

PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN POLAND AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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ABSTRACT

Cross-border cooperation contributes to economic and social stimulation of border regions and serves in the strengthening of bonds between communities on various planes. This article presents the socio-economic situation of people in Polish regions bordering the Czech Republic and discusses the on-going cross-border cooperation supported by the EU programmes, including the INTERREG IIIA Community Initiative. This is because the on-going cross-border cooperation brings with it a necessity to focus the activity on the raising of human resources of suitable quality that constitute an important factor of economic growth of border regions.

KEY WORDS

Cross-border cooperation, INTERREG Initiative, human capital

1. Cross-border cooperation on Polish-Czech borderland: the forms and scope of cooperation

Cross-border cooperation is based on the EU documents and on bilateral or multilateral governmental documents. It has been practiced on Polish-Czech border as a result of intergovernmental agreements, e.g. the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Poland on Cross-Border Cooperation from the 8th of September 1994 [1], where the parties agreed to solve any problems of either legal, technical or administrative nature that may occur, by way of cross-border cooperation (Art. 3) in certain exactly determined area (Art. 4). Polish-Czech Intergovernmental Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation (Polsko-Czeska Komisja Międzyrządowa ds. Współpracy Transgranicznej) was then created to develop bilateral contacts and as its objective the following were assumed: „*stating general directions and forms, as well as coordination of cross-border cooperation programmes, preparing recommendations related to decisions of common coordination organs at regional and local level and examination of controversial issues that hinder this cooperation*”[2],[3].

Joint documents on development programming have evolved. In the years 1991-1993, it was „Studium

koordynacyjne rozwoju pogranicza polsko-czeskiego”[4] for common cross-border planning [5], and later on, it was „Strategia rozwoju pogranicza polsko-czeskiego”, setting out the directions for development of this borderland in the light of undergoing changes resulting among others from the process of European integration [6]. This cooperation was also supported by the Phare CBC fund, i.e. an EU programme, which among others related to three-party cooperation on Polish-Czech-German borders, and that was implemented in the years 1995-1996. Starting from the year 1999, the cooperation within Phare CBC was also practiced on Polish-Czech border. On the Polish side, the programme encompassed a belt, two poviats wide, of three Voivodeships: Śląskie, Opolskie and Dolnośląskie. At the same time, the implementation of this programme was a preparation for taking advantage of the INTERREG programme after accession to the EU. The CBC programme earmarked the funds for investment projects, mostly in infrastructure. They were focused on the improvement of transport facilities and on environmental protection. The Joint Small Projects Fund was also supported by the programme. The management of this fund was entrusted to euroregions active on the borderland [7]. This is so, since it is the euroregions that are the structured form of cross-border cooperation. The cooperation within the euroregion is marked with own specific features. The above include: institutionalized framework of cross-border cooperation characterised by high level of advancement (the cooperation itself is of more institutionalized nature), existing contacts with organs responsible for the coordination of this kind of cooperation, as well the very act of creating euroregion, which sometimes results from initiatives of local communities [8]. Euroregion is a formal cooperation framework, which constitutes, a „*particular kind (form) of cross-border regions*”[9]. In its definition, the cross-border connections are highlighted together with the cross-border character of euroregion area [10].

On the Polish-Czech borderland, the following euroregions are functioning: Nysa, Glacensis, Pradziad, Silesia, Śląsk Cieszyński and Beskidy. Their basic characteristics are included in Table 1.

Table 1. Basic characteristics of euroregions functioning on Polish-Czech borderland, 2002

| Name of euroregion | Date of creation | Area [km ²] | Population [thousands] |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Nysa | 21 st December 1991 | 11397 | 1539.0 |
| Glacensis | 5 th December 1996 | 4966 | 1032.1 |
| Pradziad | 2 nd July 1997 | 4976 | 665.9 |
| Silesia | 20 th September 1998 | 2692 | 513.0 |
| Śląsk Cieszyński | 22 nd April 1998 | 1618 | 644.9 |
| Beskidy | 9 th June 2000 | 5111 | 1029.5 |

Source: Compilation of data based on: Euroregiony na granicach Polski 2003. Urząd Statystyczny we Wrocławiu, Wrocław 2004, pp. 62, 88.

