing the current Programme with its predecessor- Neighbourhood Programme, I would like to underline that the current solutions for application procedures have enabled a considerable increase in participation of the Belarusian and Ukrainian partners. This is the key change everyone expected and which brings joy to all of us. Belarusian and Ukrainian partners have the opportunity to implement the infrastructural projects, there is a significant increase in the amount of the financial means available for them. While analyzing the results of the first Call, it is important to notice that out of the 57 institutions involved, 30 are Belarusian or Ukrainian partners, some acting as the Lead Partner in the project.

I wish to all the beneficiaries of the Programme that all activities realised through the cross-border cooperation stay in your memory as the positive experience and result in new successful cooperation projects with the neighbours.

Elżbieta Bieńkowska  
Minister of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland

Joint Managing Authority  
Cross-border Cooperation Programme  
Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013

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## SUMMARY OF THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

After a number of NGOs, governmental bodies and public entities from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine answered to the Call for Proposals by submitting 307 applications, it has been the responsibility of the Joint Technical Secretariat to register, check, correct and send letters to applicants regarding the administrative and eligibility verification of the received projects. The requirements for administrative and eligibility check are based on the provisions of the Guidelines for Applicants, approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee as well as the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU external actions.

During its first meeting the Evaluation Committee (EVC) approved the report from the opening session and administrative and eligibility check. The list of projects recommended for further evaluation opened the way to start the Step 2 – quality evaluation, which was carried out by EVC with the support of the internal and external assessors. The Evaluation Committee approved a ranking and reserve list. Projects recommended for support are those that following the quality evaluation received the minimum scoring envisaged for the whole project as well as for the required sections. No project proposal failing to pass the quality assessment thresholds may be approved for financing.

The Joint Monitoring Committee during its third meeting (which took place on 23-24 November 2010) decided to approve the list of 21 projects, which shall be funded within the 1st Call for Proposals. The maximum total value of the selected projects exceeds the budget allocated for the 1st Call.



JMC meeting 23.11.2010

Table 1 The order of events

<b>02 November 2009</b>	<b>Announcement of the call for proposals</b>
<b>01 March 2010</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of Applications</b>
<b>15 - 17 March 2010</b>	<b>Opening session</b>
<b>March – April 2010</b>	<b>Administrative / eligibility check in JTS</b>
<b>May - June 2010</b>	<b>Sending letters</b>
<b>July 2010</b>	<b>Verification of answers</b>
<b>August - October 2010</b>	<b>Quality evaluation</b>
<b>23 - 24 November 2010</b>	<b>Approval of projects during JMC meeting</b>

Table 2. Number of applications according to measures

<b>Total number of applications received: 307</b>							
Measure	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	3.1	3.2	Not classified
Number of applications	39	74	38	59	90	3	4

(The first call was not opened for Measures 2.2 and 3.2)

Table 3. Number of applications submitted by Lead Partner from POLAND

Voivodeship	Number of appl.	EU co-financing requested
Lubelskie	88	55.935.144,54 €
Małopolskie	2	1.833.944,35 €
Mazowieckie	15	10.532.027,56 €
Podkarpackie	49	27.281.536,30 €
Podlaskie	38	28.192.972,02 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>123.775.624,80 €</b>

Table 4. Number of applications submitted by Lead Partner from BELARUS

Region	Number of appl.	EU co-financing requested
Brest Region	8	3.947.055,23 €
Homiel Region	3	945.355,00 €
Hrodna Region	5	4.330.807,44 €
Minsk region	6	4.304.048,00 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13.527.255,67 €</b>

Table 5. Number of applications submitted by Lead Partner from UKRAINE

Region	Number of appl.	EU co-financing requested
Ivano-Frankivsk Region	7	2.259.257,30 €
Kyiv Region	2	660.900,00 €
Lviv Region	36	16.565.093,42 €
Rivne Region	5	1.344.031,00 €
Volyn Region	32	20.896.553,82 €
Zakarpattia Region	11	4.287.052,78 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>46.012.888,32 €</b>

## LARGE SCALE PROJECTS UPDATE

### Introduction

Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 provides that in measure 2.2 co-financing of the strategic projects concerning the new border crossings and modernization of the existing border crossings is planned. According to article 4 of the ENPI Implementing Rules large scale cross-border investment projects are not selected through the open calls for proposals, but are identified jointly by participating countries, in agreement with the European Commission.

