‘BORDERLAND CULTURE AS AN INTEGRATION PLATFORM OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BUG EUROREGION’

<table>
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<th>Umbrella project lead partner (LPU)</th>
<th>The Association of Local Governments of Bug Euroregion/ PL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Micro-projects</td>
<td>9 PL-UA partnership projects and 2 PL-BY projects</td>
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<td>Total budget</td>
<td>488 244,08 €</td>
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<td>Programme contribution</td>
<td>439 419,67 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>24 months (from 01/01/2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project ref. number</td>
<td>IPBU.03.02.00-06-828/12</td>
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The overall objective of the project is the support for the local communities in the area of maintaining the joint cultural traditions. The project includes 11 micro-projects with participation of Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian partners. Altogether there are 23 participating organisations: 12 – from Poland, 9 – from Ukraine and 2 – from Belarus, among them are representatives of local self-government, the tourism sector, non-governmental organisations, cultural and sports institutions, as well as educational units.

The micro-project ‘Łęczna and Kovel – Cross-border Towns of Two Traditions and Cultures’ is aimed at the Polish–Ukrainian borderland’s integration and deepening of the cooperation in the area of culture and maintaining the joint cultural traditions. The main events in the project are Łęczna Fair and Festival of Two Cultures in Kovel with 440 participants and 12000 recipients.

The micro-project ‘Let’s Meet our Cultures - Cooperation between the Municipality of Goraj and the Municipality of Zabolottia’ will focus on the promotion of culture and local traditions of Goraj and Zabolottia Communes through organising Goraj’s Festival of Brass Bands, Culinary Workshops in Zabolottia and Goraj districts with 125 participants and 2000 recipients.

The results of the micro-project ‘Cross-border E-Center for Cultural Cooperation Lublin-Lutsk’ will create the Cross-border E-Centre with 1 internet portal and 2 internet billboards, as well as a cultural competence training for local government officials will be conducted and Polish-Ukrainian cross-border strategies in the area of culture will be developed (100 participants of the events).

The micro-project ‘Meeting with Tradition, Culture and Cuisine of the Polish-Ukrainian Borderland’ will popularise and promote traditions, folk and culinary culture and artistic heritage by means of 2 artistic workshops ‘Save from oblivion’, 2 culinary workshops ‘Cuisine of the Polish-Ukrainian borderland’. A Polish-Ukrainian volume of poetry and a book of recipes ‘Regional Cuisine of Polish-Ukrainian Borderland’ will be published with 500 copies of each.

Photo ® The Association of Local Governments of Bug Euroregion
The micro-project ‘Cross-border Colours of the Roztocze Region – the Cooperation of Tomaszów Lubelski and Rava-Ruska’ will maintain the joint cultural traditions among communities of the Tomaszów Lubelski in Poland and Rava Ruska in Ukraine through 2 ethnographic workshops and borderland fair ‘Colours of Roztocze’ with 50 participants from Ukraine and 600 recipients in total.

The micro-project ‘Let’s Rebuilt Things in our Imagination that no Longer Exist and Let’s Complete the Picture of the Reality’ will disseminate the region’s cultural heritage in the form of 10 workshops on local rituals, 2 open-air stagings of ritual events in the cross-border area of Werbkowice Commune and Uhniv Town (68 participants and 300 person audience).

The micro-project ‘Where the Spring Gushes … - Musical Culture of the Poland and Belarus Borderland’ will promote coooperational development of Polish and Belarusian cultural and scientific institutions in the sphere of the joint cultural traditions of the Wisznice – Brest borderland area. The project will include a review of the folk bands of the borderland, a scientific survey of the borderland old folk music, 2 workshops of folk chant for the borderland musicians, 2 Polish-Belarusian youth exchanges and 2 Festivals of Borderland Music with about 500 participants in total.

The micro-project ‘Folklore and Folk Art of the Bug Borderland’ will include a joint publication ‘My Little Borderland’, a film spot ‘Bug River borderland culture, traditions and nations’, 2 workshops ‘Nadbuzański borderland of culture, traditions and nations’, 2 fairs of Nadbuzański Folklore ‘My Little Borderland’, a seminar ‘The thing about the culture of Nadbuzański border’.