Figure 1. The scope of the INTERREG IIIA programme on the Polish-Czech borderland in the years 2004-2006



Source: http://www.interreg3a.cz/index.php?lang=pl&cmd=page&type=1&id=93&parent_id=75, 29.08.2006.

In the years 2004-2006, the INTERREG IIIA Community Initiative is in progress in the area of Polish-Czech borderland, and it encompasses 4 sub-regions of the Polish side of the Polish-Czech borderland. The extent of the initiative in terms of the total area being covered has been presented by figure 1.

2. Demographic potential of the Polish side of Polish-Czech borderland

The current cross-border cooperation should also influence the creation of human capital of appropriate quality. The definition of human capital is following: *"the resource of knowledge, abilities, health and vital energy concealed in society. This resource is predefined by genetic qualities of given population, but it can be expanded by investments called human investments: investing in people, human capital and human life"* [11]. This category of investment includes services and other facilities contributing to e.g. life expectancy, professional training during work time, schooling, programmes of studies for adults, migrations, outsourcing of information on economic situation of companies and about work, or scientific research, for that matter [12]. Human capital and its quality are

commonly understood as factors determining economic growth.

In this context, there is a need to analyse the situation regarding human resources on the Polish side of Polish-Czech borderland in the light of respective situation in the overall Voivodeship that discussed area falls into. They should be also analysed in a country-wide perspective [13]. The basic figures depicting demographic situation in the Polish part of the Polish-Czech borderland are compiled in Table 2.

In 2004, population density in the area under analysis, apart from the sub-regions of Opolski and Wrocławski, exceeded the country average, which equals 122 persons per km². In the Rybnicko-jastrzebski sub-region the density amounted to 474 persons per km², in Bielsko-bialski sub-region - 275 persons per km² and in Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski sub-region - 127 persons per km². Population density in this last sub-region was one of the highest in Dolnośląskie Voivodeship (second only to the population density of the city of Wrocław), while in Śląskie Voivodeship the highest density was noted in Rybnicko-jastrzebski sub-region and the overall population density in Śląskie Voivodeship, amounting to 381 persons per km², was the highest in the country.

Table 2. Selected data concerning social situation in border Voivodeships and sub-regions in 2005

| List of sub-regions | Population density, no. of people per km ² , 2004 | Birth rate per 1000 inhabitants | Demographic Load Ratio- population in non-productive age per 100 persons in productive age | Net internal and international migration for permanent residence per 1000 population |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Poland | 122 | -0.1 | 56 | -0.3 |
| Dolnośląskie Voivodeship | 145 | -1.0 | 52 | -0.6 |
| Sub-region Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski | 127 | -2.0 | 54 | -2.4 |
| Sub-region Legnicki | 120 | 1.1 | 51 | -3.1 |
| Sub-region Wrocławski | 85 | 0.8 | 53 | 3.4 |
| City of Wrocław | 2173 | -1.8 | 49 | 2.2 |
| Opolskie Voivodeship (sub-region) | 112 | -0.9 | 55 | -3.0 |
| Śląskie Voivodeship | 381 | -1.2 | 53 | -1.9 |
| Sub-region Częstochowski | 177 | -2.8 | 56 | -0.6 |
| Sub-region Bielsko-bialski | 275 | 0.3 | 57 | 1.8 |
| Sub-region Centralny-śląski | 515 | -1.8 | 52 | -2.6 |
| Sub-region Rybnicko-jastrzębski | 474 | 1.4 | 52 | -3.4 |

Source: Compilation based on: Powierzchnia i ludność w przekroju terytorialnym w 2005 r. GUS, Warszawa 2005, pp. 173-174, 17. http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/ludnosc/powierz_teryt/2005/index.htm, 1.09.2006; Ludność. Stan i struktura w przekroju terytorialnym. Stan w dniu 31.12.2005 r., http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/ludnosc/stan_struk_teryt/2005/31_12/index.htm, 1.09.2006.

However, the situation of this section of the borderland is not homogenous when it comes to the birth-rate. In 2005, both in Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski and in Opolski sub-regions the birth-rate was negative, just as it was in the whole country (-0.1 per 1000 inhabitants), but in these two sub-regions it was considerably lower than the overall country figure. In case of Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski sub-region this factor equalled -2.0 per 1000 inhabitants (just as in Wrocław) and in Opolski sub-region: -0.9. On the other hand, in two border sub-regions of Śląskie Voivodeship that are under scrutiny, the birth rate was positive.