### Basic information about LSP in PBU

As a rule, the maximum implementation period of large scale projects (LSP) is 36 months. An LSP must be finalised until 31 December 2014. Recommended minimum grant value is 2 000 000 EUR and the recommended maximum grant value amounts to 10 000 000 EUR. EU co-financing percentage: maximum 90% of eligible costs. LSPs shall be directly related to the Programme, its priorities and measures, crucial for the development of the Programme area, have a clear cross-border effect, have an investment (infrastructure) character, have support from the national/ regional level authorities in a form of a written statements, be coherent with national/ regional development strategic documents, the beneficiary must be clearly identified as the only one being able to implement it.

Two Joint Task Force meetings were already held and five information sessions with LSP partners were organized. As a result 9 large scale projects were identified with total budget of 55,8 million EUR.

### Current situation

With great pleasure we would like to inform that the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 is the first Programme among all other ENPI Programmes which has managed to successfully select the first LSPs! The European Commission approved the full application forms of two LSPs which soon will sign contracts with the Joint Managing Authority. At the same time, until now six further LSP Project Summaries were already approved by the EC and the full application forms are under preparation. The last Project Summary is under preparation.



Modern and efficient border crossings are crucial for cross-border cooperation

## FACES OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Interview with Mrs. Ewa Stachowicz from the Podlaskie Voivodeship Governor's Office, who is currently undertaking a project on "Making infrastructure of Road border crossing point Polowce-Peschatka-Stage III (Polish - Belarusian border) - Hajnowski District PL - Brzeski District BA".

### Could you please describe the idea behind the project and who will benefit from its implementation?

The intentions of the project fit exactly in the Measure 2.2: efficient and secure borders. The aim of this project is to increase the effectiveness of infrastructure and border procedures as well as to increase the safety on the Polish-Belarusian border, which is an external border of the EU. A higher capacity of the border and its safety are the conditions for the achievement of other objectives of the whole Programme. A direct group of entities, which will benefit from this investment will include: the Border Guard, the Customs Service, the Management of Border Crossings of Podlaskie Voivodeship, residents of Hajnówka District and Brest Oblast and all the persons travelling through Europe.

### If we look ahead, in what way, do you think, the project results will contribute to the development the Podlaskie region? What will be the cross-border impact?

The participation of Belarus in the EU programmes and in the Eastern Partnership initiative will be conducive to stimulation of economic, infrastructural and touristic co-operation between regions from Poland and Belarus. Completion of the project will allow, inter alia, the development and modernization of infrastructure, by joint actions of the authorities of Podlaskie Voivodeship and Brest Oblast. Completion of the project will contribute to intensification of the cross-border cooperation. The extension of Polowce-Peschatka border crossing will enable international motor passenger and freight (up to 7.5 tons) traffic.

### The State Customs Committee of Belarus is involved as a partner in your project, how would you characterise its performance in this project in terms of the contribution it makes?

The project is symmetrical. Each party will carry out most of actions on its side of the border. The Belarusian part will participate in this project in the scope completed on the Polish side, including working meetings regarding the co-operation. During the meetings the parties will exchange experiences and discuss the matters resulting from the contact point on the road border crossings.

### Could you name the reasons to apply for an LSP grant?

First of all the grant can accelerate the completion of the project. It also strengthens the cross-border cooperation, introduces similar standard of infrastructure and throughput capacity on both sides of the border, what allows faster and safer crossing of the border. The grant can facilitate development of partner relations and exchange of experiences in the scope of efficient border clearance. As the last point I would mention promotion and development of the whole region.



Ms. Ewa Stachowicz (in the foreground) talking about planned investment in the Polowce-Peschatka border crossing between Poland and Belarus.