The micro-project ‘The Revival and Preservation of Folk Traditions in the Organisation of Local Festivals and Rites of Cross-border Union ‘Euroregion ‘Bug’’ will increase awareness about cultural diversity of Euroregion ‘Bug’ (Brest and Chelm) through conducting of a ‘round table’ of experts on ‘Non-material Cultural Heritage of Euroregion Bug: problems of regeneration and conservation’, culinary competition among owners of agricultural farmsteads ‘Paleskiya prysmaki’, harvest festival ‘Dozhinki’, and the Belarusian ceremony ‘Koniki’ (135 participants in total), publishing a brochure with recipes (1500 copies) and the production of 2 films.

The micro-project ‘Professionalization of Cultural Sector Personnel from Lublin and Lviv in the Field of Project Management’ will contribute to the cultural awareness of the border region through the complex actions which enable the correct preparation and implementation of joint cross-border projects: 8 Polish-Ukrainian working group meetings, 2 accredited training in PRINCE 2 Foundation level with exams, 2 conferences and 1 publication presenting experiences in the implementation of cultural projects of Lublin, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lutsk (100 people involved).

The micro-project ‘Cultural Identity of Local Communities of the Ukrainian- Polish Border Area’ will revive and promote the rural cultural traditions of the Ukrainian–Polish borderland (Hirka Polonka Village Council and Ruda-Huta Commune) by means of organising 2 Cross-border Festivals, a seminar on agro-tourism development, performing expert research in the area of cultural traditions of the Ukrainian-Polish border area and developing a web-site.

In total the project shall involve approximately 2400 active participants and attract an audience of more than 17000 people.
Locations and roles of the partners in the project

- LPU - Umbrella project lead partner
- Micro-project lead partner
- Micro-project partner
What possibilities does the special location of the Bug Euroregion bring in terms of the cross-border cooperation?

The location of the Lublin Voivodeship on the external border of the EU in the immediate neighbourhood of two countries which are not member states of the EU – Ukraine and Belarus - holds unique potential on an international scale in relation to the development of the region and makes Bug Euroregion one of the main institutions of transfer of cooperation between the regions and people in the area of the Lublin Voivodeship in Poland, the Brest Oblast in Belarus, the Volyn and the part of Lviv Oblasts in Ukraine. We have the possibility to create a network of relations enabling broadly defined cooperation in almost all areas of life of borderland communities: economic, transport, infrastructural, social and cultural. Good atmosphere of cooperation that accompanies mutual relations of the members of the association most certainly opens new possibilities of cooperation in those fields year after year. The currently realised umbrella project is an important element of the network of cooperation that is being built by our association.

What contribution can the local societies expect from the project?

The common aim of the partners in our umbrella project is supporting initiatives of local communities of Cross-Border Association of Bug Euroregion within the scope of preserving common cultural traditions. This umbrella project refers to beautiful but disappearing traditions of the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland area. In order to break the deadlock in the contacts, improve mutual relations and change the mentality and stereotypes of the neighbouring nations, the partners of the micro-projects plan to collaborate on the organisation of cultural events and extend their formula to the international rank. The problems in all micro-projects identified are very similar and oscillate around poor knowledge of the adjacent communities. The realisation of the project will increase the level of knowledge of the residents and will influence the improvement of relations between the neighbours. As a target it will increase the quality of life in the area covered by the project, contribute to strengthening the sense of identity of the residents of this area, mutual understanding and breaking still existing barriers.
What is the importance of the shared cultural heritage?

The development of shared cultural heritage plays a significant role in increasing the sense of identity of the residents. It is also stimulating growth of tourist movements and has a positive influence on the economic potential of the region. The project will start at collective workshops for the local communities from Poland, Ukraine and Belarus within the scope of folk traditions and history. We expect active participation of the youth and children. We will also organise mutual open-access events with the participation of selected groups of local creators, artists and folk bands to promote common traditions. We focus on the integration of societies on both sides of the border. Finally we shall take advantage of Internet websites and common communication strategies to effectively promote the maintenance of the common cultural traditions of the borderland area communities.

Meeting with the partners from the micro-projects.

Focal points of the project:

- Cross-border strategy in the area of culture
- Conference and exhibitions
- Expert research trip
- A round of 37 different multicultural events and festivals
- Study and monitoring visits
- Traditional songbooks elaborating
- Films and websites
- Workshops, seminars and trainings
- Preservation of common folk traditions