The population is also ageing. If we described it in terms of economic groups of age, we could see that in the Polish part of the Polish-Czech borderland the population in post-productive age group has a significant share in the total population. Apart from Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region, the share is higher than the average share for the whole country.

The population inhabiting the areas under analysis can be characterized by the work ethos and work culture. Its most enterprising representatives migrate to find work and improve their living standard. Intensive migrations are typical for this region and they mostly consist in outflow of people from the area. A compilation of relevant data is presented in Table 3.

In the years 2002-2005, the highest negative balance in international migration was noticed in Opolski sub-region, but year by year, it was decreasing. In the period under analysis, in

Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski sub-region the negative

balance of internal migration was the highest and it was observed to be growing. And in Bielsko-bialski sub-region, the balance of internal migration is positive and continuously growing. In Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region, both balance factors were, in the period analysed [14], negative and almost stable.

Thus, the territorial mobility of people living in the Polish borderland was considerable. Although in 2005, the net balance of migration equalled -0.3 per 1000 inhabitants countrywide, in Opolski sub-region this factor amounted to -3.0, in Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski: -2.4 and in Rybnicko-jastrzębski -3.4 per 1000 inhabitants. These were very high negative figures in Poland in 2005. Only in Bielsko-bialski sub-region the balance of migration was positive, amounting to 1.8%, what one could imagine, is an effect of foreign direct investments that is present in this area, as well as improvement in life perspectives of the inhabitants. When analysing the on-going changes, it is essential to highlight the level of education of the migrating people. However, such data is currently not available. Data collected during National Census of 2002 highlights only some tendencies as regards the destinations of internal migration and the duration of stay abroad. In Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski sub-region, the population of those who had been born there and had not been leaving the area for a period longer than 1 year amounted to 52.4% (countrywide average: 59.2%), in Rybnicko-

jastrzębski this was 54.9%, in Bielsko-bialski: 64.7% and in Opolski sub-region: 53.4%.

Table 3. Basic data on migration in the sub-regions of the Polish part of Polish-Czech borderland in 2002-2005

| List of sub-regions | Net migration | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sub-region Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski | internal | -2107 | -2173 | -2322 | -2485 |
| | international | -827 | -644 | -511 | -640 |
| Sub-region Opolski | internal | -682 | -540 | -421 | -633 |
| | international | -3936 | -3695 | -2976 | -2552 |
| Sub-region Bielsko-bialski | internal | 904 | 1080 | 1348 | 1379 |
| | international | -208 | -180 | -117 | -209 |
| Sub-region Rybnicko-jastrzębski | internal | -844 | -1122 | -1347 | -963 |
| | international | -1409 | -1270 | -1081 | -1206 |

Source: Compilation based on: Bank danych regionalnych, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, <http://www.stat.gov.pl/bdr/bdrap.strona.indeks>, 5.09.2006; Ludność. Stan i struktura w przekroju terytorialnym. Stan w dniu 31.12.2005, http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/ludnosc/stan_struk_teryt/2005/31_12/index.htm, 1.09.2006.

Between 1989 and 2002, internal migration in Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski sub-region consisted mainly of the cases of migrating inside the same Voivodeship or to neighbouring Voivodeships. New-coming inhabitants of this sub-region originated from Dolnośląskie Voivodeship (80.4%), Śląskie Voivodeship (2.8%), Lubuskie Voivodeship (2.1%), Opolskie Voivodeship (1.9%) and Wielkopolskie Voivodeship (1.5%). The outflow of people was directed mainly also to Dolnośląskie Voivodeship (75.8%) and then, to Śląskie Voivodeship (4.1%), Opolskie Voivodeship (3.5%), Wielkopolskie Voivodeship (2.7%), Lubuskie Voivodeship (2.6%) and finally, to Mazowieckie Voivodeship (2.3%).