## LATEST EVENTS



### 2nd Partner Search Forum

14 December 2010 – over 270 representatives from the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Polish organisations and institutions met in Lviv to exchange ideas on projects for the forthcoming calls for proposals planned for the first half of 2011. Potential partners also had a chance to meet the Project Managers from the Joint Technical Secretariat and experts from the Regional Capacity Building Initiative. The Partner Search Forum was organized well ahead the announcements of the calls in order to give applicants more time to work on the partnership.



### Cross-border Forum of Journalists

On 15 December 2010, the representatives of local and regional media from the Programme territory met in Lviv to discuss needs of the borderland. More than 30 journalists participated in this event. The Forum was an opportunity to exchange opinions regarding the possibilities of border areas development, to determine desired directions of development of the cross-border cooperation and to establish the new forms of cooperation between the journalists from neighbouring regions. Journalists expressed their readiness to further support the information plan of the Programme and assist in promoting the best practices for the project implementation.



## ISN'T IT INTERESTING?

There are 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the Programme territory including 3 transboundary sites. We have the pleasure to present these "gifts from the Past to the Future" (source: whc.unesco.org):



1. Architectural, Residential and Cultural Complex of the Radziwill Family in Niasviž (Belarus)



5. Old City of Zamość (Poland)



2. Virgin forests of Bielaviežskaja Pušča / Puszcza Białowieża (Belarus/ Poland)



6. Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Ukraine/Slovakia)



3. Lviv - the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine)



7. Struve Geodetic Arc (Belarus, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russian Federation, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)