The population of newcomers to Bielsko-bialski sub-region (Śląskie Voivodeship) from 1989 to 2002 originated mainly from Śląskie Voivodeship (75.9%) and from Małopolskie Voivodeship (10.1%). Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region, in turn, attracted mainly the inhabitants of Śląskie Voivodeship (75.3%) and of Opolskie Voivodeship (5.6%). The outflow of inhabitants from Bielsko-bialski sub-region was directed mostly to Śląskie Voivodeship (78.9%) and Małopolskie Voivodeship (10.9%) and the outflow from Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region was to Śląskie Voivodeship (75.8%) and to the neighbouring Voivodeships. Emigrants who had spent more than 12 months abroad comprised 80.3% of emigrants from Bielsko-bialski sub-region and in the case of Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region this figure was: 89%.

Population inflow to the Opolski sub-region consisted in 65.6% of inhabitants of Opolskie Voivodeship, in 9.3% of Śląskie Voivodeship and in 9% of Dolnośląskie Voivodeship. Inhabitants of Opolski sub-region who had resided over 2 months abroad constituted 13.4% of Polish emigrants, what (per 1000 inhabitants) placed this sub-region in the

first place countrywide [15]. Inhabitants of this sub-region had stayed mostly in Germany (77%) and the Netherlands (1.7%), and their stay abroad over 2 months was related to job search (37.8%) and to family issues (35.1%).

The quality of human resources is also affected by their health. Measuring this factor is, however, not easy for various reasons, in particular because of lack of statistical data. If we analysed this factor in terms of infant mortality per 1000 live births; in 2005, health factor would be then the lowest in Bielsko-bialski sub-region, where the infant mortality rate equalled 6.8 and was 0.4 higher than countrywide. This could have been accidental, and nonetheless infant mortality rate is obviously only one of variables reflecting the inhabitants' quality of life and the quality of human resources.

The quality of social capital is determined by the inhabitants' level of education. The main source of information concerning the level of education is the National Census of 2002 [16]. It showed that in 2002 in Poland, among inhabitants aged 13 and over [17], 9.9% had obtained a higher education degree, 3.2% had finished their education on a vocational college level and 28.3% had obtained secondary education (Table 4).

The share of persons with vocational education amounted to 23.2% of inhabitants aged 13 and over. However, the level of functional knowledge varied from region to region, since among the analysed border Voivodeships of Poland, Dolnośląskie Voivodeship had the highest percentage of higher educated persons (9.9% of all higher educated inhabitants of Poland), Śląskie Voivodeship was in the second place (8.9%) and Opolskie Voivodeship in third (8% of the total).

The factor of the last Voivodeship was the lowest in Poland. The level of education varied also among sub-regions. In Jeleniogórsko-walbrzyski sub-region, the percentage of higher educated persons

equalled 6.8% and was lower than country average; the same was observed in Rybnicko-jastrzębski

sub-region where this percentage amounted to 6.4%.

Table 4. Education level of inhabitants of the Polish-Czech borderland (population aged 13 and over) in 2002 (expresses in percentage) [18],[19]

| List of sub-regions | Education level (%) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|------------|
| | Higher | Vocational college | Secondary | Vocational | Complete primary education, unfinished primary education or without primary education | Unknown |
| Poland | 9,9 | 3,2 | 28,3 | 23,2 | 33,4 | 2,0 |
| Dolnośląskie Voivodeship | 9,9 | 3,4 | 29,9 | 23,3 | 32,1 | 1,4 |
| sub-region Jeleniogórsko-wałbrzyski | 6,8 | 3,3 | 28,4 | 24,9 | 35,7 | 0,9 |
| min-max | 5,0 –12,8 | 2,0-4,1 | 24,2-34,9 | 21,4-30,4 | 25,9-38,6 | - |
| sub-region Legnicki | 7,8 | 3,2 | 28,4 | 26,1 | 32,7 | 1,8 |
| sub-region Wrocławski | 6,6 | 3,0 | 25,5 | 27,7 | 36,2 | 1,0 |
| city of Wrocław | 19,8 | 4,1 | 36,7 | 15,2 | 21,9 | 2,2 |
| sub-region Opolski | 8,0 | 2,8 | 24,9 | 26,1 | 32,8 | 5,4 |
| min -max | 5,23-19,23 | 1,95-3,74 | 19,12-36,20 | 14,01-32,72 | 19,29 –40,93 | - |
| Śląskie Voivodeship | 8,9 | 2,8 | 28,9 | 26,8 | 28,7 | 3,9 |
| sub-region Częstochowski | 9,9 | 2,9 | 29,9 | 23,6 | 32,6 | 1,1 |
| sub-region Bielsko-bialski | 9,2 | 2,7 | 28,8 | 29,2 | 28,7 | 1,5 |
| min-max | 6,4-13,7 | 2,3-3,4 | 26,3-33,0 | 24,1-33,6 | 22,6-34,8 | - |
| sub-region Centralny śląski | 9,2 | 2,9 | 29,7 | 25,6 | 27,6 | 4,9 |
| sub-region Rybnicko-jastrzębski | 6,4 | 2,4 | 24,2 | 32,7 | 30,4 | 3,9 |
| min-max | 4,6-7,7 | 1,9-3,0 | 21,1-25,8 | 27,5-38,0 | 27,2-33,2 | - |

Source: Own compilation based on: Internet sites of statistical offices, <http://www.stat.gov.pl/urzedz/index.htm>, 1.09.2006. Some percentage figures not necessarily sum up to 100 due to rounding.

The highest percentage of higher educated inhabitants was noted in Bielsko-bialski sub-region. It amounted to 9.2%, but did not exceed the country average.

The share of inhabitants with secondary education exceeded the country average in the cases of Dolnośląskie Voivodeship (29.9%) and Śląskie Voivodeship (28.9%). In Opolskie Voivodeship it equalled 24.9%. The share of vocationally trained persons exceeded the country average (i.e. 23.2%) in each borderland Voivodeship. A similar occurrence was also observed in the sub-regions. In Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region this share equalled 32.7%, in Bielsko-bialski 29.2%, in Jeleniogórsko-wałbrzyski 24.9%, and in Opolski 26.1%. The share of inhabitants with primary education or without any education was higher than the country average

only in Jeleniogórsko-wałbrzyski sub-region (35.7%).

There are, however, substantial differences between the analysed shares for individual poviats of sub-regions. Only in the city of Jelenia Góra the share of higher educated persons exceeded the Voivodeship average, amounting to 12.8%. In this city, and similarly in Wałbrzych and in Świdnicki powiat, the share of inhabitants with secondary education was higher than in the Voivodeship. On the other hand, the share of people who were vocationally trained was lower than the Voivodeship average in Kłodzki powiat, in Dzierżoniowski powiat, in Wałbrzych and in Jelenia Góra. Still, when analysing the situation in the poviats of Opolski sub-region, it is noted that in none of the poviats (apart from the city of Opole) did the share of higher educated persons exceed the

average for Poland. The share of inhabitants with vocational training was in turn in all poviats of this sub-region, the city of Opole excluded, higher than countrywide.

Among the poviats of sub-regions of Śląskie Voivodeship (Bielsko-bialski sub-region, Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region) only Bielsko-Biała has the share of higher educated people, both, above the Voivodeship and Poland wide-average. On the other hand, the share of vocationally trained people was higher in all poviats of sub-regions than is the country average.

As a conclusion we might state that the situation in terms of education level of the inhabitants of the sub-regions of Polish-Czech borderland is not favourable one. It comes as a rule that cities attract the inhabitants who are better educated and more active. These are for example the cities of Bielsko-Biała, Jelenia Góra and Rybnik.

Surely, the presence of higher education institutions in this borderland area may contribute to a gradual improvement in the level of education.

The analysed areas undergo structural difficulties and unemployment rate is also high there, which in turn requires the undertaking of intensive actions towards improvement of the factors that condition economic growth. As it follows from the analysis, an important course of actions should be the improvement of the potential of border regions in terms of human capital, which is based on well-educated inhabitants who are well-organized, who build intensive informal bonds and are active socially. Thus, all bottom-up initiatives originating in the communities of this border belt should be supported.

A gradual outflow of people is observed to occur from the sub-regions, including migrations abroad. It is therefore sure that appropriate and unexploited potential of human capital exists there. The actions undertaken should be aimed at preventing the outflow of people. The improvement in the quality of human potential and in its proper utilization is possible in a relatively short period of time, in comparison to the time that must elapse in order to change the structure of the economy which is a long-term change and that requires great financial outlays.

Availability of good quality human capital is also an element that serves to attract foreign investments, and therefore it is a basic factor determining the attractiveness of a given area.