4. Mir Castle Complex (Belarus)

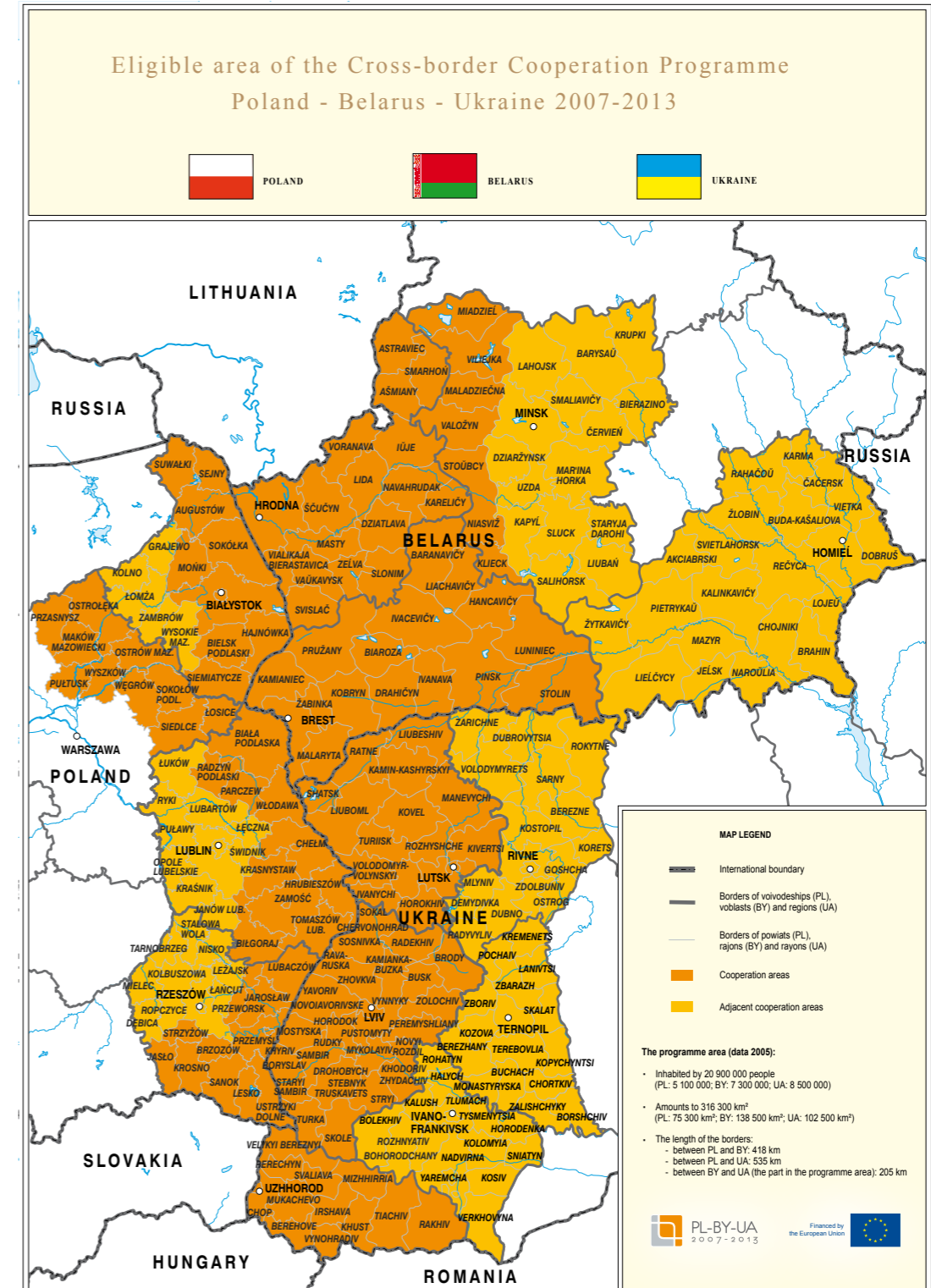


8. Wooden Churches of Southern Little Poland (Poland)

## 2011 list of non-working days\* in Poland, Belarus and Ukraine

I	01	Nowy Rok (PL), Новый год (BY), Новий Рік (UA) - New Year's Day
	03	Non - working day (UA)
	06	Święto Trzech Króli (PL) - Epiphany
	07	Рождество Христово (православное Рождество) (BY), Різдво Христове (UA) - Christmas (according to the Julian calendar)
III	08	День женщин (BY), Міжнародний жіночий день (UA) - Women's Day
IV	24	Wielkanoc (PL) , Светлое Христово Воскресенье (Православная Пасха), Пасха (Католическая) (BY), Пасха (Великдень) (UA) - Easter Sunday
	25	Poniedziałek Wielkanocny (PL) - Easter Monday, Non - working day (UA)
V	01	Święto Pracy (PL), Праздник труда (BY), День міжнародної солідарності трудящих (UA) - Labour Day
	02	День міжнародної солідарності трудящих (UA) - Labour Day
	03	Święto Konstytucji 3 Maja (PL) - 3rd May Constitution Day, Радуница (BY) - Radonitsa
	09	День Победы (BY), День Перемоги (UA) - Victory Day
VI	12	Zesłanie Ducha Świętego – Zielone Świątki (PL) - Pentecost , Трійця (UA) - Trinity
	13	Non - working day (Ukraine)
	23	Boże Ciało (PL) - Corpus Christi
	28	День конституції України (UA) - Constitution Day of Ukraine
VII	03	День Независимости Республики Беларусь (День Республики) (BY) - Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus
VIII	15	Wniebowzięcie NMP (PL) - The Assumption
	24	День незалежності України (UA) - Independence Day of Ukraine
XI	01	Wszystkich Świętych (PL) - All Saints' Day
	07	День Октябрьской революции (BY) - Anniversary of the October Revolution
XII	11	Narodowe Święto Niepodległości (PL) - Independence Day of Poland
	25	Boże Narodzenie (PL), Рождество Христово (католическое Рождество) (BY) - Christmas
	26	Boże Narodzenie (PL) - Christmas

\* Public holidays and other non-working days. In Ukraine when a public holiday falls on a day off (e.g. Sunday), the following working day becomes a day off.



Joint Technical Secretariat  
Cross-border Cooperation Programme  
Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013  
Center of European Projects  
39a, Domaniewska St.  
02-672 Warsaw  
tel: +48 22 378 31 00  
e-mail: [pbu@cpe.gov.pl](mailto:pbu@cpe.gov.pl)  
[www.pl-by-ua.eu](http://www.pl-by-ua.eu)

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