For a complex evaluation of the quality of workforce, the analysis should be completed with the following data: level of economic activity (entrepreneurship) in the area, social activity of inhabitants etc.

What is prepared these days are ranking charts displaying investment attractiveness of Voivodeships and sub-regions. In the light of such a ranking [20], Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region was

chosen as one of top ten sub-regions for industrial activity. It was highlighted that this sub-region disposes of adequate labour force necessary for conducting such activity and among some of the other factors positively affecting it were named such elements as: transport accessibility, adequate infrastructure, varied economic structure and good level of economic development. Jeleniogórsko-wałbrzyski sub-region was also classified in the same ranking group, because it has the advantages of economic infrastructure and low cost of labour in addition to transport accessibility and well-qualified workforce. Also Bielsko-bialski sub-region was included in the same group, called class A, in particular due to considerable labour potential. On the other hand, Opolski sub-region was classified in class B. In terms of service activity, only Bielsko-bialski sub-region was granted class A and all other sub-regions were assigned class B. In terms of attractiveness for technologically advanced activity, both Bielsko-bialski sub-region and Opolski sub-region were evaluated as class A, Jeleniogórsko-wałbrzyski as class B, and Rybnicko-jastrzębski sub-region as class C with low quality of workforce for conducting this kind of activity [21].

Developing cross border cooperation, also directed towards supporting entrepreneurship, creating bonds between communities on both sides of the border, training activities, development of cooperation also in the area of culture and promotion of exchange in the field of science - these are some of the factors that may shape the human potential of border areas.

3. Utilization of INTERREG IIIA funds at the Polish-Czech borderland

Within the framework of INTERREG III A [22], the undertakings at the Polish-Czech borderland were focused on realization of two priorities: the development of infrastructure and the development of the local society. The Programme was welcomed with much interest from the beneficiaries, as the acceptance of applications, apart from Microproject Fund, is already closed (in 2006 [23]). Subsidies from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) could not be higher than 75% of qualified costs. Altogether, 103 projects on the Polish side are co-financed within the programme. However, projects financed from the Microproject Fund are still in the phase of implementation (they fall under priority two). The magnitude of ERDF spending allocated for individual Polish-Czech borderland priorities in the years 2004-2006 is portrayed in Table 5.

In the years 2004-2006 the allocation of resources from ERDF for the programme of cross-border cooperation on Polish-Czech borderland amounts to EUROS 18 million [24]. When analysing the allocations, it strikes that the undertakings falling

under the priority group relating to development and modernization of infrastructure (over 68% of total ERDF allocation) of high importance, including the infrastructure of cross-border significance as well as business-related and tourist infrastructure have the lion's share of the outlay. On the other hand, the projects concerning the development of local society in the cross-border area were assigned about 31% of the ERDF allocation. The actions realized under priority two concern the development of tourism, cross-border structures, as well as network cooperation. However, most of the funds were earmarked for the Microproject Fund (16.1% of the total allocation).

As early as during the sitting of the first Steering Committee, from the 20th to the 21st of June, 2005, projects were accepted and ERDF subsidy followed that amounted to 61.4% of the fund's available allocation for this programme. The accepted projects have by far lower value than those under the main operational programmes. This is due to smaller, by far, allocation of resources, and also due to the specific nature of the accepted projects. In this context, certain sample projects that were chosen during the first sitting of the Steering Committee, could be indicated.

Table 5. The magnitude of ERDF allocation for the Polish part of Polish-Czech borderland in the years 2004-2006 [25]

| Priorities/measures | Magnitude of the ERDF funds as allocated for the years 2004 - 2006 (EUROS) | Percentage of allocation | Number of accepted projects during the first Steering Committee session |
|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Further development and modernisation of the infrastructure for improving the competitiveness of the cross-border area | 11 521 886 | 68.82 | |
| 1.1: Support for infrastructure of cross-border importance | 5 400 885 | 32.26 | 6 |
| 1.2: Infrastructure for environment protection and flood prevention | 2 520 413 | 15.05 | 4 |
| 1.3: Provision of business and tourism related infrastructure | 3 600 588 | 21.51 | 7 |
| 2. Development of local society in the cross-border area | 5 220 855 | 31.18 | |
| 2.1: Tourism development | 1 260 207 | 7.53 | 3 |
| 2.2: Support for local community initiatives (Microproject facility) | 2 700 441 | 16.13 | 6 |
| 2.3: Development and support of cross-border organisational structures and networks | 1 260 207 | 7.53 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 16 742 741 | 100.00 | |

Source: Compilation based in information available on internet site of the Joint Technical Secretariat: <http://www.interreg3a.cz/index.php?lang=pl&cmd=page&type=1&id=79>, 28.08.2006.

When it comes to measure 1.1, six projects were chosen relating to the redevelopment and modernization of sections of road or local road. Within measure 1.2, four projects were chosen, including those concerning systems of alarming and reacting to dangers in the border area, and in terms of business-related and tourist infrastructure development the focus was on modernisation of bicycle route, hiking route or centre for Polish-Czech economic cooperation (seven projects were accepted). Within measure 2.1, projects were aimed at e.g. creation of data bases of objects and tourist attractions or preparation of promotional publications. In case of microprojects, the resources

were allocated between euroregions (6) (the highest allocation for a euroregion was PLN 2.2 million, whereas the lowest: PLN 493,000). And when it comes to network cooperation, the projects subsidized concerned Polish-Czech economic cooperation: contact point at Karkonoska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A. (Karkonosze Agency of Regional Development) and cooperation between Politechnika Opolska (Opole Technical University) and VSB TU in Ostrava. Projects were accepted also during the sittings of the two consecutive Steering Committees, on the 18th of January, 2006, and on the 27th of June, 2006.

The Microproject Fund functions within the programme; its projects are described as „people for people” projects. They are aimed at strengthening the cooperation people inhabiting two sides of the border and have a broad perspective, as they cover such areas as: culture, education, sport and socio-economic cooperation. The projects include activities like: joint cultural or sport events, youth exchange programmes, conferences, fairs and other that are aimed at local communities.

4. Summary and further recommendations

There are bonds of cooperation on the Polish-Czech borderland. They are, however, not sufficient, what requires the undertaking of further actions with a view to widen and deepen of the cooperation on economic, social and cultural planes. The opportunity for this area lies not only in overcoming economic difficulties, but also in the development of cooperation, which must be treated as an essential factor for the raising of competitiveness of this area. As part of the cooperation enacted with the partner on the other side of the border, the attention must be paid to the development of human capital and to its quality, which, as it has already been stated, constitutes the potential of particular sub-regions lying on the Polish-Czech borderland. This is also in compliance with the directions of the Lisbon Strategy.

Cross-border cooperation will be continued in the framework of a programme, which is to be implemented as a part of main objective of new EU cohesion policy for the years 2007-2013: European Territorial Cooperation. This is a promising possibility in the aspect of continuation and development of stable cooperation and it will create new perspectives for Polish border regions, including Polish-Czech borderland. Human capital is the factor which will determine the development potential of these areas, and it must be based on well-educated inhabitants and existing network bonds.

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- [12] After: S.R. Domański: Kapitał ludzki..., op.cit., p. 20.
- [13] The source material that has been used also includes the information prepared by the author for the Ministry of Regional Development.
- [14] The analysis began in 2002, because that is when administrative changes were introduced in the sub-regions of Śląskie Voivodeship.
- [15] As Opolski sub-region is identical to Opolskie Voivodeship, the data on migration is more detailed. More on data concerning migration of population in: Migracje Ludności: województwo opolskie 2002, Narodowy Spis Powszechny 2002, Urząd Statystyczny w Opolu, March 2002.
- [16] Information about the outcomes of the National Census of 2002 in terms of education level in individual sub-regions is available on internet sites of statistical offices: of Dolnośląskie Voivodeship, Opolskie Voivodeship and Śląskie Voivodeship, <http://www.stat.gov.pl/urzedzy/index.htm>, 1.09.2006; Ludność. Stan i struktura demograficzno-społeczna, http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/nsp/ludnosc/tab_wynik.xls, 1.09.2006.
- [17] In the National Census it was accepted that the persons asked would be 13 years of age or over, due to reform of the education system started in 1999.
- [18] Data in this article concerning the level of education includes only persons aged 13 and over.
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[24] for the Polish part of Polish-Czech borderland, including allocation for the priority 3: Technical assistance.

[25] it does not include the means allocated for the realization of priority 3: Technical assistance, that has not been included in the table.